

MC2 Tyrell K. Morris

Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Program Director Mike Butler, left, and Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Marzano, cut a ceremonial ribbon officially completing the first compartment turnover to the crew onboard CVN 79. Kennedy is the second ship in the next-generation Ford class of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

## PCU JFK SAILORS BEGIN OPERATING ONBOARD

By **MCSS Jayme Pastoric**  
 Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Public Affairs

### NEWPORT NEWS

Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) marked another milestone leading up to the commissioning of the second Ford-class aircraft carrier, as Reactor Department Sailors began to operate onboard the ship this week.

Capt. Todd Marzano, PCU John F. Kennedy's commanding officer, praised the efforts of his crew and the shipbuilder for achieving this significant accomplishment.

"The new spaces look great, and I definitely appreciate the hard work from all those involved in making this big event possible," said Marzano. "We are putting a new generation of warfighters on the newest warfighting ship, enhancing our readiness with the best-in-class talent."

Marzano explained the benefits of this construction milestone.

"Working aboard the ship in our permanent spaces is a huge team-win, and enables us to begin the process of taking ownership of our equipment, systems and compartments, which brings us another important step closer to delivering JFK to the fleet."

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Gerrit Assink discussed the significance of working aboard.

"We are moving out of our temporary offices and training spaces to work onboard the ship," said Assink. "This is significant because it allows the Reactor Department to settle into the day-to-day routine."

The Sailors will begin working onboard PCU John F. Kennedy where they will continue their training and certification process. Assink discussed how much Sailors benefit from performing day-to-day evolutions within their work

spaces, as they prepare to operate the equipment onboard.

Machinist's Mate 1st Class William Whitley, a Leading Petty Officer in Reactor Department, is excited to experience the ship firsthand, as he and his team pave the way for the rest of the crew to begin their migration onboard.

"Things are moving fast," said Whitley. "It's exciting to see our team be the first in the fight, the first to take ownership."

PCU John F. Kennedy has been under construction in Newport News since 2015 and is the second aircraft carrier to honor John F. Kennedy for his service to the nation, both as a naval officer and as the 35th President of the United States.

The new technology and warfighting capabilities that John F. Kennedy will bring to the fleet will transform naval warfare, supporting a more capable and lethal forward-deployed U.S. naval presence. In an era of great power competition, PCU John F. Kennedy will serve as the most agile and lethal combat platform in the world, with improved systems that enhance interoperability among other platforms in the carrier strike group, as well as with the naval forces of regional allies and partners.

## Outstanding food service recognized as SECNAV names winners of Ney Awards

By **Russ Stewart**  
 NAVSUP Office of Corporate Communications Public Affairs

### MECHANICSBURG, PA.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly announced the fiscal year 2020 winners of the Navy Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards for outstanding food service, Feb. 21.

"These annual awards encourage excellence in Navy food service programs with the objective of improving the quality of life for our Navy personnel," said Modly. "I commend the Navy Undersea Enterprise, Surface Warfare Enterprise, Naval Aviation Enterprise, CNIC, and individual commands for their hard work and commitment to excellence."

"Our culinary specialists are trained to excel in all operating environments across the fleet using the latest training aids and techniques available. The winners of the Ney awards represent the best in Navy food service operations and should be proud of their professionalism and support to the warfighter, ashore and afloat," said Lt. Cmdr. Ryan J. Wodele, Navy Food Service director at Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP). "Navy food service is critical to both readiness and quality of life, with their passion and focus on performing at the highest levels, our culinary



MC2 Andrew Schneider

Civilian employees serve U.S. service members during a Cook-N-Fresh event at the Joint Military Expeditionary Base Little Creek Galley, Dec. 5, 2016.

specialists meet both goals."

The Captain Edward F. Ney afloat winners representing the Navy's Undersea Enterprise, Surface Warfare Enterprise, and Naval Aviation Enterprise are:

- (1) Submarine Category Winner: USS Scranton (SSN 756).
- (2) Small-Medium Afloat Category Winner: USS Porter (DDG 78).
- (3) Large Afloat Category Winner: USS America (LHA 6).
- (4) Aircraft Carrier Category Winner: USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

The Captain Edward F. Ney Ashore General Messes representing Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) are:

- (1) West Coast General Mess Category Winner: Naval Base Coronado Galley, Coronado, California.

- (2) East Coast General Mess Category Winner: Gator Inn, Joint Expedition Base, Little Creek, Virginia.

- (3) OCONUS General Mess Category Winner: Ristorante Bella Etna Dining Facility, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.

NAVSUP oversees the development of the Navy Standard Core Menu, the Master Load List, and nutritional value of Sailor's food options in conjunction with the Department of Defense Go for Green® initiative, contributing to Sailor readiness and ability to operate at peak performance.

In addition, NAVSUP plans to provide specialized culinary instruction to the winning commands and Culinary Specialists across the fleet.

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**USS Eisenhower operates in U.S. 6th Fleet**  
 The Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group is conducting operations in U.S. 6th Fleet to support maritime security operations in international waters, alongside our allies and partners. »See **A4**



**Leadership meets with industry partners in Pascagoula**  
 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russ Smith visited Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) in Pascagoula with senators. »See **B1**

**Bad days, good play**  
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MCSA Riley McDowell  
Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding Division contractors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) conduct phase 2 testing on a lower stage weapons elevator. This testing marks another milestone in the certification of Gerald R. Ford's Advanced Weapons Elevators.

# Ford's Advanced Weapons Elevators closer to certification

From USS Gerald R. Ford Public Affairs

## NORFOLK

USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) Advanced Weapons Elevators (AWEs) reached another milestone this week with the commencement of combined testing of its first Lower Stage Weapons Elevator on Feb. 24.

Engineers of Huntington Ingalls Industries'Newport News Shipbuilding division (NNS) and assessors with Naval Surface Warfare Center, Philadelphia Division (NSWCPD) began phase 2 of testing Lower Stage Weapons Elevator (LSWE) #5 following the completion of phase 1 actuator testing over the weekend.

The combined (NNS and NSWCPD) testing team and phased approach are a

lesson learned from earlier elevator certifications and looks to reduce redundant inspections and improve timeliness between testing and certification.

"We've come a long way with our integration and efficiency," said Jake Moore, NSWCPD onsite designated assessor and software lead. "There's a fluid team dynamic and solid process."

The new testing process created for Ford-class carriers enables NSWCPD to assess elevator operations alongside NNS and is aided by a 24-hour a day work-schedule that begins with a daily sync meeting to allow for the identification of issues in order to coordinate follow-on correction and further assessment.

"Based on the recent performance and application of lessons learned we are on track for test completion, certifi-

cation and turnover dates for our first lower stage elevator," said Derek Briggs, NNS construction superintendent. "We are an integrated team-sharing organization rolling over the success of the upper elevators to the lower ones."

During the second phase of testing, engineers will conduct a series of mechanical and electrical inspections to verify software and complete co-checks in order to complete System Operability Testing 3 prior to phase 3 regression testing and subsequent certification by Naval Sea Systems Command.

"I'm optimistic that testing will be completed as planned," said Lt. Cmdr. Chabonnie Alexander, Ford's Ordnance Handling Officer. "Of course there will be unknowns, but that is exactly what testing is designed to do — correct the

unknowns before certification."

NNS delivered four upper stage elevators to Ford last year. To date Ford has conducted around 7,000 cycles of these elevators with only a few minor issues. LSWE #5 will serve as a testing ground for the remaining seven elevators yet to be delivered as the lower stage elevators have significant design complexities from the upper stage elevators. The remaining AWEs are in varying levels of completion, and a dedicated team is engaged on these efforts to accelerate the work and certification schedule where feasible.

"NNS is working as hard as they can to deliver the remaining elevators in the most efficient timeline possible," said Ford's Commanding Officer, Capt. John J. Cummings. "These lower stage elevators are critical to our lethality in that they will allow our crew to move ordnance between the lower levels and the main deck. I am confident NNS has worked through former technology concerns and will deliver the lower stage elevators as soon as possible."

# USS George H. W. Bush receives Golden Anchor Award

By MCSN Neadria Hazel  
USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Public Affairs

## PORTSMOUTH, VA.

The aircraft carrier USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) was awarded the Retention Excellence Award, an honor recognizing commands that either meet or exceed required retention goals put forth by U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

The award showcases both the work ethic and dedication of both the command and departmental career counselors. Each Navy command is assigned a benchmark for retention, which is tracked quarterly. With exceptional performance, the command will be recognized in the quarterly Retention Honor Roll.

"To me, it's an award that emphasizes our command's success as a whole, when it comes to our Sailors' willingness to be retained in Naval service," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Tray Bynam.

To receive the Retention Excellence Award, also known as the "Golden Anchor" award, the command must be listed on the Retention Honor Roll for two of the four quarters, or have consistently high levels of performance throughout the year.

"Receiving this award means all our hard work paid off and we're moving in the direction," said Navy Counselor 1st Class Anthony Sapanza. "It couldn't have been done without our team."

Navy Counselors are not the only personnel responsible for Naval service retention and career development. The responsibility falls on the entire chain of command says Bynam.

"As a command career counselor, we directly report to the Command Master Chief who in turn communicates the information provided to the Executive Officer and the Commanding Officer," Sapanza said. "The CO ultimately makes

the decision on how the career development program impacts the ship."

The Navy sets standards for retention in three zones: A, B, and C. Zone A represents the retention levels of those with fewer than six years of service, Zone B represents those with six to 10 years, and Zone C represents those with 10 to 14 years. In order to qualify for this award, the command must meet the standards for each zone.

Additionally, the command must fall below a set attrition rate, which is the number of service members who are separated from the Navy before the end of their contract.

"Our jobs as counselors is to motivate and give them resources such as special programs, conversion options, reenlistment incentives and promote career development boards," said Bynam.

Current reenlistment benchmarks for zone A are 55 percent, zone B are 65

“To me, it’s an award that emphasizes our command’s success as a whole, when it comes to our Sailors’ willingness to be retained in Naval service.

Navy Counselor 1st Class Tray Bynam

percent, and zone C are 80 percent. These benchmarks measure the effectiveness of our programs and ensure we meet manning requirements.

"The shipyard affects first-term sailors and they can base their naval career easily off of a Docking Planned Incremental Availability (DPIA) period," said Bynam. "Once they are underway it can become a culture shock to abandon daily activities such as going home every day and attending school, those sailors may not reenlist."

Despite this, Bush has consistently kept positive retention rates, which is indicative of strong leadership.

## The Flagship

### Editorial Staff

**Managing Editor** | Travis Kuykendall  
757-322-2853/news@flagshipnews.com

**Art Director** | Abby Likens, 757-222-3859

### Flagship, Inc.

**MNV Military Manager** | Pam Bullock, 757-446-2795  
**Advertising Inquiries** | Pam Bullock, 757-446-2795

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Distribution, 757-222-5629  
Home Delivery, 757-222-3900

**Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA):**  
Rear Adm. Charles W. "Chip" Rock  
**Regional program manager for Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (NRMA):**  
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## NEWS FROM NAS OCEANA



MC2 Mark Thomas Mahmood Virginia Beach Technical Center students interact with the HVAC exhibit at the Naval Air Station Oceana Public Works Department Career Day event. Local students were invited to explore trade opportunities on board the installation.

## NASO Public Works holds STEM event

By MC2 Mark Thomas Mahmood

### VIRGINIA BEACH

Naval Air Station Oceana Public Works Department held a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Career Day event Feb. 26 at the transportation building on board the installation.

Local high school students from Virginia Beach technical schools visited the workplace for group mentorship from

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) employees and apprentices working in various trades on board Naval Air Station Oceana.

Lauren Ciampoli, education manager of special programs for Junior Achievement of Greater Hampton Roads, said the event is an excellent way for students to learn directly from professionals working in their desired career field.

“They’re all taking these classes as vocational students,” said Ciampoli. “This gives them an idea of what the job is

like out in the field, and a lot of people who spoke to them shared their stories of how they succeeded in their career fields.”

Displays highlighting HVAC, pipefitting, electrical, transportation, and utilities were set up for students to explore.

Brent Brown, public works department production division director, said the students who were interested were invited to learn more about the NAVFAC apprenticeship program.

“Our only way to hire them out of vocational school is through an appren-

ticeship program,” said Brown. “Our goal was to make sure the students who were truly interested have the resources they need to apply.”

Lt. Renea Beggs, assistant public works officer, said events like this help improve the relationship between Naval Air Station Oceana and the local community.

“The students may know that Oceana and Dam Neck exist, but they may not know they could be a part of it,” said Beggs. “They may or may not have military parents, so this ties the younger civilian community to the employment opportunities on Naval Air Station Oceana.”

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MC2 Kaleb Sarten

An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Gunslingers of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 105 lands on the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Ike is conducting operations in the Atlantic Ocean as part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group.

# USS Dwight D. Eisenhower operates in U.S. 6th Fleet

From U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs  
ATLANTIC OCEAN

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group is conducting operations in U.S. 6th Fleet to support maritime security operations in international waters, alongside our allies and partners. Deploying ships and aircraft of the strike group, commanded by Rear Adm. Paul J. Schlise, include flagship USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), commanded by Capt. Kyle Higgins; the eight squadrons and staff of Carrier Air Wing

(CVW) 3, staffs of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10, and Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 26. “Ike offers tremendous capability to the region,” said Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti, deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, and commander, U.S. 6th Fleet. “During her operations in the Atlantic, Ike strike group will exercise the fundamental warfare practice of ensuring the security of vital sea lanes of communication. The deployment will also serve to demonstrate commitment to our allies and partners in Europe and Africa.”

While in Naval Forces Europe area of responsibility Ike CSG will work with the U.S. 2nd Fleet, U.S. 6th Fleet, Military Sea Lift Command, P-8’s from Patrol Squadron (VP) 4, a U.S. submarine, and NATO allies and partners to ensure maritime security and seamless interoperability across the Atlantic and the waters surrounding Europe and Africa. “We are ready to continue our steadfast commitment to our allies and partners in U.S. 6th Fleet,” said Schlise. “These vital sea lanes must remain open for global commerce and prosperity, and nothing in

the world is able to foster regional security like a carrier strike group.” Deploying ships and aircraft of the strike group include the guided-missile cruisers USS San Jacinto (CG 65) and USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), the guided-missile destroyers of DESRON 26 USS Stout (DDG 55), USS James E. Williams (DDG 95), and USS Truxton (DDG 103) homeported at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia. Squadrons of CVW-3, commanded by Capt. Trevor Estes, embarked on board Ike include the “Fighting Swordsmen” of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 32, The “Gunslingers” of VFA-105, the “Ram-pagers” of VFA-83, the “Wildcats” of VFA-131, the “Screwtops of Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 123, the “Zappers” of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 130, the “Dusty Dogs” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7, and the “Swamp Foxes” of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74.

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EDITORIAL

# Chaplain Corps provides irreplaceable services

By RADM Brent W. Scott  
Navy Chief of Chaplains

I recently read an opinion article that suggested it would be reasonable to consider what amounts to reducing the religious liberty of service members and their families. The author offered that diminishing the Chaplain Corps would help the Navy meet its \$40 billion requirement. The truth is, however, that it would only provide less than one-half of one percent in governmental saving and it would ultimately cost taxpayers more. Stated differently, chaplains reduce the frequency and severity of a wide range of costly destructive behaviors.

The Navy Chaplain Corps is an extremely efficient organization. The Navy’s 840 chaplains care for more than 564,000 active component service members in the Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Marine Corps. On average, every chaplain cares for more than 670 service members, not counting their family members and the civilians who are also authorized to use their services. The idea that Professional Naval Chaplaincy is a fertile ground for finding cost savings is completely spurious.

Some of the most valuable and far-reaching contributions of the Chaplain Corps go largely unknown to the average citizen. Chaplains contribute to the National Defense at the international level, the Service level, and the personal level. The Navy Chaplain Corps, representing fundamental national values, contributes directly to the National Defense and America’s relationships with other countries. For instance, Navy chaplains engage with foreign civil and religious leaders in partner nations to build friendship and represent the power of free people through piety, devotion and practical support without violence or prejudice.

Chaplains provide value and irreplaceable service to the Department of the Navy, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security, supporting our most fundamental form of diversity within the Navy, diversity of thought and perspective. Without Navy chaplains at home and abroad to facilitate the free exercise of their religion, many devout citizens from every faith would take their virtues, strengths, knowledge, and abilities to other services or simply refrain from military service altogether.

Without the confidential communication that Navy chaplains offer the people they serve, fewer service members in distress would seek and receive the medical, social, or mental health assistance they need to stay fit to fight. Multiple studies, like the 2013 study done by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, show that chaplains are the most trusted helping professionals for Navy personnel seeking assistance. Chaplains help Marines, Sailors and the Coast Guard to stay ready, lethal, and fit to fight by ensuring that everyone at home or at sea gets the care they need from the right professional at the right time.



MC2 Ashley M.C. Estrella/

An AS-365 Dauphin, assigned to the French Troupes de Marine, prepares to land on the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Ike is conducting operations in the Mediterranean Sea as part of the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group.

## U.S., French Navies conduct dual-carrier ops in Mediterranean

From U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs

### MEDITERRANEAN SEA

The Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (CSG) began dual-carrier flight operations with French aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle (R91) in the Mediterranean Sea March 2.

These dual-carrier operations demonstrate the combined military capability fostered by the U.S. Navy working alongside the French Navy for many years.

“As a result of regular exchanges and cooperative training on a routine basis, our interoperability has advanced to an extremely high level,” said Vice Adm. Laurent Isnard, the French Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean. “Our navies are truly plug-and-fight, especially in the Mediterranean but also throughout the world.”

Charles de Gaulle (CDG) has a history of operating with U.S. carriers. In 2016, Ike and CDG similarly operated alongside each other and conducted joint operations in support of Operation Inherent Resolve from the Mediterranean Sea. As recently as last year, CDG also operated with USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) while in the Red

Sea.

“Our seamless interoperability at sea demonstrates our collective ability to conduct high-end integrated operations whenever and wherever we choose,” said Vice Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, commander of U.S. 6th Fleet. “Joint operations with these two carrier strike groups in the Mediterranean underscores the commitment of the U.S. and French navies to security and stability in the maritime domain.”

In 2016, the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) operated with CDG as part of Combined Task Force 473 in the Mediterranean. Again, in April 2018, France, the U.K., and the U.S. conducted strikes into Syria in response to the Syrian regime’s use of chemical weapons against its own people. In 2019, and again as recently as last week, USS Ross rejoined CTF 473 to provide support to CDG.

U.S. 6th Fleet assets routinely exercise and operate with our French and NATO counterparts throughout the region. Exercises like Formidable Shield in the North Atlantic, Baltic Operations (BALTOPS), Sea Breeze in the Black Sea, and Obangame Ex-

press in the Gulf of Guinea demonstrate and further enhance our combined capability and capacity in the areas of land, sea and air.

“Direct information sharing, frequent exchanges between our staffs, and regular meetings with my friend Vice Adm. Lisa Franchetti all increase our effectiveness and the protection of our strategic sea line of communication in the Mediterranean Sea between Suez and Gibraltar and all our partner’s harbors,” said Isnard.

France is one of the U.S.’s oldest allies dating back to 1781 with their support in the U.S. Revolutionary War. This strong bond between our two nations reinforced our relationship and tested our joint combat skills during both World Wars. Today, these two navies continue in that great tradition of exceptional partnership.

“These operations represent the continued great partnership between U.S. 6th Fleet and the French Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean team under Vice Adm. Laurent Isnard’s leadership,” said Franchetti. “No single nation can meet the security challenges of the maritime environment alone. Dual carrier flight operations demonstrate our mutual ability to work together in a dynamic operational environment.”

U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied, and inter-agency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.

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MC3 Andrew Waters  
A convoy comprised of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), right, the vehicle carrier MV Resolve, center, and the Military Sea Lift Command (MSC) roll-on roll-off cargo ship USNS Benavidez (T-AKR 306) steam in formation. This exercise simulates an opposed transit, testing the fleets' abilities to safely cross the Atlantic while testing new ways of conducting a convoy in today's maritime environment.

# U.S. 2ND FLEET CONDUCTS NAVEUR CONVOY EXERCISE IN THE ATLANTIC

From Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

## NORFOLK

U.S. 2nd Fleet, on behalf of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, and in conjunction with Military Sealift Command (MSC), is conducting convoy operations across the Atlantic, employing the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) alongside USNS Benavidez, MV Resolve, and MV Patriot.

Sealift remains the primary method for transporting military equipment, supplies, and material around the world. With the return to peer competition and access to sea lanes no longer guaranteed, it is important that the Navy and MSC train together in order to ensure the successful delivery and sustainment of combat power necessary for the joint force to fight and win anywhere around the globe.

"In a real world conflict, much of the military equipment must still go by sealift, which makes convoy operations a critical skill set to maintain and practice," said Capt. Hans E. Lynch, commodore Military Sealift

Command Atlantic. "In the last five years, there has been an increased emphasis on including Merchant Marine shipping in large scale exercises to enhance tactical proficiency. Exercises that incorporate convoy operations are an extension of that ongoing tactical training."

This exercise will simulate an opposed transit, testing the fleets' abilities to safely cross the Atlantic while testing new ways of conducting a convoy in today's environment. Convoy operations were critical during WWI and WWII as the primary method for moving troops and military equipment, supplies and material to Europe. After WWII, convoys became less prevalent in the Atlantic theater, although still practiced in other areas of operation.

"The Atlantic is a battlespace that cannot be ignored," said Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander U.S. 2nd Fleet. "We need to be prepared to operate at the high end alongside our allies, partners and adversaries alike as soon as we're underway."

During her operations in the Atlantic, Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D.

Eisenhower (CVN 69), along with P-8s from VP-4 and a U.S. submarine, cleared the maritime battlespace prior to the transit of the Vella Gulf escorted MSC convoy.

"The coordination between NAVEUR, 2nd Fleet, and 6th Fleet are indicative of a seamless Atlantic Ocean," said Adm. James G. Foggo III, commander, NAVEUR. "This exercise allows us to sharpen our ability to move critical resources across the Atlantic, from the United States to Europe."

"As I have said before, logistics is the sixth domain of warfare, and a critical part of any successful operation or exercise," Foggo said. "The transatlantic bridge is just as important today for moving troops and military equipment, supplies and material from the United States to Europe as it has been at any point in history."

2nd Fleet and 6th Fleet work together to ensure the security of sea-lanes of communication in the Atlantic. If called upon, the Department of Defense's sealift transportation fleet expects to move approximately 90 percent of required assets from the U.S. to the theatre of conflict. The safest and quick-

est way to get needed materials to the front lines is via maritime convoy.

"We, as a Navy, are inherently linked with the broader maritime industry and this exercise provides a great opportunity to train like we fight," said Capt. Andrew Fitzpatrick, commander, USS Vella Gulf. "Practicing convoy operations flexes a blue-water, high-end skill for the first time in many years, enabling us all to operate on, above, and below the sea in a contested environment."

MSC operates approximately 110 non-combatant, civilian-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners.

C2F exercises operational authorities over assigned ships, aircraft, and landing forces on the East Coast and the Atlantic. When directed, C2F conducts exercises and operations within the U.S. European Command AOR as an expeditionary fleet, providing NAVEUR an additional maneuver arm to operate forces dynamically in theater.

NAVEUR, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with Allied and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe.

# Department of the Navy releases Education for Seapower Strategy

From the Office of the Navy Chief of Information

## WASHINGTON

The Department of the Navy (DON) released its new Education for Seapower Strategy 2020 today, providing a clear plan to help Sailors, Marines, and Department of the Navy civil servants develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and strategic perspectives necessary to prevail against any adversary across the full spectrum of conflict.

The strategy was developed in response to the 2018 Education for Seapower (E4S) re-

port, which concluded that to maintain naval power in an era of great power competition and technological change, the Navy and Marine Corps need to strengthen and expand their educational efforts.

"The most predictable thing we can say about the future is that it will be unpredictable," said Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas B. Modly. "Preparing for that future means investing in more platforms and new weapons systems, but nothing will be more important than the investment that we make in learning, and a force made up of people who thirst for it."

The strategy is based on three strategic pillars: Creating a Continuum of Learning for the Entire Force; Integrating Education into our Talent Management Frameworks; and Strengthening and Investing in our Naval University System. These three pillars and their supporting objectives seek to strengthen intellectual development in seven critical areas:

- Creative and Critical Analysis
- Ethical decision-making
- Strategic Thinking
- Warfighting excellence
- Geopolitical awareness

- Technical and Technological Competence
- Resource Management and Acquisition Acuity

"If we want to out-fight potential adversaries, we have to out-think them," said DON Chief Learning Officer John Kroger. "I want to thank Chief of Naval Operations Michael Gilday and Commandant of the Marine Corps David Berger for their leadership and support as we developed this joint strategy."

Many of the specific objectives outlined in the strategy, such as creating a Naval Community College, are already well underway, while others are still in early planning and development phase.

"As we begin to implement the strategy, we are prepared to adjust to new and evolving priorities, but our commitment to intellectual preparedness and warfighting advantage will be steadfast," Kroger added.

# Navy to christen Littoral Combat Ship Cooperstown

From the Office of the Navy Chief of Information

## MARINETTE, WI

The Navy will christen its newest Freedom-variant littoral combat ship (LCS), the future USS Cooperstown (LCS 23), during a 10 a.m. CDT ceremony Saturday, Feb. 29, in Marinette, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Alba Tull will serve as the ship's sponsor. In a time-honored Navy tradition, Mrs. Tull will christen the ship by breaking a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow. Ms. Jane Forbes Clark, Chairman of the Board of Directors of The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, will deliver the christening ceremony's principal address.

"The christening of the future USS Cooperstown marks an important step toward this great ship's entry into the fleet," said Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly. "The dedication and skilled work of everyone involved in the building of this ship has ensured that it will represent the great city of Cooperstown and serve our Navy and Marine Corps team for decades to come."

LCS is a modular, reconfigurable ship, designed to meet validated fleet requirements for surface warfare (SUW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and mine countermeasures (MCM) missions in the littoral region. Using an open architecture design, modular weapons, sensor systems and a variety of manned and unmanned vehicles

to gain, sustain and exploit littoral maritime supremacy, LCS provides the U.S. joint force access to critical areas in multiple theaters.

The LCS class consists of two variants, the Freedom variant and the Independence variant, designed and built by two industry teams. The Freedom-variant team is led by Lockheed Martin in Marinette, Wisconsin, (for the odd-numbered hulls). The Independence-variant team is led by Austal USA in Mobile, Alabama, (for LCS 6 and the subsequent even-numbered hulls).

LCS 23 is the 12th Freedom-variant LCS, the 23rd in the class. She is the first ship named in honor of Cooperstown, New York. Cooperstown received its name on July 25, 2015, during a ceremony at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, which is located in Cooperstown. Her name honors the veterans who are members of the Baseball Hall of Fame located in the namesake city. These 64 men served in conflicts ranging from the Civil War through the Korean War.

“ The dedication and skilled work of everyone involved in the building of this ship has ensured that it will represent the great city of Cooperstown and serve our Navy and Marine Corps team for decades to come.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly



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Women in the U.S Navy: Loretta Walsh

Historical records reflect that on March 17, 1917, the first woman to enlist in the Navy was Loretta Perfectus Walsh.

See B6

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Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russ Smith visit Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) in Pascagoula with Senator Roger Wicker and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith. The delegation engaged with shipbuilding leadership and saw how their operations directly support the maintenance and modernization of the U.S. Navy fleet.

Leadership engages with Sailors and industry partners in Pascagoula

From Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

PASCAGOULA, MISS.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russ Smith visited Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) in Pascagoula with Senator Roger Wicker and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Feb. 28. “To build the most ready and lethal Fleet we can, we’re working side by side with Congress and Industry,” said Gilday. “Today’s visit is an important opportunity to see our Sailors and the work being done here in HII’s shipyard.”

While at HII, the delegation engaged with shipbuilding leadership and saw how their operations directly support the maintenance and modernization of the U.S. Navy fleet.

“I appreciate Admiral Gilday for joining Senator Hyde-Smith and me for this tour

of Ingalls Shipyard to see firsthand the work of our talented shipbuilders,” Wicker said. “Today’s visit demonstrates the need to maintain a growing rate of production for our shipyards so that they can continue to hire, train, and retain their workforce. Our nation will depend on these workers to build, maintain, and repair the future fleet our service members need.”

Ingalls Shipbuilding, a division of HII, is the largest manufacturing employer in the state of Mississippi.

“Mississippi’s world class shipbuilders and shipyards are national security assets. The Chief of Naval Operations understands that shipyard production lines and capabilities require consistency across the board to ensure prompt and cost-efficient delivery of the most advanced warfighting ships,” said U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.). “I appreciate Admiral Gilday being on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to see firsthand all we’re doing to support the Navy.”



Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Russ Smith visit Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) in Pascagoula with Senator Roger Wicker and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith.

Following the shipyard tour, Gilday and Smith had lunch with Sailors and then visited the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7), which the Navy just accepted delivery of today.

Gilday and Smith ended the visit aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62), where they received updates on the material readiness of the ship and held an all hands call with the crew.

“This ship speaks to the resiliency, toughness, and mental fortitude of our Navy,” said Smith. “These Sailors, the

shipyard workers, and a host of training teams have worked to ensure the ship and crew are combat-ready. The tenacity in their work and willingness to come together as a team demonstrates the spirit of who we are as a Navy.”

Gilday echoed similar sentiments. “I could not be more proud of the good teamwork by the Fitzgerald crew and the combined industry team that will get her back to sea where she belongs,” said Gilday. “Fitzgerald’s return to the fleet will no doubt maximize our lethality.”

Navy launches program to protect Sailors from online exploitation

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON

The Navy is launching a new program that will advise Sailors and their families of potential adversarial threats in the digital domain.

The central mission of the Identity Management Program—outlined in NAVADMIN 047/20—is to create policy and training that will mitigate risks and vulnerabilities of personal online use and provide commanders at all levels with a certified workforce to man the online battlespace

against adversarial activity.

“Modern technology has forever changed the way we conduct warfare and how we conduct our personal lives,” said Vice Adm. John Nowell, the chief of naval personnel. “Our adversaries will use every means possible to weaken our capabilities, to include targeting Sailors on their personal social media accounts. As we are taught in all of our security training, we must remain vigilant to ensure we protect ourselves and the critical operational information of the Fleet.”

Immediate actions of the program will

encompass the review and modification of current distribution practices for enlisted advancements, officer promotions, program selections, and command assignments.

“In the era of Great Power Competition, we have a responsibility to ask ourselves whether past practices make good sense in the current operating environment,” said Geoff Tokajer, director of the U.S. Navy’s identity management program. “Current practices provide our adversaries with everything they need to conduct surveillance and compile target lists - we are

changing that.”

Program leaders are directing Sailors to the Navy Social Media Handbook 2019 for the best information until follow-on guidance is distributed. They list a few key tips for using social media:

- Know who you are following
- Know who is following you
- Think about the information you are giving out before posting on social media
- Access the Navy Social Media Handbook 2019 online here:

[https://www.navy.mil/ah\\_online/OPSEC/docs/Policy/Navy\\_Social\\_Media\\_Handbook\\_2019.pdf](https://www.navy.mil/ah_online/OPSEC/docs/Policy/Navy_Social_Media_Handbook_2019.pdf)

Additional training and policy changes will be coming incrementally in the following months.

More information can be found in NAVADMIN 047/20.



# If trends continue, is draft inevitable?

By Lisa Smith Molinari

The place where our family lived the longest was Virginia Beach, Virginia. Our first house, a vinyl-sided Dutch Colonial on a cul-de-sac, was close enough to the elementary school to hear the morning announcements from our porch. Despite deployments which took my husband away, we spent nine wholesome, grounding, family-oriented years there, growing roots, making friends, and providing stability for our kids.

That rare nine-year stint was made possible because Norfolk, Virginia is home to the largest Navy base in the world, and many other military installations, support detachments and training centers are located in the surrounding areas. My husband was able to follow orders to different commands while we stayed put, in a community with long ties to and respect for the military.

Although I found the area to be flat and marred with too many strip malls, we truly belonged there, and we were happy.

But according to the newly-released 2019 Blue Star Military Family Lifestyle Survey, many military families don't find the sense of belonging that is key to overall quality of life and well-being. Forty-seven percent of military families said that their local communities lacked awareness of their lifestyle and did not offer respect, understanding, and support. The top stressors for military families are arguably related to this absence of belonging: relocation stress, high military spouse unemployment, inability to earn two incomes, lack of affordable childcare, financial stress, isolation from family and friends, deployments, separation, and child education issues.

“ Complicating concern over the growing disinterest in military issues is decreasing interest in military service. According to the survey, the number of Americans who serve has dropped to roughly 0.5%.

The Blue Star survey and other research indicate a steady widening of the military-civilian divide that began after the draft ended in 1973, and a decrease in the propensity of young adults to serve, slowly turning the military into an insular and largely ignored subset of the U.S. population.

Today, public war protests are rare, even though the American public disapproves of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as much as it did the Vietnam War. During the January face off with Iran, the public sat up and took interest ... for a millisecond. “[P]ublic interest died away as quickly as it had arisen...The American public tends to only pay close attention to military matters during moments of crisis,” says Thomas Brody, a student journalist at University of Amherst.

Complicating concern over the growing disinterest in military issues is decreasing interest in military service. According to the survey, the number of Americans who serve has dropped to roughly 0.5%. Furthermore, the most significant recruiting factor today is whether one comes from a military family. In 2019, 79% of those who enlisted in the Army had a military family member. Considering that the number of young adults who have parents who served has decreased from 40% in the 1990s to only 15% today, it doesn't take a military analyst to see a problem with the long-term sustainability of our all-volunteer force.

“If we're not able to reverse these trends ... what is it going to look like when today's youth become the parents and today's parents become the grandparents?” asked Katherine Helland, Director of the Department of Defense's Joint Advertising and Research Studies center. Helland said that while Gen Zers know that military service is risky, their family members don't teach them the “value proposition” of serving their country.

Retired Maj. Gen. Dennis Laich, director of the Patriots program at Ohio Dominican University, told Fortune magazine that the draft will return because the Pentagon is already spending too much money on new enlistment bonuses and recruiting strategies. “We say that it's an all-volunteer force, but we're paying huge sums of money to induce people to join.”

To stop these trends, the Blue Star report recommends that civilian and military leaders, schools, employers, corporations, philanthropies, and military families take action — but what, specifically, will stop the runaway train toward conscription?

Knocking on a new military family's door? Inviting a civilian family to dinner? Asking the new military kid to eat lunch at your table? Advising high school students on the honor of serving one's country? Whatever it is, we need to do it before the idyllic military lifestyle we had in Virginia Beach becomes an anomaly.



Bryanna Poulin

# Get military discounts on vacations through American Forces Travel

By Military OneSource

There's a convenient, online leisure travel booking website created for members of the U.S. military community: American Forces Travel.

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**Q: Where can I find an application and other documents required for housing?**

A: The documents, including the Housing Application, can be found on the Navy Housing website [www.cnic.navy.mil/housingpolicyandforms](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/housingpolicyandforms). These include the Housing Application, Sexual Offender Form, dependent certification, custody or divorce papers and a copy of your orders.

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U.S. Navy photo

The future amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli (LHA 7) transits the Gulf of Mexico during builder’s trials held in July 15, 2019. Tripoli is the third U.S. Navy ship named for the Battle of Derne in 1805, the first land battle the United States fought overseas. Tripoli is expected to be commissioned in the summer of 2020.

# Navy accepts delivery of future USS Tripoli

From Team Ships Public Affairs

## PASCAGOULA, MS

The Navy accepted delivery of the future USS Tripoli (LHA 7), the Navy’s newest America-class amphibious assault ship, from Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII)-Ingalls Shipbuilding Division Feb. 28.

Amphibious assault ships project power and maintain presence by serving as the cornerstone of the amphibious ready group or expeditionary strike group. These ships transport elements of the Marine expeditionary unit or Marine expeditionary

brigade with a combination of aircraft and landing craft.

Optimized for aviation capability, Tripoli will enhance Marine Corps aviation with an enlarged hangar deck, greater maintenance capability, and JP-5 fuel capacity.

“On behalf of the entire team, I am grateful to take delivery of this versatile warfighting asset,” said Tom Rivers, amphibious warfare program manager for Program Executive Office (PEO) Ships. “The Navy and industry team has worked persistently to deliver this platform, ready to integrate the Marine Corps air combat element, including the Joint Strike Fighter, to our combatant commanders.”

LHA 7 incorporates the fuel efficient gas turbine propulsion plant, zonal electrical distribution, and electric auxiliary systems first installed on USS Makin Island (LHD 8). LHA 7 will be 844 feet in length, will have a displacement of approximately 44,971 long tons, and is capable of operating at speeds of over 20 knots.

“Shipbuilding is a team sport, and LHA 7 is no exception,” said the Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair Gulf Coast, Capt. Nathan Schneider. “LHA 7 represents the culmination of significant work effort by shipbuilders here at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, suppliers around the nation, and government stakeholders both here in Pascagoula, as well as Naval Sea Systems Command and the Program Executive Office for Ships in Washington, D.C., along with the warfare centers around the country. SUPSHIP Gulf Coast is proud to be a part of the team that is delivering this great asset to the Navy

and Marine Corps warfighters!”

With Tripoli delivered, the ship will focus on moving crew aboard and preparing for commissioning and sailaway later this year.

HII’s Pascagoula shipyard is also currently in production on Bougainville (LHA 8), the guided missile destroyers Delbert D. Black (DDG 119), Frank E. Peterson (DDG 121) Lenah H. Sutcliffe Higbee (DDG 123), Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125), and amphibious transport dock ships, Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28) and Richard M. McCool Jr. (LPD 29).

As one of the Defense Department’s largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, boats and craft.

# U.S. 2nd Fleet commands naval forces from Camp Lejeune

From Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

## JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

U.S. 2nd Fleet (C2F) has established an expeditionary Maritime Operations Center (MOC) at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

This expeditionary MOC, made up of approximately 30 members of C2F staff, has the ability to command and control forces, provide basic indicators and warnings for situational awareness, and be able to issue orders with a reach-back capability to C2F’s headquarters in Norfolk, Va.

Participating naval forces include the

Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (CSG), which is comprised of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), the guided missile cruisers, USS San Jacinto (CG 56), USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), and the guided-missile destroyers USS Stout (DDG 55), USS James E. Williams (DDG 95), USS Truxton (DDG 103), and more than 6,000 Sailors all stationed a Naval Station Norfolk.

“Camp Lejeune is the ideal location for Navy-Marine Corps integration opportunities,” said Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander U.S. Second Fleet. “For the purpose of this expeditionary MOC, our

USMC counterparts are providing C2F with the supplies and equipment essential to the successful execution of this exercise.”

In CNO’s Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority 2.0, C2F was tasked to be expeditionary— whether from a maritime platform or an austere location. Regularly operating C2F’s expeditionary capability ensures our ability to respond expeditiously and proficiently when called upon.

Maintaining and expanding upon the ability to command and control forces away from headquarters is central to C2F’s employment of forces in the Atlantic. During this iteration of the expeditionary MOC, II Marine Expeditionary Force assisted with infrastructure development. Both C2F and II MEF will draw lessons learned from this operation to inform future employment of an integrated command and control center in the future.

“We are implementing lessons learned from previous expeditionary MOC operations which will directly influence the way we employ naval forces at the operational level going forward,” said Capt. Craig Ban-

gor, Second Fleet MOC director. “To accomplish our assigned mission this time, we have included intelligence, logistic, cyber, information, and maritime operations and planning capability organic to the expeditionary MOC. While the team in Norfolk is leading and planning for a wide array of operations, our team in Camp Lejeune is solely focusing on the employment of the Eisenhower Strike Group as it crosses the Atlantic utilizing the expeditionary MOC capabilities.”

The expeditionary MOC concept is scalable and temporary in nature, and the iteration in Lejeune marks the third for C2F since its establishment in August, 2018. C2F first demonstrated this expeditionary capability through command and control of Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) in June 2019 when the majority of staff embarked aboard USS Mount Whitney. Most recently, C2F employed a forward deployed expeditionary MOC in Keflavik Air Base, Iceland.

C2F exercises operational authorities over assigned ships, aircraft, and landing forces on the East Coast and the Atlantic.

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MC3 Andrea Rumple  
Sailors aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) prepare to port in Varna, Bulgaria, Feb. 27, 2020. Ross, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its ninth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

# USS Ross arrives in Bulgaria to support regional partners

By **Ens. Shannon McKeon**  
USS Ross (DDG 71) Public Affairs

## VARNA, BULGARIA

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) arrived in Varna, Bulgaria, Feb. 27 for a scheduled port visit, as part of continued Black Sea presence and support to regional partners by U.S. Navy vessels.

The ship will host local officials in the Bulgarian navy and Varna government. for tours of the ship before a luncheon to discuss bilateral naval exercises. These operations support regional maritime stability, combined readiness, and naval capability with NATO allies and Black Sea partners.

The commanding officer of the USS Ross, Cmdr. John D. John, will visit the Varna city hall to meet with the mayor, followed by a visit to the area naval headquarters to confer with the Bulgarian Chief

of Naval Operations.

“We are excited to join our partners in the Black Sea to demonstrate a continued resolve towards security and interoperability,” said Cmdr. John. “Ross’ return to Varna is also a great opportunity for the crew to experience Bulgarian culture.”

Ross is the first U.S. naval vessel to conduct operations in the Black Sea in 2020, following a visit in December 2019 earlier on her 9th patrol. The ship entered the Black Sea on February 23rd, 2020 to strengthen relationships with NATO allies and partners through joint exercises and to demonstrate the shared dedication to Black Sea security. Ross visited Varna, Bulgaria, last year in April.

The United States maintains a strong partnership with Bulgaria. All four forward deployed Naval Forces- Europe ships have visited or worked with Bulgaria in the last 12 months. Bulgaria also participated in Exercise Sea Breeze, demonstrating



MC3 Andrea Rumple  
Sailors handle line around a capstan during a sea and anchor evolution aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71), Feb. 27, 2020.

commitment to the security of the Black Sea.

The U.S. Navy routinely operates in the Black Sea, consistent with the Montreux Convention and international law.

Ross, forward-deployed at Naval Station Rota, Spain, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations on a routine patrol in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe.

U.S. 6th Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied, and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.



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MC1 Nathan Carpenter  
Lt. Levi Ellis, left and Lt. Bradley Woods pilot a P-8A Poseidon assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 as part of a sinking exercise (SINKEX) during Exercise Pacific Griffin 2019. Pacific Griffin is a biennial exercise conducted in the waters near Guam aimed at enhancing combined proficiency at sea while strengthening relationships between the U.S. and Republic of Singapore navies.



MC1 Bryan Niegel  
A P-8A Poseidon assigned to the Golden Swordsmen of Patrol Squadron (VP) 47 performs a fly-by next to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88).



MCSN Thomas Higgins  
Patrol Squadron (VP) 45 Sailors prepare to launch a P8-A Poseidon aircraft for an exercise during Cobra Gold, Feb. 26.

# People's Liberation Army Navy lased a U.S. Navy P-8A in unsafe, unprofessional manner

From U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

## PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII

A U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft was lased by People's Republic of China (PRC) navy destroyer 161 on Feb. 17 while flying in airspace above international waters approximately 380 miles west of Guam.

The P-8A was operating in interna-

tional airspace in accordance with international rules and regulations. The PRC navy destroyer's actions were unsafe and unprofessional.

Additionally, these acts violate the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea (CUES), a multilateral agreement reached at the 2014 Western Pacific Naval Symposium to reduce the chance of an incident at sea. CUES specifically addresses the use of lasers that could

cause harm to personnel or damage to equipment. The destroyer's actions were also inconsistent with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between U.S. Department of Defense and the Ministry of National Defense of the PRC regarding rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters.

The laser, which was not visible to the naked eye, was captured by a sensor onboard the P-8A. Weapons-grade la-

sers could potentially cause serious harm to aircrew and mariners, as well as ship and aircraft systems.

The P-8A is assigned to VP-45, based out of Jacksonville, Florida, and is forward-deployed to Kadena Air Force Base in Okinawa, Japan. The squadron conducts routine operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations.

U.S. Navy aircraft routinely fly in the Philippine Sea and have done so for many years. U.S. Navy aircraft and ships will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows.

U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest numbered fleet in the world, and with the help of 35 other maritime-nation allies and partners, the U.S. Navy has operated in the Indo-Pacific region for more than a century, providing credible, ready forces to help preserve peace and prevent conflict.

# MPFEX 20's Dark Horse Sailors prove invaluable

By MC3 Bryin J. Venegas  
Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 Public Affairs

## JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

On the morning of Feb. 13, 2020, the sun began to peek from behind the clouds indicating that it was time to get to work.

"All lines on deck!" yelled the deck supervisor to the piloting craft master, barking out the order to indicate that it's time to get underway. After clearing the jetties, the improved navy lighterage system (INLS) craft—or the "power module" as it's informally referred to as—was met by choppy seas. The handling of these seas proved to be a simple task to the craft master, who steadily guided the power module through the waves, and approached the cargo ship.

The USNS 1LT Baldomero Lopez (T-AK 3010) was anchored outside of the St. John's River, and the Sailors aboard the power module were scheduled to receive a load of containers. Between bouncing off fenders that kept the craft from getting too close to the side of the Lopez, and pausing for waves that splashed up along her starboard side, mooring to the ship was proving to be more difficult than anticipated. Nonetheless, the deck crew handled the task with precision, execut-

ing the orders as they were given. A distinctive trait about the crew of the power module was that half of them, including the craft master, Chief Boatswain's Mate Clifford Junkins, were Navy Reservists.

With initiatives underway to improve active duty manning throughout the Navy, Reservists can often be overlooked. They, however, integrate and provide critical support to their respective commands during operations. Such is the case with Amphibious Construction Battalion 2 (ACB 2). Reserve Sailors provide critical skill sets, much-needed personnel, and longevity in their orders that can greatly benefit commands throughout the Navy.

"Chief Junkins is not the only Reservist at ACB 2 who provides a crucial skill in operations that prove vital to the command's mission capability," said Capt. Heather J. Walton, the commanding officer of ACB 2. "In fact, the vast majority of my Sailors are Reservists, who are an integrated part of our command, and are critical to our ability to meet our mission requirements."

Reservists bring many unique experiences that are relied upon to ensure the command remains able to operate lighterage, build and operate tent camps, build and operate a 3000-

foot elevated causeway pier, conduct equipment maintenance, and to support both our stateside and out-of-country based Sailors, says Walton.

The skill sets of Reservists are important, and equally important, is their support in order to be able to execute a given exercise. Maritime Prepositioning Force Exercise (MPFEX) 20 featured over 100 Reserve Sailors participating in the exercise. Reservists are not only limited to supporting their unit through exercises, but can also help commands on a day-to-day basis.

"ACB 2 has currently 480 billets filled with reservists spending approximately 12 to 14 days at the command, at any given time, throughout the entirety of the year," says Chief Engineman Stephen Payton, Leading Chief Petty Officer of the Reserve Integration Cell office at ACB 2. "Sailors also provide critical rear echelon support, holding down day-to-day operations at the battalion while others are down range."

And at a command—ACB 2 included—where the number of Reserve billets outnumber the active duty billets, having the longevity of orders that Reservists provide can prove invaluable when it comes to the rotation of

“ACB 2 has currently 480 billets filled with reservists spending approximately 12 to 14 days at the command, at any given time, throughout the entirety of the year,”

Chief Engineman Stephen Payton

personnel in and out of such commands. The typical billet assignment for Reserve Component Sailors attached to ACB 2 is three years. However, Sailors often choose to stay longer with the command if the opportunity window is there. That pays great dividends in keeping a fully qualified and highly trained contingent who most often are the heartbeat of the operation, according to Payton.

After the crane from the Lopez lowered the final container, the craft "took in all lines" and from there made its way to the beach at Marine Corps Support Facility Blount Island. On the way there, many civilian boats would slow down when the craft came into sight, and greet the crew who were standing watch on the forward and aft end of the craft. The day's mission was over, with a high likelihood of continued success throughout the week.



In Honor of Women’s History Month

# Women in the U.S Navy



## LORETTA PERFECTUS WALSH

FIRST FEMALE TO ENLIST IN THE U.S. NAVY.

The U.S. Naval Reserve Act of 1916 permitted the enlistment of qualified “persons” for service in the Navy. When the Secretary of the Navy asked whether this applied only to males and was told that it did not, the Navy began enlisting women less than a month later. Historical records reflect that on March 17, 1917, the first woman to enlist in the Navy was Loretta Perfectus Walsh. She was born on April 22, 1896, in Philadelphia and thus had the distinction of being the first woman to service in any of the U.S. armed forces in other than a nursing assignment. Until Walsh’s enlistment, women had served as Navy nurses but were civilian employees with few benefits.

Walsh, aged 20, was enlisted on March 17, 1917, as a Yeoman(F), all of whom were popularly referred to as “Yeomanettes.” During World War I a reported 11,274 female Yeoman(F) served in the Navy. The Yeoman(F) women primarily served in clerical positions. They received the same benefits and responsi-

bilities as men, including identical pay (\$28.75 per month) and were treated as veterans after the war.

On March 21, 1917, Walsh was sworn in as Chief Yeoman, becoming the first woman Chief Petty Officer in the Navy. She served her active duty at the Naval Shipyard in Philadelphia and when World War I ended, Walsh and all the Yeoman(F) personnel were released from active duty. As Walsh had enlisted in the Naval Reserve for a 4-year enlistment she continued on inactive reserve status, receiving a modest retainer pay, until the end of her enlistment on March 17, 1921.

Walsh fell victim to influenza in the fall of 1918 and later contracted tuberculosis. She died on August 6, 1925, at the age of 29 in Olyphant, Pennsylvania.

In memory of Walsh and her bold actions, the official history program of the Department of the Navy identifies March 21, 1917, as a date in American naval history. Annually, in recognition of Walsh’s historic service, a wreath laying ceremony is held at her gravesite on this date.





MC3 Andrea Rumble  
Chief Boatswain Mate Steven Rattanaovongsy watches as a Bulgarian navy AS-565 Panther helicopter flies over the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71), Feb. 29, 2020. Ross, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its ninth patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa.

## USS Ross departs Black Sea

By Ens. Shannon McKeon  
USS Ross (DDG 71) Public Affairs

### BLACK SEA

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ross (DDG 71) began its south-bound international strait transit en route to the Mediterranean Sea March 3, after conducting maritime security operations intended to enhance regional maritime stability, combined readiness, and naval capability with our NATO allies and partners in the region.

This is the first time a U.S. Navy ship has visited the Black Sea in 2020. Ross was also the last ship to visit the Black Sea in 2019, marking the 8th visit by a U.S. Navy

ship last year.

“Our time in the Black Sea was extremely productive, allowing us to train with regional partners to enhance our collective readiness and work towards our shared goals of peace and stability,” said Cmdr. John John, commanding officer of Ross.

Prior to entering the Black Sea, Ross operated with the French aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle (R 91) as part of Combined Task Force 473 in the Mediterranean during FOCH, a major French naval deployment. While in the Black Sea, Ross conducted several multinational exercises with local partners, to include Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria, enhancing interoperability through tactical training events.

Ross visited Varna, Bulgaria, for a two day port visit. In Varna, the ship hosted various Bulgarian media representatives for tours and a press event, and John met with the city mayor and the Bulgarian chief of naval operations.

The ship’s operations in the Black Sea strengthen interoperability with NATO allies and partners and demonstrate collective resolve to security under Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Ross, forward-deployed at Naval Station Rota, Spain, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe on a routine patrol. The U.S. Navy routinely operates in the Black Sea consistent with international law, including the Montreux Convention.

“Our time in the Black Sea was extremely productive, allowing us to train with regional partners to enhance our collective readiness and work towards our shared goals of peace and stability,”

Cmdr. John John



MC1 Theodore Green  
Adm. Christopher W. Grady, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (Center), fills out a Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) fundraising slip as Lt. Gen. (Ret) Jack W. Klimp (left), president and CEO of the NMCRS, Capt. (Ret.) Kathy Nelson, director, NMCRS Norfolk, and Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt, commander, Naval Safety Center and area coordinator for the NMCRS Active-Duty Fund Drive for the Hampton Roads region, pose for a photo during a visit to USFFC, February 28.

## NMCRS active-duty fund drive kicks off in Hampton Roads

By Becky Coleman  
Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

### NORFOLK

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society’s annual active-duty fund drive is

now underway through April 15 in Hampton Roads.

The NMCRS active-duty fund drive helps raise money and awareness for the different NMCRS programs offered to Sailors and Marines and their

families. This year’s Hampton Roads regional fund drive area coordinator is RADM Mark Leavitt, commander, Naval Safety Center.

“This year’s theme is “By our own – for our own,” Leavitt said. “Last year,

in Hampton Roads, the Society provided more than \$7 million in financial assistance; and the number of financial assists totaled 10,554.”

“Our goal for this fund drive is to make 100 percent contact with all our Sailors and Marines,” he added.

The NMCRS mission is to assist and educate Sailors and Marines with short-term or unexpected financial challenges and to provide a variety of local programs in support of them and their families.





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Virginia Symphony Orchestra announces 100th anniversary

Celebrating a century of service to the Hampton Roads community, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra is excited to announce the programming for its historic 100th anniversary season.

See C4

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photo provided courtesy of Chrysler Hall

The right place to be for ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’ is Chrysler Hall

By YIORGO

Most of us have had one of those days, weeks or years where everything goes wrong. Well, now you can laugh about it as you watch it happen in this laugh out loud comedy, ‘The Play That Goes Wrong,’ currently playing at Chrysler Hall, March 3-8.

Ryan Vinsent Anderson plays Trevor, the light and sound operator who rarely speaks but can be seen a lot on stage. Trevor works for the Cornley University Drama Society who are putting on a play called ‘The Murder at Haversham Manor.’

Tell us about The Play That Goes Wrong.

What’s fun about this is that it is a play within a play. You’ve got The Murder at Haversham Manor being put on, but outside of that is The Play That Goes Wrong and the audience is enjoying both at the same time.

They are seeing this guy Trevor sitting in his booth and getting everything wrong.

What should the audience expect to see and why should they come to this show?

Time and time again, I hear people say how appreciative they are for this experience because they needed that laugh. This play takes you away from your everyday worries. All these characters are trying to do is put on a play and things just keep happening to prevent them from putting on this play. You get to sit back and enjoy that mayhem and laugh. One beautiful thing that happens is the

audience ends up on the side of the actors who want this play to be done as well. It’s a time to relax and enjoy the laughter.

I know you were born and raised in Queens, N.Y., tell us a little about your early life and why did you decide to go into theatre?

I was actually too shy to do plays, but every time I saw a play I was really into not just the story but the mechanics of it all. I studied to be an architect at Carnegie Mellon, Pittsburgh and I just fell in love with performing Arts because my best friend of 20 years was also my roommate at Carnegie Mellon and he was studying musical theatre. I would help him with his lines, make funny videos and fell in love with it that way.

How did you break this career change to your family? Performing Arts is not as stable as an architectural degree.

Luckily for me, especially for my mom, I have always been very understanding. I was halfway through my program and I can see it clear as day. I was on the phone and said, “Ma, I am not going to be an architect, I’m going to be an actor and I want to go to grad school for acting.” My memory says it was totally fine, but maybe in her mind she was totally freaking out. She eventually said, “You will finish your degree and after that you can do what you want to do.” So I did another two and a half years without wanting to do it, got my degree in architecture then went to grad school for acting.

How about a pivotal moment that changed your life? That play or part



photo provided courtesy of Chrysler Hall

that you knew this is what I want to do the rest of my life?

I’m glad you asked me that. No one has asked me that before. By the time I went to grad school I had already started acting in front of a camera and had done some character animation voices, commercials and plays. I had really stretched myself to do many things, so I would say it was not one experience but a collective of everything I had done at Carnegie Mellon that let me know that’s exactly

what I wanted to do. I was also the lead in a play during a new play festival where I had to learn the part in two weeks or less. That was the time that I remember saying, oh my goodness, that was so intense and fun that I need to be doing this forever.

Yiorgo is a Hampton Roads arts, entertainment and sports writer. A stage, TV and movie actor, he is also an educator, motivational speaker, writer, storyteller and columnist.



# CalendarCommunity

For a complete list of events in Hampton Roads or to submit your own, visit [www.flagshipnews.com/calendar](http://www.flagshipnews.com/calendar)



Courtesy Photo

## Virginia Beach Spring Craft Market

- March 8 to March 6
- Virginia Beach Convention Center
- <http://www.emgshows.com/avbsp>

Virginia Beach Spring Craft Market showcase products like fine arts, handcrafted jewelry, wood, glass, photography, candles, woven baskets, clothing, toys, folk art and specialty foods etc.



Courtesy Photo

## Build & Play, Lego Contest

- Mar. 7, 9 a.m. tp 5 p.m.
- Norfolk Botanical Garden
- <https://norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/events/build-play-lego-contest/>

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 7th from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. A special build and play area will be set up in Rose Garden Hall for you and your family to enjoy. Hampton Roads Lego User Group (HARDLUG) will be returning and setting up a race track. All you need to do is build a race car with our LEGO pieces and its ready, set, go! In addition, “Monarch Mountain” sand hill will welcome the addition of a big block building zone to inspire and educate builders of all ages on this special day.



Courtesy Photo

## Celebrate the Arts!

- Mar. 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Children’s Museum of Virginia
- <https://yav.org/celebrate-the-arts-2/>

Celebrate the Arts is a Young Audiences of Virginia’s Community Engagement Event and also serves as the organization’s Showcase. This event is a family filled event with performances and workshops by Young Audiences Arts for Learning Virginia. Educators and PTA Executives Board Members are admitted for FREE with proper identification. Educators and PTA Executives Board Members are admitted for FREE with proper identification. For all others: Adults (18 & up): \$11 Ages 2-17; \$10 Military and Seniors: \$10



Courtesy Photo

## Festival of Laughs

- Mar. 14, 3pm
- Chrysler Hall
- <https://www.ticketluck.com/categories/Sommore/Sommore-Norfolk-VA/index.php>

If you live in Norfolk and like music, then this promises to be an unforgettable year. Some of the most famous stars from the industry plan on coming to your city over the next few months. Names like JoJo Siwa, Jhene Aiko and Lauren Daigle & Johnnyswim will come to Norfolk for performances you will remember for a long time to come. The concert tickets prices available on our website are highly competitive and you can get the tickets you want to watch your favorite artist now. The best part is that the entire process is extremely simple and the tickets you get are 100% authentic.

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Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

The special exhibition opens on March 7 with a plein air event featuring members of the American Society of Marine Artists at the Jamestown Settlement ships pier.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MARINE ARTISTS TO OPEN 18TH NATIONAL EXHIBITION AT JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT

From Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation

WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

The American Society of Marine Artists, the nation’s oldest and largest non-profit organization dedicated to marine art and history, will open its 18th National Exhibition at Jamestown Settlement on March 7 through April 26.

Since its founding more than 40 years ago, the American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) has presented its prestigious National Exhibition every three years in museums across the country, highlighting the works of artists representing the best in American marine art by juried competition.

Visitors to Jamestown Settlement, a living-history museum of 17th-century Virginia, can view 110 works of marine art, including paintings, sculptures and scrimshaw carvings.

The majority of the artwork are paintings executed in a variety of media, including oil on canvas, pastel, watercolor on paper and mixed media. Five sculptures cast in bronze, a limestone sculpture and two scrimshaw carvings round out the national exhibition.

On March 7, the special exhibition will open with a plein-air event or “paint out” at the Jamestown Settlement ships’ pier, where re-creations of the three 1607 ships – Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery – are moored for visitors to board and explore throughout the year. The plein-air

event, held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will feature ASMA members painting scenes along the James River waterfront with the ships as a focal point. The event is weather dependent.

Jamestown Settlement’s ships, designated as “the official fleet of the Commonwealth,” are full-size, square-rigged vessels that serve as floating classrooms for visitors and students alike to learn about the 1607 voyage to Virginia, life aboard the ship, piloting and navigation. One of the three ships sails periodically to other ports as an ambassador for community and educational programs.

Following the plein-air event, two public lectures from ASMA artists will take place on Saturday, March 7, at Jamestown Settlement. The lectures are included with museum admission.

March 7: “Painting History” by Patrick O’Brien, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

In this illustrated lecture, Patrick O’Brien will describe the thorough research behind his paintings, and talk about his studies of the Civil War duel of the ironclads in Hampton Roads. O’Brien is an award-winning artist whose striking paintings depict the classic age of sail, with honors including The National Maritime Historical Society’s Distinguished Service Award, the prestigious Mystic International Marine Art Exhibition, and the U. S. Naval Academy Museum, which mounted an exhibition in 2010 featuring 28 of his oil paintings.

March 7: “The Marine Paintings of John Singer Sargent” by Sarah Cash,

3-4 p.m.

A lecture by Sarah Cash, co-author of the book “John Singer Sargent and the Sea” with Richard Ormond, will focus on Sargent’s marine oils and watercolors. The painter had a lifelong passion for the sea, an interest that manifested itself in a remarkable but relatively little-known body of work dating from his very early years to late in his life. Cash is associate curator of American and British Paintings at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and previously served as curator of American art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, director of the Maier Museum of Art at Randolph- Macon Woman’s College, and assistant curator at the Amon Carter Museum.

Jamestown Settlement, administered by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, an educational agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is honored to serve as the debut venue for the 18th National Exhibition, which will tour museums across the United States through its conclusion at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum in Winona, Minnesota, in September 2021. Other museums include the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael’s, Maryland, the Gulfquest Maritime Museum in Mobile, Alabama, and the Burroughs-Chapin Museum of Art in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Jamestown Settlement, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, is located on Route 31 just southwest of Williamsburg. Parking is free. The special exhibition is included with museum admission: \$17.50 for adults and \$8.25 for ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. For more information, call toll-free (888) 593-4682 or visit [historyisfun.org](http://historyisfun.org).

## Award-winning, record-breaking show collides art and technology!

From Virginia Symphony Orchestra

HAMPTON ROADS

Video Games Live a complete celebration and multimedia concert experience featuring music from the most popular video games of all time, comes to the Ferguson Center for the Arts on April 3 in full sound and spectacle with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra!

Loved by audiences throughout the world, the show combines exclusive video footage and music arrangements with synchronized lighting, solo performers, stage show production, special FX, electronic percussionists and unique interactive segments. Whether it’s the power and passion of the more recent blockbusters or the excitement of remembering the sentimental classics you played growing up, it will truly be a special night to remember for the entire family. The show has a segment dedicated to the old retro arcade classics – but there is also modern music and older, more memorable pieces that no one has ever heard played live.

The show created and produced by

legendary video game composer and industry icon, Tommy Tallarico who is personally involved in every show. Aside from producing, Tommy will be on stage as emcee and performing on guitar. The video game industry puts on the show to help encourage and support the art and culture that video games have become. Video Games Live bridges a gap for entertainment by exposing new generations of music lovers and fans to the symphonic orchestral experience while also providing a completely new and unique experience for families and non-gamers.

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$25. A VIP add-on experience is also available for purchase.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [virginiasympphony.org](http://virginiasympphony.org) or call our Patron Services team at 757.892.6366. For groups of 10 or more, call 757.213.1413.

## ABOUT THE VSO

As the region’s most celebrated musical, educational and entrepreneurial arts organization, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra continues to challenge expectations and push the boundaries of what an American orchestra can be as it approaches its 100th anniversary season next fall.

At the heart of the VSO’s narrative is innovation. In 1991 the VSO made a very bold move in appointing the gifted young American conductor JoAnn Falletta as its music director. Since then, the orchestra has received national attention for its unique mis-



Courtesy photo

sion serving a home area of 1.7 million across the diverse communities of southeastern Virginia. Through appearances at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall and commitment to adventurous programming, the VSO and its musicians have been highlighted in the media including The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Public Radio and BBC Worldwide News.

As the largest arts performing organization in southeastern Virginia, the VSO and VSO Chorus present more than 150 concerts and events to educate, enlighten and entertain more than 100,000 residents and visitors each year. Recent innovations include health and wellness programs, including interactive therapeutic experiences for people living with Alzheimer’s and dementia. As it approaches its Centennial year, the Orchestra and its legions of fans look forward with anticipation as the VSO conducts a worldwide search for its next music director.





MHS graphic  
The Department of Defense and the Military Health System recognizes March each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month to increase awareness of traumatic brain injuries, and the Department's efforts to improve its ability to identify, care for, and treat service members and veterans who are affected by TBI.

# BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH RAISES CONCERNS OF TBI IN THE MILITARY

By Military Health System Communications Office

Traumatic brain injury remains a key health concern for the military. TBI ranges in severity from mild, moderate, severe and penetrating. Most traumatic brain injuries in the military are mild, otherwise known as concussion and most service members return to duty after recovering from their injuries, according to the Defense Health Agency's Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center. Together with other elements of the Military Health System, DVBIC will offer resources and tools to educate the military community about TBI during Brain Injury Awareness Month this March.

A division of the Defense Health Agency Research and Development Directorate, DVBIC is the DoD's TBI center of excellence. The center leverages state-of-the-science research to inform clinical recommendations and educate providers and patients and their caregivers.

More than 400,000 service members have been diagnosed with a first time TBI since 2000, according to figures published by DVBIC, which is charged with tracking TBI data in the military. Service members who may have been involved in a potentially concussive event need to see a medical provider as soon as possible since research shows getting treatment early helps to maximize outcomes. Most service members who sustain a mild TBI return to full duty within seven to 10 days through the "progressive return to activity" process--a standardized approach informed by the latest evidence-based research.

“ This yearly observance (of Brain Injury Awareness Month) showcases the wide variety of MHS and DVBIC resources tailored to the needs of patients, providers, and caregivers. These tools facilitate return to duty for active service members, and return to all aspects of civilian life for veterans. We welcome the opportunity afforded by Brain Injury Awareness Month to highlight these endeavors

DVBIC Division Chief Navy Captain Scott Pyne

“This yearly observance (of Brain Injury Awareness Month) showcases the wide variety of MHS and DVBIC resources tailored to the needs of patients, providers, and caregivers,” said DVBIC Division Chief Navy Captain Scott Pyne. “These tools facilitate return to duty for active service members, and return to all aspects of civilian life for veterans. We welcome the opportunity afforded by Brain Injury Awareness Month to highlight these endeavors.”

This year, DVBIC is highlighting how the military community – service members and veterans, health care providers, researchers, educators, and families – works together to address TBI in the military with the theme, “TBI: Me, You & Us.”

Service members and veterans have to be prepared to prevent a TBI while training or

deployed, and need to educate themselves about TBI symptoms so they will know when to seek care. During March, DVBIC along with other organizations in the Military Health System, will share key resources to enable service members to help themselves and their fellow service members and veterans. “A Head for the Future,” a DVBIC TBI awareness initiative, will feature videos highlighting “TBI Champions.” The videos share real stories of service members, veterans, family members, providers, and advocates in the military TBI community. They reveal people coping successfully with TBI, as well as the people who support them.

DVBIC is the leading DoD authority on the development of clinical recommendations, guidelines and tools that inform health care providers who treat service

members and veterans on the latest scientific evidence regarding prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of traumatic brain injuries. DVBIC's revised screening tool, the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation 2 or MACE 2, can be used by all trained medical staff, not just corpsmen or medics. This revised tool has modernized the screening and evaluation of mild TBI by adding new assessment areas such as assessing eye movements and balance after a possible mTBI. Clinical guidelines regarding the “progressive return to activity” process are helping improve care of warfighters dealing with TBIs they experience at home and abroad. DVBIC's medical surveillance and clinical education efforts help ensure providers are armed with the cutting-edge tools and resources to ensure that service members are ready when called to duty.

TBI recovery, however, relies on an entire community of caregivers and family members that are full partners in the healing process. DVBIC features a wide array of resources for caregivers who play a critical role in supporting the health and well-being of individuals with TBI, recognizing the emotional, physical and financial toll that is so often associated with caregiving.

Military Health System organizations, like the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the National Museum of Health and Medicine, will join DVBIC in sharing resources and tools online via websites, social media campaigns on Facebook and Twitter, and podcasts. Regional outreach events at numerous military and VA hospitals will engage local audiences with helpful resources for service members, veterans and caregivers. Find relevant Brain Injury Awareness Month resources by using the hashtag #BIAMonth and join the conversation.

## Virginia Zoo announces new tapir baby “Luther”

From Virginia Zoo

### NORFOLK

The Virginia Zoo welcomes its first-ever Malayan tapir baby who was born shortly after 8 p.m. on January 20. The male calf was named “Luther” by his Zoo Keepers for the holiday he was born on – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He is the first offspring for parents Haddie, age 9 and Rosco, age 5, who were brought together in 2017 as part of a breeding recommendation from the Malayan tapir Species Survival Plan through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

“The staff and I are excited to welcome Luther as a new ambassador to his endangered species,” said Greg Bockheim, Executive Director of the Virginia Zoo. “Few of this species are maintained in human care so his contribution to the genetic pool is important to saving these incredibly unique creatures, known locally as the Giant panda of Southeast Asia. As Asian myth says, all other creatures were created and the remaining parts went into to making the Malayan tapir.” Bockheim added.

Upon his first weigh-in, Luther was a little over 15 pounds. Keepers have ob-



Virginia Zoo

served the calf nursing well, vocalizing and interacting with mom, and exploring his dens. Staff have also introduced a small, shallow pool of warm water for the calf to get used to in preparation for being around larger pools, as tapirs are great swimmers. He now weighs 44 pounds and still regularly nurses from mom, in addition to eating small amounts of banana and other produce, grain, hay, and alfalfa.

Malayan tapirs, which look like a cross between an elephant and pig, are a unique species closely related to rhinos and horses

that can be found in moist grasslands and tropical rainforests in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. In the wild, a calf's coloration would help them blend into their surroundings to avoid becoming prey, but their pattern changes to the signature black and white or gray coats as they mature into adults.

Malayan tapirs grow to be between 5 ft. 11 in. and 8 ft. 2 in., and weigh between 550 and 710 pounds. They are an endangered species, with approximately 2,500 individuals left in the wild, primarily due to large

scale deforestation and an increase in hunting.

Luther and Haddie will remain behind the scenes while they continue to bond and until it is consistently warm enough for the calf to be on exhibit outside. An auction for the first behind-the-scenes tour with mom and the new baby will take place next month, donating all proceeds to tapir conservation. In the meantime, Zoo Fans can symbolically adopt Luther in a Zoodoption special for just \$50. Visit [www.virginiazoo.org/zoodoptions](http://www.virginiazoo.org/zoodoptions) for details.



# American Cancer Society seeks volunteer Relay For Life military ambassador

By Tiffany Putnam  
American Cancer Society

## VIRGINIA BEACH

The American Cancer Society’s Relay For Life of South Hampton Roads is an annual event that celebrates and honors cancer survivors and caregivers, educates the public about prevention and detection to reduce risk of the disease, and raises funds to help end cancer.

The Relay For Life Executive Leadership Committee is seeking a volunteer Military

Ambassador who will serve as the representative at the local military base(s) and communities for the Relay For Life of South Hampton Roads. The candidate will utilize their connections with groups on base to promote the Relay For Life and recruit new involvement. The Military Ambassador will represent the American Cancer Society in the community, build relationships, and use their contacts, influence, and resources to further the lifesaving mission of the organization.

An ideal candidate will meet the following expectations:

- Attend monthly Leadership Meetings (or submit report in advance if unavailable)
- Complete volunteer online orientation, as necessary
- Attend the Relay For Life of South Hampton Roads on May 30, 2020
- Support the event by recruiting 3 or more Relay For Life teams
- Sign up as an individual or team on the event website

The Core Responsibilities for the position are as follows:

- Work closely with the staff partner to develop a marketing and recruitment strategy specifically for the local military base(s)
- Market and promote event through connections on base
- Manage teams recruited directly from engagement efforts
- Seek out opportunities to represent the Relay For Life at different events including fairs, speaking opportunities, print marketing opportunities, etc. that are related to, or a part of the military community

If you are interested in this volunteer role, please contact Tiffany Putnam at [tiffany.putnam@cancer.org](mailto:tiffany.putnam@cancer.org) or 757-493-7975.



Natasha

# VIRGINIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 100TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

From Virginia Symphony Orchestra

## HAMPTON ROADS

Celebrating a century of service to the Hampton Roads community, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra is excited to announce the programming for its historic 100th anniversary season. The year-long celebration will feature audience favorites returning to the VSO stage, as well as a wide variety of talented artists who originally hail from Hampton Roads.

Suffolk native and Metropolitan Opera star Ryan Speedo Green returns home to open the season. A graduate of the Governor’s School for the Arts, Greene quickly established himself as an artist of international demand at the world’s leading opera houses. The program, featuring a variety of operatic showstoppers and African American spirituals, will highlight Green’s incredible vocal range. The evening will conclude with Dvorak’s New World Symphony, under the baton of Rossen Milanov, music director of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra.

In October the VSO celebrates the roaring ‘20s as pianist Natasha Paremski returns for her third appearance. Two jazz-influenced piano blockbusters, Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue and Ravel’s Concerto in G, will showcase Paremski’s virtuosity in this engaging performance. Returning to the region to lead the orchestra will be Akiko Fujimoto, associate conductor of the Minnesota Symphony and Music Director of the Mid-Texas Symphony.

Grammy-winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis makes his first appearance with the VSO in November. Joining him for an exciting program, featuring a recent saxophone concerto by John Adams, is Norfolk native and audience favorite Thomas Wilkins, who leads the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra as well as the Omaha Symphony.

The Virginia Symphony’s founding chorusmaster, Don McCullough, returns to celebrate the holidays! After his departure from the VSO, McCullough led the Kennedy Center’s Master Chorale and is currently di-



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

rector of the Jacksonville Symphony Chorus (FL).

McCullough will conduct the VSO Chorus in excerpts from the Messiah, the perennial holiday favorite that continues to bring hope and joy to listeners nearly 300 years

after it was written. Known worldwide for its “Hallelujah Chorus,” the oratorio will be accompanied by Antonio Vivaldi’s Gloria.

Popular former VSO Resident Conductor Benjamin Rous returns in January to conduct Rachmaninoff’s final major composi-

tion, Symphonic Dances, popular for its colorful rhythms, gorgeous melodies, and beautiful alto saxophone solo. Newport News natives Brendon and Sterling Elliot, both past winners of various Sphinx awards, will make a rare joint appearance in Brahms’ Concerto for Violin and Cello.

Norfolk native, international superstar, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter Kishi Bashi joins the VSO in March for the full-orchestra premier of his groundbreaking work, Improvisations on EO 9066, written in honor of the 75th anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The piece was premiered by Miami’s Nu Deco Ensemble under the baton of Jacomo Bairos, who will lead the VSO for the weekend’s performances, which will conclude with Shostakovich’s stirring Symphony No. 10.

Rarely presented in a single evening, the complete Brandenburg Concertos will highlight the superb talent of the VSO musicians in March. The six Baroque masterpieces showcase individual instruments in melodies immediately recognized and beloved by musicians and audiences everywhere. This extraordinary program will be led by one of America’s most revered conductor/violinists, Cho-Liang “Jimmy” Lin, who is lauded all over the world and loved here in Virginia for his superb technique and leadership.

The VSO’s anniversary classics season concludes in April 2021 with an electrifying all-Tchaikovsky program featuring superstar pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk. The evening begins with Tchaikovsky’s luscious First Piano Concerto and concludes with his Symphony No. 4, a powerful and fitting finale to our celebratory season. Former VSO Assistant Conductor “Z” Kuwahara returns from his current post at Russia’s famed Mariinsky Theatre to lead the orchestra.

Season tickets are available in packages of eight concerts at the Ferguson Center for the Arts in Newport News, Chrysler Hall in Norfolk, and the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach and start at just \$192! Tickets for individual concerts will go on sale in July. Season tickets are available by calling the VSO Patron Services Team at 757.892.6366 or visiting [virginiasympphony.org/subscriptions](http://virginiasympphony.org/subscriptions).

Sentara Healthcare is the Regional Presenting Partner for the 2020-21 season.





# coming to theaters

## BLOODSHOT [PG-13]

Based on the bestselling comic book, Vin Diesel stars as Ray Garrison, a soldier recently killed in action and brought back to life as the superhero Bloodshot by the RST corporation. With an army of nanotechnology in his veins, he's an unstoppable force – stronger than ever and able to heal instantly. But in controlling his body, the company has sway over his mind and memories, too. Now, Ray doesn't know what's real and what's not – but he's on a mission to find out.

## BIG TIME [R]

A seemingly bright and mostly innocent 16-year-old named Mo (Griffin Gluck) attempts to navigate high school under the guidance of his best friend Zeke (Pete Davidson), an unmotivated-yet-charismatic college dropout. Although Zeke genuinely cares about Mo, things start to go awry as he teaches nontraditional life lessons in drug dealing, partying, and dating, while Mo's well-meaning dad (Jon Cryer) tries to step in and take back the reins of his son's upbringing.

## MY SPY [PG-13]

My Spy follows JJ a hardened CIA operative (Dave Bautista) who has been demoted and finds himself at the mercy of a precocious 9-year-old girl, named Sophie (Chloe Coleman) where he has been sent undercover begrudgingly to surveil her family. When Sophie discovers hidden cameras in her apartment she uses her tech savviness to locate where the surveillance operation is set. In exchange for not

blowing JJ's cover Sophie convinces him to spend time with her and teach her to be a spy. Despite his reluctance JJ finds he is no match for Sophie's disarming charm and wit.

## THE HUNT [R]

Twelve strangers wake up in a clearing. They don't know where they are, or how they got there. They don't know they've been chosen... for a very specific purpose... The Hunt. In the shadow of a dark internet conspiracy theory, a group of globalist elites gathers for the very first time at a remote Manor House to hunt humans for sport. But the elites' master plan is about to be derailed because one of the hunted, Crystal (Betty Gilpin, GLOW), knows The Hunters' game better than they do. She turns the tables on the killers, picking them off, one by one, as she makes her way toward the mysterious woman (two-time Oscar (R) winner Hilary Swank) at the center of it all.

## I STILL BELIEVE [PG]

From the makers of I Can Only Imagine comes the true life story of Christian music mega star Jeremy Camp and his remarkable journey of love and loss that proves there is always hope in midst of tragedy and that faith tested is the only faith worth sharing.

## THE CLIMB [R]

Kyle and Mike are best friends who share a close bond -- until Mike sleeps with Kyle's fiancée. The Climb is about a tumultuous but enduring relationship between two men across many years of laughter, heartbreak and rage. It is also the story of real-life best friends who turn their profound connection into a rich, humane and frequently uproarious film about the boundaries (or lack thereof) in all close friendships.

# base theaters

## \$3 Movies

### JEB Little Creek, Gator Theater – 462-7534

**Friday | March 6**  
7 p.m. Birds of Prey [R]

**Saturday | March 7**  
2 p.m. SNEAK PREVIEW Doors open at 12 p.m. Please call 757-462-7534 for the name of the movie

**Sunday | March 8**  
1 p.m. Bad Boys For Life [R]  
5 p.m. ADVANCE SCREENING - Bloodshot

### NAS Oceana, Aero Theater – 433-2495

**Friday | March 6**  
7 p.m. Birds of Prey [R]

**Saturday | March 7**  
12 p.m. Dolittle [PG]  
3 p.m. Birds of Prey [R]  
6 p.m. Bad Boys for Life [R]

**Sunday | March 8**  
12 p.m. Dolittle [PG]  
3 p.m. Gretel & Hansel [PG-13]  
6 p.m. The Rhythm Section [R]

**Schedule is subject to change.** For your weekly movie showtimes and more, check out the navy Mid-Atlantic Region MWR website at [discovermwr.com](https://discovermwr.com).

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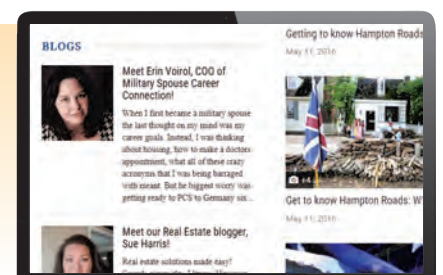
### EVENTS & CALENDAR

Looking for fun, military friendly events for the whole family? Check out our events and calendar pages for all the military happenings.



### MILITARY NEWS & BLOGS

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Announcements

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HAMPTON ROADS EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

The Hampton Roads Executive Airport, (Chesapeake, VA) in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Aviation is installing a glide slope tower for use with their proposed Instrument Landing System, (ILS). Per FCC requirements, notification is hereby given that details of the tower being constructed are that the lattice-type tower will be located on the airport in the City of Chesapeake; tower height is 15.2 meters, (50'); with red obstruction lights. Interested persons may review the application by going to [www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) and entering the Form 854 File Number A1158694. Interested parties with environmental concerns may file a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communication Commission, (FCC). The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online, where instructions are found at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). Mailing address for such requests by paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington DC 20554. Public comments may be received till April 14, 2020.

**REWARD FOR INFORMATION** leading to the arrest and conviction of the man who robbed the Walgreens on George Washington Hwy on 1-25-2009. A man gave the pharmacist a note demanding drugs. He is described as a white male with red hair, red beard and walked with a limp. Any info will be kept anonymous. (404)702-5300



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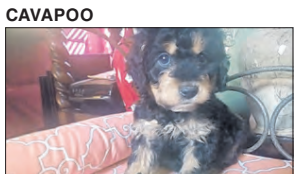
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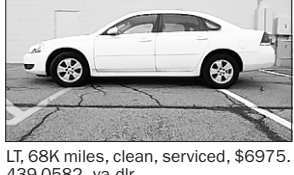
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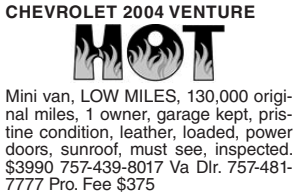
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AWD, looks & runs great, leather, sunroof, loaded, inspected. \$4990 757-439-8017 Va Dir. 757-481-7777 Pro. Fee \$375

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XLE Automatic transmission, wheels, leather, 54k mi. \$16850 VA Dir Proc. fee \$395. 757-717-1715/757-963-2299

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XLT. 4WD, 110,000 miles, serviced, clean. \$9900. 439-0582. va. dir

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XLT, looks & runs great, new inspection, auto, air, loaded. \$4990. 2 to choose. 757-439-8017 Va Dir. 757-481-7777 Pro. Fee \$375

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52K mis., alloys, new tires, bedliner, p/w, p/l, CD, looks great. \$12,900. Call for details, 675-0288. Va. Dir.

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King Ranch. 1 owner, 35K mis., factory warranty til 75K miles, diesel, dual rear wheels, leather, nav, full sunroof, fully loaded, new inspection & serviced. Showroom new. \$54,900. 757-620-7570. Va. Dir.

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# Fun and Games

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sol, la or ti

5 Low-pitched

9 Salt Lake City resident

14 Ahead by a single point

19 Otherworldly glow

20 Admit openly

21 Spanish appetizers

22 More sensible

23 Datum for a hard drive

26 Brand of fake fat

27 Geriatrics topic

28 Vegetable in Cajun cuisine

29 Beach birds

31 St. Patty's land

32 Gains' opposites

34 Australian avian

35 Defunct figure-skating show

37 Robin's place

39 Woven together

41 Take one's turn after all others

42 Actress married to Steven Spielberg

47 Develops an affinity for

48 Strong glue

49 MGM lion

50 Sling mud at

54 Mushy food

55 Itinerary info

56 Morganstern of 1970s TV

57 Hoarse

62 Evoke

64 Camera-to-computer upload

66 Like some sci-fi aliens, location-wise

67 Caterer's receptacle

69 Got the gold

70 Fruity frozen dessert

71 Jackson or Lincoln, e.g.

74 Lay to final rest

75 Actress Daly and novelist O'Connell

76 Largest frat in the U.S.

77 Pooch name

79 Lowly worker

81 — -la (utopia)

83 College e-mail ender

84 Supreme Court's Sotomayor

85 With 33-Down, arm of the Indian Ocean

89 Voyager Golden Record, e.g.

92 Roving sorts

93 Is sickeningly sweet

96 Old fruity soda

97 Sailor's reply

99 In shape

101 Should it happen that

106 Skinny

107 Epsom —

108 Redding with a Grammy

110 Flynn of early films

111 Classic tune

113 Snapshot go-withs

116 Edmund of "Miracle on 34th Street"

117 Apple messaging software

118 Like men

119 Ovid's 2,002

120 Swamp plant

121 Bête —

122 Multitude

123 Word hidden backwards in this puzzle's eight longest answers

DOWN

1 Vocally twangy

2 Expenditure

3 Three, in Lille

4 Deserves

5 Bit of luggage

6 Chevrolet hatchback

7 Collection for a wrench

8 Hive cluster

9 Actress Hagen

10 Maneuver

11 Each

12 Strong dislike

13 "It's Gonna Be Me" band

14 Mil. hangout

15 Sierra Nevada brew

16 New York tribe members

17 Least distant

18 Cuba's Guevara

24 Part of CIA

25 Cook Deen

30 Continuing dramas

67 Go — smoke

68 Bond girl player Diana

72 Hot — oven

73 "Tis —" ("So sad")

74 Draw out

77 Like women: Abbr.

78 Same

80 No, in Selkirk

82 Lock holders

84 Kind of piano

85 Comparable things

86 Sovereign's "I," often

87 Revised

88 Supporting

90 "C — Cookie"

91 Food tuna

93 Tricolor cat

94 Chinese fruit

95 Car security system

98 Easy putt

100 Gossip tidbits

102 Pinch into small folds

103 Good smell

104 Kind of boom

105 — the Cow (milk mascot)

109 Markdown

112 Shanghai-to-Tokyo dir.

114 Adaptable truck, briefly

115 Church perch

## last week's answers

C A B A R E T O G R A D Y A D R I F T  
O V E R A G E U R A N I A G O A T E E  
L O Z E N G E T E N G A L L O N H A T S  
T W E N T Y M U L E L E I S L I T  
S L O L A D L E M C A I N E  
T H I R T Y Y E A R M O R T G A G E  
A R C I T A T R I O A R R  
R E L N O R T H D A L L A S F O R T Y  
M N O G R A Y E R S E N T T O R O B  
E T U D E R A N I A S T R I D E  
N A S A F E A R O F F I F T Y I D E S  
I C E D T E A S A M I S M E L T  
A A A D R O I T M U F A S A N E B  
R U N N I N G L I K E S I X T Y T R E  
A N N L I P O L A I S S T  
C O M M I T T E E O F S E V E N T Y  
A N A N O W F I L L E O M S  
T E N D O R A E I G H T Y D A Y S  
N I N E T Y D E G R E E S O R O U R K E  
A D E L I E D E A R T H R O W D I E R  
P A R E N T O D E S S A T L E A S T

4	5	1	3	9	8	2	7	6
6	7	8	4	2	1	3	5	9
9	3	2	7	6	5	8	4	1
8	1	7	5	4	3	6	9	2
2	4	6	9	8	7	5	1	3
5	9	3	6	1	2	4	8	7
7	2	4	8	3	9	1	6	5
3	8	9	1	5	6	7	2	4
1	6	5	2	7	4	9	3	8

# Sudoku

7			6		5		3	
	4			9				5
			2	1		4		
3	6				8			4
		7	2			6		
9				1			5	
	5				9			7
		9	4				8	1
8				3		9		

# CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: V equals P

TQQBUSCR T RSKO USQVOTALE YLK

QYXVVSCR ITR, SH AXBOE IL QLLC

TQ T HXHL-TOO OXQQ.

## Last week's CryptoQuip answer

I guess the world's second-best writing implement could be called the pen ultimate.

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