

ALLHANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

MAY 2024

“ADVANCING LEADERS THROUGH INNOVATION”

Asian American, Native Hawaiian,
Pacific Islander month

MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrating and honoring mothers



Photo by MC2 Sang Kim

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 honor Asian American and Pacific Islanders, remind you of the upcoming PRT season and show you the great accomplishment of ABF's onboard the Ike.

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MOTHER DAUGHTER DUO SPEND HOLIDAY TOGETHER ABOARD USNS MERCY

Story by MC2 Brandie Nuzzi

Ensign Gemelin Lozada and Chief Hospital Corpsman Melinda Canales are a mother-daughter duo currently embarked aboard the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), now underway for Pacific Partnership 2022 (PP22).

For Canales, who has served 19 years in the U.S. Navy, PP22 may be her last full deployment. She hopes this will be an unforgettable experience.

“One of my goals here is to make this one memorable because this is going to be my last [deployment], and this is her first,” said Canales of her daughter. “So, I am happy she is with me for this [mission].”

It is Navy tradition for senior enlisted members to mentor junior officers. For Lozada, Pacific Partnership offers an opportunity to not only serve with her mother but also gives her the chance to grow and persevere professionally under mom’s tutelage.

“Chiefs and junior officers work together anyways, but I have a double layer,” Lozada said. “I have the support of my mom, but on top of that, she is a chief to mentor me as a junior officer. It is really nice to work within that dynamic and focus on the mission, but I feel lucky that we have each other on the ship.”

Canales said the feelings are mutual. The proud mother says she looks up to the junior officer.

“My daughter is the kind of person I want to be when I grow up,” said Canales. “She taught me changes are good, and that change is the only permanent thing in the world, and it is okay to change your focus on something else that works for you. Look at her now, she is a nurse, and not just a nurse, a Navy nurse. I am proud of her.”

After spending her childhood moving around to various commands during her mother’s naval career, Lozada never imagined she would join the Navy herself.

“As I grew older, I appreciated the stuff that she was doing as a mother,” Lozada said. “I started to have more of an appreciation toward the military and all that she was able to provide us with. Eventually, I joined the military myself. I have so much more of a newfound appreciation for it. Joining the military was me maturing and really seeing eye-to-eye with my mom.”

The family duo will work in tandem during PP22, caring for patients throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. Lozada, working in patient care, will create connections and work side-by-side with partner and host nation personnel. Canales will ensure PP22 doctors and nurses have all equipment needed to complete the mission.

“We get to show our partners that we are here to help at any time, and I like being able to represent and show what we do,” Lozada said.

Reflecting on everything her mother has accomplished in her Navy career, Lozada says she sees her mom as an inspiration as Lozada moves forward in her own career.

“Growing up, my mom always inspired me to be a strong woman,” Lozada said. “She made it to chief. That is a milestone and breaks the boundaries. She gives me hope that I can fulfill my role as a new officer.”

Deployments mean family members must say goodbye to one another, and Sailors often miss holidays with loved ones throughout the year. This year, Mercy is deployed on Mother’s Day. Canales and Lozada consider it a unique opportunity to celebrate this special occasion together at sea.

“Unlike all of the other mothers on this ship, I get to celebrate Mother’s Day with one of the reasons I am a mother,” Canales said. “I know this is a Mother’s Day that I will never forget.”

ARE YOU READY?



PRT SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER. DON'T WAIT TILL LAST MINUTE TO PREPARE. CHECK YOUR CURRENT BCA STANDINGS IN THE NAVY PFA APP!

OPTASK VI: HOW THE U.S. NAVY COMBATS DECEPTION

Story by MC3 Chris Nielsen

When confronted with an unsafe and unprofessional incident involving foreign militaries, a pressing concern arises: the first party to disseminate information holds the power to shape a narrative that could significantly undermine the reputation of our Navy. In the ever-evolving landscape of modern naval warfare, where information and perception can wield significant influence, ensuring precision and speed is paramount. In response to these challenges, the Navy has embraced the Operational Tasking Visual Information (OPTASK-VI) program, a crucial tool in its arsenal for maintaining dominance in this battlespace.

OPTASK-VI is a no-fail mission designed to capture and document unsafe, unprofessional, or nefarious interactions by foreign militaries at sea, on land, and in the air. This mission is multifaceted in that it must show the abnormal actions of a foreign military clearly and distinctly, while also showing the safe and professional actions of our military. This objective is encapsulated by the core phrase of OPTASK-VI, "Stay wide."

"OPTASK-VI is a necessity in the modern Navy due to the actions of our adversaries in this battlespace," said Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class, Jacob Bergh, former VIPER team lead of the wasp class amphibious assault ship, USS Makin Island (LHD 8). "The attempts to discredit the U.S. Navy are combated by our speed and accuracy with the OPTASK-VI product. Showing the entirety of interactions is vital to show the world how we operate."

OPTASK-VI is held to a rigorous standard in the U.S. Navy so that we can confidently combat any attack against our reputation and operational integrity. While each fleet has some variations in how the operation is completed, the same

expectation of excellence and quality of product is expected everywhere.

"OPTASK-VI done or trained incorrectly leaves room for doubt in the U.S. Navy's operations and how we conduct our business," said Bergh. The effectiveness of OPTASK-VI hinges not only on its implementation, but also on the meticulous adherence to standards by naval personnel involved in its execution. On many ships, the core of the Visual Information Personnel (VIPER) team is made up of Mass Communication Specialists (MC), but it is open to all rates as a collateral duty. On smaller ships, such as a guided-missile destroyer that might not have an MC, the entire team would consist of collateral duty Sailors.

To emphasize the significance of OPTASK-VI, it is important to highlight instances where it has proven to be instrumental. One particular example of a successful execution took place on June 03, 2023, when a Chinese warship cut sharply across the path of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS Chung-Hoon in the Taiwan Strait, veering within roughly 150 meters of Chung-Hoon. The quick and accurate work of the VIPER team prevented the Chinese navy from spinning the United States into the antagonist.

"If a VI team doesn't keep contacts in focus and in frame at all times, or if they alter audio or change the imagery, outside of instruction, you're leaving the commanding officer, command, and fleet at risk of scrutiny," said Bergh.

By embracing OPTASK-VI and adhering to an uncompromising standard of excellence, the Navy can effectively leverage video intelligence to safeguard national interests.



Photo by MC1 Tyler Thompson

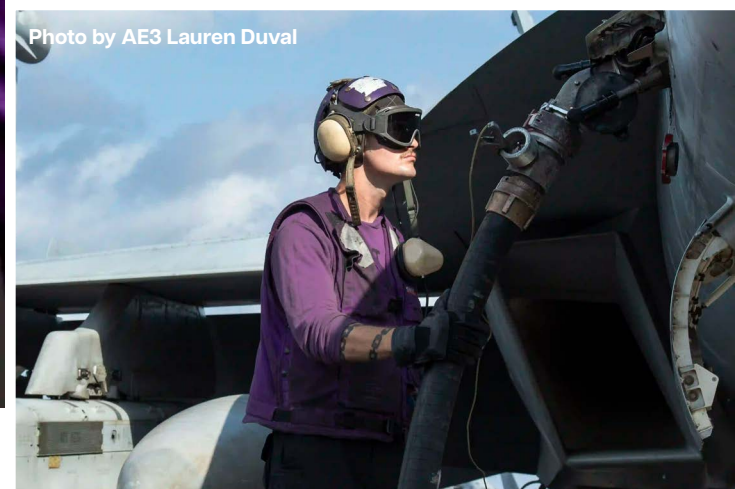


Photo by AE3 Lauren Duval



Photo by MC1 Matthew Fink



Photo by MC1 Matthew Fink

EIGHT FIGURE FUELS

IKE'S V-4 DIVISION CELEBRATES 10-MILLION GALLON MILESTONE

Story by MC1 Matthew Fink

On Feb. 25, V-4 division of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), held a cake-cutting ceremony in the ship's Five Star lounge to celebrate surpassing 10 million gallons of JP-5 fuel since the ship departed Norfolk last October.

"Ten million gallons is a huge achievement in the fuels world, and we are only four months into deployment," said LCDR Fabian Serrano, the V-4 DIVO. "We are definitely on a trajectory to set new records."

The ceremony also included the presentation of two awards and speeches from air department leadership. ABFC Amanda Harvey, the V-4 maintenance LCPO, said that even the most seasoned leaders in V-4 can feel how special this team is.

"I am on my eighth deployment, and this team is unlike anything I've ever seen," said Harvey. "I am really happy they get to experience something like this."

Affectionately known as "grapes," courtesy of their purple flight deck jerseys, ABFs like Harvey and her Sailors are a subcategory of the aviation boatswain's mate rating, along with ABEs and ABHs. On IKE, they are primarily responsible for operating, maintaining and performing organizational maintenance on aviation fueling

and lubricating oil systems. Essentially, they purify and maintain all of the JP-5 fuel on board from the moment it is received until the moment it goes into an aircraft on the flight deck.

Harvey said she is perhaps the most excited to see the impact this achievement has had on her junior Sailors. One of those new Sailors is ABFAA Steve Edmond, who arrived aboard IKE on Feb. 12. Edmond said he can feel how this milestone has reinvigorated and motivated his team to push harder every day at work.

"I am very proud to be a part of this, a part of history," said Edmond. "This is one goal, but I know we have many more to accomplish. I'm definitely still taking it all in."

Serrano said that, while the ceremony celebrated 10 million gallons, V-4 has already reached 12 million gallons today and hopes to reach 20 million before deployment ends. No matter how it turns out, he said, they can all cross the brow in Norfolk with their heads held high.

"I am extraordinarily proud of all of these men and women," said Serrano. "This is what every division officer dreams of."

The next time you see a purple jersey walking the deckplates, be sure to congratulate them for this amazing accomplishment!

Mental toughness is just as, if not more, important than physical toughness in high stress working environments.

Warrior Toughness:

The Navy's approach to targeting today's stress and preparing us for combat— optimizing our performance, performing under pressure, recovering and excelling.

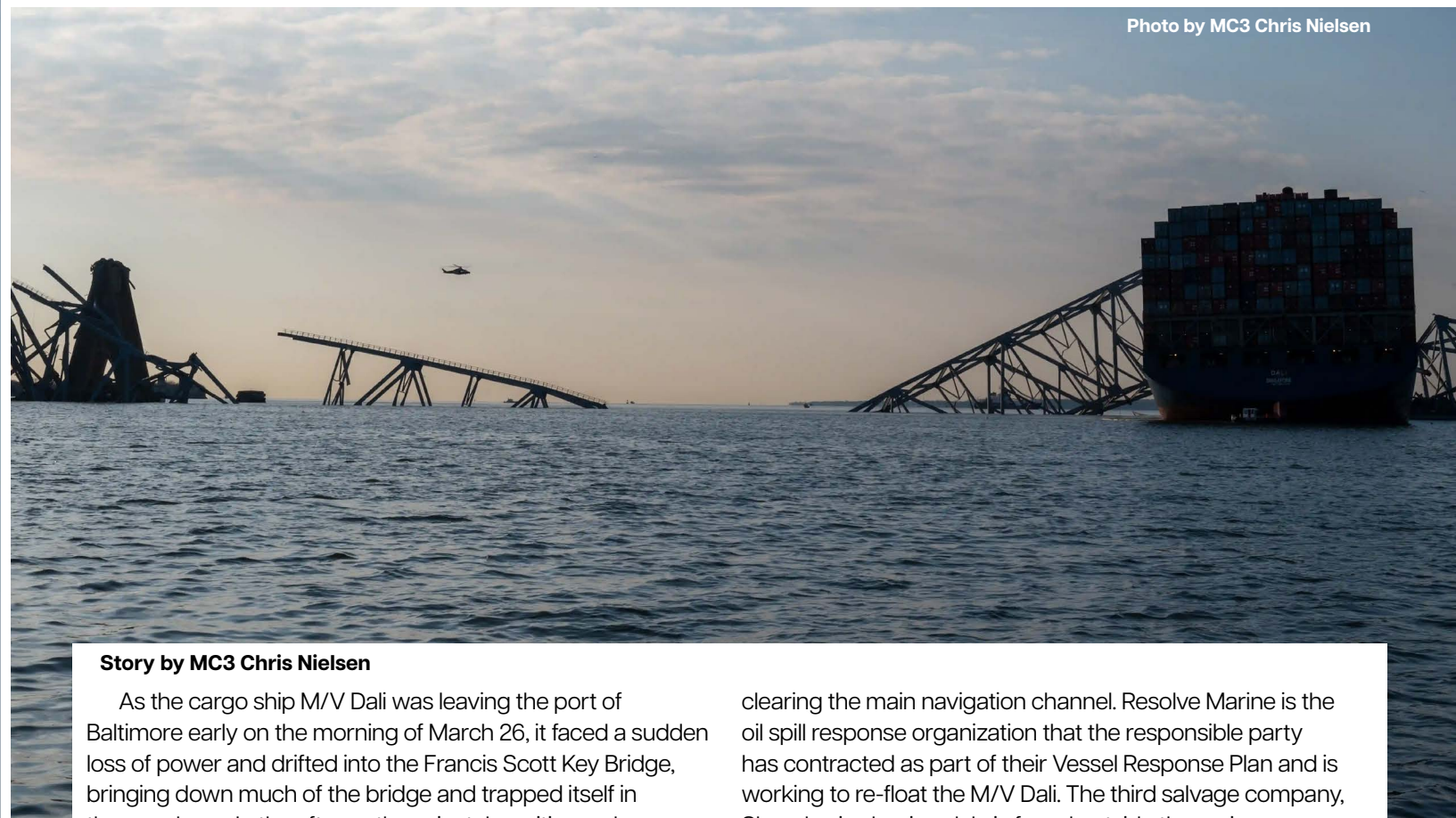


TAKE A HIT AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD



UNIFIED EFFORT

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE COLLAPSE



Story by MC3 Chris Nielsen

As the cargo ship M/V Dali was leaving the port of Baltimore early on the morning of March 26, it faced a sudden loss of power and drifted into the Francis Scott Key Bridge, bringing down much of the bridge and trapped itself in the wreckage. In the aftermath, a pivotal maritime salvage operation has unfolded with urgency and precision.

Soon after the collapse, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers charged the U.S. Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV) to support the Unified Command by leading the clearing of the Baltimore Harbor waterway. Its personnel alongside maritime salvage teams mobilized their resources to the site.

SUPSALV's expertise is recognized throughout the U.S. Navy, Department of Defense and other federal agencies. It provides technical, operational, and emergency support in marine salvage, towing, pollution control and abatement, diving and diving system safety and certification, diving and salvage equipment procurement and underwater ship husbandry. Its expertise in marine salvage has been leveraged globally, removing a sunken dredge barge in Alexandroupoli, Greece, in 2019 and recently clearing Louisiana waterways impacted by Hurricane Ida in 2021.

"SUPSALV supports other federal agencies and the country with its national response capability, including active duty and contractor salvage experts," said Paul Hankins, director, Salvage Operations at SUPSALV. "We have resources and support agreements in place so we can immediately respond with our expertise and resources when called upon."

The operation to re-open the channel following the Francis Scott Key bridge collapse has proven to be unusually complex, with three salvage cases intersecting simultaneously.

Salvage efforts are supported by Donjon Marine, Resolve Marine, and Skanska. Donjon Marine is responsible for

clearing the main navigation channel. Resolve Marine is the oil spill response organization that the responsible party has contracted as part of their Vessel Response Plan and is working to re-float the M/V Dali. The third salvage company, Skanska, is clearing debris found outside the main navigation channel.

"All parties involved have been pivotal to the recovery and salvage process," said Capt. Sal Suarez, USN, Commander, Supervisor of Diving and Salvage, Director of Ocean Engineering. "Each key component has their own set of experience and technical knowledge that will allow for a smooth and safe recovery to reopen the channel."

With so many teams on the site, coordination and communication are critical to the effectiveness and safety of the divers. Every day, SUPSALV meets with the other teams at 6:30 a.m. to coordinate where everyone's assets will be that day, and again at 5:30 p.m. to share what was accomplished that day and what they plan to accomplish next.

This collaborative operation highlights the importance of readiness and swift action in disaster relief efforts. The speed and competency which the salvage teams mobilized their resources demonstrates the importance of U.S. emergency response capabilities.

Workers continue to clear debris, support trusses and rigging and continue the removal process of bridge sections, working toward a channel opening with limited access by April 30 and full access by May 31.

Through collaboration, expertise and unwavering determination, these salvage teams and SUPSALV are demonstrating in real time their ability to support maritime infrastructure.

PLAN OF THE MONTH



Your Leadership Tool for Communicating Internally

MAY 2024

IMPORTANT DATES:

Feb. 1- Nov. 30	CY24 PRT Cycle
May 1	First Day of Military Spouse Appreciation Month
May 1	First Day of Mental Health Awareness Month
May 1	First Day of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month
May 6	Holocaust Remembrance Day
May 27	Memorial Day

DEADLINES:

May 3	Blue Angels Enlisted Applications Due
May 5	FY25 Advanced Education Voucher Program Applications Due
May 10	Mrs. Sybil Stockdale Ombudsman of the Year Award Nominations Due
July 1	Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) Applications Due

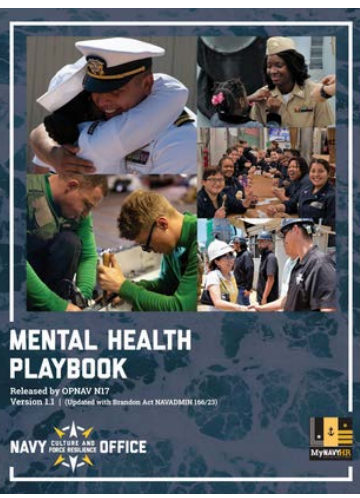
PREPARED BY
Navy Office of Information

SPOTLIGHT

MENTAL HEALTH PLAYBOOK

The Mental Health Playbook is designed to help Navy leaders prevent, mitigate, and address mental health issues within their commands. This work begins well-before a mental health issue occurs. It starts with the climate our leaders create and how they lead the people in their care.

This playbook empowers leaders at all levels to share an understanding of how to conduct mental health preventive maintenance and where to go for additional resources. Look out for an updated edition this summer!



NAVY CULTURE



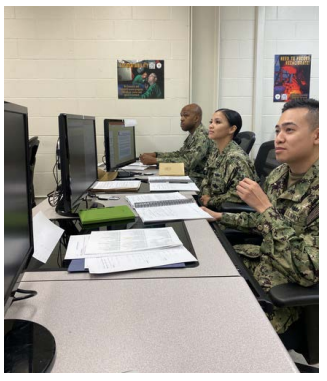
EVERY SAILOR A RECRUITER

Interested in recruiting Sailors from your hometown? The Hometown Area Recruiting Program (HARP) and Officer Hometown Area Recruiting Program (OHARP) returns outstanding Navy personnel to their hometowns to temporarily assist local recruiters in locating qualified individuals. These programs are an excellent way to return Sailors home to share their experiences and explain the benefits of a naval career.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ENLISTED LEADER DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Beginning in calendar year 2025, the Enlisted Leader Development Course will be a prerequisite to take the Navy Wide Advancement Exam (NWAE) for E-6 and E-7, as well as a requirement to be eligible for selection to E-8 beginning with the Fiscal Year 2026 Selection Board. This training is available now and places a premium on personal and professional growth throughout the course of a Sailor's career. By investing in our enlisted leaders, we drive each leader closer to his or her theoretical limits of performance.



MONEY MATTERS

DEBT DESTROYER WORKSHOP

The Debt Destroyer Workshop is a free, self-paced course designed to empower you and your family to get out — and stay out — of debt. You will learn proven techniques to overcome or avoid high-interest consumer debt, make the most of the money you earn, and get on track to a more secure financial future. Take the course today!



HEALTH & WELLNESS

DEPLOYED RESILIENCY COUNSELORS

Deployed Resiliency Counselors (DRCs) are licensed and credentialed clinical counselors who deploy with aircraft carriers and large-deck amphibious ships to provide short-term individual therapy and psycho-educational trainings on topics including suicide prevention, substance abuse, and the prevention of sexual assault. DRCs are one of many resources committed to supporting our warfighters. Ships across the Fleet can also deploy with other mental health support personnel, including chaplains and behavioral health specialists.



FAMILY RESOURCES

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION MONTH

Just as Sailors sacrifice so much in service to our country, so too do their spouses. The Navy recognizes the invaluable contributions of Navy spouses and welcomes their talents and strengths in our civilian workforce.



OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM: The Navy Ombudsman Program assists commands in maintaining the morale, health, and welfare of Navy families by helping commanders better understand the opportunities and issues among their command's families. Find and connect with your ombudsman [here](#).

DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY: Military spouses who accompany a member of the Navy stationed at duty locations outside the U.S. are eligible to be appointed to a time-limited appointment using direct hire authority. Learn more about DHA [here](#).

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

MILITARY ONESOURCE NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING

Did you know you can get 12 free non-medical counseling sessions with just a phone call? Confidential counseling from Military OneSource provides service members and their loved ones with resources and support to address a variety of issues and build important skills to tackle life's challenges. Learn more about non-medical counseling options by visiting Military OneSource or calling 800-342-9647 (CONUS) or 800-342-9647 (OCONUS).



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 MCSR Ann Tran
@TheCVN69

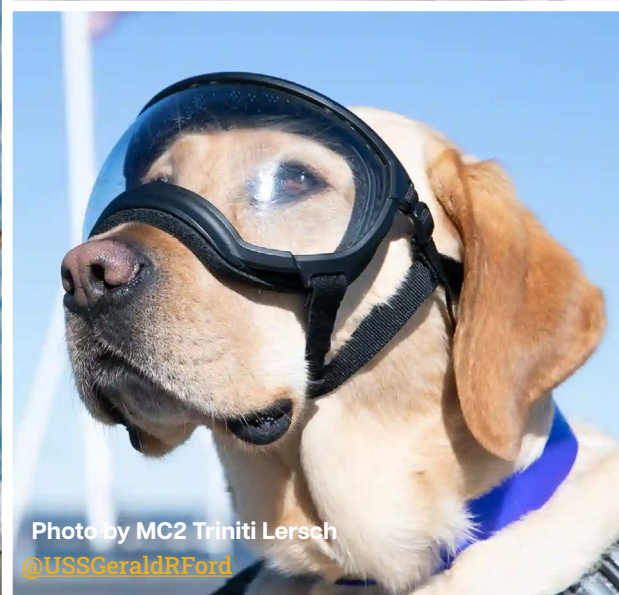


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Photo by MCSN Michael Shen
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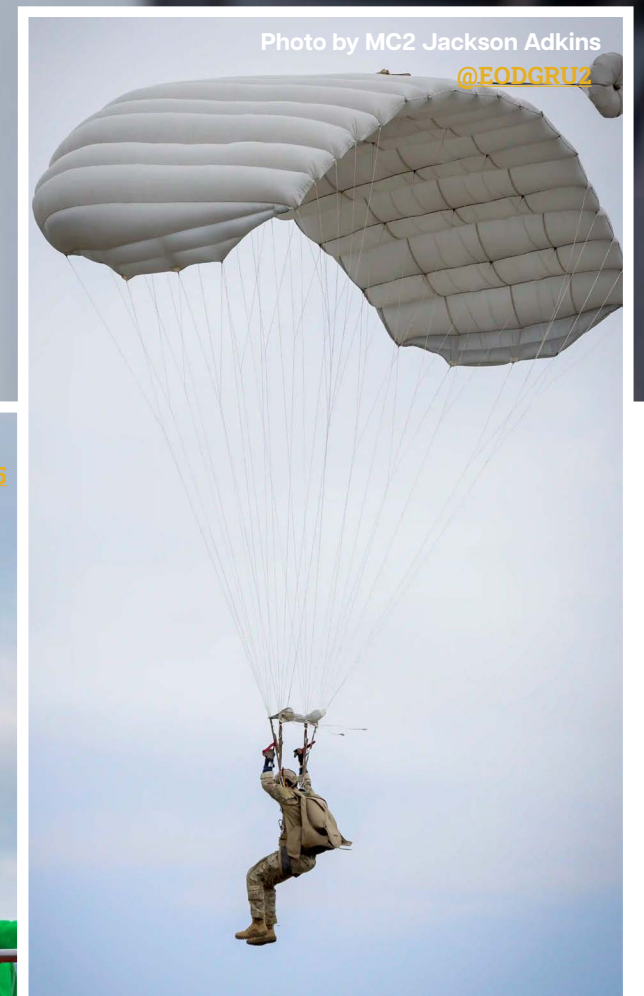


Photo by MC2 Jackson Adkins
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@USSWasp



Photo by MC3 Alfredo Marron
@USSTheodoreRoosevelt



Photo by MC2 Clayton Wren
@USSLincoln

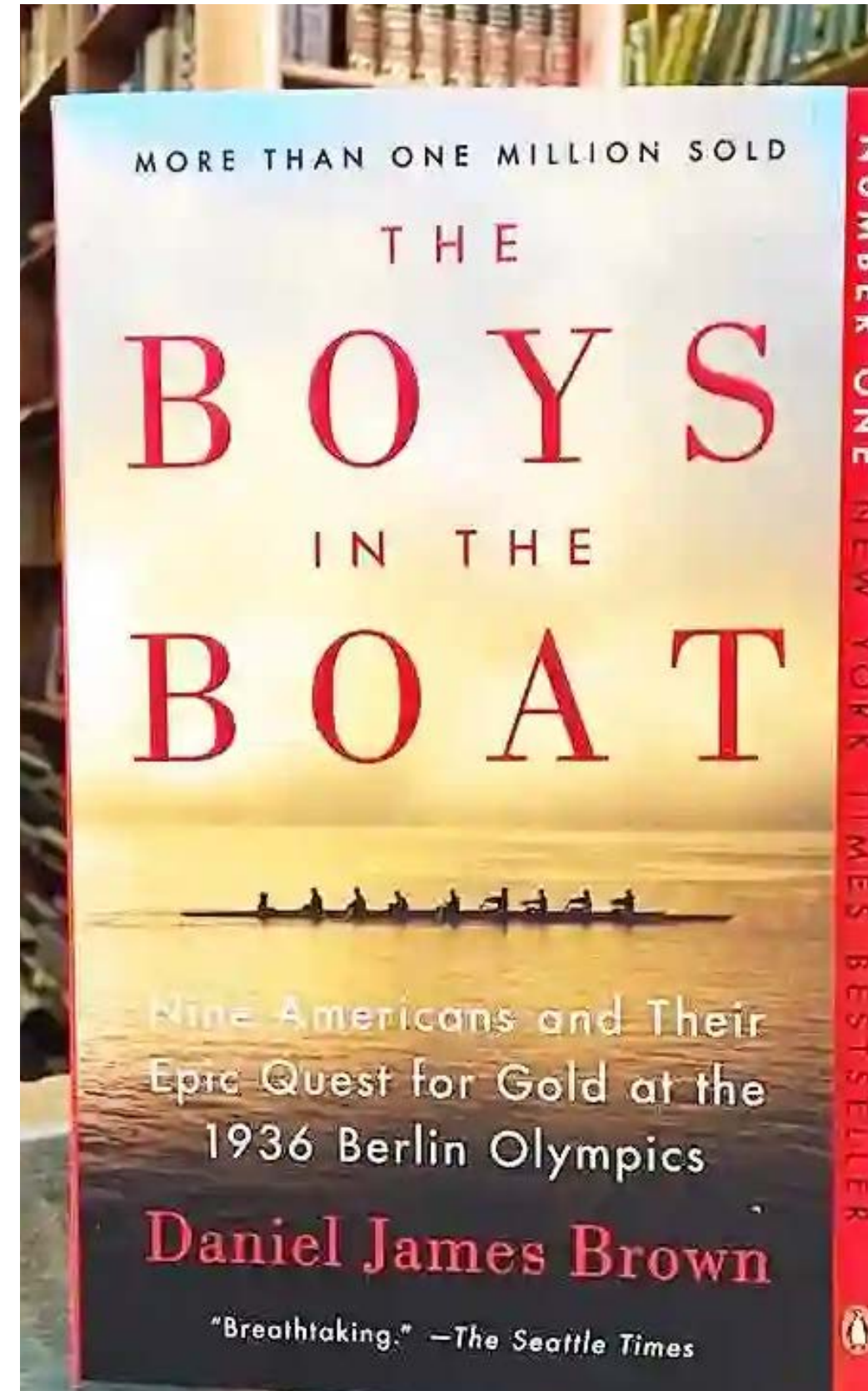


Photo by MC3 Jayme Bresnahan
@MSRON 8

REMEMBER...

TAKE TIME TO RECOVER

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

<https://www.navymwrdigitallibrary.org>

"It's not a question of whether you will hurt, or of how much you will hurt; it's a question of what you will do, and how well you will do it, while pain has her wanton way with you."

Daniel James Brown

The Boys in the Boat

By Daniel James Brown

With a team composed of the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler.



CELEBRATING
**ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE
HAWAIIAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH**

DURING THIS MONTH OF CELEBRATION AND REFLECTION, WE HONOR THEIR LEGACIES AND RECOGNIZE THEIR ENDURING IMPACT ON HISTORY AND THEIR INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN CULTURE.

THEIR STORIES INSPIRE US TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY, UPHOLD OUR SHARED VALUES, AND STRIVE FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE FUTURE FOR ALL.

- DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



REAR ADM. (RET) GORDON PAI'EA CHUNG-HOON

Retired in 1959 as a two-star admiral, becoming the nation's first Asian Pacific American flag officer.



LT. SUSAN AHN CUDDY

First Asian American woman to serve in the Navy and the first woman gunnery officer.



ADM. (RET) HARRY B. HARRIS JR

First American of Japanese descent to lead US Pacific Command.



CAPT (RET) SUNITA WILLIAMS

logged more than 3,000 flight hours in over 30 different aircraft and became the first person to complete a triathlon in space.



FIREMAN 1ST CLASS TELESFORO DE LA CRUZE TRINIDAD

Received the Congressional Medal of Honor for rescuing two men after a boiler exploded on board.



Photo by MC2 Caylen McCutcheon

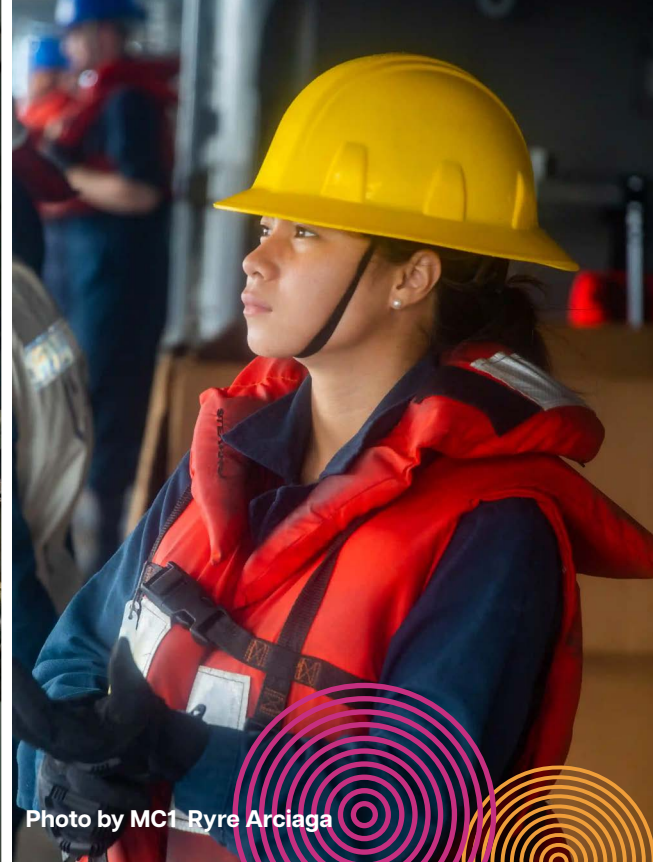


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