A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR AND STAFF

Every month, we focus on the Navy’s mission-focused people and technologies. As we survey how our naval forces continue to train, fight and equip the world’s toughest Sailors, we look at our advantage at sea and the capabilities of Sailors deployed around the world.

It is our mission to reach Sailors, so please share this issue, scan the QR codes, and follow our social media channels for the latest information for Sailors by Sailors.
Divers and boat operators from the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Army collaborated with divers from the Republic of Korea Navy and the Australian Deployable Geospatial Survey Team to practice evaluating and clearing underwater hazards following a simulated hurricane as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2022.

The exercise stands as the first time the U.S. Coast Guard has collaborated with international partners, as well as the first RIMPAC Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise led by the U.S. Coast Guard.

"Building relationships improves interchangeability, which is everything when it comes to disaster relief and clearing underwater hazards. This week shows why," said Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Brian Korte, the Pacific Area Dive Force Manager. "We used an Australian sonar system deployed on a U.S. Coast Guard boat to scan the harbor, and then removed the underwater hazards they found with a team of U.S. and Republic of Korea divers. If a natural disaster were to strike anywhere in the Pacific region, there’s a real chance the teams here today would be working side by side to save lives and enable relief."

The exercise tested several capabilities in removing underwater hazards, a critical step in disaster response because the majority of relief supplies, especially to that of island nations, are brought via ship.

A survey team from the Royal Australian Navy deployed aboard a boat from U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Unit Honolulu to conduct an underwater survey for subsurface hazards.

Aerographers from the U.S. Navy Fleet Survey Team also deployed an autonomous unmanned underwater vehicle, the IVER 3-580, in its first application as a disaster response platform.

Divers from the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Dive Locker, the U.S. Army 7th Engineer Dive Unit and Republic of Korea Navy conducted a salvage dive to remove the hazard.

A decontamination team from the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team, an environmental hazard response unit, showed participants how they would decontaminate divers exposed to unknown hazardous materials during a dive.

This was also the first time that an Australian survey team has deployed their equipment on a U.S. Coast Guard unit. They are part of the Maritime Geospatial Warfare Unit – a unit that supported recovery operations following the 2021 eruption of Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha’apai on the Tongan archipelago as well as the flooding in Brisbane, Australia, earlier this year. Their survey capabilities extend from below the surface of the water to near space.

Twenty-six nations, 38 ships, four submarines, more than 170 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 29-Aug. 4 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world’s largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity while fostering and sustaining cooperative relationships among participants critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world’s oceans. RIMPAC 2022 is the 28th exercise in the series that began in 1971.
The U.S. Navy rescued a stranded mariner July 5 after his sailboat became disabled during a trans-Pacific voyage.

The mariner, a 75-year-old American citizen, had been adrift without sail or power for 12 days when he was rescued by personnel aboard USS Frank E. Peterson, Jr. (DDG 121), 300 miles south of Oahu, and transported aboard the ship to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 6.

“This search and rescue operation speaks to the capability of the U.S. Navy to respond quickly, aggressively, and safely across a lot of ocean to save a life and have positive mission impact,” said Cmdr. Daniel A. Hancock, the on-scene commander of the rescue effort and commanding officer of Frank E. Peterson. “I am proud of the crew’s professionalism in response to short-notice, real-world tasking.

The ship worked in coordination with the Joint Rescue Coordination Center and the U.S. Coast Guard’s 14th District, who provided the information needed to locate and contact the sailboat and were waiting at the pier to escort him for customs and caretaking.

“The combined effort and coordination displayed by everyone involved resulted in an efficient and successful rescue,” said Lt. Charles Lesperance, an operations unit controller for Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu. “These partnerships in the Pacific are essential in creating a force multiplier to cover such a large area of operation.”

Additionally, the 14th District provided aerial support with a HC-130J long-range search and rescue aircraft to verify the location of the sailboat in advance of the ship’s arrival, verify the condition of the vessel and see the mariner aboard.

Once aboard the ship, Frank E. Peterson personnel provided the mariner medical attention, as well as food, water and the opportunity for rest after his ordeal. He had been underway for 54 days.

“The safe rescue of this mariner reflects their character and tenacity, and emulates the daring, toughness, and mission success of our namesake, Lt. General Frank E. Petersen, Jr.,” said Hancock. “This is a capable warship but her real strength is without a doubt her determined crew.”

The mariner had lived aboard the sailboat for the past three years and had been sailing from New Zealand.

Frank E. Petersen Jr. commissioned on May 14 in Charleston, South Carolina, and is the Navy’s newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer.
NO CHANGES TO WOMEN’S ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE

From MyNavyHR

The recent Supreme Court opinion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization does not prohibit the Defense Department from continuing to provide essential women’s health care services to service members, dependents, other beneficiaries and DOD civilian employees, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness said in a memo released, June 28.

Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr. noted that under existing federal law DOD may only perform or pay for abortions if the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest — called “covered abortions.”

The recent Supreme Court decision does not prohibit DOD from continuing to perform these covered abortions, consistent with federal law, he wrote.

“There will be no interruption to this care,” Cisneros said.

“Health care providers will continue to follow existing departmental policy,” he continued, adding that military medical treatment facilities will implement measures to ensure continued access to care.

Cisneros said it is the Justice Department’s longstanding position that the states generally may not impose criminal or civil liability on federal employees who are performing their official duties in a manner authorized by federal law.

DOD will work with the Justice Department to ensure access to counsel for civilian employees and service members if needed and as appropriate, he wrote.

The Supreme Court’s decision also does not affect DOD’s leave policies, Cisneros said.

“Existing department policy authorizes active-duty service members to travel as necessary to receive abortion care,” he said. The travel may be government-funded, official travel for a covered abortion, or for other cases, it may be undertaken as regular leave at the service member’s expense.

“Access to emergency or convalescent leave remains unchanged for all service members,” Cisneros noted.

DOD civilian employees may continue to use sick leave or other forms of leave as necessary to care for themselves or their family members, he said. Sick leave may also be used to cover travel that may be needed to obtain any type of medical treatment.

Read the full story in Sailor to Sailor.

NAVY MANDATES CWP BLACK RANK TAB WEAR

From MyNavyHR

The Navy will mandate the wear of the Cold Weather Parka (CWP) rank insignia on all uniforms with rank tabs effective Oct. 1, as announced in the uniform update NAVADMIN 124/22, released May 27. Also updated were policies for required uniform items for women and grooming standards for retirees while wearing Navy uniforms.

“Navy uniform regulations apply to all Sailors equally, regardless of their rank, grade, ethnicity, position held or community assigned,” said Robert B. Carroll, director of Navy Uniform Matters and Emerging Issues Branch. “Any difference between male and female grooming policies recognizes the differences between the genders.”

Starting Oct. 1, wear of the black CWP rank insignia is mandatory for E-4 to O-10 Sailors on all uniform items with rank tabs, to include NWU Types II and III, parkas, and black or brown fleece liners. After that date, wear of the matching camouflage-pattern rank tab is limited to tactical training and operations at the commanding officer’s direction.

The belted slacks from the women officer and chief petty officer Summer White Service Uniform are now redesignated as official slacks for both Summer White and Service Dress White Uniforms. As part of this change, the beltless dress white slacks are now optional for wear with the women's Service Dress White Uniform.

It’s now optional for women in the Navy to wear hosiery with slacks and skirts while wearing pumps or flats. When hosiery is not worn, shoe liners or no-show socks must be worn for hygienic purposes and as a protection against abrasions or blisters caused by rubbing between the foot and shoe.

Retired male Sailors are now authorized to have beards while wearing Navy uniforms during authorized ceremonial events. The beard must be properly groomed and can be no longer than two inches in length as measured from the face outward.

The Navy Uniform Matters Office welcomes feedback and recommendations from Sailors about uniform and grooming policies via the MyNavy UNIFORMS App or MyNavy Portal. Once signed into MNP, select Professional Resources, then select U.S. Navy Uniforms and “Ask the Chiefs.”

Read the full story in Sailor to Sailor.

PHASED ROLLOUT OF GTCC FOR PCS AND MYPCS TRAVEL VOUCHER

From MyNavyHR

Starting July 1, officers in grades O-4 and above, and all chief petty officers E-7 to E-9 are required to use the Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) to pay for most PCS-related expenses, announced in NAVADMIN 129/22, June 2.

The NAVADMIN message detailed a phased rollout for the mandatory use of the GTCC alongside mandatory use fleetwide of the MyPCS Travel Voucher for most active-duty and Reserve Sailors when filing PCS travel claims. Both changes apply to Sailors who begin PCS travel starting on or after July 1.

Since January 1, the GTCC has been mandatory for all E-6 and above. The third phase, slated to occur January 1, 2023, will expand the GTCC requirement to all Sailors eligible to use the GTCC, per Department of the Navy policy. Although mandatory use is being phased in, all Sailors currently authorized to use the GTCC for their PCS are encouraged to do so.

While all Sailors regardless of paygrade will be required to use the MyPCS Travel Voucher after July 1, it is currently not required for Sailors reporting to aircraft carriers, submarine tenders and flag ships. The requirement is expected to extend to them later this year.

There are many advantages for Sailors using both the GTCC and MyPCS Travel Voucher. Unlike a personal credit card, GTCC users do not pay interest charges.

Additionally, Sailors are not required to make payments on GTCC charges for up to 60 days after checking in to their ultimate duty station. This is possible because when they detach from their previous command, a Sailor’s GTCC is placed in a Mission Critical/PCS (MC/PCS) status. This means that no payments will be due on the GTCC until 60 days after reporting to their ultimate duty station. Even if a Sailor has a long training track, they do not have to worry about making payments on the GTCC while they are on travel.

The only thing they have to do to ensure MC/PCS status stays effective for them during those long tracks (or if they experience a delay in their travel) is call the MyNavy Career Center no later than 90 days after their detachment date to extend their MC/PCS status for 120-day increments.

If a Sailor wants advance DLA, they can still request it; however, they must remember to not use the GTCC for dislocation expenses as they would already have that entitlement disbursed.

All other PCS travel advances, such as advanced per diem and advanced mileage, are no longer permitted unless a Sailor is ineligible for a GTCC or is traveling separately from family members. Sailors may still request advanced basic pay as that is not a PCS travel advance.

Read the full story in Sailor to Sailor.
The Center for Security Forces (CENSECFOR) instructors deep dive into the requirements, expectations, and experiences held at the Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) school.

VBSS consists of volunteer Sailors of any Navy rate who participate in maritime boarding actions and tactics. Teams specialize in capturing enemy vessels, anti-terrorism, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, conducting customs, safety, and other shipboard inspections.

"VBSS is used to combat trafficking, drug traffic, piracy, and smuggling and recently to combat the Somali pirates," said Chief Torpedoman's Mate Paul Logan, instructor CENSECFOR. "The school house mission is to ensure the Sailors and the fleet can enforce the security tactics used not only to protect our assets but also our Sailors."

Becoming a part of the VBSS team requires the completion of two different security reaction force schools, the ability to climb a 30-foot steel cable ladder, and a class two swimmer qualification.

"Most students come in without understanding how challenging some of the aspects of operating in water can be," said Logan. "On week two we have a pool day which involves learning to swim with drags and carries to save other personnel on your team. They also have to climb that steel cable ladder, but from a moving rigid inflatable boat in the water. I think people underestimate how challenging that can be."

Most students have little to no experience being a part of a boarding team when they first show up at the CENSECFOR school house.

"CENSECFOR fulfills the mission for VBSS by taking these students that generally have no real experience in being a part of a boarding team," said Master-At-Arms 1st Class David Werlinger, course supervisor for the VBSS, non-compliant and boarding officer courses. "We give them the tools, tricks, and all the information to be able to go out there, join a team at sea and be able to conduct those missions properly and safely."

VBSS school is three weeks long. It's structured in a crawl, walk and run course starting in the classroom, providing education information on the VBSS mission set, successfully climbing the steel cable ladder, marksmanship fundamentals, and understanding what's needed to conduct the mission set before entering a qualifying live-fire exercise ensuring students have obtained the lessons taught throughout the first week.

"[The curriculum] starts with introductions, then we go into the basics of the VBSS mission set, then we go outside and prove you can climb the 30-foot steel cable ladder and our attrition rate for that is about five percent," said Logan. "Then week two is mostly tactics."

During the second week of VBSS school, students learn the basics of entering rooms, clearing hallways, and carrying out how to conduct an entire mission profile of a vessel. Instructors go over defense tactics with the students throughout the week. These consist of a lot of hand-to-hand combat, weapon retention, and personnel control.

"Week three we put it all together and we evaluate the students based on what they've learned for the first two weeks," said Logan. "One day will be scenarios that are compliant, the next day will be scenarios that are less than compliant, and then that final day is all graded out scenarios."

After students graduate from the course and are released to their respective VBSS teams with the understanding of their mission set, the instructors hope the students will quickly adapt to their new team to accomplish their jobs safely and efficiently.

"What I want them to take from the course is the stress and uncomfortable feelings they felt while in this class," said Logan. "We should be raising our bar in the fleet to a level of excellence. Once we get back to that level of excellence, maybe future endeavors in regards to interactions with other countries that aren't necessarily peaceful have a better chance of success."
The collier, USS Jupiter, is launched. The vessel is the first electrically-propelled Navy ship. She is renamed USS Langley in April 1920 with the designation of aircraft carrier CV-1 and a few months later becomes the Navy's first aircraft carrier in March 1922 following conversion.

To read more about what happened during the month of August in naval history, click here.

Adm. George W. Anderson, Jr., takes office as the 16th Chief of Naval Operations, serving until Aug. 1, 1963. During Adm. Anderson's tenure as CNO, he oversaw the U.S. Navy's quarantine of Cuba, thus enabling the Kennedy administration to compel the Soviet Union to remove its nuclear weapons from the island.

Operation Desert Shield is ordered by President George H.W. Bush. Desert Shield is the largest overseas deployment since Vietnam, to protect Saudi Arabia after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The first test of the Automatic Carrier Landing System is completed by Lt. Cmdr. Don Walker when he lands a F3D Skyknight on board USS Antietam (CV 36).

USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) is christened and launched in San Diego as a Mercy-class hospital ship following conversion from a San Clemente-class supertanker. She is the third Navy ship named Comfort.

Gemini V is launched. Astronauts are Gordon Cooper, Jr., USAF, (Command Pilot) and Lt. Cmdr. Charles Conrad Jr., USN, (Pilot). They complete 120 orbits in almost eight days at an altitude of 349.8 km. Recovery is by helicopter from USS Lake Champlain (CVS 39).
The U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), with the help of Defense Media Activity, is launching a three-part series highlighting the importance of quantum research for the 21st century U.S. Navy.

"Quantum Navy" will introduce viewers to the history of quantum, highlights NRL's key role in the nation's quantum initiative, and previews the future of quantum and what it means for the Navy.

Quantum information science offers vast technological improvements in computing, sensing, and communication, areas of high interest for the Navy. The series features NRL leadership describing researchers' quest for dividends in these areas. Possibilities include solving computer problems in minutes that otherwise could take a lifetime, saving the lives of Sailors with more precise locations, or more secure, virtually unhackable communications for our naval forces.

"Quantum networks will be essential to modern secure communications and to computing, sensor and precision time enhancements in the 21st Century" said Gerald Borsuk, Ph.D., NRL associate director of research for the systems directorate. "NRL, along with our DC-QNet partners, will work to advance quantum network capabilities and leadership."

In 2020, NRL was designated as the U.S. Navy's Quantum Information Research Center. This designation allows NRL to engage with public and private sector organizations to enhance and accelerate research, development, and deployment of quantum information sciences and QIS-enabled technologies and systems.

"Quantum Navy" premieres Wednesday (August 3) on NRL's YouTube channel, with new episodes airing every Wednesday.

NRL is a scientific and engineering command dedicated to research that drives innovative advances for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps from the seafloor to space and in the information domain. NRL is located in Washington, D.C. with major field sites in Stennis Space Center, Mississippi; Key West, Florida; Monterey, California, and employs approximately 3,000 civilian scientists, engineers and support personnel.
Each year roughly 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling. During 2011-2015, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated average of 358,500 home structure fires per year. Which represents 75% of all structure fires. Here are some things to keep in mind to keep your home safe this summer.

- Inspect your gas bottles and any hoses for damage or leaks prior to grilling.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid to a fire. Only add it to unlit briquettes.
- Always grill outdoors away from structures, fences, and overhanging trees.
- Clean your grill periodically to keep it free of flammable grease and grime.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids in place of starter fluid.

Source: https://www.navalsafetycommand.navy.mil
The Naval Service—forward deployed and capable of both rapid response and sustained operations globally—remains America’s most persistent and versatile instrument of military influence.
When we think about our military, or members of homeland security, and the sacrifices they make to protect and defend the country we often imagine chaotic environments littered with gunfire, missiles, and the reverberation of the saying, “keep your head on a swivel.” What would we think if we knew our service members were continuing the fight in the way of battling infectious diseases?

The C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program (BYMDC) was created to support the recruiting and tracking of potential bone marrow and stem cell donors within the Department of Defense (DoD), DoD civil service employees, reservists, National Guardsmen, the U.S. Coast Guard, and their eligible family members.

In 1991, Adm. Elmo Zumwalt Jr. created The Marrow Foundation to secure support from private sources for the work of the National Marrow Donor Program. The foundation’s goals are to help increase the size and diversity of the national registry of donors; to assist people undergoing a transplantation financially as they search for a marrow match; and to support research to improve the understanding and outcome of unrelated marrow transplantation, according to govinfo.gov.

Roughly 30,000 people every year are diagnosed with fatal blood diseases. Though some people can have successful treatments with conventional medical practices, nearly 70% of people become candidates for a bone marrow transplant.

“Stem cells have the potential of actually molding themselves into more specific or specialized types of cells,” said Dr. Max Grogl, head of the BYMDC. “In the bone marrow, these naïve cells that differentiate into specialized cells, in the blood, fight infectious diseases.”

The BYMDC’s biggest challenges are the current size and diversity of the national registry. With more potential donors registering, there would be a reduced amount of time needed to find matching donors for the recipients. With the wide diversity of members throughout the DoD, reservists, National Guard, Coast Guard, and their family members the BYMDC can continue to increase the diversity of the national registry.

“The science shows that these members give us the best cells,” said Dr. Jennifer Ng, professor at George Town University and director of the BYMDC. “These cells increase the chances of survival and engraftment.”

One of the goals of the BYMDC is to provide excellent services to members selected as potential donors and those who become actual donors by ensuring safety and comfort throughout the donation process as well as the confidentiality of members.

“The DoD member’s commanding officer has to give permission to allow the DoD member to donate so as to not take away from their primary warfighting mission,” said Ng. “The transplant is anonymous with the patient only knowing that the donor was DoD personnel.”

To be added to the registry, a test will be done where the individual will have four cheek swabs taken and then a nine-digit code is added to the National Marrow Donor Program National Registry (NMDR) where it will remain until the donor reaches age 61 or removes themselves.

“We encrypt the sample with our code,” said Ng. “We submit the barcode plus the human leukocyte antigens (HLA), which is the gene that does the transplant, to the NMDR so a preliminary match may be determined.”

Once a match is determined utilizing the donor’s HLA type, additional blood tests are requested, and the donor makes an informed decision on whether to donate.

Since the establishment of the C.W. Bill Young (DoD) Marrow Donor Program in 1991, there have been ten thousand donations and over one million potential donors added to the national registry.

To become a marrow donor, you can visit one of the walk-in registration sites available on bases and installations around the world, check for pop-up recruitment drives near you, or request a kit to be mailed to you.
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