



FROM THE QUARTERDECK

THE NAVY AND SPACE EXPLORATION



NASA, photo by Kim Shiflett

In April, NASA launched Artemis II and sent a crew of four on the first flight around the moon in over 50 years! Two of the four astronauts were US Navy aviators. The commander of the mission, Captain Reid Wiseman, is a Navy veteran who participated in operations Southern Watch, [Enduring Freedom](#), and [Iraqi Freedom](#). The pilot, Captain Victor J. Glover Jr., served aboard USS [John F. Kennedy \(CV-67\)](#) during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Navy's role in space exploration began before the creation of NASA. In fact, for decades, Navy personnel have served as astronauts, including the first American in space, [Alan Shepard](#), and the first man to walk on the moon, [Neil Armstrong](#). The Navy also assists in recovering the crew upon reentering the atmosphere. The Artemis II mission is critical to NASA's goal of resuming crewed lunar landings. Both Captain Wiseman and Glover are continuing this historic legacy!

LONGEST NIGHT OF MUSEUMS WITH US NAVAL UNDERSEA MUSEUM

NHHC is excited to announce that the [United States Naval Undersea Museum](#) (USNUM) will participate in the World of Warships' Longest Night of Museums event. For the sixth year in a row, World of Warships, a global naval history - inspired video game, is partnering with museums and naval heritage institutions to connect users to naval museums from around the world. This year's theme focuses on torpedoes and the role they played in naval history and technology. USNUM is one of the ten museums operated by NHHC and holds the country's most comprehensive collection of US naval undersea artifacts, numbering more than 57,000. Over 5,700 of those are related to torpedoes. This event will allow users to interact with USNUM's digitized artifacts and learn about technological advancements that have helped the Navy become the strongest undersea force in the world.



NHHC, US Naval Undersea Museum Torpedo Technology Exhibit

UNDER THE SEA: RECOVERED SURVEILLANCE CAMERA



NHHC, photo by Blair Atcheson

After the Soviet Union successfully tested an atomic bomb in 1949, the United States began increasing surveillance of Soviet military capabilities. During one such mission on April 8, 1950, a Navy [PB4Y-2](#) aircraft with a 10-man crew was shot down off the coast of Latvia. Despite search efforts at the time, the wreck was not discovered for another 70 years, when NHHC and its partners, including the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, located the aircraft. One of the artifacts recovered included an aerial camera with film. Since the film was potentially classified, NHHC's [Underwater Archaeology Branch](#) (UA) worked with the FBI to process the film and ensure proper classification. Once cleared, UA continued conservation treatment on this complex and multifaceted object, a process that took five years. Partnerships like the one with the FBI provide unique opportunities for agencies to expand their capabilities while complementing NHHC's mission of preserving Navy history.

NAVY WEEK HAWAII

From March 8 to 13, NHHC's outreach team traveled to Hilo, Hawaii, to attend Navy Week Hawaii. Over the course of three days, the team set up a booth at the Kilauea Military Camp at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, the Hilo Public Library, and the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens. By staging at these locations, NHHC was able to engage with people of all ages and from around the world. Collectively, the team successfully interacted with more than 400 people before leaving Hawaii early due to a weather state of emergency declaration. These interactions allow NHHC to share not only our mission but also the ways NHHC preserves the Navy's history and how the public can interact with our collections.



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

USS MASSACHUSETTS (SSN-798) COMMISSIONING



NHHC, photo by Thomas Frezza

On March 28, the Navy officially commissioned the *Virginia*-class submarine USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798). NHHC outreach specialists attended the commissioning, interacting with 891 members of the public and discussing the shared history of the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](#) and the Navy. Implemented in 1775, [commissioning ceremonies](#) occur after the vessel successfully completes sea trials. During the ceremony, a high-ranking officer reads the commissioning directive, after which the ship's executive officer hoists the ensign and takes part in breaking the [commissioning pennant](#) to mark the vessel officially joining the fleet. The commanding officer then reads their orders, and the ship sponsor shouts, "Man our ship and bring her to life!" In response, the crew runs onto the ship and mans the rails. This ceremony not only helps sailors connect with the past, but it also gives NHHC the ability to educate the public on our Navy's traditions and history.

92ND ANNUAL SOCIETY FOR MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE



NHHC, photo by Histories Branch

From March 27 to March 29, the Society for Military History (SMH) hosted its 92nd annual conference with scholars from around the world, who contributed to panel discussions about various military history topics. Over a dozen NHHC historians and archivists participated and provided their expertise on naval history. A few NHHC staff members, including Brooke Talbott and Jon Middaugh, also presented on their latest research projects. Brooke's study incorporates the oral histories she conducted with Navy photographers who served in the [Vietnam War](#) and their vital, yet largely unknown, contributions in documenting the war. Likewise, Jon Middaugh presented on the military, political, and diplomatic factors that influenced national command authorities to deploy naval reservists involuntarily through the 1960s. Conferences such as SMH provide NHHC historians with an opportunity to share their expertise with global scholars and historians from other military branches.

BEYOND THE CANVAS: USS *PRESIDENT* VS. HMS *ENDYMION*

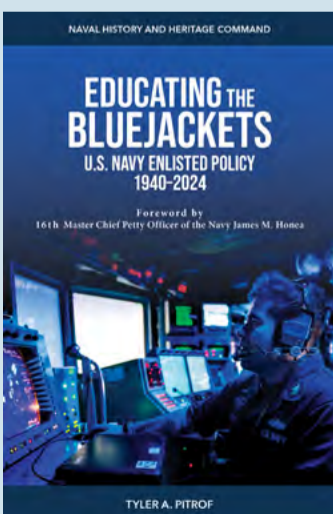
In this month's *Beyond the Canvas*, NHHC presents a painting of the [USS *President* battling the HMS *Endymion*](#) during the [War of 1812](#). Engraved by Thomas Butterworth, the painting depicts *President* and *Endymion* firing on one another after *President*, under the command of [Stephen Decatur Jr.](#), tried to break through the British blockade of New York Harbor. Commissioned in April 1800, *President* was one of the six original frigates. In January 1815, *President* attempted to use a major storm to break through a British squadron. However, *President* suffered severe damage due to intense winds. This allowed *Endymion*, considered the fastest ship in the Royal Navy, to catch up, and an engagement ensued. Eventually, *President* surrendered; however, since *Endymion* was unable to take control, *President* temporarily escaped before being captured by HMS *Pomone*.



NHHC Art Collection

BOOK RELEASE: *EDUCATING THE BLUEJACKETS*

The command is excited to present its newest publication, [Educating the Bluejackets: US Navy Enlisted Policy, 1940-2024](#). Written by NHHC historian Tyler A. Pitrof, this volume traces the evolution of the US Navy's approach to enlisted education from [World War II](#) to the present day. As demonstrated in this publication, since the 1970s, the Navy has generally considered its educational programs to be an incentive to enlist. However, advanced technology, like the Aegis Combat System, has dramatically increased the need for abstract thinking, making an advanced education critical to warfighting readiness and effectiveness. *Educating the Bluejackets* provides a succinct history of US Navy enlisted education policy and will enable personnel to use the cumulative insights of the past to help address the service's future educational needs.



NEW RELEASE

A DAY IN THE LIFE: OUTREACH COORDINATOR



NHHC, photo by Outreach Branch

If you have ever been to an official Navy event, odds are you have met one of our outreach coordinators. With the goal of engaging with the public and the fleet on the importance of Navy history and explaining the resources available through NHHC, the outreach team is key to the command's success. Every year, the team travels across the country, attending air shows, Fleet weeks, Navy weeks, commemoration events, and commissioning ceremonies. From Portland, Maine, to Anchorage, Alaska, our team has gone far and wide to share the stories of those who served in the Navy. Yet being an outreach coordinator is not only about talking to the public. The team is also responsible for identifying events and developing partnerships on the federal, state, and local levels. So, if you ever attend a Navy event, keep an eye out for our team. Who knows? Maybe you'll meet our four-legged teammate!








EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: MODEL OF THE CONTINENTAL NAVY SCHOONER *ROYAL SAVAGE*

The [National Museum of the United States Navy](#) recently received two ship models of the Continental Navy schooner *Royal Savage*, with one representing the ship before the Battle of Valcour Island and one depicting the vessel after it sank to the bottom of Lake Champlain. Constructed by Glenn Grieco, the former director of Texas A&M University's Ship Model Laboratory, the models took two years to build and required extensive research. To ensure accuracy, Grieco examined the timbers from the recovered *Royal Savage* and studied paintings and descriptions. Originally belonging to the Royal Navy, *Royal Savage* was damaged by Continental troops during the siege of Fort St. Jean and later restored by the [Continental Navy](#). The ship eventually became General Benedict Arnold's flagship during the Battle of Valcour Island before being burned by the British. The models will go on display in the new National Museum of the United States Navy.



NHHC, photo by Clifford Davis

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

-  **Commissioning of USS *Harvey C. Barnum Jr.* (DDG-124)** April 11, Norfolk, Virginia
-  **Fleet Week Houston** April 15-22, Port of Houston, Houston, Texas
-  **Brick by Brick Lego Shipbuilding** April 18, Virginia Beach Sports Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia
-  **Sea Air Space Exposition** April 19-22, Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland
-  **National Parks Week** April 25, World War II Memorial, Washington, DC
-  **Commissioning of USS *Idaho* (SSN-799)** April 25, Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, Connecticut
-  **Navy Week Charlotte** May 4-10, Charlotte, North Carolina