

# ALLHANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

MARCH 2024

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

This month, we celebrate the bravery and milestones of women throughout the Navy.

## A QUIET CEREMONY FOR A QUIET WARRIOR

The family of Chief Machinist Mate John Simms gathered to honor his passing and legacy at the USS Utah Memorial



# ALL HANDS MAGAZINE

**SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**  
The Honorable Carlos Del Toro

**CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS**  
Adm. Lisa Franchetti

**NAVY CHIEF OF INFORMATION**  
Rear Adm. Ryan Perry

**DIRECTOR, NAVY PRODUCTION**  
Robb Gensic

**DIRECTORATE OFFICER**  
Ensign Nicholas Bauer

**LEAD EDITOR**  
MCC Janweb Lagazo

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
MC1 Ashoka Lawrence Reid

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
MC1 Dakota David

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
MC2 Hannah Mohr

**LAYOUT AND DESIGN**  
MC2 Nadia James  
MC2 Hannah Mohr

**GRAPHICS**  
MC2 Nadia James  
MC2 Hannah Mohr  
MC2 Chase Sealy  
MC3 Timothy Carley

All Hands Issue Number 1221  
is published by Navy Production  
Directorate, Defense Media Activity  
6700 Taylor Avenue  
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

## PHOTO CREDITS:

MC1 Jacob Bergh, MC1 William Carlisle,  
MC1 Cody Deccio, MC1 Danielle Serocki, MC2  
Evan Diaz, MC2 Melvin Gozalvo, MC2 Shelby  
Jenkins, MC2 Olympia Martin, MC2 Omar N.  
Rubi, MC2 Jesse Turner, MC2 Clayton Wren,  
Cpl. Cody Purcell, MC3 Alexandria Esteban,  
MC3 Joshua Sapien, MCSN Wadelon Presley,  
MCSA Nicholas Rodriguez, Ivan Skvaril  
Front page photo by MC2 Jacob Woitzel  
Back page photo by MC1 Chris Williamson

## 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 highlight important military figures for Women's History Month, embrace the return of the Black Knights, and solemnly remember a WWII veteran.

2 **A QUIET CEREMONY  
FOR A QUIET WARRIOR**  
Family of Chief Machinist Mate  
John Simms honors his legacy

4 **EOD ARCTIC  
TRAINING EXERCISE  
SNOW CRAB EX**

6 **NAVY SEALS  
FORGE ALLIANCE**  
SEALS and SWCC collaborated  
with Cypriot Navy

8 **THE BLACK KNIGHTS RETURN**  
VMFA-314 heeds the call once more as  
the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group  
(ABECSG) deploys

10 **PLAN OF THE  
MONTH**

12 **PHOTOS FROM  
THE FLEET**

17 **BOOK OF THE MONTH:**  
Ashley's War: The Untold Story  
of a Team of Women Soliders  
on the Special Ops Battlefield

18 **CELEBRATING WOMEN'S  
HISTORY IN THE NAVY**

20 **MAKING WAVES**  
The wake of Grace Hopper's  
impact on women's history

# A QUIET CEREMONY FOR A QUIET WARRIOR



Photos by MC2 Melvin Gonzalvo

## Story by James Neuman

Early in 2024, an ash scattering was held at the USS Utah Memorial, where the family of Chief Machinist Mate John Simms gathered to honor his passing and his legacy as a member of the Greatest Generation.

John Simms was a quiet man from Denville, Kentucky, just outside of Lexington. In 1936, he joined the United States Navy, a decision which would eventually thrust him to the epicenter of the Day of Infamy. As a young Sailor stationed at the naval air station on Ford Island, Simms witnessed firsthand the carnage wrought by the Imperial Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, as America was plunged into World War II.

His experience was felt so deeply that he never talked about it openly, not even to those closest to him.

"He never talked about the attack, or the war in general," relays his daughter Shirley Marseilles. "Every year, on Dec. 7, I would take him to the local commemoration of the attack and all of these veterans would stand up and talk about where they were and what they saw as Pearl Harbor survivors, but my father would never say anything. Sometimes he would just get very emotional."

Several times she asked him to open up about his experiences that day, but he would always respond with "no." Ms. Marseilles believes that he suffered too much from the painful memories of losing friends and witnessing death and simply did not want to relive that horrible scene.

Though he divulged little about his service record, Chief



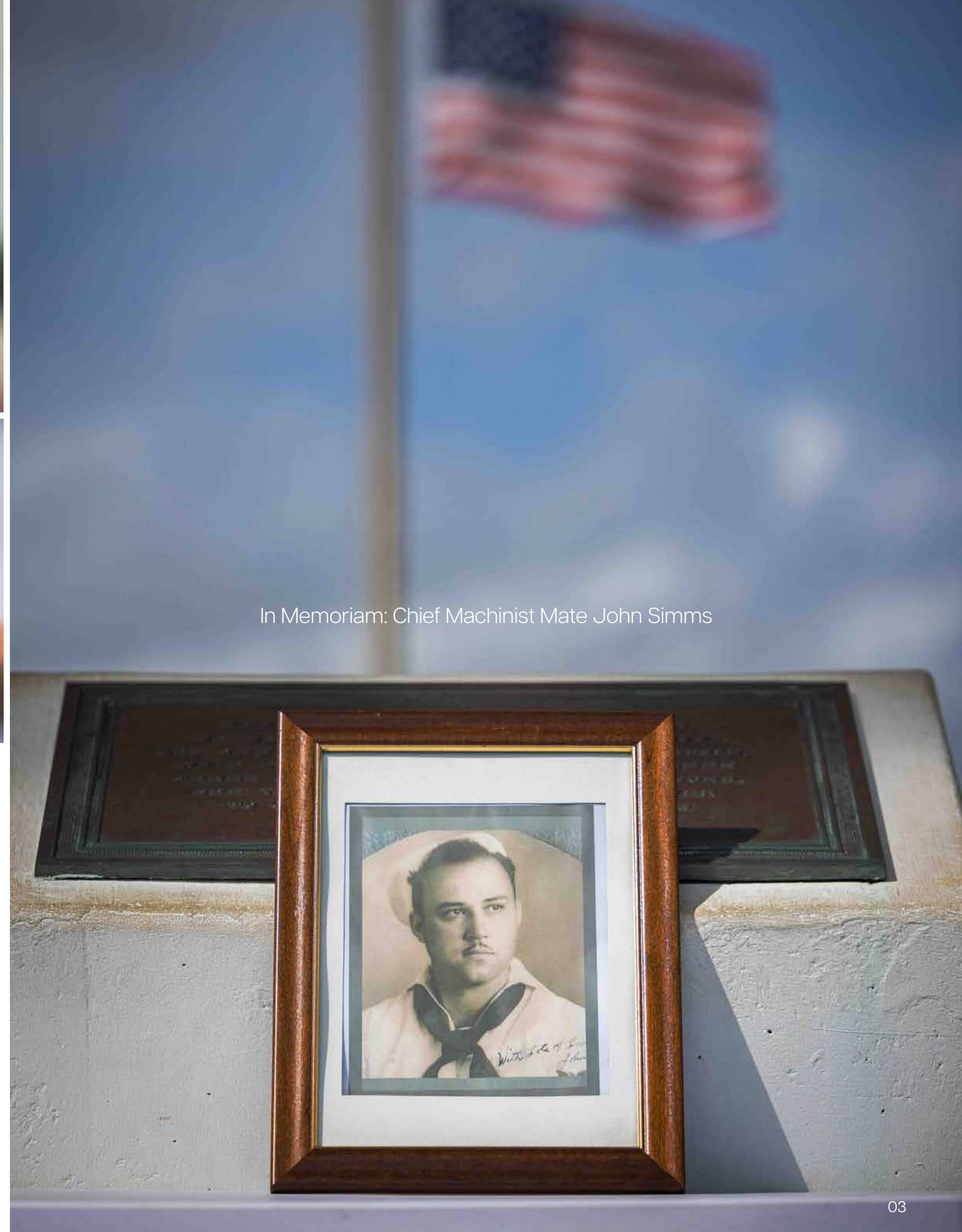
Simms served aboard several ships before and during World War II, including the USS Tracy, USS Nitro, and even aboard one of the ships from the iconic Battleship Row, the USS Nevada.

According to the National World War II Museum, only 119,000 of the 16 million veterans who served during World War II are alive today. That represents less than one percent of the total. One hundred thirty-one veterans, like John Simms pass away each day, and that number will no doubt increase as the years roll on.

Too many like Chief Simms never relayed their experiences out of trauma or out of a sense of feeling that their contributions did not warrant recognition. Thankfully his family was intent on honoring his wishes to have his ashes scattered on Pearl Harbor, where on this day they were mingled with the remains of the 49 crew members of the USS Utah, who remain entombed within her hull.

On Jan. 8, Chief Simms, representing the quiet warriors of the Greatest Generation, was laid to rest in the waters of the harbor that serve as a bellwether of the Navy's legacy of honor, courage, and commitment.

In Memoriam: Chief Machinist Mate John Simms





## ARCTIC TRAINING EXERCISE SNOW CRAB EX

Story by Lt. Chelsea Cannaday

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Group 2 commenced Snow Crab Exercise (Snow Crab Ex) 24-1 Jan. 22, 2024 following the arrival of Navy EOD Mobile Units (EODMU) and Navy Divers at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, Minn.

Snow Crab Ex 24-1 is a two week exercise designed to test and evaluate U.S. Navy EOD capabilities in a simulated Arctic environment and, ultimately, improve Navy EOD's combat effectiveness.

"We have a responsibility and a duty to be able to respond globally to explosive threats to peer adversaries and competitors. Navy EOD and Navy Diving forces aggressively pursue opportunities to further develop a more agile and flexible force to support the Fleet commander," said Capt. Joseph Haywood, commander,

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 2. "Snow Crab Ex allows Navy EOD and Navy Diving forces to build capability and readiness in an Arctic environment, so we are better equipped to fight for sea control in the Arctic environment."

During Snow Crab Ex, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 12 and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2 will exercise tactical control over Navy EOD technicians from EODMU 12 and EODMU 2, as well as MDSU 2.

"Our EOD technicians and divers have a highly unique skill set, strong mindsets, and an unbreakable bond that allows them to commit to and accomplish seemingly impossible tasks, and that is what we are training toward during Snow Crab Ex 24-1," said Cmdr. David Scherr, commander, EODMU 12. "It is important that we are able

to efficiently operate wherever we are called, and we'll be honing our tactics, techniques, and procedures in a challenging Arctic environment to ensure we are ready for the challenge."

Units participating in Snow Crab Ex 24-1 include: EODGRU 2, EODMU 2, EODMU 12, MDSU 2, EOD Expeditionary Support Unit (EODESU) 2, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 4, Expeditionary Exploitation Unit One, and Navy Expeditionary Intelligence Command (NEIC).

Navy EOD will clear simulated unexploded ordnance, secure critical infrastructure, and effectively communicate between units that will be distributed and operating simultaneously in a training environment, while also maintaining command and control (C2) during the exercise.

Navy Divers will also complete ice dive training, to include underwater location and identification of ordnance, to ensure they can complete dive and salvage operations in Arctic waters.

The Minnesota National Guard will provide air support for portions of the exercise. Camp Ripley provides ideal conditions and training ranges to simulate an Arctic environment for ice and cold weather dive training, where Navy divers can train in a subzero temperature and arduous conditions at training ranges.

"Camp Ripley provides us an opportunity to train in an environment that mimics the Arctic region, without

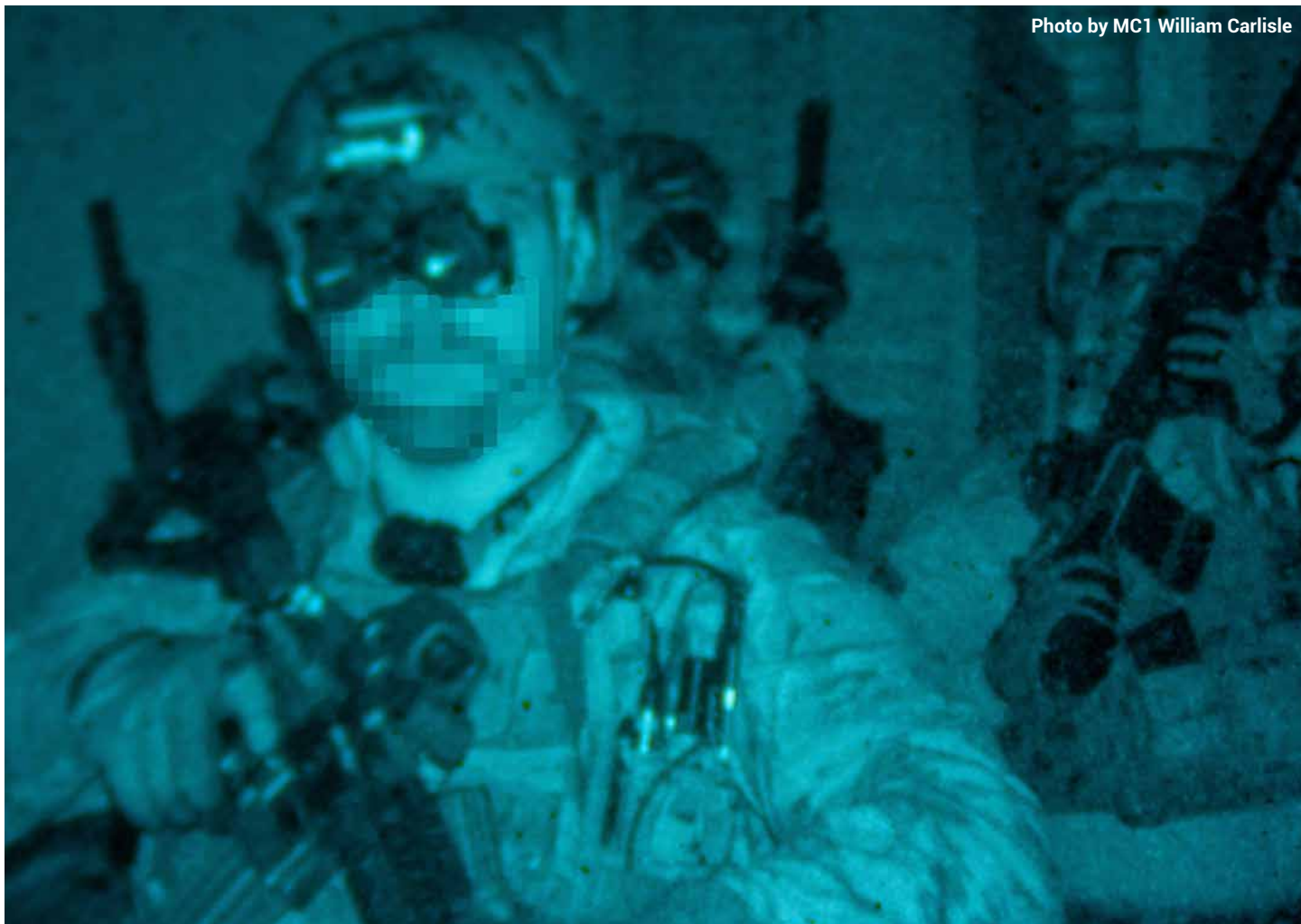
the exceptional cost of traveling to remote areas," said Capt. Haywood. "The Minnesota National Guard and Camp Ripley provide us modern facilities and the logistical and administrative support needed. They have been exceptional partners training with us as we train and prepare to be able to respond to any situation in any environment."

The U.S. Navy routinely patrols on, above, below and around Arctic waters to ensure the security of commerce and demonstrate freedom of navigation. Exercises like Snow Crab Ex 24-1 allow our teams to assess their readiness, increase their experience in the region, test new technologies, and advance our understanding of the Arctic environment.

Navy Expeditionary Combat Command units participating in Snow Crab Ex 24-1 include: EODGRU 2, EODMU 2, EODMU 12, MDSU 2, EOD Expeditionary Support Unit (EODESU) 2, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 4, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG), and Navy Expeditionary Intelligence Command (NEIC). All units are headquartered at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story with the exception of NEIC, headquartered on Naval Air Station Oceana Dam Neck Annex, and NAVELSG, headquartered on Naval Weapons Station Yorktown.

For more news about U.S. Navy EOD and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Two, visit <https://www.necc.usff.navy.mil> and <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/EODG-2>.

Photo by MC1 William Carlisle



## NAVY SEALS FORGE ALLIANCE

Story by Lt.j.g. Martin Carey

In a constant demonstration of partnership in the Eastern Mediterranean, U.S. East Coast-based Naval Special Warfare Operators (SEALs) and Special Warfare Combatant-Craft Crewmen (SWCC) collaborated with Cypriot Navy Underwater Demolition Team (MYK) partners Jan. 22 – Feb. 14, 2024, refining their operational expertise in the maritime domain throughout waters surrounding Cyprus. This relationship serves as a powerful deterrent, showcasing a united front against potential threats to regional and maritime security in the area.

“Our partnership with the Cypriot Underwater Demolition Team sends a clear message to our adversaries. Together, we stand as a resolute force, ready to respond to any challenge and defend the shared interests of our nations,” said Capt. Bill Gallagher, Naval Special Warfare Group TWO Commodore. “This is not just a collaboration; it’s a crucible of excellence. Through joint endeavors, we fortify our capabilities and make clear that any aggression will be met with a swift, unyielding response.”

Navigating persistent waves, the SEALs and their Cypriot partners engaged in synchronized drills, honing their skills in covert operations, maritime operations, and Visit, Board,

Search, and Seizure (VBSS) at sea. The intensity of these exercises reflects the unwavering commitment Naval Special Warfare has to training their personnel to ensure readiness and the ability to operate in dynamic maritime environments.

The on-site SEAL commander stated, “The interoperability and camaraderie displayed here transcend conventional military cooperation. These face-to-face iterations of training not only bolster our combat capabilities, but ensures the U.S. and Cypriot relationship remains steadfast.”

The MYK special operations forces are highly skilled operators of the Cypriot Navy who conduct special reconnaissance, direct action, military assistance, combat search and rescue, and maritime operations to safeguard the interests of Cyprus and promote regional security.

Naval Special Warfare Group TWO produces, supports, and deploys the world’s premier maritime special operations forces to conduct full-spectrum operations and integrated deterrence in support of U.S. national objectives. For more information, visit <https://www.nsw.navy.mil/>

# HOMETOWN AREA RECRUITING PROGRAM



Allowing Sailors to report to the recruiting station nearest to their hometown for up to **30 days, with no-cost TAD, or in conjunction with their PCS.**

Help your Hometown Recruiters build the future of the Navy.

**Ask your Career Counselor and APPLY NOW!**



# THE BLACK KNIGHTS RETURN

Story by MC2 Ian Thomas

Throughout its history, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 314 has always been on the cutting edge of Naval and Marine Corps Aviation. As the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (ABECSG) readies itself for an upcoming deployment, VMFA-314 heeds the call once more, and under the cover of night, the “Black Knights” return.

“When our squadron is operating near an adversary, the enemy has no choice but to take notice,” said Maj. Matteo “Ozzy” Occhipinti, a pilot with the Black Knights. “Our mission is to utilize advanced aircraft and tactics to lend lethal support to our Nation’s operations and force projection.”

Originally commissioned as the “Bob’s Cats” of Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 314, the squadron has engaged in every major war since World War II, to include the Korean War, Vietnam War, Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and the Global War on Terror. Along the way, they have accomplished a number of firsts for the Marine Corps.

“When it comes to a Marine squadron deploying with a new aircraft, VMFA-314 has always been the first,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey “Wiki” Davis, commanding officer of the squadron. “We were the first in the Marine Corps to fly the F-4 Phantom,

the F-18 Hornet and the F-35C Lightning II, and the first Marine squadron to bring those aircraft onto ships.”

In the present day, the squadron is still pushing the envelope. Being the first in flight on a new airframe is never easy, and few people understand the grit, determination and technical skill it takes more than the Marines of VMFA-314.

“When you begin your training and then deployment cycle on a new airframe, you can expect some difficulties,” said Occhipinti. “One thing our squadron has worked very hard to improve upon is our familiarity with the relatively new aircraft, both as pilots and as maintainers. That, combined with the high operational tempo of the workup cycles we’ve experienced, has been challenging.”

Sgt. Jackson Barret, from Dallas, has firsthand knowledge of the intensive maintenance periods and rigorous testing undertaken by the squadron. As an aviation powerplant specialist and a plane captain, he’s experienced everything from the squadron’s first carrier deployment with the F-35C to the preparations during the workup cycle.

“My main role as a powerline technician is to ensure that maintenance is performed safely and efficiently,” said Barret. “I’ve been with the squadron since 2019, and I’ve seen how the demand for our capabilities has made our team come

closer together. Being one of three F-35C squadrons in the Navy and Marine Corps team means that we’re heavily relied upon to demonstrate our ability.”

No stranger to tough times learning new systems, the squadron is yet again embracing new technology to bring new levels of combat effectiveness to the strike group.

“We’ve got a lot of younger pilots in our squadron, and like us, this plane is a part of a new generation,” said Capt. Christian “Dory” Scroggs, a pilot with the squadron. “One of the major upgrades over previous airframes is the way that the pilot and aircraft communicate. Lockheed-Martin calls the new system ‘sensor fusion.’ Traditionally, aircraft were outfitted with sensors in an a-la-carte fashion. An aircraft might have a dedicated infrared sensor and separately, an advanced radar and possibly some other developmental electronic warning systems. The difference with the F-35C is that all of these sensors are fused in a way that makes the most important information more readily digestible for the pilot.”

Though system integration alone is a massive upgrade compared to older aircraft, it isn’t the only thing that makes the F-35C groundbreaking. As part of the new fifth generation of combat aircraft, it incorporates advanced stealth technology.

“The F-35C brings an unprecedented level of stealth to our

combat operations,” said Occhipinti. “It allows you to enter into an adversary’s airspace with little concern for your radar signature. That, combined with sensor integration, are the two largest factors as to why the F-35C is a fifth-generation platform. To put it simply, we can see our adversaries from far greater distances than they can see us, meaning we can strike and disappear before they even know what hit them.”

While the F-35C is a deadly system, it takes a team of people to maintain, test and operate.

“The F-35C is a crew-served weapon,” said Occhipinti. “I’m a pilot, but without the Marines on the ground running checks and performing maintenance, we couldn’t do anything. They are absolutely the base of the combat power of the squadron.”

Just as enlisted Marines and pilots come together to make a lethal combat team, VMFA-314 and ABECSG combine to form a whole that is greater than the sum of their parts.

“I enjoy the fact that we’re a Marine fighter attack squadron, on a Navy ship, alongside Navy squadrons and Sailors,” said Scroggs.

# PLAN OF THE MONTH



Your Leadership Tool for Communicating Internally

## MARCH 2024

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 1- Nov. 30	CY24 PRT Cycle
Mar. 1	First Day of Women's History Month
Mar. 7	E-6 Exam
Mar. 10	Daylight Savings Time Starts
Mar. 14	E-5 Exam

### DEADLINES:

Mar. 29	<a href="#">Capt. Joy Bright Hancock and Master Chief Anna Der-Vartanian Leadership Award Nominations Due</a>
May 3	<a href="#">Blue Angels Enlisted Applications Due</a>
May 5	<a href="#">FY25 Advanced Education Voucher Program Applications Due</a>
Jul. 1	Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) Applications Due

PREPARED BY  
Navy Office of Information

## SPOTLIGHT

**UPDATED POLICY FOR NAVY UNIFORMS**  
[NAVADMIN 031/24](#), released Feb. 14, 2024, announces updates to the Navy uniform policies and initiatives. Key updates from the policy include:

- Sailors are authorized to have hands in their pockets when doing so doesn't compromise safety or prohibit the proper rendering of honors.
- Solid black/navy blue leggings/tights are now authorized for wear with PT shorts and fitness suit pants.
- The bucket cover is reinstated as an optional Navy uniform component for female Sailors.
- Coyote brown backpacks are authorized for optional wear with the NWU Type II and III.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**THE U.S. NAVY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (USNCC)**  
As the the official community college for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, [USNCC](#) is now offering the opportunity to earn professional certificates and associate degrees for military personnel. USNCC's approach provides a world-class, naval-relevant education that develops leaders to serve at every level, and with a clear understanding of the maritime environment. Applications are now being accepted and can be submitted by prospective students or leadership nomination.

## MONEY MATTERS

**TAX SEASON - TIME TO FILE YOUR 2023 TAXES**  
Federal taxes are due April 15, 2024. Your W-2 and other tax-related documents are located in your DFAS myPay account under 'Statements.' To access a range of tax-filing support, visit Military OneSource. [MilTax](#), a program offered through Military OneSource, includes tax preparation, e-filing software, and access to tax consultants specifically trained to help Sailors and their families.



## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### EXPANDED COOKING CAPABILITIES IN UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING

Sailors can now use personally owned small cooking appliances in all unaccompanied housing rooms, expanding access to healthy food options on Navy installations. The new policy allows Sailors to use appliances such as crockpots, electric hotpots, blenders, pod-type coffee makers, electric pressure cookers, rice makers, and toasters. Appliances must have an automatic shut off feature and unexposed heating elements. Installation commanding officers will determine which small appliances are permitted for use in base unaccompanied housing. For further questions, Sailors can reach out to the nearest installation [Navy Unaccompanied Housing Office](#).



## FAMILY RESOURCES



### MyCAA SCHOLARSHIP

Is your spouse looking to pursue higher education? Now is the perfect time to take charge of careers by building up valuable skills in the market, with MyCAA! [The My Career Advancement Account Scholarship program](#) provides \$4,000 financial assistance to those seeking or maintaining their license, certification, or associate's degree.

## RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

**MILITARY  
ONESOURCE**

### STAY WELL AND THRIVE WITH MILITARY ONESOURCE

Looking for no-cost resources on topics including childcare, finances, PCS moves, non-medical counseling and more? Military OneSource is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Call 800-342-9647 or visit [Military OneSource](#) today to find out more about how available resources best support you and your family.

## NAVY CULTURE

### AMERICA'S WARFIGHTING NAVY

America is counting on us to deter aggression, defend our national security interests, and preserve our way of life on the seas. Our Sailors must be the best warfighters in the world with the best systems, weapons, and platforms to ensure we can defeat our adversaries. As we serve with honor and courage, our priorities will focus on warfighting, warfighters, and the foundation that supports them.

[Our warfighting Navy](#) will deliver decisive combat power, along with our allies and partners, to remain the world's preeminent fighting force. Through world-class training and education investments, we will empower our warfighters to operate in uncertain, complex, and changing environments. Ensuring that the quality of service meets the highest standards, we aim to build a strong foundation of trust and confidence of the American People every day.





Photo by MC1 Cody Deccio  
@USNavyBlueAngels



Photo by MC2 Evan Diaz  
@SomersetLPD25



Photo by MC2 Omar N Rubi  
@USNavalForcesEuropeAfrica

# 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 Ivan Skvaril  
@CTF75



Photo by MC1 Cody Deccio  
@USNavyBlueAngels



Photo by MC1 Jacob Bergh  
@EODGRU2





Photo by MC2 Clayton Wren  
@USSLincoln



Photo by MC1 Jacob Bergh  
@EODGRU2



Photo by MC2 Clayton Wren  
@USSLincoln



Photo by MC2 Jesse Turner  
@ussnewyork



Photo by MCSN Wadelon Presley  
@USSGW



Photos by MC2 Jesse Turner



## COMMANDER, NAVAL SURFACE FORCES, HONORS WOMEN SERVING AT SEA

Story by Karli Yeager

Rear Adm. Yvette Davids, commander, Naval Surface Forces, hosted an all-hands call onboard Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45), to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of women serving aboard surface combatants at Naval Base San Diego, Nov. 30. On Nov. 30, 1993, Congress repealed Title 10 U.S.C. Section 6015, that previously barred women from combatant ships, preventing integrated crews and situations where women would be at risk of hostile fire, capture, or direct combat. On March 7, 1994, the Navy issued the first orders for women to be assigned aboard a combatant ship.

"Women who serve our Navy today follow in the wake of courageous pioneers who broke glass ceilings and blazed trails that transformed our Navy and created the opportunities for women to serve our Navy in equal standing alongside men," said Davids. "Today, all the doors of opportunity are open to women who are leading at every level in our Navy. The question for women, and more broadly for every Sailor serving in our Navy, is no longer about what

can you do, it's about what do you want to do, and how far can your talent and ambition can take you."

Davids emphasized that women must continue to show their experience, grit, and tenacity as an essential role in the most ready and lethal Surface Force in the world. "I'm here to tell you that I'm one of the people who benefitted from the repeal of Title 10," said Capt. Andria Slough, commanding officer of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD-8). "In the 30 years I've been in the Navy, I've been the commanding officer of three combatant ships, and I would not have been able to do that without that article being repealed."

Today, there are more than 340,000 active-duty members in the U.S. Navy, and nearly 20% of those service members are women. Women now serve in every rank from seaman to admiral and in every job from boatswain's mate to surface warfare officer.

The mission of CNSP is to man, train, and equip the Surface Force to provide fleet commanders with credible naval power to control the sea and project power ashore.

CNO PROFESSIONAL READING PROGRAM

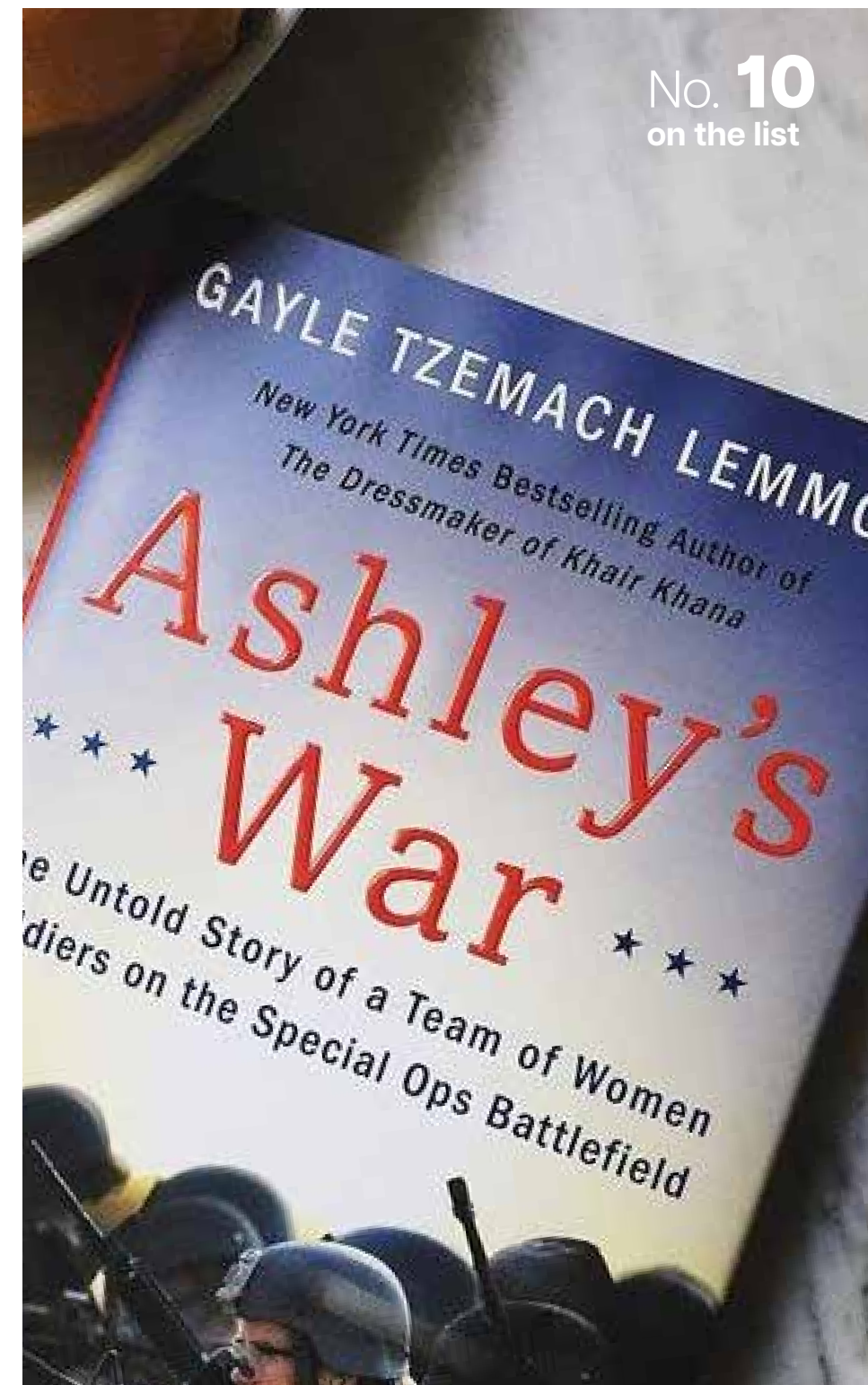
# BOOK OF THE MONTH

The CNO-Professional Reading Program consists of 12 books, and is a mix of writing genres including fiction, non-fiction, military, strategy, management, and technology, among other.

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.navy.mwr.digitallibrary.org>

No. 10  
on the list



*"A learning mindset is essential to accelerating our warfighting advantage. A Navy that learns, adapts, and improves the fastest will be the most successful. Knowledge sharing is essential to creating a learning culture."*

32nd CNO Adm. (Ret) Mike Gilday

Ashley's War:  
The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield

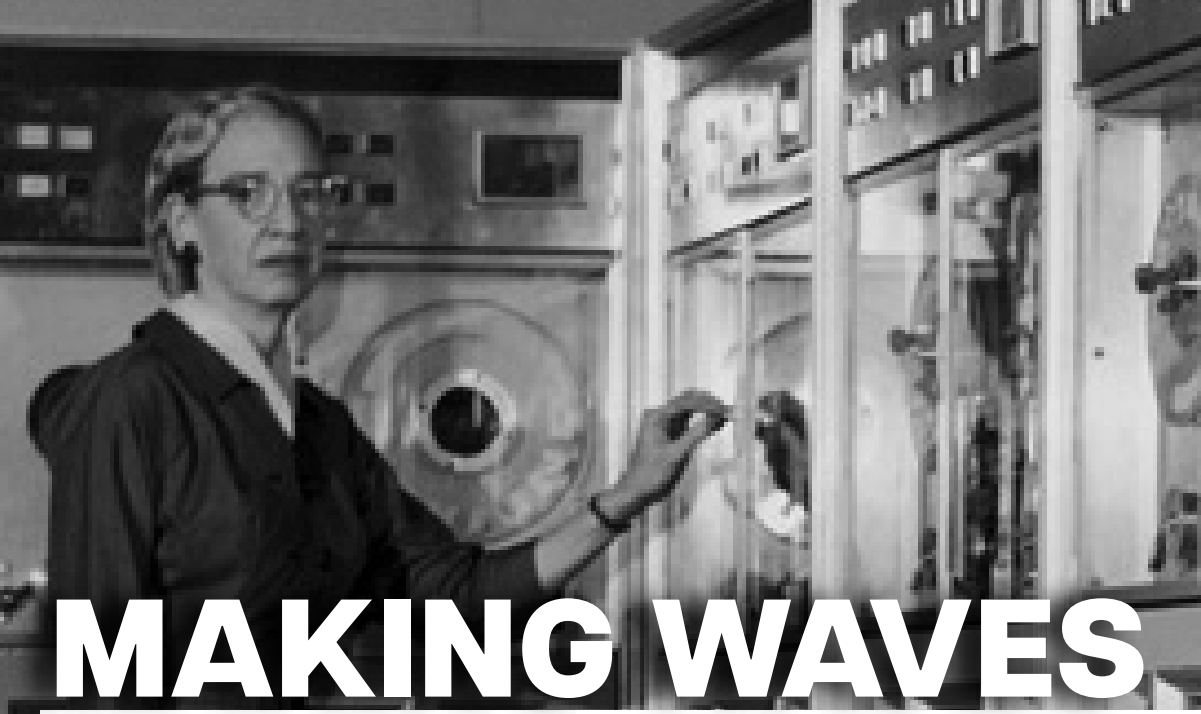
By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon

The story of First Lieutenant Ashley White and a groundbreaking team of female American warriors who served alongside Special Operations soldiers on the battlefield in Afghanistan.

Photo by MC3 Joshua Sapien



# CELEBRATING **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**



# MAKING WAVES

## DURING WWII: THE WAKE OF GRACE HOPPER'S IMPACT ON WOMEN'S HISTORY

Story by MC2 Jaimar Carson Bondurant

Grace Hopper was a U.S. Navy rear admiral, widely regarded as a brilliant mind for her role in spearheading computer technology and a pioneer among women in the Navy. Her naval story starts during World War II. Joining the Navy was no easy feat for women back then, but Hopper would eventually have her chance to prove herself during the war and even beyond that. Hopper's service eventually propelled her to national recognition in computer science and forever cemented her legacy within the Navy.

Hopper was able to serve through the establishment of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). WAVES was part of the U.S. Naval Reserve that had been established to allow women to serve their country in a capacity previously reserved only for men. With WAVES, women would typically take nursing and clerical responsibilities so that more men were available for combat roles. The hardships of war demanded the full commitment of every able-bodied person daring enough to serve their country in its time of need, regardless of gender. Hopper was bold enough to answer the call and join WAVES in 1942, and soon after was commissioned as a Lt. j.g.

Hopper was assigned to the Bureau of Ships Computation team at Harvard University, contributing to the design and development of the Mark I, one of the earliest programmable digital computers, and pioneering advancements in computing technology and programming languages. As a newly commissioned officer, she had an opportunity to contribute to the war effort in a more direct manner. Despite facing skepticism and discrimination as a woman in a male-dominated field, Grace was undeterred. She saw a chance to prove herself and demonstrate that women were just as capable as men in serving their country.

As the number of women in the Navy started to grow, Grace found herself surrounded by women from all backgrounds, each with her own story of patriotism and determination. Many of these women were caretakers who had to leave behind their families to enlist, or career women who left their vocation. Others were simply searching for adventure or driven by desire to make a difference. Regardless of their diverse backgrounds, they were united by a shared sense of purpose and camaraderie.

Hopper's role within the Navy quickly evolved, and she was tasked with training new recruits in mathematics and computer science, using her expertise to help them master the complex calculations and algorithms required for their assignments. Her dedication and patience earned her the respect and admiration of her fellow female Sailors, who affectionately referred to her as "Amazing Grace." As the war progressed, Grace's responsibilities expanded beyond training. She was called upon to assist with the development of new computing technologies, working tirelessly to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the Navy's operations. Her groundbreaking work laid the foundation for modern computer programming, earning her recognition as one of the pioneers of the field.

Despite the challenges and hardships she faced, Grace remained steadfast in her commitment to serving her country. She not only contributed directly to the war effort, but paved the way for future generations of women in the military and beyond. Her legacy continues to inspire countless individuals to this day as the namesake of a U.S. Navy ship: Arleigh-burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70), primarily stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Sources: <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/grace-hopper>; <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/grace-hopper-woman-computer>; <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aso/databank/entries/btmurr.html>



Photo by Cpl. Cody Purcell



Photo by MC3 Alexandria Esteban



Photo by MCSA Nicholas Rodriguez

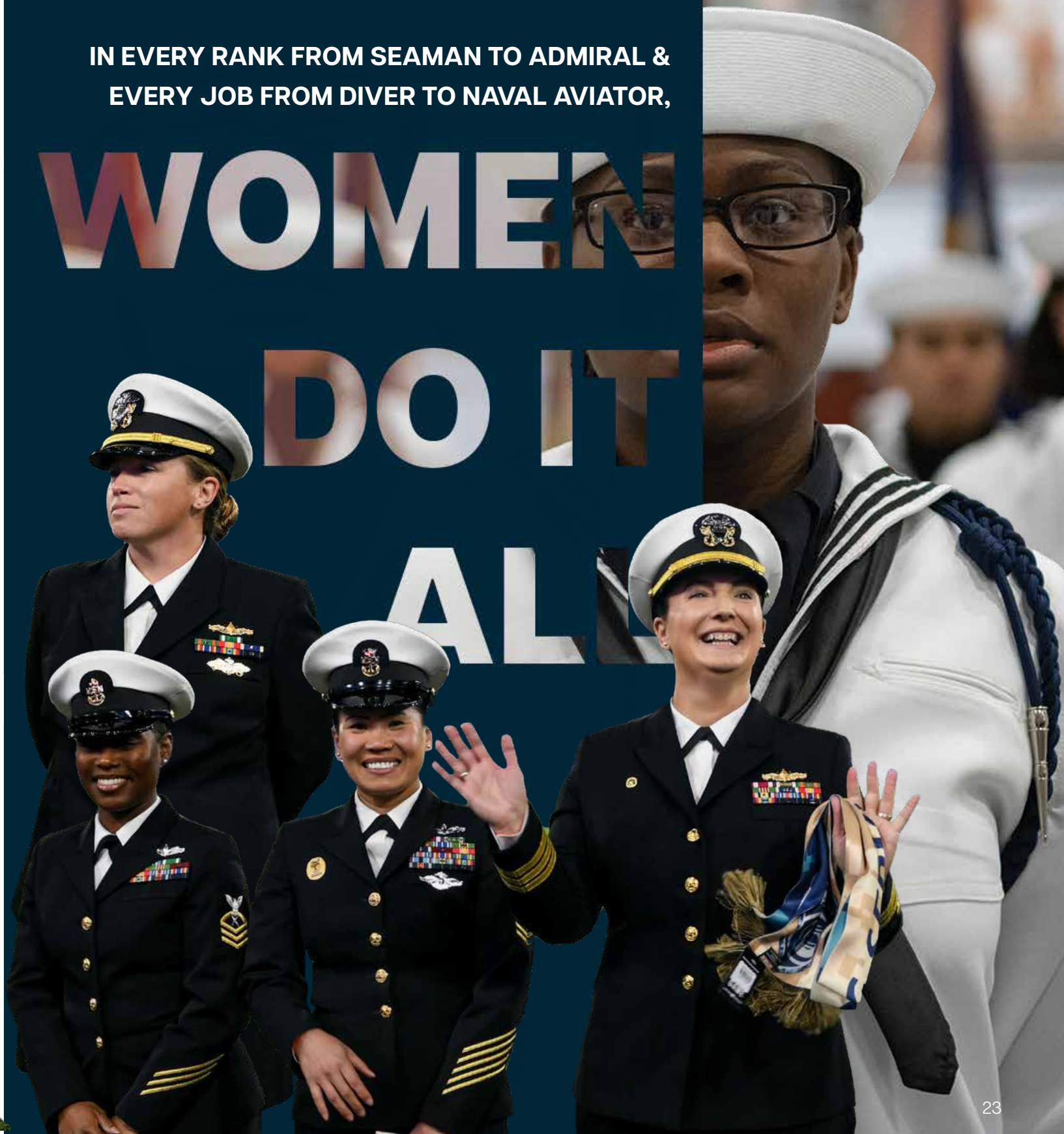


Photo by MC2 Shelby Jenkins

Photo by MC2 Olympia Martin

IN EVERY RANK FROM SEAMAN TO ADMIRAL & EVERY JOB FROM DIVER TO NAVAL AVIATOR,

# WOMEN DO IT ALL



TIMELINE OF THE CREATION AND SUCCESSES OF

# WAVES

WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE

**23,000**  
WAVES served in the aviation field.

**38**  
ratings were open for WAVES.

**900**  
location billets were filled by WAVES.

More than **100,000**  
women served in the WAVES during World War II.



Capt. Mildred McAfee

Pharmacist's Mate

Parachute Rigger

Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens

Ensign Frances Wills

WAVES Uniform

**PUBLIC LAW**

On July 30, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Public Law 689 creating the women's reserve as an integral part of the Navy. Public Law 689 stated those who signed up had to serve for the duration of the war plus six months.

**TRAINING**

Officers received training at the Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School, located on the Smith College campus at Northampton, Massachusetts. Enlisted personnel received their recruit and specialized training on college campuses as well. The WAVES also recieved training at Naval Training Center, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

**FIRST OF MANY**

Capt. McAfee was the first female line officer in the Naval Reserve as well as the director of the Women's Reserve. She later became the director of the WAVES. (1942-1945)

**BUSY BEES**

The majority of WAVES worked in clerical, health care, or storekeeper billets. Approximately 14,000 served as yeomen and 13,000 WAVES served as hospital corpsmen. Other available jobs included chauffeur, baker, pharmacist, artist, and aircraft mechanic. World War II marked the Navy's first female doctor, lawyer, bacteriologist, and computer specialist.

**1 YEAR OLD**

WAVES celebrated their first birthday, July 30, 1943, with 27,000 women in service. By the end of the war, more than 100,000 women had served.

**MAKING HISTORY**

Less than one year before the war's end, the Navy began accepting Black women into the Women's Reserves. Lt. j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens and Ensign Frances Wills were the first two Black officers to be commissioned into the Women's Reserve.



DECK  
PHONE  
TALKER

