

ALLHANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

JULY 2024

4TH OF JULY

Honoring our independence in the pursuit of freedom, liberty, and democracy.

101 DAYS OF SUMMER

Naval Safety Command personnel increase awareness of potential risks related to off-duty recreational activities.





Photo by MC1 Devin Langer

ALL HANDS MAGAZINE

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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.

This month, we dive into the importance of summer safety and celebrate Independence Day.

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SATTAHIP, THAILAND

USNS YUKON CREW VISITS, SWIMS WITH THAI ELEPHANTS

Story and photo by Grady Fontana

In a lush jungle setting at Sattahip, Thailand, about 20 miles south of Pattaya, lies a 1,000-acre field, complete with a mountain, where three elephants roam free within, just as nature intended.

Members from fleet replenishment oiler USNS Yukon (T-AO 202), and Military Sealift Command Far East, in an act of goodwill and a thirst for Thai culture education, roamed, as well, and visited the Pattaya Elephant Sanctuary to help lay a foundation that will be a source of food for these elephants; and to feed and play with the large residents.

Civilian Mariner Eryk Michalowski, a 3rd mate on USNS Yukon, is on his first trip to Thailand, and second year working with MSC. He previously served aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) during Continuing Promise 2022.

"I initially had no idea what we were going to do at the sanctuary, but I wanted to see the countryside, and to see how different it is here," said Michalowski. "It was exciting to see these elephants. They'll enjoy a healthier lifestyle as part of the Pattaya Elephant Sanctuary, where they are free to roam, and given food and medical care, if needed."

During pre-industrial Thailand, elephants were used in logging and agriculture due to their strength and ability to work in forested areas where machinery could not easily operate, according to Chadchaya Chaicharn, volunteer caretaker and trainer at Pattaya Elephant Sanctuary.

As a working animal, elephants were often exposed to harsh environments, exerting long days doing strenuous labor.

Today, elephants are a major draw for tourists, and many sanctuaries and conservation projects exist in Thailand to protect and care for elephants.

At the Pattaya sanctuary, the elephants are not ridden, or made to perform hard labor. They are free to play and roam; however, feeding these large mammals is a daily challenge for the volunteers.

"Every day we are busy gathering enough food to feed the elephants," said Chaicharn, who has been volunteering at the sanctuary for about five years. "Each elephant eats about 400 kilograms (882 lbs.) a day. If we can't grow the food, we have to purchase it, which is expensive."

During the community outreach event, the CIVMARs tilled a muddy portion of the land and planted vegetation that will be served as elephant food. Once this vegetation matures, in about three months, it will provide a reliable source of food and will continue to grow, even after it's harvested.

The CIVMARs also donated about thirty watermelons, and a few large bags of squash and freshly cut vegetation that was fed to the elephants.

After about three hours of tilling and planting, the CIVMARs experienced hand-feeding the elephants, and swimming in a pond with them.

In Thailand, the elephant is a national symbol and has been featured on the Thai flag and currency. The animal represents the nation's identity and pride.

Renu is the owner of the Pattaya Elephant Sanctuary, which she opened six years ago. The center cares for three elephants, with a fourth one arriving in about a month.

These elephants were either purchased from abusive owners, or given to the sanctuary by those who can no longer care for their elephant.

"I love elephants too much," said Renu. "My father had an elephant that I used to walk from my home to the market every day, sometimes 100 km. (62 miles) a day. We walked in the street to transport fruits and sugar canes."

According to Renu, one day, about 30 years ago, she saw her elephant cry from walking on the hot road, and she felt very bad. That evening, she saw a news program about the first elephant sanctuary opening up in Thailand. That report has always stayed with her, until the day she started her own sanctuary.

Outreach events like the visit by USNS Yukon help raise awareness about the sanctuary and elephants' plight, and the importance of conservation efforts.

MSC Far East supports the U.S. 7th Fleet and ensures approximately 50 ships in the Indo-Pacific Region are manned, trained, and equipped to deliver essential supplies, fuel, cargo, and equipment to warfighters, both at sea and on shore. U.S. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2024, MSC exists to support the joint warfighter across the full spectrum of military operations, with a workforce that includes approximately 6,000 Civil Service Mariners and 1,100 contract mariners, supported by 1,500 shore staff and 1,400 active duty and Reserve military personnel.

Firework Safety

- Only light fireworks one at a time, outdoors and away from flammable materials
- Wait at least 5 minutes before approaching a firework that fails to go off & douse it in water
- Do not light fireworks in your hand

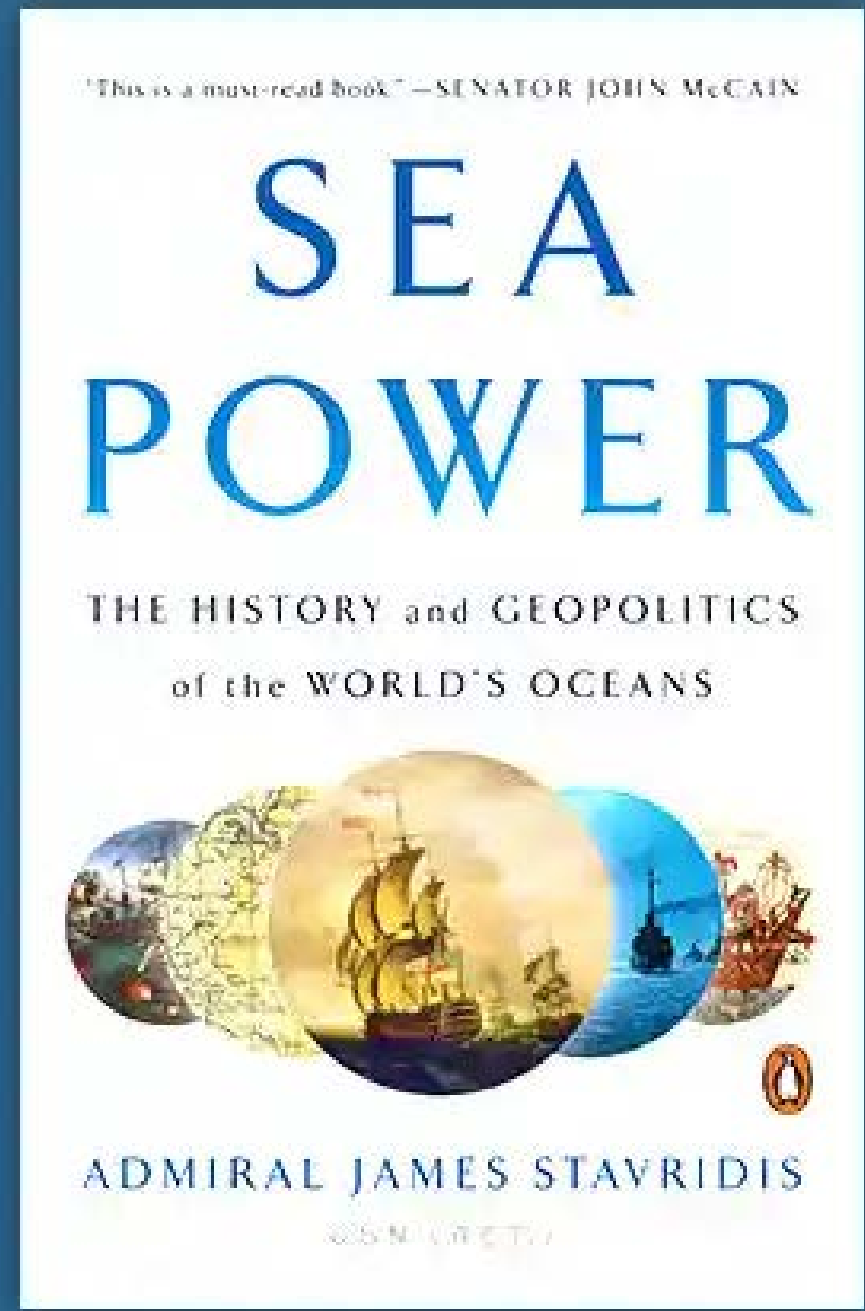
- A safe distance of 35ft is recommended for fountain fireworks
- Keep pets inside, fireworks are stressful for their sensitive hearing
- Never let children handle fireworks



IKE
HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY



BOOK OF THE MONTH



Most of the books are available at no cost to Sailors in both e-Book and digital audio format from the Navy MWR digital library collection. Eligible patrons can download the books through: <https://www.navymwrdigitallibrary.org>

"In Sea Power Stavridis continues to lead and shape the intellectual conversation surrounding sea power and the sea services."

U.S. Naval War College

Sea Power

By Admiral James Stavridis, USN

Sea Power is marvelous naval history, giving us fresh insight into great naval engagements from the battles of Salamis and Lepanto through to Trafalgar, the Battle of the Atlantic, and submarine conflicts of the Cold War.



HONORING THE FALLEN

USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) HONORS THE LOSS OF FALLEN SAILORS FOLLOWING 2017 COLLISION

Story and photos by MC2 Jordan Jennings

Chief Fire Controlman Gary Rehm, Gunner's Mate 1st Class Noe Hernandez, Personnel Specialist 1st Class Xavier A. Martin, Fire Controlman 1st Class Carlos V. Sibayan, Yeoman 3rd Class Shingo A. Douglass, Sonar Technician (Surface) 3rd Class Ngoc "Tan" Truong and Gunner's Mate Seaman Dakota K. Rigsby all lost their lives in the subsequent flooding that took place in their berthing.

After assembling the crew on the flight deck, a special flag bearing the sailors' names was hoisted to the starboard yardarm of the ship's mast and flown for the duration of the ceremony. The observance began with the playing of a rendition of 'Eternal Father' and an invocation from Chaplain Logan Murphy. Cmdr. Jayson C. Larsen, commanding officer of Fitzgerald also spoke to honor the memory of the sailors. The biography of each remembered sailor was read by Fitzgerald sailors sharing the same rate as the deceased.

"The memory of those we have lost remains etched in our hearts and ingrained in the fabric of this ship. Their legacy serves as a constant reminder of the profound dedication and selflessness required to protect and defend our nation," said Larsen. "It is our duty to not only remember their sacrifice, but to carry forward their spirit and honor their enduring legacy with a commitment to our core values."

Following a three-volley gun salute and the playing of taps, seven roses were committed to the sea and the remembrance flag was lowered concluding the ceremony.

"We remain indebted to the immense sacrifices made by each one of Fitzgerald's sailors on that day," said Larsen. "May the memory of our fallen shipmates continue to inspire and guide us as we uphold their legacy. And may their souls rest in eternal peace as we find the strength in their memory. Protect your people!"

Fitzgerald is underway in the 3rd Fleet area of operations as part of the basic phase to complete certifications and training events in preparation for future sustained operations at sea.



Photo by MC2 Mariano Lopez
@USNAVALACADEMY



PHOTOS FROM THE FLEET

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.



Photo by MC2 Kalvin Kes
@MASONEBG87

Photo by William J. Busby III
@JRMGUAM



Photo by Stacy Godfrey
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Photo by MC2 Jackson Adkins
@EODGRU2



Photo by Ryan Carter
@MSCDELIVERS



Photo by MC1 Ava Conway
@USNAVYBAND

Photo by MC3 Sheryssa Joseph Dodard
@USSLINCOLN



Photo by MC2 Daniel Providakes
@USSRONALDREAGAN



Photo by MC3 Max Biesecker
@USSGW



Photo by MC1 Jamaal Liddell
@CTF71

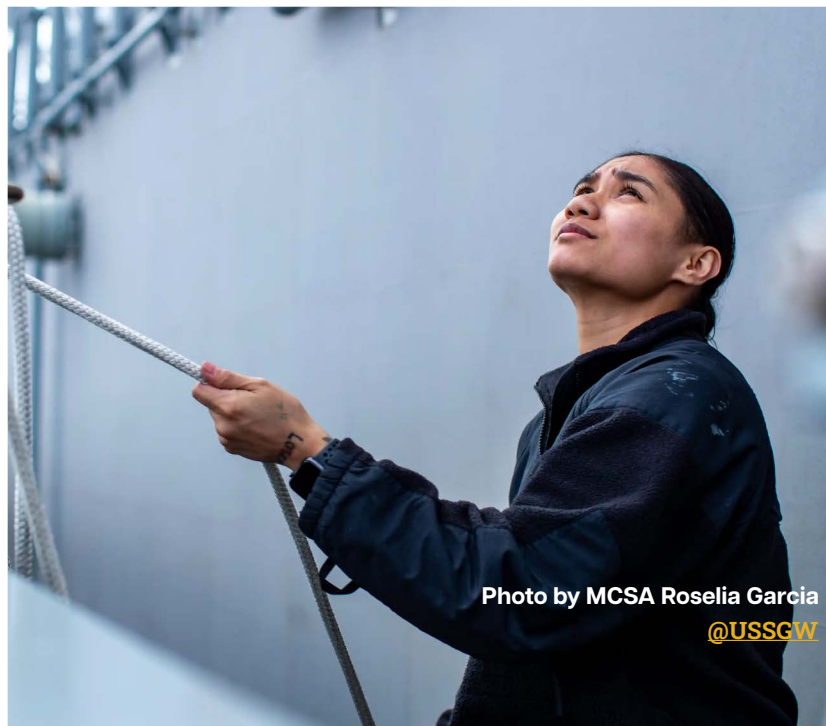


Photo by MCSA Roselia Garcia
@USSGW



Photo by MC3 August Clawson
@USSGW

101 CRITICAL DAYS OF SUMMER

Prepare for a summer filled with adventure, but acknowledge the potential for misadventure as well. A memorable experience can be overshadowed by a trip to the hospital – or worse. Understand and manage the risks associated with summer activities to minimize the chance of a good time turning bad.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer is the period between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend when off-duty accidents tend to increase across the Navy and Marine Corps. As Sailors and Marines engage in outdoor pursuits and leisure activities, it remains imperative to manage risks proactively. This strategy involves identifying potential hazards, implementing strategies to mitigate harm and making informed decisions.

Complacency often underlies off-duty mishaps during the summer months. Maintain situational awareness with these safety tips in mind:

Self-assess and self-correct – Recreational mishaps are preventable. Regularly evaluate how you spend your time during off-duty hours this summer. Assess risks, adhere to established procedures, comply with relevant laws and know your limits.

Educate others – Ensure everyone participating in the activity is familiar with the day's plan, proper equipment operation and emergency procedures. Sharing best practices with others helps reinforce proper procedures in your memory and ensures all participants can effectively address emergency situations.

The best prevention is preparation – Prioritize hydration, ensure communication devices are fully charged, carry spare gear, apply sunscreen, dress appropriately and engage in proper warm-up routines. Anticipating potential challenges and being adequately prepared can mitigate risks.

Motorcycle safety is deadly serious – About 1 in 10 Sailors and Marines own a motorcycle. Riders suffer higher rates of serious injuries and fatalities than other motorists. Complete recommended safety courses, wear appropriate protective gear, and adhere to safety regulations to minimize the likelihood of severe injury or fatality.

Simply drive – Operating a vehicle requires your full attention. Drive defensively, minimize distractions, maintain safe distances, and adhere to traffic laws.

Prioritize arriving safely over arriving quickly, and never drive under the influence of alcohol or while fatigued.

Suspect and inspect – As you unpack your summertime gear, conduct a thorough inspection to identify potential hazards before use. Stored items such as your grill, motorcycle, or sports equipment may have sustained damage. Check the fit of all wearable gear and replace or repair any damaged items to safeguard against potential risks.

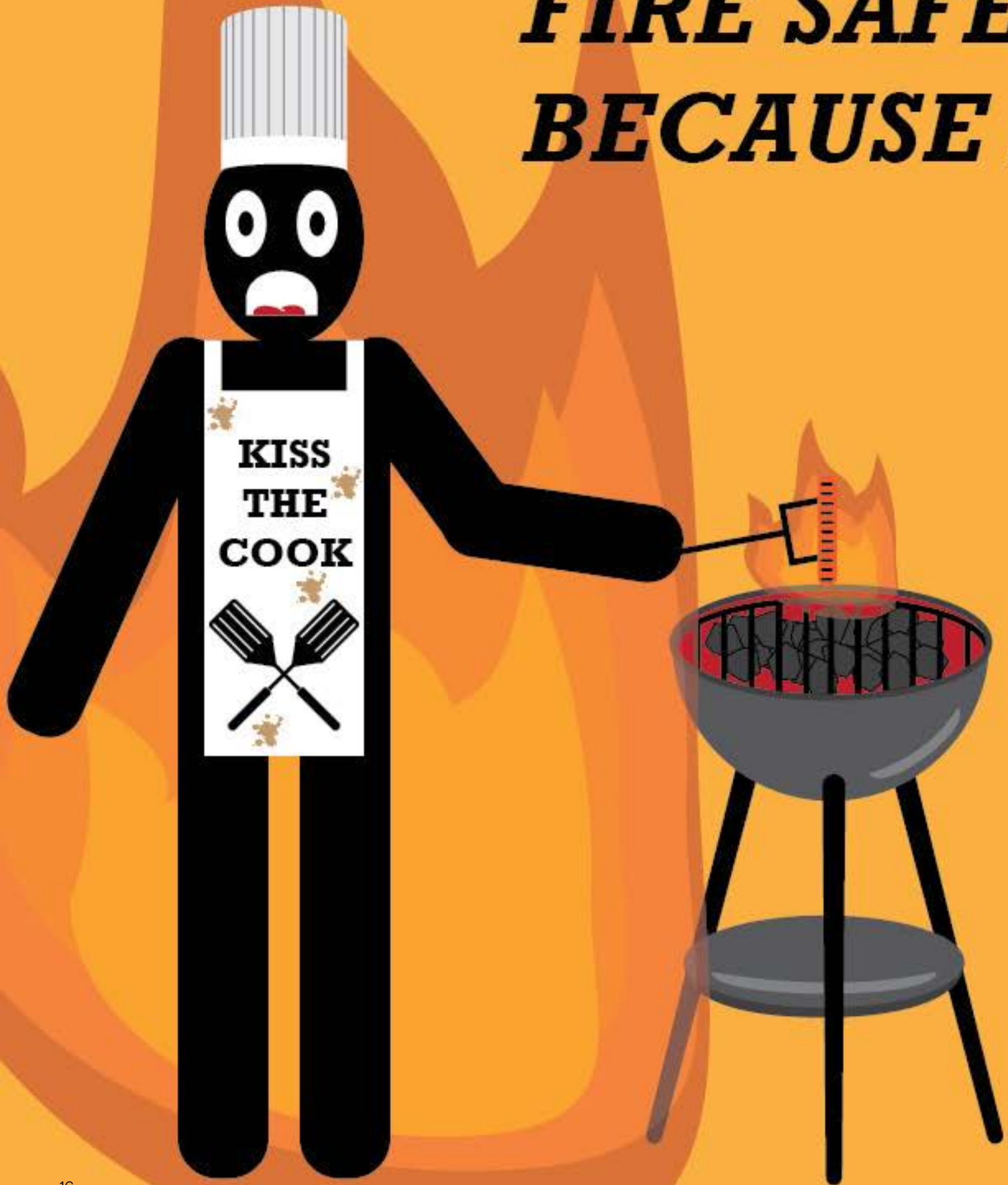
Refresh your safety mindset – Has anything changed since last summer? Stay abreast of any changes in laws, regulations, or resources pertinent to your summer activities. Review your regular route, reread the owner's manuals, or take a refresher course to remain informed and prepared.

The sobering statistics from previous summers underscore the importance of these precautions. By prioritizing safety, Sailors and Marines can mitigate personal harm and safeguard their well-being and that of their loved ones. Take a moment to reflect on these considerations throughout the summer – your vigilance could save lives.






For more information, click the logo above and review the powerpoint presentation of the summer safety tips.

FIRE SAFETY FIRST, BECAUSE ACCIDENTS HURT.



Quick Grilling tips:

-  Place grill outdoors on flat surface, away from flammables, with 3-foot clearance.
-  Check gas grill for leaks with soapy water; clean regularly.
-  Never leave grill unattended. Keep water or extinguisher nearby. Cool coals safely.



Click the logo to learn more about fire safety.

