



THE EISENHOWER ENQUIRER

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IKE'S YEAR IN THE
SHIPYARDS RECAP

MORALE FOR THE WIN

PASSING THE TORCH
DOWN THE PIPE



CONTENTS

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

WEAPONS DEPARTMENT SAILORS COMPLETE DECK-PLATING

3

EVERYDAY WORK

SAILORS DOING EVERYDAY WORK AND MAINTENANCE

4-6

ASSUMPTION OF COMMAND

CAPT SHANE MARCHESI TAKES OVER AS COMMANDING OFFICER

7-8

MORALE FOR THE WIN

IKE SAILORS START THEIR SOCCER SEASON WITH A WIN

9-10

VCNO VISITS THE IKE

THE NEW VCNO REVIEWS ONGOING SHIPYARD WORK

11

SWEET TREAT FOR A SWEET CAUSE

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS BAKE SALE HOSTED BY IKE

14

FALL EVENT PHOTOS

HALLOWEEN, THANKSGIVING, AND THE HOLIDAY GALA

15-16

PASSING THE TORCH DOWN THE PIPE

A STORY SPOTLIGHTING THE PIPE SHOP

17-18

IKE'S YEAR IN THE SHIPYARDS





LAYING THE GROUNDWORK: WEAPONS DEPARTMENT SAILORS COMPLETE DECK-PLATE MAINTENANCE ABOARD IKE

STORY BY MC3 EVAN ANTONISSE--
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

NORFOLK, Va.—Sailors from the weapons department aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE), completed deck-plate maintenance ahead of IKE's Planned Incremental Availability (PIA), December 12th, 2024.

Sailors and shipyard workers have worked diligently to complete maintenance projects ahead of IKE's PIA period at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY).

The replacement and laying of deck-plates is led by the weapons department team, a project that began in November. The completion of this task

marked one of the first major projects undertaken by the Sailors aboard IKE.

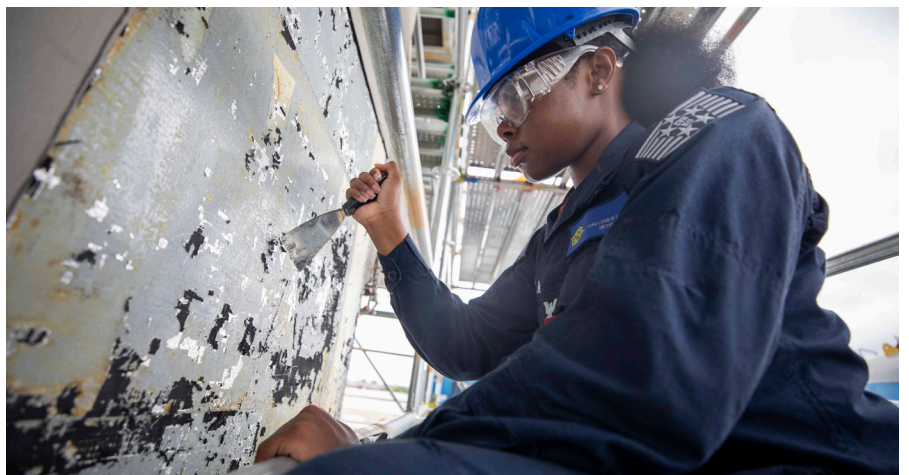
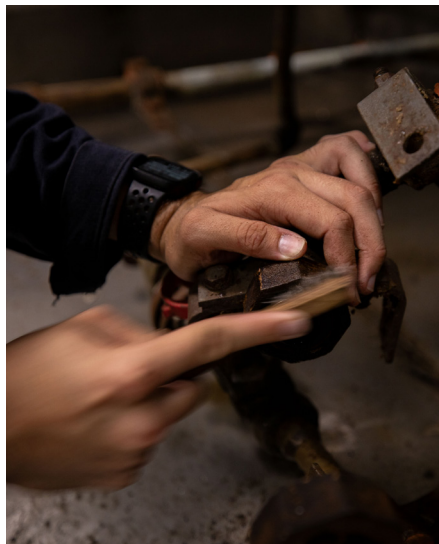
Throughout the process, leadership in weapons department continues to be encouraged by the effort and commitment from the Sailors performing the maintenance.

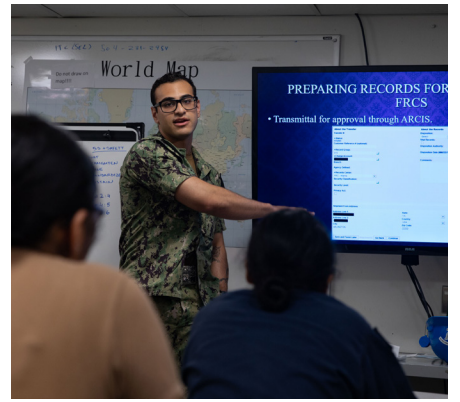
"Although most are new to deck work, the team has performed incredibly well," said Ensign Blaise Hayden, WEPS G-5 quality assurance officer (QAO). "They have fully embraced the job and I am so proud of the work they have accomplished so far. Since our first week, we have completed over 10 spaces, including a 3000

square-foot berthing."

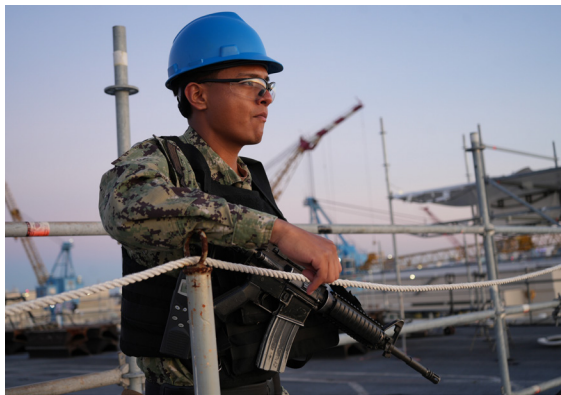
Sailors aboard the IKE worked on maintenance projects well ahead of the PIA start date. The weapons department sailors are an example of the all-hands approach needed to make sure the IKE is ready to successfully tackle the upcoming PIA and continue its mission.

"I think getting started before we moved to the yards showed that the ship was ready to tackle all the work a PIA entails," said Hayden. "Even if we aren't charged with fixing any warfighting equipment, we are still helping make the ship better, one deck at a time." ■





GREATER





EACH DAY



CAPTAIN SHANE

MADONNACIES





Capt. Shane Marchesi officially took over the role as commanding officer of the Nimitz- class aircraft carrier, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) during the assumption of command ceremony on March 4, 2025. In attendance is his wife, daughter, and Sailors from CVN 69 to show support as he takes charge.



MORALE FOR THE WIN!

STORY BY: MC2 MIGUEL SANTIAGO-- USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)



NORFOLK, Va. – USS Dwight D. Eisenhower's (CVN 69) soccer team participated in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) sponsored soccer tournament against Sailors assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) May 20, 2025.

For Eisenhower Sailors, MWR sporting events are an excellent opportunity to improve physical fitness and boost morale and camaraderie while moored at Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

IKE's warriors secured a 5-1 victory, but the true success is in the enjoyment of the game and the continued development of the team's bond. Chances to decompress can often be lost on Sailors during a Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) maintenance period like IKE is currently in. That's precisely why MWR exists—to support Sailors during these times and keep them mentally and physically prepared to tackle whatever stands in their way.

"It's important because we're in the yards, it's an industrial environment so we try and get them away from the ship to get their mind right," said Culinary

Specialist 1st Class Marvin Whitley, Eisenhower's soccer coach. "It brings up morale, it's really important for morale of the ship."

The MWR-sponsored tournament played on Naval Station Norfolk consists of over 10 teams split amongst different commands throughout the Hampton Roads area, these can include afloat, aviation and even training commands. Although many teams play in the tournament, IKE's soccer team shines among the competition. In the past four years, IKE has won 3 league championships and is looking to claim another trophy this year.

"The impact MWR has on our Sailors cannot be understated, these guys get a chance to decompress and come out here and win games" said Tiffany Samuelson, Eisenhower's Afloat Fitness Specialist or FITBOSS. "Our sailors exercising and playing sports provides camaraderie among peers, it empowers our Sailors and gives them an outlet to do something they enjoy and doesn't feel like regular exercising or conditioning."

Over the course of the next six weeks, IKE's soccer team, which consists of 60 participants, will play about 2 games

per week until they reach the league playoffs around early-July. This gives Sailors plenty of opportunities to grow not only as an individual player but as teammates, which increases on field performance.

“It’s the first game of the season, so

I’ll be realistic, these guys are going to kick butt,” Samuelson said. “IKE is the team to beat, we’re going to continue to work hard and go the distance this year.” ■



VCNO VISITS THE IKE

STORY BY: MCSN THEODORE MORRISON-- USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CNV69)



PORTSMOUTH, Va - Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. James Kilby visited Norfolk Naval shipyard on Dec. 2, 2025 to review the ongoing Planned Incremental Availability and meet with Sailors and leaders onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Eisenhower started its availability Jan. 2025 as part of planned maintenance and modernization initiatives. Kilby's visit offered the opportunity to assess the status of the project and to speak with Sailors supporting the shipyard effort.

"I don't see the demand on our ships or aircraft diminishing anytime soon," said Kilby in an address to ship's company. "It's a lot of pressure for the Navy in an unprecedented manner that I haven't seen in my career. The work you are doing is important, it's appreciated and that is why I am here."

Kilby toured the flight deck with command leadership and reviewed major maintenance items including NATO Sea Sparrow Mounts and Jet Blast Deflectors. During this tour, Kilby took time to individually recognize sailors from Air Department, V-4 Division for their contributions during the availability.

"It's pretty surprising," said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Christian Bognot. "I didn't really know what it was for when I got called earlier. It just feels very

fulfilling that my work does not go unnoticed."

Following the flight deck walk down, the Admiral was escorted to a berthing that had just undergone a refitting to showcase habitability and quality of life conditions.

"Maintenance is a mission ready area. We are making progress improvements aimed at improving combat surge readiness," said Kilby. "The Navy and our shipyard partners around the world are working tirelessly to get ships out of the yards on time, on budget, and back into the fight."

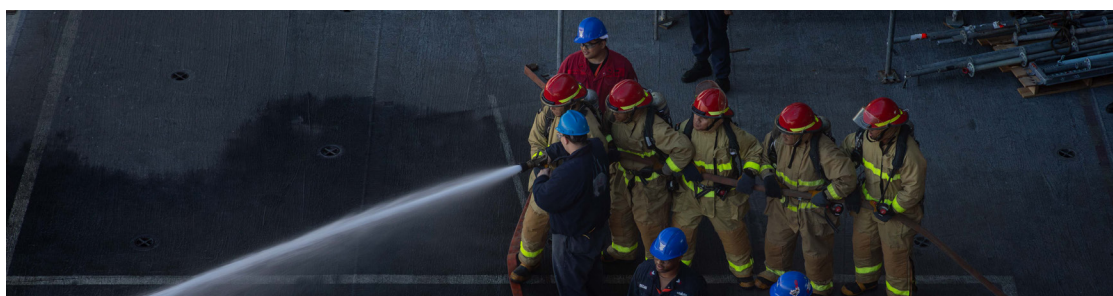
Prior to departing the IKE, VCNO and the Eisenhower leadership team met individually to discuss upcoming maintenance milestones and IKE's return to operational status at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. ■





NAVY CHIEF, NAVY PRIDE!

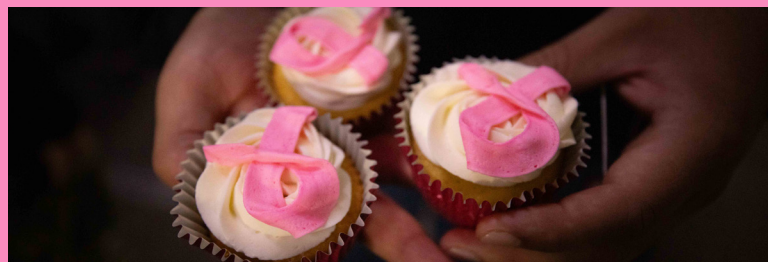




SWEET TREAT FOR A GREAT CAUSE

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS BAKE SALE ON IKE

STORY BY: MCSA SARAH ANDERSON-- USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) came together to support a meaningful cause this October, as the ship's Second Class Petty Officer Association (SCPOA) hosted a breast cancer awareness cupcake sale.

Breast cancer awareness month, observed every October, serves as a time to honor survivors, remember those lost to the disease, and promote early detection through education and screening. The event aimed to raise funds for breast cancer research while strengthening both awareness and camaraderie among the crew.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our crew to come together and support those affected by breast cancer," said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Dariann Banfield. "We can

boost morale while also promoting the importance of education and early detection."

This year 232,670 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed, and breast cancer education and screenings can save up to 37 lives every day in the U.S., according to the World Health Organization.

The SCPOA made sure to include informational flyers outlining statistics and resources to every customer, though the baked goods were fast to sell out. Shane Marchesi, Ike's commanding officer, stopped by the booth to express admiration for the SCPOA's efforts and discuss the potential causes of breast cancer.

"Events like these really highlight the heart of the IKE," said Capt. Shane Marchesi, commanding officer. "Our sailors not only serve our country, but also find ways to serve thier

community and support a cause that affects so many."

For many Sailors, the informational bake sale offered a way to show solidarity and empathy, their donations being directly proceeded to the breast cancer research foundation as they pinned pink ribbons to their uniforms.

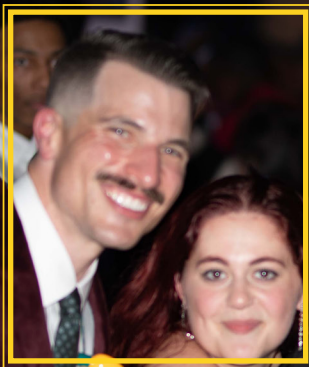
For the hosts of the bake sale, the importance of Sailors absorbing the unfortunate truth surrounding breast cancer was utmost, providing them with breast cancer risk factors, the lesser-known facts and advice provided by the World Health Organization. Through pink frosting and compassion, the Ike's Second Class Petty Officer Association not only raised money and awareness for an important cause but also raised morale as Sailors grabbed sweet treats whilst coming aboard. ■



WITH COLDER WEATHER COMES MORE CAUSE FOR CELEBRATIONS!

MEMORABLE DAYS LIKE HALLOWEEN, THE ARMY VS. NAVY FOOTBALL GAME, AND THANKSGIVING ARE CHANCES FOR USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'S SAILORS TO COME TOGETHER AND BUILD CONNECTIONS OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL WORK ENVIRONMENT.





2025 HOLIDAY GALA





PASSING THE TORCH DOWN THE PIPE

STORY BY: MCSA ALYCIYA SANDOVAL USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

PORTSMOUTH, Va - Aboard the Nimitz class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), hidden within the corridors of the ship, sits the unsung heroes of Repair Division's pipe shop. Though many of us may flush the toilet and carry on with our duties without a second thought, these pipe shop Sailors allow one of IKE's most essential functions to operate properly.

Many people hear the term Hull Maintenance Technician (HT) and never realize what they do for the ship. HTs are the Sailors who keep the valves working, the pipes flowing, and the restrooms from flooding. HTs handle various situations around the ship such as braze jobs on piping, maintenance and replacement on valves and pumps and maintenance work on the ship's reducing stations that are responsible for the collection and holding transfer systems (CHT).

The pipe shop benefits from having experienced sailors that look to pass on their years of knowledge to those junior to them.

"We have the CHT, we make sure when we pull into port, we hook up all the connections because obviously we can't pump into the water," explained Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Golden Peterson. "When we pull in, we have to hook it up extremely fast because people are still using the heads [restrooms]."

While conducting maintenance during IKE's

Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) period, the petty officers of the pipe shop have made it a point to nurture the potential within their junior Sailors by trusting them to handle smaller issues and making the time to teach them how to handle more complex situations.

"Since I'm new here I take on the smaller roles, mostly trouble calls. Let's say a bathroom is having a leak or the drains on the deck are malfunctioning, they'll send me out kind of like a runner," said Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Apprentice Jose Martinez. "Sometimes I'll go along on bigger jobs and I try to learn some stuff from HT2 and other more senior guys and have them as a mentor, so that when they're not here I'm able to pick up where they left off."

Before his time on IKE is up, Peterson makes it a point to share his knowledge and experience with the Sailors who will one day be replacing him. Peterson, among other Repair Division petty officers, takes pride in being able to take the newest generation of IKE HTs and lay the groundwork for them to succeed.

"For me, I only have nine months [left] here and I'm out, but it's hard for me to just look at something and know it's going to need to be replaced soon and not care, because I want to set these guys up for success," Peterson said. "Especially for people like Martinez who have potential, I don't want to make his job harder in the long run. A lot of the original guys are leaving soon."



We want to pass this knowledge down to them so that when it's time for us to pass the torch we know they will succeed because we adequately prepared them to do the job."

HT2 believes that one of the best things about working in the Pipe Shop is the camaraderie that is built over time through succeeding and making mistakes.

"My favorite part is the people, everyone says that the unmotivated Sailors come up to pipe shop but I don't think that's true at all," said Peterson. "It's rough to get into because you bring up the sewage and nobody wants to do that but the worst part of it is that it needs to be done, somebody needs to do it and it's us. In my opinion that brings us together because it can sometimes be a funny moment you can bring up later."

According to Peterson, everyone in the shop loves joking around with each other. He says when there is a clogged pipe that won't budge, they send someone to unclog the pipe and when they finally get it unclogged, it'll discharge. This creates a gross, but unforgettable memory. Peterson says that the worst parts of the job are the most important parts when it comes to creating meaningful memories that leave an impact on everyone who was there.

"My favorite part is the atmosphere and the people here," said Martinez. "Even when you're new it's just so easy to fall into place here because even though everyone has their own personality, it always complements somebody else's. At first, I wasn't sure how some of the guys would treat me because I'm newer, but as time went on, I realized they make me feel like this is



where I belong."

Peterson can still recall memorable moments from his own past deployments and looks forward to a time when his own junior sailors get to make their own deployment memories.

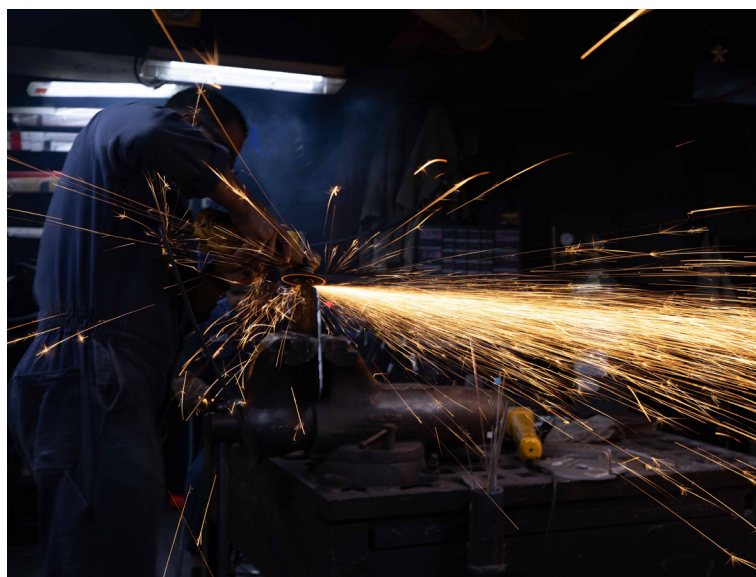
"I wouldn't say that there are any favorite parts to being on deployment but I do take the memories with me," Peterson said.

Peterson recalls a time from his last deployment when an entire level of the ship's pipes clogged due to Sailors flushing items that would give any HT nightmares.

By talking about his own experiences with ship life, Peterson motivates his Sailors to want to do their jobs to the best of their ability. Despite the hardships that come with it, it is understood that they have a vital role in ensuring IKE has a successful deployment and completes whatever mission lies ahead.

"I'm excited to go on a deployment because the ship yards are cool, but I want the full experience of being an HT and experiencing all of the good times and the bad times that come with it too," Martinez stated.

HTs work with biohazards and ensure some of our most basic, yet necessary, amenities are in working condition. Their job is integral to the readiness of the ship. Just like every ship in the fleet, IKE is lucky to have a shop full of HTs who care about the work they do and think ahead. HTs are always keeping the valves turning, the pipes from leaking, and the heads dry.



THE EISENHOWER

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

MEET THE TRIAD

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT SHANE MARCHESI

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CAPT MICHAEL MARKS

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

CMDCM KEITH CARMONA

MEDIA DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

LCDR DANIELLE MOSER

ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

ENS ALISON STEWART

DEPARTMENT LCPO

MCCS JASON GRAHAM

PRODUCTION LCPO

MCC WILL SPEARS

MEDIA LPO

MC1 EMILINE SENN

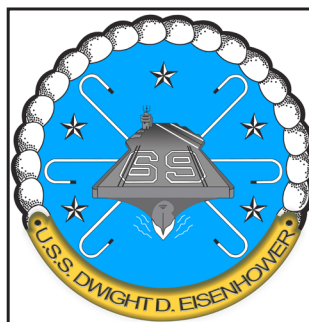
EDITOR

MC2 MERCY CROWE

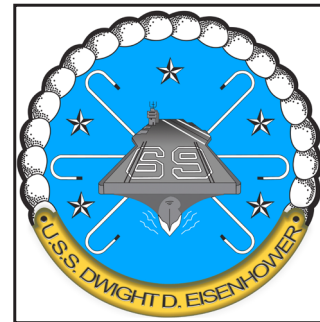
STAFF

MC2 SAMANTHA ALAMAN
MC2 THIERRY TAMONTE
MC2 CHRISTOPHER ALI
MC2 RANDY LUCAS
MC2 MIGUEL SANTIAGO
MC3 JOHN DIDATO
MC3 EVAN ANTONISSE
MCSN SAMANTHA SWIGERT
MCSN JALHEN WILLIAMS
MCSN JALON LIPFORD
MCSN JAMISON SUTTON
MCSN THEODORE MORRISON
MCSN NICOLE SCHWEIGERT
MCSA ALYCIYA SANDOVAL
MCSA SARAH ANDERSON
MCSA TROY WASHINGTON

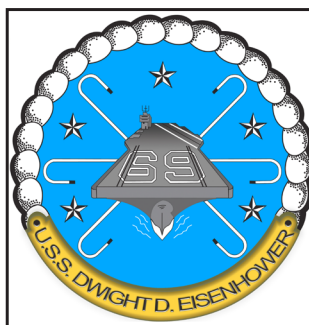
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THIS DECEMBER IN EISENHOWER HISTORY...

1943- General Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, tasking him to lead Operation Overlord (D-Day).

1944- Eisenhower was promoted to General of the Army (Five-Star General), making him one of four people to ever have that rank in the Army.

FOR MORE CONTENT:



<https://www.dividshub.net/unit/USSDDE-CVN69>



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USS Dwight D. Eisenhower



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USS Dwight D. Eisenhower