



# SURFACE SITREP



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## "Getting Back to Our Roots" Navy - Marine Corps Team is Training Today for Distributed Maritime Operations of the Future

An Interview with RDML Philip Sobeck, USN,  
Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE &  
MajGen Roger B. Turner, Jr., USMC, Commanding  
General, 1st Marine Division

BY CAPT EDWARD LUNDQUIST, USN (RET)

### **What can you tell us about the recent Dawn Blitz and Steel Knight exercises involving Expeditionary Strike Group THREE and 1st Marine Division?**

*Admiral Sobeck:* There is a lot of movement happening in expeditionary forces, including sea control and power projecting, and all that the naval service provides. One of ESG-3's main objectives of Dawn Blitz is the path of our certification to be a commander of an amphibious task force—something that we have not achieved in five years. We are not looking at this from the PHIBRON (amphibious squadron) sort of mindset, but the beginning construct of what you saw at Pacific Blitz in 2019, and that's the littoral combat force perspective. The commander amphibious task force is part of Distributed Maritime Operations (DMO), of which Expeditionary Advanced Base Operations (EABO) and Littoral Operations in a Contested Environments (LOCE) are a subset. We are now executing DMO instead of just conceptualizing DMO. My predecessor, Rear Adm. Cedric Pringle used exercises as the ability to experiment with command and control, as well as emerging technologies, to explore what it is to operate in the littorals in a distributed fashion, to gain sea control and to project power when we choose.

### **What were the objectives of Dawn Blitz and Steel Knight?**

*Admiral Sobeck:* First, it was to help us certify, as a commander of an amphibious task force. More importantly, we continued our work in the evolution of our naval integration partners in sea control. We had two separate exercises – Dawn Blitz and Steel Knight – which have not normally been combined or integrated in previous years. I will let General Turner talk about Steel Knight, but Dawn Blitz is a major exercise that alternates every other year with RIMPAC, has exercised our ability to plan and mobilize our amphibious force structure, and conduct amphibious landings from the Navy side. The integration piece that happened this year involved the EABO force design and concept. We were able to execute that because we have the perfect setting with Camp Pendleton, and San Clemente and St. Nicholas islands, to set the stage for exercising ship maneuver



*Rear Admiral Philip Sobeck  
Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE*

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in contested waterways, strait settings, and how we can employ different constructs – that all is a perfect scenario opportunity and that's what Dawn Blitz really kind of afforded it. Does that sound right, General Turner?

**General Turner:** We have traditionally used Steel Knight as our opportunity to practice really large-scale maneuvers. We built an exercise that executes every December, and it kind of focuses on both of our mission sets; where we contribute forces to the maritime component commander, and also the land component commander. As we have been making our shift to focus more on supporting the fleet in the ability to gain and maintain sea control, that really became the focus this year. Now we are much more focused on supporting the Navy's ability to establish sea control, as well as our ability to conduct power projection. This exercise really gives us the ability to do that at scale, and so that is what we were able to do. We have traditionally been focused on the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and the ARG (Amphibious Ready Group). We think that the MEU/ARG is going to have an enduring and significant role in the Navy-Marine Corps team, and so that is going to continue. But we're making some changes that are going to make it better able to compete with a peer competitor. How do we support the integration of echelons above the MEU, the larger operations at the division level, and at the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) level to support the ESG and the fleet in support of gaining and maintaining sea control? These exercises were really a great opportunity for us to work on some of the emerging concepts and be able to put some of that in play. What was unique in this exercise was the ability to experiment with the expeditionary advance base in support of the fleet, and really working through the C4-II capabilities, and really getting after shared domain awareness. By that I mean both the air domain and maritime domain, as well as what we see in the cyber domain, how we deal with the information and influence operations, and be able to see that in a common picture and make decisions at tempo during this exercise. We demonstrated some of the capabilities to make the kill chains work that are being contemplated and discussed at the service headquarters, and we were able to operationalize some of that during the exercise and actually demonstrate capability that we hadn't done before. We had more than 10,000 Marines and Sailors involved in the exercise. In addition to what Phil had with the ESG, we had four of our O-6 commands, five of our battalion level commands, significant portions of the Marine Air Wing and the Marine Logistics Group here from I- MEF to participate in the exercise. So, doing things at echelons above the MEU is really an important piece as we try to scale up for a potential conflict.

**You talked about the "common picture" and sharing domain awareness. That requires a level of interoperability that maybe we didn't have before. How are we able to get everyone that common picture? How do we take the different and disparate sensors that are out there – with the Navy ships and the Marines units and the aircraft and all – how do we connect that and have everybody looking at the same thing in the same way, and being able to exploit it?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** We are not there yet. Operation Overmatch, which is the next-generation broad tactical network, and utilizing the Air Force as the executive agent for the joint force, is where the naval services are going. That's how it has to be. It's got to be a joint lexicon. What we're finding out is that there are common backbones that we can plug-and-play in. We are looking for those pathways



*Major General Roger B. Turner, Jr., USMC  
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division*

in which we can leverage and connect existing systems. This is where we are experimenting. We put together the kill chain with what we have, knowing what it should look like in the future, and then identify the gaps where we need to infuse into an Operation Overmatch to make sure that the engineers and everybody else are aware of what we are still lacking or where we still need to go. Job one for the naval service is to get that common link in architecture all set up. For now, what we were able to demonstrate is that through ingenuity of Marines and Sailors, integration truly means integration from a standpoint of getting to solutions in step of the mission requirement, and that's kind of what these exercises really hold true.

**You mentioned working with the technical people. How do you do that?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** These exercises are sort of an incubation opportunity for operators and technical experts and engineers to be alongside. That's what we saw in this exercise. The engineers were able to see the flow of information and where operators were having a harder time identifying a common picture at each part of the kill chain. That is what is great about having this sort of exercise to deal with, having experimental demonstrations and opportunities, as well.

**You have the science and technology people out there watching and learning?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** They are. I think we are learning quickly that having operators and engineers working side-by-side is critical and is helping us to achieve high velocity learning in the maritime space.

**I'd like to talk about the support that you would get from the prepositioning ships, sealift ships and the Military Sealift Command logistics support fleet. It's well understood how it**



**works today, but we're looking at a whole new way of doing business. Will DMO, EABO and LOCE change the way we support expeditionary forces?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** In the "away game" mindset, we want to keep the competition and the conflict away from the U.S. shores. That's where sea control and power projection come in, and to achieve that you need the sustainment piece. The legacy sort of pre-positioned items, such as tanks, for example. With the next Marine Corps warfighting construct, tanks are no longer going to be at the center of the ground force. When we look at EABO and what those expeditionary advance basing options look like, one key element is temporal-- what are we supplying, and how long do we sustain? That's the agility and flexibility that the Navy-Marine Corps integration team brings to this because we can be the Swiss Army Knife of sea control by using land as a part of that sea control. There's a lot of that going into the calculus of how we look at the archipelagos and we look at different options in different parts of the world. In this post Cold War environment, sea control is mainstream. The Navy Marine Corps team is a Swiss Army knife that helps in that competition from Day one.

**General Turner:** Our current capability has been predicated on assured sea control and was really power projection focused. Now, and going forward, we see that prepositioning supplies are still going to be key in our ability to close a force and sustain the force, but it's probably going to require additional utilization of assets. Instead of the Maritime Pre-positioning Ship Squadrons (MPSRONS), we have the L-class platforms, along with nontraditional vessels and commercial platforms that can work in concert to be able to give us the capability we need forward. The model is still good, but some of the kits and methods are going to change.

**In DMO, I envision very small units that are going to have to be self-sufficient or may have to be logistically supported with non-traditional means such as unmanned surface vessels or aircraft. It's going to require a new kind of self-sufficiency, and that may include making water, generating power, being able to set it up and tear it down and move quickly, so that the units that are being extremely mobile can be self-sufficient in what they need without having to wait for a lot of gas, water, food, and those types of things. Would that be a fair statement to say that is important?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** When we started looking at peer-v-peer multi-domain combat, we can find ourselves massing forces in an environment where an adversary can sense and conduct a long-range precision strike. That's probably not a survivable tactic. Things can't be static. You've got to be able to use distributed operations and then command and sustain that integrated force while distributed. That really is the challenge. We have to operate in a distributive way, paying very close attention to our signature management, our ability to conceal ourselves, our ability to sustain ourselves, our ability to maintain domain awareness while distributed and then be lethal in that construct. That's going to require Marines that are very self-reliant, resilient and have the ability to operate at extended ranges from their commanders and be able to sustain themselves over long periods of time in that environment. When you look at what the Commandant has been talking about in force design, that's exactly the force that we're trying to build.

**Has that been what you have been working on with this current integrated exercise?**



*U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr. is the commanding general for 1st Marine Division. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Cameron Rowe)*



*U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, the commander of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3, speaks to the Marines and Sailors aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2) during exercise Steel Knight/Dawn Blitz (SK/DB) 21 off the shore of Southern California, Dec. 9, 2020. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Jailine L. AliceaSantiago)*



*U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr., commanding general of 1st Marine Division (MARDIV), speaks to the Marines and Sailors aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2) during exercise Steel Knight/Dawn Blitz (SK/DB) 21 off the shore of Southern California, Dec. 9, 2020. DB/SK21 demonstrates 1st MARDIV's and Expeditionary Strike Group-3's ability to employ the Corps' largest Marine division, alongside our Navy counterparts, against a capable, peer or near-peer adversary. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Jailine L. AliceaSantiago)*



*U.S. Marines with B Co., 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, prepare to retrograde their position during exercise Steel Knight/Dawn Blitz (SK/DB) 21 at Marine Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, Dec. 9, 2020. Exercise SK/DB 21 provides effective and intense training in an expeditionary environment to ensure 1st Marine Division remains lethal, combat-ready, interoperable, and deployable on short notice. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Quince Bisard)*



*U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr., commanding general of 1st Marine Division (MARDIV), left, and U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, the commander of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3, tour the primary flight control tower aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD-2) during exercise Steel Knight/Dawn Blitz (SK/DB) 21 off the shore of Southern California, Dec. 9, 2020. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Jailine L. AliceaSantiago)*

**General Turner:** We did a lot of this during Dawn Blitz and Steel Knight this year and these are also really the same lessons that we've learned at the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command when we look at peer-v-peer fight.

**Admiral Sobeck:** I've always been a CRUDES Sailor. As I see it, the integration of how we build and train ourselves individually has to happen way early in our production cycle. For example, I had a Marine task group underneath my C2 structure, and I had a reconnaissance team, as well. I utilized them as a weapon system as I would with any task group that would be underneath me.

It is amazing what Marines can do as a weapon system. I am in the same battle rhythm as General Turner's team operating as the Commander Land Force (CLF). He owns all the forces ashore, but I also own a portion of the shore element. Having some of his forces underneath me as a task group commander was incredibly enlightening about how to issue command orders to both ships as well as Marines that are affecting operations in and around the littorals, and also going ashore and reconstituting the shore forces. One thing that struck me is that the Marines look at things in three days as far as sustainment. Why just three days? We have to have a longer lead time. "Well, sir, that's all we can carry on our backs." And that was just one of those "aha" moments for the commander to say, 'we've got to think differently, and we've got to think in a more agile way,' and understand that everything is temporal, and the understanding about how we sustain forces in "all" domains is absolutely critical. In the end, it gets down to the technical expertise of the Sailors and Marines who understand their roles and their responsibilities—that's what has truly exponential manifestations within this littoral force because of how complex it can be. We're finding out through this integration that we take the complexity, and we make it much less complicated by joining into similar battle rhythms and similar Common Operating Picture (COP) structures. We are transitioning away from a protracted ground mission in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Marines are coming back to being an afloat force. We had a generation of Marines and Sailors who have never really worked

together in the past. Now, as much as we are focused on this peer v. peer competition business, we find that these exercises are absolutely fundamental to shake off the cobwebs and help us to understand that we've got a lot more similarities than differences in how we can design maritime operations. Then we can fold all of that into our lexicon; our tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs); our standard operating procedures (SOPs); and like-minded structures, so that from the architecture piece of building a flexible, nimble, agile maritime component for the joint force, it's "one voice, one team, and one fight."

**General Turner:** I share similar lessons here. Growing up with over 30 years of being an infantry officer, I can recall that we would always seek to quickly transition our capabilities because when we're on the ship, a lot of our capabilities are not realized. We would make the transition from control at sea to control ashore as quick as we could so that we could unmask our capabilities. What we are finding with some of the new command and control arrangements, and systems, is that it really doesn't matter where it comes from. It's location-agnostic command and control. In the example that Phil used, we had Fifth Marines working in a landward objective that was commanded by the ESG, and really, I was in no hurry to chop that force back because I realized that what Phil saw and what I saw was the same. His ability to task that force was effective – and I understood what was going on, I could see the same thing – so there was no rush to say, 'Hey, we need to quickly bring this force back underneath the division so that I can be more effective.' That location-agnostic shared domain awareness gives us the ability to see to the force and solve the problem at hand.

**I've been reading about how the Commandant wants the Marines to do more to help the Navy with its sea control, while at sea, and also to reach out and touch an adversary at sea from the shore. Can either of you comment on that?**

**General Turner:** We are using some capabilities that already exist in the force today to support the Navy in the maritime domain.



Some are multi-domain in nature. We are looking to realize some additional sensing capability and lethality that give us a more meaningful way to support the fleet from shore. What we did during this exercise through a number of vignettes was to show that those kill chains and processes could be done from Navy sensors to Marine shooters, and Marine sensors to Navy shooters. As Phil said, we're not there yet, but I think we were able to demonstrate that concept effectively.

#### **That's a big deal.**

**Admiral Sobeck:** It's a huge deal. It really is the force enabler bring the naval force together.

Marines are incredibly hard to find, fix, and target. That's what they do. Having the Marines' thought process about how they have done business is incredibly valuable. We now have the ability to look at choke points differently around the globe, for example, to have landward nodes out there we can use as sensors, as shooters, as expansions of sustainment, you name it. It is incredibly powerful. Now we have to link it all together. We have to do it in contested environments, in all domains. Look at where the two services have come from and where we're emerging to, with the ability to form clearly as one integrated force. We are finding out in a much more meaningful and more creative way today that now we have the opportunity to do just that. This exercise is setting the stage and then allowing our subordinate commanders to generate the creativeness in this innovation laboratory of warfare. As we present different problem sets for them from an exercise perspective, they are getting more creative about how they can solve them together.

#### **The current force structure analysis and 30-year shipbuilding plan envisions new types of ships and unmanned systems, particularly for expeditionary warfare.**

**General Turner:** It's a big paradigm shift, especially for the Marine Corps. We are turning a lot of our capabilities toward the maritime whereas everything used to be focused landward. We typically would husband our combat power, predicated on assured sea control and everything we did was focused on power projection. Now we're

turning a lot of our resources and our combat development assets: artillery, sensors, radars, and information-related capabilities towards the maritime to contribute to sea control. There is a clear focus today in our program about how we develop capabilities that are going to contribute to the fleet's ability to maintain sea control.

**Admiral Sobeck:** We have been able to generate a lot of excitement in those realms for this exercise. Connecting the nodes of the distributed force and delivering the logistical support, each element of sea control has to come together - underwater, cyber space, air, sea, surface, ground - it has to be an all-domain sort of approach. It is truly back to the roots of sea control and power projection. LCS is the kind of high-speed, agile platform that's perfect for this environment, supporting high-speed connectors, such as LCACs, SSCs and EPFs. We can move Marines on LCS, support them with Light Amphibious Warships (LAWS) and the Next Generation Logistics Ships. There is a lot of excitement about where the capabilities really lie.

#### **Do you see LCS or EPF being fitted with adaptive force packages in such a way that their standard mission package might not have? But, because of their speed, volume and flight deck, could be a tremendous contributor to a highly maneuverable small ground task unit?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** Absolutely. We are seeing the numbers of LCSs coming to the fleet now with their adaptability, whether it's drug interdiction all the way to supporting fires, it's so versatile. It really puts the L into the LCS like nobody's business. With all the other ships that are coming out and being programmed, everything that floats, everything that moves, is going to have an ability to support that fight.

#### **What didn't I ask you that you wanted to talk about?**

**Admiral Sobeck:** I've followed the conversations through the SNA Surface SITREP where you've focused on the science side of things and employing science and operators together. I think you hit it square on the head. We are doing it day-for-day now. This



*U.S. Marines and Sailors with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, board a landing craft, utility (LCU) during exercise Steel Knight/Dawn Blitz (SK/DB) 21 on San Clemente Island Dec. 8, 2020. DB/SK21 ensures the 1st Marine Division/ESG-3 team is optimized for naval expeditionary warfare in contested spaces and is purpose-built to facilitate sea denial and assured access in support of the naval fleet. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Cameron Rowe)*



NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE, (center), delivers remarks during the decommissioning ceremony of the Mine Countermeasure ship USS Ardent (MCM 12) at Naval Base San Diego. Ardent was decommissioned after nearly 30 years of distinguished service. Commissioned Feb. 8, 1994, Ardent assisted in the recovery of a downed F/A-18C in the North Arabian Gulf and provided support following the bombing of USS Cole (DDG 67) in Port of Aden, Yemen. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin C. Leitner/Released)

exercise is another example about how we are getting after it and adapting to, and employing, new concepts and technologies and testing them. There is a positive sort of mindset, from my perspective and the expeditionary world, of putting all these pieces together. Plus, we have the best partners in the world. None of our Navy and Marine Corps forces have worked together before this exercise. We are very lucky to have the geography here in Southern California where 32nd street and Camp Pendleton are right there – so the friendship only gets better because we are so close by.

**General Turner:** I would only add that as we are directing a lot of our effort now towards the maritime focus in support of sea control, the Marine Corps still must retain our capability to project fire power ashore. We strongly believe that we need to be a balanced force that can still do that, and that the Marines are still going to have a role to fight landward in restrictive terrain, in bad weather, and be able to produce high impact forces at the point of attack. That part of our mission is also going to be required in the future. So, we have a significant paradigm shift for us, but also still sustaining a lot of our key capability.

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# Netherlands Defense Forces and Coast Guard are Valued Partners in Caribbean

BY CAPT EDWARD LUNDQUIST, USN (RET)

The Netherlands is an important partner in the international effort to ensure safety and security in the Caribbean. Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten are independent countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, while the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba are special Dutch municipalities. Together they form the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Ministry of Defense has a significant presence in the Caribbean. The Dutch military personnel from the Navy, including the Marines, and the Army is tasked with fulfilling the constitutional tasks of defense and security, and they contribute in the international effort to ensure safety, security and enforcement of law at sea in the Caribbean region.

“The Caribbean is vulnerable to drug trafficking by sea, and because of the location of our islands, our Navy actively participates in the Joint Inter Agency Task Force South, an international organization that conducts operations to counter drug trafficking,” said Brigadier General of the Marines Frank Boots, Commander of Netherlands Forces in the Caribbean (COMNLCARIB).

Boots is both COMNLCARIB and Director of the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard (DCCG), but they are different organizations with different authorities. The DCCG is a civilian authority with its own cutters, boats, and fixed and rotary winged aircraft.

The Netherlands armed forces maintain a permanent military presence in the Caribbean for the performance of military tasks and a number of policing tasks. There are two Dutch naval bases on Curaçao and one on Aruba. The Dutch forces are dealing with a significant geographical area of responsibility, which is far from the European mainland. The Dutch islands are part of the Lesser Antilles, with Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao part of the Leeward Islands, in the Southern part of the Caribbean (approximately 4,200 nm from the European part of the Kingdom); and Sint Martin, Sint Eustatius and Saba, which are in the Windward Islands in the Northern part of the Caribbean (about 3,700 nm from the European part of the Kingdom).



*Royal Marines from RFA Argus set out for a drug bust (Royal Navy)*

The two groups are 500 nm apart. These great distances can be challenging in the employment of forces.

Dutch military personnel in the Caribbean intercept drug transports and combat illegal fishing and environmental crime, among other things. They also lend support during search-and-rescue operations and provide disaster relief in the event of hurricanes and other natural disasters or serious incidents.

When activated, Boots also assumes the role of Command of SOUTHCOM Task Group (CTG) 4.4. The mission of CTG 4.4 is to address counter drug operations, arms smuggling, human trafficking and other illegal activities.

According to COMNLCARIB spokesman Lieutenant S.H. (Stefan) de Haan of the Royal Netherlands Navy, there is always a “West Indies Guard Ship” (WIGS) in the region. “That has been the 355-foot, 3,750 -ton Holland-class offshore patrol vessel, HNLMS Groningen (P 843), with her NH 90 helicopter.”

CTG 4.4 normally includes the WIGS, but can also include other ships, such as the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus, a Royal Navy vessel which recently came under tactical control of CTG 4.4.



*HNLMS Karel Doorman*

The Netherlands doesn't have treaties with each of the countries in the region, but the U.S. does. "That's why we carry U.S. Law Enforcement detachments on our guardship," said de Haan. "The LEDETs have the authority to carry out boardings beyond the territorial waters of the Dutch Caribbean islands, and arrest, detain, collect evidence and deliver suspects to the judicial system for subsequent prosecution."

Organized crime also uses much faster and more seaworthy boats and go-fasts, to carry illegal narcotics, guns, and exotic animals, like parrots or monkeys. The professional criminals are usually not bound for Aruba, Bonaire or Curacao, but are bound for Dominican Republic or other destination further into the Caribbean. "HMNLS Groningen recently had five seizures, with four under CTG 4.4 and one under the Dutch Coast Guard," said Cmdr. Ronald van Vuuren, who was in command of Groningen at the time. "We have been successful because of good intelligence, and cooperation with our partners, a well-trained crew, and sometimes a little luck."

In December 2020 a Royal Navy Task Group, working with the U.S. and Dutch forces, intercepted drugs worth more than \$200 million in the Caribbean, exemplifying the international cooperation that have proven to be so successful. RFA Argus, with her Wildcat and Merlin helicopters, Royal Marines and US Coast Guard LEDET, worked with the HNLMS Groningen to seize 1.7 tons of cocaine and 28 kilos of amphetamines.

The bust was the second in two days, following the seizure of 264 kilos of cocaine in a separate operation in the region just 48 hours before.

Owing to Venezuela's instability, the Dutch must be vigilant for undocumented persons in small, unseaworthy boats trying to cross from Venezuela to Aruba or Curacao. "You can see Venezuela from Curacao," de Haan said. "They usually attempt sailing at night, and it only takes a few hours if the conditions are optimal. Usually, they will be intercepted and brought back to Venezuela, where they are handed over to local authorities."

Regional cooperation is also exemplified in the Regional Maritime Agreement or so called "Treaty of San Jose," to enhance regional cooperation in counter illicit trafficking. This Treaty was signed in 2008 and ratified by eight nations with four more pending. Treaty partners give each other permission to operate in each others Territorial Waters on a case-by-case basis. Activities include the boarding of suspect vessels of their flag on high seas; the boarding of suspect stateless vessels; and the exchange of law enforcement



*HNLMS Karel Doorman is loaded before leaving for the Caribbean in April 2020 to help the islands with COVID 19 response efforts. (Royal Netherlands Navy)*

## Coast Guard Commandant Commends Power of Partnerships

According to Commandant of the Coast Guard Adm. Karl Schultz, much of the U.S. Coast Guard's successes stem from the power of partnerships and the related cooperation and collaboration found in those partnerships. "We fully recognize that our borders begin well beyond our coastline, and that threats to our National interests and security originate far from our homeland."

Speaking at the 2020 NATO Maritime Security Conference, hosted by the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre at Souda Bay Crete, Schultz said, "The Coast Guard plays a critical role in strengthening governance in areas of strategic importance. We mature other nations' inherent capabilities to police their own waters and support cooperative enforcement of international law through dozens of robust bilateral agreements. Our leadership on global maritime governing bodies and our collaborative approach to operationalize international agreements drives stability, legitimacy and order."

The fight against drug cartels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea requires unity of effort in all phases; from detection, monitoring and interdictions, to criminal prosecutions by international partners and U.S. Attorneys' Offices in districts across the nation. The law enforcement phase of counter-smuggling operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean is conducted under the authority of the Coast Guard 11th District, headquartered in Alameda, California, and the law enforcement phase of operations in the Caribbean is conducted under the authority of the Coast Guard 7th District, headquartered in Miami. The interdictions, including the actual boardings, are led and conducted by members of the U.S. Coast Guard.

"For years we've trained, equipped and coordinated with dozens of countries across South and Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as with Allied partners such as the French, Dutch, Canadians, and the United Kingdom, to help stop the flow of illicit drugs," said Schultz. "These efforts are paying off."



*"Over the past year we've focused on building our partners to get them more into the game. Fifty percent of our interdictions last year were partnered-enabled...that have stepped to lead their own exercises and operations," said SOUTHCOM Commander Adm. Craig Faller during a House Armed Services Committee hearing in March 2020. (DoD photo)*



officers, such as the U.S. Coast Guard LEDETs that are embarked on the Groningen.

In addition to the WIGS, another significant afloat naval asset is the 215 foot, 1,150-ton logistics and amphibious support ship HNLMS Pelikaan (A804), which is permanently assigned in the region. “Last year Pelikaan commenced its midlife update,” de Haan said. “She has now returned and will be here for the next 15 years.”

With a crew of 14, Pelikaan is self supporting for loading and offloading operations and can accommodate 60 marines or soldiers to be transported in the region.

Military ground forces consist of a Marine infantry company based on Aruba and a Marines support point at Sint Maarten, as well as an Army infantry company based on Curaçao. The Marines are permanently stationed, whereas the Army troops are rotational. Additionally, landing craft and small boats are located both in Aruba and Curacao and form the Boatplatoon.

Other naval ships can deploy to the region. In April, the Royal Netherlands Navy's Joint Logistic Support Ship (JSS) HNLMS Karel Doorman was tasked by the Dutch Ministry of Defense to support civilian authorities in the Caribbean in fighting the COVID-19 virus. The ship carried relief supplies, and was prepared to serve as an operating base, medical support and logistics hub if needed.

#### **Coast Guard**

The Coast Guard has about 240 personnel, of which 200 are from the local islands and 40 temporarily assigned by the Netherlands Armed Forces.

The Coast Guard's three 41-meter (135 ft) Damen Stan 4100 patrol vessels, Jaguar, Panther and Puma individually stationed on Curacao, Aruba and Sint Maartin, are very similar to the U.S. Coast Guard's 154-foot fast response cutters. They have a crew of 11 or 12 and can stay at sea up to 7 days. The patrol ships carry a stern-launched RHIB for boarding or assistance operations.

The DCCG's fixed and rotary winged aircraft are leased and are manned with contract pilots and tactical crews from the Coast Guard.

### **U.S. Southern Command Enhanced Presence**

“Our objectives are to detect, degrade and dismantle transnational criminal organizations—disrupt their illicit activities – and save lives here in the homeland,” said Commander of US SOUTHCOM Adm. Craig Faller about the importance of working with our partner nations in the region. “Our team is taking steps to stop them in their tracks. In April, SOUTHCOM kicked-off our Enhanced Counter-Narcotics Operation, currently underway in this hemisphere. We are making progress, thanks to the unwavering commitment and noteworthy contributions of our partner nations in the Caribbean and Latin America. In fact, 60 percent of our illicit trafficking disruptions involve partner nation collaboration, a testament to how strong partnerships help safeguard our shared neighborhood from these threats.” The French, Dutch, Canadians, and the United Kingdom, all help to stop the flow of illicit drugs,” said Schultz. “These efforts are paying off.”

The Coast Guard has full jurisdiction in the territorial waters of the six islands, and a somewhat limited jurisdiction in the Economic Exclusion Zone, mainly regarding illegal fisheries. It can monitor traffic in its waters with a shore-based radar system that covers Curacao, Aruba and Sint Martin. The Coast Guard also has a large area of responsibility for search and rescue and is in accordance with international agreements. The service manages the shore-based surveillance radar system that provides coverage around Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

#### **Stormy waters**

The Caribbean is a region that sees extreme tropical storms, volcanoes, earthquakes, mudslides and other forms of natural disasters. The Netherlands Defense Forces respond to these events, and its bases serve as a rendezvous area for follow on transport to disaster areas, as well as a reception area for victims and evacuees. Curacao is a logistical hub for Humanitarian Assistance/ Disaster Recovery (HA/DR) operations in the Caribbean.



*Brigadier General of the Marines Frank Boots assumes his position of Commander of the Navy in the Caribbean, Director of the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard, and Commander Task Group 4.4 in August 2020.*

Hurricane Dorian in 2019 was the strongest storm in the Caribbean since they started keeping statistics in 1935.

Following Hurricane Dorian's devastation in the Bahamas, the 246-foot, 1,875-ton hydrographic ship HNLMS Snellius (A 802) conducted hydrographic surveys in the area of Marsh Harbour to reopen the port facilities and allow aid to arrive. Snellius was joined by HNLMS Johan de Witt, with her amphibious landing craft and helicopters.

De Haan said the Netherlands works closely with the U.S., French and U.K. forces in the region, as well as the Caribbean nation, to prepare for and respond to crisis situation. "We participate as part of the Caribbean disaster emergency management agency (CDEMA), both in exercises and actual response operations. It just so happens that Dorian struck when the exercise participants were already gathered rehearsing how to deal with the effects and aftermath of a major storm. When the ships gathered for training, Dorian hit, and we canceled the exercise and executed the real mission."



*HNLMS Groningen with her boat crew conduct counter narcotics missions in the Caribbean. (Royal Netherlands Navy photo)*



*Drugs seized during counter narcotics operations on HNLMS Groningen. (Royal Netherlands Navy photo)*



*PACIFIC OCEAN (July 29, 2020) The crew of the guided-missile destroyer USS Nitze (DDG 94) and embarked U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment transfer suspected contraband on the flight deck of Nitze. Nitze is deployed to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility to support counter illicit drug trafficking in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign William Fong)*

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## FACE SITREP

THE OFFICIAL SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

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### FEATURED NEWS

What's New in the Navy's Fleet?  
The Navy's fleet is a mix of old and new ships, and it is a great  
ground, and it is a great

## SURFACE SITREP

THE OFFICIAL SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

### Numbered Fleets are a Tactical Mainstay

As the Navy's fleet grows, the numbered fleets are a tactical mainstay.

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## SURFACE SITREP

THE OFFICIAL SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

### The ESG Construct Delivers Versatile, Lethal Capabilities

As the Navy's fleet grows, the ESG construct is a tactical mainstay.

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### FEATURED NEWS

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## SURFACE SITREP

THE OFFICIAL SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

### The Best Time to Talk with Your Detachments is Early, with Nothing at Stake

As the Navy's fleet grows, the detachments are a tactical mainstay.

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### FEATURED NEWS

What's New in the Navy's Fleet?  
The Navy's fleet is a mix of old and new ships, and it is a great  
ground, and it is a great

# Information Warfare Enterprise Provides Battlespace Awareness From the Foxhole to the White House and Everything in Between

BY CAPT EDWARD LUNDQUIST, USN (RET)

The Center for Information Warfare Training provides training for the information warfare enterprise, including the four officer communities: the cryptologists, oceanographers, intelligence officers and information professionals. Including the enlisted ratings of information systems technicians and aerographer's mates, and the cryptologic ratings of linguists, signal analysts, and cryptologic technicians.

"CIWT's mission is to develop and mature the Information Warfare cadre of the future in order to support service specific, national, and joint assignments," said Capt. Mark Ratkus, CIWT commanding officer.

"The Information Warfare Enterprise provides assured command and control, the ability to use and employ our methods of communication while impeding an adversary," said Ratkus. "We work collaboratively across national intelligence commands, fleet and type commanders, other military services, external customers, and stakeholders to meet today's challenges across the full spectrum of military operations. We provide battle space awareness from the context of information gleaned, the analysis, defusing of information, and providing it to the decision-makers so they have an understanding of what's happening around them. We provide information to influence where forces are employed, how to use our weapons systems to defend the ship, as well as engage the adversary. We serve in a variety of capacities from tactical operations to strategic assignments; to joint, allied and coalition positions. We cover from the foxhole to the White House and everything in between," Ratkus said. "We're on ships, submarines, the EP3s and other aircraft, and with special warfare. We serve on strike group staffs, numbered fleet staffs, and a variety of national level joint assignments. We support the three-



CAPT Marc W. Ratkus  
CO of the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT)

letter agencies, and we do that across the spectrum of our four different communities."

CIWT has four commands, along with their detachments and remote learning sites, with a combined staff of about 1,300 people, and a student throughput of approximately 22,000 officers and enlisted personnel a year.

"On average, we teach 200 courses. Several integrate the information warfare community disciplines, while the rest focus on the skills our Sailors need to succeed," Ratkus said. "We've also got a number of training events over in Europe, so we'll do mobile training teams for the cryptologic ratings, intelligence specialists and the information system technicians."



Core course, offered by Information Warfare Training Command Corry Station, attend the first day of training in the temporary modular Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility training spaces onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida. The new facility adds 37,000 square feet of training spaces consisting of 33 electronic classrooms and 530-student computer stations that help keep up with the demand for trained cybersecurity and information warfare specialists. (U.S. Navy photo by Glenn Sircy/Released)



There are Information Warfare Training Commands, located at Corry Station, Virginia Beach, San Diego and Monterey respectively, each educating a different training audience. Subordinate to these commands are two detachments, one at Fort Gordon in Georgia and one in Goodfellow AFB in Texas, and 13 other learning sites around the United States and Japan that provide waterfront training for commands in Mayport/Jacksonville area, Hampton Roads, Fort Meade in Maryland, Pearl Harbor, Groton, Conn., Japan, and the Pacific Northwest.

### Information Warfare

Ratkus said IW has transcended from a support role to a warfighting function. "Our sailors and officers are directly communicating with war fighters to provide the context from an integrative fires perspective, and we are light years ahead of where we were in WWII. Think back to the movie Battle of Midway where Commander Rochefort and the intel team at HYPO station were intercepting and decrypting the Japanese code, and drawing rough lines of bearing on a map, and providing some basic idea of where the enemy was and what they were doing. Today we're providing absolute fidelity on where to employ the forces, where to move forces, plot for them based on intelligence and information. We're telling them where to drop ordnance; we're posturing forces to execute the desired maritime mission, whether that's maritime security ops, or escort operations; and we're also posturing our forces to optimize our systems and capabilities to intercept and provide intelligence for follow-on analysis. From an operational perspective, we're integrated into every maritime op center. Intelligence officers, information technology, information systems technicians, and cryptologists, are sitting side-by-side with the war fighters in our respective CTFs to provide tipping and queuing for employment of the aircraft, ships, and submarines. Then clearly at the national level, we are developing unique accesses and providing contributing intelligence to support targeting, target development in support of the war fighter and national decision makers.

Cmdr. Jim Brennan, CO of IWTC Virginia Beach said that IW is integrated all across the domains in every aspect with every war fighter. "They rely on us to provide maritime domain awareness, and that fully developed picture, to inform the commander to make the best decision possible."

### Warfighting-ready Navy linguists

Located at the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey, where about 16 different languages are taught, IWTC Monterey is training new accession Cryptologic Interpreters and officers who are going to language-coded overseas assignments. "We are at the ground floor training bright, young Americans to become warfighting-ready Navy linguists," said Cmdr. Josie Moore, IWTC Monterey's commanding officer.

The DLI Foreign Language Center provides the curriculum for about 900 Navy students annually. Depending on the language difficulty, students can expect to be under instruction anywhere from 9-16 months. From the very first day of language instruction, the students are fully immersed in it. "As they learn their language, they also develop regional and cultural expertise, which brings a richness to their language training that will help them when they go out to the fleet," said Moore.



*Sara Schmitt (left) provides mentorship to Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Blessie Hardee, at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC). Schmitt serves as the leading petty officer of N34, the division of 86 trainees at Information Warfare Training Command Monterey studying Persian-Farsi and Modern Standard Arabic at the DLIFLC. (U.S. Navy photo)*



*PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (July 18, 2019) Information Systems Technician 1st Class John Palmer, attached to Information Warfare Training Command San Diego, looks on as students receive hands-on training to gain proficiency in automated data network systems maintenance during an Automated Digital Network System mobile training team course in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. (U.S. Navy photo by Information Systems Technician 1st Class Brandon Berkowitz/Released)*



*SAN DIEGO (December 17, 2020) Sailors attending the Automated Digital Network System course at Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) San Diego work on a facilitated task during the course. IWTC San Diego, as part of the Center for Information Warfare Training, provides a continuum of training to Navy and joint service personnel that prepares them to conduct information warfare across the full spectrum of military operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Electronics Technician 1st Class Christopher Yoshida /Released)*

There are always Navy students undergoing instruction in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Russian, and Spanish; and less often will take Dari, French, Hebrew, Indonesian, Japanese and Urdu.

For many of the Navy students at DLI, IWTC Monterey is their first duty station after boot camp, and Moore is responsible for their "Sailorization."

"We focus on resilience, on adaption, our core values, and the attributes and the behaviors that will provide them success when they get out on the tactical edge of the Navy," she said.

COVID didn't slow the language training down. "Students were able to stay in their rooms and do the interaction with their classmates and teachers as well as do all of their quizzes and exams online," said Moore.

According to Cmdr. Zach McKeehan, the CO at IWTC Corry Station in Pensacola, his school house averages about two thousand students on board at any given time. "We get about 60 to 100 new accessions every week. With the exception of the CTIs trained in Monterey, Corry Station is the primary new accession C school and fleet school for the CT ratings--the CTMs, the CTNs, the CTTs, the CTRs all come through Corry Station for A school and for various C schools."

IWTC Corry Station teaches has a staff of 362 and teaches Cryptologic Warfare Basic Course, Cryptologic Resource Coordinator and Afloat Cryptologic Management for officers. Key rating training includes 38 CT, IT Enlisted "A" and "C" School Courses and growing, to 10,000 students each year. On any given day, there are about 2,300 students undergoing training.

McKeehan meets with the new students when they arrive. "I'm always surprise at how many of them have bachelor's and master's degrees. They love what they do. They want the challenge. They want to be a part of this."

The training begins with the basics. "We teach them the bread and butter of their rating, and then we get them into more tactical

situations and warfighting simulations to prepare them for the challenging environments they'll meet in a tactical environment," McKeehan said. "That could be air, surface, sub-surface, land, or a tactical deployment with a specialized team. We need to academically prepare them for those tasks. Beyond academics, we have a multi-discipline 'Sailorization' approach to prepare the sailors for the demands and challenges that will be placed upon them when they get to the fleet. We focus on core values, resilience, adaption, and the attributes and the behaviors that will provide them success while they are on the tactical edge of the Navy. We take a holistic approach to helping these Sailor become the kind of individuals we would like to serve with as shipmates. It's our responsibility to really provide that good example for them before they go to the fleet."

McKeehan said cyber warfare has grown in significance in the Navy, and IWTC has kept up with the demand for cyber-savvy Sailors. "Cyber was just something that was talked about to support a plan once it was in motion. Today it is more than a supporting function, it's a warfare domain of its own."

### Fleet focus

ITWC San Diego supports the fleet, with a number of functional, tailored, and integrated training, serving 5,000 students each year.

Cmdr. Tim Raymie, CO of IWTC San Diego, said his staff of 206 offers rating training for ITs, ETs ISs and CTs for a variety of systems. The command has team trainers and offers mobile training teams wherever the fleet needs them.

"We have a waterfront focus," Raymie said. "We push our folks to be constantly adapting to what's going on around them, the information that's flowing in, and how they can help the decision maker."



SAN ANGELO, Texas (Aug 23, 2019) The Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) Det. Goodfellow completed the final pilot run of a modernized capstone simulation for its cryptologic technician (collection) (CTR) students attending the Navy Analysis and Reporting Course (NARC) onboard Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas, Aug. 23. The capstone simulation program, known onboard Goodfellow as "Loneshark", offers the first real-world training environment for the NARC, which closely resembles a team-trainer style environment. It capitalizes on a true joint-training opportunity as it focuses on fusing members of all branches of the military into a single, cohesive unit and forces them to work together as a team to find solutions to complex problems. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



PENSACOLA, Fla. (January 11, 2021) Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (IT) Zachary Mollette, a Navy IT rating subject matter expert attached to the Center for Information Warfare Training's N76 directorate, navigates the different functions of a Multipurpose Reconfigurable Training System 3D® (MRTS 3D®) Surface Ship Radio Room (SSRR) onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida. The MRTS 3D® SSRR represents an affordable, scalable, tactile content delivery methodology, which uses the latest in gaming technology system engineering affording students multiple opportunities to virtually perform tasks within a virtual representation of a system. (U.S. Navy photo by Glenn Sircy/Released)



### Battle staff professionals

Ratkus said the IW community has always had a presence on the ships and, more importantly, on the respective carrier strike group or amphibious readiness group staffs. But that has changed. “Now there is an information warfare commander, a full up representative of our community that serves on par with the air defense commander, the surface warfare commander, undersea warfare and the strike commander, and sits at the same table bringing to the fight the equities that the information warfare community provides. The IWC is usually a post command O6, and below the information warfare commander are the four proficiencies: the cryptologic resource coordinator, the information professional that runs all the comms, the oceanographer, and then of course, the intelligence officer. All four serving on that staff in a combined effort in support of the strike group or ESG commander.



*MONTEREY, Calif. (August 21, 2019) Sailors attached to Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Monterey stand in formation during a ceremony. IWTC Monterey dedicated its command training stage and surrounding buildings in honor of Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) Shannon Kent, Aug. 21. The area is now formally known as the “Kent Navy Yard,” a small portion of the Presidio of Monterey and Defense Language Institute (DLI), which includes a number of Navy barracks buildings. A boulder with a bronze plaque was placed in front of the stage to permanently memorialize Kent, who was herself a graduate of the DLI. In November 2018, Kent deployed to Syria as part of a highly skilled, multi-disciplined armed forces task force involved in critical and demanding intelligence work. Kent was killed in action by an improvised explosive device detonated by a suicide bomber in the city of Manbij, Jan. 16, 2019. (Photo by Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Public Affairs/Released)*

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## Surface Navy Museum News

Although pandemic closures have been in continuous effect in Los Angeles, your Surface Navy Museum team continues to enthusiastically press forward with the plans and projects for the National Museum of the Surface Navy at the Battleship IOWA. We have built a coalition of leaders, partners, and supporters throughout the nation to ensure that this museum, after 245 years, accurately represents the Surface Navy's important role in ensuring Freedom of the Seas.

We are proud to have the Surface Navy Association as a Founding Partner of the National Museum of the Surface Navy. Your support is important in building the museum that represents your community and we are charging full steam ahead with that goal. We have already raised significant public awareness about the role of the Surface Navy in Freedom of the Seas as a future looking museum, a LA Fleet Week co-founder, and our recent expansion of our virtual programs online with a backdrop of the largest Port complex in the country. Daily we make progress in becoming the National Museum of the Surface Navy and over the coming year, we will continue executing on our plan to achieve a 2025 opening date and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy.

We have been growing our organization's board and leadership team to strategically execute on our goal of opening the National Museum by 2025. We are blessed to be able to build on our successes as a museum and public awareness platform in this transition and are honored to have leaders including Ambassador Terry Branstad as a National Campaign Co-Chair. Their leadership is invaluable and their support in raising awareness for Freedom of the Seas is important to the future of our country.

The leadership team is balancing the focus on both today and the future, with much of the boards' work on the future. In 2021, we will build on our success with both the Battleship IOWA and Surface Navy Museum with targeted initiatives which:

- 1) Broaden the reach of our education, veterans, and community programs to a national level via innovative technology.
- 2) Implement efficiencies such as our Plank Owner and Haze Gray loyalty program to create and maintain unique engagement opportunities for veterans, active military, and civilians.



*The Surface Navy Museum aboard the USS IOWA will anchor the ongoing redevelopment of the LA Waterfront in the Port of Los Angeles.*

3) Build on our early capital campaign success with major sponsors including our first annual Freedom of the Seas Awards Gala honoring the Battle of Leyte Gulf on October 22nd and 23rd.

4) Initiate the implementation of Surface Navy Museum plans including demolition of spaces, installation of highlight museum panels, and introduction of the donor / Plank Owner recognition displays.

In addition to working toward our goals, our team continues with current numerous tasks to maintain the Battleship IOWA as a public facing platform and Top 5 museum attraction in the region. These tasks are wide-ranging and include our innovative hull maintenance routine, wood deck replacement, tour and security operations, technology and electrical infrastructure, fundraising, and administration. Much of this is performed with volunteers both locally and nationally, something that we are very proud of.

Many of our volunteers begin as visitors or supporters with a desire to contribute to a special experience and mission. Some of them come aboard as part of a corporate volunteer group or offer a product or service which makes the operation of the museum possible. Regardless of whether someone donates time, in-kind, or cash, we believe that they are important contributors to our mission and growth. This year we will be looking for professional support in several areas primarily focused on our growth efforts including fundraising, marketing, and technology. Many of these tasks can be performed virtually and if you are interested, please feel free to reach out to us at [development@labattleship.com](mailto:development@labattleship.com).

From our crew to yours, we wish you a safe and enjoyable 2021.



*Every visitor to the Surface Navy Museum will enjoy an immersive experience in the state-of-the-art 270-degree theater.*





# HELP BUILD YOUR MUSEUM

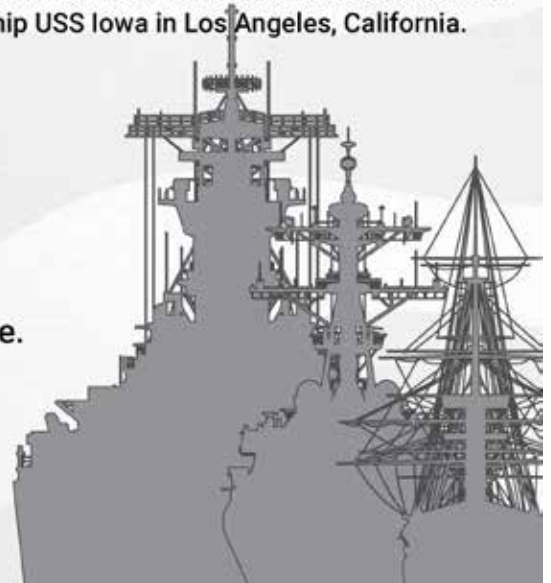
In 2025, on the U.S. Navy's birthday, the first and only National Museum dedicated to the men and women of the Surface Navy will open aboard Battleship USS Iowa in Los Angeles, California.

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OCTOBER 23, 2021  
6:00 PM

At the historic Battleship IOWA in Los Angeles in honor of the Battle of Leyte Gulf anniversary.



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of the Surface Navy  
at the Battleship IOWA

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## SNA 2021 National Symposium was a Virtual Success

The Surface Navy Association held its 33rd Annual National Symposium January 11-15, 2021, as a virtual event to COVID 19 considerations. It was a success by virtually every measure, still featuring the high-level line-up of speakers as always.

Despite the inability to meet, mingle and learn, SNA President retired Vice Adm. Rick Hunt said attendance and participation was very high. And even though there weren't the traditional exhibits and receptions, SNA's corporate members had opportunities to meet with military, civilian, congressional and industry contacts.

Keynote speakers included senior sea service leadership including Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday; Commandant of the Coast Guard Adm. Karl Schultz; Commander U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Adm. Philip Davidson; and Commander U. S. Fleet Forces Command Adm. Christopher Grady; Commanding General, Marine Corps Training and Education Command Lt. Gen. Lewis Craparotta, and Director Naval Warfare Integration Vice Adm. James Kilby.

Program updates were provided by Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development, and Acquisition) James E. Geurts; Commander Naval Surface Forces Vice. Adm. Roy Kitchener; Director Surface Warfare Rear Adm. Paul Schlise; Director Expeditionary Warfare Maj. Gen. Tracy King; Commander Naval Sea Systems Command Vice Adm. William Galinis; Commander Naval Information Warfare Command Rear Adm. Douglas Small; and Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command Rear Adm. Peter Satmatopoulos.

The virtual trade show had more than 70 exhibitors, where industry representatives were able to share the latest in platforms, sensors, weapons, and systems for surface warfare. Companies were able to conduct live product presentations in the Industry Theater, which were streamed on the Event App.

The Naval Heritage program brought the Battle of Iwo Jima to life in a session that streamed live on the Event App and SNA's Facebook page.

### Keynote Speakers:

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday's keynote address kicked off the symposium, and he took the opportunity to unveil his new Navigation Plan during his remarks.

"To defend our nation and interests around the globe, we must be prepared to flawlessly execute our Navy's timeless roles of sea

control and power projection. Joining with the Marine Corps and Coast Guard, we will generate decisive integrated all-domain naval power." Gilday said. "There is no time to waste; our actions in this decade will set the maritime balance of power for the rest of the century."

Gilday's plan is focused on four key areas: Sailors, readiness, capabilities and capacity; and calls for development of hypersonic weapons, directed energy, electronic warfare and cyber advancements and unmanned systems.

Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, commander of Naval Surface Forces and Naval Surface Force Pacific, talked about the success and progress of Mariner Skills Training Centers set up in San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk, Va., and the new Integrated Navigation Seamanship Shiphandling Trainer (I-NSST), which have been established to improve basic navigation and shiphandling skills, and are being rolled out to other fleet concentration areas, as well.

Rear Adm. Paul Schlise, head of the Navy's Surface Warfare Division, said "it's time to reset to a new large surface combatant hull. We've done about all we can do with this ship (DDG 51) and we've maxed out the space, weight, power and cooling."

Schlise was talking about the new large surface combatant, the LSC, now known as the DDG-X, and the importance of having a ship armed with railguns, lasers and hypersonic missiles.

"We're going to incorporate an Integrated Power System that has the ability to power up the weapons and sensors of the future," Schlise said.

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Tracy King, the director for expeditionary warfare, talked about the relatively new concept of a Light Amphibious Warship (LAW)—something between an amphibious ship and a connector, as a "combatant that will enable persistent presence and enhanced tactical ability in the pursuit of sea denial," he said.

King also talked about the importance of adding lethality to expeditionary forces, including giving the Marines offensive anti-ship missiles as part of the distributed maritime operations concept.

Vice Adm. James Kilby, the Navy's director for requirements, spoke about the urgency to begin the replacement of the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers. The first of the 62 ships of the class entered service in 1991, and will soon exceed its 35-year expected service life. "We built our DDGs faster than we can modernize given the budget today," Kilby said.



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But, he said, "even if the navy cannot afford to modernize the earlier ships to bring them up the latest standard. We need to keep those ships because they do add considerable value to us. We need them operating in the fleet."

Kilby also talked about the importance of getting to the follow-on to the DDG-51. "DDG-X will give us considerable upgrades from the addition of larger, more dynamic missiles that will hold targets at risk at longer ranges," Kilby said.

Commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Adm. Philip Davidson talked about the urgency and challenges of standing up to China and its growing military presence and capabilities. Davidson said his priorities directly support the CNO's Navigation Plan, including force design and posture; lethality and long-range precision fires; relationships with allies and partners; as well as exercises, experimentation and innovation.

"Without an effective conventional deterrent, China will be emboldened to take action or limit access to the vital seas and airways in the region and threaten or coerce the sovereignty of its neighbors – hence the need to implement an effective deterrence

strategy for competition," Davidson said.

Chief of Personnel Vice. Adm. John Nowell talked about training, education, talent management, and his role as the Navy's "chief inclusion and diversity officer."

Despite the fact that the event was virtual, or perhaps because of it, attendance was very high with 2,450 registered attendees. This is more than the number of people attending the speaker presentations at the 2020 in-person symposium.

The nearly 1,000 attendees who watched Vice Adm. Jim Kilby exceeded the number of attendees who could have been accommodated in the hotel's ballroom in previous years.

Companies were able to present their products in the Industry Theater, with several companies having more than 800 unique visitors. All of the exhibitors had more than 2,000 commercial impressions, with many exceeding 2,500.

"The symposium was a success at all levels" said Vice Adm. Hunt. "Attendance, participation and revenue were all positive, and most of all, we delivered tremendous content for our attendees."

# RECOMMENDED READING

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## China as a Twenty-First-Century Naval Power: Theory, Practice, and Implications

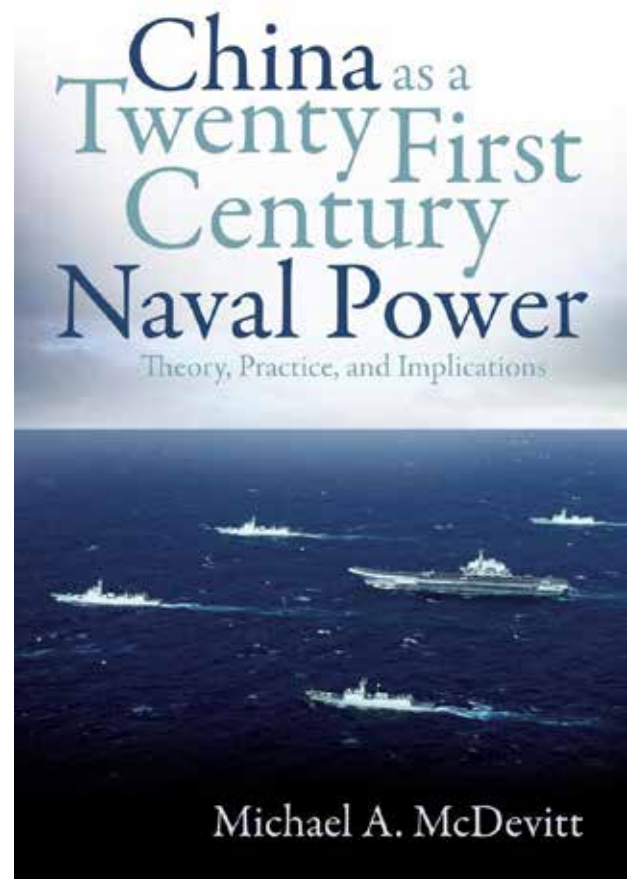
BY: RADM MICHAEL MCDEVITT, USN (RET)

In Retired Rear Adm. Michael McDevitt's new book, *China as a Twenty-First-Century Naval Power: Theory, Practice, and Implications*, the author talks about how China's navy transitioned from "baby operational steps" in the 1990s to the "legitimate 'blue-water' force it is today." China's leader, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Xi Jinping, has established 2035 as the year that China's PLA Navy should reach world class status.

This is an ambitious goal for a navy that did not routinely begin sending warships abroad until 1994.

"They would send maybe one or two ships with an oiler on a point-to-point trip somewhere like Hawaii, Pakistan or Australia," McDevitt said. "They would do one or two of those excursions a year. Sailing from 'Point A to Point B,' with limited time underway and a few replenishment-at-sea evolutions. It isn't really stressing your logistics, and you can fix things that break when you get to where you are going as long as you don't go dead in the water."

In retrospect it seems clear that the PLA Navy was carefully planning each deployment and then absorbing the lessons attendant to long range deployments—lessons that largely revolved around experimenting with different destroyer designs, logistics and communications."



According to McDevitt, it wasn't until the dawn of the 21st century that the PLA Navy began to seriously exercise its global sea legs. Between 2000 and 2008 overseas deployments averaged two per year and were much more ambitious and accomplished several "firsts". These include a global circumnavigation in 2002, in 2007 a two-ship task group voyage (DDG and oiler) to St Petersburg, Russia, followed by sequential search and rescue exercises with the Royal Navy, French Navy, and Spanish Navy. "In hindsight, these were important confidence building years. Its newer ships performed well, and the PLA Navy did not make fools of themselves in front of more experienced navies.

When Somali pirates got the world's attention in 2008, Beijing was confident enough in its increasingly capable navy to respond to the call from the UN for naval deployments to join in an anti-piracy campaign.

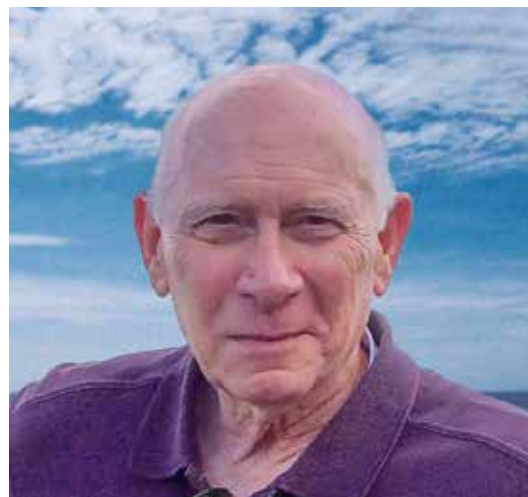
"They started to do anti-piracy patrols around the Horn of Africa in December 2008. This was a big deal for them. I think it professionalized the PLA Navy and played a huge role in turning them into one of the great navies of the world. I would call them the second most capable blue water navy in the world today. They proved to themselves, as much as to anybody else, that they could send two destroyers and an oiler off to the Gulf of Aden and keep them there for three or four months doing anti-piracy patrols; support them logistically and carry out operational tasks reliably. They figured out how to do that using PLA Navy oilers and state-owned enterprises, and eventually building a base at Djibouti. They have been able to extend those deployments, too. After the ships get relieved, they continue for another two and a half months showing the flag. They go to a different part of the world – some will go to a west African port, some will go to an east African port, some will go to a north African port, some will go to the Eastern Med. Some will go to the Western Med; certainly, all along south Asia. So portal-to-portal, they have, prior to covid restrictions on port-calls, been executing assigned missions. The PLA Navy is still at it, 12 years on, because these deployments are important training opportunities for a rapidly growing navy.

All along, China has been absorbing best practices from the great navies of the world. "The anti-piracy patrols have become an operational laboratory for them about how to conduct blue water operations in peacetime," McDevitt said. "And it continues to be."

The book covers a lot of ground, or perhaps water is a more appropriate term. It examines China and its neighbors, including Taiwan, and how China views America as an adversary to keep at bay. There are chapters on the areas where the PLA Navy is operating today, including the South China Sea and Indian Ocean, as well as appendices that cover the China's Coast Guard and Maritime Militia, which play important roles and are force multipliers. In his endorsement of the book, Admiral Dennis Blair noted that "the discussions of Taiwan and the South China Sea are especially informative and sobering."

China already has, by ship count, the predominant navy in Asia. In fact, using U.S. Navy counting rules the PLA Navy is also the largest navy in the world, outnumbering the US Navy by around 300 to 340. Of course, the US Navy is vastly superior in tonnage, and more specifically, seabased airpower, nuclear powered attack submarines, state of the art multi-mission cruisers and destroyers, and SSBN's.

McDevitt concludes by making a reasoned guess at the size of Xi Jinping's "world class navy" in 2035. He estimates China will have a 425-ship force, 265 of which could be considered "blue water" forces, capable of operating globally for extended periods. Ominously, he does not include minesweepers, small amphibious ships, and sundry auxiliaries in his count.



RADM Michael A. McDevitt, USN (Ret)



The guided-missile cruiser USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) participates in a maneuvering exercise with People's Liberation Army (Navy) frigates Daqing (FFG 576) and Yancheng (FFG 546) off the coast of Southern California in 2016. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Craig Z. Rodarte)



Chinese People's Liberation Army (Navy) (PLA(N)) Luang II class guided-missile destroyer Xian (153) arrives at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam for Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2016. (U.S. Navy Photo By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Somers Steelman/Released)



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<b>Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve on Active Duty	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired	<input type="checkbox"/> Civilian
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	Annual	3 Years		Price
O-7 & Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70.00	Active Duty/Reserve on Active Duty to age 50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$350.00
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O-4/O-5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	Retired/Civilian to age 40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$450.00
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# NATIONAL NEWS

## 33RD NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AWARD WINNERS

### Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award

Recognizing superior achievements in the operational aspects of Surface Warfare, by qualified Surface Warfare Officers, & Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists. This award not only recognizes the activity where operational excellence was demonstrated or required, but also in the activities during deployments of surface ships that require the skill & professionalism of all Surface Warriors. We received 26 nominations by Commanding Officers

#### LTJG Peter G. Buskill, USN | USS TORNADO (PC-14) – Officer East

Lieutenant (junior grade) Buskill is billeted as the Operations Officer, but he also serves as Navigator, Training, and Combat Systems Officer. He does the job of four officers. He coordinates directly with Fourth Fleet and JIATF-S scheduling teams to build the CONOPS for our counter-illicit narcotics trafficking deployments. He is responsible for the communications, operational tasking, safe navigation, and works closely with our LEDET OIC in the targeting and evaluation of contacts of interest for interdiction. During TORNADO's two deployments, he oversaw the safe navigation of over 40,000 NM, executed 25 port visits, over 25 Sea and Anchors as CONN or OOD, including four Panama Canal transits. His tactical expertise ensured the successful interdiction of a go-fast vessel smuggling nearly 300kg of cocaine and 800 lbs. of marijuana valued at \$12.5 Million. He consistently delivers quality results when we need it most. Leading five different rates is no easy task, but he does it with ease - as a LTJG. He overcomes equipment degradations and casualties with a relentless pursuit of resolution, keeping us on station and in the fight. LTJG Buskill is a remarkable ship handler. When a major steering casualty caused us to only maneuver with engines, he pulled TORNADO in safely with over 20 knots of on setting winds, ensuring the ship and the crew were moored safely - NO TUG, NO RUDDER. When it comes to operational excellence, he not only emulates, he dominates. He not only possesses this quality, he instills it in others and demands it from his Sailors. Excellence is a requirement to lead on a ship of this class. Operational excellence absolutely defines Peter Buskill.

#### LCDR Aaron Jefferson, III, USN | USS STERETT (DDG-104) - Officer West

LCDR Jefferson embodies the indomitable spirit, professionalism, and leadership of Admiral Burke. There is no finer leader, mariner, and warfighter in the Fleet. Every time a need has arisen requiring effective leadership, culturally impacting positive motivation, and consistently high performance, he has answered the call. As the Executive Officer of the most dynamically tasked and operationally experienced destroyer on deployment, he unfailingly sets a sterling personal example of excellence and inspires those around him to join him in exceeding the high standards of performance required while serving on the front lines. He came to STERETT as a temporary replacement for the Chief Engineer position in the middle of Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training and NIMITZ Group Sail in January. With one month before TYCOM Readiness Evaluation 7, his department garnered top scores across the board demonstrating his ability to masterfully prepare, plan, and execute Type Commander standards. With an unplanned loss of STERETT's Executive Officer, and within 12 hours of his flight to San Diego to transfer, he volunteered to be Executive Officer. Knowing that our deployment end date was uncertain, his distinct devotion to duty, our mission, and our Sailors, kicked in. He has sailed this destroyer off the coast of China, through the Suez Canal, into the Mediterranean and through 10+ straits transits off the coast of Iran and Yemen. He has directed small caliber teams in response to incoming Iranian fast craft, and he does so with precision, zeal, and professionalism. LCDR Jefferson has demonstrated he can accomplish everything from motivating a flailing department to backing up a Commanding Officer on the bridge on deployment with command level decision making and foresight. He is performing in a demanding job, above his paygrade, and doing it extremely well: clearly with the virtues we honor as a Surface Force. LCDR Jefferson's leadership ensured STERETT crushed operations in a high tempo environment. A positive, energetic, and inspirational Officer, he leads with humility. His volunteerism and commitment make him undoubtedly the most qualified Officer, manifesting the best of our Surface Force.

#### BM2(SW) Esfrain Adame, USN | USS OAK HILL (LSD-51) – Enlisted East

BM2 (SW) Adame ensured mission success through his hard work, leadership by example, and tireless grit which truly embodied the principles of Naval Surface Warfare. During an arduous deployment that only saw 7 days in port out of 215, with a stretch of 147 days straight at sea, BM2 Adame singlehandedly drove the safe accomplishment of 118 well deck evolutions, 50 critical crane lifts, and 20 small boat launch and recoveries. BM2 served as deck safety and well deck control officer, positions usually reserved for chief petty officers. When the COVID-19 pandemic threatened the ability of other units to sustain operations at sea and OAK was called upon, BM2 ran to action. When the ship conducted replenishments at sea for several submarines in theater to support continuous underway operations for national tasking, it was BM2 Adame who operated the crane in a no-fail scenario. His skill and persistence made the transfer of 13,400



pounds of food, cargo, and stores possible without incident. When the amphibious ready group launched a full speed rehearsal for a VBSS boarding, BM2 first was the safety to launch the LCU, then immediately transitioned to the crane to launch the rest of the ship's small boats. Again, when the amphibious ready group conducted its raids, BM2 was there, launching the AAVs in support. His actions were evident in every evolution conducted onboard OAK during deployment. BM2 Adame's dedication and devotion to the Navy are manifested in the Sailors he leads. Three of his Sailors have received the Blue Jacket of the Quarter award. BM2 Adame's knowledge of deck evolutions helps train all of the Sailors in deck department. He led 34 instructors in the preparation and delivery of 76 in-rate and BMR lessons. His dedication resulted in 95% advancement and 3 ESWS qualifications. He trained 53 Sailors on the benefits of staying in the Navy which resulted in 100% retention. He was the driving factor that supported a command focused on daily performance improvements, sustained superior results across all warfare areas, and the highest levels of readiness. BM2 Adame's leadership by example resulted in the USS OAK HILL's sustained operation and material readiness. His highly commendable performance and dedication to duty have earned him the well-deserved recognition of the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

### **QM2(SW/AW) Anastasia Clark, USN | USS AMERICA (LHA-6) - Enlisted West**

QM2 Anastasia Clark expertly led and mentored 11 Quartermasters in the preparation and execution of navigating over 62,000 nautical miles during two FDNF patrols and 32 restricted water transits with zero incidents. She was selected as USS AMERICA Sailor of the Quarter for 2nd Quarter 2020 and Amphibious Squadron ELEVEN Sailor of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter and was awarded a Navy and Marines Corps Achievement Medal. With her department manned at 70% during the 20.1 and 20.2 patrols, she volunteered to take on extra responsibility as Training Petty Officer and other duties to help her team succeed. She led her department to 100% advancement after selflessly dedicating her off time to help four Sailors study and prepare for the exam. Due to an unforeseen turnover in Navigation leadership, she volunteered to extend onboard for four months in FDNF Japan to provide watch team and departmental continuity. Petty Officer Clark is a qualified Conning Officer and Navigation Evaluator, a watch typically stood by a Lieutenant Commander or seasoned Chief Petty Officer. She earned her Captain's trust and confidence based on her timely recommendations and superior navigation abilities. Junior Officers routinely seek her out for training based on her bridge knowledge and she has helped IO achieve their Officer of the Deck Underway qualification. She provided 60 hours of Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist training resulting in 212 Sailors and 6 Marines earning their warfare pins. She helped author and execute eight Navigation Training Team packages focusing on 16 repetitive exercises, resulting in AMERICA maintaining 100% operational requirements. Petty Officer Clark epitomizes the Navy Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. She always delivers results and her selfless devotion to her Sailors and the mission are impeccable.



*LTJG Peter Buskill, USN*



*LCDR Aaron Jefferson, III, USN*



*BM2 (SW) Esfrain Adame, USN*



*QM2 (SW/AW) Anastasia Clark, USN*

## Admiral Zumwalt Award for Visionary Leadership

This award honors an officer or senior enlisted person who most clearly exemplifies the extraordinary qualities, vision & incisiveness of the nineteenth Chief of Naval Operations. It is for those who demonstrate dynamic leadership, operational excellence, unselfish dedication to duty, visionary zeal, and exemplary care for personnel under his or her direction. This award is co-sponsored by Whitney, Bradley Brown.

### LS2(SW) Brayant West, USN | USS HIGGINS (DDG-76) - E3-E6 Winner

LS2 (SW) Brayant West is a catalyst for beneficial change within HIGGINS and on the waterfront. He epitomizes the enthusiasm and positive reforms led by Admiral Zumwalt. Each and every single day, he sets a great example for Enlisted as well as Khaki through his unparalleled work ethic, impeccable military bearing, contagiously positive attitude, and his subject matter expertise. He is a mentor, trainer, teacher, and friend to all the members of his division and within the entirety of the ship's crew. Recently selected as HIGGINS Sailor of the Quarter, LS2 West represents the future of the fighting fleet. He leads well above his rank. One of the first volunteers on scene during the tragic Bon Homme Richard fire as part of HIGGINS flying squad and delivered meals to hungry teams in days following. His directly attributable accomplishments are legion. Some of the wave tops: 95% on 3M Certification, 92% on Supply Management Cert, 96% on a surprise Financial Audit, and he led DCTT through a 90% MOB-D Certification. Petty Officer West single-handedly buoyed HIGGINS physical readiness 2 grades before the COVID Pandemic. Stepping up as temporary IDC, he became a driving force on HIGGINS Medical Response Team. His innovative mitigations, implemented immediately, allowed HIGGINS to maintain one of the lowest infection rates on the waterfront and HIGGINS could continue Basic Phase Training unphased by a crippling pandemic. LS2's role and responsibility as Master Helmsman is an ideal analogy for his visionary leadership on HIGGINS. His passion to keep the ship and crew healthy and ready through insightful policies, is what sets him apart from even more seasoned sailors. He works across rates, ranks, divisions, and departments to ensure everyone gets exemplary care. LS2 West is truly the epitome of Admiral Zumwalt's Philosophy of Operational Excellence while taking good care of your shipmates.



### LT Joshua Tallman, USN | USS STOUT (DDG-55) - E7-O4 Winner

The tremendous impact LT Joshua Tallman has had on the crew of USS STOUT (DDG 55) during 9 months at sea has been exceptional. Describing him as a selfless leader does not even begin to scratch the surface. LT Tallman started the deployment as a second tour Division Officer, billeted as the Damage Control Assistant. His tour as DCA was already filled with successes from efforts through the Basic Phase, material assessments and operational performance. Manning challenges due to COVID-19 required him to be OPHELD for an additional 4 months as well as assume the duties as Chief Engineer. He embraced the responsibility with immense pride and passion. His efforts in upholding the values of self-sufficiency within Engineering has earned STOUT the reputation as the most reliable CRUDES asset in the 5th Fleet AOR - not once has STOUT been unable to meet operational tasking due to material condition. Tallman enacts change by exuding pride and enthusiasm that is infectious through those around him. His greatest achievements have been the empowerment, mentorship, and motivation of others. Having been gapped a DCC, EMC, and MMC through most of his tour, he has managed to instill a culture within his Department that is focused on both winning and safety that will remain on STOUT for years in the future. His junior engineers have accomplished countless Depot Level repairs at sea without the benefit of any onboard technical assistance for the entirety of the deployment. Instead of shying away from difficult comprehensive repairs, his Sailors embrace challenges and the pride associated with the knowledge that they are indeed the best engineering team in the Navy. As a direct result of the self-sufficient attitude Lt Tallman has instilled within the Engineering Department, STOUT made U.S. Navy history on September 24th when they broke the previous record of spending over 206 consecutive days at sea. Between equipment repairs, training team involvement and 2,000 hours of both bridge and engineering watch standing, LT Tallman is always to be found surrounding himself with Junior Sailors on the deck plates. His attention to the human aspect of "life at sea" has also been a critical factor to STOUT's success. His 2-month long "STOUT Olympic Games" provided a much-needed distraction and respite during the "Dog Days of Summer" while operating in and around the Arabian Gulf. He has earned the unwavering respect of the Wardroom and Chief's Mess, as well as that of the entire Crew. His positive impact on the ship's material readiness as well as the mental health and well-being of our Shipmates makes him absolutely deserving of the recognition of the Admiral Zumwalt Award.





## CAPT Raymond Komorowski Photo Award

This award was initiated to showcase the professional activities & lives of the Surface Warfare Community. Featuring images that represent their contribution in the following areas: naval warfare, archival material, & educating the citizens of the United States regarding surface warfare & its achievements.

### IT2 James Greeves, USN - Grand Prize & First Place Ships

The Avenger-class minesweeper USS Chief (MCM-14) sailing in the East China Sea off Mt. Iodake, along the coast of southern Japan.

### BMC(EXW/SW/IW) Nelson Doromal, Jr., USN – First Place Operations

Sailor assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 3 underway conducting security patrol aboard Mark VI patrol boat during unit level training provided by Maritime Expeditionary Security Group (MESG) 1 Training and evaluation Unit.

### MC1 Daniel Barker, USN – First Place Personal Interest

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nicole Carr participates in a 5k Remembrance Run on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD-1) before sunrise. The run was a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001.

### CAPT Marc Stegman, USCG (Ret) – Second Place Ships

### LTJG Sam Hardgrove, USN – Second Place Operations

### FCA2 Allison Hearne, USN – Second Place Personal Interest

### SN Drace Wilson, USN – Third Place Ships

### LT Andrew Corwell, USCG – Third Place Operations

### MC2 Eric Shorter, USN – Third Place Personal Interest



*Grand Prize Winner – First Place Ships Photo - IT2 James Greeves, USN – USS Chief (MCM-14) The Avenger-class minesweeper USS Chief (MCM-14) sailing in the East China Sea off Mt. Iodake, along the coast of southern Japan.*



*First Place Operations – BMC Nelson Doromal, Jr USN – Maritime Expeditionary Security Group ONE (MESG 1)*

*Sailor assigned to Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron (MSRON) 3 underway conducting security patrol aboard Mark VI patrol boat during unit level training provided by Maritime Expeditionary Security Group (MESG) 1 Training and evaluation Unit.*



*First Place Personal Interest- MC1 Daniel Barker, USN – USS Wasp (LHD-1) Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nicole Carr participates in a 5k Remembrance Run on the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD-1) before sunrise. The run was a tribute to those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11, 2001.*

## Captain Hopley Yeaton Cutter Excellence Award

This award, annually recognizes the crew of a large cutter (399 feet and above), the crew of a mid-sized cutter (WMEC, WLB, WLBB), and the crew of a small cutter (175 feet and below). Cutter crews recognized for this award will have demonstrated exceptional performance in areas such as operations and mission accomplishment; commitment to crew and families; cutter training and readiness; and engineering.

### CGC POLAR STAR (WAGB 10) – Large Cutter

POLAR STAR, throughout 325 Day Away from Homeport (DAFHP) in 2020, completed a remarkable 122-day deployment in support of Operation Deep Freeze (ODF). During ODF, POLAR STAR established and groomed a 22nm channel through 10 foot-thick Antarctic ice to resupply McMurdo Station, conducted a three ship escort into Winter Quarter's Bay or a sealift of 8M gallons of life sustaining fuel, 900 containers, and \$480M in materials and supplies for infrastructure recapitalization. During ODF, POLAR STAR also facilitated the State Department's historic treaty inspections of Chinese, Italian, and South Korean facilities, cementing U.S. leadership and influence in the region. Returning home amidst a global pandemic, the cutter successfully completed their \$7.9M, four-month dry dock. POLAR STAR's unique people plan required few crewmembers to need to spend more than 215 DA FHP. Lastly, POLAR STAR's prototyping of Deployment Based Training (vice TST A) is setting well-founded precedents for future cutter training models.

### CGC BEAR (WMEC 901) – Medium Cutter

In 2020, BEAR executed a very high OPTEMPO of 218 DA FHP in a 242 day period, exhibiting great flexibility in the execution of an unexpected deployment to West Africa. Initially slated to patrol in the Eastern Pacific, while on patrol BEAR's crew responded admirably to a hole in the engine room, battling flooding at sea for nearly 16 hours. Over a 5-day period BEAR conducted emergency repairs and requested \$250K in parts and supplies for an Out of Hemisphere (OOH) deployment 3,500 miles away from depot level support. BEAR sailed across the Atlantic to exercise US-Cabo Verde bilateral agreements during 25 LE exchanges, numerous exercises, and interdiction of a 280-foot freighter. BEAR's preparations allowed for completion of a major at-sea shaft seal replacement and replacement of a 1,200 pound fire pump while in AFRTCOM. BEAR also completed a 48-day 07 patrol which included a 4-day boarding of a 300 foot Haitian Freighter, and a 75 day, \$2.4M drydock during the height of the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. BEAR hosted three cutterman calls, including an event supporting the search for USRC BEAR, was published in the CG Compass and the Maritime Executive, conducted an information operations campaign earning the attention of the National Security Council, and prototyped the Abbott Now COVID test machine to mitigate COVID risk.

### CGC CHEYENNE (WLR 75405) – Small Cutter

In remarkable fashion, the 54-year-old CHEYENNE, stationed in St. Louis, MO, serviced over 1,185 buoys and 150 shore aids in FY20. This high optempo across 576 river miles on the Mississippi river and three Sectors, combined with record-high water, flooding, and other cutter casualties, meant CHEYENNE had more underway hours than any of the other 33 ATON cutters in D8. Despite the cutter's age, and numerous significant casualties including loss of the #1 MOE and cancellation of the cutter's drydock, the hard work of CHEYENNE's crew meant that the cutter only had 9 days of unscheduled availability, achieving a Ready for Operations rating of 99%. Despite CHEYENNE's primary ATON mission, the crew responded to a person in the water SAR case on June 4th. The watch-stander overheard a "Pan Pan" for a person in the water near the Gateway Arch, 2.5 miles away. A volunteer boat crew quickly assembled and launched a small boat, arriving on scene within minutes. The crew discovered a woman clinging to floating debris up river from a fleet of barges and moments away from being pulled under by the swift river current. The boat crew quickly maneuvered through the extreme conditions and rescued the woman, saving her life. Once onboard the boat crew brought her back to the cutter where medical personnel provided treatment. This was an especially noteworthy occurrence because the CHEYENNE does not maintain a SAR ready posture.



*CGC POLAR STAR (WAGB 10)*





CGC BEAR (WMEC 901)



CGC CHEYENNE (WLR 75405)

## Captain Hopley Yeaton Superior Cutterman Award

Recognizes one officer and one enlisted member from across the fleet who best exemplify the Cutterman spirit and Captain Yeaton's legacy. Nominees must be Cuttermen (permanent or temporary with a minimum of one year of sea time) assigned to an afloat unit during the award period.

### **LCDR Ian Starr, USCG | CGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39) – Officer**

As Executive Officer of USCGC ALEX HALEY (WMEC 39), LCDR Starr exemplifies the qualities and characteristics of a Coast Guard Cutterman. Through his positive engagement with his crew at a remote unit in AK during a global pandemic, LCDR Starr has been critical to ALEX HALEY's success in FY2020. Despite COVID-19, under LCDR Starr's leadership the overall esprit de corps of the ALEX HALEY has improved dramatically. Working with HSWL SC and a broad network of DI 7 POCs, LCDR Starr was a critical liaison for providing care to crewmembers suffering from mental health crises during the pandemic, to include short-notice MEDEVAC of five personnel from the most remote corners of the D 17 AOR. Relying on experience and initiative, LCDR Starr also developed procedures, later adopted fleet-wide, to expedite testing for individuals underway in a remote AOR. A caring individual dedicated to crew proficiency, LCDR Starr also created an extensive JO PRODEV program involving practical ship driving, a "speed mentoring" event, and in-depth leadership discussions, including a revival of ALEX HALEY's LDAC through engagement of the Chief and First Class messes on board. Lastly, LCDR Starr is an expert ship driver who led the cutter through CART, TSTA, AVCERT, and Finance and Administration inspections with superb results.



### **EMC Dimitri Brisker, USCG | CGC WAESCHE (WMSL 751) – Enlisted**

EMC Dimitri Brisker is a cutterman to the core. While WAESCHE was transiting across the Pacific Ocean, 700NM from nearest land, the cutter experienced a major class bravo fire on one of the MDEs that rapidly climbed 8 decks and spread to the interior bulkhead of the ammunition magazine. Displaying incredible bravery and farsightedness as a member of the Rapid Response Team, EMC Brisker managed initial response efforts. At great risk to his own personal safety, EMC Brisker then led an attack team topside to the 0-3 level to combat the fire immediately adjacent to several ammunition magazines, preventing cascading casualties from exploding ordnance. He then cleared hot spots, overhauled damaged spaces, dewatered compartments, and enacted makeshift repairs to restore propulsion for avoidance of a fast-approaching tropical storm. EMC Brisker has been able to pioneer CG-wide changes, including creation of class-wide MPC cards to address bow thruster start problems and a class-wide JQR for the Diesel Generator. When WAESCHE also experienced a crippling casualty to all modes of propulsion, EMC Brisker and his team also trouble shot the MRG for 10 hours to identify and replace a faulty module card. EMC Brisker's list of responsibilities displays the breadth of his devotion to the crew. He is the Command Chief, the senior EOW, a DCTT & ETT member. Cutterman qualification program manager, and an advanced Motor Turbine technician



## Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman of the Year

The Surface Force Independent Duty Corpsman (SFIDC) Navy Enlisted Code (NEC) 8425 was established to identify highly motivated and specially trained Hospital Corpsman to manage health programs and provide primary care under indirect supervision at sea.

### HMC(SW/EXW/FMF/PJ) Joshua Beard, USN – COMNAVSURPAC

HMC Beard's service to the Navy, to ANTIETAM, and to his shipmates is reflected in the sustained superior performance of his duties as ANTIETAM's Senior Medical Department Representative/Independent Duty Corpsman. Every inspection of his department is conducted with confidence and completed with perfection. His actions have resulted in ANTIETAM receiving accolades from numerous superiors, including the 7th Fleet Surgeon for his role in bringing Tactical Combat Casualty Care to the Surface Force, qualifying 100% of the crew. The definitive proof of his numerous successes is in the metrics and the overall health of ANTIETAM's Sailors. Under his care ANTIETAM maintains 99% overall medical readiness, despite executing the highest OPTEMPO of all surface ships throughout the Navy and having no access to routine care for 8 months. He is the consummate professional and has earned his commanders complete trust and confidence! Chief Beard seeks out responsibility, assuming duties as Section Leader, Exceptional Family Member Coordinator, and Command Fitness Leader. His efforts drastically turned around the personal readiness aboard and reinvigorated the crew to choose a lifestyle of fitness. Aboard the first Bubble Ship for COVID, he developed and executed the first COVID outbreak drill in 7th Fleet and maintained ANTIETAM's "bubble" for more than 8 months - the longest COVID free ship deployed in the 7th Fleet. During deployment, HMC Beard provided numerous critical and life-saving procedures at sea, with 36 additional medical evacuations conducted under his care resulting in zero casualties, and praise from the strike group Senior Medical Officer for his outstanding care. Chief Beard's clinical care of Sailors is self-evident. He has received near-perfect monthly reviews from both his Physician Supervisor and the Strike Group Senior Medical Officer (SMO). His Physician Supervisor stated that Chief Beard is undoubtedly the "Best of 7th Fleet IDC's." Chief Beard's Medical Department was selected by the Strike Group SMO as the training platform for junior IDCs from USS RONALD REAGAN. Chief Beard was the best provider to train the next generation of IDCs across 3 Cruisers, 7 Destroyers, and the Senior Doctors, Nurses, and Physician Assistants aboard RONALD REAGAN. Chief Beard's successes have been the result of his exceptional dedication to his Sailors. ANTIETAM Sailors know that regardless of the hour, or whether he is aboard or at home, Chief Beard will always be there to provide care and treatment. There is no other Hospital Corpsman throughout the fleet more deserving of this recognition!



### HM1(SW) Scott Soots, USN – COMNAVSURFLANT

HM1 Soots is a true professional and technical expert. There is no stronger IDC in the Fleet, who has demonstrated sustained superior performance in an afloat Surface Force IDC billet throughout FY20. HMI Soots operates well above the level expected of even the U.S. Navy's best First-Class Petty Officers, easily meeting the responsibility, maturity, and leadership expected from an experienced HMCS. HMI Soots was hand selected by CNSL for a no-notice reassignment from OSCAR AUSTIN to STOUT in November 2020. He successfully worked through a holiday and pre-deployment standdown to correct significant shortfalls in medical readiness prior to the start of COMPTUEX and a January 2020 operational deployment. HMI Soots hit the ground running on day one, addressing a medical readiness of 49%, achieving 80% prior to deployment, and 93% prior to STOUT's return to homeport. While independently deployed on STOUT without organic MEDEVAC assets, HM1 and his team managed over 300 patient visits with only eight patients requiring medical evacuation while operating in the C5F and C6F AORs. His outstanding medical knowledge, the ability to remain calm under stress, and his communication/coordination amongst two Carrier Strike Groups, one Amphibious Readiness Group, and two command fleets resulted in zero disabilities or loss of life. HMI molded two junior hospitalmen with zero shipboard experience into exceptional young leaders and medical technicians. Under his direction, they have achieved: 100% Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualifications, two college enrollments, one United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) enrollment, and 100% retention rate. He maintained OSCAR AUSTIN's medical readiness at a level near 95%, unheard of for ships in an extended shipyard period, and maintains 99% on STOUT, despite an operational deployment of over nine months. Onboard STOUT, HMI Soots' impact exceeds the boundaries of the medical department. He is a model Sailor and personifies the core values of honor, courage, and commitment, earning the trust and respect of his command team and two crews. There is no better or more qualified and deserving candidate in the U.S. Navy for recognition through this prestigious award.





## Special Recognition Award

This award is awarded to Surface Navy Association members, dependents, and retirees whose community-related activities go 'above and beyond' as well as promoting the Surface Navy.

### **CAPT Michael Davanzo, USCG**

The greatness of the Surface Navy Association is its diversity of membership and outreach to brothers and sisters of the sea services as welcome and equal partners in our mission and vision for our future. CAPT Davanzo, in his role as Commander of the Coast Guard Cutter Forces, has been a vigilant and ardent supporter of the Cutterman's connection to Navy Surface Line in every aspect of his leadership. No single Coast Guard officer could have as much influence as CAPT Davanzo has in the ability to recruit Cuttermen members to SNA. His work in the cutting-edge science of Icebreaker ship construction is an essential element of free passage of the seas and of our maritime national strategy. For CAPT Davanzo's leadership, recruiting initiatives, and groundbreaking work in facilitating freedom of the seas from every sea and environment, we award him the Special Recognition Award, the Associations highest honor.

### **CAPT Ted Hontz, USN (Ret)**

The Foundation upon which the Surface Navy builds its brilliance lies in the AEGIS class ships, their development, warfighting capability, and acceptance of engineering upgrades that allow it to fight in ways well beyond what they were originally designed to accomplish. Certain names emerge from "those in the know" about how, why and who were responsible for the most successful class of warship ever constructed. Captain Hontz was a pioneer in the AEGIS program, instantiating the funding and operational requirements for the Cruiser and Guided Missile Destroyer programs, commissioned USS Princeton CG 59, and for four years trained and mentored a generation of AEGIS officers as commanding officer of the AEGIS Training Center. He became a leader in the development of AEGIS warfighting tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP's), and in every major systems upgrade deployed in the fleet today. While being so accomplished in warfighting, he was an early and powerful advocate for the Surface Navy Association, inspiring generations of officers to join and participate in our Association as thought leaders and professional mariners. Captain Hontz' reputation is so noteworthy, scores of officers and enlisted personnel joined SNA just to be in the same Association as him. For his service to our Navy and Nation in the AEGIS domain, and for his tireless devotion to the promotion of Surface Warfare, he is awarded the Special Recognition Award, our Associations highest honor.

### **RDML Jon Kreitz, USN (Ret)**

Looking across the essential elements of a career Surface Warfare Officer, it is imperative for senior leaders to man, equip, and train Sailors to create Warships Ready for Tasking. Admiral Kreitz was a poster-example of this type of officer, succeeding on the deck plates of numerous ships as well as in Command and in Inspecting and Surveying our Fleet's reliability and dependability. Admiral Kreitz admirably used his platform to consistently mentor juniors and peers alike in leadership and in best practices for creating dynamic and effective crews and battle-ready ships. His devotion to his Warfare specialty included an active and hands-on participation in the Surface Navy Association in roles including: The Pearl Harbor Chapter, National Board of Directors and Executive Committee. These assignments are demanding and voraciously time consuming. Admiral Kreitz' efforts and performance in these assignments was brilliant and exemplary. Admiral Kreitz has been a stalwart supporter of our Association and lightning rod for developing new members. For his brilliant career and his direct and enthusiastic support of SNA, he is awarded the Special Recognition Award, our Associations highest honor.

### **FORCM James Monroe, USN (Ret)**

At the end of any distinguished Naval career all one has remaining is a reputation. Force Monroe was the beacon of the CPO's creed in every significant arena of its tenants. "Ask the Chief" was more than a slogan connected to Force Monroe. As Naval Surface Forces Atlantic's Force Master Chief he was found on the deck plates of nearly every ship, mentoring CPO Messes, young sailors, and implementing Surface Force policies and initiatives. "Servant Leadership". Force Monroe demonstrated the continuum of Faith, Family, Nation, Navy, Ship, Shipmate, Self in every aspect of his career. From ACU-4 to other challenging assignments his reputation was one of extreme competence and love of his Sailors. Upon retirement, Force Monroe quickly engaged in the Hampton Roads Chapter of SNA and brought with him more junior enlisted membership than any Chapter had seen before. He continues to lead by example, in ways that positively affect the Tidewater waterfront. For his steadfast and diligent efforts for all Sailors and the community, he is awarded the Special Recognition Award, our Associations highest honor.



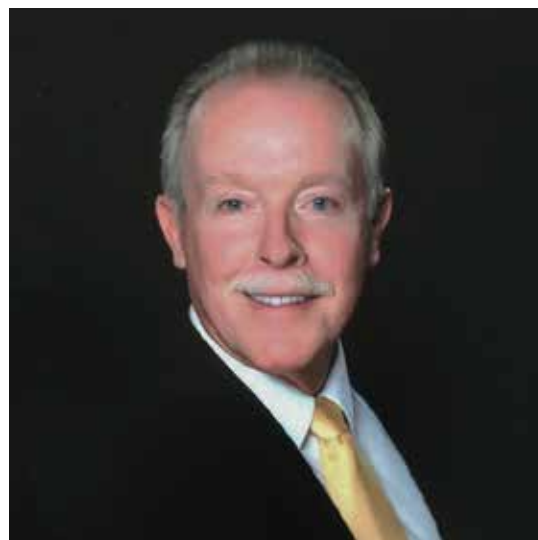
*CAPT Michael Davanzo, USCG*



*CAPT Edward B. "Ted" Hontz, USN (Ret)*



*RDML Jon Kreitz, USN (Ret)*



*FORM James Monroe, USN (Ret)*



*LTJG Artem Sherbinin, USN*



*CAPT John Cordle, USN (Ret)*



## Surface Navy Association Literary Award

This award recognizes the best professional article in any publication addressing the Surface Navy or Surface Warfare issues. The article must be published during the preceding year, beginning on 15 October. We received 12 Submissions. This award is co-sponsored by the United States Naval Institute.

**LTJG Artem Sherbinin, USN** – First Place

“A Fleet Without a Rudder” October 2020 Proceedings

**CAPT John Cordle, USN (Ret)** – Honorable Mention

“Fatigue is the Navy's Black Lung Disease” January 2020 Proceedings

## Surface Navy Association Video Award

This award was established to creatively promote the values of the Surface Navy Association and to actively engage the Surface fleet and SNA members to choreograph and produce a Surface Warfare “spirit spot” video, showcasing Sailor’s lives in the Surface Navy and Coast Guard (at sea and ashore) or supporting surface warfare in industry. We received 7 video submissions.

**USS BARRY (DDG-52)** | First Place

Forward presence matters. Ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, your Finest Forward Deployed Destroyer, USS BARRY DDG 52, stands trained and ready to operate and fight decisively alongside our allies, partners, and friends.

**USS WASP (LHD-1)** | Second Place

Sailors aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) conduct flight deck operations, well deck operations, strait transits, drills, replenishment-at-sea evolutions and multiple sea and anchor events while underway.

**USCGC CAMPBELL (WMEC 909)** | Third Place

USCGC CAMPBELL deploys to the Arctic in support of joint missions with NATO partners along the Western Coast of Greenland. USCGC CAMPBELL participated in search and rescue exercise ARGUS led by the Kingdom of Denmark joint defense force's Joint Arctic Command. The CAMPBELL engaged in key diplomatic engagements in Greenland as well as critical scientific research through their efforts with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the International Ice Patrol.



*USS BARRY (DDG 52)*



*USCGC CAMPBELL (WMEC 909)*



*USS WASP (LHD 1)*



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DATE**

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**2022**  
**JANUARY 11-13**

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

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Curtiss-Wright	National Inspection and Consultants	Training Resources Maritime Institute
Deloitte Consulting, LLP	Navantia US	Transhield, Inc.
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Fairlead Integrated	NCS Technologies, Inc	United States Marine, Inc.
Fincantieri Marine Group	Northrop Grumman - Maritime Systems	USAA
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General Dynamics Bath Iron Works		Whitney, Bradley & Brown, Inc.
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## BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems Integrated Defense Solutions delivers large-scale weapon systems integration, engineering, and sustainment services to the U.S. Navy, Army, and various Department of Defense agencies. Our advanced digital engineering and model-based systems engineering solutions for strategic weapons systems and mission-critical networks provide an advantage to our customers where it counts.



Today's naval forces need to be flexible, agile, and prepared to respond rapidly to crises and threats. From Riverine and Special Operations craft, to littoral patrol boats and capital ships, FLIR offers fully marinized surveillance and targeting sensors for a range of missions from patrolling borders, ensuring safe passage and rescuing ships in distress.

With marinized long-range and gyro-stabilized sensors developed and tailored specifically for maritime installation, FLIR provides maximum sensor range performance and increased capability over typical pan/tilt systems. Proven through extensive operational experience in the harshest environments, and on a variety of maritime platforms, hundreds of these rugged and reliable sensors are fielded on vessels around the world.

Performance, pedigree, and proven toughness – they only come from FLIR.



GE serves 40 navies with 1,500 gas turbines operating onboard on 633 naval ships worldwide. GE's large engine fleet and ten service depots ensure interoperability and support either onshore or afloat. GE's six propulsion gas turbines range from 4.5 to 52 MW to enable architects to tailor propulsion designs to mission profiles and survivability requirements. These power-dense and reliable engines offer the lowest maintenance cost for fast patrol craft 200 tons and greater such as corvettes, frigates, destroyers, amphibious ships and aircraft carriers. The United States Navy's new FFG 62 frigate will be powered by GE's 30.3 MW LM2500+G4 gas turbine, part of the LM2500 family of engines that offer >99% reliability and >98% availability. GE's fully qualified, lightweight LM2500 composite module offers lower heat radiation, cooler walls, and lower noise emissions so sailors have a safer, more comfortable environment. Visit [ge.com/marine](http://ge.com/marine) for more information.

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## FINCANTIERI MARINE GROUP

Fincantieri Marine Group is the U.S. subsidiary of global shipbuilding giant, Fincantieri, one of the world's largest, most innovative shipbuilders. Fincantieri's main effort in support of U.S. government and military shipbuilding is through our "System-of-Yards" in northeast Wisconsin. Our shipyards apply a lean approach to modern modular building that leverages capabilities and capacity from throughout the enterprise.

Fincantieri Marine Group is comprised of three Great Lakes shipyards: Fincantieri Marinette Marine, a future surface combatant center of excellence currently designing and building the Navy's newest ship class, Constellation-class frigates; as well as production of Lockheed Martin's Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ships; Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding, specialists in construction and repair conversion of U.S. Coast Guard and commercial vessels including offshore service vessels, tankers, freighters, tugs and ferries; and, Fincantieri Ace Marine, a shipyard that focuses on aluminum construction and builds medium-sized Response Boats for the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as specializing in the design and construction of high-speed coastal intercept and patrol vessels.



## FAIRBANKS MORSE

For more than 70 years, the U.S. Navy, Military Sealift Command (MSC) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) have turned to Fairbanks Morse for reliable and durable power systems for marine propulsion and ship service power. Every day, engines manufactured by Fairbanks Morse provide reliable power for many classes of ships under the most extreme conditions. Our products are backed by a responsive, customer-focused team that exceeds the industry's most rigorous training qualifications. They are supported by a nationwide network that is armed with an extensive parts inventory and has access to proprietary solutions that improve engine performance and increase the operational lifecycle. Fairbanks Morse is proud to facilitate the Navy, MSC and USCG's mission-critical operations.



In-Depth Engineering is a small business provider of combat systems solutions, signal processing, automation, AI/ML, GIS and adaptive training solutions.

We execute research, development, integration and test services, waterfront support, and CONUS/OCONUS shore site maintenance and operations for the Department of Defense.

We have extensive experience in AAW, ASUW, BMD and ASW as well as advanced weapons and unmanned vehicles. We're pleased to be a continuing member of the Surface Navy Association.



Northrop Grumman's maritime systems and integration (MSI) business provides a broad range of products and services supporting the surface warfare community at seven locations throughout the United States. A leader in shipboard systems integration, MSI plays a critical role on new ship construction and modernization teams such as Offshore Patrol Cutter, DDG Modernization and LHA. MSI provides key end-to-end capabilities such as Design Engineering Production and Support (DEPS) for the LCS Mission Module program. MSI provides a wide array of GFE and CFE such as WSN-7 Inertial Navigation System (INS), DDG Steering equipment, Integrated Bridge and Navigation System, the Navy's only certified electronic charting system, conventional and nuclear machinery control systems, and prime power equipment for systems such as SPY-6 and SEWIP. MSI is investing in future capabilities such as Integrated Power and Energy Systems (IPES), AI/ML application, agile software development, and next generation INS.



First used in US Navy Asheville Class Patrol Gunboats in the 1960's, more than 1,500 SSS Clutches have been installed in main propulsion of twelve classes of US Navy, US Military Sealift, and US Coast Guard ships and three classes of US Navy submarines. Currently, SSS Clutches are being supplied for DDG-51, LCS, LHA, LCAC, NSC, Virginia Class and two Propeller Shaft SSS Clutches and one Gas Turbine Clutch are being supplied for each FFG-62 USS Constitution Class Frigate. Numerous SSS Clutches are used in US Navy gas turbine generator starters and SSGT turning gears.



NCI Information Systems, Inc., is a leading provider of enterprise solutions to U.S. defense, intelligence, health and civilian government agencies. NCI has been at the forefront of operationalizing AI methodologies in the areas of warfighter enablement, digital transformation and advanced analytics for more than 30 years. From its Scaling Humans with Artificial Intelligence (Shai®) philosophy to accelerating AI adoption in the public sector, the NCI Empower™ platform's open-architecture platform provides secure, containerized access to deploy AI solutions and produce a government workforce that is more creative and productive. NCI is a global mid-tier systems integrator headquartered in Reston, Virginia. [www.nciinc.com](http://www.nciinc.com)



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The USAA family of companies provides insurance, banking, investments, retirement products and advice to more than 12 million current and former members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving our nation in the U.S. military or have received a discharge type of Honorable – and their eligible family members. Founded in 1922, USAA is headquartered in San Antonio. Learn more at [usaa.com](http://usaa.com) or 800-531-USAA.

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## NEW THREE YEAR MEMBERS

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CDR Richard Armstrong USCG  
 CAPT Skip Army USN  
 Mr. Gregg Baldassarre  
 CAPT Walter Ballard USN (Ret)  
 LT Cameron Boehme USN  
 LT Tyler Bruton USN  
 LT Colin Bruton USN  
 Mr. Robert Burger  
 MCPO Steven Cosgrove USN  
 CAPT Christopher Crews USN (Ret)  
 LCDR Steven Davies USCG  
 LT Matthew Delavega USN  
 LT Robert Dilks USN  
 Mr. Ali Elkateep  
 LT Robert Evans USN  
 LT Nicholas Everhart USN  
 QMC Candy Flores USN  
 Ms. Melissa Gatewood  
 CDR John Gibeault USN (Ret)  
 MCPO Christopher Haas USN  
 ENS Jesse Herman USN  
 LT Benny Hernandez USN

MCPO Matthew Jordan USCG  
 LTJG Kiana Kekoa USCG  
 LTJG John Kelly USCG  
 LTJG Yasmeen Keys USN  
 LT Dean Kirby USN  
 CWO2 Matthew Ladhier USCG  
 LT Eva LaFiura USN  
 LT Devin Laviano USN  
 LT Bradford Long USCG  
 LT Amauri Maria USN  
 CDR Kimberly Martinez USN  
 Mr. Arthur McAllister  
 LT VanAnh McCormick USN  
 Mr. Michael McNulty  
 OSMC Edward Monahan USN  
 LT Kristopher Moore USN  
 LT Marina Nanartowich USN  
 LCDR Donald Northrup USN  
 CAPT David Ogburn USN (Ret)

LT Jevon Page USN  
 ENS Jacob Pawlina USCG  
 CDR Todd Peltzer USN (Ret)  
 LCDR Joe Phillips USN  
 LTJG Keemiya Pourmonir USCG  
 CPO Westeral Pulanco USN  
 PO1 Ana Quirarte USN  
 Mr. David Reading  
 BMCM Robert Riemer USCG  
 Mr. German Rodriguez  
 Col Henrik Rosén RSWMC  
 LT David Rowland USCG  
 LT Charles Royster USN  
 MIDN Richard Stefani USN  
 LT Justin Strassfield USCG  
 CDR James Strickland USN  
 CDR Chris Tallon USN (Ret)  
 CAPT Mark Tempest USN (Ret)  
 Mr. Carl Warrington  
 LTJG Luke Wilson USCG  
 LCDR Rebecca Wolf USN  
 LT Robert Zielinski USN

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## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

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Mr. Kenneth Adams  
 LCDR Jeffrey Applebaugh USN  
 Mr. Adam Arbogast  
 LTC David Armour USA (Ret)  
 RADM George Ballance USN (Ret)  
 CAPT Robert Bellitto USN (Ret)  
 RADM John Bepko USN (Ret)  
 LT Tyler Brehm USN  
 CDR Lester Brown USN  
 Mr. Edward Bursk  
 RADM JC Caesar USN (Ret)  
 LTJG Raymond Cerrato USCG  
 LCDR Michael Culver USN (Ret)  
 RADM Yvette Davids USN  
 CDR Stephen Davis USN (Ret)  
 TSgt Robert DeMoss USAF (Ret)  
 LT Christopher Di Fatta USN  
 Mr. Alfred Drozdal  
 CAPT Paul Glandt USN (Ret)  
 LTJG Spencerjames Harris USN  
 LT Malik Harris USN

LTJG Cecelia Hosley USCG  
 Mr. Robert Humeur  
 CDR James Juster USN (Ret)  
 CAPT Sean Kearns USN  
 CDR Robert Kinsey USCG  
 Mr. Dewey Klaphake  
 CAPT Mark Kohlheim USN (Ret)  
 RADM Archer Macy USN (Ret)  
 Mr. Michael Martin  
 CDR Michael Matacz USN (Ret)  
 Mr. Robert Nagle  
 LCDR Harry Niewald USN  
 LCDR Andrew Norberg USCG  
 CAPT Brian O'Donnell USN (Ret)  
 LT Kyle Pearson USN  
 LCDR Daniel Pedrotty USN  
 Mr. Timothy Raupp  
 CAPT John Reilley USN  
 Mr. George Saroch

LCDR Kara Sartain USN  
 Mr. Michael Schnable  
 CAPT Michael Schwartz USN (Ret)  
 CAPT Leland Sebring USN (Ret)  
 LT Darren Settle USN  
 LCDR Fred Stewart USN (Ret)  
 Mr. Craig Tautges  
 CAPT Marvin Thompson USN  
 CDR Joshua Tiley USN  
 CDR Craig Trent USN  
 CDR Jason Tumlinson USN  
 LT Robert Van Winter USN  
 Mr. Dave Webb  
 GMC(SW) Robert Whistler USN (Ret)  
 Mr. James White  
 CDR Richard Wicker USN (Ret)  
 CAPT Michael Witherspoon USN  
 Mr. Jeff Yancho  
 Mr. Steve Yoder  
 Mr. Cal Yokomizo  
 LT Robert Young USN



# CHAPTER NEWS

## Annapolis

PRESIDENT: CDR JOHN TOBIN, USN

### Midshipmen Pick their First Ships!



On Thursday, February 4th, Naval Academy Midshipmen SWO Selectees picked their first ships in an incredible event held in Alumni Hall. 273 students selected to commission in May of 2021 as SWO's, Nuke-SWO's, or SWO options with follow on commitments in the EDO, Intel, METOC, IP and CW communities were cheered on by friends, family, allies, and leaders of the Surface Community. The event had been preceded with informational sessions for Midshipmen to learn more about different platforms and homeports that they could select from officers who had lived and served in them. The day of Ship Selection, Surface Warfare Officers from around the yard had the opportunity to hear updates on the community from VADM Kitchener and RADM Cooper, along with the commanding officer of SWOS and PERS-41. Midshipmen Joseph Weidemann was the first pick of the night selecting USS RONALD REAGAN out of Yokosuka, Japan. He received a SWO pin from SWO Boss and was presented a samurai sword from the Japanese Naval Attaché.



Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks to the Naval Academy's prospective Surface Warfare Officers at Ship Selection Night.



Midshipmen Joseph Weidemann is presented a samurai sword by the Japanese Naval Attaché. The first pick of the night, Weidemann picked USS RONALD REAGAN homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

# Battleship IOWA

PRESIDENT: RADM MIKE SHATYNSKI, USN (RET)

## "Going 'virtual' has let us survive and maybe even thrive"

As you read this, Los Angeles has probably moved into the “red” COVID category and the Battleship IOWA Museum has probably been allowed to open indoors at 25% capacity with appropriate precautions. During the past 12 months while COVID racked our world, the Chapter members and the Museum had to figure out new ways to live our lives. Going “virtual” has let us survive and maybe even thrive.

The Chapter partnered with the National Museum of the Surface Navy (NMSN) to take the 8th annual Gravely Celebration online to celebrate VADM Samuel L. Gravely Jr. VADM Gravely, a “man of many firsts”, served as Communications Officer as a JO aboard USS IOWA during the Korean War. Tanya Aker, celebrity judge and NMSN board member, led the celebration with other notable panelists including RADM Sinc Harris (Ret.), NNOA president, CAPT Paul Stillwell (Ret.), author of “Trailblazer”, CAPT Alysa Ambrose (Ret.), and MIDN Cam Davis, USNA '21. The event was held live at noon during Black History Month so schools across the country were able to participate virtually.

Chapter members were integral to other innovative efforts to bring the Surface Navy to America virtually. Many spaces aboard the USS IOWA were filmed in “3D” and can now be accessed by taking virtual tours on the Museum’s website.

The City of LA is now allowing Angelenos to plan to gather physically starting in late summer. July 4th seems to be a target date across America but Los Angeles still has a less optimistic projection. The Chapter officers met virtually in advance of the next members meeting to begin planning our own opening. We are all anxious to get together again as a Chapter and plan for LA Fleet Week over the Labor Day weekend and other fun local Surface Navy events.



*Chapter member Dave Canfield, a retired Navy Chief who served aboard USS IOWA, leads a virtual tour of the ship's engineering spaces that is now available online.*



*SNA member CAPT Alysa Ambrose (Ret), former CO of USS Gravely, joined many other SNA members, both on and off screen, for the Chapter's first webcast in partnership with the Surface Navy Museum.*



## Douglas Munro

PRESIDENT: CDR KELLEEN NOLAN, USCG

### "A clear reminder of the camaraderie that may be missing in these times"

On Wednesday March 3rd, the Douglas Munro Chapter of the Surface Navy Association held a Cutterman's Call at Coast Guard Headquarters in conjunction with the Coast Guard's Office of Cutter Forces. The event provided attendees a chance for some camaraderie and iced coffee while listening to a few esteemed speakers.

Emceed by CDR Kristopher Ensley with support from LT Brian Hagerty, the event spanned topics of sea duty attractiveness, women's afloat initiatives, the future of the Coast Guard fleet, and more. RDML Mark Fedor spoke on the exciting momentum regarding numerous Coast Guard acquisitions, as the Assistant Commandant for Capabilities, and provided a thorough look ahead for the fleet. LCDR Cindy Travers addressed the significant steps that the Office of Cutter Forces is taking regarding sea duty attractiveness, as well as the thrilling "new cutter smell" that the next generation of ships have. MCPOCG Jason Vanderhaden closed the event with remarks covering various

leadership techniques, and his approach to many sailor's favorite meal "mid-rats". The event also featured speakers from OPM, EPM, and other headquarters directorates.

The event was attended by nearly 50 individuals, including the Commandant, Vice Commandant, and numerous other senior officer and enlisted advisors.

With hearty smiles obscured by masks and socially distanced conversation, in order to abide by COVID-19 protocols, the event provided an opportunity for Cuttermen to gather and swap sea stories over iced coffee. As we look for ways to continue to gather safely, events like these serve as a clear reminder of the camaraderie that may be missing in these times. We look forward to exploring opportunities to hold additional events in the future!



March 2021 Cuttermen's Call at CGHQ

## Greater Washington Chapter

PRESIDENT: CAPT BOB BRYANS, USN

### Welcoming New Chapter Officers Aboard!

In January, the Greater Washington Chapter bid farewell to Chapter President and Vice President, CAPT Paul Young and CDR Cam Ingram. Please welcome aboard CAPT Bob Bryans and LCDR Annie Patterson, our newest Chapter President and Vice President. CAPT Bryans is the Weapons and Sensors Deputy at OPNAV N96. He recently completed a tour as Commanding Officer of USS Mobile Bay (CG 53). LCDR Patterson is the FFG(62) Requirements Officer at OPNAV N96. She recently completed a Defense Fellowship on Capitol Hill and tours as Operations Officer and Combat Systems Officer of USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79).

Mark your calendars for the GWC Summer Golf Tournament scheduled for June 23, 2021 at Laurel Hill Golf Club. Registration

will open early May. If interested in sponsorships, please email [dgary@navysna.org](mailto:dgary@navysna.org)

Are you interested in volunteering in the chapter? Email [communications@navysna.org](mailto:communications@navysna.org) for more information.

We are in the process of planning more events for 2021. Continue to check the Calendar of Events on the homepage at [www.navysna.org](http://www.navysna.org)

As the country continues to recover from COVID-19, we are looking for input from you on events that interest you and creative ways to engage our members. If you have not already, join our Facebook page and leave a comment. We would love to hear from you!



## Gulf Coast

PRESIDENT: CAPT THOMAS DANIEL, USN (RET)

### Formerly the Pensacola Chapter

SNA is excited to announce the reorganization of the Pensacola Chapter to include all of the Gulf Coast area. The new chapter is now the "Gulf Coast Chapter" and will include at a minimum Pensacola, Mobile, Pascagoula, Gulfport and New Orleans. We are looking for volunteers in those areas to serve on the chapter Board of Directors. If interested in serving on the board, please contact [communications@navysna.org](mailto:communications@navysna.org)

The chapter is pleased to report that one of the 2020 SNA Stephen Decatur awardees in the Pensacola chapter area, NJROTC Cadet Captain Hannah Bishop, has been selected by the Alabama State JROTC Officer Selection Board to serve as President. This is the top student Alabama JROTC leadership position for School Year 2021-22 representing all statewide 104 JROTC programs and a total of 18,000 Joint Army, Navy Air Force and Marine JROTC Cadets.

Hannah will be a rising Senior next school year and she will be the first JROTC cadet from the Mobile County Public School System (MCPSS) and the SNA Pensacola Gulf Coast regional area to serve in a top statewide JROTC leadership position.

She was also selected to represent WP Davidson High NJROTC when General Colin Powell presented a Hargrove Foundation JROTC grant at the Mobile Convention in 2019.



NJROTC Cadet Captain Hannah Bishop & SNA Gulf Coast Chapter President, CAPT Tom Daniel USN (Ret).

## Hampton Roads

PRESIDENT: CAPT JAMES KIRBY, USN

### Virtual Mixers are Going Strong!

Greetings to all of our Hampton Roads Surface Warriors, Cuttermen, and Civilian Mariners! It's hard to believe that we are 1 year into the COVID-19 pandemic. The area is operating under higher level of HPCON, but with the number of infections going down – there is light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully a reduction in HPCON. As we enter into Spring, your Hampton Roads Chapter is continuing to conduct our monthly Zoom Virtual Mixers and will continue this into Summer's start. We can't wait to get back into the practice of conducting our monthly join-ups in person with luncheons featuring guest speakers, but we will eventually get there as COVID-19 recedes and our country resets at a new normal. That being said, the Zoom Virtual Mixer has afforded a wider audience and new faces. Please consider joining us for these events. They normally occur on the third Thursday of the month with a start time of 1700 and wrap up by 1830.



## Mid-South

PRESIDENT: CAPT KEVIN KENNEDY, USN



### It's Full Speed Ahead this Year in Millington, TN!

NPC and PERS-41 are here to ensure all of your questions regarding PCS and policies surrounding COVID-19 are answered. As the policies continue to change, please reach out to your Detailer with any questions you may have.

2021 is FULL SPEED AHEAD and off to a great start! The SNA Mid-South Chapter Members and PERS-41 team kicked off the 2021 road show schedule with detailing trips to Washington, D.C., Annapolis, and Dahlgren. Thank you to all of the Officers and Commands that hosted SNA Mid-South and the PERS-41 team during our recent visit! The wide outreach and contact that we have on these trips is invaluable and one of the most important aspects of our jobs. Email and phone calls are convenient – but nothing replaces the opportunity to speak to you and address your questions and concerns in person.

SNA Mid-South chapter participated in the annual Wreaths Across America event at the Memphis National Cemetery in December. Each year, Wreaths Across America comes together to remember and honor the sacrifices of our veterans as well as to teach the younger generations of America about the importance of service to our Nation. The event culminates in the laying of evergreen wreaths on graves of our veterans in National Cemeteries around the World. This year we could not attend in person, but the virtual event was a great success.

In January, members of SNA Mid-South and the PERS-41 team attended Ship Selection at the US Naval Academy. VADM Kitchner led the charge and the energy in Alumni Hall was incredible! Additionally, we had a phenomenal turnout for the NROTC Ship Selection Broadcast, receiving over 5,000 views on YouTube over the three-day event. The first ships selected by our USNA and NROTC Midshipmen were the USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76) and the USS SAMPSON (DDG 102). Bravo Zulu to all the ships that participated in this year's ship selection. And, welcome aboard to all of our newest future Surface Warfare Division Officers!

Please take a moment to read, and share with your Wardroom, the latest PERS-41 Newsletter and Community Brief located on our updated website. Both provide a vast amount of information important to understand for your own career management. Contact your detailer if you have any questions. Lastly, keep on the lookout for updated PERS-41 detailer visits on social media!

On behalf of the entire Surface Warfare team here in Millington, we consider it an honor to serve the finest officers our Fleet has to offer. As always, we are standing by to answer any questions you may have!

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# Monterey

PRESIDENT: LT MATT SEARIGHT, USN



## "We are optimistic about the expanding implementation of on-campus and hybrid attendance learning opportunities."

As a new year begins and the next academic quarter comes to a close at NPS we wish to welcome those shipmates joining us as well as those graduating and preparing to rejoin the fleet fair winds and following seas! While the Monterey chapter and NPS community continues to adapt to the Covid limitations we are optimistic about the expanding implementation of on-campus and hybrid attendance learning opportunities. We look forward to being able to resume our traditional social event schedule and take full advantage of the great opportunities our meetings between members of the SWO community and the regular visitors to the NPS campus provides.

### Awards:

AY21Q2 SNA Award for Excellence in Surface Warfare Research to LT Daniel Pulliam, Operations Research, for his thesis "Framework for Analyzing the Resilience of Forward Expeditionary Port Refueling Infrastructure."

### Hail:

It is my pleasure to welcome the 11 new SWO resident students who arrived in December. PERS-412 continues to do a great job in working quotas and orders during the pandemic.

A special welcome to CAPT Dan Sunvold who has recently joined the NPS faculty as the Surface Warfare Chair and SNA Monterey Chapter Treasurer.

### Farewells:

The SNA chapter would like to thank the previous Surface Warfare Chair and Treasurer CAPT (ret) Charles Good for his invaluable leadership and mentoring that he's provided our community throughout his career.

15 SWO shipmates have graduated in March; several are going directly to Newport, but many have follow-on shore tours on staffs or as instructors.

### Distinguished Visitors, Community Events, and Socials:

On January 26th the Naval Postgraduate School inducted Vice Admiral (ret) Edward Moore Jr. to the Hall of Fame. The all-hands ceremony honored Vice Admiral (ret) Moore Jr.'s 38-year career beginning in the enlisted ranks of the U.S. Navy Reserves and culminated as the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Distinguished as a leader and warfighter leading successful Tomahawk missile strikes against Saddam Hussein and Iraqi targets as the Plankowner Commanding Officer of USS Cowpens (CG-63), Commander of both Cruiser-Destroyer Group THREE, and later CARL VINSON Task Group.

Naval Postgraduate School's SECNAV Guest Lecture Series provides the opportunity and platform for numerous influential personages to address the NPS community on a recurring basis. This quarter's events included:

Admiral (ret) Cecil D. Haney, Former Commander, USSSTRATCOM.

Admiral (ret) Haney explored the strategic objectives of China and Russia as well as the implications of classifying them as peer competitors and how this impacts an ever-more sophisticated global security environment.

Dr. William D. Phillips, 1997 Physics Nobel Prize Laureate.

Dr. Phillips lecture topic focused on how Quantum mechanics is reforming the metric system and what that means to the Naval services. His research and efforts continue to strive for the refinement of the SI system of measurement in order to reflect constants of the natural world. These constants are instrumental in the systems the Navy uses for precision timekeeping, navigation, and future quantum information processing technologies.

The Wayne E. Meyer's Scholar Program lead by NPS's Integrated Air and Missile Defence Chair CAPT (ret) John Hammerer continues to provide recurring opportunities to broaden the effort of marrying warfighting excellence with the academic opportunities provided by NPS. This quarter's events included:

CAPT Johnathan Lipps, Prospective Commander, CTF 64.

Overview and discussion of operation, threats, and other challenges of Integrated Air and Missile Defense of 6th Fleet.

LCDR Alisha Hamilton, PEO IWS 1.0, Aegis Combat System

Tactical Implications of Combat System Capabilities for Tacticians and Engineers

Mr. Bill Buckingham, Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren.

Strike Group Interoperability: Sine Qua Non of Naval Warfighting, Data Links and Interoperability

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# National Cutterman

PRESIDENT: CAPT MIKE DAVANZO, USCG

## USCGC Charles Moulthrop

The Coast Guard commissioned the 41st fast response cutter (FRC), Charles Moulthrop, in Portsmouth, Virginia, Jan. 21. The cutter is the first of six FRCs to be assigned to Patrol Forces Southwest Asia and stationed in Manama, Bahrain.

In line with social distancing requirements, the in-person ceremony – presided over by Adm. Karl Schultz, Coast Guard commandant – was limited to the official party and VIPs.

Seaman Charles Moulthrop, the cutter's namesake, performed heroic and selfless deeds as a crewmember of the Revenue Cutter Service cutter Commodore Perry when he rescued four of his shipmates who ended up in the ocean while they attempted to

rescue another crewman who was swept overboard during heavy seas. Moulthrop "grabbed a line and leaped over the side" into the freezing water to rescue the four. He gave his life in the performance of his duties in Unalaska, Alaska, in 1896 when he fell from a mast while trying to free a fouled pennant. This will be the first modern Coast Guard cutter named for an enlisted man of the Revenue Cutter Service, bringing recognition to the service and sacrifice of hundreds of sailors who served their country aboard the cutters of this precursor of the Coast Guard.

The Sentinel-class FRCs feature advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment; over-the-horizon cutter boat deployment to reach vessels of interest; and improved habitability and seakeeping. The cutters are designed for multiple missions including search and rescue; national defense; ports, waterways and coastal security; drug and migrant interdiction; and fisheries patrols.



*Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Karl Schultz, delivers remarks at the commissioning ceremony for the CHARLES MOULTHROPE.*



*USCGC Charles Moulthrop*

# New London

PRESIDENT: CDR JOHN MCTAMNEY, USCG

## Celebrating Billet Night

One of the most memorable and significant events in a Coast Guard Academy cadet's 4-year experience is "Billet Night." During this event, each senior cadet discovers which operational Coast Guard unit they will join upon graduation. It is a night filled with anticipation, exuberance and usually joy. This year was no exception; in fact, with the many restrictions imposed by the global pandemic over the course of the past year, this evening was even more meaningful. Distanced and masked, the class of 2021 enjoyed the normal festivities: a formal dinner, a billet presentation ceremony filled with

entertainment and surprises, and a social hour for celebrating their new assignments with their classmates and mentors. Of the 256 cadets graduating, 212 will go to sea in a Coast Guard cutter. Just 65 days to go!

For those heading to cutters, the Surface Navy Association continued its gracious offer of providing a free 3-year membership. The SNA New London Chapter, in conjunction with the SNA National Cuttermen Chapter, provided an informational flier within each sea-going cadet's billet folder, detailing the benefits and process for joining SNA. Encouraging cadets to join and remain active in SNA and other professional organizations is key to maintaining a strong cadre of sea-going officers and in promoting "sea duty attractiveness." Thank you to SNA for the continued support, and congratulations to the USCGA Class of 2021!



*First Class Cadets celebrate their billets at Billet Night on March 4th.*



# New York

PRESIDENT: CAPT DAVID REWKOWSKI, USN



## Celebrating Virtual Meeting Success and Continued Chapter Excellence!

We hope that everyone is safe as we all look forward to warmer Northeast weather and, perhaps, a return to the life and activities we enjoyed before the pandemic began.

The Chapter hosted its quarterly membership meeting on March 10, 2021. The event was once again held virtually and was highlighted by our guest speaker, RDML Marc Lederer, Deputy Commander, Military Sealift Command (with additional duty as Deputy Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic). The virtual meeting platform has proven to be a viable and effective means of hosting meetings, especially considering how geographically disparate we are as a Chapter. With the added bonus of being able to have high-profile guest speakers who do not need to travel, we will continue to host meetings virtually to allow for greater participation. As the weather warms up and it becomes safe to meet in person in large groups again, we will examine best ways to do that, including Fleet Week and other events.

We are also pleased to report that the Chapter was awarded its third straight Chapter Excellence Award at this year's SNA National

Symposium, which was also held virtually. This is a tremendous accomplishment for the Chapter, having established ourselves as a critical and engaging arm of the Association. Thanks to all of you who made that possible.

Finally, Chapter elections were held in February. The current board will remain in place for another two years. Thank you to everyone who cast an electronic vote. Congratulations are in order for our re-elected Vice-President, CDR Joel Knippel, who just returned home from a year-long deployment to serve on the staff of Special Operations Command-Africa. CDR Knippel was also selected for command of Navy Reserve, U.S. Fleet Forces Maritime Operations Center-Chicago.

As always, we send email to the membership via MailChimp distribution lists, so if you're not receiving anything, please check your junk mail or contact us at [surfacenavynewyork@gmail.com](mailto:surfacenavynewyork@gmail.com). You can also stay on top of any events and news by visiting our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/snanewyork>).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS!

ANNAPOLIS  
HAMPTON ROADS  
MID-SOUTH  
MONTEREY  
GREATER NEW YORK  
PEARL HARBOR  
SAN DIEGO



# Pearl Harbor

PRESIDENT: CAPT KEN ATHANS, USN

## Helping Our Community

Despite the current global pandemic, the Surface Navy Association of the Pearl Harbor Chapter is committed to move forward in our commitment to our community.

This past January we setup a food donation drop spot. Our organization partnered up with our local Hawaii Food Bank for a food drive. This provides the donated food needed for meal preparation for our keiki (children), senior citizens, and entire families.



# San Diego

PRESIDENT: CAPT KURT SELLERBERG, USN

## The First Big Event of the Year Ends in an Exciting Tiebreaker!

Spring is in full swing in San Diego! The San Diego chapter has an ambitious schedule of virtual events – including online speakers – set up for 2021, and we are contingency planning for in-person events for later in the year as well. Our first big event for the year occurred on 25 February, when we held a virtual trivia contest via Zoom. Hosted by TriviaHub, this event saw 12 teams face off on three rounds of trivia focused on current events and pop culture. A team of SWO instructors from our local SWOS Maritime Skills Training Center prevailed after the tiebreaker round, garnering bragging rights on the waterfront until our next contest.

Bragging rights were also earned by the crew of USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106) for winning the 2020 Naval Base San Diego holiday light contest “best in show” title. On 5 March, Chapter President CAPT Kurt Sellerberg was able to recognize the STOCKDALE team’s hard work and holiday spirit during a brief topside ceremony and trophy presentation.

Stay tuned for more events to keep everyone connected during this time of “virtual” activities! The San Diego Chapter has an activity planned for each month, so please check our website



*ENS Hanna Kim accepts the trophy for the 2020 Holiday Lights Competition on behalf of the USS Stockdale (DDG 106) crew members who participated in the event.*





at <http://chapter.navysna.org/new/san-diego/> for the latest announcements. Amongst these, we are starting a monthly virtual workout challenge – each month will have a different goal and theme (5K run, “Murph” challenge, etc.) as a chance to stay in shape while remaining connected with each other. We will be pushing the link out to participate and log your results. It’s fun, free and it’s a good way to connect with your shipmates.

Finally, as the COVID restrictions are beginning to lift in California, we’re looking to energize in-person events as we can. Specifically, on our radar is the SNA sponsored Admiral Prout Golf Tournament. We are hoping we can execute that event this summer or early fall in conjunction with an SNA Waterfront event. We will know a bit more in the near future on what those timelines look like moving forward.



*SNA San Diego Chapter President, CAPT Kurt Sellerberg, presents the 2020 Naval Base San Diego Holiday Light Contest trophy on 5 March 2021. ENS Han Na Kim is accepting the award on behalf of the crew of USS STOCKDALE (DDG 106).*



*CAPT Kurt Sellerberg, San Diego Surface Navy Association President, addresses crew members from the Arleigh Burke class missile guided destroyer USS Stockdale (DDG 106) to present the trophy for winning the 2020 Holiday Lights Competition.*



*Crew members of the USS Stockdale (DDG 106) attend an awards ceremony where they are presented with the trophy for winning the 2020 Holiday Lights Competition.*

## USS CONSTITUTION

PRESIDENT: CAPT BILL MAUSER, USNR (RET)

### Congratulations to the Winners of this Years Academic and Leadership Awards!

Each year the USS Constitution Chapter presents its Academic and Leadership Excellence Award to deserving midshipmen from the New England area universities who were selected for the Surface Warfare career path, and who have demonstrated qualities of strong leadership, teamwork, initiative, high moral character, and integrity. This year four awards were presented – the first for the Boston, MA consortium of NROTC unit schools consisting of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Boston University, Tufts University, Boston College and Northeastern University; the second for the Worcester, MA consortium of NROTC unit schools consisting of the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State University and Brown University (Providence, RI); the third at Norwich University, Northfield, VT, which is the first time this award has been presented there; and the fourth at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Buzzards Bay, MA, which will be reported in the next edition of Surface Sitrep. Included in this award is a plaque and a three-year membership in the Surface Navy Association. All awards were presented virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### AWARDS PRESENTED IN 2020

On June 1st CAPT Bill Mauser, Chapter President and CAPT Mike Hennessey, Chapter BOD Member and NROTC Program Manager, presented the Academic and Leadership Excellence Award to ENS Aidan McDaid from Boston University. ENS McDaid hails from Scituate, MA and while at Boston University received a BS degree majoring in Biomedical Engineering and distinguished himself in multiple leadership positions among them as Battalion Command Master Chief and Platoon Commander. Additionally, during his senior year he was employed at Draper Laboratories, a national leader in research and development within the defense, space, biomedical and energy industries, assigned to senior design projects. ENS McDaid is a fishing, boating, and running enthusiast having completed half marathons. Following BDOC, ENS McDaid will serve on the USS Mobile Bay (CG-53), a Ticonderoga class cruiser, homeported San Diego, CA.

On June 3rd CAPT Bill Mauser, Chapter President, CAPT Mike Hennessey, Chapter BOD Member and NROTC Program Manager,



CDR John Benda, 76th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution, America's Ship of State, and Chapter BOD member and LT Nicholas Nesbit, SWO at the NROTC consortium command Worcester, MA presented the Academic and Leadership Excellence Award to ENS William McAvoy from the College of the Holy Cross. ENS McAvoy is from Potomac, MD and while at Holy Cross received a BA degree majoring in biology and is currently enrolled in a master's program at Harvard University. At Holy Cross he served as the Battalion Executive Officer, Color Sergeant, and Squad leader and on summer cruises served on the USS Hue City (CG-66); MIDN XO on VP-706 at the USNA; and attended CORTRAMID WEST. He spent four years volunteering at St. Mary Healthcare Center visiting veterans and other residents in their final days and was responsible for securing two Marshall Grants to purchase Amazon Kindles and for the construction of a wheelchair accessible garden. While there he was responsible for coordinating several hundred students for community service projects. He also participated in the Spring Break Immersion Program servicing needed communities in Virginia and West Virginia. In addition, during the summer he was a counselor for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. As a biology major ENS McAvoy conducted research on multipotent lung mesenchymal stromal cells (MSC), levels of reactive oxidative species in aging stem cells, PTSD and cystic fibrosis. In addition, he has completed two Marine Corp Marathons and two 200 mile Ragnar Reach the Beach Relays, raising funds for needed charities. Following BDOC, ENS McAvoy will serve on the USS Nitze (DDG-94), an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, homeported Norfolk, VA.

On June 3rd CAPT Bill Mauser, Chapter President, CAPT Mike Hennessey, Chapter BOD Member and NROTC Program Manager, CDR John Benda, 76th Commanding Officer of the USS Constitution, America's Ship of State, and Chapter BOD member and LT Tyler Walden, SWO at the NROTC command presented the Academic and Leadership Excellence Award to ENS Aaron De Rosa from Norwich University, the nation's first private military college. ENS De Rosa

hails from East Rutherford, NJ and while at Norwich received a BS degree majoring in Computer Science and Information Assurance. Throughout his four years at Norwich, ENS De Rosa set the example in the Battalion with proven academic excellence, dynamic leadership, and personal integrity. While at Norwich he served in several leadership positions within the NROTC Battalion and Corps of Cadets. As a 1/C Midshipmen he performed a remarkable job as the Battalion S2 and was responsible for revamping the study hour program within the NROTC Battalion. Under his leadership, he set up a tutoring watch rotation resulting in vastly improved grades across the Battalion. Within the Corps of Cadets, MIDN De Rosa attained the rank of Cadet Captain serving as the S4 responsible for all supply and logistics. Additionally, his integrity and sound judgment earned him a position as an adjudicator on the Honor Committee. MIDN De Rosa has been involved in both Norwich Christian Fellowship and serving in Chapel Services throughout his tenure at Norwich. Following BDOC, ENS De Rosa will serve on the USS Hopper (DDG-80), an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, homeported Pearl Harbor, HI.

### 2019 Senior Sailor of the Year Leadership Award

On 29 MAY, SNA's USS CONSTITUTION chapter presented its 2019 Senior Sailor of the Year Leadership Award onboard CONSTITUTION to Yeoman First Class (SW/AW) Louie Frost, USN.

CDR John A. Benda, CO CONSTITUTION and SNA Chapter BOD Member, introduced the ceremony with compelling remarks on the added value SNA offers enlisted and officers alike. "We selected YN1 FROST for 2019's Senior Sailor of the Year because of his can-do attitude not only in how he approached work, but also in how he leads and develops Sailors. He is an excellent mentor for his subordinates and peers, beyond his unmatched skills as a Yeoman."



ENS Aaron De Rosa  
Norwich University



ENS William McAvoy  
College of the Holy Cross



ENS Aidan McDaid  
Boston University



YN1 Frost hails from Long Beach, CA. He enlisted in OCT 2009 and was advanced to First Class PO in JUN 2018. He distinguished himself as a capable leader by serving as Executive Department Head from January to December 2019. He demonstrated a rare ability to execute tasks across an extensive scope of responsibility normally assigned to a Chief.

As one of only two Top Captains on "Old Ironsides", YN1 Frost led 75 sailors in 10 sail setting evolutions, critical to ensuring safety while sailors ascend 75-100 feet above the main deck. In addition, he managed a budget of \$420k as MWR officer with 100% accountability, earning praise by inspectors as having one of the best programs they've seen for two consecutive years.

Petty officer Frost's superlative performance, outstanding devotion, and dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States naval service. He will be missed. He will soon transfer to his new duties on USS COLE (DDG-67), which is homeported in Norfolk. Fair winds and following seas from your shipmates and SNA friends in Boston!

This award is part of the Chapter's mission in New England. It features the Navy-wide George Sirian Meritorious Service Award for outstanding surface warfare E-7s, academic leadership awards to officer training programs at several New England universities and Maritime Academies, and a special recognition to CONSTITUTION's Senior Sailor of the Year.

#### AWARD PRESENTED IN 2021

##### 2020 Senior Sailor of the Year Leadership Award

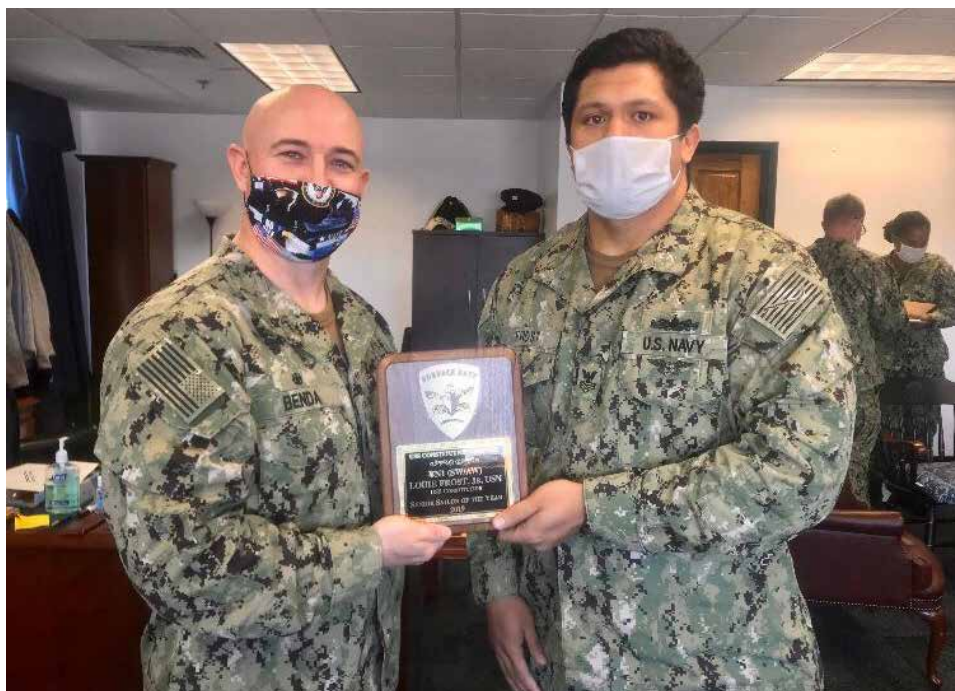
On 8 March SNA's USS Constitution Chapter presented its 2020 Senior Sailor of the Year Leadership Award to HM1 Eric M. Garneau, USN onboard Constitution.

CDR John A. Benda, CO USS Constitution, and an SNA Chapter BOD member, presented the award with the entire crew assembled. CDR

Benda's remarks included, "HM1 Garneau was selected for the award because of his commendable performance while assigned as Independent Duty Corpsman onboard the USS Constitution and for maintaining 98% medical readiness, which led to Constitution being awarded the Gold Blue 'H' and Health, Safety and Fitness Community Outreach award." He went on to describe other factors including HM1 Garneau's leadership in proactively implementing protocol measures during the early and continuing phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, that ensured the safety of crew members resulting in zero positive cases, and the safety of over 10,000 visitors, so critically important in support of "Old Ironsides" public relations mission.

HM1 Garneau served as Command Managed Equal Opportunity program manager and led a well-trained 20 member Command Resiliency Team towards surveying the overall command climate, resulting in the implementation of quarterly resiliency training, and increased morale and esprit de corps throughout the ship's complement. He also assumed responsibility for the training and qualification of 20 duty section personnel and 10 first class petty officers and led 12 FCPO's and junior sailors during four Sailor 360 training sessions. HM1 Garneau embraced the PR mission of Constitution as the senior officer leading 10 FCPO's during multiple charity events at the Ronald McDonald House, strengthening relationships among local communities throughout the Greater Boston area.

HM1 Garneau, while originally from Pittsfield, MA, grew up in Port St. Lucie, FL. He enlisted in the Navy in October 2006 and was promoted to First Class Petty Officer in June 2014. He resides at Hanscom Air Force Base outside of Boston with his wife Sierra, daughter Taylor and sons Jake and Easton.



USS CONSTITUTION CO CDR John Benda (Left) presents SNA Chapter's Leadership Award to 2019 Senior Sailor of the Year YN1 (SW/AW) Louie Frost Jr, USN.



HM1 Eric M. Garneau and CDR John A. Benda, CO USS Constitution.



# CONTINUING the CONVERSATION

THE OFFICIAL SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION LIVECAST

Missed one of SNA's Continuing the Conversation interviews? Check out our Facebook page at [facebook.com/navysna](https://facebook.com/navysna) to watch one of the past interviews.

DATE	TOPIC
3/11/2021	Honoring Women's History Month
3/3/2021	George Sirian Award Winner
1/28/2021	USCG Women at Sea
1/15/2021	SNA What's in it for Me?
1/13/2021	Navy Heritage Iwo Jima
1/13/2021	US Coast Guard District 7
1/12/2021	National Museum of the Surface Navy
1/11/2021	Chairman of SNA
12/1/2020	Sea Attractiveness
9/23/2020	Remembering Katrina
8/6/2020	Diversity in CG
7/22/2020	MCPON & MCPOCG
6/9/2020	Leadership - Conversation with Former FLTCM

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## HISTORY OF SNA

Surface Navy Association (SNA) was incorporated in 1985 to promote greater coordination and communication among those in the military, business, and academic communities who share a common interest in Surface Warfare while supporting the activities of Surface Naval Forces.

## MISSION

We are an Association at the center of Surface Warfare. We provide our members support, programs, & various activities that enable professional growth, personal satisfaction, and camaraderie.

## PURPOSE

- *Recognizing* the continuing contributions of the United States Navy & Coast Guard's Surface Forces in regards to the security of the United States
- *Showcasing* professional excellence within the Surface Naval Forces
- *Dealing* with the challenges that are faced as Surface Naval Forces in regards to National Security
- *Nurturing* communication among military, academic, and business communities
- *Enhancing* and Preserving the Heritage of Surface Naval Forces
- *Providing* forums on professional matters affecting Surface Naval Forces and the United States Navy and Coast Guard