

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

FEBRUARY 2021



TOP NEWS

NAVY, DOD RESPOND TO COVID-19 IN NAVAJO NATION

From Army Specialist Ashunteia Smith

Navy personnel deployed to the Navajo Nation reservation in New Mexico and Arizona to help treat COVID-19 patients.

At the request of the Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 12 Navy personnel deployed to the Navajo Nation reservation in New Mexico and Arizona to provide support to the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, New Mexico. The medical personnel have been working side-by-side with civilian and U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps healthcare providers to help treat COVID-19 patients.

"The relationship with the embedded nursing staff here has been great from the get go," Navy Lt. Cmdr. Sarah Jagger, critical care nurse and Rural Rapid Response team leader said.

"They are family now," added Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Smith, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the hospital's intensive care unit supervisor.

The Navy medical providers are currently treating up to eight patients at one time in the COVID-19 positive ward at the medical center. The

ward is set up in an open room with beds alongside each other. As the pandemic progresses, the medical center is considering expanding the ward, allowing the providers to treat up to 15 patients at once.

"Bringing in that staff gave us the capability of doubling our bed capacity for the intensive care unit," Smith said.

For some of the medical providers, this deployment is not their first time being part of the Defense Department's whole-of-America COVID-19 response. Jagger and other members of the Rural Rapid Response teams provided support at different hospitals in New York when the pandemic first started, as well as in Texas as the pandemic continued.

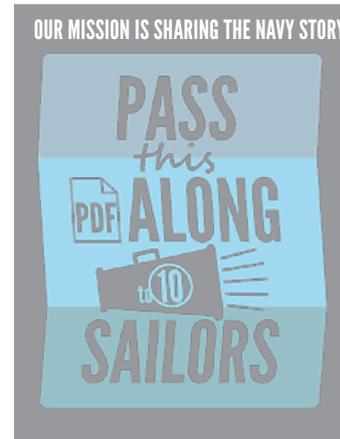
"Thankfully, we are seeing better outcomes than we did when COVID-19 first hit," Jagger said.

Due to some of their previous experiences, the medical providers were able to quickly adapt to their surroundings. "They were boots on the ground ready to go, and they've been wonderful to work with," Smith said.

The Indian Health Service, an agency within the Department of

Health and Human Services, provides a comprehensive health service delivery system for approximately 2.6 million American Indians and Alaska Natives who belong to 574 federally recognized tribes in 37 states.

As the COVID-19 pandemic progresses throughout the country, U.S. Northern Command, through U.S. Army North, remains committed to providing a flexible Defense Department in support of the whole-of-America COVID-19 response.



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ALL HANDS MAGAZINE

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FRONT COVER: Boatswain's Mate Seaman Shannon Hagen, from Grand Rapids, Mich., left, and Seaman Jeremy Sampson, from Houston, raise a cargo leg to attach to an MH-60R Sea Hawk, assigned to the "Magicians" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 35, on the flight deck of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS John Finn (DDG 113), Jan. 9, 2021. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jason Waite/Released)

BACK COVER: A sailor directs an F/A-18E Super Hornet from the "Mestrels" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 137 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) during flight operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Charles DeParlier/Released)

TOP NEWS

FLEET FORCES ESTABLISH VACCINATION CELL TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY TO FLEET

From U.S. Fleet Forces Command Public Affairs and Outreach

To ensure full and efficient vaccine distribution to more than 30 subordinate commands across 32 military medical treatment facilities (MTFs), encompassing nearly 1.2 million people, Fleet Forces Command established the FVC to act as a conduit between vaccine supply and demand.

“The FVC is a high-performing team that ensures our forces get the vaccine as quickly as possible and in DoD-prioritized order. We work closely with our local medical teams, and the leadership in D.C. to ensure every dose is used, and to influence the supply chain to bring us more,” said Rear Adm. Doug Beal, USFFC vice commander and FVC lead.

Working with liaison officers from each type and system command, the FVC is the central point of contact, coordinating vaccinations for the total force, including active component

personnel, assigned reservists, DoD civilians, contractors and allied, coalition, and partner-nation personnel.

“It’s an innovative and motivated team,” said Beal. “These professionals use the skills that make them good warfighters to design and implement a daily plan that ensures each command is ready to receive vaccine doses as soon as we get them. We are excited to be working with commanders who are leaning way forward to develop strategies and processes that will get doses safely to the fleet instead of having to bring the fleet to the vaccinations.”

As part of a pilot program developed by Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS San Antonio (LPD 17), recently received their first of two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine on Jan. 11 while pier side at Naval Station Norfolk. It was the

first time a large group of personnel was vaccinated against COVID outside of a hospital or MTF and aboard an East Coast Navy ship.

Until access to vaccines becomes more widely available and more Sailors are immunized, current COVID-19 mitigation measures such as facemasks, physical distancing, frequent hand washing, and staying home when feeling ill, still remain the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the disease. For now, even immunized Sailors must still follow all of the health protection measures implemented by the Navy.

Personnel are highly encouraged to take the vaccine to protect their health, their families, their community, and lower the public health risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine helps move the Navy one step closer to unencumbered operations at sea, in port, and on liberty.

“The myths are certainly out there, but the science indicates that the vaccines are safe and very effective,” said Beal. “I do this job because I love and respect my shipmates. Taking care of our Sailors and their families is the number one way to ensure combat effectiveness, and the team knows that the sooner we get the fleet vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to normal at sea and at home. We’re just getting started, but we’ll continue to strive for more speed and efficiency.”

The immunization of dependents and retirees is not under USFFC authority.

Resources regarding vaccine safety and efficacy include the military health system communications toolkit at <https://health.mil/about-mhs/mhs-toolkits/covid-19-vaccine-toolkit/> or the Centers for Disease Control information at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html/>.

CENTER FOR SURFACE COMBAT SYSTEMS SHOWCASES TRAINING AT SURFACE NAVY SYMPOSIUM

From Kimberly M. Lansdale, Center for Surface Combat Systems Public Affairs

The Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) “trains warfighters how to fight and win.”

That was the message Capt. Dave Stoner, CSCS commanding officer, delivered to active duty, government officials, industry partners, and military retirees during the week-long, virtual 33rd Surface Navy Association (SNA) National Symposium, Jan. 11 – 15.

CSCS oversees a global organization that consists of 14 learning sites / detachments located throughout the continental United States, Hawaii, Japan, and Spain. CSCS is the only training command that trains every individual surface Navy warfighters, more than 36,000 a year, in the maintenance, operations, and tactical employment of surface combat systems. The student body includes the

full spectrum of a surface navy career timeline, ranging from newly graduated boot camp Sailors to commanding officers / major commanders in route to their prospective ships.

“Bottom line - CSCS’s mission is to train the fleet,” Stoner said. “At this year’s SNA National Symposium, it was important we highlight our Ready, Relevant Learning [RRL] and Surface Training Advanced Virtual Environment [STAVE] initiatives.

“This includes our Littoral Combat Ship [LCS] Training Facilities [LTF] in San Diego and Mayport, Fla.; Combined Integrated Air and Missile Defense [IAMD] / Anti-Submarine Warfare [ASW] Trainer [CIAT] in San Diego and Norfolk, Va.; and Aegis Virtual Maintenance Trainer [VMT], which will be initially located

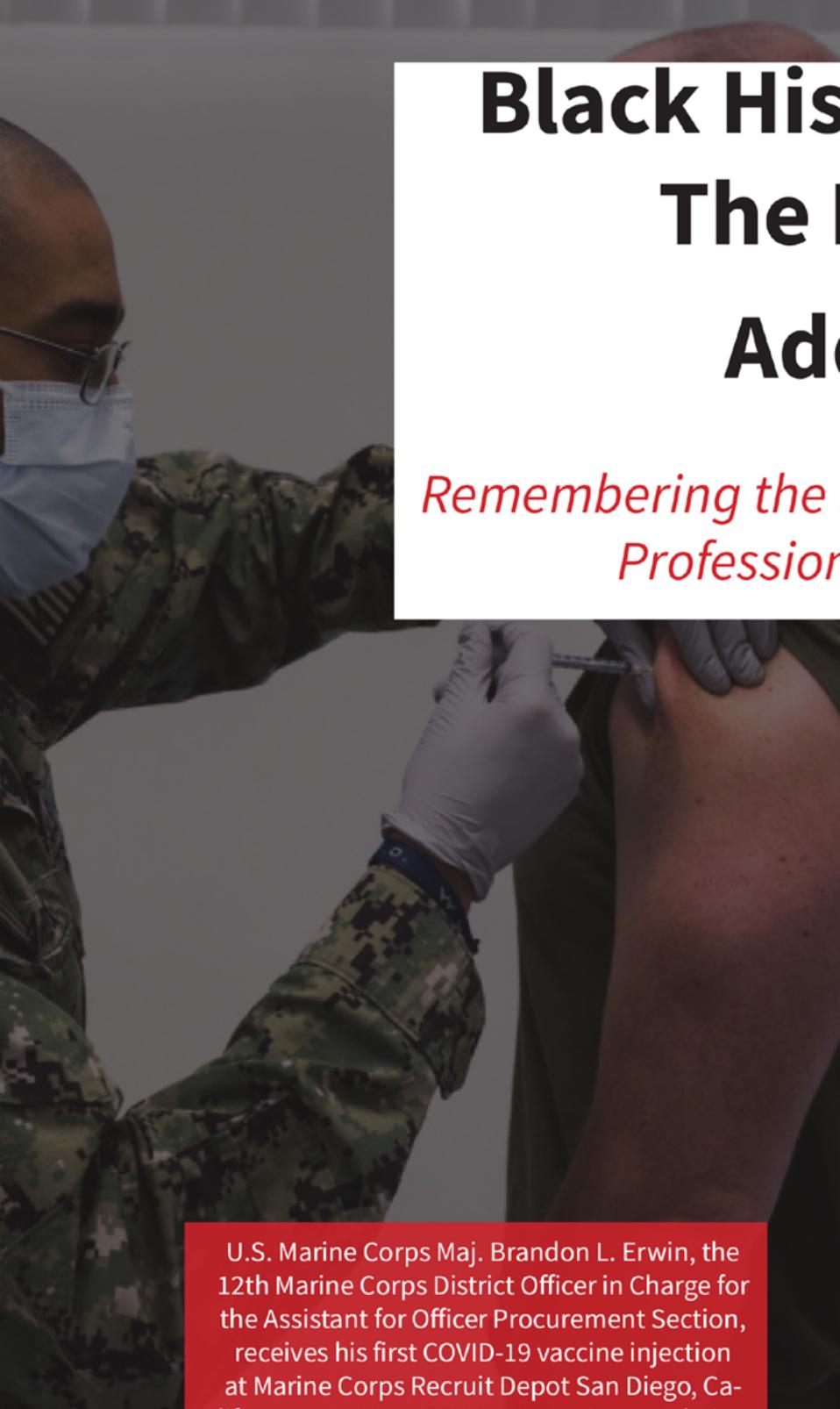
in Dahlgren, Va. but will quickly evolve to a distributed training system to support fleet concentration areas,” Stoner said. “These trainers provide an environment where we can realistically recreate the high-end tactical training needed to build lethality, warfighting, and tactical proficiency. It allows Sailors to master the weapons systems with which they will fight the ship.”

This symposium was CSCS’s seventh SNA engagement. Due to COVID-19, the National Symposium was virtual. Instead of having an exhibit where attendees could experience various training demonstrations in person, CSCS had to bring it directly to them, creating a simulated platform that people could interact with at home or in the office.

Stoner says CSCS did miss the in-person interaction with attendees but they were able to communicate their important role in training the warfighter.

“Today, we are involved in a critical power competition,” he said. “It is more important than ever that CSCS continues to provide better-trained, better-qualified Sailors to the fleet so our Navy can fight and win tonight.”

Surface Navy Association (SNA) was incorporated in 1985 to promote greater coordination and communication among those in the military, business, and academic communities who share a common interest in surface warfare while supporting the activities of surface forces.



Black History Month- The Medical Addition

Remembering the History of Black Medical Professionals in the Navy

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Brandon L. Erwin, the 12th Marine Corps District Officer in Charge for the Assistant for Officer Procurement Section, receives his first COVID-19 vaccine injection at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., Jan. 25, 2021. COVID-19 vaccines are being administered in a phased approach, prioritizing healthcare workers and first responders, as well as mission critical and deploying personnel.

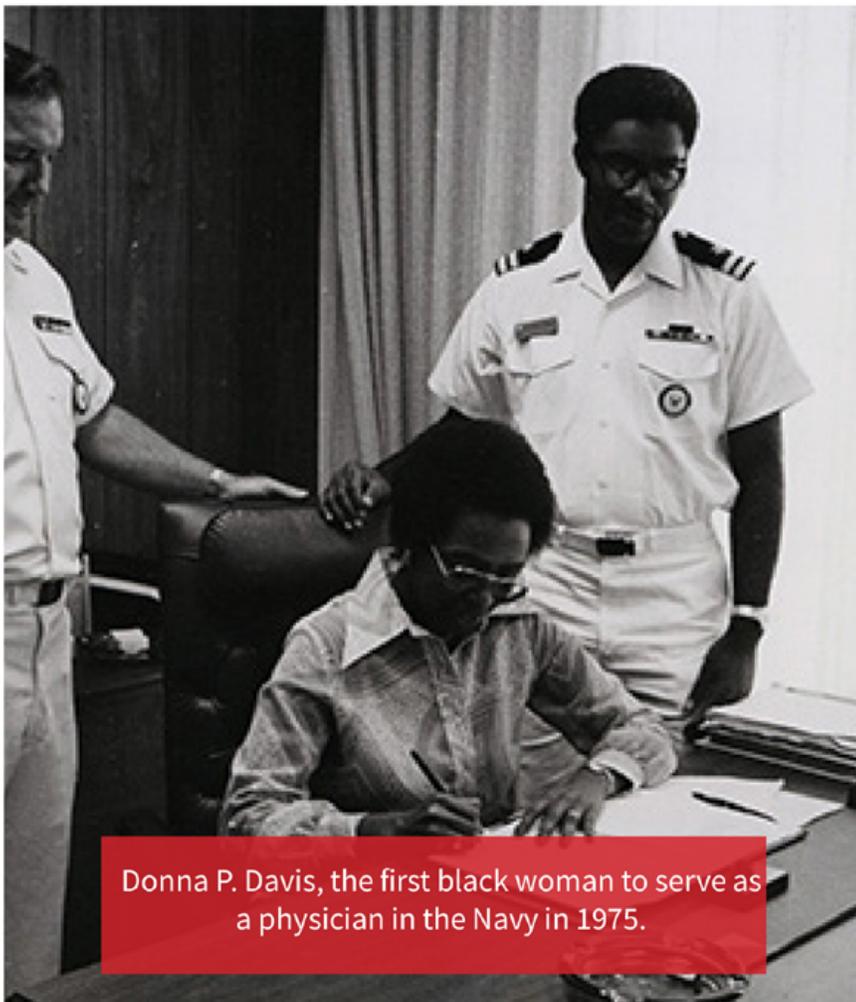
Celebrating Black History Month in 2021 would be remised if context of where black people came from to where we are now is not established. Therefore, this year, the focus of Black History Month should be placed on black military healthcare workers that paved the way for the medical professionals today. In light of the virus that is changed the way the world exists and operates, societies globally have now changed their trajectory and have begun to appreciate those that are on the front line in a different type of battle. The fight continues, despite our frustrations and anxiousness to move past it. With that said, our trajectory in how we view our society must be coupled with this lens at the forefront. Black people have had a unique and turbulent history on both sides of the medical field, so for Black History Month this year, the history of black medical professionals should be remembered and appreciated.



The first class of Black Navy Corpsman, Great Lakes 1943

This history begins with the first class of Black Navy Corpsman. They entered Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes July 26, 1943. There was one corpsman that stood out from the rest. That man was John Andrew Haskins Jr., who became the recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroic action during the explosion of the Naval Magazine.

Black Sailors have made headway on the officer side as well. Whether it be Dr. Thomas Watkins, Jr., who became the first black person to be commissioned in the Navy Dental Corps in 1944, or Dr. Donna P. Davis who became the first black woman to serve as a physician in the Navy in 1975, black people continued to make our presence known in the medical departments of the Navy.



Donna P. Davis, the first black woman to serve as a physician in the Navy in 1975.

Black Sailors did not always have access to these particular occupations. Whether it be from a history of denied education, or systems that blocked qualified candidates to enter the job field, there were limitations that were placed on Black people that prevented us from achieving access to the medical profession. While we take the time to appreciate the medical professionals today for their service in this turbulent time, we can simultaneously be grateful to the trailblazers that made it possible for everyone to have access to the medical field. The aforementioned Sailors dedicated their lives to help serve their fellow shipmates, while shattering their own glass ceilings. That, is the true embodiment of the honor, courage, and commitment it takes to be a Sailor.



Love in the *Navy*

By: Mass Communication Specialist Second Class Sonja M. Wickard and
Mass Communication Specialist Third Class Almagissel Schuring



What is love?

A question that could be considered both serious and cheesy. It's also a question that most people have, at one point or another, asked. The young-not-quite-an-adult-but-at-the-same-time-definitely-not-a-kid would probably ask themselves "What's love?" An adult, whenever that happens, might ask their romantic partner/lover or even a particularly close friend, "What are your thoughts on love/What do you think real love is?" A very young child may ask their parents or grandparents, or aunts or uncles or any family member really, "What is love?" and then possibly follow up with the classic "Why?"

For LT Jeffrey Spindle, a Navy Chaplain, love is something he has spent a lifetime getting to know better.

"What is love? I think of love as something that is done in relation with other(s), somebody besides myself. I'm going to act in the best interest of someone or something, always. Even when that is to my own pain or detriment."

Spindle is the group chaplain for Cryptologic Warfare Group Six at Fort George G. Meade, MD. He provides services for not only for the Sailors of Group Six, active and reserve but also for an Army unit and for Marines assigned to the base.

"I think when I was younger I didn't understand love from the perspective of giving of myself. I thought I was loving when I was taking or getting whatever I wanted. I didn't understand the concept of giving and love. I look at that in one way with my wife. My wife is a very good gift giver. We've been married, coming up on 16 years and it blows me away how much thought she puts into giving

gifts, not only for our daughters, but family members and friends. She really understands the concept of 'I'm going to show you love by giving to you.' So I think that's something that's really grown in me just from being around her. Because I used to think about love very differently. I used to think about love in terms of a way that somebody made me feel. Or something made me feel. I didn't think of it in terms of what I was willing to give."

So then, if there are many definitions of love and many different kinds, does the question "What is love?" become instead "What does love mean to you?" Like the original question there is no single absolute answer.

"What is love? I think of love as something that is done in relation with other(s), somebody besides myself. I'm going to act in the best interest of someone or something, always. Even when that is to my own pain or detriment."

Defining love is hard because it's meaning changes from person to person. To some, love is a bond between two people that are willing to make the promise to be together forever, or it can be the bond between a child and their parent, or maybe it's the love that you feel between you and your best friend. A researcher at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta claimed that love is a series of biochemical reactions in your brain created by specific hormones from each gender and that maybe someday they'll even be able to produce a drug that can enhance those bonds, but that can be a whole different topic. There is no right way to define what love is and in our Navy we make bonds all the time that can affect our lives.

"I love that the Navy is such a diverse family and like all families people come from very different backgrounds, have very different expectations, they relate to each other differently," Spindle said. "So like a family we talk, we sometimes butt heads, sometimes we drive each other a little crazy." He

"I love that the Navy is such a diverse family and like all families people come from very different backgrounds, have very different expectations, they relate to each other differently."

explains that as a Navy Chaplain he has to keep in mind that even though he won't always agree with what someone says or what they may stand for, they're both still in the same boat, or Navy so to speak. "Because we're family, Because we are in the fight together and regardless of what happens in a conversation today, we're going to be in the fight together tomorrow. So I have to take the long view with relationships in the Navy."

Is that all there is to it? To love? Has this article effectively and definitively defined what love truly is?

That answer is easy. No. What love is or isn't changes from person to person, from Sailor to Sailor. What the Navy offers to its Sailors is the incredible opportunity to meet a huge array of people who are vastly different to each other in terms of values, life experiences, and cultural backgrounds. Those experiences shape Sailors and their families in too many ways to count, in this article anyway, each coming away with a different perspective on what love is. So, what is love?



TUITION ASSISTANCE

TA PROGRAM UPDATE FISCAL YEAR 2022

Effective
October 1, 2021:

*Change to afford Sailors and Marines more control
and flexibility in their pursuit of higher education.*

1

Consistent
18 credit hour
limit per service
member, per year.

2

TA semester hour
cap of \$250 and a
\$4,500 annual limit.

3

TA will continue to be paid
up to DOD-established limits.
Tuition exceeding limits will
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of the service member.



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SOCIAL SECURITY
TAX DEPARTMENT

LARGER
PAYCHECKS
IN 2020
x 4 MONTHS

DEDUCTIONS	
Type	Amount
FEDERAL TAXES	169.44
FICA-SOC SECURITY	171.19
FICA-MEDICARE	70.04
SGLI	25.00
STATE TAXES	37.63
AFRH	.50
SGLI FAM/SPOUSE	4.50
TRADITIONAL TSP	82.84
ROTH TSP	82.84
MONTH-PAY	2394.44

PAYMENT INCOME

24
PAYMENTS
DURING
2021

CHECK
LES
NOTES
SECTION

SEPARATION AND
RETIRESMENT

1 DEDUCTION
FROM LAST
PAYCHECK
IF RETIRING
OR
SEPARATING



AH

