

ALLHANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

AUGUST 2023



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF

Every month, we focus on the Navy's mission-focused people and technologies. As we survey how our naval forces continue to train, fight and equip the world's toughest Sailors, we look at our advantage at sea and the capabilities of Sailors deployed around the world.

It is our mission to reach Sailors, so please share this issue, scan the QR codes, and follow our social media channels for the latest information for Sailors by Sailors.

This month, we are highlighting our back-to-school tips for all Sailors and the importance of our Navy's nuclear and dive programs.



ALL HANDS MAGAZINE

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"AS WE LOOK TO THE HORIZON AND PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD, I WILL ACT WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY TO ENSURE OUR SAILORS HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR WARFIGHTING EDGE. FOR THE PAST 247 YEARS, THE U.S. NAVY HAS STOOD THE WATCH. WE, ALONG WITH THE MARINE CORPS, ARE AMERICA'S AWAY TEAM AROUND THE WORLD AND AROUND THE CLOCK. AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, OUR MISSION CONTINUES, UNDISRUPTED AND UNABATED. WE FLY, SAIL AND OPERATE WHEREVER INTERNATIONAL LAW ALLOWS, SO THAT OTHERS CAN TOO."

**-ADM. LISA FRANCHETTI
VICE CHIEF
OF NAVAL
OPERATIONS**



NAVAL STATION NORFOLK

FLEET FEST IS BACK!



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 21
10 AM - 5 PM**

**FREE ADMISSION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RAIN OR SHINE**

2023

ACTIVITIES

COAST GUARD
SEARCH AND RESCUE DEMO
WORLD'S LARGEST BOUNCE HOUSE
NAVY DIVE TANK
LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION
FLY IN DEMO
CHILI COOK-OFF
TEAM PANTERA
OF LONG ISLAND CAR SHOW
FOOD TRUCKS
CRAFT BEER
KIDS AREA
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
STATIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAYS
FLEET FEST ITEMS FOR SALE

GUIDED TOURS ONBOARD

**USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
[CVN 73]**

**USS MAHAN
[DDG 72]**

**COAST GUARD
CUTTER SENECA**

**COAST GUARD
FAST RESPONSE CUTTER**



ASSETS, DEMONSTRATIONS, AND ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NavyLifeMA.com/FleetFest

GENERAL INFO: 757-322-2788 | CHILI COOK-OFF: 757-322-2316

UNITAS LXIV KICKS OFF

From Petty Officer 1st Class Hunter Harwell



Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro attended the opening ceremony for UNITAS LXIV, a multinational maritime exercise that brings together 20 nations from all over the world to train forces in joint maritime operations that enhance tactical proficiency and increase interoperability.

Participating nations include Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Paraguay, Spain, South Korea, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

The Colombian Navy hosts this year's UNITAS, which will feature 26 warships/vessels, three submarines, 25 aircraft (fixed wing/helicopter), and approximately 7,000 people from 20 partner nations. Forces will conduct operations off the coast of Cartagena, Colombia, and ashore in Covenas and Barranquilla, Colombia, through July 21.

"I am honored to help kick off UNITAS LXIV," said Del Toro. "This is the world's longest-running multinational maritime exercise in the world. The partnerships we share among the 20 nations participating in this exercise are critical to realizing the peace and security we desire in the Western Hemisphere."

Following the UNITAS LXIV Opening Ceremony on July 12, the in-port phase of the exercise will feature subject

matter expert exchanges, professional symposia, ship rider exchanges, and operations meetings. During this time, Marines and Sailors will conduct expeditionary training events in Covenas to include riverine operations and diving and salvage operations.

"Economic security is national security," said Del Toro. "We must continue to work together to counter the common maritime challenges that threaten our way of life, and that run contrary to the rules-based international order."

During the UNITAS LXIV Underway Phase, forces will participate in events testing all warfare operations, to include live-fire exercises such as a SINKEX and an amphibious ship-to-shore landing and force retraction.

As part of the U.S. Navy's future hybrid fleet, the Chief of Naval Operations has tasked U.S. 4th Fleet to scale unmanned platforms to the fleet level. An addition to this year's UNITAS will include the integrated operations of unmanned air, surface, and subsurface systems into the exercise. UNITAS' challenging training addresses key aspects of multinational and combined operations such as technology standardization and common operating procedures.

OPERATIONS SECURITY



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SHARE ONLINE



Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy
for Intelligence & Security, Security Directorate

ARE YOU PFA READY?



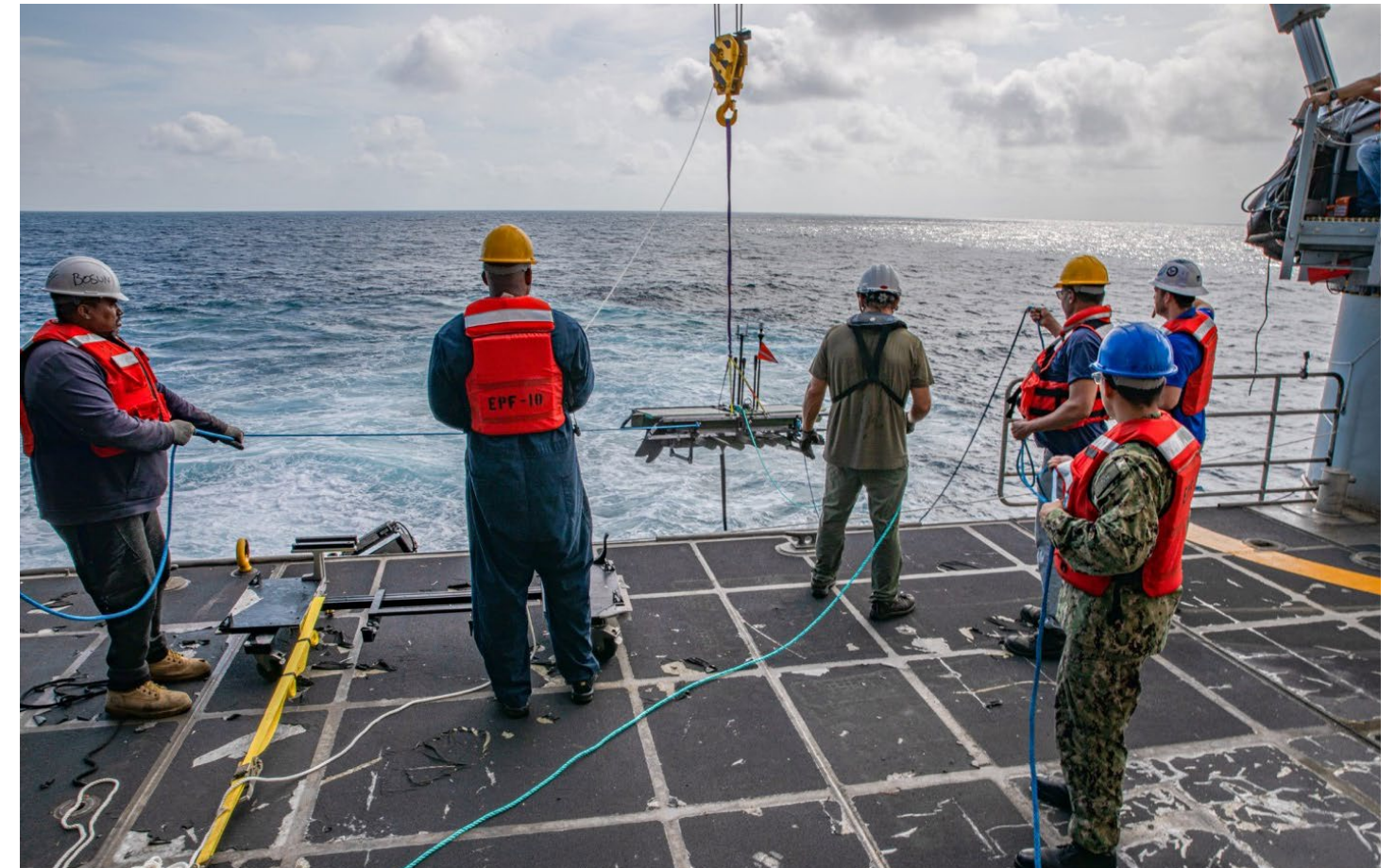
1. TRAIN REGULARLY.
2. SET SPECIFIC FITNESS GOALS.
3. ENSURE YOUR PHA IS COMPLETED.



Check out the official Navy PFA App for more information on your current requirements.

USNS BURLINGTON HOSTS LAUNCH OF USV

From NASWI PAO



U.S. Navy Sailors partnered with Military Sealift Command civilian mariners and civilian contractors in a collaborative effort to successfully launch a Wave Glider unmanned surface vehicle (USV) from expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10).

The launch took place during the Burlington's transit to Cartagena, Colombia, ahead of the start of UNITAS LXIV. Colombia is this year's host for UNITAS, the longest-running annual multinational maritime exercise in the world, scheduled to start on July 11, 2023.

"UNITAS is so unique and full of opportunities for innovation, providing an ideal location to experiment with service concepts and conduct combined training while close to home and in a permissive environment," said Burlington's Military Detachment officer in charge, Cmdr. Michael Fleck.

Wave Glider is one of the unmanned systems in operation during the exercise as part of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet (USNAVSOUTH/FOURTHFLT) Unmanned Integration Campaign. The campaign's goal is to deploy and integrate unmanned systems and artificial intelligence tools into operations, which will bolster the Navy's Marine Domain Awareness (MDA), counter-narcotics (CN) efforts and information sharing with partner nations.

"UNITAS is an outstanding avenue to introduce emerging naval concepts for multinational exercises and operations in the region," said Burlington's Military Detachment senior enlisted leader, Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Anthony Davis.

The Wave Glider USV runs on wave power, meaning the vertical wave motion is converted into forward thrusts. During UNITAS LXIV, the Wave Glider USV will provide MDA in the exercise operations area during the underway portions of UNITAS.

The overall objective of the USNAVSOUTH/FOURTHFLT Unmanned Integration Campaign is to ultimately scale unmanned platforms to the fleet level while developing tactics, techniques and procedures resulting in the U.S. Navy's Hybrid Fleet of the 2030s.

UNITAS, Latin for Unity, is the longest-running multinational maritime exercise in the world. A U.S.-sponsored joint exercise, UNITAS was conceived in 1959, with the first UNITAS (UNITAS I) taking place in 1960.



NAS SIGONELLA: BARKING UP THE RIGHT TREE

From Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Samayaah Smith



This summer, Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella had the distinct honor of becoming the first installation outside of the United States to introduce the USO (United Service Organizations) Canine Therapy Program.

"With emotional and mental health listed as some of the top issues that face active-duty military families today, utilizing therapy dogs to help service members struggling with the challenges of military life is just another creative way in which the USO is supporting the military community," said Danielle DeSimone, USO content marketing manager.

Although the NAS Sigonella USO is the first to institute the USO Canine Therapy Program overseas, the organization's already well-established, successful program framework in the U.S. put the USO team here at ease.

"I think it could be extremely successful overseas because this is where service members are most often separated from their pets and families," said Margaret McCullough, USO center manager at NAS Sigonella.

The USO team at NAS Sigonella believes the new program will help fill the void many service members face when it comes to permanent change of station moves and other life stressors.

"There will be more canine therapy programs throughout Europe, the Middle East and the Africa region," said Sabrina Pulido, USO area director at NAS Sigonella. "The benefits of pet therapy have proven to be so beneficial to service members that the USO wants it to be accessible wherever we are."

Therapy dogs are known to lower blood pressure, reduce stress and release oxytocin and phenyl ethylamine, an antidepressant. The USO started the program as a way to assist service members with navigating the stresses of military service. The Canine Therapy Program falls within the USO's mission to support service members and military families.

"Dogs bring happiness, they bring joy and they connect you to things you love," said Luisa Mazzella, area manager at USO Italy & Spain. "People are going to have that connection when they come into the USO, being able to pet the dogs will provide that time away from the stressors. Allowing them to recharge, reconnect and regroup!"

NAS Sigonella's Canine Program will be open to service members, military families and anyone who has access to the USO. The plan is to keep this program running for as long as possible, and open the opportunity for individuals to get their animals certified and volunteer for the program.

"My personal goal is to make the program as successful as possible in terms of it bringing a lot of joy," said McCullough. "I want this program to exist long past its start."

Canine Therapy will be advertised via NAS Sigonella USO's calendar, and there will be weekly meet and greets with the pups. Service members should refer to the USO's monthly program flyers, banners and AFN radio announcements for more information on Canine Therapy.

ALL HANDS BACK-TO-SCHOOL TIPS

For all military families!!

WELCOME
to the
NEW CLASS

1

Gather All Necessary Documents

If your child is attending a new school, call or check the school's website to find out what paperwork is required for registration. Create separate folders for each child and make sure the movers DO NOT pack them if you are PCSing!

2

Have At Least Two Emergency Contacts

If you just moved and you don't know anyone in your new location, this is the time to knock on your neighbors' doors and introduce yourself, especially to those who also have children. You can always find new people down the road as you make other friends.

3

Start New Routines At Home Early

As summer comes to an end, start slowly bringing bedtimes closer to what they should be during the school year and start practicing morning routines. This is a way to make sure you will get out the door on time for the first day! Also, make sure to prepare new school routines. Make sure your kids are comfortable and know where to go once they get to the school, so they can be independent.

4

Inform Teachers About Special Circumstances

Teachers should know about any family situation that affects their students academically, emotionally or behaviorally. Let the teacher know about things like deployments, homecomings, family situations and PCS moves, as well as behavioral patterns you may have noticed in the past that teachers should know to help them understand as well.

5

Educate Teachers About Your Military Life

Most teachers know nothing about military families, especially when you're not living in a military town. Military life will affect your kids and it's important for teachers to better understand by offering insight into your life. Print out articles or blog posts you've read that describe military life (or write your own!).

For more back-to-school resources visit

<https://www.military.com/spouse/military-education/5-back-to-school-resources-for-milkids.html>

Start the
school year
off right!!

Active Duty Education Options

UNITED STATES NAVAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

✓ What is the USNCC?

The United States Naval Community College is an online education option for active-duty Sailors that provides a five-course Naval Studies Certificate that counts as 15 of the 60 credits required for an associate degree.

✓ What is the difference between USNCC and TA?

The USNCC program is separate from tuition assistance and voluntary education programs, which means the lifetime limit on TA/VOLED credits for service members can be applied toward a bachelor's and/or master's degree. This helps set active duty enlisted Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen and Coast Guard Reservists on a path of lifelong learning.

✓ What degree programs are available through USNCC?

USNCC offers a number of associate degree pathways that are relevant to our Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, regardless of their rating or MOS, and cover both technical fields (e.g., nuclear, engineering, cyber) and generalist programs (e.g., organizational leadership, military studies).

✓ What is needed to apply?

To apply you must meet these standards:

1. Be in a good standing with your command.
2. Be active-duty Sailor, Marines, or Coast Guardsmen or a Coast Guardsmen Reservist and must not be within three months of separation (EAOS/EAS).
3. Have adequate off-duty time to complete coursework (we recommend 10 - 12 hours per week to be successful).
4. USN and USMC service members cannot participate in USNCC programs simultaneously with TA/VOLED related courses within the same given term.



Visit <https://www.usncc.edu> for more information

OTHER ACTIVE-DUTY EDUCATION OPTIONS

* USMAPS

As a service member, you can earn an apprenticeship with the on the job training and military training you've already received while in the service -- you simply need to enroll and record your work hours.

Requirements:

1. You must be an active-duty enlisted service member.
2. You must have a minimum of 12 months remaining on active duty.
3. You must report hours worked in your field.

For more information visit:

<https://usmap.osd.mil/requirements.htm>

Advanced Education Voucher

For E-7 and above personnel only, the Advanced Education Voucher is used for Sailor's to obtain a Navy funded master's degree during off-duty hours.

Tuition Assistance

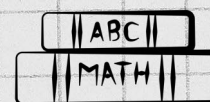
Navy tuition assistance pays for both classroom and independent study or distance learning courses. Associate, bachelor's and master's level courses must be offered in semester hours or quarter hours (NAVADMIN 105/10).

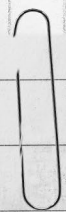

How to Apply:

1. Inform your command.
2. Complete the required training.
3. Receive education counseling.
4. Submit education plan.
5. Submit TA application in MyNavy Education.
6. Generate class voucher and send to enrolled institution.




For more information visit

<https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/common-resources/education-voucher-programs.htm>





Tips on utilizing the G.I. Bill after getting out



Determine Eligibility: Check eligibility for the G.I. Bill based on the length and type of military service, discharge status and any service-connected disabilities.

Choose an Approved Program: Select an educational program at a qualifying institution (college, university or vocational school) that is approved for your G.I. Bill benefits.

Apply for Admission: Apply for admission to the chosen educational institution and ensure they are aware of your intention to use your G.I. Bill benefits.

Apply for G.I. Bill Benefits: Submit the appropriate application for your G.I. Bill benefits. This is typically done through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website.

Provide Necessary Documentation: Provide any required documents, such as military transcripts, service records and other supporting paperwork, as requested by the VA or the educational institution.

Plan Finances: Understand the G.I. Bill's coverage, including tuition, fees, housing allowance and books stipend. Be aware of any additional costs that may be incurred and plan finances accordingly.

Utilize Yellow Ribbon Program (if applicable): If attending a private institution with higher tuition, check if the school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program for additional financial support.

Monitor Attendance and Progress: Maintain full-time student status (as required) and make satisfactory academic progress to continue receiving G.I. Bill benefits.

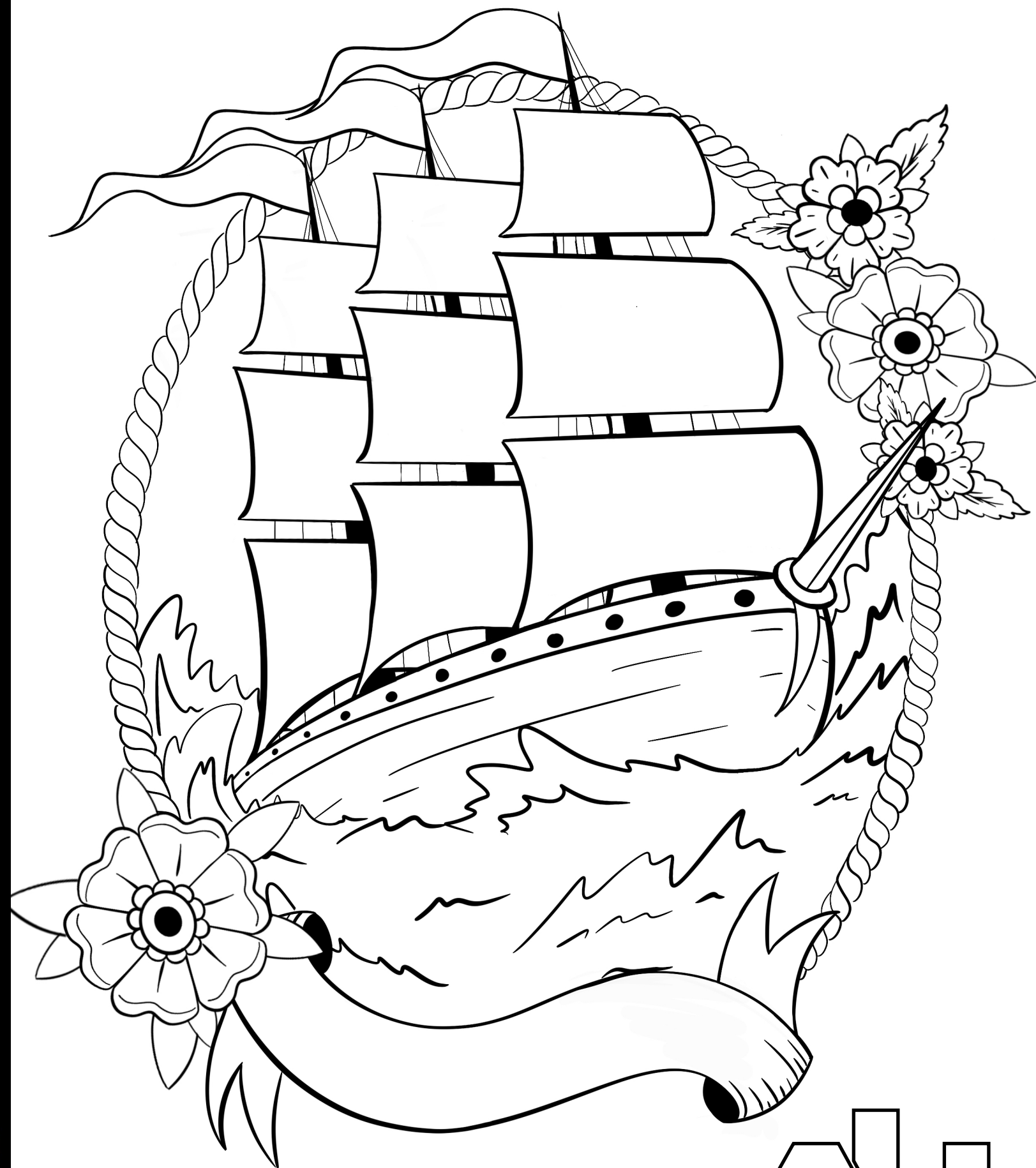
Explore Additional Financial Aid: Consider other sources of financial aid (e.g. FAFSA), scholarships or grants to complement G.I. Bill benefits if needed.

Keep VA Updated: Notify the VA of any changes in enrollment status, program changes or other relevant updates to avoid interruptions in your G.I. Bill benefits.

For more information visit

<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/>

Level up your
knowledge,
college awaits!



National Coloring Book Day
August 2

AH

SAILOR TO SAILOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MYNAVY HR

JULY 2023

If you or someone you know is in crisis,
call the Veterans Crisis Line.



EVENT DATES:

Feb. 1 to Nov. 1: [CY 23 PRT Cycle Window](#)

Aug. 7: CDS NB Kitsap

Aug. 9: CDS NAS Whidbey Island

Aug. 10: CDS NS Everett

Aug. 1- 31: [SELRES E-5 and E-6 Exam Window](#)

Aug. 31: [HOF Survey Closes](#)

Sep. 7: Active-duty E-6 Exam

Sep. 14: Active-duty E-5 Exam

Sep. 22: [USS Constitution Chief Petty Officer Heritage Training](#)

AWARDS AND APPLICATIONS DEADLINES:

Aug. 11
[JODO Program](#)

Sep. 1
[Strategist and National Security Fellowships/Graduate Scholarship](#)
[Nurse Corps MECF](#)

Sep. 30
[FY25 Law Education Program](#)

Dec. 31
[AY24-25 Enlisted Cyber M.S. Degree](#)

CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL:
VADM Richard J. Cheeseman Jr.

FLEET MASTER CHIEF OF PERSONNEL, MANPOWER AND TRAINING:
FLTCM Delbert Terrell Jr.

NAVYWIDE APPRENTICE (E-1 TO E-4) ADVANCEMENT CHANGES

[NAVADMIN 168/23](#) - [FACT SHEET](#)

Starting July 1, 2024, junior enlisted Sailors will now be advanced from E-1 to E-4 based on their time in service (not time in rate). This change will facilitate a more solid foundation for billet-based advancements as Sailors move toward the journeyman ranks (E-5 and E-6). It also provides a more predictable and transparent advancement path to E-4 for all Sailors, ensuring every Sailor can be in a position to make a re-enlistment decision as an E-4 before the end of their initial obligated service.

Time in service requirements for advancement:

- E-1 advances to **E-2 at 9 months** time in service
- E-2 advances to **E-3 at 18 months** time in service
- E-3 advances to **E-4 at 30 months** time in service

This policy does not include nuclear, advanced technical, and electronic field sailors who already obligate for additional service in order to advance to E-4.

NWAE GUIDANCE FOR AC/TAR CYCLE 260 AND MODIFICATION TO SELRES E-4 CYCLE 113

[NAVADMIN 167/23](#)

- All Active-duty, TAR and SELRES E-5 and E-6 candidates will take exams to compete for advancement.
- All Active-duty, TAR, and SELRES E-4 candidates will compete for advancement via a modified alternative final multiple score, with longer time in rate being heavily weighted in the modified alternative FMS calculations.
- There will be increased quotas for ratings with historically slower advancement timing.
- No requirement to complete PMK-EE for E-4.



THE BRANDON ACT - SELF-INITIATED REFERRAL PROCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATIONS OF SERVICE MEMBERS

[NAVADMIN 166/23](#) - [FACT SHEET](#)

The major change in NAVADMIN 166/23 is that any service member serving on active duty with a Navy command who specifically requests a Mental Health Evaluation from a Supervisor E-6 and above must be scheduled for an appointment with a local military mental health clinic or closest military treatment facility, and be provided the opportunity to attend. This is not the same as a command-directed MHE.

NAVADMINS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SPECIAL LEAVE ACCRUAL (SLA) POLICY CHANGES

[NAVADMIN 161/23](#) - [FACT SHEET](#)

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, Sailors eligible for SLA may only accrue a maximum of 90 days. Leave days in excess of 90 days earned after Jan. 1, 2023 will be lost on Sep. 30, 2023. Sailors who carried a balance of more than 90 days on Jan. 1, 2023, will be authorized to retain the excess leave until Sept. 30, 2026.

BASIC NEEDS ALLOWANCE UPDATE ONE

[NAVADMIN 155/23](#) - [FACT SHEET](#)

NAVADMIN 155/23 details updates to the basic needs allowance for active duty service members with dependents whose gross household income falls below 150% of federal poverty guidelines.

FY-24 RTC CHIEF PETTY OFFICER SELECTEE BACK-TO-BOOT CAMP TRAINING WEEK

[NAVADMIN 154/23](#) - [FACT SHEET](#)

NAVADMIN 154/23 announces the Chief Selectee Back to Bootcamp program, which will allow a group of fleet-selected Chief Selectees and mentors to return to Recruit Training Command for a week of training. The Chief Selectees will engage in training reinforcing where their careers began.

UPDATE TO PRIOR SERVICE RE-ENLISTMENT ELIGIBILITY - RESERVE (PRISE-R) POLICY

[NAVADMIN 174/23](#)

This NAVADMIN provides updated policy guidance for administration of the PRISE-R program.

RECRUITER SPOTLIGHT

"Living the Dream," is a phrase that gets thrown around quite often. For one Navy petty officer, he actually is living the dream, it just wasn't initially his.

PS2 Gerard Joseph Portez chose to fulfill his father's dream when he decided to join the military.

"My father always wanted to join the military when he was in the Philippines, but just never had the opportunity," said Portez.

Born and raised in Laguna, Philippines, Portez's family immigrated to the U.S. when he was 15 years old.

➔ [Read PS2's full story: https://dvidshub.net/r/ujtn3a](https://dvidshub.net/r/ujtn3a)



WANT FREE MATERNITY UNIFORMS?

Check out the Navy's Maternity Pilot Program!

- "Select a Seabag" of Maternity Uniforms
- Open to E1 to O10
- No Cost/Free Tailoring
- Up To 6 Months Postpartum
- Questions about your package? Call 855-677-6289



ATTENTION: WASHINGTON STATE SAILORS



» **Naval Base Kitsap**
Bremerton 'Old' Gym & Liberty Center
August 7 | 0800-1600

» **Naval Air Station Whidbey Island**
Sky Warrior Theater & Wash Rack
August 9 | 0800-1600

» **Naval Station Everett**
The Commons & RSC Auditorium
August 10 | 0800-1600

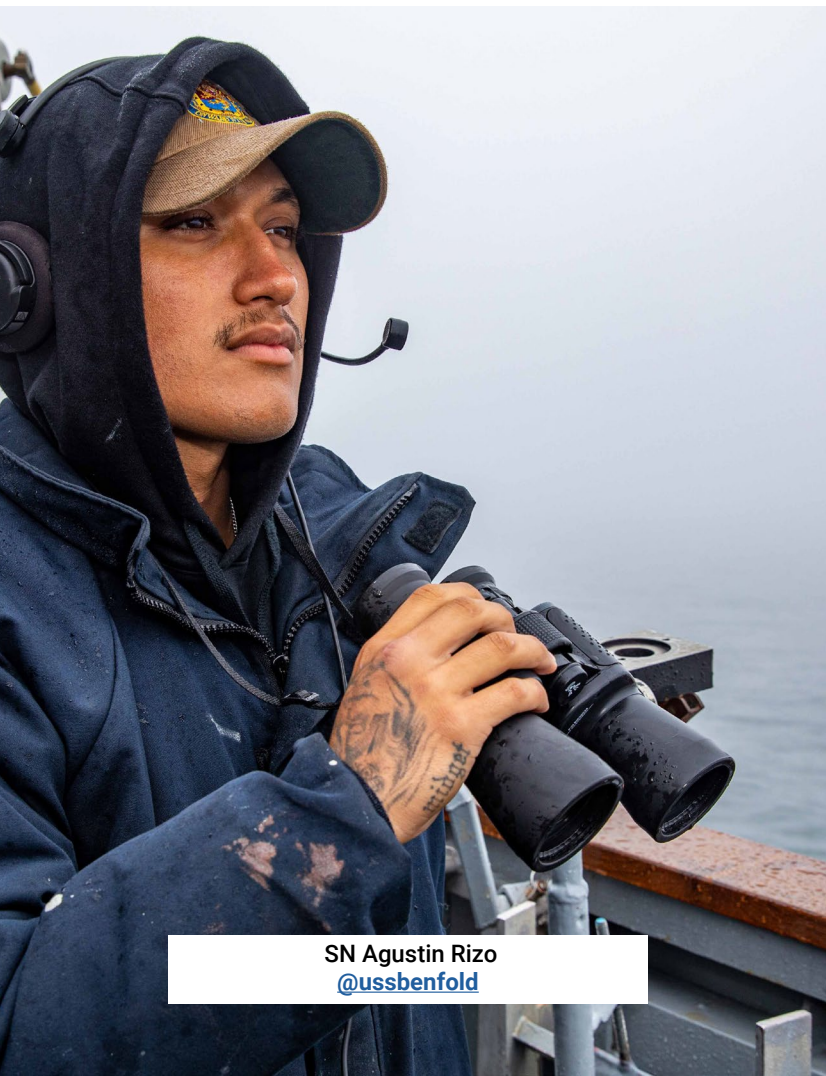


See the full schedule of events:
[HTTPS://DVIDSHUB.NET/R/X75ZZX](https://dvidshub.net/r/x75zzx)



PHOTOS FROM THE FLEET

The Naval Service—forward deployed and capable of both rapid response and sustained operations globally—remains America’s most persistent and versatile instrument of military influence.



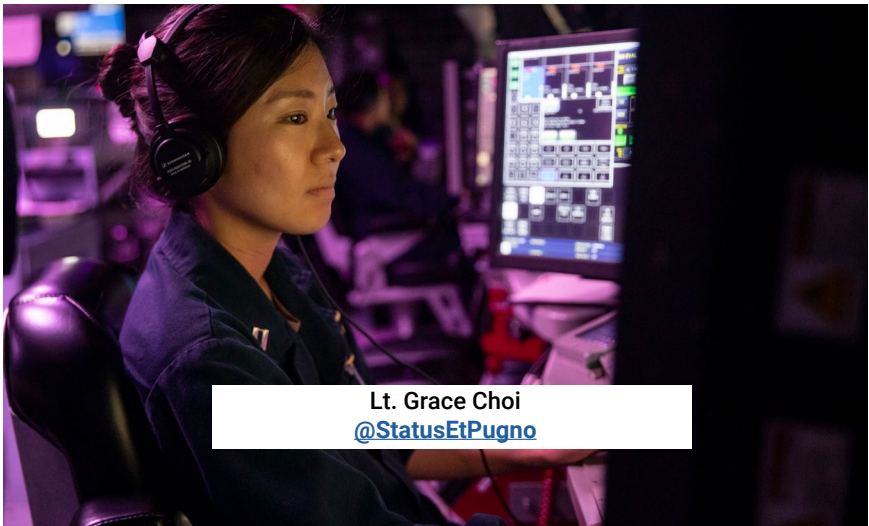
SN Agustin Rizo
[@ussbenfold](#)



AD3 George Greb
[@HELMARSTRIKERONFIVEONE](#)



SN Braxton Kuhl
[@OfficialUSSTripoli](#)



Lt. Grace Choi
[@StatusEtPugno](#)



BMSN Sebastian Risher
[@USSBataan](#)



MMFN Mik Britton
[@stennis74](#)



HM3 Brisa Del Rio
[@31stMEU](#)



ABH3 Donald Elliot
[@HSCTwoFive](#)



SN Taylor Henderson
[@USSAntietam](#)

DIVING DEEP INTO NAVAL HISTORY

From Lt.Cmdr. Kara Handley

THEY MAY DIVE THE WORLD OVER, BUT THE HUMBLE BEGINNINGS OF U.S. NAVY DIVERS FIRST BEGAN ON AUG. 1, 1882 IN LOCAL WATERS OFF OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND ACCORDING TO NAVY LEADERS WHO RECENTLY VOTED ON ESTABLISHING AN OFFICIAL BIRTH DATE FOR THE COMMUNITY.



The Navy's diving executive steering committee, comprised of officers and senior enlisted leaders across warfare communities who have a vested interest in Navy diving and undersea operations, worked closely with Naval History and Heritage Command, the Naval Undersea Museum, Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center, and the Man in the Sea Museum, a military diving museum, to research the origins of the U.S. Navy diving inception date.

"Recognizing the birthday of Navy diving gives the entire diving community an opportunity to not only honor our proud lineage but also take a moment to reflect on the monumental contributions of brave pioneers such as William Badders and Robert Barth, along with trailblazers of professional achievement such as Carl Brashear and Mary Bonnin, who have contributed significantly to where we are today," said Master Chief Navy Diver Will Wittman, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command force master diver. "Understanding the arc of our evolution from a single class of six students at the Newport Torpedo School in 1882 to the innovation and capability I have known through the course of my career is truly humbling for me to reflect upon."

During their research, the committee learned Gunner's Mates served as some of the Navy's first divers. The

introduction of the torpedo revolutionized naval warfare and prompted the need for additional undersea training to support testing and recovery of the ordnance. In turn, the Navy established a new course of instruction in Newport to provide the most relevant training for the emerging undersea technology at the time.

Historians from the Navy's museums corroborated this information with reports from the Secretary of the Navy's archives from 1882-1883. An excerpt from the report described the new course of instruction in "submarine diving." According to the documents, six gunners reported on Aug. 1, 1882 for a three-day course directed by the Bureau of Ordnance.

Rear Adm. Brad Andros, commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, said recognizing the inception date for the Navy Diving community not only marks a momentous occasion in naval history but also increases diving community connectedness.

"I'm honored to join Navy divers across the service in commemorating our community, past and present," said Andros. "Navy divers are tasked with some of the most difficult and dangerous missions in the world and must be able to operate in extreme environments, under intense pressure, and with a high degree of precision.

Our teammates have routinely embraced this challenge throughout our 141-year history, and I anticipate the entire force will continue to rise to the occasion and adapt to new threats, challenges, and adversaries for years to come."

According to Naval History and Heritage Command, since their inception, Navy divers have been involved in nearly every major conflict throughout history and have been a forerunner for advancing the diving and underwater operations industry through technology and tactics. In peacetime or in combat, U.S. Navy divers have rose to the occasion, including seven divers who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award.

For Master Chief Navy Diver Jeremy Sylvest of the Navy's Recruiting Command, Aug. 1 now presents an opportunity to inform the next generation of Navy Sailors what a career in diving offers.

"The Navy is always looking for motivated, creative, disciplined, problem-solving candidates to serve as Navy Divers and contribute to the excellent culture we continue to build," said Sylvest. "A career in Navy diving offers opportunities for travel and adventure, a unique working environment, specialized training, and the chance to lead and build teams. Navy diving is the best kept secret in the Navy."

Diving capabilities are not solely restricted to the Navy Diver rating as many other ratings receive specialized dive training to complete their missions including Seabees, special operators, explosive ordnance disposal technicians, engineers, medical personnel, and mass communication specialists.

Navy divers support a number of missions in the Navy including mobile diving and salvage, ship husbandry, research and development, submarine operations and undersea rescue missions, special warfare, expeditionary mine countermeasures, anti-terrorism and force protection, and underwater photography and videography.

While this year's commemorative events will be celebrated locally at individual commands, the diving community is focused on planning a global event for 2024 that will encompass Navy diver participation from across the world.

"I'm honored to be a part of this community and look forward to advancing our capability with all service and international partners, along with welcoming new leaders of tomorrow into our fold as we honor our historic roots each year," said Wittman.

For more information about becoming a Navy Diver, click [here](#).



HERE COMES THE BOOM

From Mass Communication Specialist Chief Patrick Gordon



Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River's vision is simple – to sustain the Naval Aviation Enterprise's combat edge over our adversaries. The mission partners at NAS Patuxent River are hard at work every day on the research, development, test and evaluation that ensures our warfighters have the necessary equipment to safely and reliably take the fight to the enemy.

Safely maintaining ordnance and monitoring the denotation is the job of Kim Williams, NAS Patuxent River explosives safety officer.

The responsibilities of the explosives safety officer (ESO) for NAS Patuxent River are ensuring that all personnel on board the installation, including all tenant commands and activities, who handle or store arms, ammunition, and explosives (AA&E) material are properly trained and in compliance with all Department of Defense (DoD), Department of the Navy, and other federal, state, or local regulations.

These regulations are varied and include explosives safety site approvals; review, validation, and approval of standard operating procedures; periodic inspections of AA&E storage facilities, which includes compliance with physical security requirements, lightning protection and ground systems; verification that ordnance handling equipment,

weight handling equipment and transport vehicles are properly maintained, and weight tested as required; and ammunition accounting.

On any given day at Pax River you can find Williams on inspection tours or in conference with mission partner explosives safety representatives ensuring the safe handling, maintenance, and storage of the most volatile materials at Pax. His approach is meticulous, and relies on a two-fold approach of adherence to instruction and trust in his team of tenant command representatives.

"I work with the various tenants, including several DoD contract companies, by hosting monthly meetings to provide training and discuss any new or revised requirements, including changes to any manuals or directives," said Williams. "I also conduct a couple of explosives safety self-assessments for each command, activity, and contractor companies during the year. These assessments are basically internal explosives safety inspections, and I use various personnel from different commands and activities to get as comprehensive an assessment as possible."

This approach led to NAS Patuxent River receiving the highest grade possible of "Satisfactory" on the recent explosives safety Inspection in June, with only 25 total discrepancies, down from the 75 received in 2013 prior to

Williams becoming the ESO; an impressive feat given the scope of the explosives safety program at one of the largest aviation test locations in the DoD.

"We had a few discrepancies against some of the older explosives safety site approvals, primarily in the documentation as loaded in a new database, and some documentation discrepancies in a few of the other programs," said Williams. "There are the 10 programs that we are inspected to: explosives safety administration and management, facility certification/master planning, ammunition and explosives qualification/certification and training, standard operating procedures, ammunition and explosives facilities and operations, lightning protection/grounding/emissions control, material potentially presenting an explosive hazard/ranges, AA&E transportation & equipment, AA&E physical security, and ammunition and explosives inventory management."

Williams' experience in explosives safety, and encyclopedic knowledge of instruction, seems natural; but it was honed over a 30-year Navy career that saw him rise to the heights of the Navy's aviation ordnance community. And he credits his time in uniform with teaching him the importance of knowing instruction and how to work with different communities to ensure an effective safety program.

"I am a retired CW04 Aviation Ordnance officer, and my Navy career involved assignment to several different commands to include attack, fighter, and strike fighter attack squadrons with the A-6, F-14, F/A-18C, and FA-18F, as well as a Carrier Air Wing (CAG) staff, intermediate maintenance and even recruiting duty," said Williams. "My active-duty experience has been invaluable in not only understanding requirements and knowing how to interpret them but more importantly in how to train personnel and how to assess command capabilities."

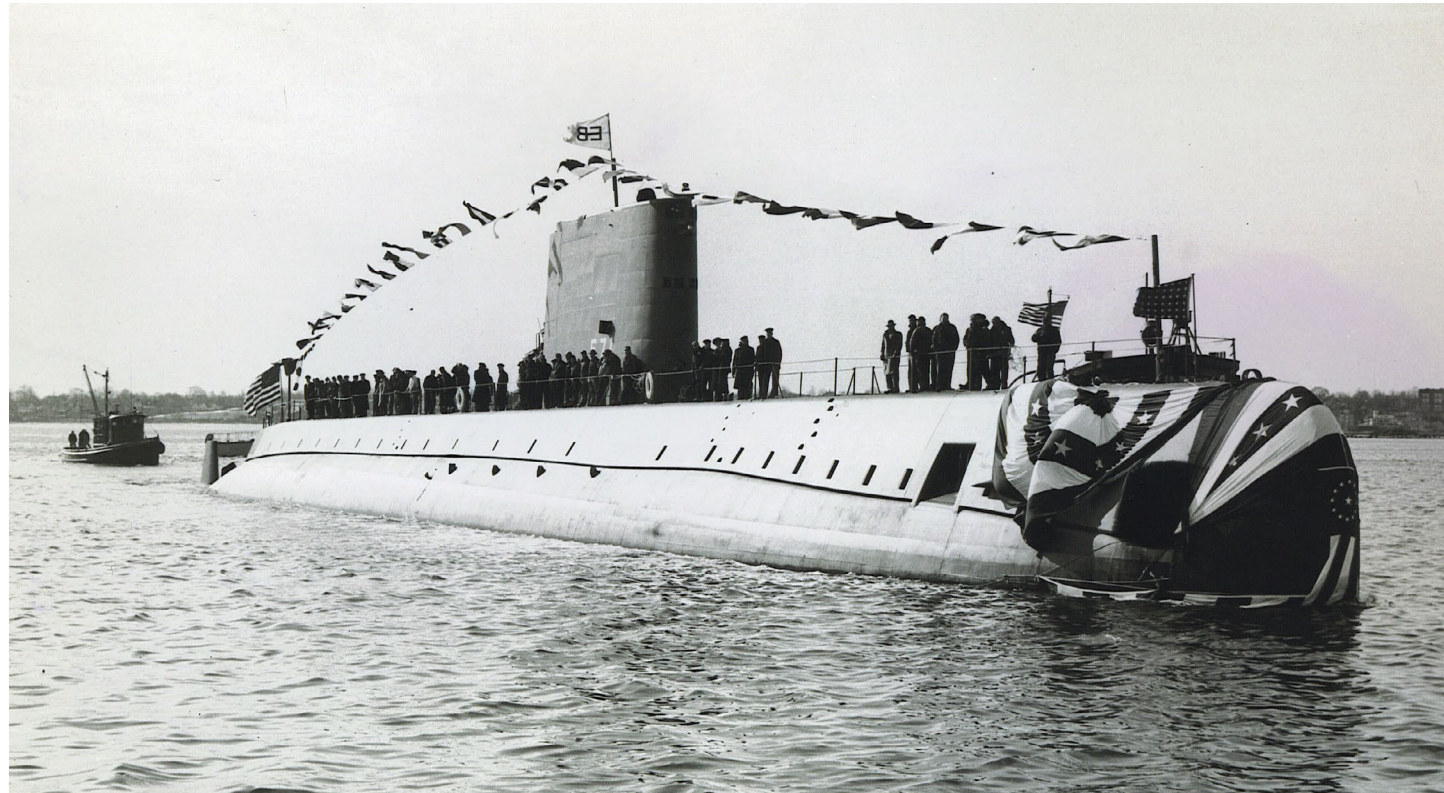
It is this experience that has led him to the role he serves in today. Williams said that while explosives safety may not be on the minds of most in their day-to-day lives, the importance of his program ensures that those in charge of AA&E materials don't have to worry about the "what ifs" on his watch.

"One of my favorite quotes is, 'One second after a mishap, leadership and all persons affected will be asking two simple questions: what could we have done to prevent this, and why didn't we do it,'" said Williams. "Explosives safety is a world where you don't normally get a second chance if something goes wrong, so lives literally depend on doing it right the first time, every time."



75 YEARS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

From Naval Reactors Public Affairs



Aug. 4 marks the birthday of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, a joint Department of Navy and Department of Energy organization responsible for all aspects of the Navy's nuclear propulsion, including research, design, construction, testing, operation, maintenance, and ultimate disposition of naval nuclear propulsion plants.

In 1946, shortly after the end of World War II, Congress passed the Atomic Energy Act, which established the Atomic Energy Commission to succeed the wartime Manhattan Project and gave it sole responsibility for developing atomic energy. At this time, Capt. Hyman G. Rickover was assigned to the Navy Bureau of Ships, the organization responsible for ship design.

Rickover recognized the military implications of successfully harnessing atomic power for submarine propulsion and knew it would be necessary for the Navy to work with the AEC to develop such a program. He and several officers and civilians were sent to the AEC laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for a year to learn the fundamentals of nuclear reactor technology.

Although theories of nuclear power were understood, the technology to build and operate a shipboard nuclear propulsion plant did not exist. There were several reactor concepts; the real challenge was to develop this technology and transform the theoretical into the practical. New materials had to be developed, components designed, and fabrication techniques worked out. Furthermore, installing

and operating a steam propulsion plant inside the confines of a submarine and under the unique deep-sea pressure conditions raised a number of technical difficulties. Faced with these obstacles, the team at Oak Ridge knew that to build a naval nuclear propulsion plant would require a substantial commitment of resources and a new level of government and industry commitment.

Rickover returned to Washington and used every opportunity from his post at Navy Bureau of Ships to argue the need to establish a Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. On Aug. 4, 1948, the Navy created the new Nuclear Power Branch (Code 390) with Rickover as its head within the Bureau's Research Division.

"IT'S AN EXCITING TIME IN THE NAVAL NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM. WE ARE FULLY EMBRACING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE POWERING MARITIME DOMINANCE FOR THE NEXT 75 YEARS."

**ADM. FRANK CALDWELL
DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAL
NUCLEAR PROPULSION PROGRAM**

Just seven years later, Rickover and his team put the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the USS Nautilus (SSN 571) to sea. Three years later, on Aug. 3, 1958, Nautilus accomplished the impossible when the ship reached the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees North. Cmdr. William Anderson was in command and had a crew of 116 Sailors aboard.

"Such a journey was previously unthinkable," said Adm. Frank Caldwell, director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. "But this single event demonstrated the awesome, asymmetric advantage that nuclear power afforded our submarines and America's national defense. The Nautilus could go to any ocean in the world, anytime, and remain there virtually as long as desired."

Ten years after the program started, the Navy was sailing four fully-operational nuclear-powered submarines and building the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise (CVN 65), with eight reactor plants. In the next two years, the first strategic ballistic missile submarine, the USS George Washington (SSBN 598) went on its first strategic deterrent patrol.

Over the last 75 years, Naval Reactors has operated 273 reactors plants, taken 562 reactor cores critical including

33 different designs, and steamed more than 171 million miles with over 7,500 reactor years of safe operations. The Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program and the Navy's nuclear-powered warships have demonstrated clear superiority in defending the United States – from the Cold War to today's unconventional threats and strategic competition – Naval Reactors ensures the American Sailor and the nuclear-fleet are ready to fight and remain an effective deterrent.

There is no substitute for presence and nuclear-powered aircraft carriers remain the most survivable and versatile airfields in the world, while nuclear-powered fast attack and large payload submarines hold adversaries at risk in both contested seas and open oceans. Today, the Navy operates 99 reactors and 79 nuclear-powered warships – including the largest, most capable warship ever built, the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) which is on its maiden deployment in European waters, underway on nuclear power.

"It's an exciting time in the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program; we are fully embracing our responsibility to continue powering maritime dominance for the next 75 years," said Caldwell.



TOP SECRET - FRODO BAGGINS

Letter Distribution

Letter	Count
A	4
B	4
C	4
D	4
E	4
F	4
G	4
H	4
I	4
J	4
K	4
L	4
M	4
N	4
O	4
P	4
Q	4
R	4
S	4
T	4
U	4
V	4
W	4
X	4
Y	4
Z	4

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