



# THE EISENHOWER ENQUIRER

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FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
ISSUE NO. 2

MASTERS OF THE  
GREEN

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GRACE UNDER FIRE

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REBUILDING  
READINESS

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# GUESS THE RATE!

- A - Hull Maintenance Technician**
- B - Fire Controlman**
- C - Damage Controlman**
- D - Navy Diver**



- A - Hull Maintenance Technician**
- B - Machinist's Mate**
- C - Damage Controlman**
- D - Machinery Repairman**



- A - Hull Maintenance Technician**
- B - Fire Controlman**
- C - Machinery Repairman**
- D - Damage Controlman**



- A - Master-at-Arms**
- B - Fire Controlman**
- C - Gunners Mate**
- D - Special Warfare Operator**



- A - Logistics Specialist**
- B - Yeoman**
- C - Personnel Specialist**
- D - Retail Services Specialist**

# MASTERS OF THE GREEN

## IKE WINS 2025 TEMBE CUP

STORY BY MCSN JAMI SUTTON - USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



NORFOLK, Va. – The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) hosted the 15th annual Tembe cup carrier classic golf tournament on Oct. 3, 2025, at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia beach, Va. Ike hosted the event with the help of morale, welfare, and recreation (MWR), volunteers, and the aeropines golf course. The Tembe cup is not only about golf; it's about honoring a legacy of unity, resilience, and community.

Inspired by U.S. Navy Capt. Tushar “Haaji” Tembe, the late commanding officer of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), the annual tournament has grown into a powerful reminder of the bonds that connect sailors across commands, ranks, and generations.

“That really was the point of the whole thing, to get everybody together” said Marianne Tembe, Capt. Tembe’s wife. “There’s not a lot of rank out here and it’s just good golf.”

Capt. Tembe created the tournament to build bonds and establish community among service members. The first carrier classic golf tournament was scheduled for Nov. 11, 2011. Three days prior to the first tournament, he suffered a fatal heart attack on Truman’s brow.

The crew of Truman came together to finish what Capt. Tembe started. In a step further to honor him,

they named the tournament after him.

“It’s great to hear the things that they say before and after the tournament” said Connor Tembe, Capt. Tembe’s son. “About how this tournament is a reminder of what my dad stood for and the leadership qualities that he had and brought to the military, bringing people together under one flag and just have fun.”

This year, the tournament brought together service members from many different commands. Including, Nimitz-class aircraft carriers USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), as well as first-in-class aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) and Ford-class aircraft carrier Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) John F. Kennedy (CVN 79).

“The most important thing was teamwork and camaraderie, and obviously our team came together well on JFK,” said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Zachary Quirk, a tournament participant from PCU John F. Kennedy (CVN 79).

“Doing colors together and then playing a round of golf, it’s pretty hard to beat. It seems to embody the spirit of the tournament.”

This competition created many memories, from exciting victories to friendly rivalries. The spirit

of the game and Capt. Tembe's vision for the tournament shined brightly. This year, IKE took home the win and claimed the year's Tembe Cup. While trophies were won, the true victory was in the connections forged, just as Capt. Tembe would have wanted.

"He's a leader who embodied our navy excellence in performance, genuine care for his sailors, and a deep commitment to building camaraderie that endures long after the watch is stood," said

Capt. Shane Marchesi, commanding officer, USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69).

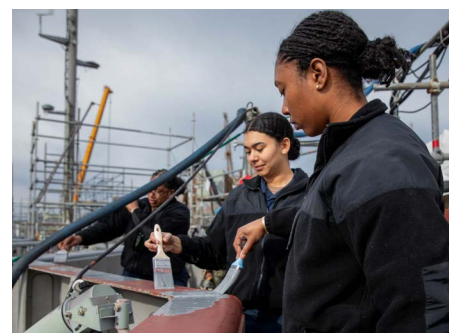
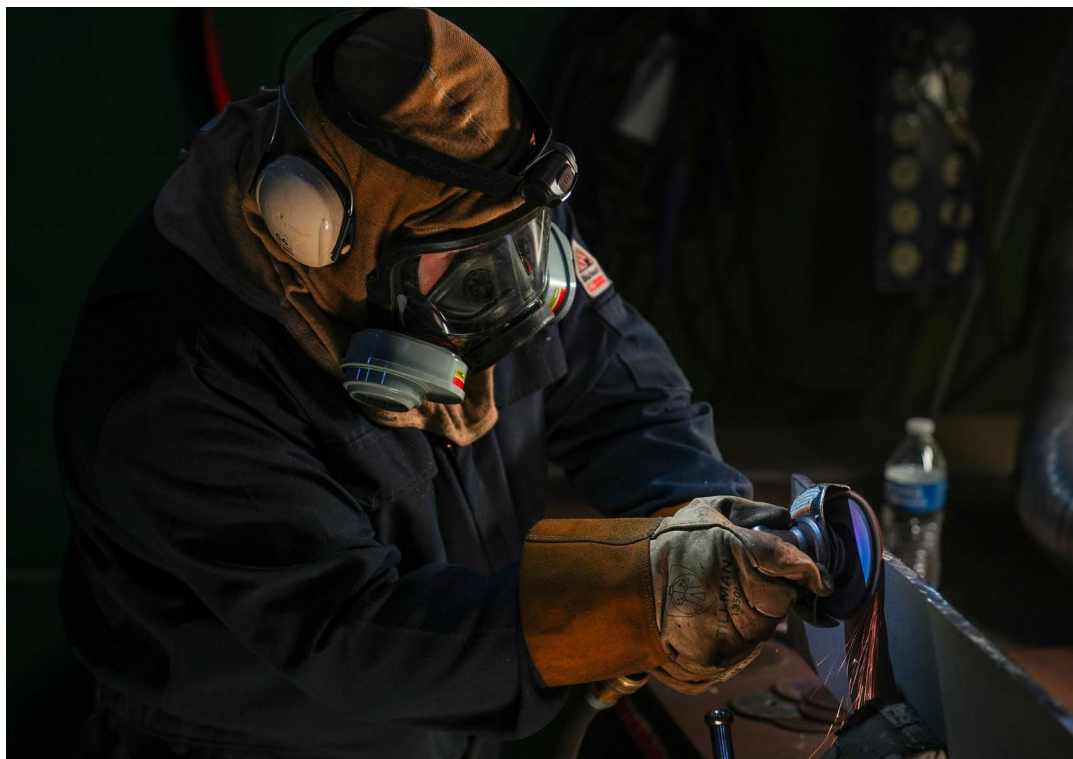
"His legacy lives on in this event and his spirit is here with us today."

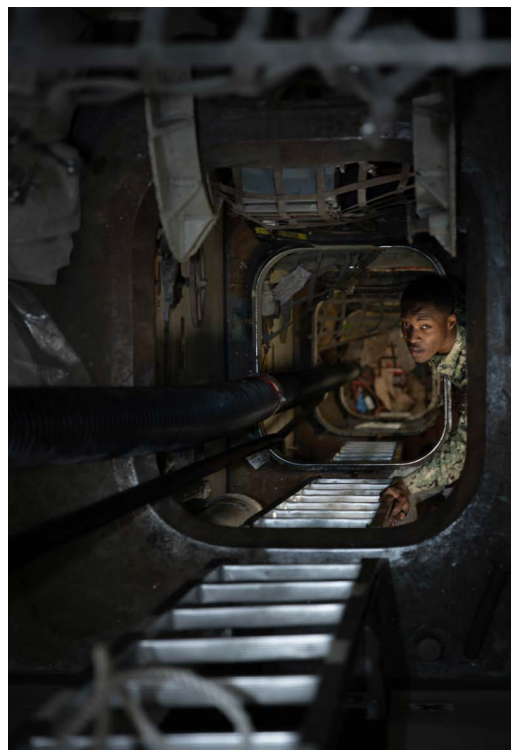
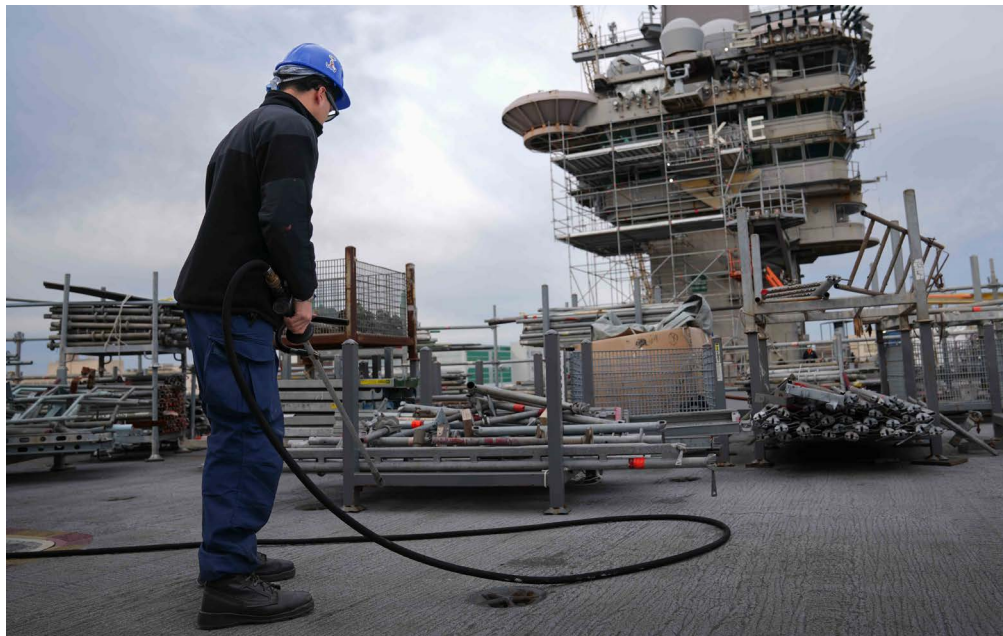
Year after year, the tembe cup brings sailors together, bonded by fun, competition, and the long-lasting memory of a leader who believed in the power of community among our service members. ■





# GETTING





# IT DONE



WELCOME OUR NEW XO TO THE IKEI

# CAPTAIN JONATHAN FARAGO



Captain Jonathan "BLAMO" Faraco, a native of Fort Lauderdale, FL, graduated and was commissioned from the United States Naval Academy in May 2003 and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in November 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Quantitative Economics, as well as a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Capt. Faraco is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) Air Intercept Control course and the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Weapons School (CAEWWS) Weapons and Tactics Instructor course.

Capt. Faraco's operational assignments include tours with VAW-123 attached to CVW-1 / USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Enterprise (CVN 65) as the Assistant Navigator (ANAV), and VAW-115 attached to CVW-5 / USS George Washington (CVN 73) and USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) forward deployed to NAF Atsugi, Japan as a Department Head. As Commanding Officer of VAW-124, he transitioned the squadron to the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye and prepared the Bear Aces for the first E-2D deployment on USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) maiden deployment.

Capt. Faraco has deployed six times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and numerous international exercises in the Western Pacific.

Capt. Faraco's shore assignments include tours with VAW-120, the VAW Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS), United States Naval War College in Newport, RI, Navy Personnel Command, PERS-43 (Aviation Officer Assignments) in Millington, TN, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC. While assigned to VAW-120, he served as the E-2C Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) instructing FRS students on tactical employment and systems utilization. While serving as the Assistant Operations Officer (AOPS) at VAW-120, he was selected for the 2011 Navy and Marine Association Peer Leadership award. While assigned to PERS-43, he initially served as the VAW, VRC, VRM, VT Strike, and Inter-service Personnel Exchange (PEP) Placement Officer and completed his tour at PERS-43 as the Assistant Captain Detailer. Capt. Faraco completed his joint assignment at the Joint Chiefs of Staff J8 Strategy, Analysis, and Gaming Division. Capt. Faraco reported to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) as Executive Officer in January 2026.

Capt. Faraco has flown numerous combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Strike/Flight Air Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal (3), and Navy Achievement Medal (2) as well as other individual, campaign, and unit awards.



**"GENERAL QUARTERS,  
GENERAL QUARTERS.  
ALL HANDS MAN YOUR  
BATTLE STATIONS."**



# YOU CAN'T FLY



# WITHOUT SUPPLY

# GRACE UNDER FIRE: THE IMPORTANCE OF STRESS MANAGEMENT

STORY BY: MCSA SARAH ANDERSON  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN69)

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – As 2026 starts, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) moves closer to underways and deployment, which can cause Sailors feelings of stress, anxiety, excitement, fear of the unknown, and everything in between.

Unmanaged stress can have serious consequences that affect mental and physical health, relationships, and personal and professional wellbeing. Mentorship, perspective changes and goal setting can offer an easier transition.

According to IKE's Embedded Integrated Prevention Coordinators (EIPC or Lifebosses), Aaron Ramirez and Becki Trant, these emotional reactions to big changes are not only common but expected.

"A lot of first term Sailors feel overwhelmed and anxious," Ramirez explained. "There's a fear of the unknown."

A sudden change of environment and routine can cause confusion, and many Sailors are unsure how to regulate those emotions as the ship transitions from the shipyard to operational life. For some, pressure comes from worrying about qualifications, workload, family separation, or simply whether or not they're ready.

"If you don't recognize those signs, things can spiral," Trant said. "Issues can get worse when stress isn't managed."

One of the more effective tools for managing that tension, IKE's Lifebosses said, is mentorship.

"Finding someone a little higher ranking whose been through it and is doing well can make a huge difference," Ramirez said. "Not only are you getting experience and leadership by example, but it helps settle the nerves going into your first underways."

Along with mentorship, perspective plays a major role in how Sailors experience new environments. IKE's Lifebosses emphasize that stress isn't always negative, it depends on how it's framed.

"If you're a first time Sailor going out and all you feel are negative emotions, you'll likely label the experience as bad," Trant said. "But if you can switch that perspective and ask 'what am I gaining from this?' it changes everything."

That mental shift doesn't happen automatically, it takes intentional practice to reframe stress. The brain is naturally wired to interpret those feelings as threats, but through repetition and awareness, Sailors can train themselves



to respond differently.

“Stress can actually be a positive,” Trant said. “Things are going to ramp up. It’s going to get busy but it’s all for a purpose.”

The purpose, IKE’s Lifebosses note, is something many Sailors don’t fully recognize until later in their careers.

“Deployments are often remembered not for the drills or the long days,” Ramirez said. “They’re remembered for the good times; the stories, the friendships, the moments that made it all worth it.”

Setting personal goals can help you stay grounded during deployment, giving you something to look forward to.

At the end of the day, IKE’s Lifebosses underline that underways and deployments are part of the profession Sailors chose and part of what sets them up for long-term success.

“This is a job; it’s how we take care

of ourselves and our families,” Ramirez said. “Hard times make strong people. You’re going through this now so you can be that person later who says, ‘I’ve been there and I can help you through it.’”

For Sailors feeling nervous as the IKE prepares to get underway, the Lifebosses offer simple advice: lean on your mentors and support systems, set goals and don’t let the negativity drown out the bigger picture.

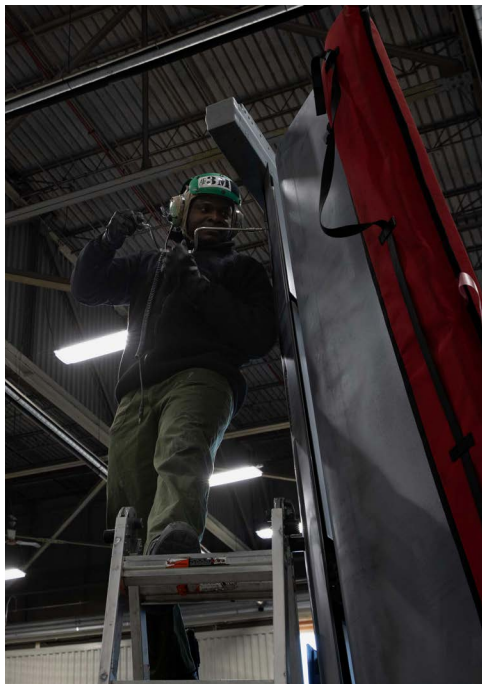
“You won’t remember every hard moment,” Ramirez said. “You’ll remember the pride, the purpose, and the memories you make along the way.” ■





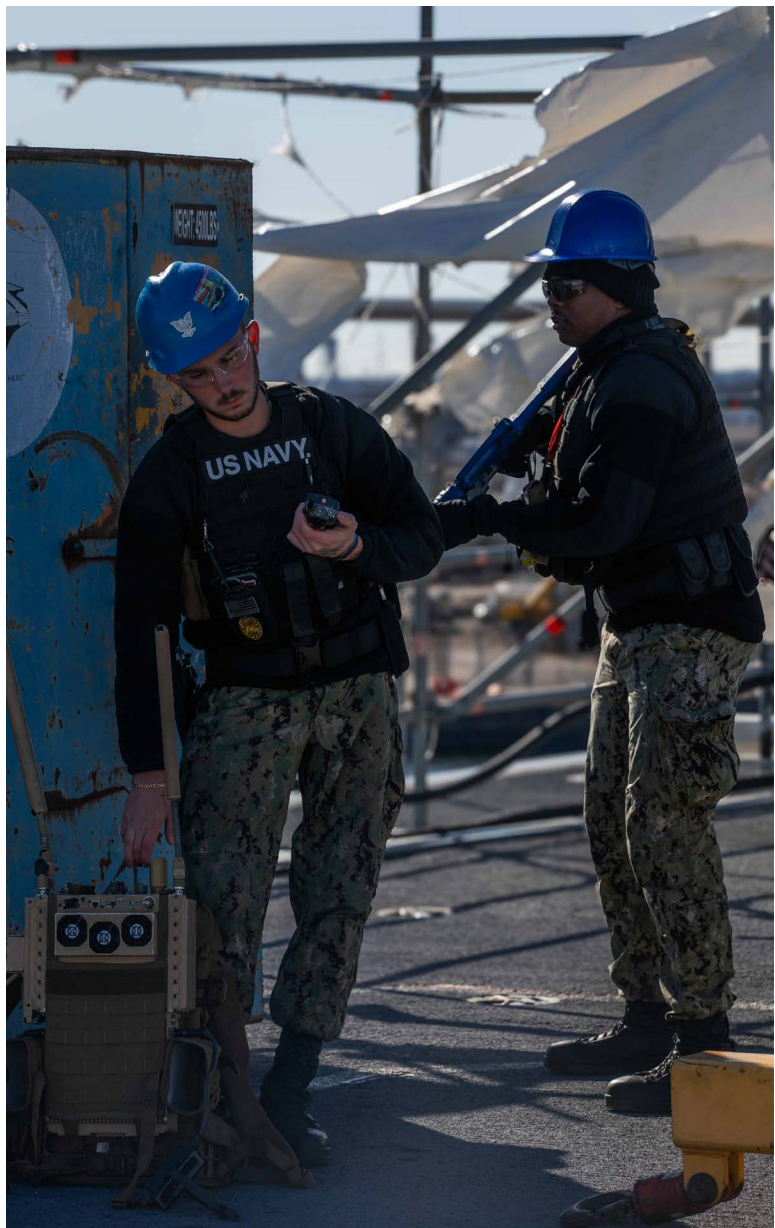
# VFA-34





# "BLUE BLASTERS"





# TRAIN HOW WE FIGHT

ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING TEAM (ATTT) DRILLS SIMULATE SCENARIOS FOR OUR SECURITY TEAM TO PRACTICE REAL WORLD SITUATIONS THAT COULD HAPPEN. READINESS AND SAFETY ARE VERY IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING BACK TO FLEET OPERATIONS.



# WERE YOU RIGHT?



**D - Navy Diver**



**A - Hull Maintenance Technician**



**C - Machinery Repairman**



**A - Master - at - Arms**



**D - Retail Services Specialist**

# REBUILDING READINESS

## THE FIRST STEPS IN OPERATIONAL READINESS



STORY BY MC3 JOHN DIDATO - USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

PORTSMOUTH, Va.-- After a long stint in a planned incremental availability maintenance period for the entirety of 2025, the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower CVN 69 (IKE) is preparing for Crew Certification to once again deploy with operational readiness second fleet.

As systems power on, departments re-engage, and the Crew Certification process begins, leaders aboard IKE prepare to bring the historic ship back to life. Sailors are beginning to see their collective effort transform this ship back into a warfighting unit.

Coming off of a long maintenance period, Capt. Shane Marchesi, IKE's commanding officer, is proud of his crew and the efforts they've made to push forward.

"The yards are a hard time, but our sailors are approaching an opportunity to feel more valued in what they're doing," said Marchesi. "Getting back to Norfolk is a huge win for everybody. It just has to do with being around our own people—other sailors, other ships."

The maintenance period removes the crew from its normal place of duty, separating them from their usual environments. Leaving the yards and returning home to Norfolk, is a major boost in morale for the ship's crew. The return to the fleet makes the maintenance phase feel purposeful, like the light at the end of the tunnel.

Afloat Training Group (ATG) Norfolk is responsible for establishing and overseeing all phases of Crew Cert for east coast ships. As the ATG carrier mission lead, operations specialist Senior Chief Petty Officer Zachary Machnics sees his role as bringing the foundational standard the crew is expected to operate in by the end of the maintenance period. According to Machnics, the most difficult challenge in Crew Cert One is the reality of a long maintenance period.

Phase one of Crew Cert focuses on ensuring the crew are in possession of essential documents and materials needed for intensive training.

"Crew turnover, leadership changes, and shifting priorities often leave critical documents left in the dust," said Machnics.

Training manuals, hazardous material disposal, and equipment maintenance are just a few of many documents that need to be updated and distributed amongst the crew. Before the ship can go back out to sea, the crew needs to become self-sufficient, and extensive training is required for each department aboard IKE.

As the ship progresses through Crew Cert One and enters phase two, ATG shifts focus away from administrative readiness to hands-on capability. Ship-wide drills and evolutions like general quarters and air operations are integral to prepare the crew as a warfighting unit. From there, ATG begins evaluating how well the crew can operate in core ship functions in Crew Cert Three, such as navigation systems, medical response, and engineering operations.

"Passing Crew Cert Three marks a turning point, you're out of the maintenance phase. You're ready to get underway," said Machnics.

Machnics sees the certification process as not just about passing inspections, but as a way to rebuild the crew's confidence and cohesion as a warfighting unit. A ship is only as strong as its crew, so running a qualified and efficient crew is crucial to the ship going underway. Lt. Cmdr. Dylan Johnson, IKE's training officer, shares the same sentiment as Marchesi and Machnics and sees alignment as the highest priority. Getting every department, every training team and every watch stander moving towards the ultimate goal of



getting back out to sea.

Johnson's role as a training officer is setting a baseline for each individual department to meet in their qualifications and training.

"There are so many different instructions and policies that govern every training team and every warfare area," Johnson said. "There's no one-stop shop when it comes to Crew Cert. Preparing for this is really a mixed bag."

With unit cohesion being a pillar in the reinvigoration of IKE, each department must direct their focus on being as valuable to the mission as possible. Johnson's goal is to create a more synchronized crew after a long maintenance period, in which departments tend to focus on more internal matters.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower has seen many operations in its day, leading to an extensive maintenance period that sometimes clouds its sailors from seeing the end goal. The growing momentum in the final months in the shipyard is something that leaders both ashore and afloat hope to maintain and build upon, knowing how hard the sailors have worked to get back out to sea. ■



# THE EISENHOWER

USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)

## MEET THE TRIAD

### COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT SHANE MARCHESI

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CAPT JONATHAN FARACO

### COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

CMDCM KEITH CARMONA

## MEDIA DEPARTMENT

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

LCDR DANIELLE MOSER

### ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

ENS ALI STEWART

### DEPARTMENT LCPO

MCCS JASON GRAHAM

### PRODUCTION LCPO

MCC WILL SPEARS

### MEDIA LPO

MC1 EMILINE SENN

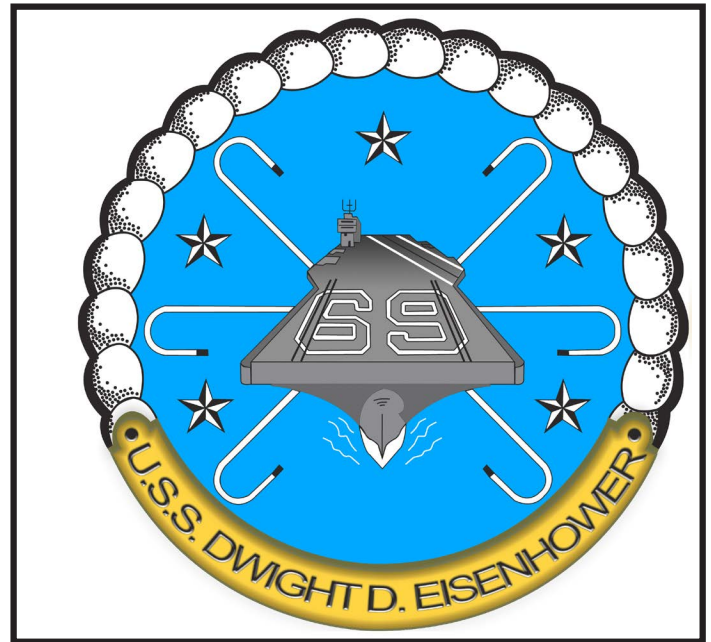
### EDITOR

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 THEODORE MORRISON  
MCSN SAMANTHA SWIGERT  
MCSN JALHEN WILLIAMS  
MCSN JALON LIPFORD  
MCSN JAMISON SUTTON  
MCSN NICOLE SCHWEIGERT  
MCSN KELLEN LANDIS  
MCSN MELINA ROSSI  
MCSA SARAH ANDERSON  
MCSA TROY WASHINGTON

## COMMAND OMBUDSMEN



ELIZABETH BRIDGES: 808-313-9352

## THIS JANUARY IN EISENHOWER HISTORY...

1953 & 1957- Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated for his first and second presidential terms on January 20th, 1953 and January 21st, 1957.

1955- Congress approved President Eisenhower's request to defend Formosa (Taiwan) against Communist aggression.

## 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