

# SALUTE



PSNS & IMF

## FINAL PORT CALL

MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) completes six-thousand-mile journey to the Pacific Northwest via the Panama Canal • PAGES 6-7





Team PSNS & IMF,

Today I want to highlight a word we hear often in our line of work: readiness. It shows up in briefings, performance reviews, and planning documents. We hear it so often, we might not even think about what it means anymore. Readiness is more than a goal, it's a mindset rooted in preparedness. Preparedness is where we set ourselves up for success. It's a commitment to being fully equipped—mentally, physically, and professionally—before the work even begins. And it's something each of us must own if we're going to keep pace with the mission and, more importantly, if we're going to keep ourselves and our teams safe.

Preparedness is the foundation of readiness. It means having the right knowledge, tools, time, and focus to perform our work safely and effectively. It's not just about being on site or getting started. It's about pausing to ask, "Am I truly prepared to do this job the right way, to completion—and do it without risking the safety of myself or others?"

That kind of preparation requires more than training. It demands situational awareness, early and frequent communication, and the courage to speak up when something doesn't feel right. It also means understanding the purpose behind the procedure and potential impacts from getting it wrong, not just the steps.

We've seen what happens when preparedness is overlooked—when we rush, skip checks, or assume others have it covered. Even routine tasks can quickly turn into safety risks. These are the moments that remind us why readiness—true readiness—can't be an afterthought. They give us a chance to pause, recalibrate, and recommit to the habits that protect us and ensure mission success.

That's why we are focusing so much effort on our new readiness review process exists: to create space for intentional preparation before action. It's about confirming that the right people, plans, and tools are in place, and that everyone involved understands what's at stake. This isn't about slowing the mission down—it's about enabling it to move forward safely and with excellence.

This month, I'm asking each of us to view readiness through the lens of preparedness. Are we mentally ready? Are we physically equipped? Do we fully understand the "why" behind what we're doing? Are we encouraging problem-solving, ownership, and accountability within our teams?

When we prioritize preparedness, we protect our people, programs and platforms. We reduce risk. We increase reliability. And we strengthen the trust that the Navy places in us to return critical assets to the fleet.

Leaders at every level play a vital role in this effort—by checking in early, removing barriers, and ensuring teams are set up for success before work begins. And those on the front lines often have the clearest view of what readiness really looks like. Your voice matters. If something feels off, speak up!

This week, take the time with your team to review your next job. Talk through what preparedness looks like for that task. Don't assume it's covered—verify it. Because when we lead with preparedness, we lead with safety and quality. And that's how we win.

Humility, honesty and dedication, always.

  
Captain JD Crinklaw  
Commander, PSNS & IMF

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## On the cover:

MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635), formerly USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635), arrives at PSNS & IMF, May 6, 2025, for storage and eventual recycling.

(U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)



**ABOVE:** Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, presides over the Copernicus Award presentation ceremony for Jason Cisler, work and systems design branch manager, Code 100TO, Transformation Office, May 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

## Command employee recognized for his work to modernize production planning and operations

### PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Jason Cisler, work and systems design branch manager, Code 100TO, Transformation Office, received the 2025 Copernicus Award from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, May 5, during an award ceremony in the Code 100TO conference room.

Cisler, who was recognized for his outstanding work during fiscal year 2024, was selected for the annual award earlier this year, during the West Premier Naval Conference and Exposition in San Diego.

"You've done a tremendous amount of work to modernize production planning, operations, and metric collection for the inside shops. This was a multi-year effort to improve visibility and scheduling of all hydraulic, air, shafting, and pump operations through the Black Box program," said Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF. "The Black Box provides a single interface for planners, supervisors, engineers, safety personnel, support trade personnel, and the lead mechanics to share. Sending and receiving data for immediate problem resolution and statistical analysis."

Crinklaw thanked Cisler for helping to spearhead the effort at PSNS & IMF, leading all Navy shipyards into the 21st century.

"Your dedication, expertise and initiative transformed the ideas of reduced turnaround time and delays into reality. Great work," Crinklaw said.



**ABOVE:** Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, presents Jason Cisler, work and systems design branch manager, Code 100TO, Transformation Office, with the Copernicus Award, May 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

The Copernicus Award is named for the Copernicus Architecture developed by Vice Adm. Jerry O. Tuttle. The program is used as the blueprint for the future command, control, communications, computers and intelligence structure of the U.S. Navy.



**FESTIVAL:** James Parkhurst, work leader, Shop 64, Woodworkers, Shipwrights, Insulators and Plastic fabricators, demonstrates how dry docks work May 14, during the 2025 Kitsap Water Festival at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. (U.S Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

2025 Kitsap Water Festival

# On the waterfront

Command employees spend the day teaching students from 15 area elementary schools about the work they do each day at the shipyard

**Ben Hutto**  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

**P**uget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility employees joined forces at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, May 13, in support of the 2025 Kitsap Water Festival.

The educational event was open to third and fourth graders from 15 Kitsap County elementary schools, teaching them how their everyday actions impact water quality in Kitsap County. Topics like groundwater, drinking water and storm water conservation were explained throughout a variety of booths staffed by representative from local businesses and organizations.

Rick Wikle, docking zone manager, Code 340, Docking Office, was on hand, representing PSNS & IMF with a



**ABOVE:** Valerie Johnson, education specialist, Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, teaches a group of students about buoyancy and compressibility in submarines, May 14.



**AT LEFT:** Navy Diver Petty Officer 3rd Class Gavin Hall, Bangor Dive Locker, helps students try on diving helmets.

**TOP RIGHT:** Valerie Johnson, education specialist, Naval Undersea Museum, Keyport, teaches students about submarines by squeezing plastic bottles filled with water, May 14.

**ABOVE:** Theron Bergland, general forman, Shop 64, Shipwrights, demonstrates how dry docks work.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

working mock-up of a dry dock to demonstrate how vessels enter and leave the shipyard.

Wikle was one of three PSNS & IMF employees at the booth helping inquisitive students operate tiny pumps to flood and empty the miniature dry dock. As groups of eager young students waited their turn to work the pumps, Wikle and his colleagues answered their questions.

"I think it's really cool we're out here helping kids learn," Wikle said. "The kids all know someone who works at the shipyard. It's usually a family member, but they really don't get to see what we actually do. This is fun way to show them."

The three shipyard employees weren't the only Navy presence during the event. Divers from the PSNS & IMF Bangor Dive Locker; as well as representative from the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Keyport; the Exceptional Family Members Program, Naval Base Kitsap, and both Puget Sound Naval Museum and the

U.S. Naval Undersea Museum were also on hand to help educate the young audience members.

For local educators, the event was a way to offer their students a unique learning experience outside of the classroom.

"This is our third year participating," said Chelsea Gardner, teacher, All Saints Academy. "The kids love it, and it gets them out of the classroom and helps expose them to what's going on out in the real world. They really enjoy seeing everything."

The first Kitsap Water Festival took place 27 years ago. Since 1995, it has been an annual education event that focuses on Puget Sound's most important resource — water. Approximately 1,000 children were able to attend this year's festival.

"I think it's great we're here," Wikle said. "It's a good way for us to give back to our community and help show what we do [at the shipyard]."





**ABOVE:** Moored Training Ship Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) arrives at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, April 3, 2021, for its inactivation. (U.S. Navy photo by Daniel DeAngelis)

# FINAL PORT CALL FOR 'MR. SAM'

Sam Rayburn arrives at PSNS & IMF after completing its six-thousand-mile-long journey via the Panama Canal

**Max Maxfield**  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

**F**ormer Moored Training Ship Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility May 6, after being towed more than 6,000 nautical miles, through the Panama Canal from Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard completed the inactivation of MTS Sam Rayburn, which started its service as the James Madison-class ballistic missile submarine USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635). The vessel will remain at PSNS & IMF until it is recycled.

Sam Rayburn, affectionately known as "Mr. Sam," was decommissioned and reclassified as a moored training ship July 31, 1989. MTS

Sam Rayburn served at Nuclear Power Training Unit-Charleston, South Carolina, for more than 30 years, training Sailors, officers and civilians in the operation, maintenance and supervision of naval nuclear propulsion systems.

MTS Sam Rayburn arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in April 2021 for its inactivation and defueling, with inactivation work being completed in November 2024. Norfolk Naval Shipyard will also be performing the inactivation of another moored training ship beginning in 2027.

MTS Sam Rayburn and MTS Daniel Webster (MTS 626), a former Lafayette-class ballistic missile submarine, were replaced by the next-generation training vessels MTS La Jolla (MTS 701) and MTS San Francisco

See 'MR. SAM' on page 8



**ABOVE:** MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635), formerly USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635), arrives at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, May 6, 2025, for storage and eventual recycling after being towed through the Panama Canal from Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott Hansen)

**AT LEFT:** MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) passes the downtown Seattle skyline May 6, as it makes its way to PSNS & IMF via tow. The former James Madison-class ballistic missile submarine has been used as a Moored Training Ship for Sailors at Nuclear Power Training Unit-Charleston for the past 30 years. (U.S. Navy photo by Kanya Praetorius)



(MTS 711). La Jolla and San Francisco are both former Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines.

Sam Rayburn marks the U.S. Navy's first inactivation of a moored training ship. PSNS & IMF has recycled decommissioned and inactivated ships and submarines using environmentally safe methods as part of the Navy's Ship and Submarine Recycling Program, since 1986.

The MTS Sam Rayburn tow mission was a collaboration among seven commands: U.S. Fleet Forces, Naval Sea Systems Command, Military Sealift Command Atlantic, Military Sealift Command Pacific, and U.S. Second, Third, and Fourth Fleets.

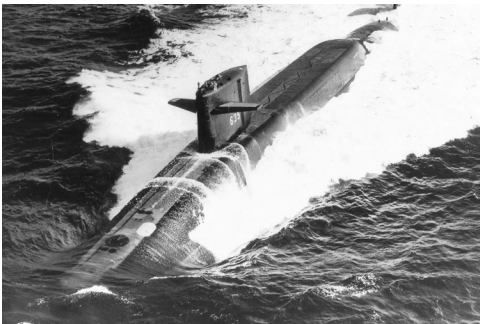
USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) was laid down Dec. 3, 1962, by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia. It was launched Dec. 20, 1963, and was commissioned Dec. 2, 1964, with Capt. Oliver H. Perry Jr. (blue crew) in command.

While submarines regularly arrive at PSNS & IMF for recycling, few have likely touched the lives of as many Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program members as 62-year-old Sam Rayburn. While most who served aboard Sam Rayburn may never have had the chance to see the vessel after their tours ended, one PSNS & IMF worker who served aboard Sam Rayburn from 1981 to 1986, as a Nuclear Machinist's Mate with the gold crew, felt nostalgic when he watched Sam Rayburn exit Rich Passage while being towed by MV Gary Chouest.

"My assignment onboard the sea-going operational submarine Sam Rayburn was unlike any of my previous duty assignments," said Jerome M. Evans, Nuclear Receipt Inspection inspector, Code 139, Nuclear Inspection. "I quickly understood that my life onboard the submarine was governed by a sense of commitment and dedication to my fellow shipmates and to myself. I had to study and learn about the operation of all of the ship's systems; whether it was a weapon system, a safety system, firefighting, and/or ship recovery systems, electrical, electronic, mechanical, or hydraulic and especially, the nuclear power plant systems."

Evans started work at PSNS & IMF in July 1991, as a Radiological Control Technician with Code 105.3, Radiological Monitoring Division. He subsequently changed career paths and joined Shop 38, Marine Machinery Mechanic, to be a journeyman-level marine machinery mechanic. He said both he and Sam Rayburn ending up at PSNS & IMF was serendipitous.

"It might sound strange, but the ending of Sam Rayburn's service at PSNS & IMF is truly a gift," Evans said. "I am about to retire with 45 years of government service and being employed here at PSNS & IMF to



**ABOVE:** A bald eagle sits perched high atop a marker buoy as MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) makes its way through Rich Passage to PSNS & IMF May 6, on the final leg of its 6,000-nautical-mile journey from Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia. (U.S. Navy photo by Kanya Praetorius)

**TOP LEFT:** USS Sam Rayburn (SSBN 635) operates off the Atlantic coast during its time as a James Madison-class ballistic missile submarine. Sam Rayburn was decommissioned and reclassified as a moored training ship July 31, 1989. (U.S. Navy photo)

**BOTTOM LEFT:** MTS Sam Rayburn (MTS 635) arrives at PSNS & IMF May 6 for storage and recycling after being towed through the Panama Canal from Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

see the arrival of my first submarine duty station was very special, and will remain a great experience for me."

Evans is one of many former crew members who treasure their memories from their time aboard Sam Rayburn.

"I am currently in contact with 13 former crewmembers," he said. "Most are from the engineering department, but we recently added a radioman to the group. We have had frequent and spontaneous text message

conversations about a variety of things. However, we somehow always come back to discussing our experiences onboard Sam Rayburn. They were all excited that I had the opportunity to track the tugboat Gary Chouest and [Sam Rayburn] being towed here before the work of dismantling starts."

Once Daniel Webster's inactivation work is completed, it will also be sent to PSNS & IMF for recycling.

## Code 200 employee named NCMA Administrative Professional of the Year

### PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Krista Fontenot, executive administrator, Code 200, Engineering and Planning, has been named Administrative Professional of the Year for 2024 by the Naval Civilian Managers Association, according to a recent NCMA announcement.

Over the past 13 months, Fontenot has made a number of fundamental improvements in key areas that have had broad and significant impact within the engineering and planning department — and across the entire command at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, according to the announcement.

"Fontenot has taken on a team leader role. Where we have relied heavily on on-the-job training in the past, Fontenot has developed administrative desk guides for new administrative staff," according to the

announcement. "Doing this has established quality standards and ensured continuity and alignment across divisions."

Fontenot has also developed a mentoring and training program for staff members, allowing them to rotate into the front office as they prepare for the next step in their careers, the announcement said.

"This effort has resulted in workforce development and increased the morale and partnership among the entire administrative staff," according to the announcement. "This also allows Fontenot time to be mentored and trained herself by rotating and supporting the executive admin staff in Code 1100 and the Shipyard Commander's office."

The Engineering and Planning Department "is grateful to have such a hardworking, leader in this position, who moves this command forward in every sense of the word," the announcement said.



**ABOVE:** Krista Fontenot, executive administrator, Code 200, Engineering and Planning, has been named NCMA Administrative Professional of the Year. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

# JOIN US!

## PSNS & IMF Employee Appreciation Day

### Seattle Mariners vs. Pittsburgh Pirates

#### T-Mobile Park Sunday, July 6 1:10 p.m.

**Let's come together and celebrate our team!**  
Two tiers of seats available at discounted prices!  
For more information, visit NYC.U.





ABOVE: A team of Code 740, Riggers, prepares the sail and fairwater planes from Ex-USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN 709) for transport May 7 near Dry Dock 3 at PSNS & IMF. The former Los Angeles-class general purpose attack submarine's components are being shipped to Knolls Atomic Power Lab, Niskiyuna, New York, for use in its historic archive. Ex-Rickover was inactivated Dec. 14, 2006. (U.S. Navy photo by Matt McKinney)

# REAL ID REQUIREMENT

## Enforcement begins May 7, 2025

Federal law now requires all individuals 18 and older to provide Real ID-compliant, or other accepted form of ID, to access certain federal facilities.

Accepted forms of ID include:

- DOD-issued IDs (CAC & dependent card)
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License
- U.S. Passport or Passport Card
- Veteran Health Identification Card

Please visit NYCU for more information and a full list of accepted forms of ID.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 26**

- **Memorial Day:** The annual Memorial Day holiday observance is May 26.

**June 4**

- **Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place June 4, in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**June 4-7**

- **Battle of Midway:** The historic Battle of Midway took place June 4-7, 1942.



**June 6**

- **D-Day:** D-Day took place on the beaches of France, June 6, 1944.

**June 15**

- **Father's Day:** The annual Father's Day observance is June 15.



**July 4**

- **Independence Day:** The annual Independence Day holiday observance is July 4.



During May 2025, the following employees with a combined 137 years of corporate knowledge retired. We thank them for their dedicated service.



- Edward Bakalarski, Code 900/Shop 71
- Rodney D. Franks, Code 900/Shop 11
- Lawrence J. Mack, Code 2300
- Raymond A. Meim, Code 300
- Noah E. Taylor, Code 2340

**ASBP**  
Armed Services Blood Program

GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE —  
DONATE BLOOD

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
June 4, 2025

**9AM - 3PM, BLDG. 850A, RM 160**

For full details, visit News You Can Use on the PSNS & IMF SharePoint home page.

### VOLUNTARY Leave Transfer PROGRAM

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This program authorizes federal employees to donate annual leave to other civilian federal employees. If you wish to donate annual leave or have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Office at 360-476-8289/7015, or visit Building 435, 3rd floor, Room 338, or fax your donation form to 360-476-8723.

<b>Code 109</b> Shawn Fellows	<b>Code 500</b> Eric Toves	<b>Shop 31</b> Chandra Quimby	<b>Shop 56</b> Dakota McIntosh
<b>Code 200</b> Gennafer Litke	<b>Code 710</b> Natalie Denson	<b>Shop 38</b> Wilbur Hinman	<b>Shop 57</b> Dustin Bigelow-York
<b>Code 246.1</b> Paul Householder	<b>Code 740</b> Catherine Rasmussen	<b>Shop 39</b> Tim Thompson	<b>Shop 64</b> Scott Bush
<b>Code 260M</b> Paul Greil	<b>Code 900A</b> Robyn Rogers	<b>Shop 40</b> Catherine Haskins	<b>Shop 70</b> Sherlyn Lowe
<b>Code 300N.5</b> Allexondra Noble	<b>Code 1200N.42</b> Jodi Fitchett	<b>Shop 51</b> Michael Norgaard	<b>Shop 99</b> Vincent Crisotomo
<b>Code 420</b> Gabrielle Guerrero	<b>Code 2320</b> Donna Taylor	<b>Shop 52</b> Robert Wallace	
<b>Code 432</b> Rolf Jacobson			

Rideshare

**Pierce Transit Vanpool:** Picks up at Tacoma Community College at 6:10 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-Lot) at 4:10 p.m. Call 253-226-5586.

**Tacoma Vanpool:** Picks up at 6th Avenue Park & Ride at 5:25 a.m. and arrives at PSNS & IMF at 6 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-lot) at 4:10 p.m. Call 360-476-2905.

**Thurston/Pierce Vanpool:** Picks up at Tumwater/Olympia at 4:10 a.m. and Tacoma Community College at 4:50 a.m. Departs shipyard (State Street Gate) at 2 p.m. Call 407-459-0260.

**Rideshare policy:** To post a Rideshare ad, email psns.pao.fct@us.navy.mil or come to Building 850, fifth floor, Congressional and Public Affairs Office to fill out an ad form. All information is subject to use in Salute — print and online.

SALUTE

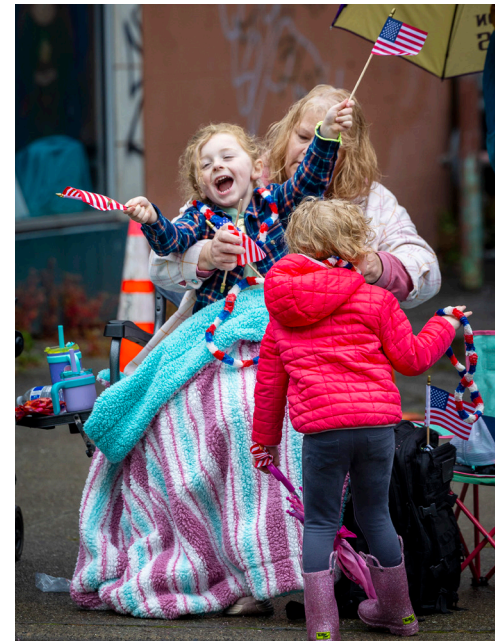
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# CITY OF BREMERTON ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark



**TOP:** Members of Navy Band Northwest, Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor, perform while marching in the annual City of Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade May 17 in downtown Bremerton.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, waves to the crowd while participating in the annual Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade, May 17, with his wife Junko and son Kai.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Skye Beamenderfer and her grandkids, Rex Bahler, 4, and Brooklyn Beamenderfer, 4, watch the annual Bremerton Armed Forces Day Parade in the rain May 17.