

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO

# WATERFRONT

JUNE 2026



USS ASHLAND RTHP  
COMMANDERS TRAINING SYMPOSIUM  
BASE THEATER RENOVATION

ISSUE 5

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication  
Specialist 2nd Class Aja Campbell



# 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

The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship  
USS Essex (LHD 2) departs San Diego Oct.  
6, 2025. U.S. Navy photo by Mark D. Faram.

CAPTAINS CALL  
USS ASHLAND RTHP  
CNIC SYMPOSIUM  
MEMORIAL DAY  
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS  
BASE THEATER  
ASK THE CHIEF



## CAPTAINS CALL CAPT. BRIAN C. BUNGAY, COMMANDING OFFICER

June promises to be an exciting month across the waterfront as San Diego prepares to host NASCAR in what will be a historic event for our city and the Navy. Behind the scenes, months of planning and coordination have already taken place across commands throughout the region, demonstrating the true meaning of “One Team, One Fight” as Sailors, civilians, and partners work together to ensure the Navy shines in the national spotlight. We have been proud to support Naval Base Coronado and the broader regional effort to showcase the professionalism, readiness, and warfighting spirit of America’s Navy. We are now in the 101 Critical Days of Summer; this is historically the period with the highest number of preventable off-duty mishaps across the force. While this is a time for vacations, recreation, and making memories with family and friends, it is also a reminder that readiness begins with personal responsibility and sound decision-making. Whether traveling, driving, boating, swimming, or enjoying outdoor activities, every member of our team must remain accountable for their actions, adopt a learning mindset, and continue looking out for one another both on and off duty. The summer months also bring warmer weather and increased risks for children around open windows, so families are encouraged to keep angel locks engaged and furniture away from windows to help prevent avoidable accidents. Finally, we are excited to invite Sailors, civilians, and families to enjoy the newly renovated Base Theater, which now features beautiful seating, modernized design elements, and upgraded technology.

*B. C. Bungay*  
B.C. BUNGAY



# ASHLAND RTHP

Story by U.S. Third Fleet.  
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication  
Specialist 2nd Class Aja Campbell

SAN DIEGO, California — Marines and Sailors of Task Force (TF) Ashland returned to San Diego aboard Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48), following four months of operations in the Indo-Pacific region, June 1, 2026.

TF Ashland is composed of Ashland's crew and a command element from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU); a ground combat element from 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division; and a logistics combat element from Combat Logistics Regiment 17, I Marine Logistics Group. Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 5 also deployed a detachment with two landing craft, air cushion to support amphibious operations. The task force departed San Diego aboard Ashland Jan. 24, 2026, demonstrating a flexible and scalable model of naval integration.

"I couldn't be prouder of the team's work over these past four months at sea," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Adam Peeples, commanding officer of Ashland. "As our Sailors and Marines look back at their accomplishments, I hope they feel the same pride and satisfaction I do leading this team."

Throughout their underway, the Navy-Marine Corps team was a visible and engaged presence across the Indo-Pacific. The task force participated in a multitude of demanding exercises, including the 45th iteration of Exercise Cobra Gold in February, the largest joint military exercise in mainland Asia, and the 40th iteration of Exercise Balikatan in April, an annual exercise focused on the long-standing alliance between the Philippines and the United States. These exercises involved complex scenarios, such as combined-arms live-fire events, amphibious operations, and disaster response training, conducted alongside the Royal Thai Armed Forces, the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Combining the 15th MEU, ACU-5 craft team, and Sailors of Beachmasters Unit (BMU) 1, the Grizzly Gators of Ashland built something truly greater than the sum of its parts — TF Ashland," said Peeples. "Together, we tackled the challenges with flawless results and worked with our regional partners, building cooperation within the region and demonstrating our commitment to the most consequential theater."

**"THE 15TH MEU EXECUTED AS TF ASHLAND PROVED THAT A TASK-ORGANIZED, SCALABLE FORCE CAN DELIVER CREDIBLE COMBAT POWER WHILE CONTINUING TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR ALLIES."**

While in port at Cebu, Philippines, Ashland completed a three-week ship repair and maintenance (SRMX) exercise, as part of its scheduled port visit. SRMX is designed to rehearse coordination and execution of ship damage repair from forward locations within the Indo-Pacific region, strengthening ties with the skilled workforce within allied and partner countries.

Further showcasing its commitment to regional stability, TF Ashland participated in a multilateral exercise alongside Australian and Canadian forces, a multi-phase exercise focused on surface action group operations and interoperability with allied navies. By executing key components of distributed maritime operations, TF Ashland provided combatant commanders with a flexible force for credible deterrence and crisis response, which significantly enhanced regional capabilities and bolstered maritime security alongside our allies.

“The 15th MEU executed as TF Ashland proved that a task-organized, scalable force can deliver credible combat power while continuing to strengthen relationships with our allies,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Matt Bride, the commander of troops for TF Ashland and the 15th MEU executive officer. “Whether executing complex, multinational exercises or demonstrating the forward-thinking principles of distributed maritime operations, our Navy-Marine Corps team consistently met every challenge with the professionalism and effectiveness that underpins the legacy of our respective organizations.”

TF Ashland’s return marks the completion of operations that reinforced the United States’ commitment to peace through strength.

Task Force Ashland is a flexible, purpose-built force designed to integrate with allies and partners or respond to crisis, in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**“I COULDN’T BE PROUDER OF THE TEAM’S WORK OVER THESE PAST FOUR MONTHS AT SEA,” SAID U.S. NAVY CMDR. ADAM PEEPLES, COMMANDING OFFICER OF ASHLAND. “AS OUR SAILORS AND MARINES LOOK BACK AT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I HOPE THEY FEEL THE SAME PRIDE AND SATISFACTION I**

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Drew Verbis



Information Systems Technician Second Class Kyle Eichten, assigned to USS Ashland (LSD 48), greets his spouse with the traditional “first kiss.” U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aja Campbell.



U.S. Navy story by Coleen San Nicolas-Perez. U.S. Navy photoS by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aja Campbell.

# LEADERS SYNCHRONIZE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE SAILOR QUALITY OF LIFE

SAN DIEGO – Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) leadership concluded a three-day symposium at Naval Air Station North Island this week focused on revitalizing the shore, supporting the Fleet and improving quality of service for Sailors.

The CNIC Commander Training Symposium is held annually and offers leaders an opportunity to align with Shore Enterprise mission priorities in order to deliver immediate, tangible results at all Navy installations.

“We are in a competition for talent, and a well-supported, healthy, and focused Sailor is a more lethal warfighter,” said Vice Adm. Scott Gray, commander of Navy Installations Command. “Every commander will aggressively pursue mission success and advocate for our Sailors.”

A topic discussed during the symposium was the No Sailor Lives Afloat initiative, a Chief of Naval Operations-directed effort ensuring Sailors assigned to ships have clean, safe, and comfortable housing ashore. The strategy accelerates barracks renovations and expands housing capacity through new construction and public-private partnerships. To inform this effort, leaders during the symposium toured the award-winning Pacific Beacon barracks, which provides service members with resort-style living on Naval Base San Diego. To date, approximately 6,000 Sailors have moved from living on ships to living ashore.

“Providing modern, comfortable living quarters is absolutely foundational to our readiness,” said CNIC Force Master Chief Andre Brown. “When our Sailors step off the ship after a long shift or a demanding underway, they need a high-quality space that feels like home, where they can truly decompress and recharge.”

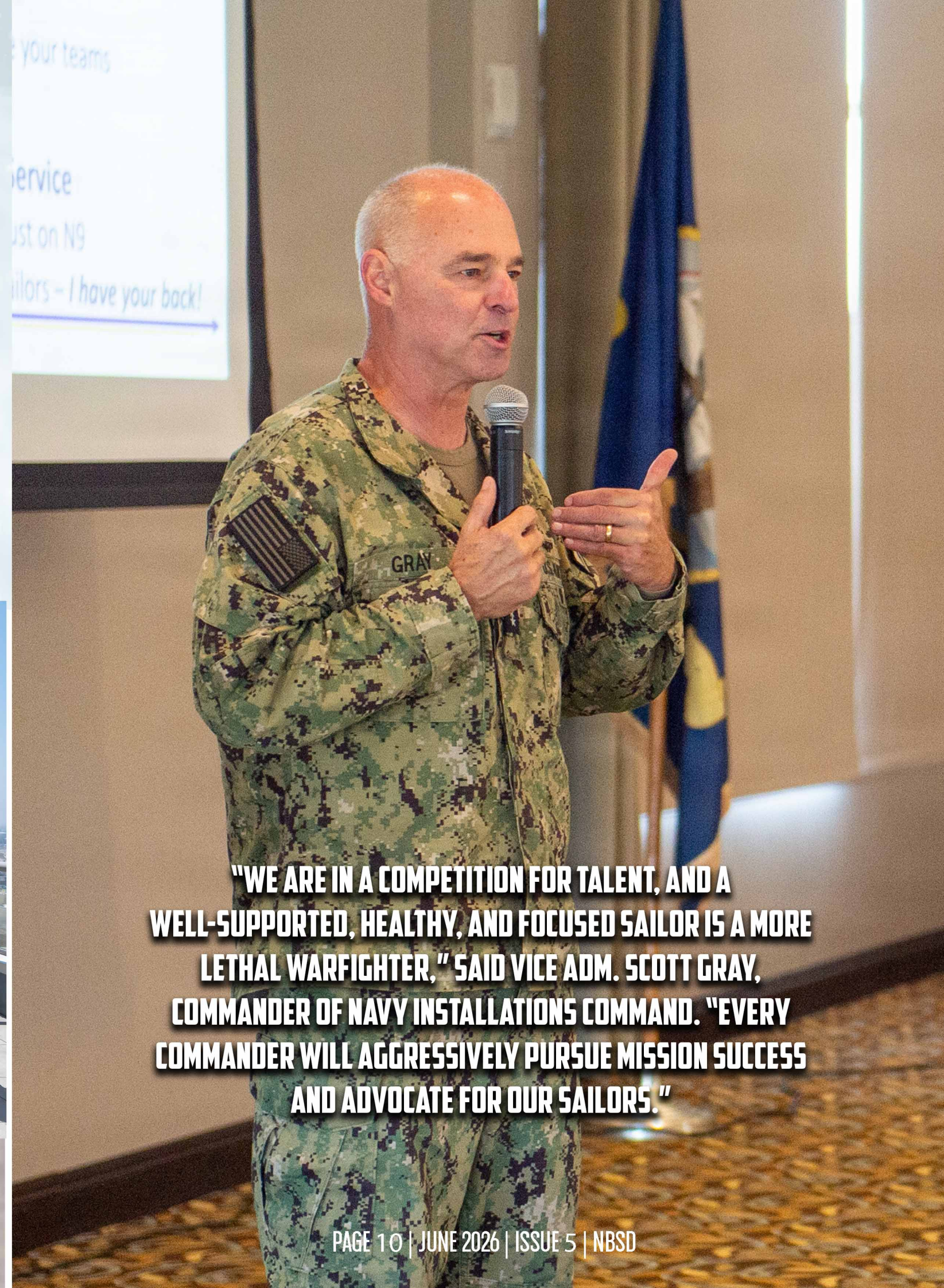
CNIC is also transforming its base galleys to provide Sailors with higher-quality, nutritious options and greater flexibility. Pilot programs will introduce diverse, made-to-order meal stations and allow Sailors to use meal entitlements at galleys and other on-base MWR restaurants. During the symposium, Shore Enterprise leaders toured modern dining facilities at the University of California San Diego to see firsthand how leading civilian campuses deliver the flexible, top-tier culinary experiences the Navy aims to replicate.

“Proper nutrition is a key component of warfighter readiness, but it’s also about giving our Sailors the choices they deserve,” added Brown. “We are moving away from the traditional galley approach to give our personnel the same first-class dining options they expect and deserve.”

**“PROVIDING MODERN, COMFORTABLE LIVING QUARTERS IS ABSOLUTELY FOUNDATIONAL TO OUR READINESS,” SAID CNIC FORCE MASTER CHIEF ANDRE BROWN. “WHEN OUR SAILORS STEP OFF THE SHIP AFTER A LONG SHIFT OR A DEMANDING UNDERWAY, THEY NEED A HIGH-QUALITY SPACE THAT FEELS LIKE HOME, WHERE THEY CAN TRULY DECOMPRESS AND RECHARGE.”**



Installation commanding officers from various regions who are attending the CNIC Commander's Training Symposium, assemble for a commemorative photo during a scheduled tour of Pacific Beacon military housing. U.S. Navy photo by Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Ulrika Mendiola.



**“WE ARE IN A COMPETITION FOR TALENT, AND A WELL-SUPPORTED, HEALTHY, AND FOCUSED SAILOR IS A MORE LETHAL WARFIGHTER,” SAID VICE ADM. SCOTT GRAY, COMMANDER OF NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND. “EVERY COMMANDER WILL AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE MISSION SUCCESS AND ADVOCATE FOR OUR SAILORS.”**

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Naval Base San Diego hosted its 2nd Annual Mental Health Awareness Event at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse, bringing together Sailors, civilians, families, and support organizations to reinforce the Navy's commitment to warfighting readiness through the health and well-being of its people.

The event connected attendees with resources focused on mental fitness, resilience, stress management, and overall wellness, underscoring the principle that mission readiness begins with a healthy and resilient force. Through information booths, educational engagement, and direct access to support services, participants gained tools designed to strengthen individual performance, improve quality of life, and enhance unit effectiveness.

As part of Naval Base San Diego's Sailors First approach, the event highlighted the critical role mental health plays in maintaining a ready force. By fostering awareness, reducing barriers to care, and encouraging early intervention, the installation continues to invest in the readiness, resilience, and well-being of the Sailors, families, civilians, and partners who support the Fleet every day.

"Warfighting readiness begins with our people," said Capt. Brian Bungay. "Mental fitness is just as important as physical fitness, and events like this ensure our Sailors know that seeking support, building resilience, and taking care of one another are essential to mission success. Taking care of our people is not only the right thing to do—it is fundamental to maintaining a ready, resilient, and lethal force."

The event reinforced a key readiness message: healthy minds, strong support networks, and access to resources enable Sailors to perform at their best, both on and off duty. By strengthening the resilience of the force and supporting military families, Naval Base San Diego continues its commitment to delivering ready Sailors and ready teams to the Fleet.



Mental Health Playbook

Capt. Brian Bungay interacts with a therapy canine from Pawsitive Teams, during the 2nd Annual Mental Health Awareness Event held at Admiral Baker Clubhouse. U.S. Navy photo and story by Seaman Apprentice Adziry Garcia.

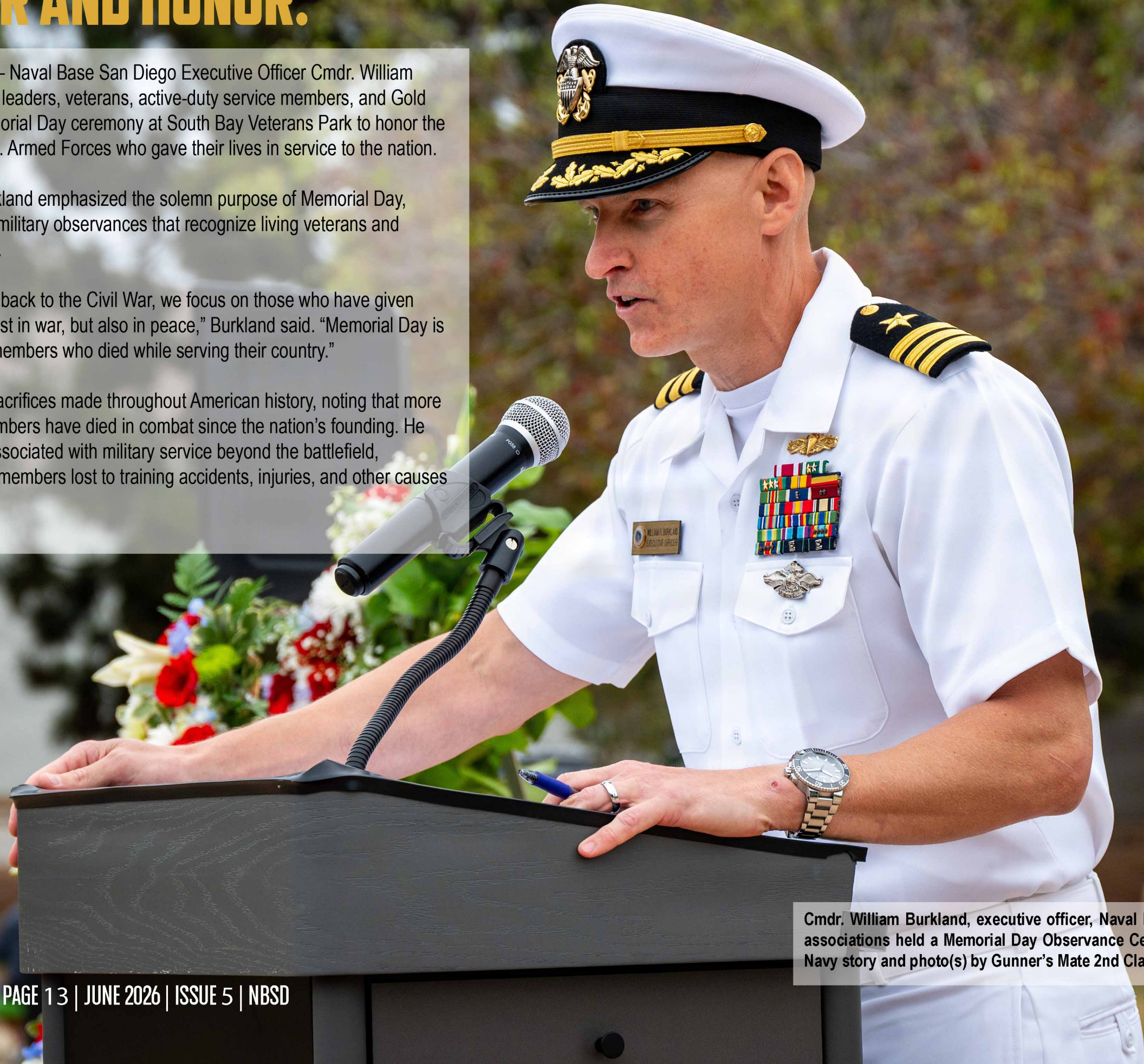
# REMEMBER AND HONOR.

IMPERIAL BEACH, Calif. — Naval Base San Diego Executive Officer Cmdr. William Burkland joined community leaders, veterans, active-duty service members, and Gold Star Families during a Memorial Day ceremony at South Bay Veterans Park to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who gave their lives in service to the nation.

Addressing attendees, Burkland emphasized the solemn purpose of Memorial Day, distinguishing it from other military observances that recognize living veterans and currently serving personnel.

“Today, in a tradition dating back to the Civil War, we focus on those who have given their lives in service—not just in war, but also in peace,” Burkland said. “Memorial Day is intended to honor military members who died while serving their country.”

Burkland reflected on the sacrifices made throughout American history, noting that more than 1.3 million service members have died in combat since the nation’s founding. He also highlighted the risks associated with military service beyond the battlefield, acknowledging the service members lost to training accidents, injuries, and other causes while serving their country.



Cmdr. William Burkland, executive officer, Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), and local veterans’ associations held a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony at Veterans Park May 25, 2026. U.S. Navy story and photo(s) by Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Timothy Weber.



The ceremony also served as an opportunity to recognize the enduring contributions of military families and Gold Star Families whose sacrifices often go unseen.

“I am humbled by your great sacrifices and commend the often unseen and unrecognized courage and strength that you have shown throughout the most difficult of times,” Burkland said.

Burkland highlighted the continued service of Sailors assigned to Naval Base San Diego and deployed around the globe, noting that thousands remain on watch at sea and ashore supporting national security missions. He emphasized that honoring those currently serving also honors the legacy of those who came before them.

The remarks included the story of Steward’s Mate 2nd Class Jesus Garcia, a Sailor assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma who was killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. After decades of effort by family members and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Garcia’s remains were identified and laid to rest with military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery more than 80 years after his death.

Burkland also reflected on Imperial Beach’s deep military heritage, from its early military roots and connection to Naval aviation to its longstanding ties with Naval Special Warfare. He recognized the service and sacrifice of local heroes, including former Navy SEAL Tyrone S. Woods, who was killed during the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

“The city honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” Burkland said, noting that Imperial Beach’s history remains closely tied to generations of service members who trained and served in the region.

Closing his remarks, Burkland emphasized that the memory of fallen service members serves as a reminder of the ongoing responsibility carried by today’s military.

“The price of freedom is constant vigilance,” he said. “The Navy eagerly continues their tradition of remaining ready 24/7 to meet any threat to American interests and our allies and partners.”



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 and story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aja Campbell

# IT'S SHOWTIME!

Naval Base San Diego celebrated the grand reopening of its theater following a \$9.2 million renovation project aimed at enhancing readiness, resilience, and quality of life for Sailors, families, and the waterfront community. The modernized facility will serve as a hub for command training, all-hands calls, award ceremonies, leadership engagements, and community events.

“This theater represents an investment in our Sailors, families, and workforce,” said Capt. Brian Bungay, commanding officer of Naval Base San Diego. “Warfighting readiness begins ashore, and our people deserve professional spaces that support both mission execution and opportunities to connect as a community.”

The renovation included upgraded audio-visual systems, enhanced acoustics, new seating for more than 600 patrons, HVAC and roof repairs, improved accessibility, and modernized amenities throughout the facility. These improvements ensure the theater is prepared to support the Navy community for years to come.

During the ceremony, Capt. Brian Bungay, commanding officer of Naval Base San Diego, emphasized that warfighting readiness begins ashore and thanked the MWR, NAVFAC, and contractor teams whose efforts made the project possible. He noted that the theater is more than an entertainment venue—it is a place where teams come together, accomplishments are recognized, and the bonds that strengthen the Navy community continue to grow.



U.S. Navy photo by U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Secquoia Maloy



## FORCE MULTIPLIERS

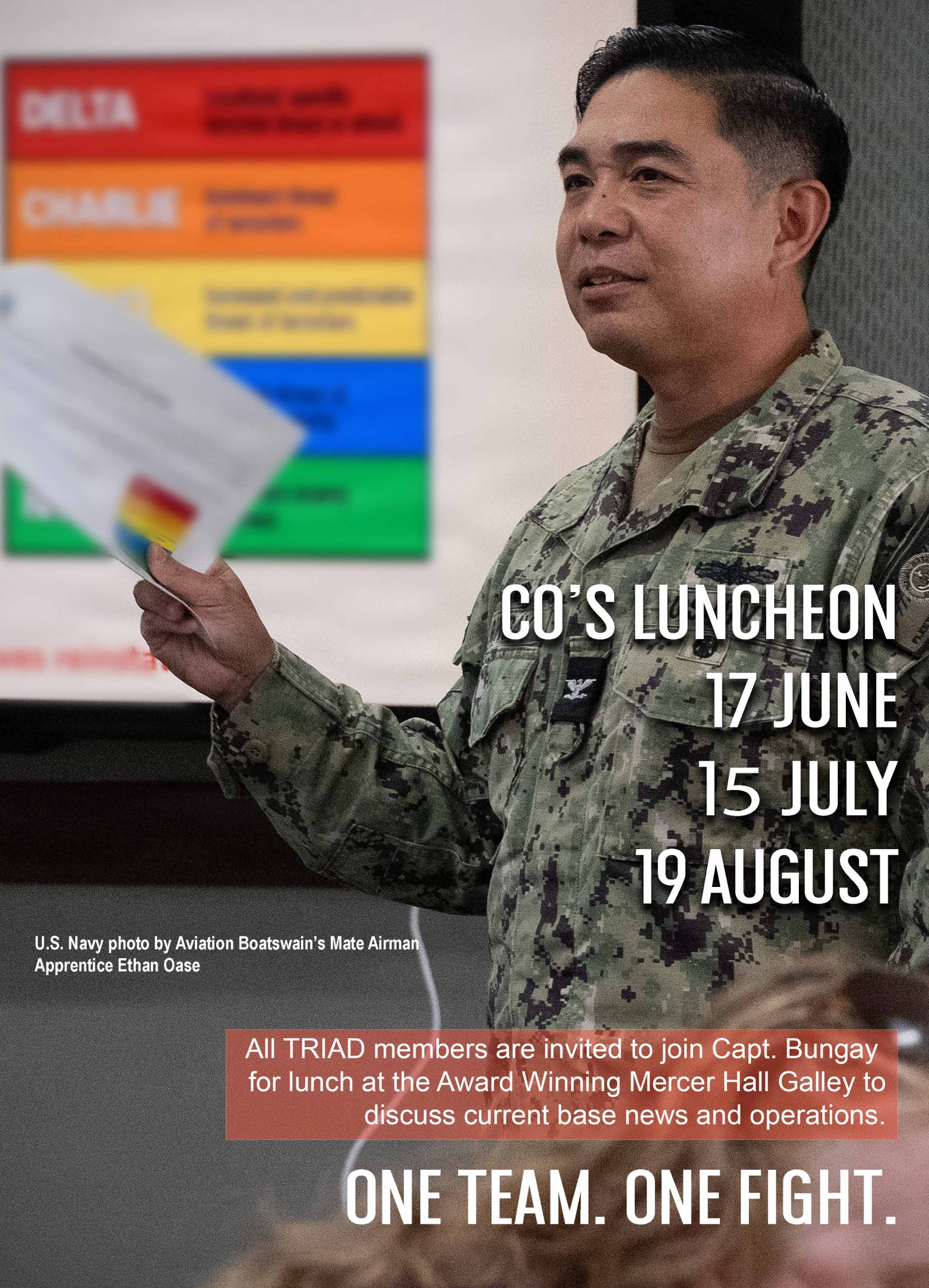
Capt. Bungay and NBSD Sailors take to the field with their proud Navy moms to highlight the dedication, sacrifice, and resilience of military moms across our force with your MLB San Diego Padres. Mothers represent true force multipliers who strengthen the readiness of our Navy by providing unwavering support, stability, and encouragement - enabling our Sailors to remain focused on the mission. Courtesy photo.



## ASK THE CHIEF! COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, KRISTOPHER FREYBERG

As many of you know, I'll be taking on the Command Master Chief position at Navy Region Southwest in August. While I'm excited for the opportunity, my focus remains right here, right now. As I reflect on all we've accomplished together, I think about the difference between simply getting by and truly excelling. Every organization has people who meet the standard, and standards matter. But excellence requires more. It means taking ownership of the mission, communicating early, helping teammates succeed, accepting feedback, and focusing on solutions instead of excuses. The Navy doesn't operate in an average environment, and our Sailors, families, and mission deserve more than average effort. Our command's reputation is built on thousands of small actions performed consistently by people who care. Excellence is rarely one big event; it is the result of choosing every day to do a little more, help a little more, and be a little better than yesterday. I am incredibly proud of what this team has accomplished, but I know we have not yet reached our full potential. Let's continue to raise the standard, support one another, and push for excellence in everything we do. As we head into a busy June, I encourage everyone to support the Chief Petty Officer Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on June 17 and enjoy NASCAR's historic return to San Diego at Naval Base Coronado June 19-21. Both events showcase the strength of our Navy community and the partnerships that make our mission possible. STAY GUCCI!

V/R, CMC *KF*



**CO'S LUNCHEON**  
**17 JUNE**  
**15 JULY**  
**19 AUGUST**

U.S. Navy photo by Aviation Boatswain's Mate Airman  
Apprentice Ethan Oase

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.**



# NASCAR SAN DIEGO MILITARY DAY

★ **Friday, June 19, 2026** ★

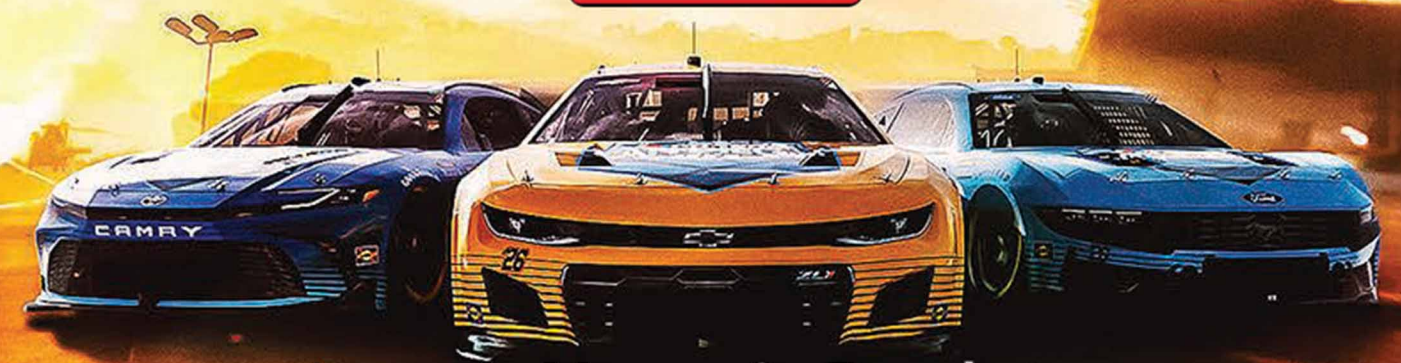
Kick off your NASCAR weekend! REGISTER NOW to watch the CRAFTSMAN Truck Series at Navy Community Day, exclusively for active-duty service members. This special event welcomes:

- Active-duty Navy military ID card holders from NBSD, NBPL, NBC, and MCRD •
- Contractors and Vendors are not eligible •

*(Contractors and vendors are not eligible)*

### Registration & Eligibility

*Registration for the ticket entry beginning on March 11, 2026. Tickets required for day of entry. Active-duty status and a valid military ID are mandatory. Winners must present their active-duty military ID in person at NASNI ITT on their assigned date/time for ticket redemption. Tickets are non-transferable, non-resalable, and have no cash value. Lost or unused tickets cannot be replaced or exchanged. Limited tickets available for this event.*



**Learn More & Register**

For general NASCAR event details, visit [NASCARSanDiego.com](http://NASCARSanDiego.com)

# 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**