

# SALUTE

PSNS & IMF

## AROUND THE YARD

Shaft maintenance gets  
underway in Building 431

• PAGES 6-7





### In this issue:



Device to help combat COVID-19 granted patent



Around the Yard: Shaft repair and maintenance



PSNS & IMF: 134 years of service to the nation

### On the cover:

Christian Detwiler, welder, Shop 26, Welders, completes maintenance on a shaft inside historic Building 431 at PSNS & IMF, Aug. 28.

(U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

Team PSNS & IMF,

This shipyard is more than a place of work. It is a national asset, entrusted to us to maintain the Navy's readiness and safeguard our country's security. It is a pillar of the community, providing livelihoods for a great many regional families. The dry docks, shops, and facilities are not just structures — they are the stage where we demonstrate our professionalism, discipline, and pride. How we care for this shipyard reflects the same standards we bring to every ship we return to the Fleet.

Lately, I have noticed areas where those standards are slipping. The issue is not simply about appearance. It is about the example we set and the pride we show in our craft. Every space on this yard — from the deckplates to the docks — should reflect the same level of care as the work we do on the vessels entrusted to us.

With Family Day approaching, we will be opening our gates to loved ones and showing them what it means to serve here. They should see not just the ships and the tools, but the pride and ownership that define our team. That impression should not be limited to a single event — it should be visible every day, in every space.

When we hold ourselves to high standards in even the smallest details, we send a powerful message: that we are professionals, that we respect one another, and that we value the mission. Taking action — whether by addressing a safety concern, maintaining order, or improving a workspace — demonstrates pride in our Navy, our command, and our teammates.

If you see an issue that requires more than a quick fix, I encourage you to raise it through the Commander's Comment Box. Your input helps us make improvements that keep this shipyard a place worthy of our mission.

The work you do here is demanding and consequential. By upholding the highest standards in all things — from the way we perform maintenance to the way we care for our facilities — we show what it means to be trusted stewards of this shipyard. Together, we demonstrate that Team PSNS & IMF is defined not only by technical excellence, but by pride, ownership, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

Humility, honesty and dedication, always.

  
Captain JD Crinklaw  
Commander, PSNS & IMF



Friends & Family Day 2025 | Command to honor Navy's 250th birthday

# Mark your calendar

By Ben Hutto  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility's upcoming "Friends & Family Day: 250th Navy Birthday Celebration" will give workforce members an opportunity to showcase the work they do for the Navy and the nation, and offer friends and family members a unique, behind-the-scenes peek inside this historic naval facility.

Saturday, Oct. 18, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., registered friends and family members will have a chance to walk through the gates with command employees for a closer look at the shipyard and its mission. Guests will tour workspaces while walking along the main industrial area, where the work of maintaining and modernizing the nation's fleet takes place.

The headline event of the day will be a celebration honoring the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday at the Combined Federal Campaign Stage, featuring the Navy Band.

There will also be a variety of activities, including demonstrations by the Naval Base Kitsap Military Working Dog Division, vehicle displays and educational materials from Navy Region Northwest Fire & Emergency Services and Naval Base Kitsap Police.

In addition, there will be crane and rigging displays; demonstrations by the PSNS & IMF/Bangor Dive Locker; tours of USS Topeka (SSN 754) and USS Ronald Regan (CVN 76); and a historical display from the Puget Sound

### TO LEARN MORE

For more information, including a full list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit our PSNS & IMF public website at, [navsea.navy.mil/Home/Shipyards/PSNS-IMF/Family-Day](http://navsea.navy.mil/Home/Shipyards/PSNS-IMF/Family-Day)

For additional Family Day questions: email [psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil](mailto:psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil)

Navy Museum. There will be a children's scavenger hunt, with additional activities hosted by the PSNS & IMF STEM team.

Free food will be available while supplies last — with food trucks on hand for those choosing to purchase food. Due to the limited number of ATMs, customers are encouraged to bring cash to purchase items.

"This will be a great opportunity for our workers to celebrate the rich history of the Navy on its birthday — and celebrate the ways this shipyard has supported it throughout that history," said Cdr. Anthony Oxendine Jr., deputy commander, PSNS & IMF. "From those humble beginnings in 1891, to its contributions in both World Wars and throughout the war on terror, to the great work we continue to do every day, PSNS & IMF has been a critical part of Naval operations in Pacific and beyond. I hope everyone can come out and celebrate with us."

Employees are encouraged to register through online via Homeport or through their resource managers. The registration deadline is Sept. 18, at 12:30 p.m.

### Things to remember

- Anything brought onto Naval Base Kitsap or into the shipyard is subject to search. That includes vehicles at the NBK gates, and any items carried into the industrial area.
- If a prohibited item is detected by security scanners or in your possession, you will be denied entry.

### What to bring

- Escort must have their CAC, NAVSEA badge and copy of the signed registration form.
- Photo ID (passport, REAL ID, Dependant DOD ID card) for those 16 and older (no ID required for children under 16). An enhanced Washington state driver's license is acceptable.

### What to wear

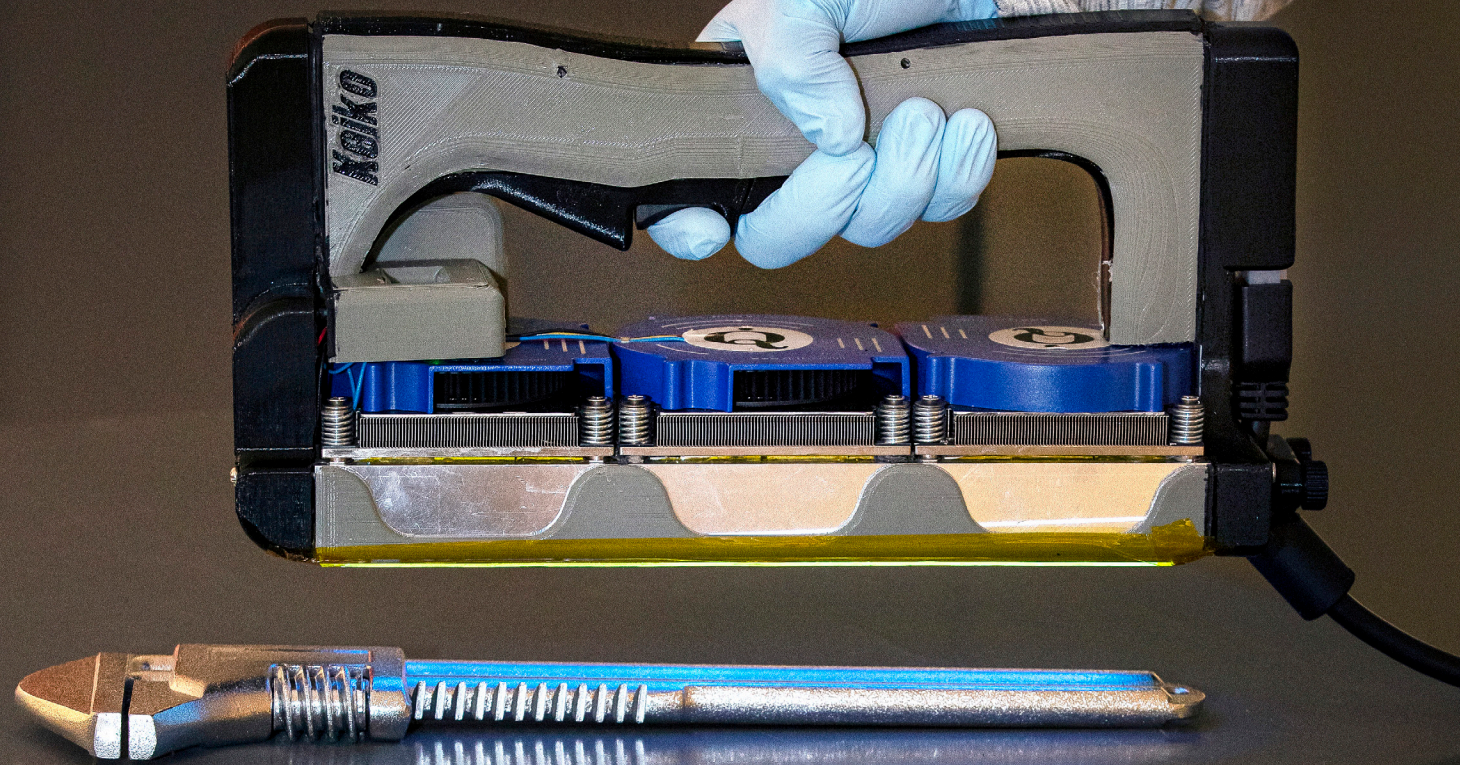
- Long pants, jeans, shorts or capris.
- Tennis shoes or other rubber soled, closed toed, closed heel shoes.

### What's prohibited

- Cameras, camera phones or any photo or video recording device.
- Weapons or ammunition (e.g., guns, Taser, mace or pepper spray).
- Alcohol or illegal substances including cannabis products.
- Backpacks or large bags (purses, diaper bags, small lunch bags, medical supply pouches are okay—subject to search).
- Clothing that contains profanity (verbal or visible), obscenities, hate speech, or sexually suggestive language.

See 'News You Can Use' for more information.





**LED SANITIZER:**  
A device developed by  
a team of PSNS & IMF  
innovators to combat  
COVID-19 in 2020,  
was recently granted  
a patent by the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark  
Office. (U.S. Navy photo  
by Scott Hansen)

# INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

An LED-based UVC sanitizer, developed by a team of innovators to combat COVID-19 at the shipyard, is granted a U.S. patent



**ABOVE:** Wilson Davenport, electrical engineer, Code 293C, Combat Systems Electrical Carrier Group, and Chris Doyle, nuclear engineer, Code 2310.8, Nuclear Engineering & Planning, helped design the LED-based sanitizer in 2020. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

By Max Maxfield  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

In 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was in full swing, a team of innovators from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility learned ultraviolet-C light could potentially be used to disinfect surfaces. At the time, commercial UVC surface sanitizing devices generally used mercury bulbs, which cannot be taken into all areas of a naval vessel.

The team decided to design and build an LED-based device UVC sanitizer to combat COVID-19 on surfaces throughout naval vessels. The device the team eventually ended up creating was granted Patent No. US 12,337,070 B1 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, June 24, 2025.

The patent lists the three PSNS & IMF employees who led the effort to design, build and test the device. Those three are mechanical and design lead Chris Doyle, then with Code 2310, Reactor Engineering; electrical lead Wilson Davenport, then with Code 290,

Combat Systems Engineering; Branden Doyle, then-nuclear innovation program manager with Code 2301, Nuclear Project Engineering, who led the UV product development team.

Davenport, now an electrical engineer with Code 293C, Combat Systems Electrical Carrier Group, said he is proud of the team's work and is happy with the support the command provided to the overall effort.

"It feels awesome that our device will potentially save lives," Davenport said. "During that time there was phenomenal support in ordering materials and custom-printed circuit board. There was great support from our machine shops for milling metal components and the Innovations Lab provided the ability to 3D print our own plastic parts."

"The process was not fast," he said. "It took a lot of time and effort, but knowing that someday this device could potentially



**ABOVE:** The LED-based UVC sanitizer was designed to help combat COVID-19 in 2020.

See **'PATENT'** on page 10



# AROUND THE YARD

SHAFT MAINTENANCE WORK CONTINUES INSIDE BUILDING 431 AT PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD & INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE FACILITY • (U.S. Navy photos by Jeb Fach)



**ABOVE RIGHT:** Teams from Shops 26, 31 and Code 135 complete shaft maintenance work inside historic Building 431 at PSNS & IMF, Aug. 28.

**TOP:** Denzel Vasquez and Caleb Bruns, both mechanics, Shop 31, Inside Machinist, complete smoothing maintenance on a shaft inside Building 431, Aug. 28, at PSNS & IMF.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Kyle Forster, mechanic, Shop 31, Inside Machinist, grinds down a weld on a shaft inside Building 431, Aug. 28, at PSNS & IMF.

**FAR LEFT:** Walter Cribbe Jr. and Nalani Reavis, inspectors, Code 135, Non-Destructive Testing, complete an inspection, Aug. 28.

**MIDDLE:** Dylan Pieze, welder, Shop 26, Welders, works on a shaft Aug. 28.

**AT LEFT:** Collin Gossard, mechanic, Shop 31, Inside Machinist, operates a lathe.



# Confidential resources are always available to command employees struggling with their mental health

By Ben Hutto  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

As the nation observes National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month this September, leaders at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility are reminding employees that seeking mental health support is not only encouraged—it's also protected.

Aaron Saylor, supervisor, Shop 740, Riggers and Handlers, knows firsthand how important it is to seek clarity and connection during difficult times.

Saylor came to PSNS & IMF after his Army career was cut short due to injuries he suffered. Like many others, he struggled during his transition back to civilian life, as he began his career at the shipyard. When the counseling program was introduced, he decided to investigate and see what it was about.

"I walked over to ask questions, and it opened my eyes," said Saylor. "You can't go by hearsay in this place. Sometimes you have to go find answers. I'm glad I did."

Saylor emphasized that many workers face emotional and professional stress—and that getting help can make a difference.

"Everyone here has pressure and work issues," he said. "Sometimes you need to look around and realize you are not alone. Emotions and stress are like lifting heavy things. You may need some help until you are strong enough to handle them on your own."

For many employees, concerns about their security clearance can be a barrier to getting help. However, those concerns are often based on misunderstanding, according to Nikki Voge, personnel security program manager, Code 1125, Personnel Security. Voge explained that clearance evaluations at PSNS & IMF center on three key questions:

- Has the employee acknowledged they have a problem?
- Have they self-reported and sought help?
- Are they open to receiving assistance?

"One of the biggest misconceptions about security clearances is the belief or fear that seeking mental health treatment will cost an employee their security clearance," said Voge. "The act of seeking mental health treatment/counseling in and of itself is

"I walked over to ask questions, and it opened my eyes. You can't go by hearsay in this place. Sometimes you have to go find answers. I'm glad I did."

Aaron Saylor, supervisor,  
Code 740, Riggers and Handlers

not a reason to deny or revoke a security clearance, and it is often seen as a positive step in addressing and mitigating concerns. It may contribute favorably to decision regarding continued eligibility."

Tracy Middleton, counselor with the PSNS & IMF Command Counseling Program, is adamant that seeking support does NOT disqualify someone from holding a security clearance.

"We are here to support the workforce in fostering wellness and self-care," Middleton said. "The (shipyard commander) approved time allowed for the workforce to receive these services during working hours to support emotional wellbeing. The command wants to help and it is encouraging workers to seek help."

Marissa Michalke, counselor, PSNS & IMF Command Counseling Program, works closely with shipyard employees through the Command Counseling Program and echoed the message that asking for help is not a

sign of failure—but a sign of strength and of being human.

"We are here to encourage employees to seek help when they need it," Michalke said. "We are solution-focused and let people speak without fear or judgment. It's OK not to be OK."

Despite lingering fears about how leadership might react to an employee seeking mental health support, both Middleton and Michalke say that supervisors at PSNS & IMF, in their experience, are supportive and proactive.

"I've seen leaders walk their workers down here themselves to get them help," Michalke said. "I have not seen a supervisor who wasn't supportive when someone sought assistance."

The Command Counseling Program offers services tailored to the unique needs of shipyard personnel. That includes availability for employees working night or swing shifts, as well as while on TDY by appointment.

"Leadership throughout the command is supporting their workers with accessing CCP services during working hours," Middleton said. "Employees voice often how they feel valued when their supervisor encourages them take care of themselves and take time at work to do that. Employees are encouraged to use available mental health resources—whether they're in crisis or to prioritize their wellness."

Confidential help is available through:

- Command Counseling Program: 360-340-2745
- Civilian Employee Assistance Program (CEAP): 360-476-5673
- Veterans/Military Crisis Line & National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Dial 988

Suicide prevention is not just about reacting to crisis—it's about building a culture where seeking help is seen as a strength.

"We're not alone in this," Sayer said. "Sometimes we all just need a little help to carry the load."

## Connect to Protect: Support is Within Reach National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month September 2025

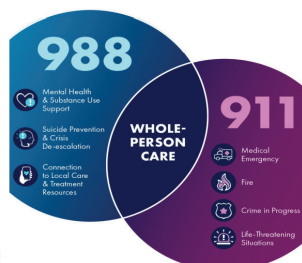
No Judgment.  
Just Help.



988lifeline.org

988 LIFELINE

Call Text Chat 800 Deaf/Hell



### Suicide Loss Support Group

Sept. 23, 1 - 2 p.m.,  
Horseshoe Conference Room,  
Building 850, 4th Floor

For more information:  
Visit the PSNS & IMF Mental Health & Well-Being SharePoint page.



Established in 1891 as a Naval Station, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility has proudly built and serviced our nation's vital naval assets through two world wars, several conflicts, many technological changes, and fluctuations in our nation's history. Adaptability, perseverance and devotion to duty remain the driving forces behind the command's ability to earn and keep its reputation as a provider of world-class service to the fleet.

After World War II, Navy Yard Puget Sound was designated Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, beginning an extensive post-war period of modernizing U.S. Navy aircraft carriers.

In 1998, with a growing homeport presence at the shipyard, the west end of PSNS became a separate command, Naval Station Bremerton.

On May 15, 2003, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and the Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Pacific Northwest (located at Bangor, Bremerton and Everett) consolidated into one maintenance activity, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

In 2004, another opportunity arose to further increase efficiency and improve service to the fleet. Surface ship maintenance organizations, including the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Puget Sound; portions of the Commander, Naval Surface Group, Pacific Northwest Maintenance Staff; and Fleet Technical Support Center, Pacific Detachment Everett joined PSNS & IMF in standing up the Northwest Regional Maintenance Center.

On Oct. 1, 2018, PSNS & IMF and Trident Refit Facility, Bangor separated into two commands. But, no matter how the command has been structured, one thing has always remained true: We are always "Building on a Proud Tradition."





save lives it was all worth it."

The PSNS & IMF innovation team partnered with other technical organizations and joined the Naval Coronavirus Rapid Response Team, referred to as NCR2T, to pursue possible solutions to killing COVID-19.

Others from Nuclear Engineering, Radiological Controls and Technology Insertion groups. Support organizations such as Code 109, Information Technology, Code 106, Environmental Safety and Health; and Code 400, Contracting, also contributed team members, who proved to be pivotal in meeting scheduled dates and maintaining some agility in the development process, Doyle said at the time, in a previous Salute article.

PSNS & IMF workers and their managers who have innovative ideas might not always have the time, expertise or resources to bring an idea to fruition as the LED-based sanitizer team did. Luckily for them and the command, Code 100TO.3, the Innovation and Technology Integration Division, can help bring their ideas to life by collaboratively integrating new technologies and creating prototypes to benefit the command and deck plate employees.

"Frontline workers often have the best insights into potential solutions," said Lisa Roth, acting Command Transformation Office director, Code 100TO. "We're ready to meet with your teams and collaborate on solutions, including exploring new technologies, tooling, and prototyping. We aim to eliminate dull, dirty, and dangerous tasks. By leveraging the innovative potential

of our shipyard workforce, we can work together to find effective solutions for command challenges."

The complicated and sometimes bureaucratic process of taking an idea all the way through to approved device, tool or other innovative solution isn't always easy. "Employees often have excellent ideas but encounter roadblocks or lack the time to pursue them," said Roth. "We encourage everyone to share their problem statements with us. We'll document them and explore how we can assist, even if the solution isn't immediate. Like every shop or code at PSNS & IMF, we have priorities and limited capacity, so not every idea or solution will be feasible to pursue. Also, some ideas may not offer the best return on investment."

Despite the challenges and the possibility an idea might not always turn out to be the best solution to a challenge or problem at PSNS & IMF, Roth suggested employees reach out to Code 100TO.3 with their ideas.

"Some people may have been discouraged by past experiences, while others remain highly motivated," she said. "Code 100TO helps navigate obstacles and bureaucracy, with the goal of modernizing our command for the 21st century. We embrace technological advancements in our personal lives—phones, cars, vacuums, computers—why not at work?"

Employees with ideas to solve problems or to improve how work is completed within their organization should first discuss their ideas with their supervisor. If their supervisor agrees, they should reach out to Code 100TO.3. They can start by visiting the Code 100TO.3 portal on SharePoint.



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Photographers Mate Eric Tilford

## UPCOMING EVENTS

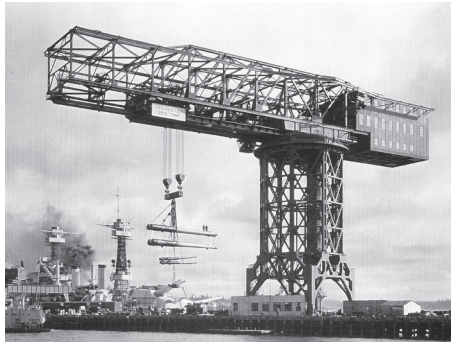
### Sept. 1-30

- **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.

### Sept. 26

- **Navy Museum Exhibit:** The Puget Sound Navy Museum will celebrate the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday with a special opening for its new exhibit: "We Have The Watch" from 2:30-7 p.m, Sept. 26.

### Oct. 1

- **Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place Oct. 1, in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Oct. 18



- **Friends & Family Day 2025:** PSNS & IMF will honor the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oct. 18, during a daylong 'Friends & Family Day 2025' celebration at the shipyard.

# Corrective Actions

During the month of **August 2025**, the command had **46 actions**. The following are examples and associated behaviors.

**8 SUSPENSIONS**  
(Supervisors & non-supervisors) for failure to follow instruction, failure to fulfill supervisor responsibilities, inappropriate conduct, lack of candor, sleeping on duty.

**2 TERMINATIONS**  
(Non-supervisors) concerning sick leave use, other

**10 REPRIMANDS**  
(Supervisors & non-supervisors) for failure to follow instruction, failure to fulfill supervisor responsibilities, inappropriate conduct, inattention to duty, unexcused tardiness.

The remaining  
**26 ACTIONS**  
consisted of:

Abeyance Contract Decision (1); Indefinite Suspension (2); Leave Abuse Letter (1); Letters of Caution (13); Medical Certification Letters (7); Removals (2).

**ASBP**  
Armed Services Blood Program



**1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
Oct. 1, 2025

**GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE —  
DONATE BLOOD**

**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 >>>

**Code 101.21**  
Karina Morrison  
**Code 109**  
Shawn Fellows  
**Code 127.2**  
Brian Magley  
**Code 710**  
Natalie Denson  
**Code 1166**  
Carie Hagins

**Shop 06**  
Shawn Duffy  
Duane Sismore  
**Shop 38**  
Wilbur Hinman  
Catherine Haskins  
Gray  
Sherman Geeslin  
Meena Dalsky

**Shop 51**  
Robert Wallace  
**Shop 56**  
Dakota McIntosh  
Forest Payton-  
Gaidosh  
**Shop 64**  
Scott Bush

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.

## Rideshare

**Pierce Transit Vanpool:** Picks up at Parkland Park & Ride at 4:50 a.m. and 6th Avenue Park & Ride at 5:05 a.m. Departs shipyard at 2:45 p.m. Call 253-777-7538.

**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.

**Rideshare policy:** To post a Rideshare ad, email 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

**Salute, Vol. XVII, No. 19**  
Sept. 11, 2025

**Next issue:** Sept. 25, 2025

**Commander**  
Captain JD Crinklaw

**Executive Director**  
Jennifer Herbig

**Public Affairs Officer**  
John Monroe

**Editor**  
Scott Hansen

**Facebook:** Facebook.com/  
PSNSandIMFontheWaterfront

**Flickr:** Flickr.com/PSNSandIMF

**X:** Twitter.com/PSNSandIMF

**YouTube:** YouTube.com/  
JoeShipyardWorker

**Website:** navsea.navy.mil/  
Home/Shipyards/PSNS-IMF

**Salute online:** dvidshub.net/  
publication/1101/salute

**Phone:** 360-476-2544

**Email:** psnsimf-pao@us.navy.mil

**Mailing address:**  
1400 Farragut Ave. Stop 2072  
Bremerton, WA 98314-2072

This magazine is published for members of the PSNS & IMF workforce. Views and opinions expressed in Salute are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or PSNS & IMF. Salute is produced in accordance with SECNAVINST 5720.44C, Department of the Navy Public Affairs Policy and Instructions. Editorial content is gathered, prepared, edited and provided by the PSNS & IMF Public Affairs Office. All photos are property of the U.S. Navy, unless otherwise credited.



# 2025 COMMAND CLIMATE SURVEY

Sept. 8–26

Provide insight, create change.



*Survey is voluntary and anonymous.  
Time allowed with supervisor approval.*