

SALUTE

USS NIMITZ (CVN 68)

WELCOME HOME

Nimitz Sailors arrive just
in time for the holidays • PAGES 6-7





Team PSNS & IMF,

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2026!

As we step into the first quarter, I want to acknowledge that we're heading into a demanding period. The operational tempo will be high in the coming months as we take on critical projects to meet fleet needs. Each of you plays a part in making that happen—whether you're turning wrenches, managing schedules, analyzing data, or supporting operations. Your role matters, and how you approach it every day shapes our success.

When the pace picks up and mistakes start to appear, that's our signal to pause, recalibrate, and make sure we're doing it right—not just getting it done. The mission can't be accomplished at the cost of safety or quality. Taking that extra moment to double-check your work, to look out for your teammate, or to ask for clarity could be the difference between success and setback.

Working in a high-tempo environment comes with challenges. It's easy to push through fatigue, to cut corners, or to deprioritize your own well-being in the name of getting the job done. But we're in this for the long haul. That means managing our pace, recognizing signs of burnout, and leaning on one another when the load feels heavy. Slowing down isn't a weakness. It's how we ensure consistency, precision, and readiness.

Just as we rely on each other to deliver technically, we also need to rely on one another to maintain the values that define this command. Respect, accountability, and pride in our work don't happen by accident—they happen because individuals make them happen. Every small act, every commitment to doing the right thing, adds up to the kind of workplace where people feel safe, valued, and motivated to do their best.

Later this year, our workload may ease in tempo, and I hope you'll use that time to reflect, recharge, and reengage with a sense of purpose. Until then, take care of yourselves and each other. Be present in your work and thoughtful in your decisions. What you do here every day supports our Navy and our nation in real, tangible ways.

Thank you for showing up, for doing hard things, and for doing them with care and commitment.

Let's make this a year we can be proud of—together.

A Ready Team Defines Us. Quality Drives Us. Mission Unites Us.


Captain JD Crinklaw
Commander, PSNS & IMF

In this issue:



Employees recognized for rendering aid to others



Planning for overseas travel? Get started early



Shipyards employees honored for their service

On the cover:

Sailors line the flight deck of USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as it passes PSNS & IMF Dec. 16 en route to Naval Base Kitsap, following a nine-month deployment.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)



ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, poses with awardees (from left) Jeremy Logsdon and Jeremy Seevers, both Shop 71, Painters, Blasters and Tilessetters; and Jonsaih Epenesa, Shop 51, Electricians. (U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

Shipyards employees recognized for their 'readiness to act'

PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Five Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility employees received Department of the Navy Civilian Service Commendation Medals for performing life-saving actions on two different occasions (July 9 and July 29) Nov. 17, during a special recognition ceremony in the Code 100 Conference Room.

Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, was on hand to present the awards to Jonsaih Epenesa, Shop 51, Electricians; Alexander White, Code 312, Carrier Program; Carl Benton, Code 246, Test and Work Controls Engineering Division; Jeremy Seevers, Shop 71, Painters, Blasters and Tilessetters; and Jeremy Logsdon, Shop 71, Painters, Blasters and Tilessetters.

In each case, the employees "showed exceptional composure and a readiness to act" during high-pressure, life-threatening medical situations, according to the citations.

In his remarks, Crinklaw said that the actions described in the award citations are a reminder of what keeps the shipyard running: employees who care about their teammates. In the heat of the moment, employees from different shops and codes came together, used quick



ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, holds the citation up while posing with medal recipient Carl Benton, Code 246, Test and Work Controls Engineering Division, who participated in the Nov. 17 ceremony via Microsoft Teams.

thinking, a steady presence of mind and a willingness to help their fellow employees, Crinklaw said.

"You all stepped up, and took decisive action in a moment of crisis," Crinklaw said. "I appreciate you acting on behalf of your shipyard family."

Planning for overseas travel should begin well in advance of your departure date

The first rule of travel: **PLAN AHEAD**

OVERSEAS TRAVEL:

Employees making plans for overseas travel should complete all training and required administrative planning well in advance of their travel dates. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

By Max Maxfield
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility personnel planning to travel overseas for the holiday season or who have been assigned Temporary Additional Duty overseas, should plan ahead to ensure they are able to travel where and when they would like to; or when they are called upon by the command.

People planning for official overseas travel and those hoping to travel overseas for personal reasons should ensure they've completed all training and required administrative planning well in advance of travelling. Code 1120, PSNS & IMF security, and Code 610.1, Travel Services, have subject matter experts who can

assist would-be travelers with all required planning and preparation.

Security office

The PSNS & IMF Security office provides guidance on the requirements for any and all foreign travel to all shipyard employees, both civilian and military.

According to Aaron Rossiter, antiterrorism/foreign travel officer, Code 1121.2, PSNS & IMF Security, there is mandatory training that must be completed prior to overseas travel.

"One of the minimum requirements for foreign travel is the completion of Level 1 Antiterrorism training, which is part of mandatory training and cannot expire while on travel," Rossiter said. "This training can be completed via Waypoints. Most TAD travel requires the completion of Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape training. This course can only be

See **'TRAVEL'** on page 9



TRAVEL OFFICE:

George Hansen, passport exceptant agent, Code 610.1, Travel Services, helps Jessica Sanchez, enviromental health specialist, Code 106, Environment, Safety and Health Office, schedule an appointment to go over her passport application, Sept. 25. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

AROUND THE YARD

FAMILY AND FRIENDS GREET SAILORS ABOARD USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) AS THEY RETURN HOME JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



ABOVE: Sailors line the flight deck aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as it passes the iconic Hammerhead Crane at PSNS & IMF before arriving at Naval Base Kitsap Dec. 16. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

AT RIGHT: USS Nimitz (CVN 68) makes its way through Rich Passage on its way to Naval Base Kitsap Dec. 16. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott Hansen)

FAR RIGHT: Natasha Brown, left, and Tariq Sherif hold handmade signs in the heavy rain as they wait for family members to disembark USS Nimitz (CVN 68) at Naval Base Kitsap Dec. 16. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)



ABOVE: Gregory Burgess, left, hugs his daughter, Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Emma Burgess, after she returned to Naval Base Kitsap from a nine-month deployment. Burgess serves aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN-68), which arrived at its homeport in Bremerton Dec. 16. Family and friends endured heavy wind and rain as they awaited the aircraft carrier's return. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

AT LEFT: Sailors line the flight deck aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as it arrives back home at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton Dec. 16. The aircraft carrier recently completed a nine-month deployment, conducting routine operations in the Indo-Pacific naval theater. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

COMPLETED PASSPORTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR \$300 OR EIGHT HOURS TIME OFF

SHIPYARD SAFETY PASSPORT



Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility

ALL EMPLOYEES AND MILITARY MEMBERS ATTACHED TO PSNS & IMF MAY PARTICIPATE

C/900S WATERFRONT SAFETY
Bldg. 435, 4th Floor, RM 309B
(360)476-8907

'TRAVEL' from page 4

completed via Joint Knowledge Online. It takes about four hours to complete, and is good for 36 months."

He said country briefings are also required within 90 days of any foreign travel, both official and personal. Initial briefings must be completed in person at Building 445, and are held Tuesdays at 10 a.m., and Thursdays at 1 p.m. People traveling outside of 90 days of that initial first in-person brief can receive future briefings via a country booklet created by the PSNS & IMF security office.

He said certain countries may require a separate in-person briefing, depending on the current threat climate in those countries. Official travel also has other requirements Code 1120 can assist with. "TAD orders require both theater and country clearance, commonly known as an APACS, which is submitted by my office through the receiving Embassy or Defense Attaché Office," Rossiter said. "Most countries require a 30-day lead time for approval. For an immediate fly-away to bypass this requirement, the shipyard commander would need to be briefed to accept the risk of someone traveling without an APACS approval. Most travel to the CENTCOM AOR requires an Exception to Policy memorandum routed and signed by the shipyard commander, as the geographical Combatant Commander for that area has a blanket restriction on any travel."

"(Critical repair) missions get priority assistance from our office, and we will assist in the completion or waiver of any and all pre-travel requirements," he said.

Rossiter said failure to adhere to pre-travel requirements may have a negative effect on an employee's security clearance. To that end, he recommends all employees keep up to date with all pre-travel requirements.

"To ensure we are consistently ready to support our mission, both locally and globally, it is highly recommended that all personnel maintain SERE and Level 1 Antiterrorism training within their required periodicity at all times, regardless of any anticipated travel," he said.

Travel services

All PSNS & IMF employees planning to travel overseas for personal or professional reason will need a passport. Official travelers have other administrative requirements the Travel Services office can assist them with.

According to Scott Hitchcock, senior travel financial analyst, Code 610.1, Travel Services, not every PSNS & IMF employee is required to get an Official Government Passport,



TOP: George Hansen, passport exceptant agent, Code 610.1, Travel Services, assists Skylar Burchard, pipe fitter supervisor, Shop 99, Temporary Services, with his passport application at the PSNS & IMF Travel Office, Sept. 25.

TOP: George Hansen, passport exceptant agent, Code 610.1, Travel Services, makes a passport photo for Jessica Sanchez, environmental health specialist, Code 106, Environment, Safety and Health Office.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

however, if they plan on personal overseas travel, they should apply at least six months prior to their trip. For those getting ready for official travel, or who would like to

be available for official travel, there are additional requirements.

"All PSNS & IMF employees planning on doing any official travel are required to have a Government Travel Charge Card," said Hitchcock. "Employees are also required to fill out a Statement of Understanding signed by them and their supervisor, and they must complete Mandatory GTCC training before they can submit an online application."

"Once they receive a government travel card, they should create a profile in the Defense Travel System, if they do not have one already," he said. "Travelers should also verify their GTCC and banking information are correct in their DTS profile prior to creating orders."

Instructions and documents to accomplish these tasks can be found on the Code 600 SharePoint site under Travel/Citibank Documents, and under Travel/DTS Access Requirements. Hitchcock said shops and codes have administrative personnel and travel coordinators who can also assist with this.

The Travel Services provides a wide range of support services to ensure official travel is as simple as can be.

"We process travel TDY authorizations and vouchers, Permanent Change of Station vouchers, First Duty orders, Government Travel Card applications, Government Passport applications, and we are the subject matter experts when it comes to all travel-related inquiries," Hitchcock said. "We ensure the DTS orders are set up correctly and in compliance with current Joint Travel Regulations, in advance of travel. If there are any issues, the DTS Approving Official will contact the traveler or travel coordinator directly."

Hitchcock said travelers should start completing travel plans as soon as they receive notification they will be travelling for work.

"Currently, all travel needs Naval Sea Systems Command Tier III Senior Executive Service-level approval prior to orders being approved," he said. "This can result in it taking three to five days for orders to be approved, upon submission. Our goal is to have all travel through Tuesdays approved by close of business Fridays. We strive to approve travel two weeks ahead of departures, but this can vary depending on volume of departures and timeliness of orders being submitted."

Hitchcock said employees should always check with official sources and subject matter experts when planning official travel.

"We provide shops and codes with accurate and up-to-date information for travelers via Travel Coordinator meetings and emails," he said. "Always contact your travel coordinator or reach out to Code 610.1 for the most up-to-date information and regulation requirements in advance of travel."

LENGTH OF SERVICE | Eighteen longtime employees recognized for their combined 735 years of service to the nation



ABOVE: Eighteen PSNS & IMF employees were honored Sept. 24, during a Quarterly Length of Service awards ceremony in the Shipyard Auditorium. Pictured with Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, Front row from left: Mario Gutierrez, Sean Anderson, Jerome Evans, Karl Wittman, Steven Gnassi, Florencia Obnial, John Potter, Patrick McIlhagga. Back row: Lonnie McKinney, James Olds, Ken Nieman, Bobby Chandler, Mike Zimmerman, Rodney Peeler, Ronald Zmijewski, George David and Randy Fisher. Not pictured: Andy Usita.

AT LEFT: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, congratulates Randy Fisher, Code 1160, Congressional and Public Affairs Office, for his 45 years of service to the nation.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

3 Months FREE PARKING!

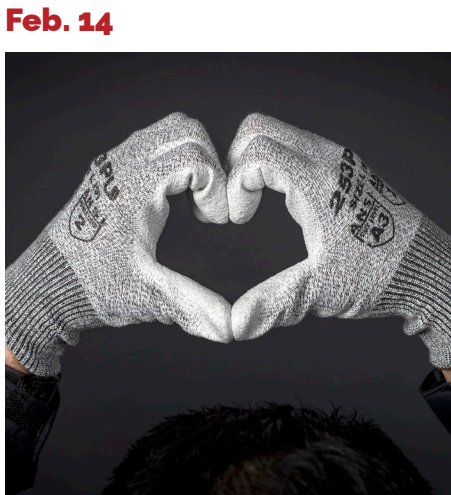


Ask your Shop Safety Advocate about the APSA & NAS Parking Initiative.

Brought to you by The Assistant Production Superintendent Association and The National Association of Superintendents.

UPCOMING EVENTS


- Jan. 1**
- Happy New Year:** The New Year's Day federal holiday is Jan. 1.
- Jan. 7**
- Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place Jan. 7, in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Jan. 19**
- MLK Day:** The federal Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday observance is Jan. 19.



- Feb. 14**
- Valentine's Day:** The annual Valentine's Day observance is Feb. 14.
- Feb. 16**
- Presidents' Day:** The federal Presidents' Day holiday observance is Feb. 16.

- Feb. 22-28**
- Engineers Week:** National Engineers Week is Feb. 22-28.


- March 3**
- Navy Reserve Birthday:** The Navy Reserve Birthday is March 3.
- March 25**
- Medal of Honor Day:** The annual Medal of Honor Day observance is March 25.



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.



ASBP

Armed Services Blood Program

GIVE A GIFT OF LIFE —
DONATE BLOOD



1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
Jan. 7, 2026
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 105.3
Tara Wilson
Code 109
Shawn Fellows
Mikayla Taxacher
Code 127.2
Brian Magley
Code 1166
Carie Hagins

Code 2305.24
Jennifer Garrett
Shop 06
Shawn Duffy
Shop 11
Lee Warren
Shop 38
Wilbur Hinman
Sherman Geeslin
Meena Dalsky

Shop 51
Robert Wallace
Daniel Gosney
Shop 56
Dakota McIntosh
Shop 64
Jesse Peirce
Edward Deven
Ryan Wade

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.

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Winter Travel Safety



Accidents, pass closures and other winter events can mean unexpected time spent in your car. Be prepared, and pick up these items on your next shopping run. Remember to pack them into your vehicle. It's better to have these items and not need them, then need them and not have them.

Supply Checklist

Buy	Packed	Buy	Packed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tire chains
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Blanket	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice scraper/snowbrush
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonperishable food items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jumper cables
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flares/warning triangles
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Boots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kitty litter/sand for traction
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone charger or battery booster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Whistle to signal for help
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Small snow shovel

If you find yourself stuck or stranded, stay in your car, put on your flashers, call for help and wait until it arrives. For more information and helpful tips, visit wsdot.gov.