



FROM THE

QUARTERDECK

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) monthly newsletter. Whether you are an active-duty member of our sea services, a retired sailor, or a lover of history, this will serve as a great resource for you and will help you learn about the critical work being done by NHHC to preserve, protect, and disseminate the U.S. Navy's history. This newsletter is one of the many ways you can stay connected and informed about NHHC. Additional information can be found on our [website](#). The command is proud and honored to serve the Fleet and share the stories of the men and women of the U.S. Navy and their sacrifices for our nation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY!

This October, the Navy hit the monumental milestone of 250 years of service. Created by the Continental Congress on [October 13, 1775](#), the Navy has been instrumental in ensuring freedom of the seas and that all Americans are safe at home and abroad. To celebrate, the Navy hosted a weeklong commemoration in Philadelphia with a parade that included bands, floats, and a display of historic uniforms. The Navy also showcased naval air and sea power through a procession along the Delaware River. As part of the celebration, NHHC presented *The Legacy Navy 250*, where visitors immersed themselves in cutting-edge exhibits that covered the Navy's past, present, and future. Interacting with artifacts and hearing stories of sailors from 1775 to today, visitors learned about the heroic actions our Navy takes in protecting our freedom.



U.S. Navy, photo by PO 3rd Class Sylvie Carafiol

BOOK RELEASE: *THE NAVY AT 250*

ON COURSE THROUGH HISTORY

THE U.S. NAVY AT 250



NEW RELEASE

In honor of the Navy's 250th birthday celebration, NHHC historians published [On Course Through History: The U.S. Navy at 250](#), a volume that presents the service's history from its humble beginnings as a small fleet taking on the British Empire to the present-day force with vessels operating around the world. Each chapter explores the people and events that contributed to the Navy's warfighting readiness at sea, on land, and in the air. As the Navy and its warfighters prepare to face a variety of emerging threats, it is critical that our sailors learn from those who came before them, reflect on their triumphs and defeats, and apply these valuable lessons to ensure that the Navy is prepared to defend our nation. It is NHHC's privilege to present this book in celebration of our Navy's 250th birthday.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER: 80 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP



NHHC, photo by Kristina Higgins

To celebrate the Navy's 250th birthday, the Italian navy donated a painting to NHHC depicting the 2022 meeting between USS *George H.W. Bush* (CVN-77) and the ITS *Amerigo Vespucci*, a full-rigged training vessel. Known as the most beautiful ship in the world, *Amerigo Vespucci* was commissioned in 1931. To celebrate, NHHC's director, Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, hosted Rear Admiral Paolo Bembo (Ret.) and the combat artist Lorenzo Mariotti at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy. When asked about the painting, Director Cox said, "I see two things: the close alliance between the U.S. Navy and the Italian navy. The bond between sailors of all nations across the centuries, exemplified by the *Amerigo Vespucci*, designed to look like the largest warships of the 18th century, and the USS *George H.W. Bush*, one of the largest warships of the 21st century."

USS CONSTITUTION BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On October 21, 1797, the frigate [Constitution](#) was launched in Boston Harbor. *Constitution* was one of the six original frigates authorized by Congress as part of the [Naval Act of 1794](#). The ship is best known for its successes during the [War of 1812](#), in which it defeated four Royal Navy vessels. During a battle with HMS *Guerriere*, *Constitution* earned the nickname "Old Ironsides" after an enemy round shot appeared to bounce off the ship's hull. Today, NHHC and its partners preserve the USS *Constitution*, which functions as an afloat museum, welcoming more than 500,000 visitors each year. Celebrating its 228th birthday, the *Constitution* remains the world's oldest commissioned warship. Happy Birthday to this stunning witness to American and naval history!



U.S. Navy, photo by PO 2nd Class George Cardenas

MCMULLEN NAVAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

In September, the United States Naval Academy hosted the McMullen Naval History Symposium, a conference that brings together historians to discuss naval and maritime history. The Academy selected 20 NHHC staff members to participate in panel discussions on their recent research, with topics ranging from naval technological advances to damage control procedures and specific engagements, such as the U.S. Navy's actions in Veracruz, Mexico, in 1914 and the Navy's role in the Pacific from 1898 to 1907. Representatives from around the world, including the United Kingdom, Spain, Canada, the Netherlands, and Chile, attended the McMullen conference, providing NHHC staff with the unique opportunity to interact with global scholars and present on the Navy's rich history.



U.S. Naval Academy



U.S. Navy

GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!

In one of the most traditional and enduring rivalries in college football, the 126th Army-Navy football game, dubbed “America’s Game,” took place at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore, Maryland, on December 13, with Navy winning in the final minutes, 17-16. It’s the second consecutive season the Navy Midshipmen have won the Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy. The Navy Midshipmen now lead the overall series 64-55-7. For the game, both teams honored the 250th anniversary of their respective services. Navy’s uniforms featured elements of early naval history to include helmets that were inspired by [USS Constitution](#), one of the U.S. Navy’s [six original frigates](#). Over time, the game has come to showcase America’s finest—the men and women of the Corps of Cadets and Brigade of Midshipmen. For more on Navy athletics and scores from all the Army-Navy football games, visit NHHC’s website.

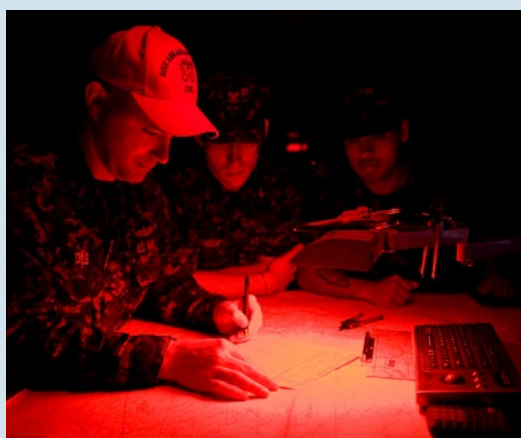
BOOK RELEASE: NAVY FORCE PLANNING AND DESIGN

NHHC is proud to announce the release of a new publication, [Navy Force Planning and Design 1933-2019](#). The book, edited by Eric J. Perinovic, one of our very own historians, examines how post-World War II [Chiefs of Naval Operations](#) (CNOs) planned future fleets and how they integrated long-range planning, strategy, budgeting, and programming into the process. The study assesses five critical periods in the development of the modern Navy and analyzes the external and internal challenges CNOs faced in executing future force planning and the different methods they adopted to overcome them. The book concludes by presenting possible implications for Navy leaders to consider in future Navy force planning and design.



NHHC’S ANNUAL DECK LOG POETRY CONTEST

For over 200 years, U.S. Navy ships have meticulously documented their every move in a [deck log](#) for administrative and legal purposes. Although the contents of the deck logs are strictly regulated, one night a year, on New Year’s Day, the officer of the deck is allowed to write the deck log entry in verse, providing the crew an opportunity to compose their report in a creative way. The Midnight New Year’s Day Poem gives us a personal glimpse into the life aboard a ship. To honor this century-old tradition, NHHC holds a [New Year’s Day Deck Log Poetry contest](#), recognizing the three best poems and awarding the first-place winner with a piece of historic copper from the [USS Constitution](#). All commissioned U.S. Navy vessels are encouraged to participate by emailing the official deck log to nhhc-decklogs@us.navy.mil by February 28. Winners will be announced in late April. Good luck!



U.S. Navy, photo MCSA Karolina A. Martinez

PRESERVING THE PAST: PEARL HARBOR



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

On December 7, 1941, members of the U.S. armed forces stationed at [Pearl Harbor](#) and other military facilities on Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, were surprised by a massive air attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy. Roughly 353 Japanese aircraft from six aircraft carriers attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet, damaging or sinking 21 ships and 188 U.S. aircraft, and killing 2,008 sailors, 218 soldiers, 109 marines, and 68 civilians. The attack resulted in the United States entering [World War II](#) and forever changed the course of history. The wreck of the [USS Arizona \(BB-39\)](#) now serves as a memorial for all of those who died during the attack. Today, NHHC and the National Park Service manage the wreck site and work together to protect and preserve the artifacts from *Arizona*. NHHC’s [Underwater Archaeology Branch](#) assists in organizing conservation dives and the preservation treatment of artifacts from the site.

SPOTLIGHT EXHIBIT

The NHHC art collection contains more than 20,000 paintings, prints, drawings, and engravings of naval ships, personnel, and operations. To ensure these pieces of art are shared with the public, NHHC provides loans to museums across the country. From November 7 to July 31, NHHC is loaning the Thomas Hart Benton collection to the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Benton studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and joined the Navy during World War I, serving in Norfolk, Virginia. In World War II, he supported the Navy by painting art that portrayed the war effort. One such painting, *Score Another for the Subs*, depicts [USS Dorado \(SS-248\)](#) firing on a derelict ship during target practice in the summer of 1943. For more information on the collection, please visit NHHC’s website.



NHHC Art Collection

JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING EVENT

- Surface Navy Association's National Symposium:** January 13-15, Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Virginia
- Navy Week Rio Grande Valley:** January 26-February 1, McAllen, Texas
- Brick by Brick Lego Shipbuilding:** January 31, Virginia Beach Sports Center, 10am to 4pm, Virginia Beach, Virginia
- Society for Military History:** March 26-29, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia