U.S. Navy Sailors partnered with Military Sealift Command Civil Service Mariners (CIVMAR) and civilian contractors in a collaborative effort to successfully launch a Wave Glider unmanned surface vehicle (USV) from expeditionary fast transport ship USNS Burlington (T-EPF 10), June 30.

The launch took place during the Burlington’s transit to Cartagena, Colombia ahead of the start of UNITAS LXIV. Colombia was this year’s host for UNITAS, longest-running annual multinational maritime exercise in the world, and began on July 11.

“UNITAS is so unique and full of opportunities for innovation, providing an ideal location to experiment with service concepts and conduct combined training while close to home and in a permissive environment,” said Burlington’s Military Detachment officer in charge, Cmdr. Michael Fleck.

Wave Glider was one of the unmanned systems in operation during the exercise as a part of the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet (USNAVSOU/FOURTHFLT) Unmanned Integration Campaign. The campaign’s goal was to deploy and integrate unmanned systems and artificial intelligence tools into operations, which will bolster the Navy’s Marine Domain Awareness (MDA), counter-narcotics (CN) efforts and information sharing with partner nations.

“UNITAS is an outstanding avenue to introduce emerging naval concepts for multinational exercises and operations in the region,” said Burlington’s Military Detachment senior enlisted leader, Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Anthony Davis.

The Wave Glider USV runs on wave power, meaning the vertical wave motion is converted into forward thrusts. During UNITAS LXIV, the Wave Glider USV will provide Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the exercise operations area during the underway portions of UNITAS.

The overall objective of the USNAVSOU/FOURTHFLT Unmanned Integration Campaign is to ultimately scale unmanned platforms to the fleet level while developing tactics, techniques, and procedures resulting in the U.S. Navy’s Hybrid Fleet of the 2030s.

UNITAS, Latin for Unity, is the longest-running multinational maritime exercise in the world. A U.S.-sponsored joint exercise, UNITAS was conceived in 1959, with the first UNITAS (UNITAS I) taking place in 1960. UNITAS has occurred every year since then.
USNS RICHARD E. BYRD WINS 11TH DAVID M. COOK FOOD SERVICE AWARD

By Sarah Cannon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs

For the eleventh time, the Military Sealift Command dry cargo, ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) has been recognized for its outstanding food service program with the annual Capt. David M. Cook award for food service excellence.

Byrd competed with ships throughout the MSC fleet, with the ships divided into two categories based on crew size -- the ships in the small ship category have crews of 75 or less and the ships in the large ship category have crews of 75 or more people. Byrd is in the large ship category, having a crew of 124.

Ships nominated for the award go through an extensive review process conducted by Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force offices, located in Norfolk and San Diego. The ships are evaluated on things such as the ship's financial accountability, sanitation, safety, customer service, menu planning/presentation, and crew surveys.

According to Daniello Puniesto, Byrd’s Chief Steward, Byrd follows the standard MSC/Navy meal plan, but put their own special touches to things, making already good meals, better.

“We like to spice things up,” explained Puniesto. “We like to add things like fresh herbs, and spices; things that will make the dishes better.”

One example of this is the ship’s weekly Taco Tuesday taco bar. In addition to the standard items like cheese and lettuce, the stewards offer fresh guacamole and pico de gallo, made from items found on the local economy.

Puniesto also mentioned that Byrd is the only ship in the MSC fleet that is able to provide charbroiled meats; especially steaks, something he personally cooks every Sunday.

“Each steward has their own signature meal,” said Capt. Lee Apsley, Byrd’s Civil Service Master. “They really work to tune it up, and improve it and make it their own. This kind of pride in what they do really shines through and gives a quality product that the whole crew can enjoy and that they can feel good about offering.”

Both Apsley and Puniesto agree that good food means a happy crew and plays a huge part in the overall moral of the ship. For this reason, Byrd’s food service team is constantly looking for new ideas to implement and offer the crew. Some of the most popular things include Mongolian barbecue and pizza nights.

“We have two pizza and movie nights a week while at-sea,” said Apsley. “One night we have pizza and wings, and the other is pizza and a make-your-own nacho bar. Both are very popular with the crew, and something they look forward to.”

Ship cleanliness and hygiene also falls to the Byrd’s 22 Stewards. Each one is responsible for an area of the ship and each area is inspected and evaluated as part of the Cook Award. Just like the meals they cook, each member of the team takes this aspect as seriously, and takes pride in what they do.

“Regardless of where they work, these guys really do take ownership of what they do. They are true professionals,” said Apsley. “People who come aboard Byrd always remark at what a clean ship we have. A clean ship also adds to the crew’s moral.”

With 11 awards on the shelf, the Byrd team is already looking forward to 2024 with the hopes of a twelfth award. Improvements are on the horizon in the form of a new ice-cream machine. Recently, the mess areas were refurbished with new flooring and new furniture. In addition, Puniesto said that he is reworking his budget so that he can add more food to the already plentiful menus.

“I couldn’t be happier with this team’s performance. Eleven awards! It is unprecedented,” said Apsley. “We are swinging for the fence next year!”

The Capt. David M. Cook Award honors MSC’s former director of logistics, Capt. David M. Cook. While serving as MSC’s logistics director from 1995 until 1998, he was instrumental in enhancing every aspect of food service operations at MSC, from training for food service staff to nutrition education for ship crews.

USNS GRASP WINS DAVID M. COOK FOOD SERVICE AWARD IN SMALL SHIP CATEGORY

By Sarah Cannon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs

The Military Sealift Command rescue and salvage ship USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51) has been recognized for the fourth time for its outstanding food service program with the annual Capt. David M. Cook award for food service excellence.

Grasp competed with ships throughout the MSC fleet, with the ships divided into two categories based on crew size -- the ships in the small ship category have crews of 75 people or less and the ships in the large ship category have crews of 75 or more people. Grasp is in the small ship category, having a crew of 30.

Unlike MSC’s large ship winner, USNS Richard E. Byrd, who has a Food Service Team of 22, on Grasp four Stewards, Steward Cook John O’Malley, Cook Baker Richard Adriaticos, Supply Utilityman Sheen Balagot and Supply Utilityman Victor Rostia, oversaw all the aspects of the award’s criteria including food service and ship hygiene during the award’s inspection period.

“This is a great recognition for the food service team on USNS Grasp. We have a small team that works tirelessly to keep the crew fed and happy,” said Capt. Patricia Greene, Grasp’s Civil Service Master. “They take great pride in what they do and this is a direct reflection of that. Their hard work ensures the entire crew feels taken care of and that keeps moral up. They are an important part of our ability to do our mission, and I am very proud of their professionalism, and having them recognized by the food service community.”
and continued to fish on his traditional grounds. Korean War, Frank returned to Washington where he became an electrical lineman in Washington. After serving as a military policeman in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, Billy Frank Jr. spent his life serving others and his namesake ship will do the same as it travels around the world enabling humanitarian assistance and the maintenance of freedom.

The future T-ATS 11 honors Billy Frank Jr., who was a Nisqually tribal member and is an iconic Native American environmental leader and treaty rights activist. The name selection follows the tradition of naming towing, salvage, and rescue ships after prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

“I am honored for the opportunity to name a naval ship after Billy Frank Jr., a man who was a proponent and leader for Native American rights,” said Del Toro. “Billy Frank Jr. spent his life serving others and his namesake ship will do the same as it travels around the world enabling humanitarian assistance and the maintenance of freedom.”

William ‘Billy’ Frank Jr. was born in 1933 as a member of the Nisqually tribe in Washington. After serving as a military policeman in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, Frank returned to Washington where he became an electrical lineman and continued to fish on his traditional grounds.

The 746-foot Milk is the second ship in the new John Lewis-class previously known as the TAO(X). This class of oilers has the ability to carry 162,000 barrels of diesel ship fuel, aviation fuel and dry stores cargo. The upgraded oiler is built with double hulls to protect against oil spills and strengthened cargo and ballast tanks, and will be equipped with a basic self-defense capability, including crew served weapons, degaussing, and Nixie Torpedo decoys, and has space, weight, and power reservations for Close-In Weapon Systems such as SeaRAMs, and an Anti-Torpedo Torpedo Defense System. The Lewis-class of oilers will replace the current Kaiser Class fleet replenishment oilers as they age out of the MSC fleet.

The ship honors Navy veteran and LGBTQI+ activist Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978. He was assassinated on Nov. 10, 1978, (10 months after he was sworn in), by fellow City Supervisor, Dan White. Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 for his activism. USNS Harvey Milk is the first ship named for an openly gay person.

“We are proud to welcome USNS Harvey Milk into the MSC fleet,” said Capt. Kendall Bridgewater, Commander, Military Sealift Command Pacific. “The John Lewis-class of oilers, which includes Milk, is a much needed platform and enhances our ability to support the Navy’s mission. We are looking forward to putting her through her paces, and implementing her capabilities into the fleet.”

Following testing and various qualifications and inspection, Milk will become operational and will deploy in support of national defense missions throughout the world.

Military Sealift Command launched its new SharePoint Online (SPO) Portal, June 20, giving employees access to better collaboration tools across MSC’s information enterprise.

With the kick-off of the SPO Portal, MSC has moved all NIPR portal function inside of Operation Flink Speed M365. This will improve portal security and reduce portal operating costs while preserving proven command work flows and functionality. It also provides enhancements and improves shortcomings associated with the DISA DEPS platform.

“The navigation and functionality is very similar but it’s a cleaner and more modern interface,” said Stephanie Boles, Knowledge Management and Analytics SharePoint Architect. ‘SPO’ provides much faster load times, reducing system latency. There will be less downtime for maintenance because it’s in the cloud. We’ve made improvements to all of our existing tools – like the IT service catalog and the facilities reporting tools - those have been re-engineered using Power Apps to provide advanced automation capabilities and improved user interface that provides an intuitive user experience.

Now that migration is complete, the N9 team is turning their focus to continuous improvement of existing portal solutions and taking advantage of more of the advanced M365 capabilities.

Another significant achievement associated with this transition is the N9 portal team, planned, developed and executed the SPO transition and implementation without outside assistance. This saved execution year funding and eliminated approximately $600K in annual expenditures related to use of the DISA DEPS platform.
The keel for the future USNS Point Loma, expeditionary fast transport ship (T-EPF 15), the second of the Spearhead-class T-EPF Flight II configuration, was laid at Austal USA, June 27.

The keel-laying ceremony represents the joining together of a ship’s major modular components on land, and is a significant milestone in ship production. The keel is authenticated with the ship sponsors’ initials etched into a ceremonial keel plate that is later incorporated into the ship. T-EPF 15’s sponsor is Elizabeth Asher.

“The keel laying is the beginning of a ship’s journey, and we look forward to the many milestones ahead,” said Program Executive Office, Ships Strategic and Theater Sealift Program Manager Tim Roberts. “T-EPF 15 will build on the capabilities established by the Flight I configuration, providing a wide variety of mission tools, when and where our fleet needs support.”

EFPs operate in shallow waterways. These versatile, non-combatant transport ships are used to quickly move the troops, military vehicles, and equipment needed to support:

- Overseas contingency operations
- Humanitarian assistance
- Disaster relief
- Special operations forces efforts
- Theater security cooperation activities
- Emerging joint sea-based concepts

The Flight II is a modified configuration that allows the ship to deploy as a fast transport or with Role 2 enhanced (2E) medical capability, or both. Medical capability includes an intensive care unit, ward beds, limited X-ray, laboratory, and dental support. Additional capabilities which support the ship’s medical mission include V-22 flight operations and the ability to deploy 11-meter rigid hull inflatable boats.

As one of the Defense Department’s largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all destroyers, amphibious ships, sealift ships and support ships.

MSC SEALIFT
August 2023

KEEL AUTHENTICATED FOR THE FUTURE USNS POINT LOMA

From Team Ships Public Affairs

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MSCEURAF STAFF SUPPORTS USNS JOSHUA HUMPHREYS IN SWEDEN

By Christina Johnson, Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa Public Affairs

U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command (MSC) USNS Joshua Humphreys (T-AO 188), a Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler crewed with MSC Civil Service Mariners (CIVMARs), received support from Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa (MSCEURAF) staff during a maintenance period at the Port of Stockholm, July 1-17.

Joshua Humphreys, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, is currently deployed to the Commander, Sixth Fleet area of operations in support of the U.S. Department of Defense’s continual support of real-world events in Europe as part of MSC’s Combat Logistics Force (CLF), and a Voyage Repair Availability (VRA) period is one of many maintenance evolutions scheduled for MSC ships to keep them deployment ready.

Bryan Eubanks, MSCEURAF Supervisory Port Engineer/Maintenance Hub Naples, was assigned to assist the ship during the entire maintenance period.

“The ship was in Stockholm to conduct a two-week VRA which is a set period for the ship to conduct any needed inspections, maintenance, or repairs required to maintain regulatory body certifications with American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) and United States Coast Guard,” said Eubanks.

MSCEURAF Health System Specialist, Rickie Sorenson, arrived at the ship during the VRA to conduct a mid-cycle Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) with Monté Koschalk, the ship’s Medical Service Officer (MSO).

“Medical Readiness Inspections (MRI) are conducted every three years,” said Sorenson. “TAVs are conducted at the 18-month, mid-cycle, point.” He explained that not only does he assist the MSC ships with these visits, but he is also able to provide aid required by MSOs.

“I help with the medical computer system to food service/potable water training; additionally, I can provide medical evacuation oversight as well as case management,” Sorenson added. “I am the go-between the vessel and MSC headquarters when medical patient movement is required.”

Capt. Kenneth Pickard, MSCEURAF Commodore/Task Force 63 Commander, visited the ship during the VRA to speak, face-to-face, with the ship’s chain of command and CIVMARs to discuss crew concerns and answer questions.

“Thank you for what you are doing out here. You guys are the Navy - the Navy isn’t the global Navy without you,” Pickard told the CIVMARs during an ‘All Hands’ meeting on the ship’s flight deck.

Some of the items addressed during the questions and answers portion of the meeting were travel claims not being processed quickly, the issue with new hires and bonuses with the possibility of providing retention bonuses to those currently working for MSC, and if there is a way to get CIVMAR families on the base so they can greet them when they come home from a deployment.

“I’m all ears,” said Pickard. “I don’t have the power to change things, but what I do have is a direct line to the Admiral. I talk to him directly.”

“MSC Port Engineers are on-site during VRAs to manage the overall availability,” added Eubanks. “Port Engineers liaison with regulatory body representatives and provide contractor oversight to ensure all contractual obligations are met.”

Capt. David Murrin, Joshua Humphreys’ Master, mentioned during a Department Head meeting with Pickard that the time in port has been very productive for his crew. “We’ve accomplished many self-help projects because we have the time to do them,” Murrin said. “We are protected and out of the way in this port, and have the time to do what we need to do.”

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USNS TRENTOCELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE DAY IN ALGERIA

By Christine Johnson, Military Sealift Command, Europe and Africa Public Affairs

U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command (MSC) USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5), a Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel, pulled into the Port of Algiers, July 4-6.

Trenton was there to host a U.S. Fourth of July Independence Day reception, attend an Algeria Independence Day dinner the following day, provide ship tours, and participate in a local soccer match in U.S. Navy’s efforts to build on the partnership and improve maritime safety and security in the Mediterranean.

During the Independence Day reception, Elizabeth Aubin, U.S. Ambassador to Algeria, spoke to the audience that included the Algerian Central Maritime Commander, General Amar Debbiche, 10 other ambassadors, 15 defense attaches, along with Trenton’s crew. The ship operates with a hybrid crew consisting of active duty and Civil Service Mariners (CSVMARs), and all were involved in the visit.

“We were pleased to be able to host our Independence Day celebration on board in Algiers, and share in the celebration of Algeria Independence Day,” saidLt. Cmdr. Matthew Delbaun, Trenton’s officer in charge. “The crew enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the Ambassador, embassy staff, Algerian naval leadership and many of our international partners. We truly appreciate the gracious hospitality of the Algerians during our visit.”

On the following day, tours were provided by the crew to Algerian navy officers, embassy staff and their families. Also scheduled was a friendly soccer game between Trenton crewmembers and sailors from the Algerian navy. The day concluded with a dinner marking Algeria’s independence from France on July 5, 1962.

As the ship was leaving the port, Trenton conducted a passing exercise (PASSEX) with the El Moundjid (701), an Algerian emergency towing vessel operated by the Algerian navy:

In a follow-on message that was shared with Trenton’s leadership and Capt. Kenneth Pickard, Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa (MSECUARAF) Commodore/Task Force 63 Commander, from the ambassador to Vice Admiral Thomas Ishee, U.S. 6th Fleet Commander, Aubin stated she was thankful for the ship’s visit.

“The image of the American flag flying in the port surrounded by Algerian ships was an important projection of U.S. presence and the growing relationship between our two countries,” said Aubin in her message to Admiral Ishee. “Please know that the visit directly advanced U.S. goals.”

Trenton is currently deployed in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations. Sixth Fleet, headquartered in Naples, Italy, conducts the full spectrum of joint and naval operations, often in concert with allied and interagency partners, in order to advance U.S. national security interests and security and stability in Europe and Africa.

MSC SEALIFT


The coordination of the arrival, offload, and departure of this vessel was accomplished by the Military Sealift Command Europe and Africa (MSC/MSCEURAF) Marine Transportation Specialist (MTS) team, and it marks the 38th mission so far in 2023. This number exceeds the entire year of 2022 with a total of 35 missions completed.

“I am honestly impressed with the work that has been accomplished by the MSCEURAF team in the first six months of this year,” said U.S. Merchant Marine Capt. Thomas Guidice, MSC/MSCEURAF Marine Transportation Specialist supervisor. “Even with a full complement of MTS staff, it has been a real challenge to support these vessels in the numerous ports throughout Europe and Africa area of responsibility.”

To assist with this increase in missions, the U.S. Navy Reserve provided personnel under the Expeditionary Port Unit (EPU) program. The Reservist mission for MSC is to provide cargo afloat rig teams (CART), expeditionary port units (EPU’s), Tactical Advisor (TACAD) units, headquarters (HQ) support units, logistics support units, and strategic sealift units (SSUs) for operations which require additional manpower not normally required during sustained peacetime operations. The Navy Reserve is MSC’s manpower solution for surge mission sets.

“Thanks to the unparalleled support provided by the Navy Reservists who make up the EPU, MSCEURAF has made every mission,” added Guidice. “United States in Africa, and what you are doing out here is appreciated.”

“Without Mariners, we don’t have a global Navy,” Capt. Kenneth Pickard, MSCEURAF Commodore/Task Force 63 Commander.

OPERATIONS SECURITY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

From Military Sealift Command Public Affairs

Operations Security (OPSEC) is a warfighting capability used to identify and protect ‘bits and pieces’ of sensitive information from those who wish to do us harm. This sensitive information, if collected by an adversary, can provide them with indicators pointing to our future activities and give them an advantage. It’s not being dramatic to state that lapses of OPSEC can (and have in the past) led to mission failure and even the death of military members. OPSEC protects this information.

Social media applications and websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok are useful for staying in touch with friends and family as well as meeting new people. A post on social media about a family member, where they are, what they are doing, and where they are going, might appear to be a fun way to share information with your friends. But this post can quickly turn dangerous if an adversary were to use information from that post to harm a mission, vessel, or our loved ones.

Simply by being associated with the military, possibly living on base or even accessing the base, family members know more about our units, missions, and operations than we often give credit. Specifically, information such as:

- Pending deployments or travel, vessel underway movements, and future port visits.
- Base or Pier access procedures (or changes).
- Security procedures and requirements for base or vessels.
- Locations of sensitive facilities on base.
- Morale and personnel issues within the ship, unit, or command.
- Unit mission, capabilities, limiting factors, manning or equipment shortages, etc.

As we all work to keep the United States of America safe from enemies wishing to do us harm, please be aware that you, the family member, are a key part of this operation.

If you have any questions or concerns about OPSEC, please do not hesitate to reach out to MSC OPSEC Officer at 757-443-1251.

U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command (MSC) chartered Motor Vessel (MV) Sagamore, a container ship built in 2008, arrived at the Port of Notdenham, Germany, June 23. The ship is loaded with cargo as part of the U.S. Department of Defense’s continual support of real-world events in Europe. (U.S. Navy photo by Christine Johnson)

U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5), a Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel, pulled into the Port of Algiers, July 4-6. U.S. Navy photo by Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Anthony Kennell

Without Mariners, we don’t have a global Navy,” Capt. Kenneth Pickard, MSCEURAF Commodore/Task Force 63 Commander.

U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, Europe and Africa (MSC/MSCEURAF) Marine Transportation Specialist (MTS) team doubles efforts in 2023

U.S. Navy’s Military Sealift Command (MSC) USNS Trenton (T-EPF 5), a Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport vessel, pulled into the Port of Algiers, July 4-6.

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USNS SALVOR REACHES L&T KATTUPALLI SHIPYARD FOR VOYAGE REPAIRS

From U.S. Consulate General Chennai

Military Sealift Command’s rescue and salvage ship USNS Salvor (T-ARS 52) has arrived at Larsen & Toubro Ltd, commonly known as L&T Shipyard, in Kattupalli near Chennai, India, for voyage repairs on Sunday, July 9. USNS Salvor is the third U.S. Navy ship visiting L&T Shipyard for voyage repairs, after USNS Charles Drew and USNS Matthew Perry.

The USNS Salvor, which was welcomed with a ceremony at L&T Shipyard on July 10, was the first ship to arrive after the signing of the landmark five-year Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) between the U.S. Navy and L&T.


U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin said: “This Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) is yet another milestone in our ever-expanding U.S.-India partnership. This historic agreement is a direct outcome of the 2022 U.S.-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue and demonstrates U.S. commitment to utilize repair facilities on a regular basis at the L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli. This agreement will serve to strengthen our two nations’ strategic partnership and contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific.”

U.S. Embassy New Delhi’s Office of Defense Cooperation chief Capt. Michael L. Farmer commended Larsen and Toubro on their accomplishment in finalizing the MSRA, and their induction of this third vessel into mid-voyage repair activities.

Military Sealift Command (MSC) joined the nation in recognition of the LGBTQ+ community and its impact on National Security and the Department of Defense during an observance at Naval Station Norfolk, June 29.

This year’s theme of “Equality without Exception: Pride in all Who Serve,” paid special tribute to Harvey Milk, a former naval officer and civil rights leader who was instrumental in the struggle for gay rights.

Milk was one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, only to be assassinated one year later. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 for his activism.

In 2021, MSC christened fleet replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk (T-AO 206), during a ceremony at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego. USNS Harvey Milk is the first ship named for an openly gay person.

At the ship’s commissioning ceremony, Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy, highlighted the significance of choosing Milk as a namesake.

“The secretary of the Navy needed to be here today, not just to amend the wrongs of the past, but to give inspiration to all of our LGBTQ+ community leaders who served in the Navy, in uniform today and in the civilian workforce as well too, and to tell them that we’re committed to them in the future,” Del Toro said, noting that Milk resigned his commission and discharged from the Navy for being gay.

“For far too long, sailors like Lt. j.g. Milk were forced into the shadows or, worse yet, forced out of our beloved Navy. That injustice is part of our Navy history, but so is the perseverance of all who continue to serve in the face of injustice.”

During the observance, MSC personnel watched a video about Milk’s achievements and listened to a presentation from keynote speaker Dr. Wanda Barnard-Bailey, Deputy City Manager for the City of Chesapeake.

Barnard-Bailey was designated as Chesapeake’s first Chief Equity Officer in 2020. Her office’s efforts helped to increase the city’s Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which examines the LGBTQ+ inclusivity of municipal laws, policies and services and rates cities on a scoring system of zero to 100.

“In 2019, we had a score of 29, so we said we need to look at what the expectations are. We started out with small things like reviewing our policies’ use of pronouns and if they were necessary. Little steps like that can really make an impact in terms of being inclusive,” said Barnard-Bailey.

In 2022, Chesapeake’s MEI increased to 75. The city plans to continue increasing its MEI, bringing the score closer to 100, according to Barnard-Bailey.

“It can be very difficult in times like these to be inclusive when things are so divisive. The ultimate goal should be achieving a culture of acceptance and belonging.”

In 2000, President Clinton issued a proclamation for the first Gay and Lesbian Pride Month on June 2. June was specifically chosen to commemorate the events of the 1969 Stonewall Riots which occurred in the same month, an event recognized as the catalyst for the Gay Liberation movement in the United States.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the efforts of MSC to protect Civil Service Mariners against vaccine-preventable diseases through on-time Vaccination. It is our responsibility to work hand-in-hand with our health care provider to keep up with our shots, beyond just the yearly flu shot, and now the COVID-19 vaccination. Getting vaccinated will save you and your loved ones from serious diseases and can help keep you healthy to avoid missing time with your family, friends. See below for a list of adult vaccinations to have on your radar:

**Young adults (and college-aged adults)**
- HPV (human papillomavirus)—usually ages 13 to 21
- Meningococcal (meningitis)—initial vaccine when you’re about 11 years old with a booster around age 16
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella

All adults
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Td/Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Zoster (shingles)—usually given at age 50 and older
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Flu Vaccine

**Older adults**
- Pneumococcal (for pneumonia)
- Shingles Vaccine (zoster)

Consult your physician to see if the vaccinations above are appropriate for you and how you can maintain an effective vaccination schedule.

MSC has available resources for you. The Health Promotion program at MSC offers the free following services to its civilian mariners:

- InBody Screenings (measures percentage of body fat, muscle mass, basal metabolic rate, or how many calories you burn at rest in a day, and more)
- Individualized Health Coaching
- Online health education and exercise classes
- Subscription to Weekly Wellness newsletters, covering a variety of health and wellness topics
- Health Risk Assessment and subscription to online wellness portal
- SHIP FIT: A workout plan distributed quarterly with all bodyweight exercises that can be done while underway or at home
Departments of Navy expands support services for sexual harassment

Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Carlos Del Toro signed a new policy, June 9, expanding available support services for victims of sexual harassment.

Effective immediately, uniformed military personnel who experience sexual assault are eligible to receive the range of support options available to victims of sexual assault through the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program. The new policy implements requirements of the FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act and Independent Review Commission recommendations.

"Sharing knowledge is essential for improving collaboration, minimizing/eliminating gaps in communications and collaboration and maintain organizational continuity," said Boyles. "We are not operating in a vacuum. We're sharing information, and SPO is a platform that can enable us to break down barriers and share information across the enterprise."

Ultimately, the goal is to empower employees and staff with an intuitive, collaborative and modern platform for efficient knowledge sharing that delivers the right knowledge at the right time to enable rapid and informed decision making.

MSCPAC COMMANDER REPRESENTS MSC AT LOS ANGELES FLEET WEEK

By Sarah Cannon, Military Sealift Command Pacific Public Affairs

Cpt. Kendall Bridgewater, Commander, Military Sealift Command Pacific (MSCPAC), represented Military Sealift Command at a recent Los Angeles Fleet Week Maritime Strategy and Policy Forum panel discussion as part of the week-long celebration honoring the military in Southern California.

The panel presented speakers with critical questions to identify opportunities for the improvement and modernization of maritime strategies and policies to reflect changing global circumstances. In addition, the panel explored how technology and globalization impact the maritime industry, and how developing effective strategies and policies promote sustainable practices and inclusive growth.

Speakers include experts in the field of maritime strategy and policy with experience in the maritime industry, studies, and sea control, including John Konrad, CEO of gCaptain; Capt. Joe Walsh, USN (Ret); Coller Walsh Nakazawa LLP; Eugene Senoka, Port of Los Angeles; U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Andrew M. Suggs, USN, commander, USCG Eleventh District; Capt. Jeffrey Flumignan, USN (Ret), Director, Office of Maritime and Intermodal Outreach; Cmdr. Ward Wilson, USN (Ret), Director, Boeing San Diego; and David Libatique, Deputy Executive Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Port of Los Angeles.

“This was a great opportunity to represent MSC and to highlight global maritime issues to the public,” said Bridgewater. “The exchange of ideas between the military and the maritime industry is a beneficial way to grow our capabilities and to strengthen our capabilities. In this time of global unrest, working with our maritime partners has never been more crucial, and forums such as this one, foster relationships and identify areas for collaboration.”

LA Fleet Week is an annual, multi-day celebration of our nation’s Sea Services held on the LA Waterfront at the Port of Los Angeles over the extended Memorial Day Weekend. In addition to public events, LA Fleet Week also facilitates numerous symposiums, exercises, and outreachs focused on community resiliency, disaster preparedness, and support for area residents.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVY EXPANDS SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT

From Secretary of the Navy Public Affairs

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MSC portal users can learn more about the Operation Flank Speed SharePoint Online and enrolling in MSC SharePoint Online live training (free for all MSC employees) by visiting: https://flankspeed.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/USFF-MSC-int/TRNG or self-paced training provided by USN PEO Digital by visiting: https://flankspeed.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/PEO_Digital_TrainingHub/SitePages/Lunch-%26-Learn-Resources.aspx?cg=1

"This policy reflects the Department’s commitment to creating a culture of dignity and respect, and strengthening victim support services," said Secretary Del Toro. "We take victims’ experiences seriously, and we are committed to creating an environment where victims of sexual harassment are heard, validated, and feel safe to report their experience and receive supportive services.”

Victims of sexual harassment now have the option to receive crisis intervention, safety assessments, counseling resources, victim advocacy support and to discuss reporting options with SAPR personnel.

FALLEN MSC TEAMMATES

The Lord is my Pilot;
I shall not drift.
He leadeth me across the dark waters
and steereth me in the deep channels.
He keepeth my Log
and guideth me by the star of holiness
for His Name’s sake.
Yea, though I sail amid
the thunders and tempests of life,
I shall dread no danger,
For Thou art with me;
Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.
Thou preparest a harbor before me
in the homeland of eternity;
Thou anointest the waves with oil,
and my ship rideth calmly,
Surely sunlight and starlight
shall favor me all the days of my voyaging,
and I will rest in the port of my Lord forever.

Elvis Paisley
Boatswain
MSC Service: 1987-2023

Ronald Wayne Law
Damage Control and Small Arms Instructor
MSC Service: 1992-2022

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