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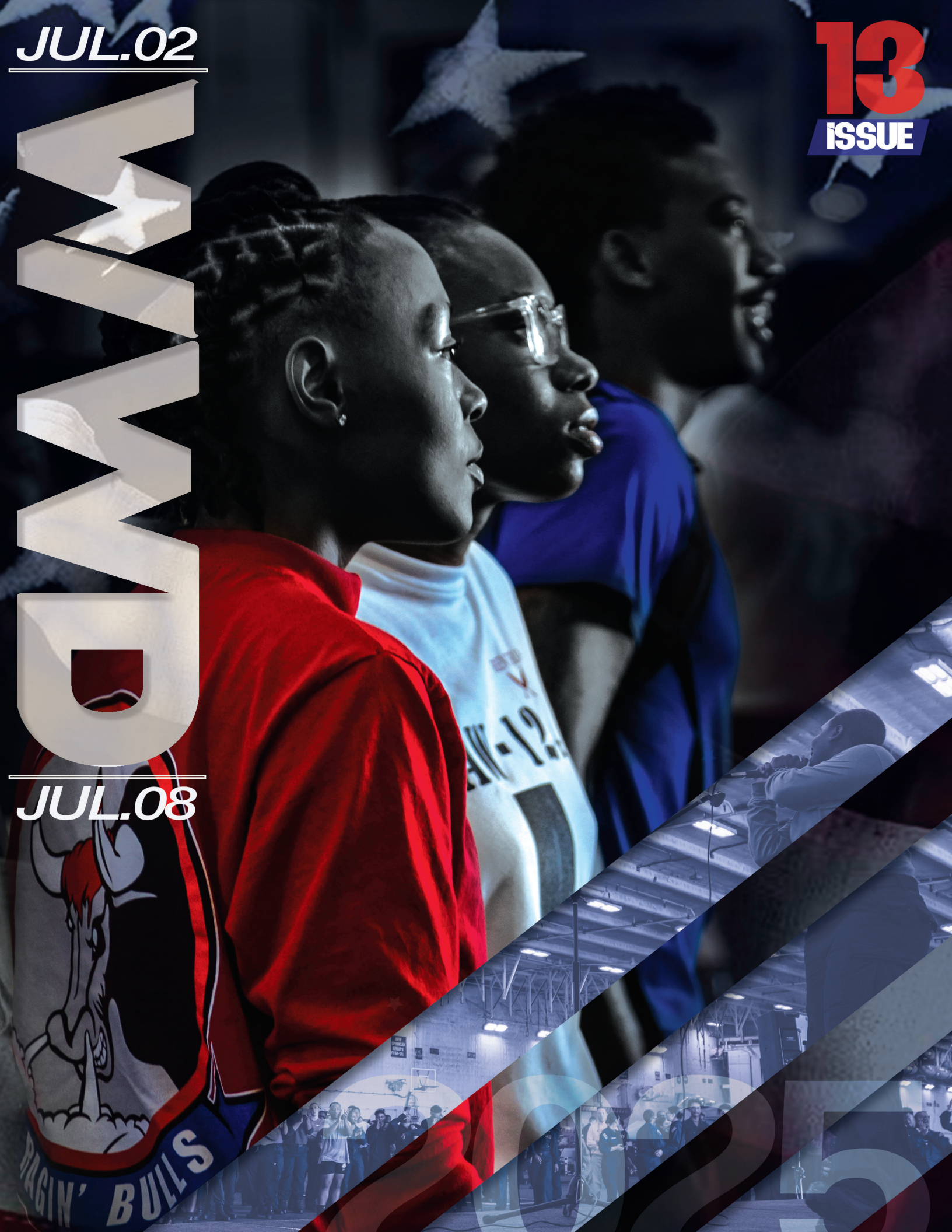


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Final Credits



USA

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

MC3 Jimi
Balisage

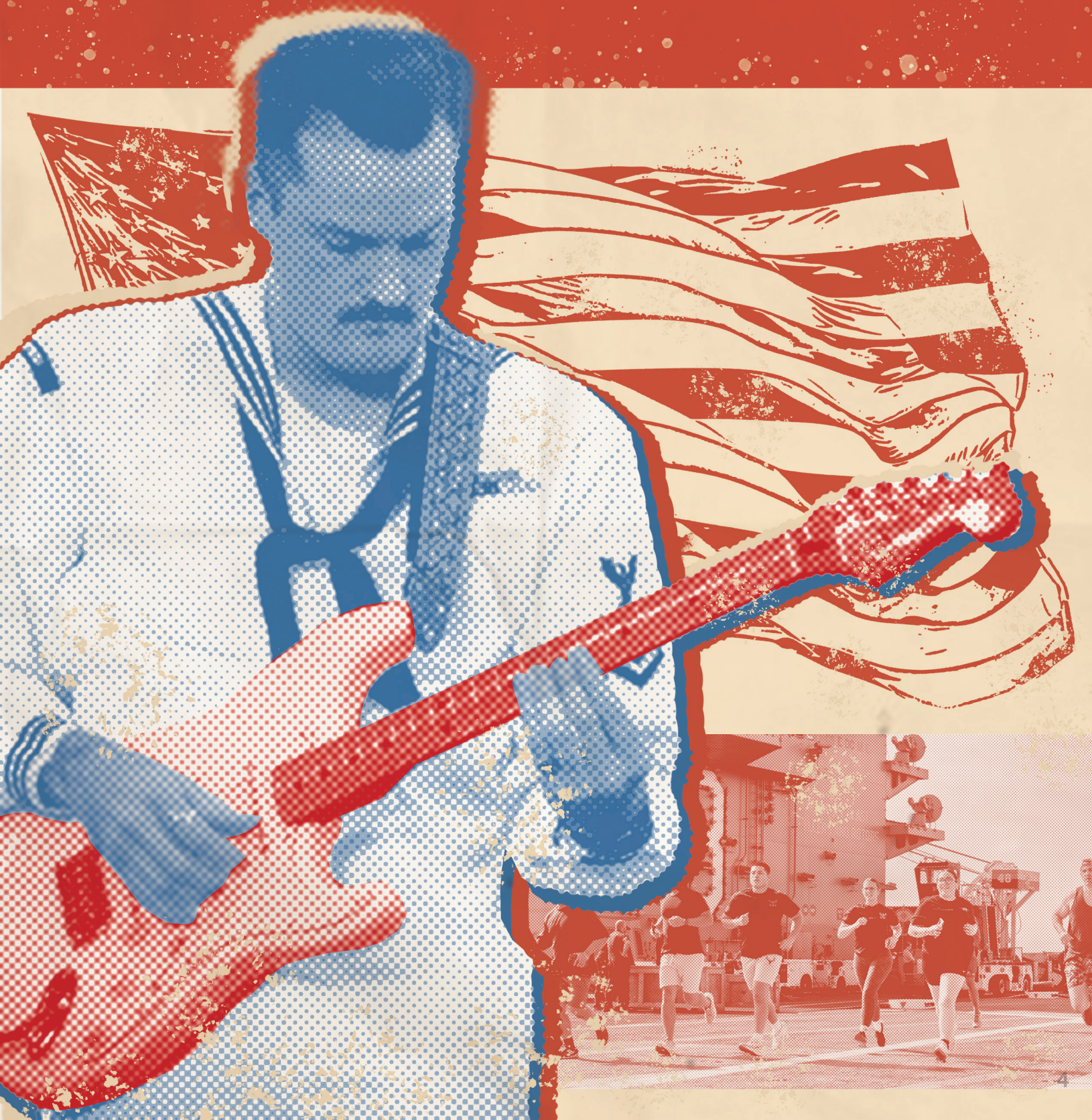
Sailors assigned to the world's largest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), reach for refreshments during a 4th of July celebration in the hangar bay.

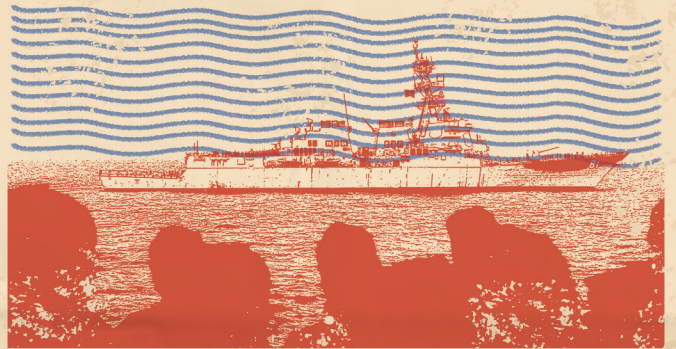
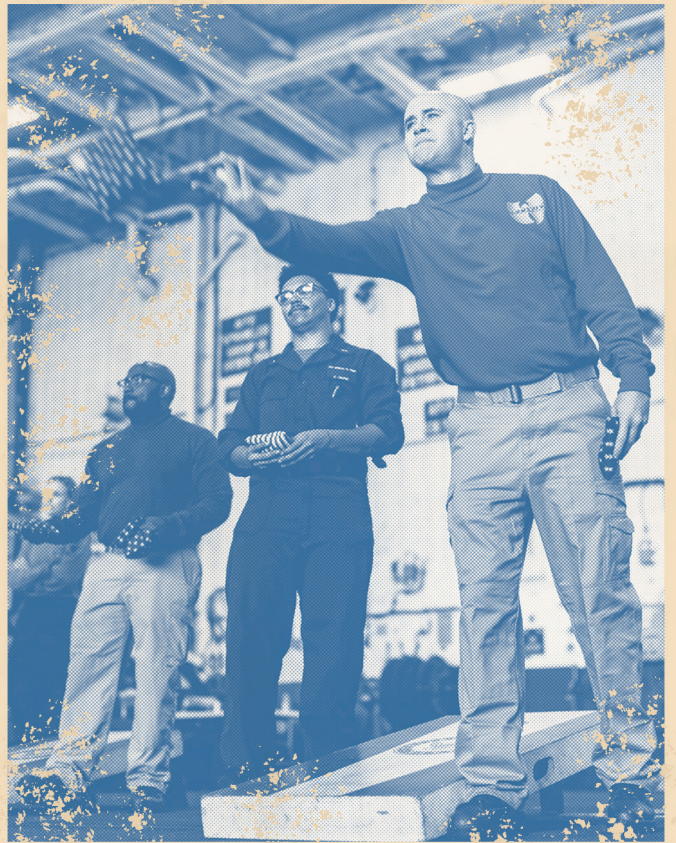


78

Gerald R. Ford

4th of July Celebration





CVN78

Quartermaster Seaman Apprentice Braydon Valentine, assigned to Navigation Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), performs routine maintenance on a binocular stand.

PHOTO BY MC3 ALEX CASCO



Retail Services Specialist Seaman Ty'kera Rich, assigned to Supply Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), prepares a beverage in the ship's coffee shop.

PHOTO BY MCSN ALYSSA JOY



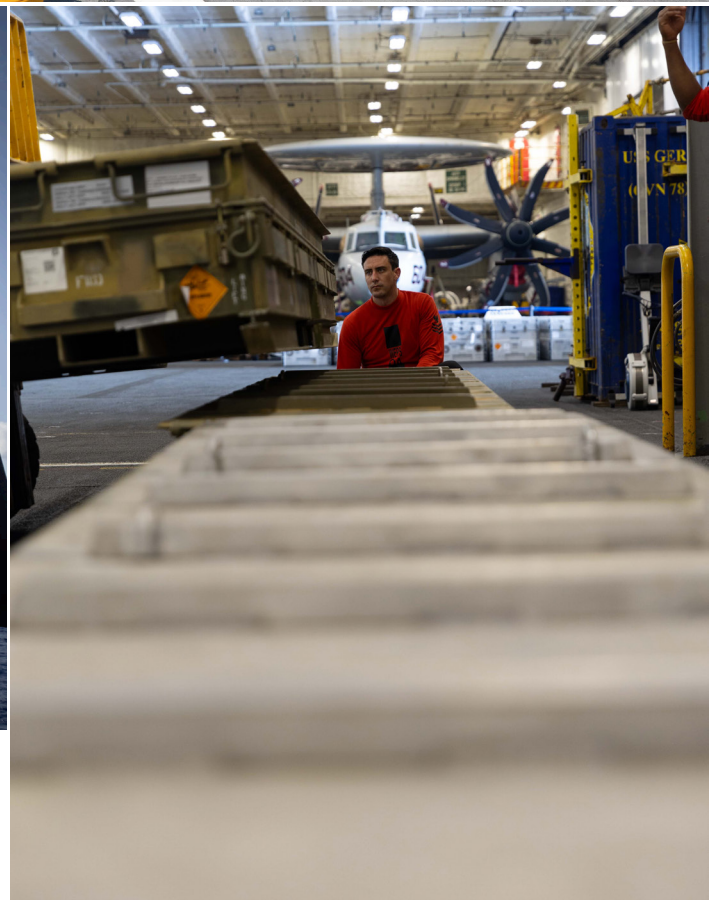
Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class Jorel Mirabitobadgley exits the cabin of a Carrier Air Wing 8 MH-60S Sea Hawk attached to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 9 during a Combat Search and Rescue exercise. **PHOTO BY MC2 MAXWELL ORLOSKY**

▶▶ INSTANT REPLAY

A Carrier Air Wing 8 MH-60S Sea Hawk, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 9, lifts ordnance from the flight deck of USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), during a vertical replenishment. **PHOTO BY MCSN JARROD BURY**



Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Quilbio Sanchez, assigned to Weapons Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), fires an M2 Browning machine gun during a live-fire gunnery exercise. **PHOTO BY MC2 JACOB MATTINGLY**



Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Richard Minzlaff, assigned to Weapons Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), oversees an ammunition onload in the ship's hangar bay. **PHOTO BY MC3 ALEX CASCO**

WEPS

Sailors assigned to Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) signal to each other during a test on a jet engine in the ship's jet shop. **PHOTO BY MCSN JARROD BURY**



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Maximo Fernandezgonzalez, right, assigned to Deck Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78), operates a rigid hull inflatable boat.

PHOTO BY MC2 TAJH PAYNE

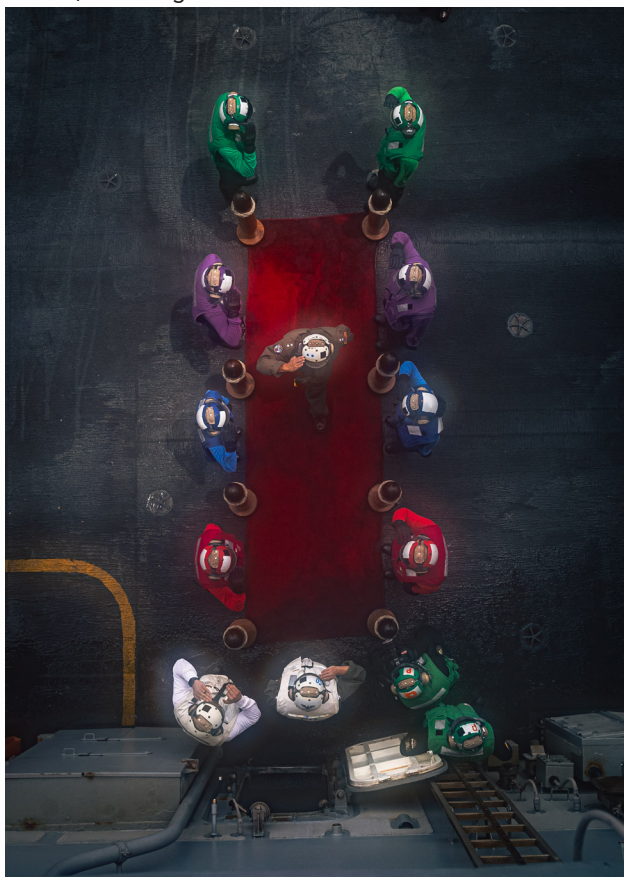


An Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer operates a radio during a fast-rope exercise on the flight deck of USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78).

PHOTO BY MC2 JACOB MATTINGLY

FORD IN

Sailors assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) pipe aboard Rear Adm. John Lemmon, Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft, on the flight deck. **PHOTO BY MC3 ALEX CASCO**



FLIGHT

Sailors assigned to Air Department aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) prep an F/A-18E Super Hornet attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 213 for flight operations on the ship's flight deck.

PHOTO BY MCSN JARROD BURY



Sailors assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and Sailors assigned to Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Squadron 40 unload supplies from a CMV-22B Osprey onto the flight deck. **PHOTO BY MC3 JIMI BALISAGE**

▶ MORE HIGHLIGHTS

BEHIND THE RANGE: THE WOMAN PREPARING SAILORS FOR THE FIGHT

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST SEAMAN PAIGE BROWN

With more than 150 Sailors qualified before deployment, Master-at-Arms 1st Class Ashli Jurado helped prepare the USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) security force to respond to real-world threats. Her focus on safety, fundamentals, and confidence built a strong foundation before the ship went out to sea.

Before Gerald R. Ford got underway, many Sailors in security roles had little firearms experience. That changed under Jurado's instruction. As the ship's Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor (SAMI) and lead Range Safety Officer (RSO), she qualified more than a hundred Sailors during the training cycle.

"I've probably qualified close to 500 people overall," Jurado said. "On the ship alone, it's closer to 170."

Jurado's journey as a SAMI started at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, where she served as a Duty Armorer. She was quickly designated Rifle Firearm Instructor (RFI) Leading Petty Officer.

After her time at Little Creek, she had the opportunity to train and get qualified all over the world. Before transferring to Europe, she qualified to be a Crew Served Weapons Instructor (CSWI). While stationed in Europe, Jurado ran ranges for Navy Security Force (NSF) Sailors and trained with foreign militaries. In Poland, she was flown to Romania to qualify others for crew served weapons and later joined an international weapons shoot.

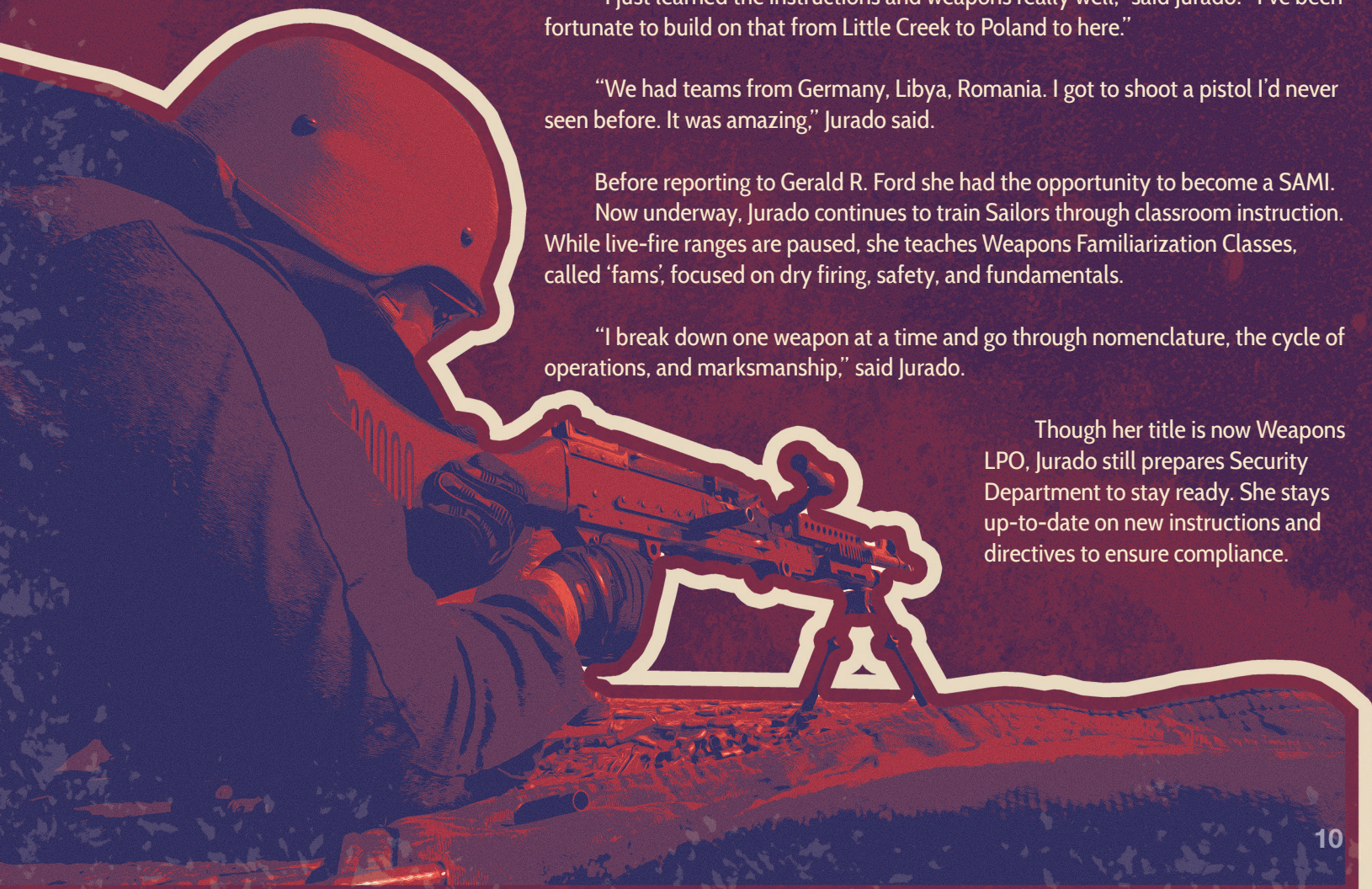
"I just learned the instructions and weapons really well," said Jurado. "I've been fortunate to build on that from Little Creek to Poland to here."

"We had teams from Germany, Libya, Romania. I got to shoot a pistol I'd never seen before. It was amazing," Jurado said.

Before reporting to Gerald R. Ford she had the opportunity to become a SAMI. Now underway, Jurado continues to train Sailors through classroom instruction. While live-fire ranges are paused, she teaches Weapons Familiarization Classes, called 'fams', focused on dry firing, safety, and fundamentals.

"I break down one weapon at a time and go through nomenclature, the cycle of operations, and marksmanship," said Jurado.

Though her title is now Weapons LPO, Jurado still prepares Security Department to stay ready. She stays up-to-date on new instructions and directives to ensure compliance.



Jurado trains Sailors on the M18 pistol, which she says is for self-defense, while the M4 rifle and M240 machine gun are better suited for long-distance situations.

Confidence is a major part of her training.

"I've seen people come in afraid of the weapon. That's why safety has to come first," Jurado said. "Before we go to the range, I make sure they're comfortable."

She also teaches immediate and remedial actions for weapon malfunctions.

"IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, I WANT THEM TO CLEAR THE WEAPON AND GET BACK IN THE FIGHT," SAID JURADO.

During Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) and Force Protection Exercise (FEPEX), Jurado supported drills, simulating real-world threats like active shooters and gate runners.

"At first, people sounded unsure on the net [radio]. Now, they sound clear and confident," Jurado said.

"Starting with small arms gives Sailors confidence that they can handle real situations," said Jurado.

Even at sea, Jurado continues to prepare Sailors for what's next.

Through hands-on instruction and steady focus, she keeps Gerald R. Ford's crew mission ready.



**NON-LETHAL
WEAPONS
INSTRUCTOR**



Don't
lose

FOCUS

complacency is the quiet before the chaos 12

Operational Security

**Information is ammunition.
Don't arm the enemy.**



Let's Talk About It...

OPSEC & Cyber Security

Story by MC2 Mariano Lopez

You're on liberty walking through a mall overseas with your friends. Finally, some respite from the long days of deployment. You see a coffee shop with a sign that says free Wi-Fi. You order a coffee and connect to the internet to check your bank account. You see your account and are proud that you've saved so much. Later, you're back on the ship, and you check it again, but you see all your accounts have a balance of zero.

This is why cyber security matters.

But what is cyber security? It refers to the measures and practices used to protect computer systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, attacks or damage. On board USS Gerald R Ford (CVN 78) Sailors like Lt. Ben Coats, Command Security Manager, and Information Systems Technician 1st Class Michael Boggs, Information Systems Security Officer, are two of the many people working diligently to protect the ship against cyber threats and attacks.

"Cyber security controls everything all around us," Boggs said "I strongly suggest using a VPN. Hackers can spoof a Wi-Fi connection, so all your data goes through their device before it connects to the internet."

That is the reality in which Sailors often find themselves overseas, but it's even a threat at home.

"If I could recommend everyone on the ship to do one thing it'd be to change your password. Sixteen characters, and no dictionary words. This applies to all of your accounts, and be sure to change it frequently." Boggs said.

It's a small change, but one with great impact that may save you a headache and arduous phone calls with your bank.

Cyber security goes hand-in-hand with OPSEC, or operational security, the process used to identify, analyze, and control critical information to determine whether friendly actions can be observed by enemy intelligence.

"Compromised OPSEC can lead to mission failure, endanger lives, or give enemies strategic advantages. It's the job of every Sailor to stay vigilant in keeping the Navy's operations secure," said Coats.

According to Coats, Sailors unknowingly trigger OPSEC red flags frequently, often weekly, especially during deployments. Common causes include posting geotagged photos online, or using unsecure devices for work-related communication.

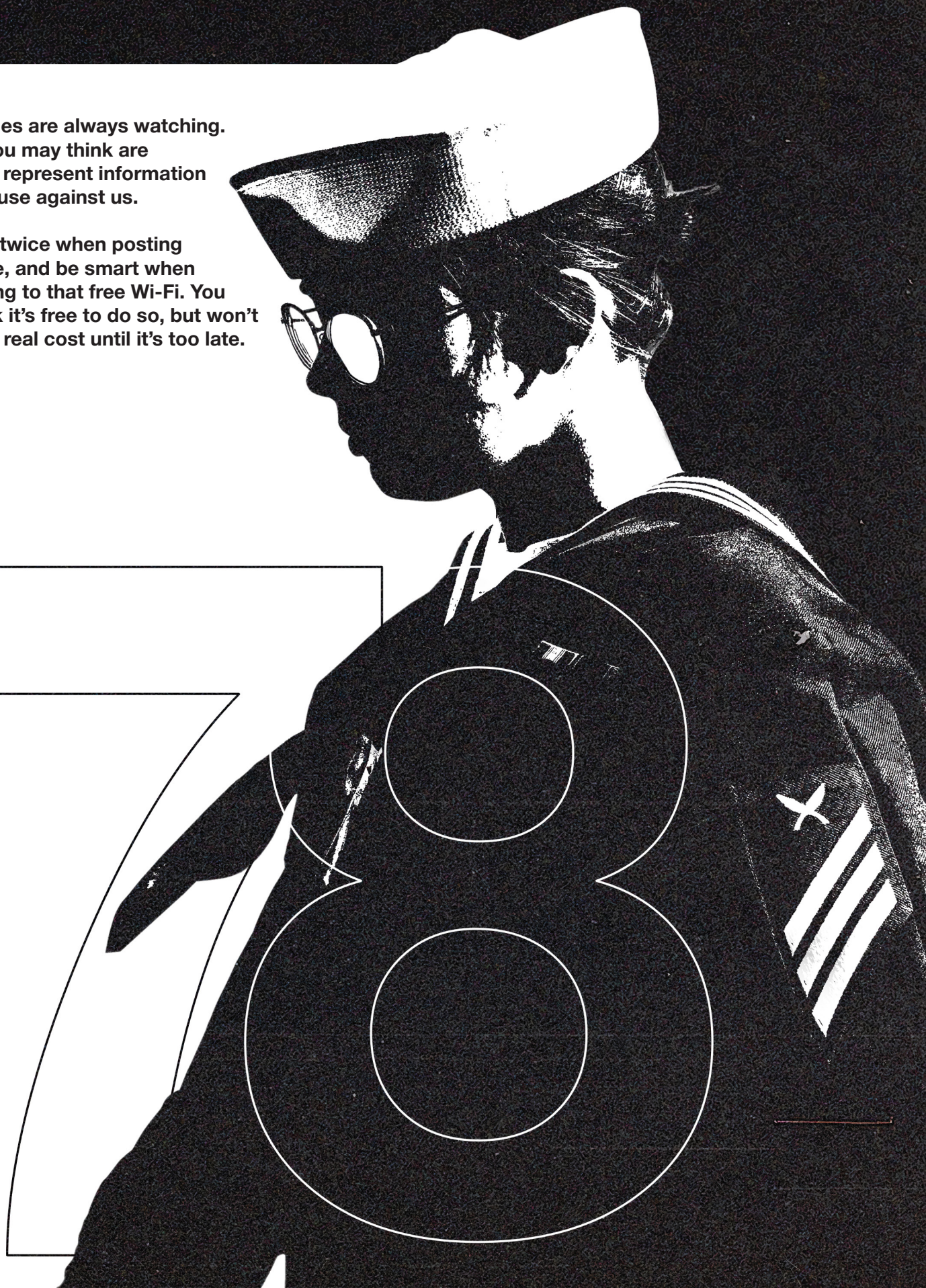
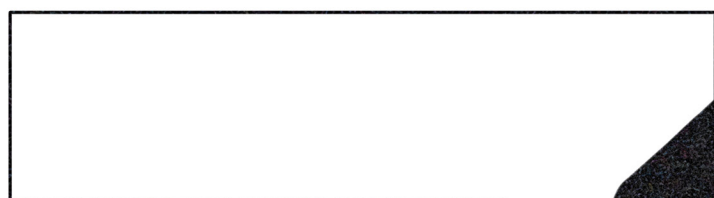
“ Cyber security controls everything all around us. ”

How many of you have recently taken a selfie, or any photo on your phone, for that matter? Chances are your geotag was on. It's probably been on since you got the phone. So, when you post these photos while underway, anyone can go into the photo's metadata and see where it was taken.

"The most common mistake is oversharing sensitive information on social media or unsecured platforms, like posting deployment details, ship locations, or operational schedules," said Coats. Sailors often underestimate how seemingly harmless details can be pieced together by adversaries to exploit vulnerabilities."

**Adversaries are always watching.
Details you may think are
harmless represent information
they can use against us.**

**So, think twice when posting
that selfie, and be smart when
connecting to that free Wi-Fi. You
may think it's free to do so, but won't
know the real cost until it's too late.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

CYCLIC OPS
TRANSLANT
GQ
IN-CHOP

...AND NOW YOU KNOW.

*EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

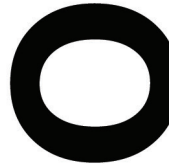
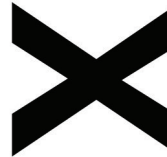


XO'S

1. Carrier Qualifications
2. TRANSLANT
3. In-Chop Preparation



Know Big XO's top 3 priorities.
Message brought to you by GERALD R. FORD
CARRIER STRIKE GROUP 2025 (GRFCSG25).
For further inquiries, consult your chain of command.



NEED HELP? 7878 IS FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE | 211 IS FOR CASES OF DANGER TO LIFE, LIMB, OR EYESIGHT

SEE YOUR PHOTOS AT THIS CANES SHAREDRIIVE FILE PATH:

(((ALL HANDS ACCESS)))\1-Media\Photos\##MEDIA DAILY PHOTOS##

TUNE IN TO CHANNEL 212 FOR CYBERSECURITY, DAMAGE CONTROL GEAR, AND DAMAGE CONTROL EGRESS TRAINING

USS GERALD R. FORD MEDIA DEPT. PRESENTS A MEDIA78 PRODUCTION **WWD MAGAZINE**

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