

THE WOLVERINE



JULY 2022

INSURV COMPLETE

FORD MEETS THE BOARD OF INSPECTION AND SURVEY

CORPSMAN BIRTHDAY

FORD'S HOSPITAL CORPSMAN CELEBRATE 124 YEARS OF SERVICE

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH INSIDE!



THE WOLVERINE

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HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

FRONT COVER PHOTO

An MH-53E Sea Dragon, attached to the "Vanguard" of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14, sits chocked and chained on the flight deck, June 16, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)



27 student Naval Aviators from Training Air Wings 1 and 2 gaulified onboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) with 407 launches and recoveries.





Celebrating Women Veterans Day with a Long Running Legacy

Story and Photo by MC3 Thomas Willis



Loretta Walsh made history in 1917 as the first woman to enlist in the U.S. Navy. Since then, thousands of brave women have carried on her legacy at all levels of the Navy.

The Navy has many examples of strong women among its ranks, with a great number of them serving on USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78). Women Veterans Day is a way to celebrate and recognize these important Sailors.

Master Chief Logistics Specialist Sunshine Ridgeway, from Front Royal, Virginia, is the Leading Chief Petty Officer of Ford's supply S-1 division. Ridgeway has served a long career in the Navy, approaching her 27th year in August.

Women like Ridgeway are no strangers to the Navy's most integral procedures. She fondly recalls taking part in Ford's Full Ship Shock Trials.

"I was glad to be a part of Full Ship Shock Trials," Ridgeway said. "It only happens around once every thirty years, and with this ship being a new class of aircraft carriers, it was really something special that I got to be a part of. There are not a lot of people that can say that."

Shock Trials test the ship's structural integrity by creating three explosions close to the ship.

Seaman Audrey Schwab, from Winchester, Virginia, exemplifies the power of women entering the Naval service. She checked into Ford's S-6 division in October. In just nine short months in the Navy, Schwab has already had some unforgettable moments.

"I got to drive the ship," Schwab recounted. "It was really cool because when I turned the wheel of the ship, I saw the ship turn in the water. I thought to myself, 'That was me. This is one of the biggest ships in the Navy, and I'm the one driving!'"

Regardless of their rank or career length, both of these women play vital roles in the Navy's mission.

"The most important thing I've done in the Navy is give back," said Ridgeway with a smile. "Whether it's getting Sailors advanced, writing awards or writing evaluations, the biggest thing for me is being able to impact Sailors and their careers."

Schwab also gives back in her own way, by supporting the Sailors around her.

"A lot of people have told me I'm easy to talk to," Schwab said. "I've gotten a lot of phone calls from people who needed someone to talk to, and I like being that person. I think it's important to be there for each other."

Both Ridgeway and Schwab had advice and encouragement to offer to women who are joining the Navy today.

"Follow your dreams and never give up," Ridgeway began.

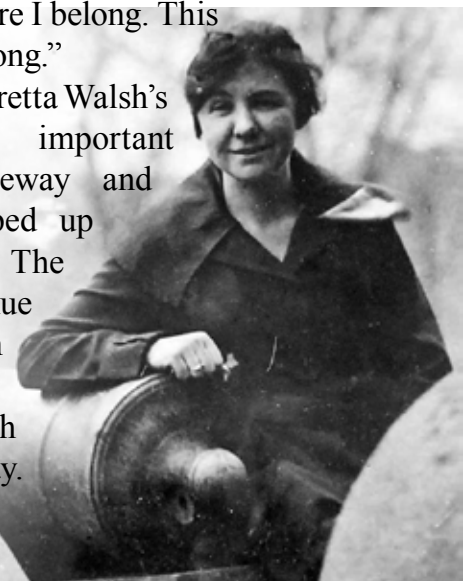
"When I first joined, I was only going to do one tour, but then I stayed for shore duty. From there, it just kept getting easier and easier. Times are changing. Women are in leadership roles. We have a vice president who is a woman. The possibilities are endless for you. Set your goals and stay focused."

Schwab followed up with her own story. "When I said I was joining the Navy, some people in my family asked me 'Are you sure? That's not really a place a woman should be.' But I took that as motivation to prove them wrong. I wanted to prove to them that this is where I belong. This is where women belong."

Ever since Loretta Walsh's enlistment, other important women like Ridgeway and Schwab have stepped up to serve their nation. The Navy will continue to welcome women into its ranks and celebrate them with Women Veterans Day.



LSCM Sunshine Ridgeway, left, and SN Audrey Schwab, both assigned to Ford's supply department, pose in front of the island, June 16, 2022.



Ford Successfully Completes INSURV, Continues Preparations to Deploy

Story by MC3 Jackson Adkins

On June 17, 2022, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) successfully completed its Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) special trial, marking the first time a Ford-class ship executed an inspection of this kind.

The INSURV special trial is a congressionally-mandated inspection of U.S. Navy ships. Minimal notice material inspections by INSURV are then conducted every three years to report ship readiness and ensure that all spaces and equipment meet Navy standards. During INSURV, more than 180 inspectors embarked Ford, observing and assessing more than 300 demonstrations.

“INSURV is a thorough ship-wide inspection that assesses the material and equipment readiness required to support and sustain combat operations,” said Lt. Cmdr. James Lewis, Ford’s maintenance and material management officer. “The crew’s performance and execution of INSURV is another milestone we can add to the list, proving Ford is ready to support all tasking from the higher headquarters. This inspection is significant because it establishes a baseline for Ford-class, setting the bar for the U.S. Navy’s next generation of aircraft carriers.”

The crew’s preparation prior to the inspection was key in Ford’s successful performance. Leading up to INSURV, the crew conducted in-house evaluations of the ship’s spaces and equipment during three separate Material Assessment Visits (MAV).

“Through three MAVs, we were able to train on all the areas INSURV would assess and identify areas we needed to work on,” said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Andrew Sanford, from Boulder, Colorado, assigned to Ford’s weapons department. “The amount of effort the crew put into being ready shows our dedication to accomplishing the mission and bringing the ship through the next steps in preparing for deployment.”

The crew worked for more than a year to prepare for the five-day assessment, while simultaneously finishing a six-month planned incremental availability



Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) inspector Lt. Cmdr. Charles Gatewood, from Council Grove, Kansas, inspects a “rubber duckie” lifejacket on Boatswain’s Mate 3rd Class Selena Penaloza, from Orlando, Florida, assigned to deck department, in the hangar bay, June 13, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Adonica Munoz)

and beginning its basic phase of training for a scheduled deployment in the fall.

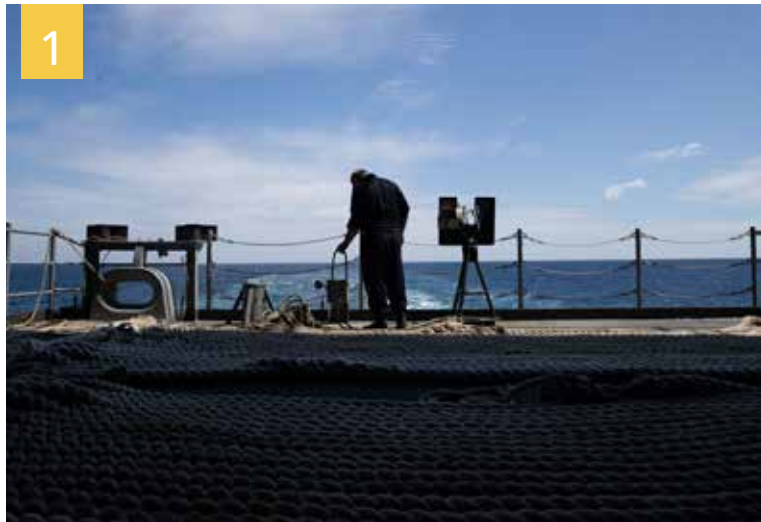
“Our outstanding crew took ownership and honored the ship’s motto ‘Integrity at the Helm’ throughout their performance during INSURV,” said Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, Ford’s commanding officer. “Their professionalism and attitude in preparing for this assessment was truly inspirational. We are extremely proud of how this crew continues to make history and prepare Ford for its first deployment.”

Immediately following INSURV, Ford conducted carrier qualifications for student naval aviators in the training command, directly contributing to fleet and aviation readiness as she continues her preparation for deployment.



Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) inspectors conduct inspections in the hangar bay. (Photos by MCSA Daniel Perez)

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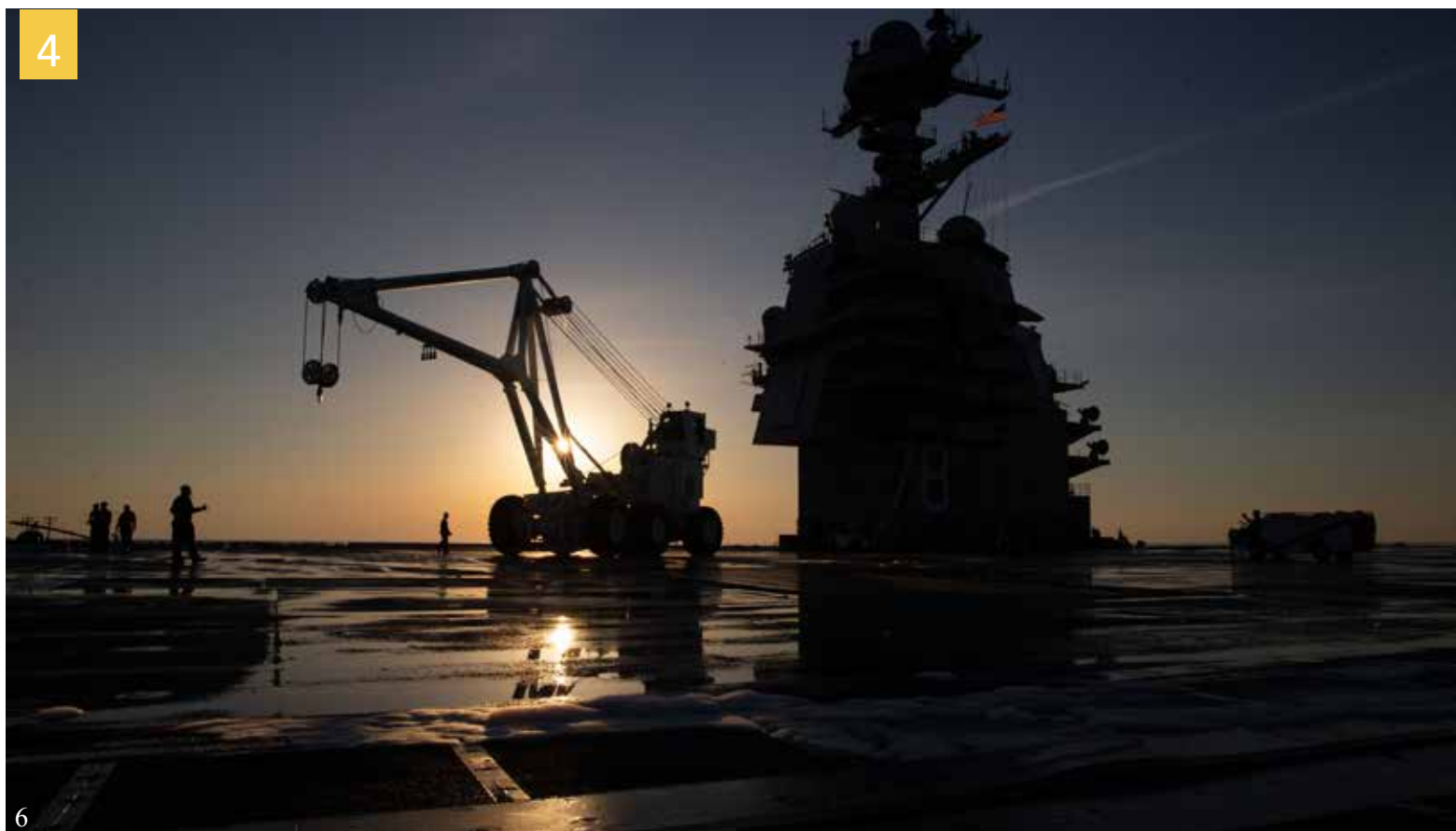
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PHOTOS OF THE MONTH

JULY 2022

1. Boatswain's Mate Seaman Elijah Marks, from Nashville, Tennessee, assigned to the deck department, fakes out messenger line on the fantail, June 20, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Adonica Munoz)

2. A T-45C Goshawk, attached to Training Air Wing 2, lands on the flight deck, June 17, 2022. (Photo by MC2 Zack Guth)

3. Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Selena Penalzo, from Orlando, Florida, assigned to deck department, performs routine maintenance on life preservers, June 8, 2022. (Photo by MCSA Daniel Perez)

4. USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) carrier crash crane, or Tilly, transits the flight deck, June 15, 2022. (Photo by MC2 Zack Guth)

5. Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Corey Carver, left, from Denver, and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Jonathan Delgado, from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, both assigned to air department, observe aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) sprinkler testing on the flight deck, June 15, 2022. (Photo by MC2 Riley McDowell)

6. An MH-53E Sea Dragon, attached to the "Vanguard" of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14, prepares to land on the flight deck, June 16, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Jackson Adkins)

7. Sailors assigned to medical department, perform a hernia repair procedure in the operating room, June 17, 2022. (Photo by MCSA Daniel Perez)

8. Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Cheney Machnak, from San Diego, assigned to weapons department, manually fires the MK 38 - 25 mm machine gun system for inspection, June 15, 2022. (Photo by MC2 Zack Guth)

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7



8





USS Gerald R. Ford Celebrates 124th Birthday of Hospital Corpsman Rate

Story by MC3 Tyler Salvick

The hospital corpsman (HM) rate was established 124 years ago and has been saving lives and maintaining the well-being of service members ever since.

On June 17, 1898, President William McKinley signed a bill that established the U.S. Navy HM rate. Since the Spanish American War, HMs have cared for their fellow Sailors and Marines on every ship, every command and on the frontlines of every war.

Hospital corpsman is the largest rating in the Navy, consisting of more than 25,000 active duty and reserve Sailors.

“When we talk about emergency response, we don’t go by ourselves. It’s a team, everybody has a role,” said Master Chief Hospital Corpsman Phillip Jean-Gilles, USS Gerald R. Ford’s medical department leading chief petty officer. “All of our corpsmen have a role, even if it’s just airway or circulation. It’s a fine oiled machine and we continue to work at that.”

Upon completion of basic training, HMs are sent to a three-month “A” school in San Antonio. After graduating “A” school, they have the option to attend any of the 40 Navy enlisted classifications (NEC) schools that exist within the community for additional specialized training.

One of the most sought after NECs is the Fleet Marine Forces, where HMs, also known as ‘doc,’ work alongside Marines around the world. They provide medical service wherever duty calls, especially on the battlefield.

Examples of other NECs include lab technician, surgery technician, dental care and independent duty corpsman that provide medical care to commands that have limited corpsmen.

“I’ve spent 15 years green-side [expeditionary and Fleet Marine force], this is my first ship. You don’t know what you don’t know,” said Jean-Gilles. “I’ve gained a lot of respect for blue-side shipboard surface corpsmen. You need to be a Sailor first. You need to know 3M maintenance, you have to know your job and the specialty you came here for.”

The vast diversity in opportunities within the rate creates a community of excellence where HMs are constantly challenging themselves and each other. This culture of readiness ensures the hospital corps is ready for any new or challenging situations.

“When Covid-19 hit, it truly changed the course of how we functioned day-to-day,” said Jean-Gilles. “No matter what was called upon during that time frame, our corpsmen were there. Good, bad or indifferent, our corpsmen have stood that fight.”

As time passed since the founding of HM, the face of warfare continued to change. Hospital corpsmen have adapted, building upon the methodology of past Sailors. Teamwork and self-sacrifice are what make the HM rate strong.

“I am very fortunate and blessed to have corpsmen in Navy medicine,” said Lt. Vance Baughman, a physician’s assistant assigned to Ford. “Teamwork is essential. Teamwork is vital to the military, to the Navy and especially to medicine. Medicine is a team sport from enlisted personnel to officers.”

Currently, 23 HMs have been recipients of the Medal of Honor. Hospital corpsmen have also been awarded 179 Navy Crosses, 31 Distinguished Service Crosses (United States Army), 959 Silver Star Medals and 1,600 Bronze Star Medals with Combat “V” for heroism. Hospital corpsman is the most decorated rating in the Navy.

There have been 22 naval ships named in honor of HMs, such as the USS Benfold (DDG 65), USS Caron (DD 970) and USS Durant (DER 389), as well as several hospitals and clinics. Their names pay homage and serve as a remembrance to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives for our country and our freedom.

HMs have proven to be a vital asset to the Navy and Marine Corps ranks, putting themselves in harm’s way in order to save the lives of the service members they fight alongside. HMs across the fleet should feel proud to celebrate 124 years of Navy tradition, and 124 years of keeping Sailors healthy.



Chief Hospital Corpsman Keara King, second from left, from South Boston, Virginia, assigned to USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) medical department, speaks during a presentation for the 124th hospital corpsman birthday celebration, June 17, 2022. (Photo by MC3 Tyler Slavicek)



Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) commanding officer, observes Sailors assigned to Ford's medical department, recite the hospital corpsman pledge during a 124th hospital corpsman birthday celebration, June 17, 2022.

Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) commanding officer, delivers a speech to the medical department during a 124th hospital corpsman birthday celebration, June 17, 2022.

23



**Medals
of
Honor**

179



**Navy
Crosses**

31



**Distinguished
Service
Medals**

959



**Silver
Star
Medals**

1,600+



**Bronze
Star
Medals**

The image features the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) sailing on the ocean. The ship's hull number '78' is visible on the superstructure. An American flag is overlaid on the left side of the image, with white stars on a blue field. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, stylized font.

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

WISHES YOU A HAPPY

4TH OF JULY

**CELEBRATING 246 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE
WITH 100,000 TONS OF FREEDOM**

THE WOLVERINE

USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN 78)

MEET THE TRIAD

COMMANDING OFFICER

CAPT Paul Lanzilotta

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CAPT Jeremy Shamblee

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

CMDCM Bryan Davis

MEDIA DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

LCDR David Gardner

ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

ENS Paula Niederland

DEPARTMENT LCPO

MCCS Ryan Wilber

PRODUCTION LCPO

MCC Gary Prill

EDITOR

MC2 Zack Guth

MCSN Manvir Gill

STAFF

MC1 Julie Matyascik

MC1 William Spears

MC2 Jackson Adkins

MC2 Riley McDowell

MC3 Trenton Edly

MC3 Shanell Lawrence

MC3 Jacob Mattingly

MC3 Adonica Muñoz

MC3 Tyler Slavicek

MC3 Alexander Timewell

MC3 Thomas Willis

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THIS MONTH IN NAVAL HISTORY

July 3, 1950

USS Valley Forge (CV 45) and HMS Triumph participate in first carrier action of Korean War. VF 51 aircraft from Valley Forge shoot down two North Korean aircraft.

July 11, 1943

Gunfire from U.S. cruisers and destroyers stop German and Italian tank attacks against Army beachhead at Gela, Sicily. Troop transport SS Robert Rowan is set afire by air attack and explodes. USS Orizaba (AP 24) rescues all hands of 421 troops, merchant marines and guards.

July 19, 1940

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the second Naval Expansion Act.

FOR MORE CONTENT

Want to see more about USS Gerald R. Ford?

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this month during**



**Centennial of United States
Navy Aircraft Carriers**

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