

# SALUTE

PSNS & IMF

## Crane's arrival to aid operations

New portal cranes bring increased lifting capacity, efficiency to the shipyard • PAGE 4





Team PSNS & IMF,

In a shipyard as complex and fast-paced as ours, it's easy to focus on the immediate task at hand, checking off the next item on the schedule, solving the next problem, or pushing toward the next milestone. That drive and focus are part of what make this workforce so capable. But our success isn't built on skills alone. It's built on people and the way we work together.

It's built on people and how we treat one another.

Every day, across dry docks, production shops, and office spaces, the choices we make shape more than just the quality of our work, they shape the environment we work in. Those choices aren't limited to technical tasks or checklists. They include how we lead, how we support one another, and how we show up for the people around us.

That's why I want to take a moment to talk about something foundational: how we treat one another.

How we treat each other isn't just about being polite or following norms—it's about communication, collaboration, and accountability. It's the tone we use in conversations, the way we respond to frustration or disagreement, and the effort we put into listening before we speak. It's how we interact with our teammates, both in the everyday moments and when tensions are high.

Every person here contributes something important. We work in different codes, shops, and trades. Some of us are behind desks, others inside dry docks or submarines. But no matter our role, we are part of the same team, and each of us deserves to be treated with fairness, professionalism, and consideration.

These behaviors aren't just soft skills—they are operational enablers. They help create a workplace where people can thrive, problem-solve, and stay focused on mission. It means giving others the benefit of the doubt, choosing professionalism when it would be easier not to, and creating space for different voices and experiences at the table. It is the small choices we make every day that shape the kind of culture we build together.

Part of building that culture means resisting the urge to speculate, whether it's about someone's personal life or what might be happening around the shipyard. We may not always have the full picture, but that doesn't give us permission to fill in the blanks with assumptions. Gossip and rumor mills do real harm. They erode trust, stir unnecessary anxiety, and create division at a time when unity matters most.

We also need to recognize that psychological safety and mission readiness are connected. When people feel safe and respected, they are more engaged, more collaborative, and more likely to speak up when something is wrong. That makes us stronger as a team and better able to carry out the mission.

So, I ask each of you to take a moment this week and reflect. What kind of teammate are you? How are you helping to shape the culture around you? Are you building people up or wearing them down?

This is our shipyard, and the way we treat each other defines it.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence, to the mission, and to each other.

Humility, honesty and dedication, always.



Captain JD Crinklaw  
Commander, PSNS & IMF

## In this issue:



Command employee earns commendation



STEM Outreach Team supports learning event



Carrier project team members earn recognition

## On the cover:

Carlos Murphy, rigger, Code 740, Riggers, helps guide a barge carrying new portal Crane 52 into Pier Bravo at PSNS & IMF July 14.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)



**ABOVE:** Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, and Cmdr. Andrew Ra, commander, USS Connecticut (SSN 22), present Earnest T. Ryan Jr., marine machinery supervisor, Shop 38, Marine Machinist, with the NCSC Medal May 28. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

## Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medal

# Shop 38 supervisor's quick actions 'a matter of life and death'

By Ben Hutto  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility recognized Earnest T. Ryan Jr., marine machinery supervisor, Shop 38, Marine Machinist, with the Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medal for the actions he took in saving a Sailor from choking, May 28.

The award, which was presented by Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, is awarded to Department of the Navy and U.S. Marine Corps civilians who distinguish themselves by performing well above that which is usually expected of an individual commensurate with his or her grade or specialty.

Ryan's actions while onboard USS Connecticut (SSN 22) that day were well beyond his job description or training.

While delivering equipment to the vessel, Evans came across a Sailor eating lunch, who seemed to be in distress. Evans quickly realized he was choking and applied the

Heimlich maneuver to clear his airway. His quick actions helped prevented a dangerous situation from potentially becoming a fatal one.

"I saw he was in trouble and just reacted," Ryan said. "I'm just glad I was there to help."

During the award ceremony in Building 58 July 22, Crinklaw emphasized the importance of staying vigilant and always being aware of your surroundings.

"We often talk about 'being ready,' but it gets real when it becomes a matter of life and death," said Crinklaw. "Staying alert to your surroundings, registering when something is wrong, having the skill and confidence when it matters most is the very essence of readiness. Actions like this form strong teams and remind us how every person here contributes to the mission in sometimes unique and vital ways. Mr. Ryan, on behalf of this command and the United States Navy, thank you."



**ABOVE:** Code 700, Lifting and Handling, team members begin moving the 255-foot tall Crane 52 from its barge to the tracks at PSNS & IMF, July 14. The crane is the first of two new cranes set to aid shipyard operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

# New cranes to support mission

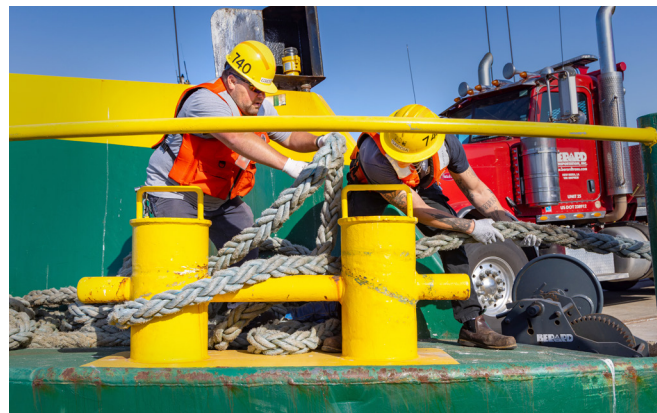
First of two new portal cranes arrives to aid shipyard operations

By Max Maxfield  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

**A** new KNES 25-ton portal crane with a unique capability arrived at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility July 14. Crane 52 is part of a \$67 million contract to bring four new cranes to PSNS & IMF to support the mission of maintaining, repairing, modernizing and retiring U.S. Naval vessels. The new cranes were designed and built by Konecranes Nuclear Equipment and Services, which gets shortened KNES.

According to Pat Gerdes, lead mechanical engineer, Code 713, Crane Engineering and Procurement, Cranes 53 & 54

See **'CRANE 52'** on page 9



**ABOVE:** Eric Grover (left) and Anthony Garcia, riggers, Code 740, Riggers, work to secure the barge as Crane 52 arrives at PSNS & IMF July 14. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

**CRANE ARRIVAL:**  
The first of two new KNES 25-ton portal crane arrives at Pier Bravo at PSNS & IMF July 14. The new cranes will help increase the command's general lifting and handling capabilities. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)





**ABOVE:** STEM outreach volunteer Kati Pero, toolmaker, Code 100-TO, Moonshine Lab, helps Wyatt Lewis, 13, of Bainbridge Island, launch his pneumatic rocket July 15, during a Kitsap Regional Library learning event at the Sylvan Way location. (U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

# THE LEARNING CONTINUES

STEM Outreach team helps support Kitsap Regional Library program

By Ben Hutto  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

While Kitsap County schools are out for the summer, the learning continues, thanks, in part, to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility STEM outreach team, which turned out in support of two Kitsap Regional Library summer learning events, July 14 and 15, at the library's Sylvan Way location. Command volunteers were on hand to help a group of eager

young minds apply STEM principles as they engineered their very own weight-bearing boats and pneumatic rockets.

On the surface, it may have looked like teens and tweens were just enjoying some outside activities. In reality, the learning activities were designed to deepen students' understanding of how science and technology are a part of their everyday lives.

"He's having a good time," said Juliana Lizo, the mother of one of the participants. "He enjoys arts and crafts. This is just another way to enjoy that and learn at the same time."

Her son, Damien, was one of many local middle schoolers



**AT LEFT:** Naval STEM apprentice Kael Wilks helps Crosby Lewis, 10, of Bainbridge Island, construct a pneumatic rocket July 15, during a Kitsap Regional Library summer learning event at the library's Sylvan Way branch.

**TOP RIGHT:** STEM volunteer Kati Pero, toolmaker, Code 100-TO, Moonshine Lab, assists participants with a pneumatic rocket launch July 15.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Erin Guizzetti, PSNS & IMF STEM Outreach coordinator, demonstrates how to prepare pneumatic rockets for launch July 15.

present to learn during the week-long event.

Naval STEM apprentices Adrian Blankenbeker and Kael Wilks led the activities demonstrating their interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, while developing their professional skills. They gained this opportunity with PSNS & IMF through the Office of Naval Research's Science Engineering Apprenticeship Program. The program places academically talented high school students with various laboratories in the Department of Defense for eight weeks over the summer.

"This is great," said Wilks. "I love working with kids. This has been so much fun. I want to go into mechanical engineering when I graduate. To get a chance to work with kids and expose them to the things I'm interested in has been rewarding."

Blankenbeker, a high school senior planning to pursue a chemical engineering degree, also enjoyed working with the middle school students.

"It's cool to watch them create and apply their designs all on their own," she said. "Yesterday, we built boats, and the students had a list of available materials along with two main goals: to minimize cost and maximize the load their boats could carry. I was impressed by what they came up with."

Erin Guizzetti, PSNS & IMF STEM Outreach coordinator, was happy with the pair's efforts.

"The SEAP program is a great opportunity for PSNS & IMF to address the need for a technically skilled workforce, while enhancing student education through experiences beyond their school environment," she said. "Adrian and Kael had a powerful impact on the middle school students; relating as their peers, celebrating success, providing feedback, boosting confidence and overall sharing a positive image of our command for the future workforce."

For more information about PSNS & IMF STEM volunteer opportunities, call the STEM Outreach office at 360-340-6727.

# Carrier project team members receive recognition

## PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Members of the USS George Washington (CVN 73) project team were recognized July 23 for their critical path work during the aircraft carrier's recent Selected Restricted Availability in Yokosuka, Japan.

Team members worked long 12-hour days, seven days a week, in order to complete the availability, while overcoming a number of unexpected roadblocks along the way.

"The type of work that needed to be accomplished had never been done before. You took on this new challenge with a smile and determination and truly showed what a highly functioning team can do by performing and completing the first-time job, with first-time quality, in less than a week," said Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, during the award ceremony. "This is a testament to what a focused, determined, high-performing team can accomplish. Despite working long hours, you stayed motivated and you knocked it out of the park. Bravo Zulu. Thank you."

The team's positive attitude was also key to the project's success, Crinklaw said.



**ABOVE:** Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, poses for a portrait with members of the USS George Washington (CVN 73) project team, July 23. Team members were recognized for their work during the carrier's recent availability in Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

"Your conduct reflected great credit upon yourself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. With

sincere appreciation for your outstanding contributions in making our command successful," Crinklaw said.

## 'CRANE 52' from page 4

were already delivered to Trident Refit Facility-Bangor, with Crane 51 scheduled to arrive at PSNS & IMF later this year. Given the space limitations on Delta Pier at TRF-Bangor, portal cranes 3 and 4 were hauled off for recycling by the contractor after cranes 53 & 54 were delivered.

New cranes 51 & 52 will join the stable of cranes at PSNS & IMF, to increase the command's general lifting and handling capability. While the new cranes weren't designed with world-class lifting capacity, they do have a couple of differences from all the other cranes currently in operation at PSNS & IMF.

"While the crane controls themselves are similar to other portal cranes, these cranes will behave very differently than our existing cranes," said Gerdes. "The biggest example is that these cranes are level-luffing cranes, which means that when the operator luffs (raises or lowers the boom), the hook block travels a near horizontal path between the starting radius and end radius of the luff operation."

"This means that as the operator booms, the distance between the hook block and the boom changes, but the hook height relative to the crane rail does not change," he continued. "On our existing portals, the hook reeving uses a deflector sheave at the base of the boom, which means that the distance between the hook and the boom stays constant while booming, but both the load height and the load radius change simultaneously as the operator booms in or out."

According to Travis Mays, electrical engineering technician, Code 713, the new cranes have a couple of other differences from existing PSNS & IMF cranes.

"This is our first portal crane that does not utilize DC (direct current) motors for major motion functions," Mays said. "The new crane uses AC (alternating current) induction motors. This is our first portal crane painted with a polyurethane coating system, which should weather better than the coating systems used on our legacy portals."

Gerdes said Crane 52 and its "sister" crane bring welcome capacity to PSNS & IMF.

"These are a new class of crane, and will not replace any other cranes here," he said. "However, they'll be able to take over a lot of the lifts done with the 60-ton portals, freeing those cranes up for other work. Since they are lower capacity and for general purpose service only, they have a faster hook speed -- and can go even faster than rated speed when unloaded -- which will help increase efficiency for projects that need a lot of light cargo moved. They also have relatively long booms. The only existing crane with similar reach in the yard is Crane 62."

Before the crane begins lifting loads

in support of the PSNS & IMF mission, there are some final preparations to be completed.

"There are improvement items that have been prioritized for accomplishment prior to initial crane certification, and there are also other improvement items that will be rolled out over the next few annual service periods," said Mays. "Some of the more critical improvement items include the addition of a lockable disconnect switch for aircraft warning lights, installation of a wind deflector for the main hoist hook block, installation of first-aid kit, installation of eye wash station,

installation of toolbox, among others."

He said the contract requires the contractor to provide training for operators upon acceptance of the crane, even though the controls in the operator's cab are laid out approximately the same as existing PSNS & IMF portal cranes.

Portal cranes are characterized by a rotating upper works and a lower gantry portion that allows foot and vehicle traffic to pass under the crane when it's not in use. Given their size, the cranes at PSNS & IMF can be seen from almost anywhere around Sinclair Inlet. They could be considered part of the PSNS & IMF "brand."



**ABOVE:** Crane 52, the first of two KNES 25-ton portal cranes, arrives at PSNS & IMF July 14 in support of shipyard operations. The new cranes will help increase the command's general lifting and handling capabilities. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

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## CRANE 52 BY THE NUMBERS

- The whip hoist is flat rated at 8.5 tons (17,000 pounds), and has a reach of 165 feet from centerline.
- The main hoist is rated for 25 tons (50-to-90 feet), and 15 tons (out to a 140-foot reach).
- The crane is 255 feet, 10 inches tall, as measured from the top of the railhead to the tip of the boom.
- The top of the A-frame is 120 feet, 10 inches in elevation.
- The boom heel-pin is at 60 feet elevation above the rail, which is similar to the existing 60-ton portal cranes.
- The whip hoist has maximum hook height at minimum radius of 166 feet, and has a nominal rated lifting speed of up to 158 feet per minute
- The crane has 286 feet of total lift from the wire rope reeving.
- The main hoist has a maximum hook height of 185 feet and rated speed of 60 feet per minute, and 245 feet of total lift through the wire rope reeving.
- The crane has 12 drive wheels and a gantry length of 60 feet.
- Maximum wheel loads are 80 kips (thousands of pounds).

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# Navy's newly released Draft EIS marks major milestone in shipyard's modernization plans

## Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs

The U.S. Navy has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for proposed infrastructure upgrades at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility—a move that signals a major step forward in the long-term modernization of the shipyard and the Navy's strategic investment in its future.

At the heart of the plan is the construction of a new multi-mission dry dock capable of supporting Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers—a capability not currently available at PSNS & IMF. The project also addresses critical seismic and capacity deficiencies, ensuring the shipyard remains mission-ready for decades to come.

The proposed improvements represent a foundational component of the Navy's long-range Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program and M2D2 vision. These upgrades would not only modernize the shipyard's core infrastructure, but also create long-term benefits for the PSNS workforce and surrounding community by enhancing mission capability, safety and resilience.

To accommodate construction of the new dry dock, the Navy would need to demolish, replace and construct waterfront infrastructure, including piers, wharves, buildings and support facilities. Notably, this

proposed draft plan includes the removal of the historic Hammerhead Crane and the relocation of several upland functions, including the construction of a new forge shop and the expansion of facilities at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

While the proposed changes are significant, they're designed to support continued shipyard operations throughout the transition period and reflect the Navy's commitment to strategic readiness and local economic vitality.

The release of the Draft EIS marks a turning point for PSNS & IMF. It reflects years of behind-the-scenes planning, design and analysis finally moving into action. It's a clear sign that the Navy is committed to investing in its people, its mission and the infrastructure needed to continue delivering world-class maintenance and modernization for the nuclear fleet—now and into the future.

A public open house will be held Thursday, Aug. 7, 2025, from 5-7 p.m. at the Marvin Williams Recreation Center in Bremerton. Community members can learn more about the project, speak directly with Navy representatives and provide public comment for consideration in the Final EIS.

The full Draft EIS is available online at [BremertonWaterfrontImprovementsEIS.com](https://BremertonWaterfrontImprovementsEIS.com). The Navy is accepting public feedback through Sept. 3, 2025.



During July 2025, the following employees with a combined 101 years of corporate knowledge retired. We thank them for their dedicated service.



- Matthew A. LaCombe, Shop 938
- Sean R. Trask, Code 730
- Rick J. Vaglca, Code 105.4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 4**
- Coast Guard birthday:** The U.S. Coast Guard birthday is Aug. 4.

- Aug. 6**
- Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place Aug. 6, in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Aug. 29**
- Marines Reserve birthday:** The U.S. Marines Corps Reserve birthday is Aug. 29.

**Sept. 1**

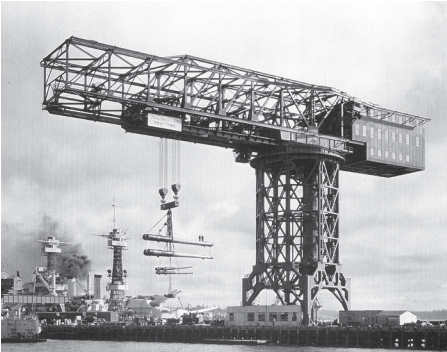


- Labor Day:** The annual Labor Day federal holiday is Sept. 1.

- Sept. 1-30**
- Suicide Awareness:** National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month begins Sept. 1.

- Sept. 11**
- Patriot Day:** The Sept. 11, 2001 anniversary is Sept. 11.

**Sept. 16**



- PSNS & IMF Anniversary:** PSNS & IMF will celebrate 134 years of service to the nation Sept. 16.

REMINDER:

PED Policy and QR Codes

- QR codes are prohibited for use on all shipyard graphics.
- Activating camera phones inside the CIA is a violation of PED Policy.

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH  
August 6, 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

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 710</b> Natalie Denson	<b>Shop 38</b> Wilbur Hinman	<b>Shop 56</b> Dakota McIntosh
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<b>Code 246.1</b> Victoria Holzner	<b>Code 1200N.42</b> Jodi Fitchett	<b>Catherine Haskins Gray</b>	<b>Shop 57</b> Dustin Bigelow-York
<b>Code 300N.5</b> Allexondra Noble	<b>Shop 06</b> Shawn Duffy	<b>Sherman Geeslin</b>	<b>Shop 64</b> Scott Bush
<b>Code 500</b> Eric Toves		<b>Meena Dalsky</b>	<b>Shop 99</b> Vincent Crisotomo
		<b>Brandon Zutz</b>	
		<b>Shop 51</b> Robert Wallace	

## 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 the Narrows Park & Ride at 5 a.m., dropping off at FISC Building and Vanpool parking. Departs shipyard at 3 p.m. Call 360-627-3560.

**Puyallup Vanpool:** Picks up at Fred Meyer at 5:45 a.m. and arrives at shipyard (G-Lot) at 6:40 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-Lot) at 4:02 p.m. Text 253-732-1958.

**Rideshare policy:** To post a Rideshare ad, email [psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil](mailto:psnsimf-pao@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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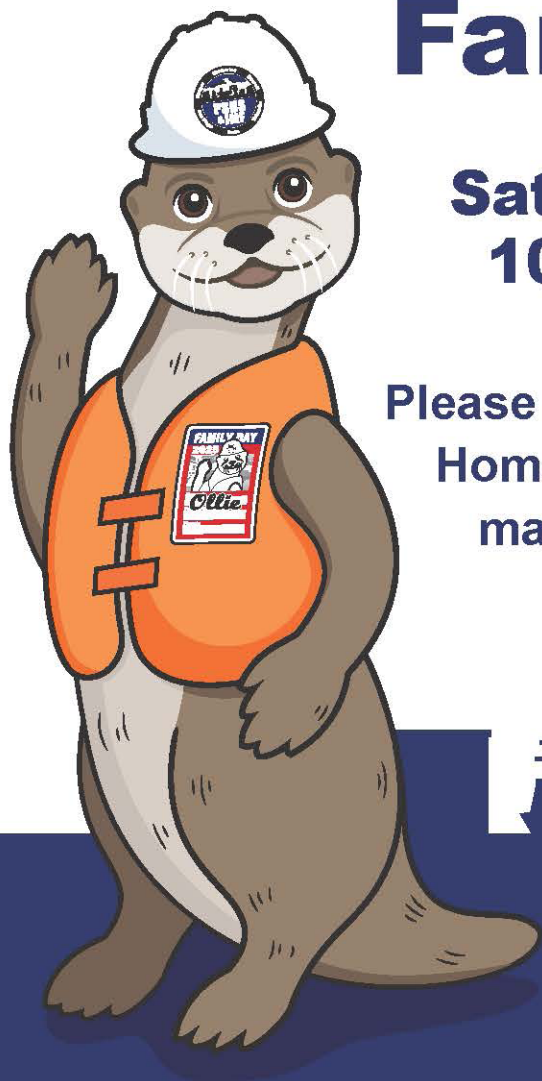
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# **PSNS & IMF 2025 Family Day**

**Saturday, Oct. 18  
10 a.m – 3 p.m.**

**Please see NYCU, the Command  
Homepage or your resource  
manager for registration  
and details.**



**Questions? Please email [psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil](mailto:psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil)**