

# ARMED FORCES DISPATCH

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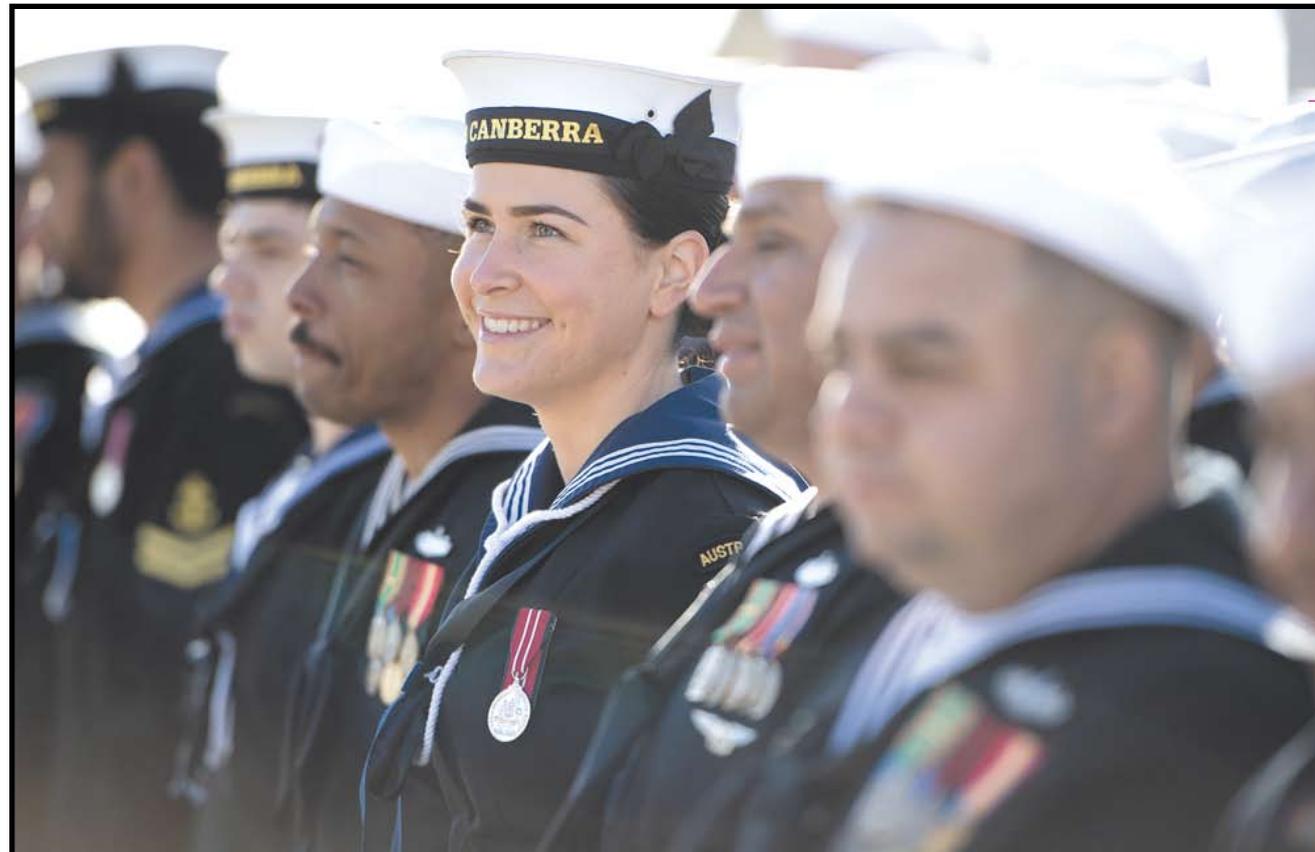


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SIXTY-THIRD YEAR NO. 10  
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023



**SHARING A MOMENT** Leading Seaman Sevanna Tansey reacts to standing with the crew of USS Canberra during the commissioning ceremony of the littoral combat ship in Sydney, Australia July 22, 2023. DoD photo by EJ Hersom

## USS CANBERRA COMMISSIONS IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY, Australia - Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS *Canberra* (LCS 30) commissioned at the Royal Australian Navy's Fleet Base East here July 22.

During the ceremony, leaders and distinguished guests from the U.S. and Australia wished the crew of *Canberra* fair winds and following seas as they brought the ship to life and began its commissioned service.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, delivered the commissioning ceremony's principal address.

"This truly is a special occasion for our fleet and our nation to be here with you in Australia, one of our closest allies, to celebrate the commissioning of our Navy's newest warship that is destined to serve throughout the Indo-Pacific region," said Del Toro. "I'm confident that wherever USS *Canberra*

is sailing, and whatever challenges her crew may face, they are ready, as reinforced by this warship's motto - 'Can Do!'"

*Canberra* departed its homeport of Naval Base San Diego for the first Navy ceremonial commissioning in Australia on June 13, visiting American Samoa and the Pacific Island Nation of Fiji prior to its arrival in Sydney for commissioning.

Littoral combat ships USS *Jackson* (LCS 6), USS *Manchester* (LCS 14), USS *Oakland* (LCS 24), and USS *Mobile* (LCS 26) are also operating in the Indo-Pacific.

"Today marks a proud moment which our Royal Australian Navy is privileged to share alongside our allies and friends in the United States Navy," said Australian Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Mark Hammond. "The connection between our navies, forged

in battle during the Second World War, is reflected in the name USS *Canberra*."

Earlier in the week, *Canberra* Sailors engaged in sporting events, shared meals, and exchanged ship tours with the crew of HMAS *Canberra*. The crew also participated in community relations events like a beach clean-up with the Taronga zoo.

Crewmembers are also honored to visit their namesake city, Canberra, for a Freedom of Entry march on July 23. The U.S. Navy has a strong tradition of developing relationships between a ship and their namesake community or family, establishing these enduring ties at the beginning of *Canberra's* service will strengthen bonds between the ship and the people of Canberra. This tradition dates to medieval times and is the highest accolade bestowed by a town or city upon a group or individual as a reflection of trust and

confidence held by the citizens. Canberra is recognized as a great innovative, creative, and artistic city and is one of the world's most livable cities.

USS *Canberra* commanding officers Cmdr. Will Ashley and Cmdr. Bobby Barber raise their swords to begin the Freedom of Entry march in Canberra, Australia, July 23, 2023. Being granted Freedom of Entry allows a military unit to march through the streets with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and ensigns flying.

This is the first time an Australian city has granted the honor to a foreign military unit.

Canberra is the second U.S. Navy ship named for Australia's capital. The first, a Baltimore-class heavy cruiser, was renamed from Pittsburgh to Canberra on October 16, 1942, and was commissioned on October 14, 1943.

## Female admiral nominated to be Navy's next top officer, 1st woman on Joint Chiefs of Staff

by Doug G. Ware  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - President Joe Biden on July 21 nominated Adm. Lisa Franchetti to be the Navy's next top officer, which would make her the first woman to be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff if she is confirmed by the Senate.

"Franchetti will bring 38 years of dedicated service to our nation as a commissioned officer, including in her current role of vice chief of naval operations," Biden said. "She is the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the United States Navy, and when confirmed, she will again make history as the first woman to serve as the chief of naval operations and on the Joint Chiefs."

Adm. Linda Fagan became commandant of the Coast Guard in June but the service isn't part of the Joint Chiefs. The Coast Guard is operated by the Department of Homeland Security, not the Defense Department.

Franchetti, 59, joined the Navy in the mid-1980s and has held several commands, including the Sixth Fleet, Naval Forces Korea, USS *Ross* and multiple carrier strike groups. She will succeed Adm. Michael Gilday as chief of naval operations - the highest-ranking officer in the Navy and key adviser to the Navy secretary. Gilday retires Aug. 21.

A graduate of Northwestern University, Franchetti grew up in New York and was commissioned in the Navy in 1985. She's served on several ships and was once assistant to the Navy secretary. Franchetti has also attended the Naval War College in Rhode Island and earned a master's degree in organizational management.

Biden on Friday also nominated three other Navy leaders. He nominated Vice Adm. James Kilby to be vice chief of naval operations, Adm. Samuel Paparo as commander of Indo-Pacific Command, and Vice Adm. Stephen Koehler as commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"[They] represent the best of the United States Navy. Together, these four highly decorated naval officers have extensive operational and command experience," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

## HII is awarded contract for aircraft carrier maintenance in San Diego

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., - HII announced July 24 that its Newport News Shipbuilding division has been awarded a Navy contract to support maintenance of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in San Diego. The award contract has a potential value of \$528.4 million over five years, if all options are exercised. The contract covers maintenance, repair and modernization efforts for Nimitz- and Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carriers homeported in and visiting the San Diego area. It will support emergent work, continuous maintenance availabilities, as well as Chief of Naval Operations scheduled availabilities.

## North Korea fires two missiles after U.S. submarine arrives in South

Multiple news sources reported July 24 that North Korea fired two ballistic missiles into the sea off its east coast late on Monday, hours after a U.S. nuclear-powered submarine arrived in a naval base in the South. News reports indicate that both missiles fell outside its exclusive economic zone. The launches come amid heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula as South Korea and the U.S. take steps to increase their military readiness against North Korea's weapons program.

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Firefighters with Camp Pendleton Fire Department and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department work to put out a fire in Oceanside July 9. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Mary Jenni

## Camp Pendleton firefighters help protect local community

by Lance Cpl. Mary Jenni  
Camp Pendleton

OCEANSIDE - Firefighters with Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Fire Department assisted the neighboring community of Oceanside and their first responder teams by answering the call for a vegetation fire in Oceanside, July 9. The CPFD mission is to provide fire and emergency services to prevent, protect and support recovery efforts aboard MCB Camp Pendleton and surrounding communities. The CPFD provides safety to the community both on and off the installation.

This dedication to safety was demonstrated when a fire broke out on the intersection of Frazee Road and College Boulevard in Oceanside. The fire burned a total of 21 acres and posed a threat to over 100 people and multiple businesses, according to Oceanside Fire Department Public Affairs Officer, John Regner.

In the final stages of putting out the initial fire another fire sparked from the embers and we had to call for additional help, said Regner. It was at this time, two CPFD engines responded in effort to battle the blaze.

Capt. Jesse Montijo of the CPFD said his first thought when getting the call was controlling the fire and protecting the people. "We were mainly keeping the fire in check. It was surrounded by streets on all four

sides, and it was our priority to keep the embers and ashes from spreading to nearby houses," said Montijo.

The CPFD provides many services apart from putting out fires, they are also technical experts in fire protection and prevention, emergency medical services, hazmat, technical rescue to support the life and safety of the community, and as always continuous training said Deputy Fire Chief Peter Korodini of the CPFD.

"We do monthly training with the local fire departments, we do the planning of everything from our drills operations, manuals, sharing of resources to the boots on the ground," Korodini said.

CPFD has partnerships throughout San Diego County as well as the state of California.

These partnerships are extremely important to both MCB Camp Pendleton and neighboring communities and can be the difference between life and death when a fire occurs.

"Camp Pendleton automatically responds to fires in Oceanside, and in return Oceanside helps us and provides resources to Camp Pendleton," said Regner.

MCB Camp Pendleton continues to work with local agencies to ensure safety and promote

quality of life for our Marines, Sailors, and families. The CPFD fulfills a variety of efforts to the base and community by providing public education on fire season, health care checks as well as participating in local community events.

California wildfires are unexpected and oftentimes start without warning. Being able to respond to a fire within minutes and having the support of local agencies and departments is critical.

We could be fighting a fire in Northern California or right outside the base, said Korodini. These mutually beneficial relationships are extremely important to MCB Camp Pendleton and local communities.

"It's not just about us sending our resources out there to the community, it's also a means for them to come onto the base and help us," Korodini said. "It could be a fire that overwhelms our resources, we've had large-scale events where we need to seek assistance. They know the same for them, they can always call for our help."

One of these such incidents was an Oceanside fire on Sunday, where the CPFD responded and worked together with the Oceanside, North County Fire, Chula Vista, Vista, San Marcos, North County, Cal Fire and Carlsbad Fire Departments.

"We got the call and where we were supposed to respond. From there we headed out to our rigs, got dressed and rolled out," said Montijo, "along the way we got updates on the radio from the incident command that was already on scene and as we pulled up, they gave us our assignment and we went to work from there." At the scene Montijo and the rest of the CPFD crew worked with the other departments to get the fire under control.

"We're all trained and operate the same way, so there's really no difference in the way that we're going to handle a situation - see **Firefighting, page 4**

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## U.S. strategies adjust to needs of allies, partners

by Jim Garamone  
DOD News

American strategy in the Indo-Pacific is not “one-size, fits all” but a mix of engagements and approaches scaled to meet the needs of different allies and partners, said Ely Ratner, the assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs July 21.

Ratner, along with Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Daniel Kritenbrink, spoke at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

“We meet our partners where they are,” Ratner said. The United States works with nations of the region addressing issues of mutual concern.

The United States long-term goals in the region remain the same - a secure and stable Indo-Pacific - but the approaches change depending on circumstances.

An example is the case of the Pacific-island nations who have grave concerns about climate change, illegal fishing, encroachments on sovereignty and more. The United States will work with those countries to address those problems to the benefit of both sides. Addressing those issues will be a



**Adm. John Aquilino, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, and Papua New Guinea Deputy Prime Minister John Rosso, tour the Lae Main Wharf in Papua New Guinea earlier this year. U.S. Navy photo by Anthony J. Rivera**

major part of partnerships with those nations.

Other states in the Indo-Pacific have different concerns, and the United States brings different mixes to those engagements, he said. Those nations may be focused on high-end deterrence and U.S. officials will “meet them where they are” too, he said.

“The tools may be different, [but] I think there is clear strategic alignment,” Ratner said. “And that is why we have been so successful over the last year.”

Secretary of Defense Lloyd

J. Austin III visited Papua-New Guinea and Australia this week. He is the first U.S. secretary of defense to ever visit the nation and he discussed the new defense cooperation

### Firefighting continued from page 3

tion,” said Korodini, “the only difference between us and them, when we’re on the scene, is the badge,” he said.

Every responder has the same mission, and the fire departments work together seamlessly to get the job done. “Everyone has the same goal in mind to put this fire

agreement between the two nations.

Austin will move on to Australia where he will participate in the latest “2+2” discussions that feature the foreign affairs and security departments of both nations. “The Australians are very focused in building out and domestic indigenous munitions capability, and we’re going to support that,” Ratner

### Defense Department expands Child Care in Your Home program

The Defense Department expanded the Child Care in Your Home program, formerly known as the in-home child care pilot. The program provides fee assistance for full-time, in-home child care providers. The program expanded from five to 11 locations and now includes lawful permanent residents and family members as possible in-home providers.

The Child Care in Your Home program is like the fee assistance program currently in place for service members using community-based care facilities; however, the child care is provided in the service member’s home. The program covers full-time care for a minimum of 30 hours to a maximum of 60 hours of child care weekly. In this second year, the fee assistance program expanded to eligible families in six new regions with the highest demand and longest waitlists for DOD-facilitated child care. These locations are: Colorado Springs, Seattle/Tacoma, Wash., Jacksonville/Mayport, Fla., Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Fayetteville, N.C., and Las Vegas, Nev. The fee assistance program remains available in the five original locations. Those locations include: National Capital Region Hawaii, San Diego, Norfolk, Va., and San Antonio, Texas.

out as quickly as possible and to not make a bigger incident than it already is,” said Montijo. “I love going out there and fighting fires on base and out in town, just helping people in their time of need.”

MCB Camp Pendleton is committed to the safety of the public and continues to build mutually beneficial relationships with local communities.

said. “We’re going to have some specific announcements associated with that.”

The U.S. and Australian leaders will also discuss moves to fashion a more diversified, mobile, resilient and lethal force posture. “We’ve got a lot going on with the Australians, and we’ll be rolling out some very specific new announcements associated with that,” Ratner said.

Finally, both countries will look for better ways to network alliance and partnerships in the region, Ratner said.

“We made an announcement last year that we were going to start looking at ways to integrate Japan in particular, into U.S. force posture initiatives in northern Australia,” he said. “And we’re going to have some specific announcements about how we’re going to do that.”

“The Defense Department knows that easy access to high-quality, affordable child care is critical for the well-being of military children and for the peace of mind and mission readiness of their parents,” said Patricia Montes Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. “The DOD is committed to ensuring that parents can find the quality, licensed care that’s right for their family.”

Stacey Young, director for the office of Military Family Readiness Policy, said that military families have unique child care needs that must be met, and the department is continuing its efforts to increase the variety of child care options available for military families. “Child care continues to be available through installation child development centers and family care homes, as well as school-age care programs, and military families now have additional options,” Young said.

**Ships Underway**  
Total Battle Force  
299 (USS 240, USNS 59)  
Deployed  
101 (USS 68, USNS 33)  
Underway  
85 (52 Deployed, 33 Local)  
**Ships Deployed by Fleet**  
2nd Fleet - 0  
3rd Fleet - 2  
4th Fleet - 6  
5th Fleet - 13  
6th Fleet - 23  
7th Fleet - 57  
Total - 101



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# 'We go together:' U.S., South Korea mark 70-year alliance

by Joseph Clark

Three words are often used to succinctly describe the tight bond between the U.S. and South Korea: We go together.

The phrase has long held special meaning on the Korean Peninsula, where more than 28,000 U.S. service members currently serve alongside their Korean allies.

Now, seven decades into the alliance, the three words carry added significance. "We go together" denotes a durable partnership between the two nations and a pledge to continue to stand together in the face of pressing challenges.

"[O]ver the past seven decades, our alliance has grown stronger and more capable, and the cooperation between our people, our commitment to one another has grown deeper across every aspect of our partnership," President Joe Biden said in April as he welcomed South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to the White House for an official state visit marking the 70th anniversary of the alliance.

Biden said the tried-and-true partnership offers proof of a "future filled with unimaginable opportunity and endless possibility."

"Nothing — nothing — is beyond our ability to reach when our nations and our people stand united," he said. "We have proven

that time and again over the last 70 years."

The alliance traces its roots to the devastation caused by the Korean War.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops, backed by China and the Soviet Union, stormed across the 38th parallel, the line of demarcation separating Republic of Korea to the South and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the North.

Concerned by the brazen com-



munist aggression, the United Nations Security Council authorized, for the first time, the formation of a multi-national force to repel further invasion from the north.

The U.S. provided most of the troops that made up the multinational U.N. Command. The U.S. Army deployed a total of eight divisions to the peninsula throughout the 37-month war.

More than 33,000 U.S. troops were killed and 103,000 wound-

ed in fighting that lasted until the July 27, 1953, Korean Armistice, which ceased hostilities and established a Demilitarized Zone along the 38th parallel.

Yoon honored those American's who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Korean people as he spoke on the sun-drenched South Lawn in April during his official arrival ceremony at the White House.

"Why did they sacrifice their lives for this faraway country and for the people they never met? That was for one noble cause: to defend freedom," Yoon said.

"The ROK-U.S. alliance was forged in blood as a result of our fight for freedom," he said.

"The ROK-U.S. alliance is not a transactional relationship; it does not operate for the sake of mere interest. The ROK-U.S. alliance is an alliance of values, standing together to safeguard the universal value of freedom."

Despite the cessation of hostilities between North and South Korea brought on by the 1953 armistice, a peace treaty has never been signed.

Following the armistice, the U.S. and South Korea signed a

Mutual Defense Treaty which, to this day, underpins the alliance between the two countries.

Under the treaty, the U.S. committed to aiding South Korea in the event of an attack and has maintained a continuous presence of land, air and sea forces on the peninsula capable of responding to North Korean aggression.

To date, the U.S. remains as South Korea's foremost defense partner and the two countries have for years completed large-scale, combined exercises aimed at enhancing joint operability and deterring provocation in the region.

South Korea has also been a key U.S. partner in conflicts abroad, deploying troops in support of U.S.-led efforts in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

South Korea holds Major Non-NATO Ally status with the U.S., entitling them certain benefits in terms of trade and security cooperation.

In 1978, the two countries formed the Combined Forces Command which formalized the U.S. and South Korean joint planning staff developed in the late 1960s as an adjunct to the United Nations Command and United States Forces Korea.

Continue reading this story at <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3425351>.

## Army

- 82nd Airborne Troops go for glory on America's Got Talent
- Army recruit dead after medical emergency during basic training
- Army secretary worried about how North Korea may treat Pvt. Travis King
- Army asks 20 high-ranking officers to stay in roles amid hold on military promotions



## Navy

- Navy secretary says multinational exercise sends message to China
- USS Canberra commissions in rare overseas ceremony
- Third Navy Sailor sentenced for involuntary manslaughter in deadly street racing crash in Norfolk
- Bad stuff written all over him: Inside the swaggering, scheming world of 'Fat Leonard'
- Second US submarine arrives in South Korea amid North Korea tensions

## Marine Corps

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- How the Marine Corps Association works to elevate Marines
- Prosecution argues Parris Island drill instructor missed signs of fatal risk to Marine recruit

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- CMSAF Bass' top priorities for keeping talented airmen, part 1
- Flying wings, rockets, gliders: Air Force envisions its next cargo workhorses
- F-16 with three air-to-air kills flying missions to deter Iran

## Space Force

- Space Force holds first-ever forum with Japan to build next steps for cooperation
- Space Force raises the stakes as rocket companies compete for lucrative military missions

## Coast Guard

- Coast Guard members detain migrants desperate to reach US: 'Hard sight to see'
- Baltimore Sailor Donald Lawson missing at sea off coast of Mexico, Coast Guard says

## National Guard

- Woman to become first female to achieve rank of brigadier general in VT Army National Guard

## Your Military

- Firepower demonstrations 1,000 miles apart signal start of massive exercise in Australia

## American special operations command in Africa puts Navy SEAL in charge

STUTTGART, Germany - A Navy SEAL took command July 21 of special operations missions in Africa, where countering terrorists in Somalia will be a major task for U.S. commandos involved in a yearslong effort to build up local forces. Rear Adm. Ronald Foy replaced Rear Adm. Milton Sands, who served as head of Special Operations Command Africa for the past two years. Foy arrives after a stint as deputy director for global operations at the Joint Staff.



## Astronomers track new stellar phenomenon

The Naval Research Laboratory's Very Large Array, Low-band Ionosphere and Transient Experiment telescope has helped astronomers confirm findings of a new stellar phenomenon that challenges current scientific understanding of the physics of neutron stars. The object is believed to be an ultra-long period magnetar, a rare type of star with extremely strong magnetic fields that can produce powerful bursts of energy, a finding that was published today in Nature. <https://www.nrl.navy.mil/Media/News/Article/3462151/>.

# Places of Worship

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# Career and Education

## Premier all hazards command supports Army recruiting efforts across nation

by **Walter T. Ham IV**

.....  
**ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND**, Md. - The U.S. military's premier all hazards command is supporting Army recruiting efforts across the nation.  
 .....

Soldiers from the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command are bolstering recruiting by demonstrating their unique capabilities and describing opportunities to prospective recruits.

American Soldiers and U.S. Army civilians from the 20th CBRNE Command take on the world's most dangerous hazards in support of joint, interagency and allied operations.

Headquartered here, the 20th CBRNE Command is home to 75 percent of the active-duty Army's Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear specialists and Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, as well as the 1st Area Medical Laboratory, CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity, five

Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordination Teams and three Nuclear Disablement Teams.

Maj. Steven M. Modugno, the public affairs director for the 20th CBRNE Command, said the command is supporting the recruiting effort with everything from EOD techs in bomb suits at recruiting events to Soldiers referring potential recruits in the communities where they live.

"We have Soldiers on 19 bases in 16 states who are contributing to the recruiting effort in their local communities across the nation," said Modugno, former Military Academy, West Point instructor. "Our Soldiers are defending our nation from all hazards and helping to inform the American public about the opportunities available in the Army."

Modugno said the U.S. Army offers potential recruits the opportunity to serve their nation while learning valuable skills that will help them in the future.

"During its 248 years of

defending liberty at home and overseas, the U.S. Army has forged warriors and leaders who have made our nation the greatest in the world," said Modugno.

Not only does the U.S. Army offer educational benefits, training, health and dental care, housing and allowances, but it also offers up to \$50,000 in bonuses.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dave Silva, the senior enlisted leader for the 20th CBRNE Command, said the recruiting effort falls in line with the Army's priorities of people and readiness.

"Today's recruits ensure tomorrow's readiness," said Silva, a master explosive ordnance disposal technician. "The engagements EOD and CBRN personnel participate support national, corps and division recruiting events and are tremendously successful because 20th CBRNE Command Soldiers are extraordinary professionals with unique skill sets and amazing stories from diverse missions and training."

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NAVY CYP

## Information warfare training skipper visits IWTC San Diego

by **Chief Warrant Officer 3 Richard Blankenship**

**SAN DIEGO** - Capt. Christopher Bryant, the commanding officer of the Navy's Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT), met with instructors and staff during a recent visit to Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) San Diego.

During his visit, Bryant and CIWT Command Master Chief Jason Thibodeaux toured three training facilities maintained by IWTC San Diego, and received updates on current and future IWTC San Diego-based courses vital to fleet readiness.

Discussions also included Information Warfare (IW) community initiatives, the importance of continued integration and prox-

imity to waterfront operational piers, and ways CIWT can assist instructors to maximize training effectiveness and alleviate administrative burdens.

"It was great to get a chance to see firsthand the high level of effort and dedication that our staff at IWTC San Diego puts into training our IW Sailors," said Bryant. "Their hard work and professionalism is appreciated by our command, as well as by the fleet they serve."

IWTC San Diego Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Greg Gabriel, noted that this visit was a great opportunity for Bryant and Thibodeaux to experience IWTC San Diego's unique capabilities and expertise first-hand as the primary organization respon-

sible for training current and future IW professionals across the Pacific Fleet.

"We always welcome an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments our amazing military and civilian staff with senior leaders," said Gabriel. "I am grateful for CIWT's unwavering leadership and support, which is critical to maintaining our edge as world's most capable naval force in the information domain."



**All hands call with Capt. Christopher Bryant (left). U.S. Navy photo**

IWTC San Diego provides a continuum of information warfare training to Navy and joint

service personnel that prepares them to conduct information warfare across the full spectrum of military operations.

The primary training audience includes IW officers and enlisted ratings such as Cryptologic Technicians (CT), Intelligence Specialists (IS), Information System Technicians (IT), and Electronics Technicians (ET) supporting operational and shore-based commands throughout the Pacific.

With four schoolhouse commands, a detachment, and training sites throughout the United States and Japan, CIWT trains approximately 26,000 students every year, delivering trained information warfare professionals to the Navy and joint services. CIWT also offers more than 200 courses for cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialists, information systems technicians, electronics technicians, and officers in the information warfare community.




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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Jim Vallas

During his more than 40-year civilian career with Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division, Jim Vallas was a driving force in building the command's technical competencies and mentoring many of its future leaders.



For his guiding hand and pioneering vision that helped shape the command's history, NSWC PHD inducted Vallas into its Distinguished Alumni in a ceremony filled with his family and former colleagues on July 12.

"When it comes to the people here at this command, you cared about every single one - about where they were going and what their future looked like," NSWC PHD Commanding Officer Capt. Tony Holmes said to Vallas, with whom he worked closely during an earlier tour at the command. "So many people around the command would come to you for advice and guidance, and you never disappointed."

Vallas is the 12th former leader to join the NSWC PHD Distinguished Alumni, each memorialized with a bronze bust.

### Wanda Lam

This month, Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific leadership announced that Wanda Lam as the recipient for a Career Communications Group's 2023 Women of Color Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Technology All-Star award.



Lam is a systems engineer from the Command & Control and Enterprise Engineering Department. Technology All-Stars are accomplished women of color in mid-level to advanced stages of their careers with more than 15 years of experience. Awardees are chosen for their excellence in their workplaces and communities.

As the lead for a high-visibility program supporting a Chief of Naval Operations-level effort to provide Naval Operational Architecture to the entire fleet, Lam is responsible for "the management, coordination, team design, process improvement, and efficiency in support of implementing NIWC Pacific's strategic goals," said Mike McMillan, NIWC Pacific executive director.

### Christopher Linko

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND - Fleet Readiness Center Southwest aerospace engineer, Christopher Linko, has received the Assistant Secretary of Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition) Dr. Delores M. Etter Top Scientists & Engineers of the Year Award.



The award recognizes the best military and civilian engineers and scientists while inspiring the field's future generations.

Since beginning his career at FRCSW in 2015, Linko has performed several aircraft repair dispositions, conducted numerous stress analyses that identified repairs necessary for full life capability of the aircraft, worked on high priority test line jets, deployed aircraft, and Blue Angel planes. Linko's passion for his work continues in his current position as subject matter expert in the Canopy and Windshield shop.

"This team looks at the full life cycle of the windshield and canopies and identifies the root causes of why these components are such a head hurter for the fleet," he said.

## Faulty clutch caused 2022 Osprey crash that killed 5 Marines

by Matthew Adams  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - A mechanical failure of the clutch in a MV-22 Osprey caused the crash that killed five Marines in June 2022, a service investigation revealed July 21.

"It is clear from the investigation that there was no error on the part of the pilots and aircrew and nothing they could have done to anticipate or prevent this mishap," the Marine Corps said in a statement. "They were conducting routine flight operations in accordance with applicable regulations when this catastrophic and unanticipated mechanical failure occurred."

The report also ruled out any issues with weather, birds or other external factors. The investigation concluded there should be no disciplinary actions or administrative actions against any Marines.

The Marine Corps had not previously released specifics about the crash that killed the Marines on June 8, 2022, during a training flight near Glamis, Calif., a remote desert area in Imperial County about 35 miles north of the border with Mexico and 50 miles west of Yuma, Ariz.

The crewmen who died were Capt. Nicholas Losapio, 31, and Capt. John Sax, 33, Cpl. Nathan Carlson, 21, Cpl. Seth Rasmuson, 21, and Lance Cpl. Evan Strickland, 19.

"The loss of these five Marines is tragic and, while there will always be inherent risk in military aviation, we are working tirelessly to identify and mitigate risk across the V-22 platform," said Col. Brian Taylor, a program manager for the Ospreys.

The Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, but during flight it can rotate its propellers to a horizontal position and cruise like an airplane. Versions of the aircraft are flown by the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force.

The more than 400-page report found the cause of the crash was due to the failed engagement of aircraft's dual clutch. When the clutch failed, the aircraft was then unable to thrust with the propeller on the right side of the Osprey. This caused "unrecoverable departure from controlled flight," the service said.

A "hard clutch engagement" happens when the clutch in the gearbox that connects one of aircraft's two engines to the propeller rotor slips and then suddenly reengages, causing the aircraft to lurch.

The report said there were no direct witnesses to the accident, and due to the fiery crash, the data recorder was not recovered.

The investigation also found there have been 16 similar clutch problems with the Marine Ospreys in flight since 2010.

The clutch problem with Ospreys forced the V-22 joint program office in February to ground an undisclosed number of the aircraft across the military services. It was at that time that they began replacing a piece of equipment on the aircraft. The office said Friday that it has eliminated the risk of a similar clutch malfunction by 99 percent.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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# I MEF heavily engaged in the Western Pacific in July

*“The speed and accomplishment of commanders, staff, Marines, and Sailors across this area of operations is extremely impressive.” - Brig. Gen. Robert Brodie, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Assistant Wing Commander*

CAMP PENDLETON - Throughout the month of July, approximately 6,000 Marines from I Marine Expeditionary Force are dispersed across Australia, the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and the Republic of Palau as they participate in a wide range of exercises, community projects, key leader engagements, and subject matter expert exchanges.

These deployments collectively demonstrate I MEF’s commitment to fostering interoperability and relationships with allies and partners in the Western Pacific, refining and validating forward deployment capabilities, and testing emerging service and unit-level concepts.

Unique to this year, I MEF has a forward command and control element led by a general officer. 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Assistant Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Robert Brodie, is serving as the I MEF (Forward) commander from Australia, overseeing more than 4,000 personnel participating in Marine Aviation Support Activity 23, exercise Northern Edge 23.2, and bilateral training with the Australian Defence Force.

“Real systems talking to real people generate friction points that a synthetic environment simply cannot stress test,” Brodie said. “While all training is valuable, we are learning unprecedented lessons as we speak.”

In the Philippines, I MEF (Fwd) Marines participate in Marine Aviation Support Activity 23 with their Philippine Marine Corps counterparts. In Australia, I MEF (Fwd) and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314 are conducting bilateral training with Royal Australian Air Force No. 3 squadron across multiple disciplines of fixed-wing aviation between the two F-35 variants (A and C). Alongside I MEF (Fwd) operations in the region, other I MEF Marines are participating in Task Force Koa Moana and the 12th iteration of Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, further enhancing I MEF’s presence in the region.

Dispersed across the Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Republic of Palau, the Marines of Task Force Koa Moana continue to strengthen relationships and enhance interoperability with Oceania partners through bilateral training and community engagements involving engineering, medical, maritime law enforcement, and explosive ordnance disposal capabilities.

Read more on the Marine Corps NewsStand, <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3460564/i-mef-heavily-engaged-in-the-western-pacific-in-july/>.

# Military spouse pens children’s book on friendship

Oceanside resident GraceAnn (Polasek) Skidmore has released a children’s book titled “Wings Away, A tale of friendship.”

“Wings Away, A tale of friendship” is a heartwarming short story based in South Texas about two special puppy-dog friends, a Dachshund and a Maltipoo, who experience

adventure in their very own backyard. Based on childhood and family experiences, this story celebrates the personal uniqueness we each hold, the beauty of friendship, and the joy of helping others!

“Wings Away, A tale of friendship” is GraceAnn’s debut literary work and is available

to purchase on Amazon in either a paperback or ebook format.

In this story, the home referenced is GraceAnn’s childhood home adding a touch of familiarity and warmth to the narrative. The character of the cardinal is inspired by GraceAnn’s late grandmother, Carol Polasek, honoring her memory and the special bond they shared.

GraceAnn was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. GraceAnn is a proud Texan but is coming to love the state of California just as much. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Business and an MBA from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Currently working in the tech industry GraceAnn resides in Southern California with her husband who serves in the Marine Corps, presently assigned to MCAS Camp Pendleton, as



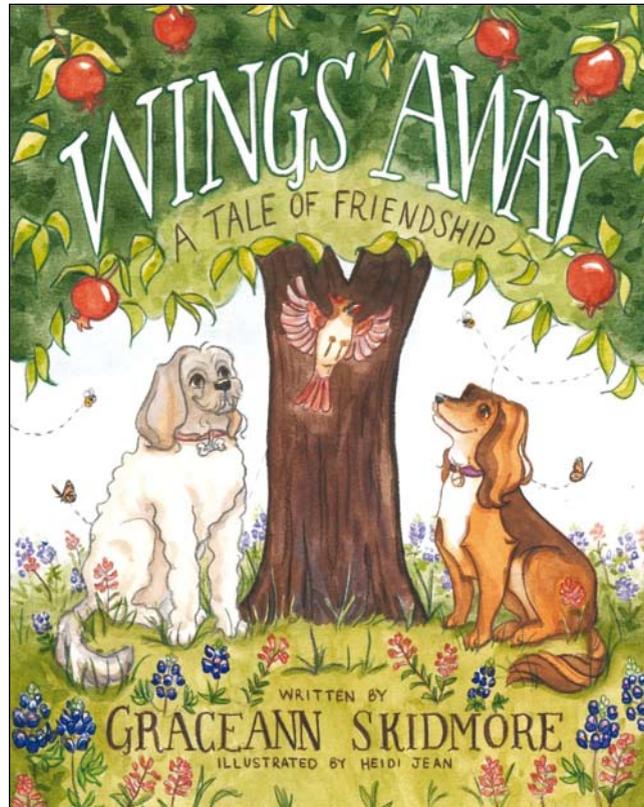
**Marine Corps spouse and Oceanside resident GraceAnn (Polasek) Skidmore has released a children’s book titled “Wings Away, A tale of friendship.”**

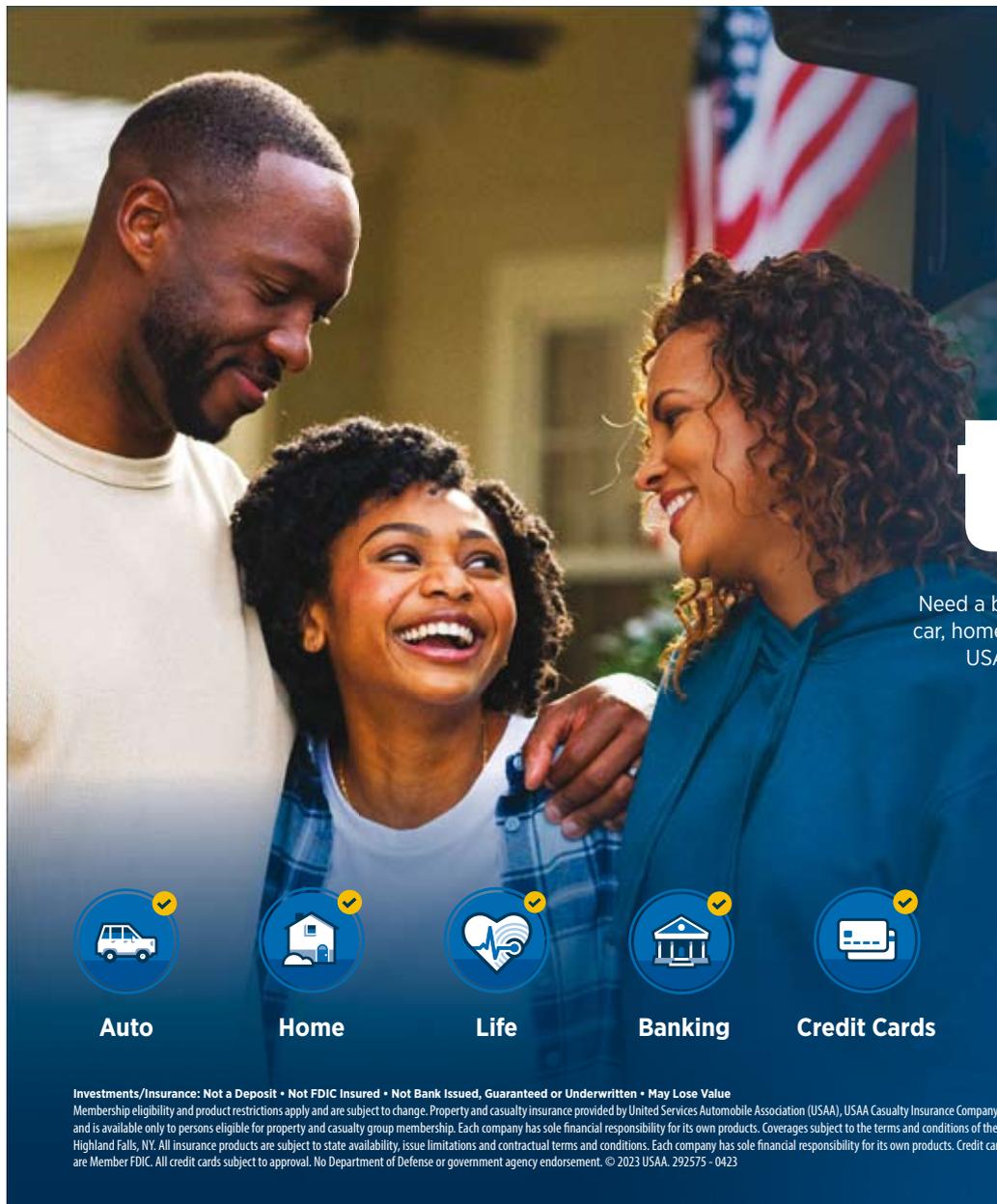
a AH-1Z helicopter pilot.

Beyond her professional pursuits, GraceAnn is dedicated to military advocacy. During her leisure hours, she finds joy in volunteering with her husband’s military squadron and the USO, reading, traveling, crafting, and trying new things.

Most importantly, she cherishes the precious moments spent with her loved ones, including her treasured companion, Dixie, the miniature Dachshund who plays a central role in this story.

Purchase the book: <https://t.ly/iJYR>





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# PHOTO GALLERY



**NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND (July 19, 2023)** Navy Sailors and Air Force Airmen prepare to offload a Navy MH-60R Seahawk. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Aron Montano



**IN PORT, SAN DIEGO (July 19, 2023)** Sailors assigned to amphibious assault carrier Tripoli receive Antiterrorism Force Protection training during the ship's maintenance availability. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Kaleb Shultz



**CAMP PENDLETON (July 14, 2023)** Marines rappel out of an MV-22 Osprey during a helicopter rope suspension techniques course hosted by Expeditionary Operations Training Group, I MEF. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Dean Gurule



**SAN DIEGO (July 20, 2023)** Capt. Thomas J. Zerr, Chief of Staff, Naval Surface Forces, Pacific Fleet, speaks with Sailors from Naval Beach Group One during the 75th anniversary of NBG 1. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Stevin Atkins



**Marine Pvt. Robert Garcia, with Mike Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, gets his harness fastened before conducting the rappel tower at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, July 21, 2023. Rappel training is one of the final events during recruit training that is conducted to build confidence in the new Marines and prepares them for similar circumstances they may encounter while in the Marine Corps. U.S.M.C. photo by Sgt. Yvonna Guyette**

## The transformation - Through the Crucible

by Sgt. Yvonna Guyette

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego

As the sky begins to wake up, fog rises from the ground. The smell of sweat and dirt lingering in the air. It is brisk, yet his nerves start to set in, and sweat begins to form over his brow.

Today marks day two of what will push most men and women to their breaking points; the Crucible. The platoon stages their gear and receives instruction on the first of many obstacles for the day. For many recruits today is about making it through, pushing themselves past their limits, but for Robert Garcia, it is much more.

Recruit Garcia, a native of Oxnard, California, joined the Marine Corps at 30 years old to inspire his children, to be an example that with hard work and determination they can do anything they set their minds to. Garcia dreamed of joining the Marine Corps right out of high school but choose to stay and support his family when news of having his first child arrived.

Upon turning 29, Garcia knew that this was his last chance to do something that he always had his sight set on; becoming a United States Marine. "I want my kids to grow up seeing me as an example, that they can accomplish anything they want to as long as they work hard," said Garcia.

For Garcia, this is an opportunity to prove to himself and his family that with grit and de-

termination, anyone can overcome hardships and adversity. "This experience has pushed me further than I thought was possible," explained Garcia.

As the day ends and a new one begins, Garcia's company takes on their final challenge, a grueling 15-kilometer hike

through the rolling hills of Camp Pendleton. They move with purpose to receive their eagle, globe and anchors, signifying that they have earned the title of United States Marine. "Receiving my EGA was humbling. To come so far and finally make it and earn the title of Marine. That moment holds

so much pride," said Garcia.

For many of the new Marines the moment they received their EGA will stick with them forever. For Pvt. Garcia, he hopes that his children look at what he accomplished and know that there is no goal to big when you have grit and determination.

## Liberation Day



**GUAM (July 21, 2023)** Service members participate in Liberation Day events in Guam, July 21, 2023, to mark the 79th anniversary of the United States liberating the island from Japanese occupation during World War II. Guam remained under Japanese control for 31 months until July 21, 1944 when the U.S. returned and liberated the island. Many lives were lost and the suffering was great for all those involved in the battles on Guam and throughout the Pacific theater. U. S. Navy photo

## VA burial benefits for military spouses and children could become permanent under proposed bill

by Svetlana Shkolnikova  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Burial benefits for family members who die before service members could be extended permanently under new legislation introduced by a bipartisan group of senators.

The measure would give the Department of Veterans Affairs lasting authority to bury the spouse or dependent child of an active-duty service member in a national cemetery and provide a memorial headstone or marker for cases in which remains are unavailable.

Such benefits have been provided for years on a temporary basis and are due to expire Oct. 1, 2024, without congressional action.

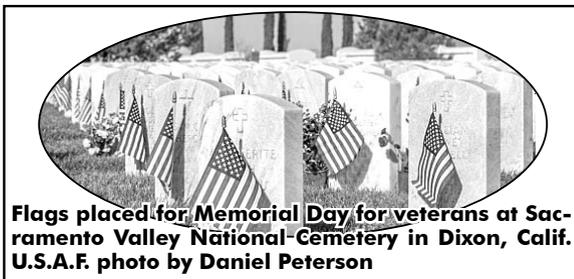
Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., described the bill as “common sense.” Peters, a former lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserve and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, introduced the legislation alongside

Sens. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.

“Service members and their families sacrifice immensely in service to our country,” Peters said in a statement. “The least

The legislation, called the Keeping Military Families Together Act of 2023, has been endorsed by Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“During unfortunate times



Flags placed for Memorial Day for veterans at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, Calif. U.S.A.F. photo by Daniel Peterson

that we can do is ensure they can remain together in their final resting place.”

The VA operates more than 100 national cemeteries across 42 states and Puerto Rico. Burial benefits for eligible spouses and children include perpetual care, inscription of the spouse’s or child’s name, and birth and death dates on the veteran’s headstone at no cost to the family.

when a spouse or child passes away before the service member, it is paramount for provisions to exist that allow for a choice of final rest together at a VA national cemetery,” said Quandra Patterson, associate director of the VFW’s disability assistance and memorial affairs.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs for consideration.

## FRA asks for report on impact of TRICARE pharmacy network

The Fleet Reserve Association and several other organizations dispatched a letter to key members of the House Armed Services Committee requesting that the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) be amended to require the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to provide a report to Congress on the impact of recent TRICARE pharmacy network cuts on beneficiary access to care.



DHA has reduced the minimum number of retail pharmacies required in the TRICARE network. As a result, the number of network pharmacies available to military families dropped by nearly 25 percent from more than 55,000 locations in 2022 to approximately 42,000 today. This network reduction creates access challenges for many rural residents, the elderly, and those with complex medical conditions. FRA supports an amendment that will require a detailed analysis of the network reduction’s impact on beneficiary access to retail pharmacy services. The military health system efficiencies must maintain beneficiary access to care. Our nation has an obligation to both the currently serving and retirees who for decades accepted the risks and sacrifices inherent to a career in uniform. Limiting access to benefits after they have been earned betrays the social contract that underpins the all-volunteer.

## SVAC advances VA deputy secretary to the full Senate

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved Tanya Bradsher, the nominee to be the Department of Veterans Affairs’ deputy secretary, and advanced her nomination to the full Senate for consideration. The VA deputy secretary is the VA’s second highest official who oversees the Department’s Electronic Health Record Modernization program implementation and is responsible for strengthening VA’s collaboration with the Department of Defense on the VA-DoD Joint Executive Committee. The deputy secretary also serves as the chief operating officer, tasked with running the day-to-day operations at VA. The position requires Senate approval. Bradsher is a combat veteran who served 20 years in the Army. She enlisted in 1993 and was commissioned in 1994 from the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. She currently serves as the VA chief of staff. She has also worked in Congress, at the White House, the Defense Health Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

### CalVet Veterans Services

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- ☐ California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
- ☐ California Transition Assistance Program
- ☐ Regional Outreach (CalVet works closely with local communities in its efforts to serve veterans, to ensure veterans get the assistance, benefits and services they need).
- ☐ Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program
- ☐ Claims Representation at District Offices
- ☐ Mental Health Program
- ☐ Incarcerated Veterans



## The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by  
Lisa  
Smith  
Molinari

I’ve made many mistakes in my 57 years. I’ve missed exits, burned roasts, forgotten orthodontist appointments, miscalculated taxes, turned laundry pink, popped tires, slept through alarms, blanked on names, and talked too much. However, I’ve always taken comfort in one saving grace: “At least I’ve raised good kids.”

Being a good parent is such a worthy endeavor, it has the power to wipe away the regret of countless transgressions. Over the years, when I felt down on myself, all I had to do was look at our three children to know that I was getting something right.

Well, it wasn’t always that simple.

“Whaaaaaa!” we heard our niece, Kaleigh, wailing from our in-laws upstairs bedroom. Kaleigh was no more than five, and cute as a button. Blonde ringlets and crystal blue eyes, with the softest skin — a real-life porcelain doll with a sweet disposition to match.

My husband, Francis, and I were in his parents’ kitchen downstairs, with Greg and Anne, Kaleigh’s parents and Francis’ brother and sister-in-law, when we heard Kaleigh’s cry. We jumped to our feet to find out what happened, when suddenly our daughter, Anna, appeared at the bottom of the stairs.

“Kaleigh fell down,” she relayed, her chin down and her brown eyes flitting nervously. We found Ka-

## Devilish or delightful: The pitfalls of comparing cousins

leigh in a tearful heap beside her grandfather’s treadmill, her fragile pale arms, legs and cheeks freshly scraped. As her mom and dad extracted the details from Kaleigh, Anna “supplemented” with her own self-serving narrative.

Anna spun the tale to imply that the treadmill ride was her cousin’s idea. Clearly, Anna had been the mastermind, convincing gullible Kaleigh to step on while she hit the “go” button, sending Kaleigh’s bobbysocked-feet up over her head.

Our families had a lot in common — Francis and Greg were both in the Navy and our kids were the same ages. However, when we were together, glaring differences in our children appeared. Simply put, Greg and Anne’s kids were really good. And by comparison, our kids seemed really bad.

Anna was infamous for biting and scheming. Lilly cheated at Uno and said naughty words. Hayden never ate vegetables and left Legos on the floor. Every time we visited with Greg and Anne, my confidence wavered, because I had apparently given birth to unruly monsters.

I found myself praying that Kaleigh or her siblings would do something, ANYTHING, wrong to give us some reprieve. “C’mon little Patricia,” I’d mutter under my breath while watching my aqua-eyed niece toddling in her pink pajamas, “spill your milk, give Lilly a smack, steal Anna’s doll, we won’t mind!”

But Greg and Anne’s kids followed directions without sassing, happily shared their toys, and smiled sweetly. All. The. Time.

Infuriating!

After each visit, I had to visit playgrounds and school yards to watch other children smarting off and pushing each other into the dirt to recalibrate my perspective on our kids. It took days for me to remember that they weren’t awful — they were normal, red-blooded American children.

Months after the treadmill incident, we were back at my in-laws for another visit. Kaleigh was too sweet to hold a grudge, so she held hands with Anna, while they skipped off to the nearby playground.

“Whaaaaa!” we heard minutes later. Kaleigh hit a pole and her head was bleeding. Despite the lack of evidence that Anna had anything to do with it, everyone wondered. In her normal life, Anna was a good kid, but compared to Kaleigh, she seemed like Satan’s spawn.

It took another freak accident for the family to realize that Anna didn’t have the mark of the Devil. While at her grandparents’ house, Kaleigh tripped and fell, suffering a broken arm. We were certainly concerned for our sweet little niece; however, our first reaction was utter elation, as we broadcast to the entire family, “We weren’t there! Anna didn’t do it! Hooray!”

Kaleigh unintentionally got her revenge when, as a teen, she gave Anna lice. Despite it all, Kaleigh is now a Navy pilot. Anna, a fashion designer, still loves her favorite cousin.

And I no longer look to see if Anna is growing horns, because I know now, it’s all relative.

## Worst-Case Scenario SURVIVAL EXPERIENCE at the Fleet Science Center

When I began writing this column over 20 years ago, I soon had to confront my own worst-case scenario. I worried that after I wrote about and photographed the few subjects that I had in mind to share with you, how could I possibly continue? Surely it would only be a matter of time before I ran out of ideas.

Well, let me tell you, today as I write column number 800, not only have I not run out of ideas for things to cover, but I perpetually have a backlog of things that I have already covered for which there have not been enough weeks to share them with you in this weekly column — at least not right away. That has been my actual worst-case scenario, and it continues to this day. The obvious solution is for me to get some help covering events, editing photos and especially spreading the word in social media — something that I know very little about doing, nor do I have the time for. If this sounds like something that you could do well, please write to me in the comments section of any of the columns on the AutoMatters.net website. I read all of the comments.

It is especially fitting and appropriate that this milestone column (number 800!!) is about another in the ever-changing, wonderfully entertaining and educational exhibits at the Fleet Science Center, in San Diego’s Balboa Park. I have been covering this museum since early on in the history of this column.

In October of 1999, as Y2K was fast approaching, that event helped inspire the publication of a new book entitled “The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Expert Advice for Extreme Situations.” It

described scary scenarios and then asked readers ‘what would you do?’ For instance, what would you do if you suddenly came upon a bear in the forest or inadvertently stepped into quicksand? How might you escape? Remember Y2K, when

**AutoMatters™ & More**  
by Jan Wagner



many of us thought that civilization as we knew it would come crashing down, as computers failed because there were not enough digits in their date column — or something to that effect? This handbook, and the new, limited-time, interactive, family-friendly, multi-element exhibit at The Fleet entitled “The Worst-Case Scenario SURVIVAL EXPERIENCE,” will help you prepare for such situations.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary (see merriam-webster.com) defines worst-case as “involving, projecting, or providing for the worst possible circumstances or outcome of a given situation.” At “The Worst-Case Scenario SURVIVAL EXPERIENCE,” visitors “prepare for a thrilling journey of survival strategies and escape tactics based on the internationally acclaimed Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook series. Immerse yourself in heart-pounding challenges and mind-bending puzzles that equip you with essential skills for unexpected real-life scenarios. From staying calm under pressure

to thinking logically and being prepared, ignite your creativity and problem-solving abilities to thrive in the worst situations.”

I spoke with Geoffrey Curley, CEO of Geoffrey M. Curley + Associates. His company collaborates in the development of entertaining and educational exhibitions, including this one, as well as the Sherlock Holmes and Myth Busters exhibitions that have also been presented here at The Fleet (see AutoMatters & More numbers 476 and 534). He told me that “obviously we wanted to make it educational, we wanted to make it rich with science — so we looked for what sorts of worst-case scenarios we could present in here. We were studying how could we present it in a way that was impactful and meaningful for people who were here. Even though we would like to say ‘yes, of course you’re going to be in an avalanche and you’re going to have to deal with this,’ most likely most of us won’t, but it doesn’t mean that the process behind how you approach that situation isn’t similar to ‘I have a big meeting and I’m really scared of talking in front of 40 people. How do I deal with that?’ Or, you might be on a highway and there’s an accident. How do you deal with that?” What is YOUR worst-case scenario?

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, visit “AutoMatters & More” at <https://automatters.net>. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page, or click on the blue ‘years’ boxes and browse.

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– AutoMatters & More #800

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## EVENTS

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**Sat. July 29**  
10am to 6:00pm  
**Sun. July 30**  
10am to 5:00pm

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## THINGS TO DO AROUND TOWN

**TINA - The Tina Turner Musical**, July 27-30. SD Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave, SD, 92101. <https://sandiegoteatres.org/>  
**SD Padres vs. Texas Rangers**, Fri, July 28-July 30.  
**San Diego Surf Cup Olders Weekend**, July 28-30. Girls at Surf Sports Park, Del Mar, Boys at SoCal Sports Complex, Oceanside. [www.surfcupsports.com/surf-cup](http://www.surfcupsports.com/surf-cup)  
**Community Model Train Swap Meet**, Sat, July 29, 6-10:30am. \$3. Hard-to-find items from vendors around SoCal. 1649 El Prado, SD, 92101

**July Green Living Tour**, Sat, July 29, 10-11am. Free. See sustainability in action! Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, 137 North El Camino Real, Encinitas.

**San Diego International Children's Film Festival**, Sat, July 29, 10am-5pm. Free. Short films and animation from around the world for all ages. Central Library, 330 Park Blvd, SD, 92101  
**Civita Community Band Festival**, Sat, July 20, 11am-noon. 60-piece North County Winds performs Civita Park 7960 Civita Blvd, SD, 92108.

**National Chicken Wing Day & Spirits Fest**, Sat, July 29, 1pm. \$35-\$45. Bites, beer, DJs, entertainment, spirits sampling, games. Waterfront Park, 1600 Pacific Highway, SD, 92101.

**Birding Basics Class**, Sat, July 29, 1-2:30pm. Free. Bird ID class, learn 5 simple techniques to identify birds at a glance. Mission Trails Regional Park, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Carlos, 92119

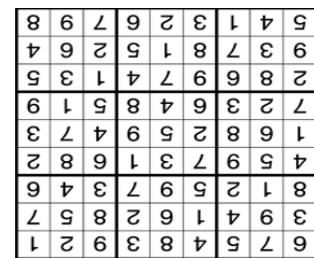
**Summer Tardeada Dance Party**, Sat, July 29, 2-5pm. Free. Performers include La Rondalla de San Diego and Mariachi Victoria de San Diego. Registration required. <https://www.firstuussandiego.org/>  
First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego, Hillcrest, 298 West Arbor St, SD, 92103

**Oppenheimer**, Sat, July 29, 6:30pm. Age 17+. \$19.95. IMAX®-shot epic thriller. The Fleet's iconic Heikoff Giant Dome Theater is the premier place to see this three-hour saga. Fleet Science Center, 1875 El Prado, Balboa Park.

**Marine Band San Diego Summer Concert**, Sat, July 29, 7-8pm. Piazza della Famiglia, 523 West Date St, SD, 92101

**Motorcycles in the Park**, Sun, July 30, 7-9am. Free. Have coffee, make friends. Bring your motorcycle, prizes considered for mo-

torcycles 35 years and older. San Diego Automotive Museum, 2080 Pan American Plaza, Balboa Park.  
**Guided Nature Walk**, Sun, July 30, 9:30-11am. Free. mtrp.org  
**Summer Concert Series: The Benedetti Trio**, Sun, July 30, 5:30-7pm. Free. Old Poway Park. [www.poway.org](http://www.poway.org)  
**Yellowcard**, Tues, Aug 1, Gallagher Square at Petco Park  
**Rebuelion**, Fri, Aug 4. North Island Credit Union Amphitheatre



## MOVIES AT THE BASES

Movies & times subject to change. \* Indicates last showing  
Visit [www.navydispatch.com/entertainment\\_03movies.htm](http://www.navydispatch.com/entertainment_03movies.htm) to find base theatre information

**Naval Base Theater - NBSD**, 619-556-5568, Bldg. 71 3465 Senn Rd.

FREE entry to the first 300 customers (per showing), no outside food, concessions will be available.

**Thursday, July 27**  
6pm Elemental pg  
8:10pm Spider-Man: Spider-Verse pg  
**Friday, July 28**  
6:30pm Indiana Jones Dial of Destiny pg13  
**Saturday, July 29**  
1pm Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken pg  
3:10pm Elemental pg  
6pm The Flash pg13  
**Sunday, July 30**  
1pm Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken pg  
3:10pm Indiana Jones Dial of Destiny pg13

**Q-Zone - NAB**  
Bldg. 337 • 619-437-3190

Family Friendly Movies:  
Tues, Thur, Sat: 11 am. NDVDs  
NDVDs -- Free Admission  
**Friday, July 28**  
5pm Shazam! Fury of the Gods pg13  
**Saturday, July 29**  
11am PAW Patrol: The Movie  
**Monday, July 31**  
5pm Renfield r  
**Tuesday, August 1**  
11am Raya and the Last Dragon pg  
5pm Fight Club r  
**Wednesday, August 2**  
5pm Hidden Figures pg  
**Thursday, August 3**  
11am Up pg  
5pm Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret. pg13

**Lowry Theater - NASNI**, 619-545-8479 Bldg. 650

Outside food and beverage are NOT permitted. Debit/credit cards only.

**Friday, July 28**  
6pm Indiana Jones Dial of Destiny pg13  
**Saturday, July 29**  
1pm Elemental pg  
3pm Transformers: Beasts pg13  
6pm Indiana Jones Dial of Destiny pg13  
**Sunday, July 30**  
1pm Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken pg  
3pm The Flash pg13  
**Friday, August 4**  
6pm Sound of Freedom pg13

**Pendleton Theater and Training Center**  
Bldg 1330 Mainside (Across from Mainside Center)

**Saturday, July 29**  
1:30pm Transformers: Beasts (PG13)  
**Saturday, August 5**  
1:30pm Elemental (PG) \*SENSORY FRIENDLY

**Bob Hope Theater** 577-4143  
MCAS Miramar Bldg 2242

**Friday, July 28**  
6pm Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13)  
**Saturday, July 29**  
**THEATER CLOSED: Preventive Maintenance**  
**Thursday, August 3**  
12pm Elemental (PG)  
3pm Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13)

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THEME: FINISH THE LYRICS

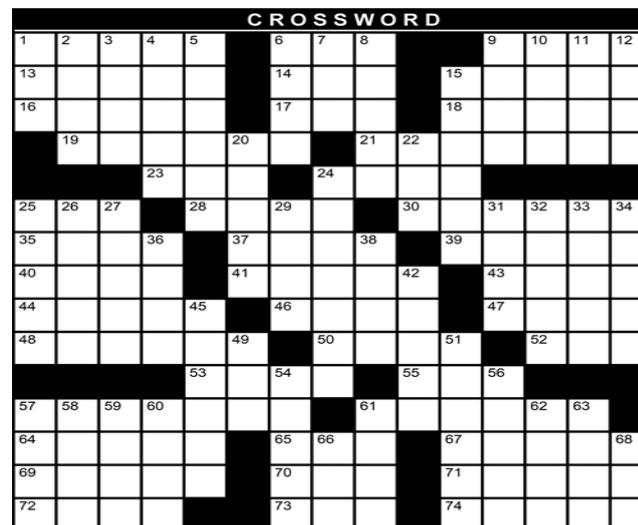
ACROSS

- \*\*Back in \_\_\_\_ I hit the sack"
- Lavatory, abbr.
- Arctic floater
- Revered Hindu
- Three, to Caesar
- Poison ampules, e.g.
- Neckwear option
- \*\*Sometimes it's hard to be a woman, giving \_\_\_\_ your love to just one man"
- Most populous country
- \*\*It's going down, I'm yelling \_\_\_\_"
- \*\*Sugarplum honeybunch, you know that I \_\_\_\_"
- Act on IOU
- Spanish sparkling wine
- Mel \_\_\_\_, Giant Hall-of-Famer
- Garbage in, garbage out, acr.
- \*\*If everybody had an ocean \_\_\_\_ the U.S.A., then everybody'd be surfing"
- Less than average tide
- All's opposite
- \_\_\_\_, Wind & Fire
- Gas station brand
- Bottom-ranking employee
- \*\*The future's not ours to see, que \_\_\_\_"
- \_\_\_\_ Coffee, whisky drink
- African river

- Part of a sweatshirt, sometimes
- \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-tat, drum roll sound
- Please get back to me, acr.
- 007, for one
- Impulse
- Consume food
- \*\*I'm going to \_\_\_\_, I'm gonna mess around"
- \*\*And I will \_\_\_\_ love you"
- Do penance
- Melvin Purvis' org.
- High school balls
- Goes with shaker
- Cardinal, color
- Lock horns
- Eurasian duck
- Pop-ups, e.g.
- Earp of the Wild West

DOWN

- Undergarment
- Catalog
- Fungal spore sacs
- \_\_\_\_ at the bit"
- Soldier's knapsack
- Pinocchio, e.g.
- Be unwell
- Pancho's last name
- Like certain print
- \*\*Here's a story of a lovely \_\_\_\_"
- Assortment
- Genesis twin
- Fast and lively, in music
- Giving a once-over
- Spermatozoa counterparts
- Reassort
- \*\*Believe it or not, I'm walking \_\_\_\_"
- Sailor's cry: " \_\_\_\_ firma!"
- Like an implied agreement
- \*\*You're here, there's nothing I fear, and I know that my heart will \_\_\_\_"
- Possible allergy symptom
- Black and white treats
- Leather razor sharpener
- \*\*Will the real Slim \_\_\_\_ please stand up"
- Well-mannered Emily
- Adult elvers
- Live it up
- Mooring rope
- Though, shortened
- Another name for papaw
- Below, prefix
- Be a slowpoke
- Jellies' seeded cousins
- A-bomb particle
- Sheltered nook
- Was aware of
- Gives a hand
- Lotus position discipline
- Censor's target
- \*\*I'm friends with the monster that's under my \_\_\_\_"
- Salon offering



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## ROY'S SUDOKU

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	8			7		1			5
9				1					
	4							9	8

# Health & Fitness

## DHA's 'Dog Days of Summer' showcases dogs who support overall health

by Janet A. Aker

This week, the Defense Health Agency is celebrating facility dogs assigned to military hospitals across the nation for its "Dog Days of Summer" campaign July 24-28.

DHA will spotlight stories of hard-working dogs dedicated to

keeping service members, their families, and hospital staff healthy and happy.

Military hospital facility dogs fulfill many services daily. They provide comfort and a wet nose to patients and wounded warriors recovering from surgery and boost morale among hospital staff.

Whether by land, sea, or air, these dogs are always at the ready.

Facility dogs work hard every day at their assigned military hospital, clinic or elsewhere to provide comfort to people they encounter while making their rounds.

Military working dogs keep their handlers and battle buddies safe from bombs and enemies on the frontlines and across the seven seas.

Service dogs help veterans cope with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety.

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center opens walterreed.TRICARE.mil in Bethesda, Maryland, was the first military hospital to employ facility dogs. They've now been around nearly two decades.

MWDs have been used in action since the Civil War. The use of emotional support dogs for veterans has expanded greatly since the first Gulf War.

Explaining the many abilities of military dogs and their true gifts is WRNMMC facility dog program



**Brooke Army Medical Center facility dog U.S. Army Maj. Budd interacts with soldiers being in-processed in Aug. 2022. Facility dogs are being given honorary commissions or are enlisted in a service as a mark of respect for their value in comforting personnel in need and increasing morale and mental health. Photo by Jennifer Higgins, special assistant for health-care resolutions BMAC.**



**SAN DIEGO (Jun. 5, 2023) Capt. Kim Davis, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego's outgoing commander, pins a facility therapy dog to the rank of Lieutenant during a change of command ceremony at the hospital June 5, 2023. During the ceremony, Capt. Elizabeth Adriano relieved Capt. Davis, assuming command of NMRTC San Diego. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jacob Woitzel.**

**ON THE COVER: File photo (May 23, 2018) Facility care dog Helena at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) poses for a photo at Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) where she assists medical staff and provides emotional support to patients with brain trauma injury and patients receiving treatment at the C5 facility. Helena wears a unique blue canine badge that distinguishes her as part of a veterans initiative at a large institution like NMCSD. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Indra Beaufort.**

## SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

### Will WEP and GPO affect my wife's spousal benefit?

*Dear Rusty: My wife worked for the US Postal Service in New York for about 22 years, and then in the private sector for about 15 years. She began collecting her "deferred annuity" from the USPS at age 62 and she plans to collect her Social Security benefits at age 67, which is her full retirement age (FRA).*

*Her Social Security benefit before the Windfall Elimination Provision is less than 50% of my Primary Insurance Amount, so the plan is for her to start collecting a "spousal" benefit from me at age 67. My question is: will my wife's spousal benefit be reduced by both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset (GPO)?*

*Signed: Inquiring Husband*

**Dear Inquiring Husband:** Your wife cannot separate her personally earned Social Security retirement benefit from her Social Security spousal entitlement from you - whenever she applies for Social Security, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for all benefits she is entitled to when she claims.

Because your wife has a "non-covered pension" from the US Postal Service (USPS) - and assuming that pension is under the older "CSRS" (Civil Service Retirement System) - your wife's personally earned SS retirement benefit will be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP reduces Social Security retirement benefits for anyone who also has a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security.

The Government Pension Offset (GPO) is different: the GPO will affect any additional amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse, which we refer to as her "spousal boost." The "spousal boost" amount is the difference between your wife's pre-WEP FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which is your Primary Insurance Amount. Because of her USPS pension, GPO will reduce your wife's "spousal boost" by 2/3rds of the amount of her non-covered pension, which may eliminate her potential spousal boost.

So WEP will affect your wife's personally earned SS benefit, and the GPO will affect her spousal entitlement from you. But, depending on the amount of her USPS pension, your wife will not be entitled to an additional amount as your spouse if 2/3rds of her USPS pension amount is more than her "spousal boost" amount. And if the GPO doesn't completely eliminate your wife's spousal boost, it will at least drastically reduce it.

I have previously published several articles about both WEP and GPO and how each provision works, which you are welcome to review at the AMAC Foundation's special Social Security website - [www.SocialSecurityReport.org](http://www.SocialSecurityReport.org). In particular, one such article providing more detail on how the GPO works can be found at this link: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/).

Social Security will make the final determination about your wife's benefit entitlement under WEP and GPO when she applies for her Social Security benefits, but I'm afraid your wife's entitlement may be much less than you are anticipating because of these two provisions. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact us directly via email at [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org) or call us directly at 1.888.750.2622.

## Creature comfort at sea

June 23, 2023 | DOD News |

When the Navy's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier set off last month on its second deployment, it carried something both familiar and entirely novel:

Meet Sage, the USS Gerald R. Ford's facility dog. Under a pilot program, she is the first "expanded operational stress control canine" that will be part of the crew of a Navy ship throughout a deployment.

The 3-year-old Labrador retriever has been specially trained to help sailors cope with stress associated with deployment, providing comfort and morale boosts as part of the ship's warfighter toughness mental health and resiliency team.

Recently, Sage and her handlers visited sailors aboard the USS Normandy, another ship in the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group, in the Mediterranean Sea. From the looks of it, things went swimmingly.



**Navy PO3 Daniel Velasquez spends time with Sage during her visit to the USS Normandy in the Mediterranean Sea, June 20, 2023. Navy photo by PO2 Malachi Lakey**



**Sage is deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford as part of the Expanded Operational Stress Control Canine pilot program. Navy photo by PO2 Jackson Adkins**



**Sage. Navy photo by PO2 Jackson Adkins**



**Sage, the USS Gerald R. Ford's facility dog, takes a nap before a flight back to the aircraft carrier after her visit to the guided missile cruiser USS Normandy in the Mediterranean Sea, June 20, 2023. Navy photo by PO2 Malachi Lakey**



# PERRY



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Lease for  
**\$348/month**  
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New 2023 Jeep  
**GLADIATOR** SPORT

Lease for  
**\$488/month**  
for 48 months



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New 2023  
**GRAND CHEROKEE**  
Laredo 4X4

Lease for  
**\$488/month**  
for 36 months



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$61,660. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$33,914. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. #588710, 786605, 791357

New 2023  
**WRANGLER** Willy's 4xe

Lease for  
**\$388/month**  
for 36 months



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$60,810. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$34,661. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. 1 at this price. VIN: 1C4JJXN6XPW690239



Tops Off Test Drive Event good thru July 31st



New 2023 Ram  
**1500** Big Horn Crew Cab 4X2

Lease for  
**\$488/month**  
for 42 months



For well-qualified buyers. MSRP of \$56,250. Down payment \$4,995. Residual \$28,585. Tax, title, license acquisition fee not included. 10,000 miles per year. VIN: 1C6RREFT2PN604018, 1C6RREFT9PN604016



# PERRY



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**2017 JEEP CHEROKEE**  
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**2019 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**  
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**2017 DODGE DURANGO**  
**\$22,596**

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**2021 JEEP WRANGLER**  
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**2022 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE**  
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