

### TOP NEWS

#### COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET VISITS SAN DIEGO FOR DISCUSSION ON EXTREMISM

ommander, U.S. Pacific Fleet ✓ Adm. John Aquilino and Fleet Master Chief James Honea met with crews aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), guided-missile cruiser Lake Champlain (CG 57), Helicopter Maritime Strike Weapons School Pacific (HSMWP), Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41 (HSM 41), Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) and San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship USS John P. Murtha (LPD 26) for candid discussions with Sailors, focused on eliminating extremist ideologies in the military. The stand downs were directed by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III in a Feb. 5 memo, mandating that commanding officers across the Department of Defense address the issue directly with their service members

"I have policies in the Pacific Fleet that we do not care what race you are, what creed you are, what god you pray to, what sexual orientation you are, or what gender you are," said Aquilino. "We are all Sailors, we are all shipmates, and we are here to serve our nation and defend the

Constitution. I owe you a safe place to work so that you can execute your mission and fulfill your oath."

The visit to Vinson comes in the wake of an incident aboard the ship, where hate speech graffiti was discovered in a bathroom. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) was called and initiated an immediate investigation. Aboard Vinson, Aquilino and Honea hosted several roundtable discussions with Sailors assigned to the ship and Carrier Air Wing TWO. During the sessions, they listened to Sailors share firsthand experiences of discrimination and, they took suggestions on what the Navy could do to address these issues.

During the meetings, Aquilino and Honea also communicated their own priorities for the Fleet. According to Honea, the first step to a bias-free Navy is fostering a culture of inclusion.

"It is a privilege to serve, and every man and woman deserves dignity and respect at all times," said Honea. "All too often, though, people show up in our ranks and feel like they do not belong. We need to make sure that we are bringing everybody along with us and that we do not leave anyone behind."

Commander, Naval Surface Forces Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener also visited USS Chafee (DDG 90), USS Stockdale (DDG 106), USS Cowpens (CG 63) and USS Tripoli (LHA 7) and also addressed the Sailors onboard.

"I need your help. I need you to reinforce that our Sailors have a safe place to work, "said Kitchener. "We will continue to do our mission because that's who we are. Our strength is our people—no matter who they are or where they come from." Before departing the ships, Aquilino addressed the crews over the shipboard announcing system, telling the Sailors that discrimination goes against the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. He stressed the Navy's zero-tolerance policy on discrimination and promised that this issue has his undivided attention.

"Extremism in our Navy is unacceptable," said Aquilino. "We will not tolerate it. We will stomp this out, and we need your help to do it." Vinson currently underway conducting routine maritime operations.

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Above: Fleet Master Chief, Jim Honea, Fleet Master Chief of U.S. Pacific Fleet, addresses Sailors assigned to Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) about the Navy's intolerance to extremist and/or supremacist idealogies.

Left: Adm. John Aquilino, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks with Sailors assigned to Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), about the Navy's intolerance to extremist and/or supremacist ideologies.



### ALL HANDS MAGAZINE MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

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SEA / SENIOR EDITOR **MCCM David Crawford** 

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF **Andrew Carlson** 

LCPO / MANAGING EDITOR **MCC Oliver Cole** 

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR MC1 Brittney Kinsey** 

PHOTO EDITOR MC2 Levingston Lewis

**DESIGNERS** MC2 Anita Chebahtah MC2 Janine F. Jones MC2 Levingston Lewis MC3 Marques Franklin MC3 Angeles A. Miron

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FRONT COVER: "I've definitely grown to know myself more with the Seabees in so far as what I'm capable of," said Lt. Lakeshia White with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133. White was participating in a field training exercise (FTX) at Camp Shelby, Miss. This photo has been altered for security purposes. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levingston Lewis /Released)

BACK COVER: Builder 2nd Class Darya Frenkel, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, stows away gear to begin a move into a group berthing during a field training exercise (FTX) at Camp Shelby, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levingston Lewis/Released)



### TOP NEWS

## U.S. NAVY, TURKISH NAVY CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISES IN BLACK SEA

From U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Donald Cook (DDG 75), USS Porter (DDG 78), and a U.S. Navy P-8A from Patrol Squadron (VP) 46 participated in joint air and surface exercises with Turkish frigates TCG Orucreis (F 245) and TCG Turgutreis (F 241), and two Turkish F-16 fighters alongside reconnaissance aircraft in the Black Sea, Feb 9, 2021.

The U.S. Navy ships and aircraft joined the Turkish maritime forces in an integrated surface, air, subsurface warfare exercise. These maneuvers enhanced the tactical proficiency of the ships and aircraft through precision command and control and communication.

"We welcome this opportunity for American Navy ships USS Donald Cook and USS Porter to conduct exercises with the Turkish armed forces in the Black Sea," said U.S. Ambassador to Turkey David Satterfield. "As NATO Allies, we share a commitment to peace and stability in Europe and the Middle East. Joint exercises build confidence, improve communications and reinforce our already strong security partnership in the Black Sea and the wider region."

The four surface ships met in the Black Sea early in the morning to prepare for a full day of interoperability, demonstrating the U.S. Navy's continued commitment to Turkey and NATO cooperation in the region.

"Turkey is a highly valued Ally and NATO maritime partner, whose joint operations with the U.S. Navy in the Black Sea reinforce the asymmetric advantage of the NATO Alliance," said Vice Adm. Gene Black, commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet and commander, Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO. "Our ability to collaborate and operate together is based on the solidarity and strength of NATO, which enables stability in the maritime domain."

First, two Turkish F-16 Fighting Falcons joined the U.S. and Turkish ships to perform an air defense exercise, where aircraft controllers onboard each ship strategically maneuvered the aircraft above. Next, the ships performed a series of tactical maneuvers, practicing precise communication and stationing skills. Finally, the group ended the day by deploying a simulated submarine and hunting for it. A U.S. P-8 Poseidon joined to practice cooperative Anti-Submarine warfare, in which surface ships utilize air assets to expand submarine searches.

"It was an honor and a pleasure to work with the Turkish Navy during today's exercises," said Cmdr. Matthew Curnen, commanding officer of Donald Cook. "Our Turkish counterparts are clearly well-trained professional mariners, and both sides gained valuable tactical experience in just a short time."

The exercise provided operational proficiency in anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare in order to enhance overall multi-lateral operations among NATO Allies.

Donald Cook and Porter entered the Black Sea Jan. 23 and 28, respectively. The two Forward Deployed Naval Forces - Europe (FDNF-E) have operated in the Black Sea with USNS Laramie, and NATO Air Command aircraft E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS).

The U.S. Navy routinely exercises high-end warfare with NATO Allies and partners. The Turkish Navy is a professional and proficient maritime force that the U.S. Navy routinely works with to ensure regional stability and peace. Multinational training enhances interoperability, allowing us to maintain the vigilance necessary to promote a secure and prosperous region.

The Black Sea is a critical waterway for maritime commerce and stability throughout Europe. The U.S. Navy routinely operates in the Black Sea to work with our NATO Allies and partners, including Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

The U.S. Navy routinely operates ships in the Black Sea consistent with the Montreux Convention and International Law.

Porter and Donald Cook are two of four U.S. Navy destroyers based in Rota, Spain, and assigned to Commander, Task Force 65 in support of NATO's Integrated Air Missile Defense architecture. These Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe ships have the flexibility to operate throughout the waters of Europe and Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope to the Arctic Circle, demonstrating their mastery of the maritime domain.

U.S. Sixth 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.

### USS OKLAHOMA SAILOR ACCOUNTED FOR FROM WORLD WAR II

From Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Public Affairs

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that Navy Boilermaker 1st Class William E. Blanchard, 24, killed during World War II, was accounted for on Jan. 4, 2021. On Dec. 7, 1941, Blanchard was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The attack on

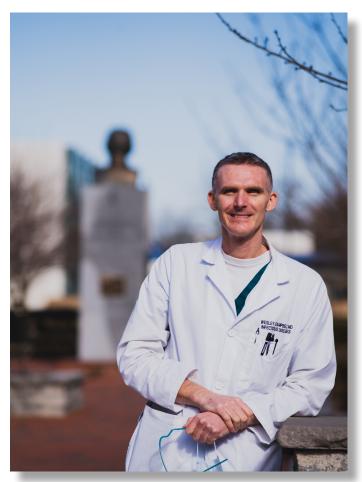
the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Blanchard. For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil, find us on social at www.facebook.com/ dodpaa or call (703) 699-1420/1193. personnel Blanchard's profile viewed dpaa.secure.force.com/



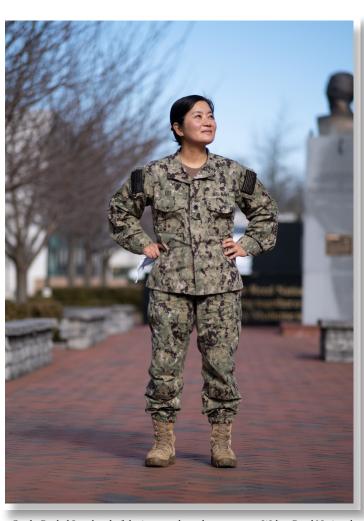


# FORWARD

BY: MC2 LEVINGSTON LEWIS



Cmdr. Wesley Campbell, head of the infectious disease department at Walter Reed National Medical Center (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levingston Lewis)



Cmdr. Rachel Lee, head of the immunology department at Walter Reed National Medical Center (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Levingston Lewis)



The Moderna vaccine is used for the first initial rounds of vaccinations on December 23 on Fort Riley, Kansas. Health-care professionals on Fort Riley will be the first to receive the vaccinations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Joshua Oh)

During the past year, world has seen a slew of protests across the globe, wildfires, volcanic eruptions, massive floods, severe economic issues, and the list certainly goes continues. However, one of these things wears the crown of disaster, and that is none other than COVID-19.

COVID has disrupted and changed a lot of lives, even down to the smallest detail of shaking hands and greeting people or standing 6ft away from everyone. Since the mention of a vaccine, people have become more and more skeptical because of the current national climate of cynicism. However, Dr. Lee Campbell, head of infectious diseases at Walter Reed National Medical Center said, "Don't be scared, I'm in charge of a study here at Walter Reed and the rigor that they're making us go through for safety and data collection, it can't be under emphasized... The safety is being followed long term. I think it's appropriate to be nervous but this is also the first time that the full leverage of science has moved synchronously and compartmentalized different project arms that economize their efforts."

A majority of people are skeptical about the vaccine, because they don't know how it actually works, or assume that it has the live virus like other vaccines, and they have become frightened of the very mention of COVID-19. Dr. Rachel Lee, head of immunology at Walter Reed National Medical Center said, "mRNA vaccines have been studied for decades actually, although these two are the first to be used commercially and have emergency use authorization. So what it does is it puts messenger RNA and that sends a message to the cells and is taken up by a special immune cell that expresses that protein. There's a spike protein which is what we think is one of the important parts of the coronavirus that causes disease, so this message actually tells that cell to make these spikes on its surface and our immune system, sees those and thinks 'that's the enemy' so we mount an immune response and therefore protects you from future exposure to the coronavirus."

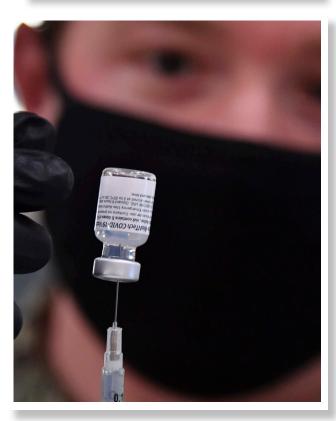
For the Navy in particular, COVID has affected ship movements, deployment times and our general abilities as a whole. In terms of readiness, Dr. Campbell says, "You don't want to be worried about this. It doesn't matter if its COVID, Flu, or Diarrhea, those are the things that could make your mission degraded pretty quickly and we still have a job to do all around the world 24/7 to protect our interests here back at home. So if you can take this off the plate of an active planning component and it's just a marker of readiness of a unit I think it's huge for a unit to get back to what it's doing."

If a large enough majority of people get the vaccine the population will effectively be safer. Families and shipmates will be safer and maybe, just maybe, life can go back to normal.



Red Cross volunteers and paramedics administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Team Kadena's first-line defenders, Jan. 4, 2021, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Rebeckah Medeiros)

"I THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE TO BE NERVOUS BUT THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME THAT THE FULL LEVERAGE OF SCIENCE HAS MOVED SYNCHRONOUSLY AND COMPARTMENTALIZED DIFFERENT PROJECT ARMS THAT ECONOMIZE THEIR EFFORTS."



Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Shane Miller, assigned to Fleet Surgical Team 9, prepares COVID-19 vaccine at the Naval Base San Diego fitness center as part of Operation Warp Speed (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Julio Rivera)





Sailors playing baseball on Mogmog Island, Ulithi, Micronesia, 1944. Photo courtesy of Gordon Calhoun

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Anita Y. Chebahtah, Defense Media Activity

The crack of the bat on the ball, the smell of dirt and possibly leather, drinking water from a hose, and random markers for bases may be some familiar baseball childhood memories. Imagine playing a baseball game where the ground isn't green and brown or red, instead it is black, white and blue. Instead of smelling dirt, you smell the ocean. There are no backstops, bleachers, or markers in the outfield, instead bases are random marks on the deck and if the ball goes off the deck of the ship, it's an automatic home run. The ball isn't a Rawlings baseball but a wad of rubber bands and paper. The bat is not a Louisville slugger but a piece of PVC pipe, a random piece of wood, or a broken broom handle. Sailors and Marines use baseball to help pass the time, keep themselves active, and relieve stress while out on deployment.

While the Navy is partly responsible for exporting the sport around the world, most people are not aware of the relationship.

"The Navy and baseball have a very close connection with each other," stated National Museum of the United States Navy Historian and Curator Gordon Calhoun. "Particularly in the first half of the 20th Century, and even going back to the late 19th century. Sailors love baseball.

I believe that the Navy helped baseball establish roots in other countries like Cuba, Panama, and Japan. The game itself may have been introduced by other people but the constant exposure of Sailors playing baseball helped the game to develop and helped those countries and people love the game as much as we do."

Although there is no definitive story for who or where baseball was invented, most will agree its birthplace is Cooperstown, New York. According to the Baseball Hall of Fame website, in 1907 the Spalding Commission concluded that "Abner Graves, a mining engineer, proclaimed that Abner Doubleday - a decorated Union Army officer who fired the first shot in defense of Fort Sumter at the start of the Civil War and later served at the Battle of Gettysburg invented baseball in 1839 in Cooperstown." Even after the myth of Doubleday was disproved, the HOF and museum in Cooperstown remains baseball's keeper and the home of baseball.

Baseball's true history comes from a combination of cricket, town ball, and rounders. According to the HOF, Alexander Joy Cartwright Jr., known as the "Father of Modern Baseball," and the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club published a set of rules in September 1845 that later became the basis for baseball as we know it today. A few of the rules established a diamond infield, 9 innings as a game, 9 players as a team, the use of an umpire, and nixed the practice of throwing the ball at a runner to tag them out.

According to the U. S. Naval Academy website, when David Dixon Porter became the superintendent in 1865, he implemented a number of athletic and social functions. Baseball was part of that athletic program, with baseball matches set up between classes in 1866 and team photos dating back to 1870.

"Organized leagues can be seen as far back as 1880s and 1890s and there were even very intense competitions between ships for baseball trophies," said Calhoun. He added that baseball also had a role in diplomacy as the game was an easy one to learn, could be played anywhere, and the equipment was easy to store.

The Naval History and Heritage Command website has baseball photos of Navy teams as early as the 1880s. According to the Puget Sound Navy Museum website, Navy ships played baseball against local teams when visiting Japan, and introduced the game to China, Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Nicaragua, and the Philippines.



1881 US Naval Academy Baseball Team. Photo courtesy of Gordon Calhoun

"Since baseball is such a uniquely American tradition, captains and diplomats would have the teams break out their bats and balls and play onshore," said Calhoun. "The Great White Fleet, in particular, played several games at many of the different ports they stopped at. It is what the diplomatic historians call a way of showing 'soft power.' It is a way of showing that the United States is a friendly country and these are the types of activities Americans enjoy. When they played in Australia, the Australians surprised the Sailors by playing with their national team against one of the battleship teams. We even have evidence that baseball was introduced to Japan in some ways by U.S. Navy Sailors, somewhat unintentionally," he continued. "Sailors were playing baseball in Yokohama, Japan, and some Japanese civilians saw them playing this curious game with a little ball and a guy swinging a bat at it or swinging a stick of wood. They started asking questions about it and then the Japanese game really picked up from there.

"The Library of Congress has some very spectacular panoramic photographs of these huge crowds; it looked like the entire Atlantic Fleet had showed up to watch the game between two crews of two cruisers play," continued Calhoun when talking about fleet baseball games in Cuba. "It wasn't major league baseball heroes who were participating before, they were Sailors playing a game and everybody wanted to watch it. They have their own leagues and trophies, it was what we would call

intramural today. It was for bragging rights."

Fleet tournaments were played in Hawaii for the Pacific and in Cuba for the Atlantic Fleets. Fleet championship tournaments and ship competitions soon became a measure of command excellence. The NHHC has a photo of a baseball challenge letter from the wardroom of armored cruiser USS Saratoga (CA 2) to the protected cruiser USS Cincinnati (C7) ward room while both were in port in Shanghai, China in 1913. The end of the charge reads, "For we want to add another to the feathers in our cap, We want to win the Pennant and to start a friendly scrap. We want a special section in the parlor-car of Fame, As the classiest exponents of our honored Nation'l Game!!! (with apologies to nobody)," signed by the commander and his team.

"Leadership saw baseball as a way of keeping Sailors physically fit, occupied, and entertained," said Calhoun. During WWI, baseball was officially integrated into Navy training. More than 440 major and minor league players, including 68 HOF members, fought during the war.

It was during the end of WWI at the 1918 World Series game between the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox where the tradition of playing the "Star Spangled Banner" during important baseball events and saluting the flag was encouraged. Calhoun shared a story that during that first game of the series, the Great Lakes Training Band played the National Anthem during the 7th inning stretch and Red Sox third baseman Fred Thomas, a Sailor who

had been allowed to play in the series, stopped and saluted the flag with the rest of the civilians joining him.

"The National Anthem had been played before at games but this was an interesting phenomenon that the newspapers picked up on," Calhoun explained. "Most Americans were familiar with the song and sang along, even though the song didn't become the National Anthem until 1931," he added.

According to Calhoun, because baseball was great for boosting morale and productivity with Sailors, an athletic field was part of the overall construction of what was then called Naval Operating Base Hampton Roads in Virginia. As a matter of fact, McClure field at Naval Station Norfolk, is the second-oldest brick baseball stadium in America.

"The stadium still stands today; Sailors still play intramural softball and baseball games at it," he explained. "Wrigley field of the Chicago Cubs is the oldest brick stadium in the country. McClure field is named after Rear Admiral Henry McClure, Navy Cross recipient from the Yangtze River Service and commanding officer of the base and a huge, huge fan of baseball. It's a real testament to some of the historic architecture you can find at many of the different bases you can find around the country."

During World Wars I and II, the Navy allowed Sailors to play professional baseball and serve on active duty. Not all branches were supportive of athletics during WWII, for example the Army curtailed organized sports, which led to most professional players joining the Navy.

"Tom Brokaw correctly called the men and women of that generation 'The Greatest Generation," said Calhoun. "For some of these baseball players to enlist in the military and to give up the prime of their career to serve their country is really proof of that statement. Two days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bob Feller enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He called up the Cleveland Indians management and said, 'Don't expect me for spring training. I just enlisted.' They were shocked. He told me later when I got to speak with him many, many years ago that it was the right thing to do. 'Baseball could wait, there was a war going on," Calhoun shared.



Story continued on ah.mil

### Saluting their Service: The Women of USS Ralph Johnson



On March 7, 1994, the first women to serve aboard U.S. combatant warships received their assignments to their prospective commands. These pioneers paved the way for all the women who have followed in their footsteps, stepping across the brows of ships around the world to join their crews. Today, we no longer live in an era of seeking to be the first, hoping to show the world that women can be a

part of the world's greatest Navy. Rather, their service and leadership is expected alongside their brothers in arms.

Aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114), this expectation of leadership and service from both men and women could not be more clear.

On Nov. 10, 2020, while on its maiden deployment, Ralph Johnson conducted an underway replenishment (UNREP) to receive fuel and supplies. Nearly every controlling watch station on the ship was filled by a woman. The first of these important roles was the ship's officer of the deck (OOD) stood by Ensign Melissa Bedenk, from Chicago. While out to sea, the OOD serves as the representative of the captain on the bridge – a position critical to ensuring the safety of the ship, its mission and most importantly, the crew. Outside of her watch position as OOD, Bedenk serves as a division officer, leading a division of three chief petty officers and 13 Sailors.

Another critical role during an UNREP is the "Oil King," stood on November 10 by Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class DeMire Wilson, from Rialto, Calif. The "Oil King" aligns the fuel oil system, and

ensures the ship receives quality fuel.

Command Master Chief Shelly Zakimi serves as part of the command triad: commanding officer, executive officer, and command master chief.

"I joined the Navy almost 22 years ago, only a few years after women were allowed to start serving on combatant ships," said Zakimi. "There are women serving

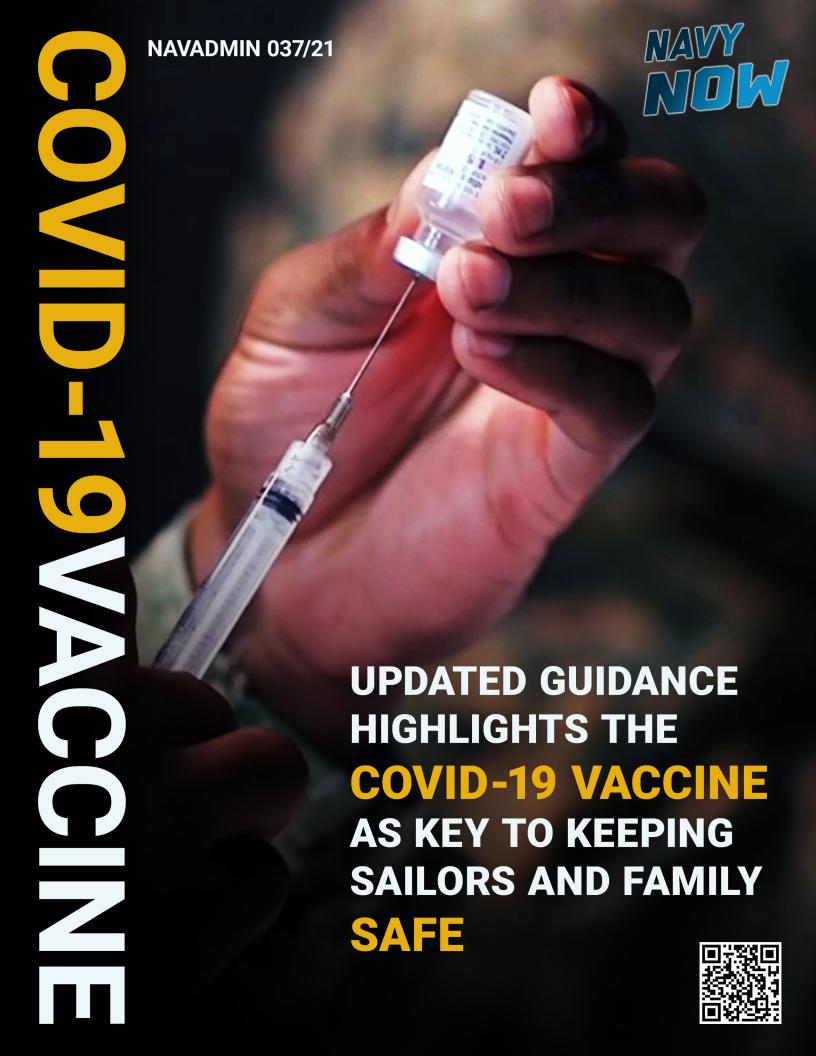
> all over the world in all positions across the Navy and being encouraged and supported to have families and continue their naval service. This world is our world, this Navy is our Navy, not his or hers, but ours."

Zakimi's leadership aboard Ralph Johnson is not reserved for watch, but expected all day, every day, as she cares for her Sailors, ensuring their daily training, readiness, and well-being are maintained. Zakimi embodies the qualities of Naval leaders - demonstrating honor, courage and

commitment.

"Master Chief Zakimi has been the kind of leader, mentor and example that any parent would want their sons and daughters to serve with," said Cmdr. Robert Biggs, Ralph Johnson's commanding officer. "There is a reason she has made it this far in the Navy: her leadership qualities exceed that of anyone I have ever met in any paygrade. I learn something from her every day about the kind of leader that I want to be."

We thank those first women who served aboard ships, and many other women who were the firsts in the Navy. It's their courage and service that allow women today to enjoy the freedom to not seek to be the first.





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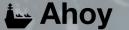
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Navy policy prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin or advocating the use of force or violence against any federal, state, or local government or agency thereof, in violation of federal, state, or local laws.

DoD policy prohibits military personnel from actively participating in criminal gangs and other organizations that advocate supremacist, extremist, or criminal gang doctrine, ideology, or causes; or otherwise engage in efforts to deprive individuals of their civil rights.

Sailors are always allowed to exercise their rights to freedom of speech and assembly as long as they follow the law and policy restrictions.

The Navy will continue to investigate reports of misconduct by servicemembers and work closely with local and federal law enforcement when appropriate.





Search Aboutface

Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle

**Friends** 

Groups
First Black Female
Fighter Pilot

Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle posted a photo Shoutout to Lt. Cmdr. Tammie Jo Shults for helping pave the way for female fighter pilots!



**1**85



Lt. Cmdr. Brenda E. Robinson
She was such an inspiration!



Midshipman First Class Sydney Barber
I'm proud to be following in
the footsteps of these
trailblazing women!





@Itbrittachristianson with her Submarine Supply Co "dolphins"



