1. The Bureau believes that the expenditures for the last fiscal year were excessive because of the errors in the use of tags and launches. With the Bureau's limited appropriations, the use of tags and launches is not authorized as much as possible for ships. The Bureau hopes for a return to what necessity actually requires.

2. Notification on Naval transports is given to their immediate dependents, if any, at the time of notification. If a notice is not given, such notice should not be made. It is the responsibility of those traveling under orders and on shore duty to notify their dependents.

3. Ships' logs are in many cases long overdue. Regulations require that the ship's log be forwarded at the end of each calendar month to the Bureau by registered mail. The apparent loss of many logs indicates that this provision is not being carried out, particularly in the destroyer squadrons. Logs are frequently sent in incomplete. When vessels are decommissioned, the logs are not always chosen and forwarded to the Bureau. It is requested that all concerned cooperate to correct the above unsatisfactory practices.

4. Retired Officers. In carrying out the Department's instructions that wherever possible, all retired officers be relieved from active duty, the Bureau issued "standby" notices to all those officers concerned. The Bureau trusts that the advance notice thus given will be appreciated and not be the cause of renewed effort to remain on active duty.

5. Employment of Retired Officers by other Departments of the Government. The Department has recommended the repeal of the following laws:

(a) Act of June 10, 1896, which reads: "That hereafter no payment shall be made by Congress to any officer in the Navy or Marine Corps on the active or retired list while such officer is employed, after June 30, 1897, by any person or company furnishing naval supplies or war material to the Government; and such employment is hereby made unlawful after said date."
Plan of the Day

The plan of the day contains scheduled events and activities for sailors. It is to be updated daily and shared with all personnel.

0005
0012
0020
0022
0026
0034

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
Development in Film
The 100 Year Journey
America's Game
A Fleet of Ink

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
Development in Film
The 100 Year Journey
America's Game
A Fleet of Ink

A note from the editor and staff:

Every day, we focus on the Navy's mission-oriented people and activities. An event may occur at any time, so we may adjust our plans as necessary. It is important to stay informed and prepared for any changes that may arise.

Any changes or updates will be shared in the Next Day's Plan. Please check for any updates and plan accordingly.
All Hands magazine is celebrating its 100th anniversary this month. All Hands has had a long and rich history of informing Sailors. Although the magazine is now well known as the premier U.S. Navy magazine, it started as a simple news publication by the Bureau of Navigation. The first issue was printed as the Bureau of Navigation News Bulletin issue (No. 1) on Aug. 30, 1922. The primary purpose of this bulletin was to inform Sailors of new Navy instructions and policies.

For roughly the next seven years, the bulletin had a simple, albeit succinct, official Naval message. The biggest change in that time came in the October 1928 issue (No. 89), when the name changed to the Bureau of Navigation Bulletin. In the January 1929 issue (No. 95), the Bureau of Navigation placed a simple cover on the front that would become standard with only slight modifications for most of the next 13 years.

The 1940s was a decade filled with historic changes to the status quo of the Bureau of Navigation Bulletin. The April 1941 issue (No. 291) was the first time the phrase “Information for Naval Personnel” was printed on the cover of the bulletin, reinforcing the notion that the bulletin was for all Sailors. Later that year, the November 1941 issue (No. 297) was the first time an actual illustration appeared on the cover. The May 1942 issue (No. 302) of the Bureau of Navigation Bulletin featured its first photo in the history of the publication. In the photo, President Franklin D. Roosevelt personally presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Lt. Edward H. O’Hare for shooting down five Japanese bombers and disabling a sixth in a naval engagement off of the Gilbert Islands in February of that year.

May 15, 1942, the Bureau of Navigation officially changed its name to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, which therein changed the name of the publication to the Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin, with the June 1942 issue (No. 303) being the first one printed under the new name. The October 1942 issue (No. 307) introduced an enormous change to the publication’s format, transitioning from 20 years of a simple document with information to an actual full magazine. It featured photos from the fleet, illustrations, a more diverse set of articles, and a featured photo on the front cover like a standard magazine. The following issue introduced a new font for the title with color, further progressing the bulletin toward a more standard magazine-style. The September 1943 issue (No. 318) featured a note on the front cover saying, “This magazine is for ALL HANDS, see new pro rata distribution on pg. 79.” That page went into a further explanation.
Beginning with the **October 1943 issue**, it will be possible to provide enough copies of the publication to allow distribution based on one copy for every 10 officers and enlisted personnel. It is directed that appropriate steps be taken to ensure that all hands have quick and convenient access to each issue of the subject publication.

The increase in production now broadened the scope of how many Sailors could access the magazine. The cover of the June 1945 issue (No. 339) proclaimed, “Victory in Europe” and the new banner read, “All Hands” at the top, with “The Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin” in small text underneath the banner. The magazine’s banner gained popularity and is where the magazine of today gets its name. These many changes marked a turning point for the publication and laid the groundwork for the All Hands magazine today.

In the August 1950 issue (No. 402), All Hands returned to a black-and-white format until the July 1962 issue (No. 546), where the cover page featured a massive American flag waving over the silhouette of a ship in full color. Over the next five months, the magazine would transition to a colored banner over a black and white photo on the cover. In the March 1969 issue (No. 626), the magazine changed its logo to a more modern design and dropped “The Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin” from the cover page banner, now simply titled “All Hands”. The January 1970 issue (No. 636) featured a full-color photo on the front cover. In December 1971, a brand-new logo was introduced, which remained constant on the cover for more than 26 years, making it the most tenured of any All Hands logo.

Over the next 20 years, not much would change in the magazine. A notable change came in the April 1985 issue (No. 817) of All Hands when the phrase, “Magazine of the U.S. Navy”, was added to the front cover in small text underneath the banner, where it remains to this day. One of the most historic updates to All Hands came in the June 1997 issue (No. 962), when the magazine moved to full color. From then on, All Hands would feature full-color photos that propelled the magazine into a more modern style. In **October 1998**, All Hands introduced a new logo resembling an aircraft carrier from bow to stern. This would become the final look of the logo for the remaining years of the print publication.

The new millennium brought new technology like digital cameras and digital artwork. These advancements in technology raised the quality of the magazine to new heights. Recognizing the changing times and how modern-day sailors consume information, All Hands decided to cease its printed publication, with the October 2011 issue (No. 1115) being the last official printed magazine.

Two years later in February 2013, All Hands would have a massive resurgence with the creation of the All Hands official website. All Hands would continue to release digital monthly issues along with many other resources on their website, such as featured videos, articles, podcasts, and updated U.S. Navy policies. An archive section was also added with every single All Hands issue from 1922-2011 digitally scanned and uploaded to their site. The move to online vastly increased All Hands’ reach to Sailors, similar to the new pro rata released in 1943. In the first year of the website’s inception, All Hands had published 191 articles and garnered more than 20 million page views.

Over the years, the magazine has covered many historic events such as World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, and the tragedy of 9/11. From 1922 to today, All Hands has continued with the same mission of informing its Sailors. Beginning as a simple bulletin and evolving into a digital magazine and website, All Hands has consistently supported Sailors in any way it could. The magazine’s, “For Sailors, by Sailors” mentality has proven effective for 100 years, with no signs of stopping.
Todd Frantom enlisted in the Navy with a passion for photography and a desire to document and share Sailors’ stories with the world. “It feels like you are taking part in something special when you get to tell a sailor’s story,” he said.

Despite having two college degrees, he enlisted with the hope of finding himself amongst hard-working seamen, far from the desks and recycled air of the wardroom. “I want to be in the mix, and doing the job,” he explained, “not telling other people to do the job.” Frantom soon found himself an undesignated seaman, carrying his camera beneath his float coat on the flight deck of the USS Kitty Hawk. He would use the PH department to develop his film and it wasn’t long before their OIC took notice of Frantom’s photography and told him he needed to be a PH.

With free reign to photograph the bustling of the flight deck, Frantom’s aspirations broadened. Seeing the wider scope of stories the Navy had to offer in All Hands magazine, Frantom found an opportunity to explore his potential. “I would read All Hands on the ship and I’m like ‘this is what I want to do,’” he remembered.

Copies of the latest editions of All Hands circulated Navy ships for weeks after their arrival, the corners of each page curling by the hour. “You found them in berthing compartments, in the heads,” remembered Rear Adm. Terry McCreary. “When All Hands showed up in the mail, they were put out in the wardroom, in the mess decks. Those things disappeared immediately.”

Deployed Sailors share the feeling of isolation from the rest of the world and the Navy. All Hands Magazine provides them the opportunity to connect with their fellow Sailors by reading their stories. Every turn of its pages brought Sailors together across the oceans, providing glimpses into the lives and careers of their enlisted and commissioned shipmates.

“You could see that they were getting passed around,” said McCreary. “That gave you an indication that people thirsted for other information about the Navy.”

All Hands introduced Sailors to their shipmate’s stories across the fleet and showed them that there was more to the Navy than being underway.
Hired onto All Hands as a civilian illustrator in 2010, Robb Gensic became a crucial figure in the evolution of the magazine. By the time the print versions of military media were phased out, he had worked his way to a senior civilian position on the staff. "When they canceled the printed version of the magazine," he recalled, "we were trying to figure out what to do with All Hands content."

The magazine had been axed and the staff was trying to find an avenue through which their feature stories could still reach sailors. "Our audience is the sailors," he explained, "we need to be able to get them the content they need for themselves and their families." All Hands was a unique community of sailors informing sailors about their Navy and each other without the recognizable and respected branding of All Hands, their content wouldn't be received by the fleet the same way it had been in its former glory.

As Gensic began coding their new outlet, a shell of its former glory, his office at the Defense Media Activity was visited by the Chief of Naval Information at the time, Admiral John Kirby. "He walked up behind me and asked what I was working on. So I explained the whole project," Gensic remembered. He explained to the Admiral that they were trying to find a new place for All Hands features and that they needed to put it on navy.mil. Admiral Kirby couldn't let the magazine die after seeing the limited reach it had in its new home.

"He told me to stop what I was doing and bring the magazine back, make it a website, and put it online. Right then and there," Gensic said. Though it was a welcomed surprise, Gensic knew it would not be an easy task.

Admiral Kirby asked Gensic to find out how the magazine would be able to reach Sailors moving forward on digital platforms. Gensic visited USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) for an underway with their MC shop with a few crucial questions to answer. "Are Sailors even going to see it online," questioned Gensic. "Can they get to the website? Can they get to the Web? And if they can, are they looking at All Hands? What are they looking at? And that's when we found it's mostly social media, and at the time it was Facebook and email."

The transition from print media would prove to be complex. Gensic and his team are still introducing and testing multiple platforms to prove to this community of sailors the ability to stay connected. "I still believe what we do is for the sailors and we need to be able to reach them," said Gensic. "The Sailor community is tight, and I feel like All Hands has a place there."

Though times are changing, All Hands remains a place for sailors to engage with their Navy and each other, and Gensic's team has made efforts to utilize our digital platforms correctly, "If we utilize All Hands to reach out to all Sailors all the time. It's not just the website. It's not just social media. It's also broadcast television and radio," he explained. "For ships, that's your BTN. For overseas that's AFN." All Hands remains a platform about Sailors, by Sailors, for Sailors.
Ohene Gyapong was Deputy Director of Navy Production Division/Editor-in-chief of All Hands magazine when they received a request from a private party for as many copies of the most recent edition of the magazine, they could send. That edition featured a Sailor on the cover, standing watch on the USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52). The Sailor’s father was incarcerated at the time and was filled with such pride when seeing his son manning the watch on the cover. The father wanted to share it with as many people in his life as he could. “It gave him hope,” Gyapong said, “in a place where hope typically goes to die.”

They filled as many boxes as they could.

Gyapong was proud to work on a publication that shared the feelings and stories of his shipmates. The magazine provides the Navy with a “beautiful vehicle that will reach people across the globe,” he said. He was particularly honored to share stories on lesser-known aspects and jobs in the Navy, illustrating the stories of the ones that don’t get enough light is crucial to each of us and each of our tasks is a “small piece of a much larger puzzle.” This is perhaps the greatest asset of a magazine written by Sailors for Sailors.

Subject: Signed:
Importance: High
Important read!

Original Message: 
From: Kelly, John F
To: Gyapong, Kevin K
 workflow: Robert Hon (USN)

The Bureau of Navigation (the precursor to the Bureau of Personnel), it was intended to provide Sailors useful information about pay, benefits, training and education, as well as other policy decisions.

My intent is to bring that same sense of purpose and tradition forward into the new century. Through the interactive and live feedback tools it will feature, it is my hope that leadership will use it as a powerful vehicle to have conversations with our people.

We’ll still talk to our Sailors, but now we’ll also be able to talk with them.

Frankly, we’re going to give Navy Times a run for their money.

I’m very excited about the possibilities for strengthening internal communications with this vehicle. There’s still more work to do on internal comms. This isn’t the paradise, but I think it’s a great start.

We intend to roll it out on or near the Navy’s birthday.

[Signature]

ROM, John Kirby, USN
Chief of Information

Follow me @Chiefs
Naval media captures history in real time. From storming the shores of Normandy to Operation Desert Storm, Naval media personnel have captured some of the most critical moments in our nation’s military history. Photography transforms a static past into a visual history, allowing viewers to imagine with a greater degree of accuracy what it was like for the people depicted in that moment. The history of Naval media can be traced back as early as World War II, with the institution of Public Relations Officers and Enlisted Naval Correspondents. Individuals were drawn from a corps of civilian journalists, public relations specialists, and photographers, and commissioned as Naval Reserve line officers. The people employed in these temporary jobs laid the groundwork for the future of active-duty naval communicators functioning outside of wartime.

Enlisted Naval Correspondents were instrumental to naval operations. Correspondents were split into four focused areas: Journalists (JO), Photographers Mate (PH), Lithographers Mate (LI), and Draftsmen (DM). This allowed Sailors to hone their craft and create more specialized products for naval production. JOs took on a role like that of civilian journalists as they gathered interviews and published stories about the Navy through the standard broadcasting mediums of newspapers, television, and radio shows. Photographers Mates were instrumental in providing the Navy with the ability to collect intelligence and document operations to disseminate through the intelligence communities and civilian news media with still imagery and video products. Lithographers Mates handled print productions for distribution and design, managing the publication of Navy newspapers, magazines, forms, and any other printed media the Navy required. Draftsmen were predominantly illustrators and technical drawers lending them to a role as the earliest graphic designers, artists, and publishers. These four media ratings merged in 2006 to create the Mass Communication Specialist (MC) rating, which remains responsible for all contemporary media production, products, and reporting. MCs make up the bulk of today’s naval media specialists and remain supported by their respective Public Affairs Officers.

Outside of a designated rate, opportunities for naval media specialists included documenting combat operations. Known as “Combat Cameramen” these sailors documented the developments of the battlefield, and reported the results of victories, defeats, and stalemates. The Navy established combat photographic units in 1942, deploying them to the Pacific and European theaters. Some of the most notable events documented by Combat Cameramen were the storming of the beaches at Normandy and Iwo Jima. With the Marines at Tarawa (1944) was a short film released in civilian theaters, and even won an Academy Award for Best Short Documentary the following year.

These moments filmed by Combat Cameramen provided audiences with a different perspective, almost standing shoulder to shoulder with Sailors and Marines. Cameramen captured as much as they could through the fire, flames, and frenzy of combat, while simultaneously evading capture. The Navy officially established the Atlantic Fleet Motion Picture Unit, also known as Combat Camera, in 1951. Methods and procedures of utilizing Combat Cameramen have since evolved by widely distributing responsibilities across the cohort of Mass Communication Specialists (MC) with methodologies that include Ship’s Nautical or Otherwise Photographic Interpretation and Examination (SNOOPIE) and Operational Task Visual Information (OPTASK VI). These techniques utilize raw video footage or still images as the medium to document foreign aggression or espionage while maintaining our nation’s image as a neutral worldwide deterrent of maritime force.
Now known as All Hands, the first issue of The Bureau of Navigation News Bulletin was released on 30 August 1922. This medium disseminated information throughout the fleet. Bulletin No. 297, for example, immortalized the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, "...on this Navy Day of 1941, merged with a day consecrated to Total Defense, I ask all Americans to salute the Navy, their Navy, in a spirit of self-discipline in line with the historic traditions of the Service itself, and to pledge to their Navy support involving willing sacrifice of personnel, sectional and group interests in order that we may remain united and unconquerable." Statements given by presidents, congressmembers, and sailors spread through media channels maintained by the Naval communicators of their time, reaching the entire Department of the Navy. The Bureau of Navigation News Bulletin was formally changed to All Hands in 1945 after the title had been in use colloquially since September 1943, cementing the magazine's name in naval media. All Hands started as a simple department circular that highlighted instructions and mandates, more memorandum than magazine.

The information and record keeping of Naval communicators immortalizes the history of not only the Navy but the nation writ large. With the aid of public affairs professionals, the Navy has maintained amiable relationships with allies abroad and the American people at home. The dissemination of information collected by the Navy through the scope of naval communicators serves not only as a means of global deterrent for our adversaries but also highlights one of many reasons why the United States Navy is one of the most informed navies in the world.
Go Navy, Beat Army --- In the weeks leading up the Army-Navy Game, these words will be shouted by Sailors, Midshipmen and fans of Navy football. Hearing this has become synonymous when discussing the game, with their Army counterparts having their version of these famous words.

The Navy Midshipmen played the Army Black Knights a total of 122 times since the first game in 1890. Navy currently leads the all-time series with 62 wins and 53 losses. The teams have tied seven times. They have played in locations ranging from their respective campuses to Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and all the way to the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Future venues for the game include Foxborough, Massachusetts.

Keenan Reynolds, one of the best Academy football players during his time on campus, spoke about the game during an interview on the Paul Finebaum Show.

"I've never been to a super bowl or been a fan of a super bowl winning team but I would assume it's the equivalent of that" said Reynolds when asked what it's like to beat Army. "Everybody from the coaches all the way down to the youngest plebe feels the same excitement and joy. The brotherhood of current and former Navy football players celebrate the win in the locker room. It's an amazing feeling to be there and a tremendous reward for all the hard work you put in."

The history and pageantry of the game are some of the most recognizable anywhere in college football. The game is played on the second Saturday in December, the week after the regular season of college football ends. This is the only game played that day, and all eyes are on it.

"I get goosebumps just thinking about it," said Reynolds. "The pageantry, the flyover, the alma mater, singing second, beating Army. These are all things that make this game special. Seeing the traditions surrounding the game on television is one thing, but there's nothing like seeing it in person."

Marine Capt. Amos Mason, a 2017 graduate of the Naval Academy, played four seasons on the football team. He played in four Army-Navy games and beat Army three times. He grew up playing little league football with Keenan, whose advice was a big reason he ultimately attended the Academy.

"Playing in the game 100% lives up to the hype" said Mason. "Before the game starts, and even up to the first couple plays,
your adrenaline is pumping and everything feels like it’s moving a mile a minute. Once you settle in, you realize you’re just playing football and you start to rely on your training and preparation for the moment.”

The game has traditionally been at neutral, large venues for a variety of reasons. One of the biggest reasons is that neither on-campus stadium is large enough to hold the crowds this game typically attracts. In a game played in 1963, shortly following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, a crowd of more than 100,000 filled Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The most recent game in 2021 attracted upwards of 80,000 fans alone. Ten sitting U.S. presidents have attended at least one game.

“I was fortunate enough to play in some big-time games while I was attending the academy,” said Mason. “I played against Notre Dame on the road, Ohio State on the road and against some other historic programs. No game matched the atmosphere of a sold-out Army-Navy game. You look one way and you see a bunch of Army cadets, you look the other way and you see a bunch of Midshipmen. It’s unlike anything else.”

One of the more unique traditions surrounding this game happens before the opening kickoff. The event is called “The March On” and features the entire attending student body of both academies marching in military formation across the field. This event marks the future military service of students from both academies.

The pride around this game goes well beyond the players strapping on their shoulder pads and buckling their helmets. The student-athletes playing in this game will go on to become officers in the different branches of the military. They will deploy around the world in service to our nation. This fact was not lost on Mason during his years playing for the academy.

“This is the only game in the entire world where everyone playing on the field is willing to go into harm’s way for everyone watching,” said Mason. “That didn’t really hit me until I got to the fleet. I saw how everyone who played in the game would go on to serve their country and fulfill a purpose bigger than football.”

One moment from the Army-Navy game that impacted the sport of football happened in 1893. A Midshipman named Joseph Mason Reeves, who would later become an Admiral, asked an Annapolis, Maryland shoemaker to help him craft head protection. The result of this would be Reeves wearing what is widely considered the first helmet in football history. The game has featured five Heisman Trophy winners and several prominent National Football League Players, in its history. Former president Dwight D. Eisenhower played in the 1912 game, in which Navy won 6-0.

After each game, both teams visit each other’s sideline where they sing the losing school’s song while facing the students from that school. After the first song is complete, they go to the winning team’s students and sing their song. The phrase “sing second” has become a tradition for the team hoping to win the game.

Mason was asked any final words on his experience playing in the game and he simply said, “Go Navy Beat Army.”

The 2022 Army-Navy Game will be played on Dec. 10, at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.
From Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nick Boris

About 900 miles off the northeastern coast of Australia, the Pacific Ocean turn turquoise as water breaks over 9,000 square miles of coral reef covering the shores of what is now called New Caledonia. Pushing inland towards the expansive coastal plains, tall golden grasses dance in unison from gentle winds. For 30 kilometers, the Kobe River flows southwest as sapphire waters erode the interior before emptying into waters near Katavilli Bay Harcourt Bay. Tahiti Petrels burrow along the cobalt and nickel filled mountainous ridges of the Massif de Koniambo range. At 3,083 ft in elevation, the mountains are easily seen four miles away from a beach site called ‘the place where one digs,’ pronounced xapeta’a in the local Haveke language, or as archaeologists would mishear, Lapita.

Humans have always had the curiosity to dig up the past, and in 1952 archaeologists Edward W. Gifford and Richard Shulter Jr. excavated the Foue Peninsula of New Caledonia. What they found would link pottery decoration, a technique humans have practiced for almost 25,000 years, to the tradition of seafaring tattoos. Gifford and Shulter Jr., with the help of Pacific Islanders, uncovered 3,000-year-old pottery sculpted by the Lapita colonizers of remote Oceania. The techniques used for the dentate stamped pottery ornamentation were created using carved bone tools while the clay was still soft. Theories have suggested that the women of these original settlers would decorate the pottery with these intricate lines and geometric shapes, and that men used a similar technique with to push ink beneath the skin.

This ancient practice of Polynesian tattoos was connected to today in part through the writings of Captain James Cook, Royal Navy, who, with quill pen in hand, wrote about the Tahitian practice of tattooing in 1769. In 1768, Capt. James Cook, Royal Navy, had set course to the South Pacific in search of the unknown continent Terra Australis, first proposed by Greek Philosopher Aristotle. Cook was under Royal Navy instructions to not only to map the coastline of any new land, but also to observe the genius, temper, disposition and number of the natives.

On April 13, 1769, HMS Endeavour anchored in Matavai Bay, Tahiti, with Cook and his scientific passengers (he brought along an official astronomer, a botanist, two natural
philosophers, and a scientific secretary) passing the days conducting astronomical and other experiments. Spending nearly three months in the Society Islands, Capt. Cook, along with his passengers and crew had ample time to observe the Tahitian people and their tattoos.

"The marks in general are spirals drawn with great nicety and even elegance," wrote Cook. "One side corresponds with the other. The marks on the body resemble foliage in old, chased ornaments, convolutions of filigree work, but these they have such a luxury of forms that of a hundred which at first appeared exactly the same, no two were formed alike on close examination."

"The South Pacific forever changed the modern West when explorers and sailors absorbed this part of the culture of Polynesia and brought tattooed natives and their own tattoos back with them," said Terisa Green, author of The Tattoo Encyclopedia: A guide to Choose Your Tattoo. "Of course, Europe was not a stranger to the early use of tattoos, although they had faded from memory by the time of these sea adventures."

Cook’s voyages to the South Pacific exposed Royal Navy sailors to this elaborate body art and on their return home they brought the technique back for their fellow seamen in both Europe and America. The word tattoo is a derivative of the Polynesian word tatau, meaning the marking of the human body and phonetically imitated the sound of the rhythmic tapping of traditional tattoo instruments. Tattooing among U.S. Navy Sailors spread quickly during the late 18th century and soon a fifth of Sailors had at least one tattoo.

March 9, 1862, marks one of the most famous naval battles in the American Civil War. Two ironclads, USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, fought to a draw off Hampton Roads, Virginia. For four hours in the morning cannons fired from close range as the two armored ships circled one another to gain a favorable firing position. Although the battle was inconclusive, CSS Virginia was unable to break the Union Navy blockade of the James River. After this battle, which received a tremendous amount of publicity, Sailors from both navies would go on to get tattoos commemorating the historic clash. During the late 19th-century, tattoos with military insignia such as anchors or cannons or names of sweethearts would spread across the country. Tattoos were especially common in the Asiatic Squadron, which sailed in waters off China and the Philippines.

By the early 1900s, a religious-based temperance movement had gained strength in the U.S. and the ‘Anti-Saloon League’ began pushing for national alcohol prohibition. Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, a teetotaler himself, issued General Order 99 on June 1, 1914. This order strictly prohibited the use or introduction for drinking purposes of alcoholic liquors on board any navy vessel, or within any navy yard or station. Along with the prohibition of alcohol, the Navy encouraged Sailors to cover up any risqué or indecent tattoos (especially tatted or half-dressed female figures) or be disqualified from service. Many Sailors would later cover these tattoos with patriotic images reflecting their participation in World War I.

With the growth and expansion of the Navy during the war, permanent tattoo parlors near Naval stations in New York, Norfolk, Chicago, San Diego, and Pearl Harbor became common. Tattooing and tattoo parlors became an integral part of Navy life, even after the vast demobilization at the end of the war in 1919. Sailors of the 1920-30s had numerous motivations to get tattoos, reasons that resonate with Sailors today. These include memorializing the death of a friend or loved one, celebrating...
group or individual milestones (including rating solidarity), serving in particular units (such as the Pacific Fleet) as well as the superstitions and mythology common to Sailors in all times and places, such as mermaids, sea monsters, or Davey Jones locker.

From 1939 to 1945, the United States military grew from around 334,000 to over 12 million men and women and with this massive expansion, with service members sent to all corners of the globe, tattoo artists experienced a dramatic wartime boom in operations. “They (Americans) are great tourists, even in the middle of a war,” recounted George “Professor” Burchett, one of the most famous tattoo artists in the United Kingdom during the 20th century. “Overall, the acceptance of tattooing remained widespread among servicemen during World War II, a height never again experienced on the same scale. Broad acceptance and social approval of body art within the military services can be attributed to patriotism and nationalistic fervor within the United States.”

To assist in the expeditious meeting of demand, tattoo flash sheets saved Sailors precious time. Flash sheets showcased an artist’s illustrations allowing customers to choose from ready-made designs. Sailor tattoos would earn their own style and become easily recognized by their simple and clean look, styled with minimal color and thin black lines. It was common to find flash sets with anchors, full-rigged ships, pinup girls, patriotic symbols and more.

Unlike the end of the First World War, the Navy stayed deployed overseas post-1945, and with the outbreak of the Cold War (and regional hot wars in Korea and later Vietnam), large numbers of ships and Sailors served in the Far East and in Europe. Tattoos remained common throughout this era, leading Samuel O’Reilly, a famed tattooist in New York City, to say, “A Sailor without a tattoo is like a ship without grog: not seaworthy.”

With the 21st century, came a swell of multi-cultural recruits to join the U.S. Navy. This led to an expansion of tattoo styles among Sailors, with three of the most popular classic americana, Japanese style and black and grey banded tattoos.

Seafaring tattoos tell the stories of travels far from home, protection while at sea or remind a Sailor of their choice to join the Navy and this makes them an ingrained part of naval culture and traditions. Because of these powerful traditions, the Navy carries the least restrictive tattoo policies among any of the U.S. branches of service.

The Navy updated their tattoo policy in 2016 with changes to location, sizing, content and cosmetic tattoos. The full policy can be found here.

Despite drifting away from the traditional tattoo style of the late 19th century and early 20th century the meaning behind these tattoos holds fast.
Since the invention of the aircraft carrier, the United States carrier fleet has been the largest in the world. The U.S. Navy currently has 11 aircraft carriers and nine amphibious assault carriers, nearly as many as every other country in the world combined. Since the beginning, aircraft carriers were built for a specific time and place but often saw use well beyond their intended lifespan and purpose.

The first full-length flat-deck ship used to launch aircraft was HMS Argus, a Royal Navy aircraft carrier built in 1918 on a converted merchant-ship hull. The concept was an evolutionary improvement on earlier seaplane carriers, which used cranes to place sea or float planes for takeoff from the sea. Seaplanes were heavier than wheeled-land planes, so engineers designed a flat-deck ship to take advantage of the better performance of lighter, wheeled planes. World War I ended before Argus saw action, but the U.S. and Japanese navies soon followed the British example. The first U.S. carrier was a converted collier renamed USS Langley (CV 1), completed in March 1922 and followed closely by the Japanese carrier Hosho, which was the first purpose-built carrier and entered service in December 1922.

Although Britain, the U.S., and Japan were limited by arms control treaties in the 1920-30s, all three navies built additional aircraft carriers, with each fielding about half-a-dozen carriers by the start of World War II. Other than some combat operations in China by the Imperial Japanese Navy (UN), no one had much wartime experience operating fast carriers. Following the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939, and especially after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, all that changed.

By delivering devastating attacks on enemy ships and bases by aircraft based on mobile bases at sea, aircraft carrier strikes transformed naval warfare at sea. On May 4, 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea commenced, which was the first carrier-to-carrier naval battle in history, and the first naval engagement where neither fleet came within sight of or fired directly upon the other. The Japanese were turned back by the allies for the first time during the war after a 4-day engagement.

Coral Sea was followed one month later by what is considered to be the most important naval battle in the Pacific during World War II; the Battle of Midway. Japan intended to occupy Midway and lure the American carriers into a trap, but American cryptographers were able to uncover the plot and forewarn the fleet. During the battle, the Japanese lost four of six carriers. The U.S. lost one carrier, USS Yorktown (CV 5). This was a decisive victory for the U.S. and a turning point in the war.

The first Allied counter-offensive took place around Guadalcanal starting in August 1942. The battles in and around the Solomon Islands sank most of the pre-war aircraft carriers on both sides but American industrial capacity rose to the challenge and built 26 replacement fleet carriers by the end of 1945, helping to first overwhelm and then defeat the UN.
Following the end of the war, the U.S. continued to deploy carriers during the early years of the Cold War and they played a critical role in the Korean War and in crises all around the world. With the advent of nuclear technology, engineers designed nuclear-powered ships that could remain at sea indefinitely. In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier commissioned; USS Enterprise (CVN 65). On October 3, 1964, Enterprise, USS Long Beach, and USS Bainbridge completed Operation Sea Orbit; the first circumnavigation of the globe by fully nuclear-powered ships in 65 days without stopping for fuel or provisions. With this technology, newly designed CVNs had the freedom to better utilize space aboard for new weapons systems and aircraft and refuel and restock at sea whenever necessary. Carriers continued to evolve and saw use in crises across the globe, including the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Today, wherever it is needed in the world, the U.S. carrier fleet, escorted by its carrier strike groups, is effectively patrolling the entire world’s oceans, keeping the peace and ready to deliver whatever deterrent force is needed. In the modern era, the future of the carrier platform is uncertain, but who is to say that technology has advanced so far as to render these behemoth, floating nuclear-powered airport cities obsolete? For the time being, the U.S., aided by its floating mega-fortresses, continues to dominate the sea.