



FROM THE

QUARTERDECK

NHHC CELEBRATES AMERICA 250

With the nation's 250th birthday quickly approaching, NHHC will be celebrating and honoring the anniversary through a range of activities over the next couple of months. As the overseer of the Navy's history, the Command is playing a vital role in the service's celebration efforts. Across NHHC, teams will be contributing by releasing three special publications, opening multiple 250-themed museum exhibits, conducting outreach trips, including at all five Sail 250 events, completing historic dives, and more. *From the Quarterdeck* will highlight these individual efforts and explain their significance to the nation and the Navy. This month, NHHC will discuss the USS [Constitution](#)'s preparations for the upcoming season and a temporary [National Museum of the US Navy](#) exhibit opening in Baltimore, Maryland, for Sail 250 Baltimore. Come back next month for even more exciting news!



US Navy, photo by MC 1st Class Kristen Yarber

BEHIND THE LENSES: EDWARD J. STEICHEN

The introduction of war photography in the mid-1800s revolutionized the way people processed news from the front. Recognizing the propaganda opportunities, governments began recruiting photographers to capture moments



NHHC, photo from collection of Edward J. Steichen

of valor and success. One of the most prominent photographers to join the US Navy during [World War II](#) was the renowned former chief photographer of *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, Edward J. Steichen. Commissioned as a lieutenant commander, Steichen became the head of the Naval Aviation Photographic Unit and worked on aircraft carriers in the Pacific. During deployment, Steichen instructed his unit to focus on the sailors and their experiences, not just battle scenes. By the end of the war, his unit had taken thousands of photographs. Many of these images are now managed by NHHC's [Photo Archives](#) team, which is tasked with preserving these historic photographs that vividly capture sailor's emotions and actions during the war. To learn more, contact nhhc-photo@us.navy.mil.

EXHIBIT SPOTLIGHT: "NAVY 250: THE LEGACY"



Photo provided by the Baltimore Visitor Center

In May, the highly anticipated Tall Ship parade as part of Sail 250 will commence. This event is a nationwide and multi-port parade of historic international tall ships, with vessels from 20 nations sailing to five American ports, including New Orleans, Norfolk, Baltimore, New York City, and Boston. As part of the festivities, the [National Museum of the United States Navy](#) will open a temporary exhibit at the Baltimore Visitor Center on June 24. The exhibit, called "[Navy 250: The Legacy](#)," is a cutting-edge theater experience that showcases 250 years of Navy sailors' stories in their own words. Through historic artifacts and firsthand accounts, visitors can learn about the sacrifices of the men and women who have served in the Navy and the ordinary tasks that prepared sailors to meet the challenges of their time in defense of the nation.

BEYOND THE CANVAS: NAVY ART AT THE PENTAGON

On April 8, NHHC's [Navy Art](#) participated in a "Meet the Subject Matter Expert" event at the Pentagon. This event allowed Pentagon employees to meet with NHHC art historians and a combat artist and to discuss the importance of Navy art; the role combat artists have in documenting military operations; and the opportunities to loan Navy art. Several people attended the event, including Acting Secretary of the Navy [Hung Cao](#), whose office art was recently curated by the Command. NHHC personnel presented 11 paintings from the collection and discussed the details behind the art and their importance to naval history. Events like this helps Navy Art further its reach and deepen its connection with the Pentagon. As one of Navy Art's largest recipients of the loan program, the Pentagon showcases has numerous pieces from NHHC that champion Navy history and elevates the stories of the sailors and marines who served.



NHHC, photo by Navy Art

USS CONSTITUTION PREPARES FOR AMERICA 250



NHHC, photo by NHHC Detachment Boston

USS [Constitution](#), America's "Ship of State," is being re-rigged for Sail 250, the maritime celebration of America's semiquincentennial. In preparation, NHHC Detachment Boston staff are currently busy painting the ship, hoisting aloft the towering masts, and crossing the horizontal yards. One sail has been attached to a yard on the mizzen (after) mast for the ship's crew to learn climbing aloft and handling a square sail. As the lone survivor of the US Navy's original six frigates, *Constitution* is a symbol of and witness to generations of American history. Visitors from around the world tour the ship, learn its history, and come to understand how an age-of-sail warship operated in war and peace. "Old Ironsides" will play a significant role as the nation celebrates its 250th birthday in Boston, getting underway on Independence Day and leading Boston's Parade of Sail with the Tall Ships in July.



US Navy, photo by PO 1st Class Amber Gibson

NAVY WEEK LEXINGTON

From April 7 to 12, NHHC personnel and Commander Bond traveled to Lexington, Kentucky, for a Navy Week as part of the Navy's "Road to 250" program. Throughout the trip, NHHC engaged with over 1,200 people, setting up informational booths at the Children's Museum, Lexington History Museum, Kentucky Military History Museum, Keeneland Sunrise Trackside, and the American Rodeo. By stationing at the Kentucky Military History Museum, the Command got to showcase some of NHHC's artifacts on loan at the museum. The Navy Band and the crews of USS [Constitution](#) and USS *Kentucky* (SSBN-737) were also in attendance. To honor the occasion, sailors serving on *Kentucky* gifted the Kentucky Military History Museum with a flag from the submarine. Navy Week Lexington was a huge success, providing NHHC with the exceptional opportunity to interact with an audience eager to learn more about the Navy and its history.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ OUR NEW BLOG!

NHHC is excited to announce that the Command is in the process of revamping its blog, *The Sextant*. To ensure wide dissemination, blog articles will be published on the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) website and will be written by NHHC subject matter experts including historians, archivists, librarians, curators, and archeologists. Although the articles will center on Navy history, they will also cover unexpected topics such as Navy athletes competing in the Olympics, Navy medical advancements, shipbuilding, and cooking on deployed Navy vessels. *The Sextant* will further allow today's Fleet and Navy history fans to engage with NHHC and learn about the service. Stay tuned for updates!



Graphic designed by Darnell Surles



NHHC, photo by the US Naval Aviation Museum

GEAR UP FOR SUMMER CAMP

This summer, the [National Naval Aviation Museum](#), one of NHHC's ten museums, will partner with Flight Adventure Deck to host a STEM summer camp for children ages nine through 14. The camp offers STEM-themed activities that center around aviation, science, and space exploration. Taught by naval officers and experts, participants will build and launch rockets, explore historic aircraft and tour the museum to learn about the history of naval aviation, complete STEM projects that incorporate engineering and physics, and "fly" an F-35 jet via a state-of-the-art simulator. Programs like this directly link to NHHC's mission by providing the Command with the opportunity to inspire future generations to become interested in and support a strong Navy. For more information, visit [here](#).

UNDER THE SEA: THE ROLE OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY AT NHHC

Over the last decade, advancements in 3D printing have provided underwater archeologists the opportunity to better plan, explore, and showcase submerged sites to the public. Known as underwater photogrammetry, this technique involves taking thousands of underwater images and processing them into 3D models. Underwater archeologists use these models in multiple ways, including to help plan for future dives, analyze submerged objects, and educate the public. Recently, the [UA](#) team worked with the Naval Information Warfare Command to print specialized 3D models representing the three main types of sunken military craft: aircraft, submarine, and surface ship. UA has three models on display: the [Revolutionary War-era gunboat *Spitfire*](#), [TBD-1 Devastator BuNo 1515](#) aircraft, and the [World War I era submarine *H-1 Seawolf*](#). These objects are critical in further promoting and preserving Navy history as they allow the UA team to plan survey and recovery efforts, and galvanize support from the public.



NHHC, photos by Jiyoung Han

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

On April 23, the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard hosted a “bring your child to work day” to allow children to learn about what their parents do at the Department of Defense. NHHC’s Outreach team attended the festivities at the Pentagon with Commander Bond and his fellow command facility dogs, happily greeting visitors. During the event, children learned about the Navy’s exciting history and engaged in STEM activities. Attendees also got to hear from the Second Lady, Usha Vance, as she read the children’s book *Buddy the Soldier Bear*. In total NHHC interacted with over 2,000 participants, providing the Command with the opportunity to promote the Navy’s rich history to younger generations.



NHHC, photo by Thomas L. Frezza

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

-  **USS *Cleveland* (LCS-31) Commissioning:** May 16, North Coast Yard, Cleveland, Ohio
-  **Navy Art Presents, “The Original Story of ‘America’” starring Amerigo Vespucci as told by Rear Admiral Paolo Bembo, Italian Navy (ret.):**
May 19, Washington Navy Yard
-  **Navy Week Harrisburg:** May 20–26, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
-  **Sail 250 New Orleans:**
May 28 to June 1, New Orleans Riverfront, New Orleans, Louisiana
-  **Fleet Week Portland:** June 3–7, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon
-  **Temporary “Navy 250: The Legacy Exhibit” Opens:**
June 24, Baltimore Visitor Center, Baltimore, Maryland