

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

WATERFRONT

MAY 2026

ARTEMIS II RECOVERY
NBSD LEADS EXCELLENCE ASHORE
TPU CELEBRATES 43 YEARS

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication
Specialist 2nd Class Lordin Kelly.

ISSUE 4



WATERFRONT

The Waterfront is a source for mission-aligned information created by Sailors for Sailors: highlighting warfighting readiness from the shore, operational excellence, base initiatives, leadership messaging, and community engagement.



NBSD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Production by:
IC2 Ulrika Mendiola & MC2 Aja Campbell

USS John P. Murtha returns to Naval Base San Diego, April 11, 2026.
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Lordin Kelly



CAPTAINS CALL
ARTEMIS II RECOVERY
TPU 43 YEARS OF SERVICE
USS STOCKDALE RTHP
NBSD EXCELLENCE ASORE
SAAPR MONTH
NEX CELEBRATES 80 YEARS
NAVY CHIEF BIRTHDAY
ASK THE CHIEF



CAPTAINS CALL

CAPT. BRIAN C. BUNGAY, COMMANDING OFFICER

As we reflect on another remarkable period aboard Naval Base San Diego, I want to recognize the extraordinary teamwork that made history possible during the recovery of NASA's Orion space capsule following the successful conclusion of the Artemis II mission. In partnership with NASA and U.S. Space Command, the crew of USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26), supported by teammates across U.S. 3rd Fleet, installation departments, and waterfront partners, demonstrated the professionalism and precision that will help set the standard for maritime support to human spaceflight operations for the next 50 years. Following JPM return to homeport, more than 10,000 visitors came to witness the Orion capsule firsthand. Closer to home, the CNO's 'No Sailor Left Afloat' initiative continues to deliver results, with zero Sailors currently on the waitlist for unaccompanied housing support aboard the installation. As a reminder, the Naval Base San Diego's firearms policy currently remains unchanged, and all personnel must continue to comply with existing installation regulations. Finally, I encourage Sailors to take advantage of Tactical Warfighter Readiness, an innovative program focused on strength, conditioning, nutrition, resilience, and mental toughness so our teams remain ready to meet today's demands and tomorrow's fight. One Team, One Fight!

B. C. Bungay
B.C. BUNGAY

ARTEMIS II RECOVERY.

The U.S. Navy, in partnership with NASA and U.S. Space Command, recovered the Orion space capsule and its four-person crew from the Pacific Ocean, April 10, marking the conclusion of the historic Artemis II mission.

Amphibious transport dock USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26), assigned to Expeditionary Strike Group 3, served as the primary recovery ship for the astronauts and spacecraft, executing a complex maritime operation that spanned from atmospheric reentry to securing the capsule in the ship's well deck.

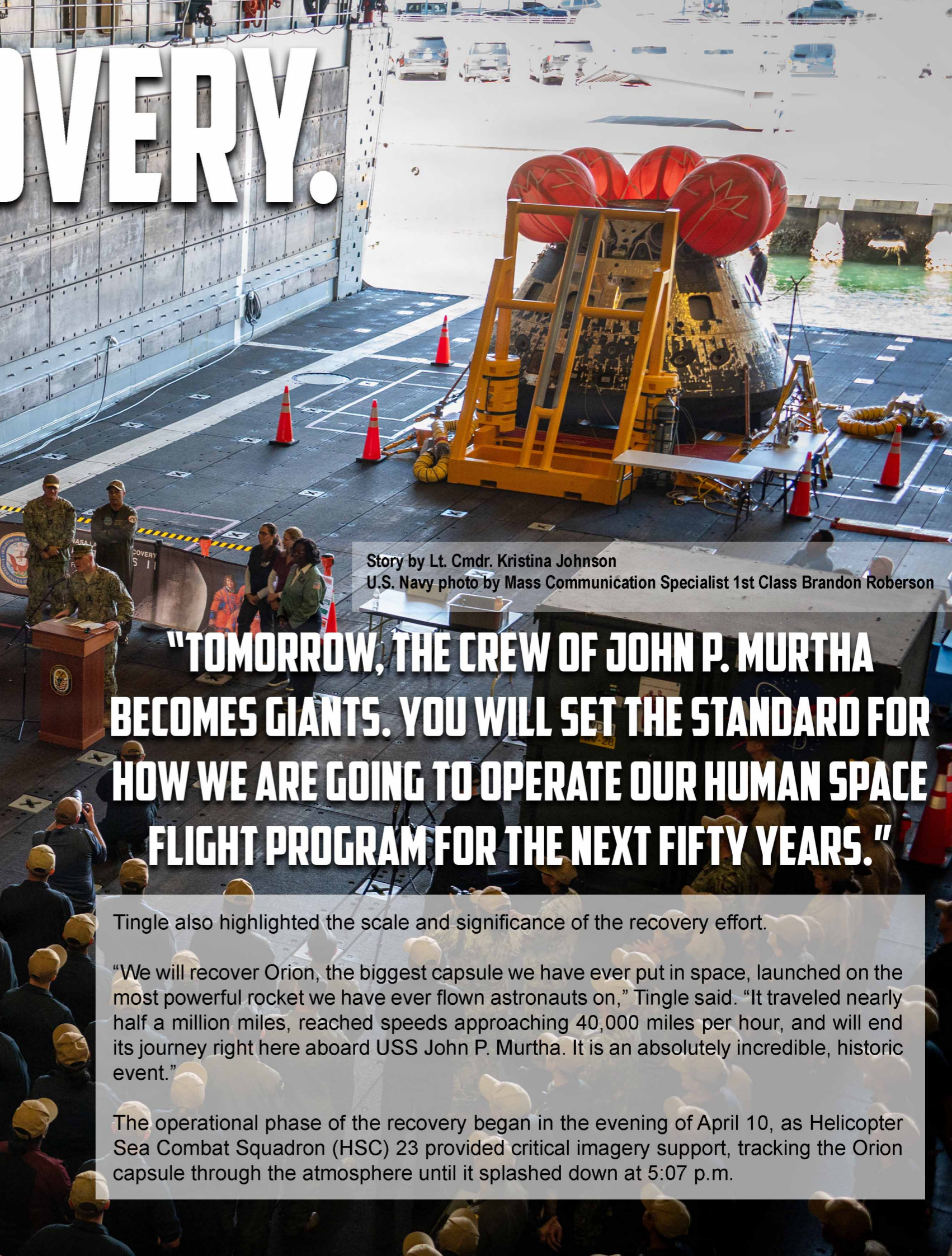
"I could not be more proud of the skill and professionalism the crew demonstrated," said Capt. Erik Kenny, commanding officer of John P. Murtha. "Our team executed this complex recovery with pride, showcasing the unique capabilities of our naval forces. Being able to play a vital role in this operation is a testament to the strength of our team."

NASA launched Artemis II from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, April 1. The mission served as a critical flight test for future crewed missions to the lunar surface and is part of NASA's broader effort to prepare for eventual human missions to Mars.

For the Navy, the mission also represented a homecoming for its own. The crew included mission commander retired U.S. Navy Capt. Reid Wiseman and pilot U.S. Navy Capt. Victor Glover, both former Navy test pilots and Naval Postgraduate School alumni, alongside NASA astronaut Christina Koch and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

The night before splashdown, NASA Chief of Astronauts and retired U.S. Navy Capt. Scott Tingle addressed the recovery team to discuss the gravity of the operation.

"They say we stand on the shoulders of giants," Tingle said. "Tomorrow, the crew of John P. Murtha becomes giants. You will set the standard for how we are going to operate our human space flight program for the next fifty years."



Story by Lt. Cmdr. Kristina Johnson
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brandon Roberson

"TOMORROW, THE CREW OF JOHN P. MURTHA BECOMES GIANTS. YOU WILL SET THE STANDARD FOR HOW WE ARE GOING TO OPERATE OUR HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS."

Tingle also highlighted the scale and significance of the recovery effort.

"We will recover Orion, the biggest capsule we have ever put in space, launched on the most powerful rocket we have ever flown astronauts on," Tingle said. "It traveled nearly half a million miles, reached speeds approaching 40,000 miles per hour, and will end its journey right here aboard USS John P. Murtha. It is an absolutely incredible, historic event."

The operational phase of the recovery began in the evening of April 10, as Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23 provided critical imagery support, tracking the Orion capsule through the atmosphere until it splashed down at 5:07 p.m.

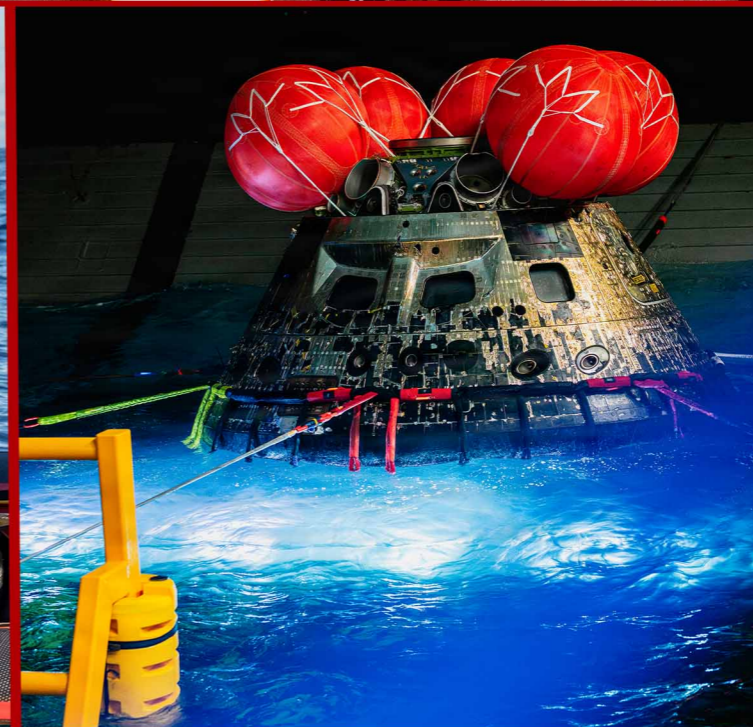
Immediately following splashdown, dive medical personnel from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1 made initial contact with the “Integrity” capsule and crew to conduct medical assessments.

Once the astronauts were cleared for transport, they were hoisted into MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopters with HSC-23 and flown to John P. Murtha for further evaluation. Simultaneously, Navy divers, experts in mobile diving, salvage, towing, and open-water small boat operations, rigged the Orion space capsule for recovery from the ocean to the ship’s well deck.

Rear Adm. Brent DeVore, commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 3, said the recovery reflected the team’s extensive preparation and operational readiness.

“This recovery was a direct result of hours of training and the exceptional dedication of this team of teams,” DeVore said. “Our Sailors are trained to be ready for any mission, and they executed this historic task with the precision and professionalism that defines our naval service.”

Postured in support of U.S. 3rd Fleet as a globally responsive and scalable naval command element, ESG-3 generates, deploys, and employs naval forces and formations for crisis response, contingency operations, forward presence, major combat operations, amphibious operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and expeditionary logistics.





U.S. Navy photo and story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nettie Mae Manfull

TPU CELEBRATES 43 YEARS OF SERVICE

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Navy’s Transient Personnel Unit (TPU), a tenant command of Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), recognized 43 years of service, marking more than four decades of dedicated support to Sailors in transition. Commissioned in 1984, TPU was established to provide structure, accountability, and assistance to Sailors temporarily assigned while awaiting training, transfer, medical care, or separation.

“For 43 years, Transient Personnel Unit has quietly executed one of the Navy’s most vital missions: delivering manpower to the Fleet,” said Cmdr. Lauren Garcia, commanding officer of TPU. “We serve as an extension of forward-deployed ships and squadrons, providing housing, work assignments, and training for Sailors in transit. Whether a Sailor is awaiting a flight to meet their Command, or processing for separation or retirement, TPU provides the structure, leadership, and support necessary to keep our force ready and resilient.”

Since its commissioning, TPU has played an essential role in Navy operations. While not often in the spotlight, the unit serves as a critical bridge, ensuring Sailors remain mission-ready and supported during periods of uncertainty in their careers. TPU staff assist Sailors with administrative processing, professional development, and personal readiness, helping them stay connected to Navy standards and values.

“This unit welcomes and supports Sailors,” said Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Jacob Gonzalez. “Here we remind our warfighters to stay motivated, remember why they joined, and know that we’re here to help every step of the way.”

The anniversary honored the unit's legacy and the many Sailors and leaders who have contributed to its success since its commissioning in 1984. The observance highlighted TPU's adaptability over the years, as the unit has evolved to meet the changing needs of the Fleet while maintaining its core mission of taking care of people.

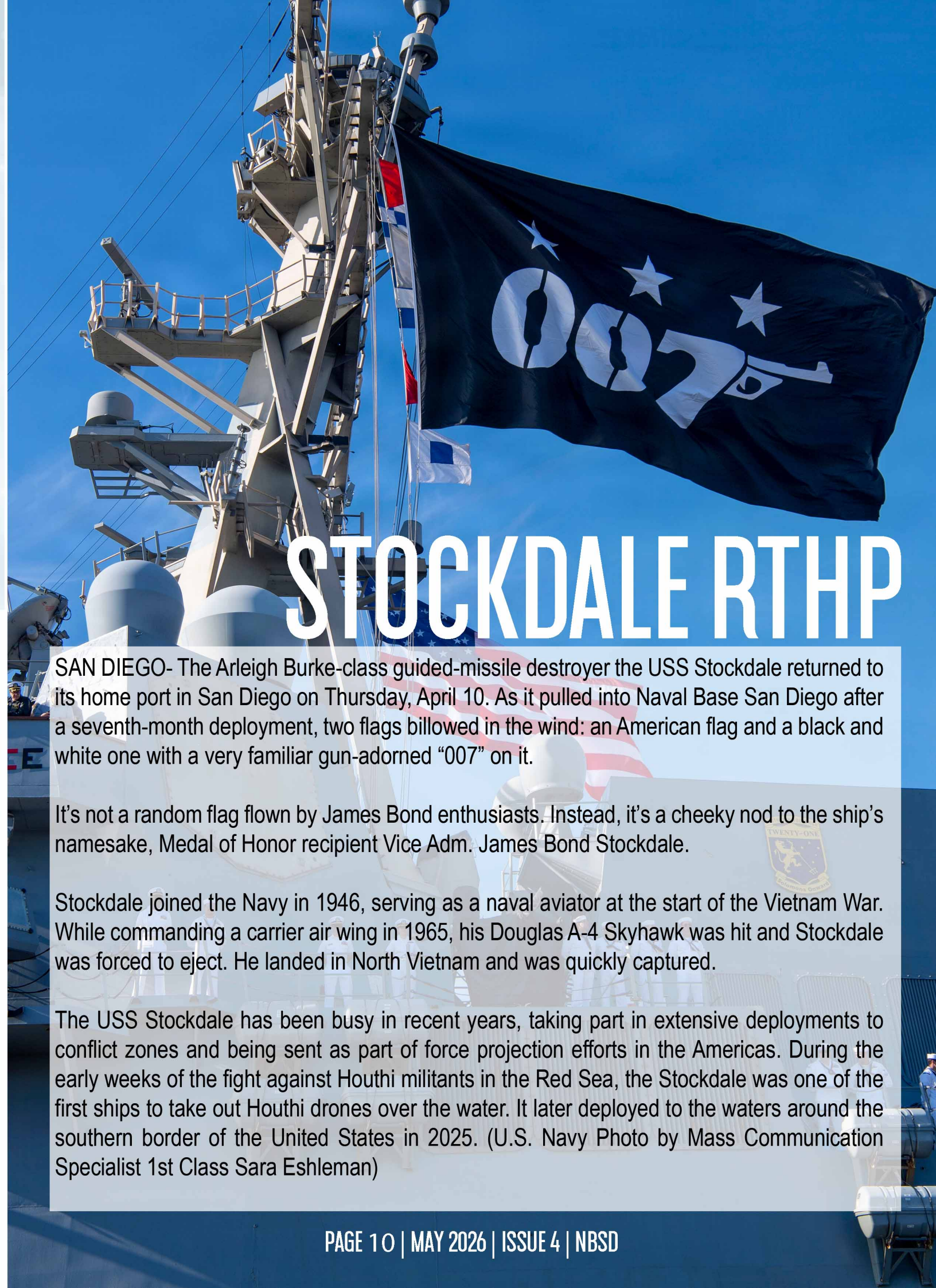
"TPU continues to stand as a reminder that every Sailor's journey matters," said Chief Navy Counselor Heather Sanchez. "From its commissioning in 1984 to today, we remain committed to service, support, and professionalism—an enduring pillar of the Navy's personnel enterprise."

TPU's mission is to expeditiously process Sailors through transfer, administrative separation, and discipline pipelines for commands that, because of deployment or overseas location, cannot provide those services directly.

"This anniversary is a testament to the generations of Sailors whose professionalism has strengthened our Fleet by never losing sight of the people who power it," said Garcia.



The original article announcing TPU Commissioning Ceremony onboard NBSD was published in the US Navy Signal Bridge Newspaper, March 23, 1984. U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Drew Verbis



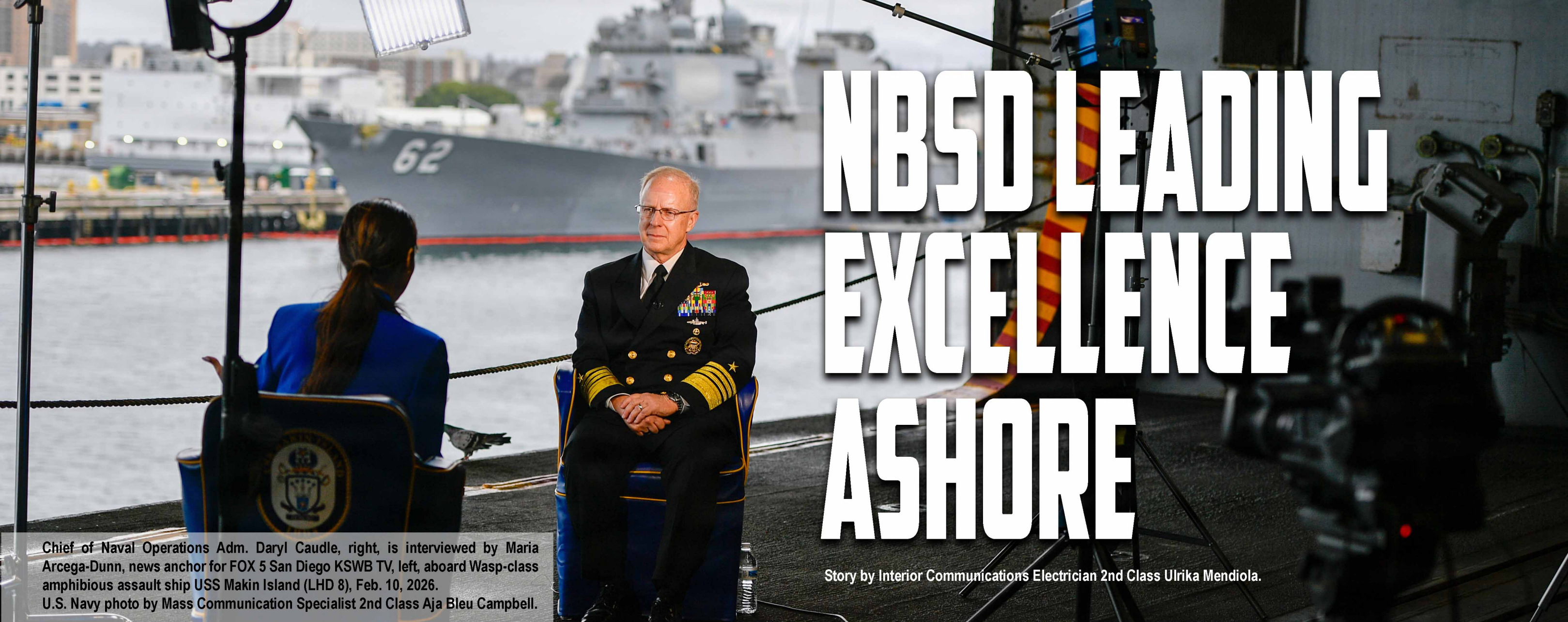
STOCKDALE RTHP

SAN DIEGO- The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer the USS Stockdale returned to its home port in San Diego on Thursday, April 10. As it pulled into Naval Base San Diego after a seventh-month deployment, two flags billowed in the wind: an American flag and a black and white one with a very familiar gun-adorned "007" on it.

It's not a random flag flown by James Bond enthusiasts. Instead, it's a cheeky nod to the ship's namesake, Medal of Honor recipient Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale.

Stockdale joined the Navy in 1946, serving as a naval aviator at the start of the Vietnam War. While commanding a carrier air wing in 1965, his Douglas A-4 Skyhawk was hit and Stockdale was forced to eject. He landed in North Vietnam and was quickly captured.

The USS Stockdale has been busy in recent years, taking part in extensive deployments to conflict zones and being sent as part of force projection efforts in the Americas. During the early weeks of the fight against Houthi militants in the Red Sea, the Stockdale was one of the first ships to take out Houthi drones over the water. It later deployed to the waters around the southern border of the United States in 2025. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sara Eshleman)



NBSD LEADING EXCELLENCE ASHORE

Story by Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Ulrika Mendiola.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Daryl Caudle, right, is interviewed by Maria Arcega-Dunn, news anchor for FOX 5 San Diego KSWB TV, left, aboard Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), Feb. 10, 2026. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aja Bleu Campbell.

SAN DIEGO – Demonstrating the Chief of Naval Operations’ strategic vision of Excellence Ashore, Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) has been recognized as a premier warfighting platform, earning the 2025 Shore Battle Efficiency (Battle “E”) Award in the Fleet Concentration Area/Extra Large Installation category. The award reinforces a central tenet of CNO Adm. Daryl Caudle’s C-Note #6: Navy combat power is generated not only at sea, but in the foundries ashore where readiness is built, Sailors are supported, and the Fleet is sustained.

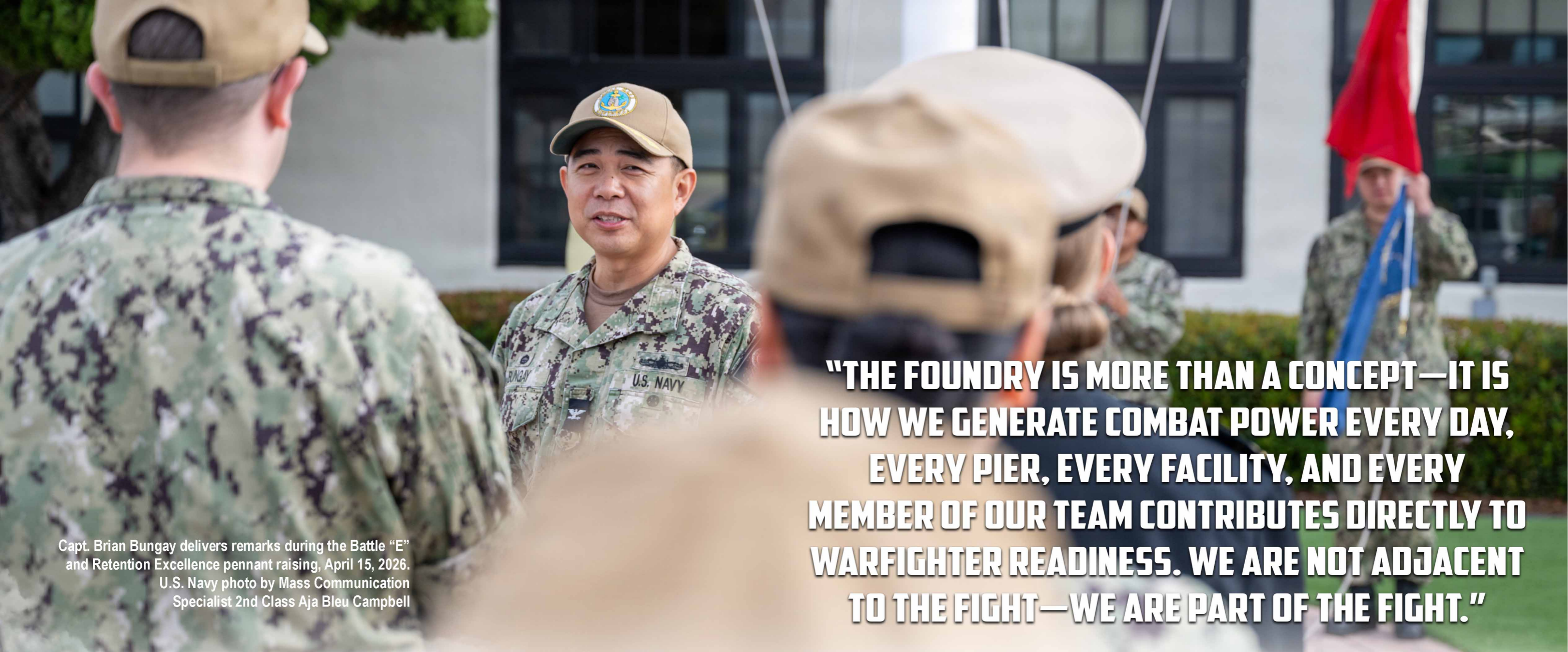
“Our ability to project force, sustain combat operations, and win our Nation’s wars begins not at sea, but ashore—at the pier, on the flightline, in the shipyard, and at the gates of our installations,” said Caudle. “Our shore enterprise generates the readiness, capacity, and endurance that makes maritime dominance possible.”

As the Navy’s largest principal homeport on the West Coast and the principal homeport of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, NBSD exemplifies that vision. The installation supports more than 59 U.S. Navy ships, approximately 250 tenant commands, and tens of thousands of Sailors, civilians, reservists, and family members who power fleet operations every day. NBSD’s role extends far beyond installation support—it is a direct contributor to warfighting readiness.

“The Foundry is more than a concept—it is how we generate combat power every day,” said Capt. Brian C. Bungay, commanding officer, NBSD. “Every pier, every facility, and every member of our team contributes directly to warfighter readiness. We are not adjacent to the fight—we are part of the fight.”

That success is made possible by the daily efforts of Sailors, civilians, and contractors across the installation. From maintenance and force protection to customer service and waterfront operations, every task contributes to the larger mission. What may appear routine—a completed work order, a secure gate operation, or a watch properly stood—helps keep the Pacific Fleet ready to answer the call.

The installation’s impact is also measured in its ability to integrate across commands, agencies, and industry partners to solve complex challenges at speed. Whether supporting major fleet concentrations, emergent repairs, high-visibility national events, or joint operations, NBSD provides the access, capacity, and coordination required to keep maritime forces ready. That ability to surge and adapt remains a decisive advantage for the Navy in an increasingly contested environment.



Capt. Brian Bungay delivers remarks during the Battle “E” and Retention Excellence pennant raising, April 15, 2026. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aja Bleu Campbell

“THE FOUNDRY IS MORE THAN A CONCEPT—IT IS HOW WE GENERATE COMBAT POWER EVERY DAY, EVERY PIER, EVERY FACILITY, AND EVERY MEMBER OF OUR TEAM CONTRIBUTES DIRECTLY TO WARFIGHTER READINESS. WE ARE NOT ADJACENT TO THE FIGHT—WE ARE PART OF THE FIGHT.”

In 2025, NBSD delivered measurable outcomes that underscored its role as a readiness engine for the Fleet. The installation safely managed more than 1,300 ship movements, supported millions of personnel transits across the waterfront, and sustained critical infrastructure modernization projects designed to improve resiliency, quality of life, and operational capacity. These efforts ensured ships could sortie on time, crews could train effectively, and mission partners could execute without delay.

NBSD also advanced Sailor quality-of-life initiatives that directly support warfighting endurance. Expanded fitness and human performance programs, improved unaccompanied housing solutions, transportation enhancements, and responsive customer service initiatives strengthened the daily readiness of the force. By investing in the people who man the Fleet, the installation helps ensure warfighters remain physically, mentally, and professionally prepared for sustained operations.

“Our mission is to deliver ready forces to the Fleet, and that starts ashore,” Bungay said. “By demanding excellence across our installation—from infrastructure to service—we ensure our warfighters have what they need to deploy, persist, and win.”

C-Note #6 challenges Navy installations to pursue excellence wherever combat power is generated. At NBSD, that standard is being met through innovation, measurable performance, and a workforce committed to readiness. The message is clear: warfighting starts at the Foundry, and excellence ashore is essential to victory at sea.

“The outstanding performance of this year’s winners is a direct reflection of the dedication and professionalism of our Sailors and civilians,” said Vice Admiral Scott Gray, Commander, Navy Installations Command. “They are the backbone of our shore enterprise, and their relentless work ensures our installations are true force multipliers, enabling fleet readiness and power projection around the globe. I am incredibly proud to recognize their achievements and their unwavering commitment to the Fleet, the Fighter, and the Family.”

Established in 1922, NBSD is the Navy’s largest principal West Coast homeport and the principal homeport of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, supporting more than 60 combatant and auxiliary surface ships and more than 250 tenant commands.



Capt. Brian Bungay signs a Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, April 2, 2026. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nettie Mae Manfull



Story by Seaman Apprentice Adziry Garcia and Seaman Apprentice Secquoia Maloy
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nettie Mae Manfull

STEP FORWARD. NBSD LEADS SAAPM.

Commands across Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) are reinforcing a culture of respect, accountability, and intervention throughout April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM).

Observed annually, SAAPM highlights the U.S. Navy's commitment to fostering a climate where all Sailors are treated with dignity and respect. This year's theme, "STEP FORWARD. Prevent. Report. Advocate.," emphasizes the responsibility of every service member to actively contribute to prevention efforts and support those impacted by sexual assault.

While April serves as a focal point for awareness, leaders underscore that prevention is a year-round responsibility. "April is a time where we come together as a community and focus on awareness," said Selina Perez, supervisory sexual assault response coordinator (SARC), NBSD. "But the values we reinforce during this month must continue every day."

The Navy's SAPR program provides confidential support and advocacy services designed to empower victims and inform their decisions. Speaking with a SARC or victim advocate does not automatically initiate a formal report. In addition to SAPR services, Sailors have access to a network of support resources, including Fleet and Family Support Center counseling, chaplains, medical services, and victims' legal counsel.



U.S. Navy photo and story by Seaman Apprentice Adziry Garcia

NEX TURNS 80

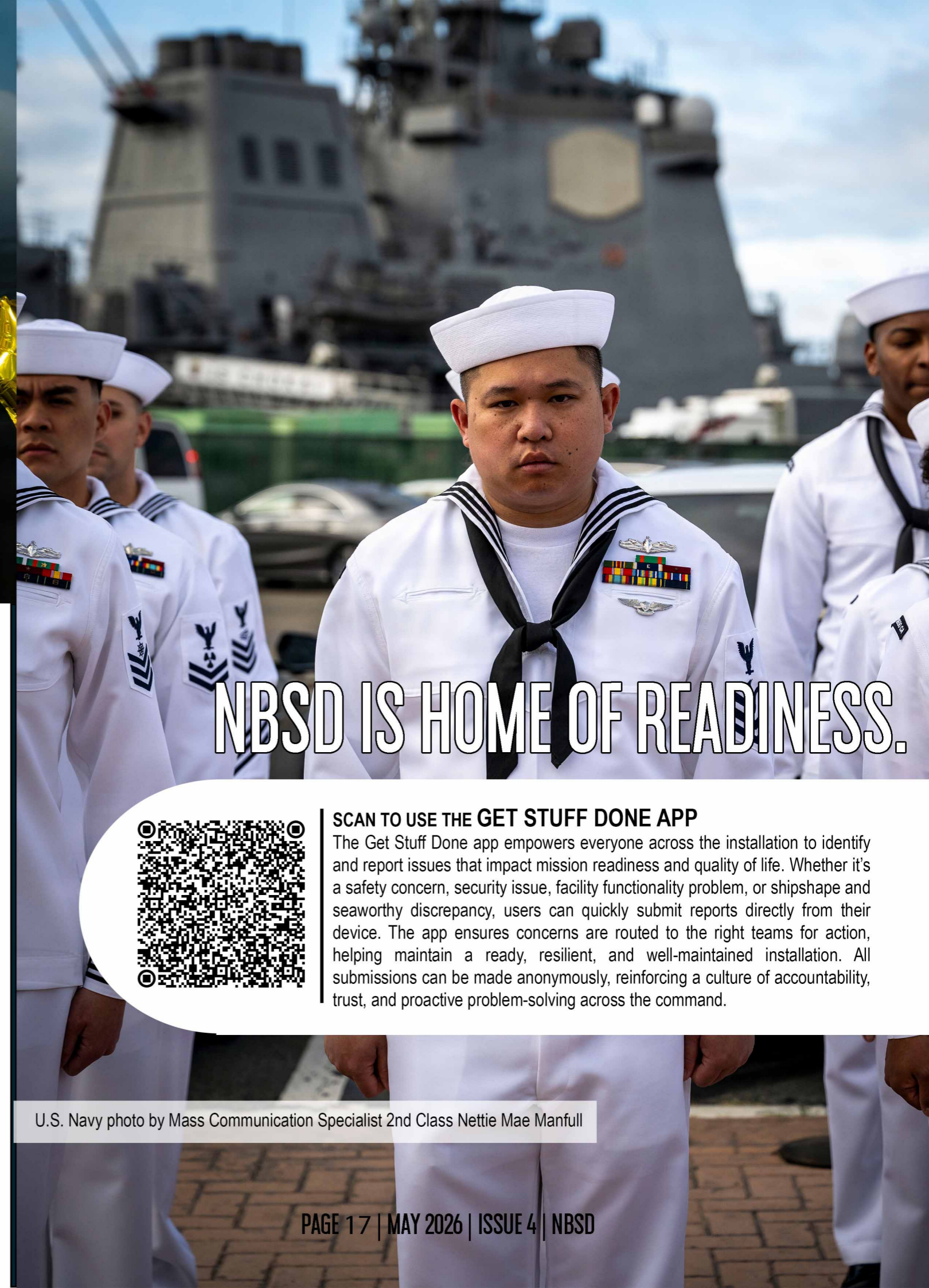
For 80 years, the role of the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM), is to support readiness in ways that feel familiar, dependable and steady.

Founded in the aftermath of World War II, NEXCOM's origins were shaped by a simple but essential challenge: how to reliably support the Navy on land and at sea. From the beginning, the mission was never just about retail. It was about service, providing the everyday essentials that help military life function, especially during times of transition.

“For 80 years, NEXCOM has been focused on one thing: being there for Sailors and their families wherever they are,” said retired Rear Adm. Robert J. Bianchi, Chief Executive Officer, NEXCOM. “That consistency is what supports readiness and earns trust across the fleet.”

Over the decades, the world has changed. Technology has advanced. Expectations have grown. Military life has evolved. But the need for dependable support has not.

Today, NEXCOM supports the Navy community through a broad portfolio including retail, lodging, food service, fuel, uniforms, ship's stores and connectivity. These services are woven into daily life and are often most noticeable during key moments, including arriving at a new duty station, preparing for deployment, returning home or managing the steady demands of both emergency and everyday operations.



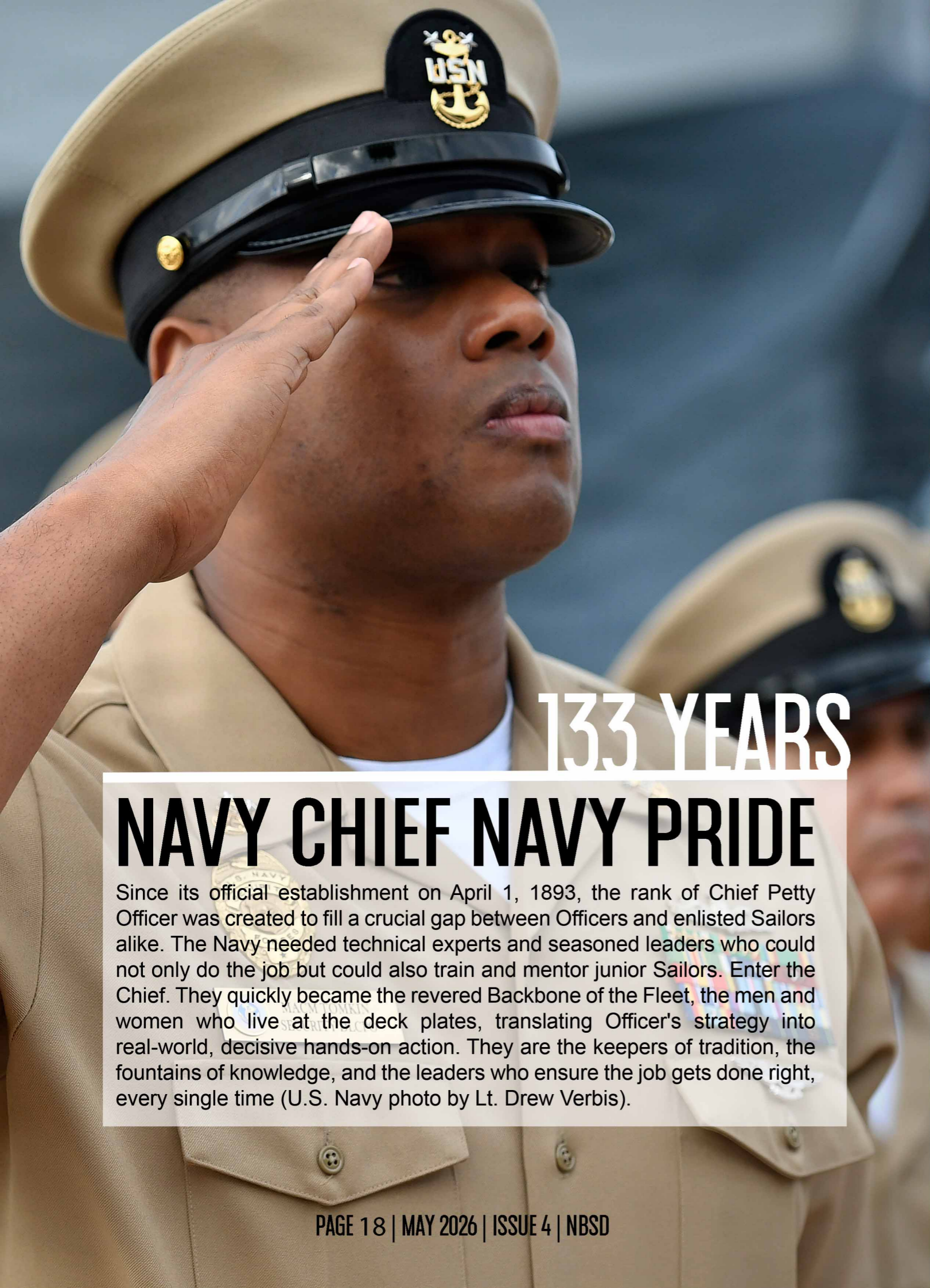
NBSD IS HOME OF READINESS.



SCAN TO USE THE GET STUFF DONE APP

The Get Stuff Done app empowers everyone across the installation to identify and report issues that impact mission readiness and quality of life. Whether it's a safety concern, security issue, facility functionality problem, or shipshape and seaworthy discrepancy, users can quickly submit reports directly from their device. The app ensures concerns are routed to the right teams for action, helping maintain a ready, resilient, and well-maintained installation. All submissions can be made anonymously, reinforcing a culture of accountability, trust, and proactive problem-solving across the command.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nettie Mae Manfull



133 YEARS

NAVY CHIEF NAVY PRIDE

Since its official establishment on April 1, 1893, the rank of Chief Petty Officer was created to fill a crucial gap between Officers and enlisted Sailors alike. The Navy needed technical experts and seasoned leaders who could not only do the job but could also train and mentor junior Sailors. Enter the Chief. They quickly became the revered Backbone of the Fleet, the men and women who live at the deck plates, translating Officer's strategy into real-world, decisive hands-on action. They are the keepers of tradition, the fountains of knowledge, and the leaders who ensure the job gets done right, every single time (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Drew Verbis).



ASK THE CHIEF! COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, KRISTOPHER FREYBERG

As many of you may know, I have been selected to serve as the next Command Master Chief for Navy Region Southwest. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and humbled by the journey that led here. More importantly, you—our Sailors and civilians—have always been my why. Milestones and promotions are worth celebrating, but they should also be moments of reflection: what did we do right, where can we improve, and how do we continue to grow as leaders? A lesson I often return to from Michael D. Watkins' book 'The First 90 Days' is that transitions are mission-critical; they set the tone for future success. That applies to every new role, every PCS, every advancement, and every challenge we face. We recently saw that mindset in action as our team helped bring the astronauts of NASA safely home—proving it was never about one ship, one command, or one organization, but truly One Team, One Fight across USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26), NMRTC SD, EODGRU-1, HSC-23, U.S. Space Command, U.S. Third Fleet, NBSD, and ESG-3. That same spirit is at the heart of Total Sailor Fit to Fight—building great people, great leaders, and great teams so we are ready to win, solve hard problems, and take care of one another every day. STAY GUCCI!

V/R, CMC *KF*

NBSD CO's Lunch

18 February 2026



CO'S LUNCHEON
27 MAY
17 JUNE
15 JULY
19 AUGUST

All TRIAD members are invited to join Capt. Bungay for lunch at the Award Winning Mercer Hall Galley to discuss current base news and operations.

ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.

U.S. Navy photo by U.S. Navy photo by Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Ulrika Mendiola

THE NAVY'S 39TH BAY BRIDGE RUN/WALK

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4M



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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

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VISION

To lead with excellence as the U.S. Navy's premier installation, advancing the operational readiness and well-being of our Fleet, Fighters, and Families.

MISSION

To deliver and provide the highest standard of support and enduring quality of work and quality of life services and solutions that enhance the resilience and readiness of our Fleet, Fighters, and Families.

ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.



NBSD HANDBOOK

More news and photos available at:
<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/NBSD>



Established in 1922, NBSD is the largest West coast warfighting platform and principal homeport of the Pacific Fleet, supporting more than 60 combatant and auxiliary surface ships and more than 250 shore commands.

2025 SHORE BATTLE-E

2025 RETENTION EXCELLENCE AWARD