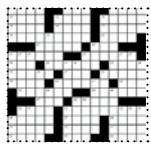


Crossword Puzzle



This week's puzzlin' clue, *Certain farm, or one of its residents.*

See page 5

AutoMatters & More



The philosophical debate over autonomous vehicles.

See page 9

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SIXTIETH YEAR NO. 43
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

3RD MAW GROWS AS AN INTEGRATED ALL-DOMAIN NAVAL POWER

by 1st Lt. Charles

MCAS MIRAMAR - Marines with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) prepare for the commencement of phase two of Winter Fury-21, a large-scale, joint force exercise that ensures the Marines of 3rd MAW are prepared, equipped, and trained to win any high-end, future fight.

"This Winter Fury, 3rd MAW is refining our Command and Control processes," said Capt. Sarah Shoemaker, an exercise planner with 3rd MAW. "This will help us come up with our tactics, techniques, and procedures when it comes to real-world tactical command and control and deployment of our aircraft."

Phase two of Winter Fury 21 will commence February 16 and will employ all of the aircraft in the 3rd MAW inventory, to include F-35 Joint Strike Fighters, AH-1Z Vipers, UH-1Y Venoms, F/A-18 Hornets, CH-53E Super Stallions, MV-22B Ospreys, and KC-130J Hercules aircraft.

During phase two, 3rd MAW



U.S. Marines with Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron (VMFAT) 101, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 232 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3rd MAW) conduct a missile shooting demonstration and aerial refueling in support of Exercise Winter Fury 21, off the coast of Southern California, Feb. 5. During Winter Fury, 3rd MAW will conduct long range strikes, deploy and support infantry Marines, assist in the transport of artillery assets, and provide logistical support to Marines on the ground. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Leilani Cervantes

will establish forward arming and refueling points and distributed command and control centers and conduct day and night flight operations with the F-35B Lightning II, as well as

troop and equipment transport, that prepares 3rd MAW for future missions and operating in the maritime environment.

Winter Fury 21 is an oppor-

tunity for 3rd MAW's aviation combat element of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force to conduct interoperability training that prepares Marines to counter any threats in the contested maritime

environments today that require leveraging the complementary capabilities of the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy as a combined power.

For questions regarding this release, please contact the 3rd MAW Communication Strategy

and Operations Office at 3rd-mawmedia@usmc.mil.

3rd MAW continues to "Fix, Fly, and Fight" as the Marine Corps' largest aircraft wing and remains combat-ready, deployable on short notice, and lethal when called into action.

Navy sends USS *Russell* to South China Sea

San Diego-based destroyer USS *Russell* conducted a freedom-of-navigation operation in the South China Sea Feb. 17, challenging the "unlawful restrictions on innocent passage" imposed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan, the Navy's 7th Fleet said.

Russell steamed past the Spratlys, a chain of more than 100 small islands and reefs, according to a statement from 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley on Wednesday.

Six surrounding nations, including China, Vietnam and the Philippines, claim all or part of the Spratlys, a commercial fishing zone with potential oil and natural gas deposits. The islands are west of the Philippine island of Palawan. China has improved seven of the Spratly features with airstrips, helipads, barracks and other facilities, including anti-ship cruise missiles, according to the CIA The World Factbook online. The Spratlys are near commercial shipping lanes that carry 80 percent of world trade by volume.

China, Vietnam and Taiwan require either permission or advance notice before a foreign military vessel engages in innocent passage through the area, a practice the U.S. holds is contrary to international law.

'Bridge' the distance between us at MWR virtual run!

Virtual Event
May 9 - May 16

This year Navy Region Southwest Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Program will 'bridge' the distance between us, as they open registration for a Virtual Bridge Run event!

Participate from anywhere in the U.S. in any way you want! You'll receive your commemorative 34th Annual event medal, high-quality poly blend T-shirt, and race number in May. Once received, record your "results" through this website, www.navybaybridgerun.com/, print your custom finisher certificate, wear your swag with pride, and tag us on social media. #NavyBridge Run

New addition! Virtual Training Challenge starts now through May!

The Bridge Run Virtual Training Challenge is a personal quest - you against the miles ahead of you. All registrants will be automatically enrolled in the 26.2-mile Training Challenge...one step at a time!

This unique fitness training software lets you challenge yourself, friends, and family and earn cool virtual milestone trophies no matter how you train. As you get ready for the May event, run, walk, ride, swim, dance - whatever moves you!

You're on the honor system to track and record your activities. Only miles accumulated from direct physical activity intended for the challenge should count.

After you register for the event, (www.navybaybridgerun.com) you'll receive a confirmation

e-mail with a login to the Virtual Training Challenge and start training.

Refer friends = Money back!

Once registered, share your personal link with friends! If four of your friends use your referral code to register for this event, you earn \$20! It's MWR's way of saying thanks for supporting MWR Programs for Sailors and their families. Once your four friends register from the link you'll provide them, your payment method used in your registration will be automatically credited.

This event is hosted by the NRSW Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program. The event raises funds to support Quality of Life Programs for Navy personnel. MWR Quality of Life

programs support the 500,000+ members of our San Diego military family. MWR provides healthy and affordable fitness and recreation opportunities at each of the five Navy bases in San Diego County.

MWR operates multiple gyms, swimming pools and beaches, free movie theaters, bowling lanes, golf courses, discount ticket offices, marinas, gear rental centers, youth and teen recreation centers, child care centers, food and beverage facilities, and more. Thank you for supporting our Sailors and their families!

For more information and to sign up visit <https://www.navybaybridgerun.com/>.

#NavyBridge Run

THE NAVY'S 34TH
BAY BRIDGE
RUN/WALK
MAY 2021
HONOR, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

Sports heroes who served: Baseball great Jackie Robinson was WWII soldier

by David Vergun,
DOD News

Jack Roosevelt Robinson - better known as Jackie Robinson - was born in Cairo, Ga., on Jan. 31, 1919, the same month former President Theodore Roosevelt died. That's how he got his middle name.

In 1920, his father, a sharecropper, left the family. Robinson's mother and her six children moved to Pasadena, Calif., where she worked at a variety of jobs to support the family. But they lived in poverty.

In high school, Robinson played several sports at the varsity level and lettered in four of them: football, basketball, track and baseball.

In 1936, Robinson won the junior boys singles championship in the annual Pacific Coast Negro Tennis Tournament and he also earned a spot on the Pomona, Calif., annual baseball tournament's all-star team, which included future Hall of Famers Ted Williams and Bob Lemon.

After graduating from Pasadena Junior College in 1939, he enrolled at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he became the first UCLA athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, football, track and basketball.

During World War II in 1942, Robinson was drafted and assigned to a segregated Army cavalry unit in Fort Riley, Kansas. In January 1943, Robinson was commissioned a second lieutenant. Robinson was then assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, where he joined the 761st "Black Panthers" tank battalion.

On July 6, 1944, Robinson boarded an Army bus.

The driver ordered Robinson to move to the back of the bus, but Robinson refused. The driver called the military police, who took Robinson into custody. He was subsequently court martialed, but he was acquitted.

After his acquittal, he was transferred to Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky, where he served as a coach for Army athletics until receiving an honorable discharge in November 1944.

In 1945, Robinson began playing baseball for Missouri's Kansas City Monarchs, one of the teams in the Negro leagues. About that time, Branch Rickey, club president and general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers, began to scout the Negro leagues for talent. Rickey selected Robinson from a list of promising Black players and interviewed him for a possible assignment on Brooklyn's International League farm club, the Montreal Royals.

During the interview, Rickey told Robinson that he'd have to be willing to withstand the inevitable racial abuse that would be directed at him because there were no Black players in Major League Baseball.

Soon after Robinson was on board with the Dodgers, Rickey signed another Black baseball player, Johnny Wright, who happened to be a Navy veteran of World War II.

On April 15, 1947, the Dodgers called Robinson up to the major leagues where he played first baseman.

Robinson did experience a lot of hatred from fans and other baseball players who felt that Black players should not be allowed in Major League Baseball.

As a Brooklyn Dodger, Robinson was a six-time All-Star from 1949 to 1954, a 1955 World Series champion, and MLB Rookie of the Year in 1947.

Some other interesting facts about the baseball legend include:



The Brooklyn Dodgers No. 42 jersey worn by baseball legend Jackie Robinson is displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American Heritage and Culture in Washington. Photo by David Vergun/DOD

•In 1950, Robinson played himself in the movie "The Jackie Robinson Story."

•On June 4, 1972, the Dodgers retired Robinson's uniform number, 42.

•On April 15, 1997, No. 42 was retired from all of MLB;

Robinson is the only player to receive this honor.

•From 1957 to 1964, Robinson was the vice president for personnel at Chock full o' Nuts, a coffee brand, making him the first Black person to serve as a vice president of a major U.S. corporation.

Medal of Honor spotlight: Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller

by Katie Lange,
DOD News

Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller, a Green Beret, was only 24 when he saved the lives of nearly two-dozen coalition force members pinned down during an intense 2008 firefight in Afghanistan. He sacrificed his own life for theirs, and that bravery and valor earned him the Medal of Honor.

Miller was born in Harrisburg, Pa., on Oct. 14, 1983. He was one of eight kids - four boys, four girls - and came from a line of military men; both his grandfathers had fought in World War II, and his father has been a translator for the Army in Berlin during the Cold War.

When Miller was 5, his family moved to the Chicago suburb of Wheaton, Ill., where he thrived. Miller was a Boy Scout and grew up playing several sports. Although he was an avid gymnast by the time he was in high school, he also played the trumpet and tuba.

As a teen, Miller wanted to go to the Naval Academy, but those dreams were dashed due to his colorblindness. Instead, he spent a year at the University of Iowa before joining the Army in August 2003 from Oviedo, Fla., where his family had just moved.

Miller enlisted as a Special Forces trainee and earned his Special Forces Tab on Sept. 30, 2005. He was immediately

assigned to Company A, 3rd Battalion of the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

During his first deployment to Afghanistan in 2006-2007, Miller's actions earned him two Army Commendation Medals for Valor. He returned to the country in October 2007 as part of Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan. He was a weapons sergeant with Special Forces Operational Detachment Alpha 3312, Task Force 33. According to his colleagues, he spoke French, German, some Russian and Pashto, which made him a good point man during missions; he could talk with the locals with whom they worked.

On Jan. 25, 2008, Miller's detachment was sent to the Gowardesh Valley, a remote area in northwest Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. Their mission: to clear out insurgents who had been attacking Afghan forces and terrorizing villagers.

Surveillance intel had shown a group of armed men holed up at a compound in the valley. Miller's detachment and



Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller enjoys some downtime while deployed in Afghanistan. Miller was killed on Jan. 25, 2008, while saving the lives of other coalition forces during battle. Army photo

about 15 Afghan National Army soldiers were tasked with determining if they were insurgents and, if confirmed, calling in close-air support to bomb the compound.

In the frigid pre-dawn morning, Miller volunteered to serve as point man on the patrol, which had to go through "ambush alley," an area with 300-foot near-vertical cliffs surrounding it. The route wasn't easy to traverse - snow packed the way, and they had to blow up two in-

surgent-placed boulders in their path. So, they were prepared for resistance.

Once they got to the compound, they secured a perimeter and sent in a drone to confirm that there were, indeed, 15-20 insurgents inside who had already taken up fighting positions. Miller kicked off the battle using his vehicle's turret-mounted Mk-19 grenade launcher. He

"ROB SEEMED TO DISAPPEAR INTO CLOUDS OF DUST AND DEBRIS, BUT HIS TEAM COULD HEAR HIM ON THE RADIO, STILL CALLING OUT THE ENEMY'S POSITION," PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA RECOUNTED AT MILLER'S MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY. "THEY COULD HEAR HIS WEAPON STILL FIRING AS HE PROVIDED COVER FOR HIS MEN."

then called in the enemy's positions, and the Air Force dropped bombs on them.

When the air cleared, about two-dozen coalition members moved in on foot to assess the damage. Miller was again their point man.

As they crossed a bridge and neared the steep, narrow valley through which the enemy had come, about 150 insurgents pounced, launching rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons fire from elevated positions and hiding spots on the ground. Miller's patrol had nowhere to hide.

Since Miller was out front, he yelled to his comrades to pull back while he charged the enemy - some of whom were within 20 feet - to draw their

fire, giving the others a chance to find cover. Once they were out of immediate danger, Miller tried to find cover himself but was shot in the upper torso under his body armor.

At about the same time, the detachment's commander, Capt. Robert Cusick, was also wounded. He ordered the rest of the team to fall back. Miller, however, knew he had the most

firepower out of all of his comrades, so he stayed in that forward position, crawling through the snow to draw the fire in his direction.

"Rob seemed to disappear into clouds of dust and debris, but his team could hear him on the radio, still calling out the enemy's position," President Barack Obama recounted at Miller's Medal of Honor ceremony. "They could hear his weapon still firing as he provided cover for his men."

Miller continued to move from position to position until he was shot and killed.

His team heard his gun fall silent over the radio, Obama's remarks stated. So, two of his teammates rushed forward to find him and be by his side for his last moments. They were

soon forced back by more enemy fire, but after several more hours, the detachment was finally able to bring the 24-year-old's body out of the valley.

Five coalition force members were injured that day, but thanks to Miller's extraordinary efforts, 15 Afghan soldiers and seven members of his own team made it out alive.

According to post-battle intelligence reports, of the more than 40 insurgents killed and roughly 60 who were wounded that day, Miller was credited with killing 16 and injuring more than 30.

Miller's body was returned to the U.S. and buried with full military honors in All Faiths Memorial Park in Casselberry, Florida. At his funeral, one of his friends referred to him as "a loyal friend, a caring brother and son and a great patriot."

On Oct. 6, 2010, Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Miller's parents, Philip and Maureen, during a White House ceremony. More than 100 of the Soldier's friends, family and fellow Soldiers attended.

"He loved what he was doing, and he was very good at it," Miller's father said at the time. "He was extremely enthusiastic about it, and it was very clear he really embraced the work, the mission and the people he worked with, American and Afghan."

"When we learned about see Miller, page 5

Members revealed for base-naming commission

by David Vergun,
DOD News

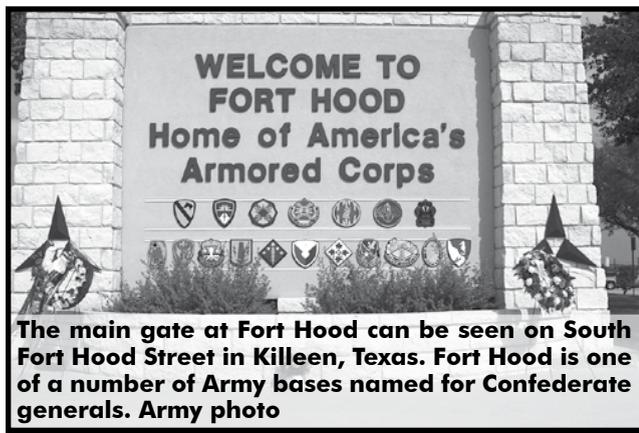
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III announced Feb. 12 the Defense Department's representation to the Congressionally-mandated commission on the naming of items in the department that commemorate the Confederacy.

"I'm pleased to announce today the names of four outstanding leaders who have agreed to serve," he said in a statement.

Retired Navy Adm. Michelle Howard; retired Marine Corps Gen. Bob Neller; Dr. Kori Schake, director of Foreign & Defense Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute; and retired Army Brig. Gen. Ty Seidule, emeritus professor of history, U.S. Military Academy, will serve on what's commonly called the Confederate Base Naming Commission.

"Each of these individuals possesses unique and relevant experience in and out of government that I know will inform this important effort. I am enormously grateful for their willingness to serve the nation again, and I thank them in advance for the wise counsel I am confident they will provide," Austin stated.

"I also thank the Congress for



The main gate at Fort Hood can be seen on South Fort Hood Street in Killeen, Texas. Fort Hood is one of a number of Army bases named for Confederate generals. Army photo

establishing this process, and I continue to pledge my personal commitment - and that of the department - to making sure it succeeds. I look forward to seeing the results of the commission's work in the months ahead," he said.

Task force looks to prioritize, synchronize DOD response to China

(DOD NEWS SERVICE) -DOD's China Task Force will examine all the DOD activities relating to what Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III calls America's "pacing challenge" to ensure they are synchronized, prioritized and coordinated to the greatest extent possible.

Ely Ratner will lead the 15-member panel as it seeks to examine all the department's policies with regard to China. President Joe Biden announced the task force during a visit to the Pentagon Feb 10.

China is a rising power and is challenging the U.S. and its allies in many parts of the world. From the Horn of Africa to South America to throughout the Indo-Pacific, China is asserting its growing influence in ways that often undermine the established international order that has maintained peace since the end of World War II.

The task force will identify the most important challenges and opportunities for the secretary, Ratner said. The team will also rank and organize priorities and examine whether there are enough resources or attention devoted to them. The team has four months to deliver its findings.

"The initial period of the task force will be an assessment, where the members of the team will be spanning out across the department, doing a little bit of a listening tour to hear what the various components are identifying as their top initiatives, top priorities and challenges," Ratner said. "Then it'll be incumbent upon the task force to distill those down to a discrete set of top priorities, and spend a period of time trying to identify what are the right mechanisms to address, review and implement various areas."

U.S.-India exercise

In other news from Feb. 12, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby announced the start of an important exercise with India. The announcement was

made during a Pentagon press briefing Feb. 12.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas 20 kicked off in India. Sponsored by the U.S. Army Pacific, it involves about 250 U.S. military service members and 250 Indian soldiers and is designed to enhance combined interoperability capabilities through training and cultural exchange, Kirby said.

"This exercise continues to solidify the U.S.-India major defense partnership and advances cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific region," he added. Five of seven treaty alliances are in the Indo-Pacific region, Kirby mentioned. He said there's a "sharp focus" on that entire region, particularly with threats in the South China Sea.

Army

- ◆ Veteran faces 10 years for assault with handgun on Fort Hood
- ◆ Man gets 60 years in prison for 2018 slaying at Fort Stewart
- ◆ Army deploying 222 Soldiers to LA to support COVID-19 vaccine effort
- ◆ Fort Hood to receive \$1.65 billion for housing and child care, unit facilities

Navy

- ◆ Government, Naval Academy midshipman's attorney spar over free speech rights of military members

Air Force

- ◆ Trust in JBA security 'eroded' says base commander after gate breach, technology upgrades on the way
- ◆ Fighter squadron moves, range upgrades critical to ready pilots for peer combat, Rand says
- ◆ Air Force launching extremism review as DOD mulls problem
- ◆ Air Force reviewing support services amid suicides, COVID-19

- ◆ In wake of PT deaths, Air Force study probes link between sickle cell and extreme exertion

Marine Corps

- ◆ Female Marines who called out the Corps commend new postpartum policy
- ◆ Marine Corps now has a physical training handbook for pregnant Marines
- ◆ Light vehicles with long-range punch give Marines a better tank killer, general says

National Guard

- ◆ National Guard UH-60 Black Hawks will keep flying despite fatal crashes, Army says

Coast Guard

- ◆ Coast Guard receives newest fast-response cutter that will be homeported in Guam

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Contractor killed, nine injured in rocket attack on U.S. base in Kurdistan's capital

by Chad Garland,
Stars and Stripes

A rocket attack killed a civilian contractor and injured nine others, including a U.S. service member, at an airfield in Iraq's northern Kurdistan region Feb. 15, the military said.

Of 14 rockets fired, three 107mm rounds hit Irbil International Airport, Army Col. Wayne Marotto, a military spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, said Feb. 16 in a statement on Twitter. The slain contractor was not an American, he said.

contractors, Marotto said. Five Americans, including the service member, were being examined for concussions, he said.

The commercial airport shares space with a base for U.S. and other anti-Islamic State coalition troops.

Three civilians were injured by rockets that overflowed the base and hit residential areas, Kurdistan Regional Government officials said.

The small truck that fired them was found between Irbil and Gwer, a town about 30 miles to

the city's southwest, the region's Interior Ministry said in a statement Tuesday.

A similar vehicle was used in the last attack on the airport in September, it said. Such trucks involved in attacks elsewhere in the country are typically modified with dozens of concealed makeshift launchers and set to fire on a timer.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken pledged to support an Iraqi investigation and efforts to hold the perpetrators accountable, he said in a statement after a call

with Kurdish Prime Minister Masrour Barzani.

"We are outraged by today's rocket attack in the Iraqi Kurdistan region," Blinken said. "We express our condolences to the loved ones of the civilian contractor killed in this attack and to the

innocent Iraqi people and their families who are suffering these ruthless acts of violence."

The group Saraya Awliya al-Dam, whose name means "Guardians of Blood Brigades," claimed responsibility in a statement shared online.

They previously claimed several attacks on contractor convoys carrying U.S. military equipment and supplies, mostly in southern Iraq and near Baghdad, said Evan Kohlmann, one of the founders of the risk intelligence firm Flashpoint.

Security camera footage showed one explosion hit a busy road in a residential area, spraying fragments into the air. It was posted on Twitter by the news site Rudaw, which also reported that a rocket hit an apartment building and wounded two people.

Several videos online showed a large fire visible in the dark from hundreds of yards away. It was not immediately clear where the fire was located, but one area resident posted that it was on the edge of the airport.

Photos shared online also showed damaged cars, while other videos captured the sound of announcements at the U.S. Consulate General in Irbil telling personnel to seek cover away from windows and await further instructions.

The airfield was hit by a barrage of six rockets on Sept. 30, 2020, which officials have said were fired from a truck in nearby Nineveh province.

Attacks on bases housing U.S. forces, often using 107mm Katyusha rockets, have occurred frequently in the past two years, particularly in and around Baghdad, where they have also hit civilian areas near military and diplomatic facilities.

The U.S. has attributed the attacks to Shiite militias, which are backed by Iran and have pushed for the withdrawal of American troops, some 2,500 of which assist Iraqi security forces battling ISIS.

Following a rocket attack at a base near Kirkuk that killed a U.S. civilian contractor in late 2019, the Pentagon launched airstrikes on militia sites in Iraq and eastern Syria, leading to a series of escalations with the militias and Iran in early 2020.

The episode culminated with Tehran launching a dozen missiles at the Irbil airport and western Iraq's al Asad Air Base in January 2020, which wounded over 100 American troops.

The U.S. also retaliated with strikes on militia sites last March, after rockets that fell on Camp Taji killed two U.S. troops and a British medic, and wounded over a dozen others. The U.S. withdrew from Camp Taji last summer.

Two federally-supported vaccination sites open in California, more to follow

by C. Todd Lopez,
DOD News

Two federally-supported COVID-19 vaccination sites have opened in California - one in Los Angeles and the other in Oakland. While the Oakland site is primarily supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the site in Los Angeles is staffed by active-duty U.S. military personnel.

Air Force Gen. Glen D. VanHerck, commander of U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, said the community

vaccinations per day."

VanHerck said the site in Los Angeles - where people will be able to get COVID-19 vaccinations from active-duty military personnel - is a Type 1 site capable of administering as many as 6,000 vaccinations a day. The site is supported by a 222-person Type 1 team consisting of active-duty Army personnel who administer vaccinations and provide supervisory and pharmacy support.

In all, VanHerck said, FEMA has asked the Defense Depart-

teams in tranche 1 and 10 of each type of team in tranche 2. So far, the Type 1 team manning the vaccination site in Los Angeles, is the only one that has been deployed; the other 24 teams are on prepare-to-deploy orders.

"They haven't been given a tasking to deploy at this time," VanHerck said.

The sites in Los Angeles and Oakland are only the first. Additional sites are planned in Texas and New York, VanHerck said.

A 222-person Air Force Type 1 team will support a community vaccination center in Houston, while a 139-person Army Type 2 team will support a facility at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas. In Arlington, Texas, a 139-person Marine Corps Type 2 team will support community vaccinations at the AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park. All those sites should be running by Feb. 24, the general said.

In addition, about 280 service members will arrive Friday to support two centers in New York City. It's expected that a 139-person Navy Type 2 team will support a community vaccination center at York College in Queens, while a 139-person Air Force Type 2 team will support a community vaccination center at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. Those sites are also expected to be ready by Feb. 24, VanHerck said.

Robert J. Fenton Jr., the senior official performing the duties of FEMA administrator, said the two pilot sites in California and the follow-on sites in Texas and New York are designed to augment those states' vaccination efforts.

"We are committed to ensuring everyone who wants a vaccination can get one," he said.

"All along we worked with FEMA and the department. The target goal for this site was Feb. 16, and that was delivered on. The site is ramping up quickly ... it'll get towards 6,000 vaccinations per day."
- Air Force Gen. Glen D. VanHerck

vaccination center at California State University Los Angeles is impressive.

"All along we worked with FEMA and the department," he said during a teleconference on Tuesday. "The target goal for this site was Feb. 16, and that was delivered on. The site is ramping up quickly ... it'll get towards 6,000

ment for as many as 50 Type 1 teams to man similar sites that may open in the future, as well as 50 Type 2 teams. A Type 2 team consists of about 139 personnel and can administer 3,000 vaccinations per day.

Right now, the department has identified personnel to man 25 teams, including five Type 1

Total Navy Battle Force: 297
Ships underway
Deployed ships underway: 64
Non-deployed ships underway: 41
Total ships underway: 105
Ships deployed by fleet

Fleet Forces: 0	3rd Fleet: 2
4th Fleet: 2	5th Fleet: 19
6th Fleet: 13	7th Fleet: 60
Total: 96	

Where are our ships at sea

Based on Navy and public information, shown here are approximate positions of the Navy's deployed carrier strike groups and amphibious ready groups as of Feb. 8.

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VA San Diego Healthcare System celebrates 49 years of academic partnerships to improve the health of veterans and the nation

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SAN DIEGO - VA San Diego Healthcare System (VASDHS) announced Jan. 29 as part of its 75th anniversary commemoration of academic affiliations that it has trained over 1,600 of health professionals annually in collaboration with national academic affiliations.

VASDHS began partnering with the University of Southern California in 1972 to train medical students and has expanded to partner with 70 higher learning institutions since then. The future professionals trained under these academic affiliations are the nation's health care workforce pipeline who will go on to care for veterans and other patients in urban and rural communities across the U.S.

The commemoration is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' overall 75th anniversary

celebration of the Veterans Health Administration occurring throughout 2021.

"It is an honor to be a part of positive advancements and cutting-edge efforts serving those who served our nation. VASDHS takes pride in its academic partnership and achievements during the past 49 years," said Dr. Robert Smith, VASDHS director. "We look forward to continuing our partnerships that benefit us all with the passion to learn and power to heal."

During the pandemic, VA has worked with medical schools and programs across the country to utilize health professions trainees to care for Veterans virtually and in-person while completing their training requirements. The number of physician residents training in VA over the past year increased by more than 2,000

and, according to the American Association of Medical Colleges, applications to medical schools have increased by 18 percent for the upcoming 2021 academic year.

VASDHS recent and continuing participation in treating patients with COVID-19 and vaccinating Veterans demonstrates the unique benefits our partnerships provide for our Veterans and communities.

VA's academic mission began in 1946 with the adoption of Policy Memorandum No. 2, establishing a remarkable partnership between VA and its academic affiliates. Seventy-five years later, VA provides training to nearly 70 percent of all U.S. physicians. Approximately 120,000 health professions trainees help care for more than 9 million vets at clinical sites around the country.

Social Security Matters : How will my wife's benefits be affected by my state pension?

by Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I am 73 and receive a pension from my state's Police and Fire Pension Fund. I took a full pension, so my wife only gets a widow's pension when I die, and this is only a fraction of what my full pension is. I also get a small Social Security benefit, about \$95 a month, and that amount is prorated because of the amount of my state pension. My wife is 71 and receives a Social Security benefit of about \$600 a month. When I die, can she get a portion of my Social Security benefit? And will it increase since she will not be getting my full state pension? Signed: Retired Public Servant

Dear Retired: The state you live in is one of 26 which have opted for many state employees to not participate in the Federal Social Security program. As a result, your Social Security benefit, earned from work outside of your state employment, is reduced by your state pension. The

details of your state pension and what portion of that pension your wife will receive as your widow isn't what affects your, or your wife's Social Security benefit amount. Rather, the base amount of your current state pension is what affects your benefit, due to a rule known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

WEP is why your Social Security (SS) benefit is only \$95/month. WEP applies to your personal Social Security retirement benefit (earned from working outside of your state employment) and reduces your Social Security benefit due to your state pension, because neither you nor your state employer paid SS FICA taxes on your earnings. And since your personal SS retirement benefit is reduced by WEP, your wife's spousal benefit (not her widow's benefit) from you would also be reduced, although from the num-

bers you shared your wife isn't entitled to a spousal benefit.



Your wife's own SS retirement benefit from her own work record is not affected by WEP because WEP applies to your benefits only. And neither will your wife's SS survivor benefit as your widow be affected by your state pension, should you predecease her. If you die first, your wife will be eligible to collect, as her survivor benefit, 100% of the amount you were entitled to before your WEP reduction, if that amount is greater than the SS benefit she is entitled to on her own work record. And that would, again, be totally independent of whatever she

VA extends existing moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures and extends loan forbearance opportunities

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will extend the existing moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, as well as extend VA loan forbearance requests, to June 30, because of COVID-19.

The current moratorium extensions for evictions and foreclosures were set to end March 31.

"We will do everything in our power to help Veterans, their families, survivors and our caregivers get through this pandemic," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "The department's

receives from your State pension. In other words, your wife's Social Security benefit - her own SS benefit or her survivor benefit - will not be at all affected by your state pension.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor with the Association of Mature American Citizens. This article is intended for information purposes only and doesn't represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit the website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

moratorium and forbearance extensions support President Biden's Jan. 22 Executive Order to deliver economic relief to Americans amid the COVID-19 crisis by addressing economic hardships the Veteran community faces, through no fault of its own, during the ongoing pandemic."

VA borrowers experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can review VA guidance for borrowers at <https://benefits.va.gov/homeloans/cares-act-frequently-asked-questions.asp>, or call 877-827-3702 for additional information.

Chula Vista VA Clinic officially opened Oct. 19, 2020. This isn't an emergency clinic. Due to COVID-19 social distancing measures, access to the facility is by appointment only. Visitors aren't allowed at this time.

This clinic operates just like a doctor's office where patients are seen by scheduled appointment. To enroll, call (619) 409-1600. To make, change, or cancel an appointment, call (858) 552-7475 or (800) 331-8387. **865 3rd. Ave.**

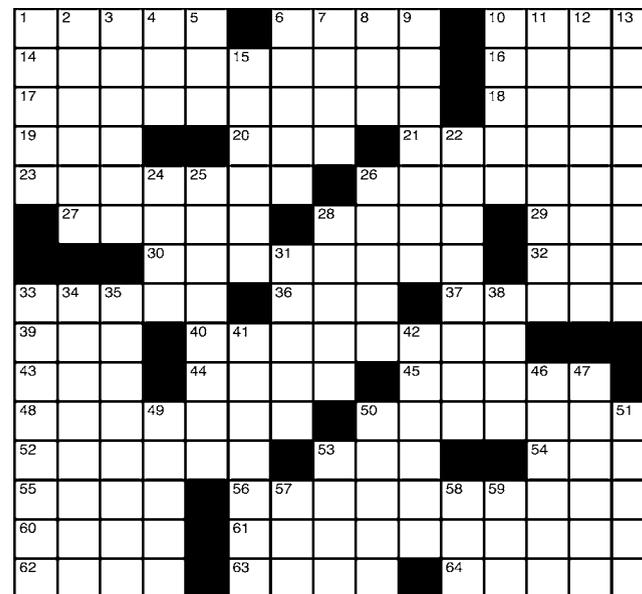
Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1 It's happening now
- 6 Controversial reading
- 10 Circumstance partner
- 14 Brain center associated with speech
- 16 '60s pop singer Sands
- 17 Borders of old, e.g.
- 18 First name in jazz
- 19 Abbr. on an invoice
- 20 Tech boss
- 21 Relating to the arrangement of atoms in space
- 23 Mealtime alert
- 26 Magic competition?
- 27 Give rise to
- 28 Rap's "Puffy" Combs
- 29 Head of Parliament?
- 30 '40s-'50s paranoia
- 32 Bud's bud
- 33 Judge in stripes
- 36 Anago or unagi
- 37 "___ that been done?"
- 39 2019 Uber landmark, briefly
- 40 Brought under control
- 43 Soup sometimes served with banh mi
- 44 Eastern brew
- 45 Bass-baritone Simon
- 48 "Time to move on"
- 50 Co-star of Cox and Kudrow
- 52 "No worries"
- 53 Behave
- 54 Co-star of Ethan in "Gattaca"
- 55 Without rocks
- 56 Mexican fare
- 60 "Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died" writer Bombeck
- 61 Latin American fare
- 62 Enervates
- 63 Certain farm, or one of its residents
- 64 Pesto ingredient

Down

- 1 Arafat's successor
- 2 Ads, e.g.
- 3 Pull from the ground, in Plymouth
- 4 Disgusted remark
- 5 Much of "Deck the Halls"
- 6 "The Python Years" diarist
- 7 Janis' comics mate
- 8 Casual brand
- 9 Milky Way cousin
- 10 Crony of Captain Bildad, in "Moby-Dick"
- 11 Construction sight
- 12 Quick getaway for newlyweds
- 13 Hipster's "Later"
- 15 Vote to support
- 22 "Between the World and Me" National Book Award winner Coates
- 24 Henry VIII's sixth
- 25 Affirms
- 26 Author Zora ___ Hurston
- 28 Director's unit
- 31 Quartz watch innovator
- 33 Rainforest explorers' aids
- 34 Transient things
- 35 Military training site
- 38 Red stingers
- 41 Bald babies?
- 42 Most of a tooth
- 46 Liszt's "Paganini ___"
- 47 Mogadishu native
- 49 Little bits
- 50 Needed a massage
- 51 Like "m" or "n," phonetically
- 53 Org. co-founded by Helen Keller
- 57 Surfer's setting
- 58 Alley-oop pass
- 59 Actress Gardner



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Miller continued from page 2

the details of what Robby had done to receive the Medal of Honor nomination, we weren't surprised, and we also weren't surprised at his reaction (in the field), because that was the sort of person he was — that's what his training taught him to do and be," Maureen Miller said. "I think the fact that he died doing something that he loved and thought was worthwhile was an important factor in helping us deal."

The Afghans who Miller saved wanted to honor him, too. ANA soldiers presented his parents with an Afghan rug. The couple has it hanging in their home as a symbol of their son's sacrifice

and the important partnership between the two countries.

In 2011, the commons area of Miller's high school was named Robert J. Miller Commons. In 2014, the 3rd Special Forces Group's headquarters building on Fort Bragg was also dedicated in his honor.

Miller is one of 18 men to have earned the nation's top award for valor during actions in Afghanistan.

This article is part of a weekly series called "Medal of Honor Monday," in which we highlight one of the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have earned the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.

Navy announces Meritorious Advancement Season One

by MC1 Mark D. Faram

The Navy has announced the calendar-year 2021 enlisted Meritorious Advancement Program's Season One, and with it, some new rules that commands need to be aware of.

These command-level advancements, known as MAP, the program accounts for 20 percent of all enlisted advancements each calendar year. It is a way for command triads to advance their most qualified Sailors ahead of each of the semi-annual Navy-wide Advancement Cycles.

This year, adjustments were made to the program to ensure closer coordination between MAP and the NWAE cycles, as well as special controls for some ratings to prevent overmanning in a particular paygrade. This will allow Sailors to be advanced through MAP, while also preserving advancement opportunity for those competing in the NWAE exam cycle.

The season and program changes were announced in NAVADMIN 035/21, released on Feb. 11.

In this cycle, Navy personnel officials will control the numbers of meritorious advancement approvals for Sailors in five rating and pay grade combinations, known as rates. These are BM3, ABF2, ABF1, ABH3 and ABH2.

"The decision to control these rates was made based on a variety of factors including low NWAE advancement opportunity, and a large proportion of the community's total advancements coming from MAP," wrote Vice Adm. John B. Nowell, Jr., the

Navy's chief of personnel.

Commands wishing to advance Sailors to any of these rates must request those approvals by routing a request through their Immediate Superior in Command (ISIC) and Type Commander (TYCOM) to their budget submitting office (BSO)/echelon II command. The template for packages can be found on the MAP homepage in MyNavy Portal. Details on how this process will work are in the NAVADMIN.

Due to positive Fleet feedback, the 45-day MAP execution window will be made permanent which has proved to be ample time for commands to request quotas and execute their MAP advancements. The window was reduced last year from 60 days due to the successful automation of the MAP process in the standard integrated personnel system.

Once the season starts, MAP quotas by Unit Identification Code (UIC) will be posted on MyNavy Portal. Go to <https://www.mnp.navy.mil/group/advancement-and-promotion/a-enlisted-advancement-resources-and-links>, then select the *Websites* tab in the blue banner.

Example forms and frequently asked questions can be downloaded via MyNavy Portal at <https://www.mnp.navy.mil/group/advancement-and-promotion/a-enlisted-advancement-resources-and-links>, then select the *Websites* tab in the blue banner. A list of points of contact for each Budget Submitting Office (BSO) and echelon II command as well as lists of parent and subordinate UICs can also be found on this website.

Leave victimhood behind

by Dr. Daneen Skube
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I've been trying to put out a million fires since the pandemic began and have no gas in my tank. I feel so guilty when people ask me to help and I don't pitch in. But, I'm not sleeping or eating well, and working ridiculous hours. How can I say no without feeling guilty?

A: Many people live their work and personal lives in the victim neighborhood which we could shorten to, "victimhood." I

INTERPERSONAL EDGE:

strongly recommend my readers and clients leave that neighborhood at the earliest possible moment but you'll have to be willing to feel guilty.

When we're victims of our own habit of self-sacrifice in the short run we avoid guilt. In the long run, our health and functioning collapse when we have nothing left to give. I've had clients truly committed to self-sacrifice that wouldn't stop until they ended up in the hospital.

Adults with a self-sacrifice habit underestimate the capacity and ability of those around them. I've had clients explain to me how all their co-workers, customers, family members and their organization would collapse without their constant self-sacrifice.

If you think about this theory most people that self-sacrifice have a grandiose belief in their importance. Most teams, organizations, and families do not collapse because one person stops doing everything. If you

keep doing all the work, you're training everyone around you to do less. The less others do the more you do and thus you create a vicious circle.

When you first venture to leave victimhood you'll feel awful about letting everyone around you be responsible for themselves. You'll believe you'll get fired, or be abandoned. However, slowly you'll discover you're valued for your contribution not your self-sacrifice.

Another downside to staying in victimhood is you'll get so angry about your decision to self-sacrifice that you'll end up blowing up. Be aware it's not the fault of others if you keep signing up for things you don't want to do. Getting verbally aggressive at people you chose to help and blaming them for your lack of boundaries just means they will stop being generous with you.

Yes, some people that have been enjoying the free ride will be disappointed or angry at you. Then these people will get over it and take care of their own responsibilities. The more you say, "no" to self-sacrifice the calmer, and more effective you'll be.

Many people that have a habit of victimhood had chaotic homes where, as children, they had to take care of their parents. As adults these people don't have boundaries about where their responsibilities stop and other people's responsibilities begin. Children raised with competent parents don't self-sacrifice because they didn't have to parent their parents as kids.

Your goal in 2021 is to practice listening to your gut on what you can and can't offer others. If someone asks for help and your gut twists just say, "no" Then breathe and remind yourself that you're dealing with other adults that are capable of taking care of themselves.

I promise you that you'll get over guilt but you will not get over self-sacrifice until you beat yourself into the dirt. Choose guilt and you'll find freedom and peace of mind.

The last word(s)

Q: I got my vaccine this week and cannot believe how much safer and happier I am. Is this yearlong war coming to an end?

A: Yes, this is the way a virus war ends quietly without fanfare with an effective vaccine. We can look forward to a solid uplift in our mental health as the wave of vaccinations expands.

Daneen Skube is executive coach, trainer, therapist and speaker.

Tour lengths increase for certain first-term overseas assignments

by Staff Sgt.
Jeremy L. Mosier

Effective March 1, Airmen and Guardians overseas tour lengths are now 36 months for first-term unaccompanied permanent as-

signments at certain overseas locations. Unaccompanied Airmen and Guardians, both enlisted and officers, who are on their first permanent duty assignment will serve 36 months at the following Pacific Air Forces and United States Air Forces in Europe locations:

U.S. AIR FORCE

(U.K.) RAF Mildenhall; RAF Lakenheath; RAF Alconbury; RAF Croughton; London, Men-

hof; Spangdahlem AB; (Japan) Kadena AB; Misawa AB; and Yokota AB.

An unaccompanied overseas tour is a tour served overseas without command-sponsored dependents when dependents are authorized at that location.

"During these moves, service members not only have to adjust to their new jobs, but also to a new culture and country, which takes

time," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services. "A 24-month tour was not adequate for our new Airmen and Guardians to thrive, nor was it enough time to

provide the continuity needed for the unit. The change was made to support the mission and to ensure our members receive a longer transitional period."

The new tour length provides the unit with more time to train and develop the service member, and it provides stability during the member's first few years in the Department of the Air Force, Kelly said.



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Benefiting scholarships for children and spouses of the Navy aviation community

Local Military

Base construction projects mean better facilities for warfighters

by Lance Cpl.
Angela Wilcox

CAMP PENDLETON - The past year has been one of operational and cosmetic upgrades for facilities here. Base patrons are no strangers to construction projects that often change the flow of traffic and road access during their commute. Some might wonder what the end goal of these projects are, and the answer to this lies in the mission to support the warfighter.

On Jan. 22, Marine Brig. Gen. Dan Conley, the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West/Camp Pendleton, toured three major construction projects currently underway on base. The purpose of the walkthrough was to provide insight on the progress and execution of facilities that will ultimately benefit Marines, Sailors and their families. Included in Conley's tour was the 13 Area Medical Clinic, the I Marine Expeditionary Force Consolidated

Information Center (I MEF CIC) and the 26 Area Fire Station.

Upon arrival at each site, Conley's team was briefed by the construction manager in charge of the project. The clinic, which services a large number of Marines and Sailors on base, will see a significant upgrade in size and capability by May 2022.

"The purpose is to consolidate a lot of the services offered on Mainside and to replace and enlarge the existing facility," said Napoleon Arcala, a construction manager with Camp Pendleton.

He said the facility will be just about doubled in size and will provide primary care, sports medicine, physical therapy, X-Ray capabilities as well as a drive through pharmacy window.

The I MEF CIC will integrate the base's information and intelligence communities. The facility will include battalion level operations center spaces, and

watch room with video-teleconference capability

The 26 Area Fire Station is a

new 15,285 square foot building to include administrative spaces, living quarters, changing areas, showers, laundry rooms, train-

ing facilities, storage spaces, a fitness room, kitchen facilities, a covered patio, maintenance areas, storage areas, and more

room for fire trucks. The project will overall improve the quality of life for the firefighters and the workflow at the station.



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MSCPAC Reservists complete Pacific Fury exercise

by Sarah Burford,
Military Sealift Command Pacific

Navy Reservists from Military Sealift Command completed the recent Pacific Fury exercise in San Diego.

Eleven MSC Reservists, nine from Military Sealift Command Pacific Headquarters Unit, participated in a week of simulated, contingency scenarios during the "Table Top" exercise. The exercise focused on a simulated war scenario, with MSC coordinating combat logistics services to Navy forces. The Reservists served as watch standers and as liaisons between MSCPAC, 3rd Fleet, and Pacific Fleet.

According to Lt. Bryan Ross, MSCPAC HQ Unit's administration officer, exercises like Pacific Fury provide an ideal training environment for members of the unit to learn, ask questions and interact with civilian team members within MSC, and with fleet commands such as 3rd Fleet, who they would work with in a real operation.

"An exercise, like the one we just completed, gives us a better understanding of what goes into an operation," said Ross. "We worked with a lot of different people and departments, and we were able to see how they do business and provide services and it gave us a better understanding of how we need to work with them to make our piece of an operation work smoothly, seamlessly and quickly. When the fleet asks for this or that, we are able to get them what they need, and we can understand how to connect the dots and make it happen."

For Reservists, coming into an already existing team, such as MSCPAC's Operations Department, can be challenging. Not being a part of the day to day rhythm, or understanding the process by which the team does business, means a learning curve for the reservist, but it is something they, as Reservists anticipated and were ready to tackle; something they strive for, as their goal is to be ready to step into an active role on day one of an operation.

"Communication was a challenge," said Ross. "Information flows down, and you have to figure out how to get it, where it needs to go. Communication is always an issue with these kinds of

exercises, and we understand that going in. We have to constantly adapt to the changing environment and to work with the existing team, and not against it."

As the Reservists look forward to ending their support of Pacific Fury, they admit they are walking away with a lot of lessons learned and an appreciation for how multiple commands and departments come together to make a Navy operation work and succeed.

"Overall, I feel that we walk-out of something like Pacific Fury with a better understanding of how the fleet works, and how MSC works in a conflict," said Ross. "Overall, I think this was a good experience. This was the perfect way to figure out what works and what doesn't work, and to improve on it for future operations."

Following completion of the exercise, Capt. Kendal Bridgewater, Military Sealift Command Pacific's commanding officer, took a few moments to recognize the MSCPAC HQ Unit's hard work and dedication to the team.

"Having our Reservists here, participating alongside our active duty and civilian personnel in this exercise, is always a great opportunity for us to learn from each other and for the MSCPAC team to identify and close any gaps in our operational model," said Bridgewater. "Our Reservists commitment, professionalism and dedication to the Navy and to MSC are a great asset to us. An exercise like Pacific Fury, allows us to work together, to learn from each other, and to make us a more cohesive unit for future operations in support of our Navy. Job well done!"

Pacific Fury is a training exercises that focuses on joint training integration among U.S. forces. It was designed to exercise Pacific Command headquarters staff and command components in a real world, operational level of war scenario.



The 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black, tours VMFA-314, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (top and middle photos), and speaks with Staff Non-Commissioned Officers (bottom photo). The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps conducted the visit to speak to Marines, especially those that work on the newest Marine aviation platform, the F-35. Marine Aircraft Group 11 generates, embarks, and integrates relevant, combat ready aviation forces capable of providing Offensive Air Support, Anti-Aircraft Warfare, Assault Support, Aerial Reconnaissance, and terminal area Control of Aircraft.

Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Victoria Ross



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR
Feb. 11, 2021



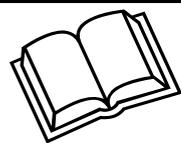
Coronavirus revisits Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier

STARS AND STRIPES - Three Sailors have contracted the coronavirus on the same aircraft carrier where an outbreak of the disease last year led to the firing of the skipper and the resignation of the secretary of the Navy.

USS *Theodore Roosevelt* Sailors have not experienced symptoms and are isolated on the ship, the Navy said Tuesday. Those who have had recent contact with the sailors are now quarantining.

"The ship is following an aggressive mitigation strategy in accordance with Navy and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines to include mandatory mask wearing, social distancing and proper hygiene and sanitation practices," a Navy statement said. "U.S. Pacific Fleet is committed to taking every measure possible to protect the health of our force."

Theodore Roosevelt last week joined USS *Nimitz* in the South China Sea for a rare dual-carrier exercise. Despite the three Sailors testing positive, the ship "is currently underway and remains fully operational," according to the statement.



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CNO message to the fleet regarding extremism

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday issued a statement to the fleet regarding extremist behavior in the Navy, Feb. 9.

Shipmates, I am certain the vast majority of men and women in the United States Navy serve with honor, character, and integrity. But we cannot be under any illusions that extremist behaviors do not exist in our Navy.

Just in the past few weeks, there have been two separate incidents where symbols of hate and violence were anonymously left in living areas aboard ships in our Fleet. The chain of command took both of those incidents seriously and immediately launched investigations, which are ongoing.

But there is more we must do, together, because these symbols are contrary to our Navy culture, core values, and warfighting effectiveness.

As directed by the Secretary of Defense and across the Fleet, each command will conduct a stand down by April 6, 2021, to address extremism within our ranks. We must better understand the scope of the problem, get after this issue, and eliminate conduct that is driven by extremist beliefs. No doubt, this is a leadership is-

sue. We will own this.

As a Navy uniform and civilian, active and reserve - we cannot tolerate extremist behavior of any kind, and must engage in open and honest conversations with each other and take action. Leaders at all levels must lead by example. You must set the tone. You must model correct behavior 24/7/365 in person and online.

We also have a responsibility to educate, and inspire those in the Navy, those coming into the Fleet, and those leaving our service that extremist behavior is unacceptable. Hate and extremist ideology are wedges that divide us. These actions stoke resentment and tear others down. That's the opposite of how we will treat each other as shipmates. We build each other

up, we encourage each other, and we celebrate our shipmates' success.

If we don't eliminate extremist behaviors from our Navy, then racism, injustice, indignity, and disrespect will grow and continue to keep us from reaching our potential - an inclusive, respectful, professional fighting force that answers the Nations call. If we must first question the intentions of our shipmate standing the watch with us, now, and especially, when taking fire, we will fail when the Nation needs us most in combat.

Some Sailors may think their voices do not matter right now, or feel frustrated seeking to be seen and heard. But let me be clear, each of your voices matter.

This stand-down is another in our efforts to listen, to learn, and to improve.

Now is the time for us to come together and be guided by a strong moral compass. We must eliminate extremist behavior and its corrosive effects on our fighting force. And we must remember that we swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution above all else.

Today, and every day, our Navy must be a shining example of an organization centered on respect, inclusive of all.

Simply put, we must demand of each other that we treat everyone with dignity and respect. That is how we will become a stronger Navy.



PACIFIC OCEAN
Feb. 15, 2021

Carrier Air Wing 17 performs a flyby as an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter displays the national ensign during an air power demonstration alongside Nimitz aircraft carrier. Navy photo by MC3 Cheyenne Geletka



CAMP PENDLETON
Feb. 5, 2021

The 1st Marine Division band march during the Division's 80th anniversary ceremony at. Veterans and active duty Marines and Sailors who served in the division attended the ceremony. Photo by Cpl. Jailine L. AliceaSantiago



The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by
Lisa
Smith
Molinari

Recently, the reputation of the military has been tarnished by Capitol riot reports indicating that a significant number of those arrested have served. Although extremism in the ranks is not a new problem, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin saw the riot as a "wake up call." On February 3rd, Austin ordered a 60-day stand-down for all military commanders to meet with troops to discuss racism and extremism.

Even though "DOD policy expressly prohibits military personnel from actively advocating supremacist, extremist or criminal gang doctrine, ideology or causes," the mandatory stand-down is an aggressive step in figuring out why one in three active service members reported evidence of white supremacy and/or extremism within their units in a 2019 poll, up from the previous year.

I applaud the aggressive stance being taken by DoD leadership. Racism and violence has no place in our military. Regardless of statistics, even one bigot or extremist in our incredibly diverse and talented service is one too many.

However, while reading reports on the Capitol attack, I've been disheartened that the idiocy of a few has damaged the reputation of 1.3 million active duty and 18 million veterans. As a Navy spouse whose husband served proudly for 28 years, I know that "guilt by association"

Extremism: Don't throw the honorable out with the bathwater

affects the morale of military family members, too.

It doesn't take a military strategist to figure out that an all-volunteer force is only effective if — in a country where less than one-half of one percent of the population is willing to serve — the risk-reward proposition offers positive recognition. However, some reporting on the military-connected Capitol rioters have failed to mention that the vast majority of men and women who serve do so honorably.

In fact, a few have implied that military folks are not to be trusted at all.

As a military-connected person, I consume news with a filter—I know that these implications play into an uninformed public perception of military as Rambo-type nationalists waving rebel flags. The military families I've known over three decades are overwhelmingly decent, diverse, law-abiding, thoughtful people.

But on Jan. 18, as 25,000 National Guard troops were assembling to protect the Capitol Building, the President-elect, Congress and all those gathering for Inauguration Day; U.S. Representative Steve Cohen said in a CNN interview, "The [National] Guard is 90-some-odd percent male... they're probably not more than 25-percent of the people that are protecting us who voted for Biden. The other 75-percent ... might want to do something." When CNN reporter Jim Scutto asked if Cohen had seen any evidence of insider threats in the military, he said, "Actually not, Jim, but you draw a circle ... the people who were for Trump and not for Biden, ... the zone of folks who you'd be suspect of. The suspect group is large."

Although Cohen was immediately hit with wide-spread criticism for his inaccurate statements, I wondered, "How many watched that CNN morning show and believed what they heard?"

Then, on the January 21 episode of "All Things Considered," NPR reported that twenty percent of defendants in Capitol riots cases served in the military.

My heart sank. Can this be true?

Not quite.

On the Feb. 10 episode of "Morning Edition," NPR claimed that 31 of 212 defendants are "military veterans [who] account for about 15% of those criminally charged in the Capitol riot." However, NPR's searchable database indicates that they skewed their own statistics to fit the insider-threat narrative.

NPR lumped two law enforcement defendants with no military service into the pool of 31 "military" defendants and included three veterans who were only arrested for violating the 6:00 pm city curfew. One veteran was not at the Capitol building, but was charged for allegedly threatening statements he made on social media afterwards. Another "veteran" had enlisted in the Marines but separated during basic training. Only two defendants are serving currently, both in the Army Reserves.

Details are important when the morale of millions who serve our country honorably is at stake. Reckless statements by pundits, politicians and the media may play into the fears of the misinformed, but they do nothing to serve truth and justice.

AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

The debate over benefits vs. liabilities of autonomous vehicles is not just on the ground. As you'll now see, it takes on a whole new perspective up in the air, and even beyond.

I recently read an article about a technologically advanced new version of the F-15 fighter jet, in which deliveries will soon commence to the Air Force, to replace some of their very old F-15 aircraft (https://www.engadget.com/boeing-f-15ex-182417866.html?utm_source=sailthru#comments).

The article prompted a particularly spirited, controversial discussion and debate in the comments section, about the need for human pilots to physically be in the jets, as opposed to piloting them remotely. While cost/benefit analyses and safeguarding the lives of military pilots suggest that this is the better way to go, there are also issues of morality to consider.

Some of you fellow old-timers might remember a particular episode of the original 1960s Star Trek TV series that could provide helpful insight into this moral debate.

As I recall that episode, two neighboring planets had been at war with each other for generations. Thanks to technological advances, their never-ending conflict had long since evolved beyond actually fighting with each other in person. Instead they had their technology do that virtually, so as to prevent immediate harm to any of their people, and physical damage to any-

The philosophical debate over autonomous vehicles is up in the air

thing. Their being so removed from the violence of war also minimized disruption to their daily lives and economies, keeping things rolling along.

The results of their virtual military confrontations were tallied up, and then predetermined citizens of each of the warring planets voluntarily walked into dematerialization chambers, thus ensuring very real, but sterile, outcomes to their virtual encounters on the battlefield.

The conflict continued for generations, becoming the societies' normal way of life, until the crew of USS Enterprise intervened, forcing the warring parties to suffer immediate, severe consequences of their battles.

Faced with these additional, serious consequences of their conflict, the two societies soon saw the folly in fighting remotely. They decided to end their war soon thereafter.

As the saying goes, "War is hell." Keeping it that way is a powerful deterrent to war.

So, how does that relate to a discussion about autonomous automobiles? Let's assume that the required technology will be mature and reliable.

Just as in Star Trek's warring planets episode, there will impacts on society, and perhaps unintended consequences, to consider. The artificial intelligence of the technology did not account for (or even consider) the psychological and emotional effects on the people. When people are in control of their destiny in life or death situations, they may not make the same decisions that a cold, calculating, unfeeling, algorithm-dependent AI would.

In a particularly dire, developing situation that will likely culminate in

a serious, potentially life-threatening driving accident, there may be no good, obvious, easy choices. Would a human driver make the same choices about whose life is more important that an AI might make?

Recall the "Captain Dunsel" episode of Star Trek during the 2268 war games test of the M-5 Multitronic Unit, a computer took over all ship's operations and controlled all maneuvers of USS Enterprise, with disastrous consequences. FYI, Captain Dunsel described a part that serves no useful purpose (<https://memory-alpha.fandom.com/wiki/Dunsel>).

In SAE Level 5 automotive autonomy, vehicles — without so much as a steering wheel — will be able to drive themselves in all driving environments and at all times, with no input or oversight from their human occupants. Even though such sophisticated self-driving autonomy would significantly reduce traffic accidents, would you be okay with giving up your control of the driving for the greater good? At what point might we give up so much of our ability to do things ourselves — to be in control of our own destinies — that we might become irrelevant, like Captain Dunsel, essentially conceding that our AI machines would do a better job than we could? At what point should we say "enough is enough"?

Let us seriously consider the unintended consequences, while we still have a say in the matter. This may be a slippery slope, from which there may be no turning back — a point of no return. What say you?

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Resources for pet families from the San Diego Humane Society

Community Pet Pantry, Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-6pm
San Diego Humane Society's Community Pet Pantry provides free pet food to families in need. Community members may come to our El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego campuses six days a week to pick up dry cat or dog food in addition to other supplies as available. Learn More: <https://secure.sdhumane.org/site/R?i=stGf5UloHsMjN4UpQTrL3A>

Virtual Scout Programs, Ongoing, \$40 per troop
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Seniors can get help from Goodwill to set up a vaccine appointment

Goodwill Employment Center Career Advisors are available to assist San Diego County senior citizens set up a vaccine appointment with local health centers.

Goodwill Career Advisors want to provide San Diego senior citizens, 65 and older, with assistance securing a vaccine appointment. Many local seniors find themselves challenged by technology and access to technology. In an effort to simplify the appointment setting process, Career Advisors are available by phone to help.

Reach Community Employment Centers by phone Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm.

- Chula Vista 619-207-0386
- Escondido 760-739-0600
- Oceanside 760-722-8582
- Point Loma 619-225-9483
- San Ysidro 619-271-3896

Goodwill uses the revenue generated from the sale of donated goods at its retail stores, outlets and clearance center to fund job training programs, employment services, and community resources. Goodwill San Diego has been Making Good Happen since 1930. Visit sdgoodwill.org for more information.

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Fleet and Family Support Center information FFSC is here for you with workshops and events

Fleet and Family Support Centers (NBSD, Bldgs 259, 263, 271) are here on phone, email, social media and webinar to support you "virtually" during the COVID crisis. Even though we are not opening our doors to walk in clients yet, we are one phone call or email away.

To schedule an appointment in NRSW call 1-866-923-6478. We are available Monday-Friday 0730-1630.

Fleet and Family Support Centers provides services such as relocation assistance, new parent support, deployment services, clinical counseling services, financial management counseling, family employment services, family advocacy and the transition assistance programs.

Visit our pages to find out more (<https://sandiego.navylifesw.com/> click on Fleet & Family on light blue bar near the top of the page)

- Career Services
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- Disaster Preparedness
- Exceptional Family Member
- Family Programs
- Financial Management
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- Relocation Support
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NMCS D recognizes Low Vision Awareness Month

by Seaman Luke Cunningham
Naval Medical Center San Diego
SAN DIEGO – Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) recognizes Low Vision Awareness Month throughout the month of February.

Low vision is a condition in which eyesight can not be corrected with glasses, medication or surgery.

According to the National Eye Institute (NIH), approximately 12 million Americans have low vision-related conditions such as glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy. Someone may be experiencing low vision symptoms if they have trouble reading, driving, recognizing people's faces, telling colors apart or seeing a television or computer screen clearly.

The NIH adds that the type of low vision that one may experience depends on the disease or condition that caused it. The most common types of low vision are central vision loss, or being unable to see things in the



**LOW
VISION
AWARENESS
M O N T H
F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 1**



“Patients suffering from an impaired vision condition may experience an improved quality of life with a low-vision exam beyond what a normal pair of eyeglasses can provide.”

— Lieutenant Commander Mike Buyske, optometrist

NMCS D's number one priority is providing the safest, highest quality patient-centered medical care for our veterans, service members and their families. NMCS D is committed to operational readiness, outstanding customer service and always delivering world-class health care. U.S. Navy graphic by MC3 Luke Cunningham.

center of your vision, peripheral vision loss, being unable to see things out of the corners of your eyes, night blindness, difficulty seeing in low light and blurry or hazy vision.

Low vision is usually permanent, but may be prevented or improved if assessed early.

“Many causes of low vision can be treated or halted if found early,” said Cmdr. James Zimmerman, a retinal specialist assigned to NMCS D. “Lives can be improved by seeking treatment.”

Taking precautionary measures may also help prevent or hinder low vision-related illnesses.

“Outside of annual eye exams, there are ways to promote good eye health,” said Lt. Julia Castrovina, an optometrist assigned to NMCS D. “Protecting your eyes from harmful ultraviolet rays, not smoking and eating a healthy diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids and antioxidants are a few ways to take care of your eyes

and prevent low vision-related illnesses.”

NMCS D offers services for patients suffering with impaired vision that may improve their quality of life beyond what a normal pair of eyeglasses can provide.

NMCS D's mission is to prepare service members to deploy in support of operational forces, deliver high-quality healthcare services and shape the future of military medicine through education, training and research. NMCS D employs more than 6,000 active duty military personnel, civilians and contractors in Southern California to provide patients with world-class care anytime, anywhere.

Visit navy.mil or [facebook.com/NMCS D](https://www.facebook.com/NMCS D) for more information.

Research program leads DOD participation in STORM CHASER study

by Zachary Willis,
Uniformed Services University
While COVID-19 vaccinations are currently being distributed across the world to begin the process of reining in the pandemic, the threat of contracting the virus remains, and the population still waiting on vaccinations continues to be at risk of infection. However, help may be on the horizon by way of STORM CHASER, a study led in the Military Health System by the Uniformed Services University's Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program.



Wesley Robb-McGrath, a Henry M. Jackson Foundation clinical research coordinator with the Uniformed Services University's Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program, draws a blood sample at Madigan Army Medical Center, Wash. Madigan AMC is one of five DOD sites for the STORM CHASER study.

STORM CHASER, which stands for Study To Optimally Reduce Morbidity in Care Homes And Sites with Enhanced Risk, seeks to find out if COVID-19 could be prevented in those who have recently been exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 infection by administering an intramuscular monoclonal antibody within eight days of exposure and not yet symptomatic.

If successful, the product could be beneficial for those in high-risk circumstances, such as health care workers, those with COVID-19-positive household members, and restaurant workers. Those receiving the antibody could see immediate immunity and up to six months of protection from COVID-19 from a single dose.

But how do monoclonal antibody products differ from the vaccines currently being developed and administered?

“Vaccines require time to pro-

duce antibodies,” said Dr. Simon Pollett, an infectious disease physician and IDCRP lead for the STORM CHASER trial, “and thus do not offer immediate protection against COVID-19 when given after a SARS-CoV-2 exposure. The antibody product may provide very rapid protection against COVID-19 because it is given while the virus is incubating.”

The antibody therapy is administered via two shots during a single visit to study participants in their gluteal muscles. The scientists are also looking at whether viral shedding, which makes the individual with the virus contagious to others, will be reduced in those who get COVID-19 after receiving the antibody therapy.

Currently, the multinational STORM CHASER study is being conducted at multiple sites including five Defense Department facilities — Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii, Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington, William Beaumont Medical Center in Texas, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia, and the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland. IDCRP is coordinating the study across all five DOD sites.

Study teams at these sites are made up of active duty and/or GS/contractor physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and clinical research staff. Principal investigators for each site are Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jeffrey Livezey at the Uni-

formed Services University, Army Col. (Dr.) Viseth Ngauy at Tripler AMC, Army Col. (Dr.) Anjali Kunz at Madigan AMC, Dr. Gina Kubicz at William Beaumont AMC, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. (Dr.) Tida K. Lee at NMC Portsmouth.

“Those who have recently been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and who are eligible for care

in the Military Health System [including active duty service members] are potentially eligible to participate in this study at the five DOD sites,” said Navy Capt. (Dr.) Timothy Burgess, IDCRP director.

STORM CHASER is set to run for one year, with primary analyses likely occurring much earlier in 2021.

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Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class
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NMCS D

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\$234 Mo. + Tax



MSRP \$27,298. Security deposit \$0. Due at signing \$1999. Lease for 36 Months, Residual \$18,133.70. Military Rebate \$500. 10,000 miles per year. Tier 1 Credit Needed to Qualify. 3 at this price.

2021 SUBARU OUTBACK PREMIUM CVT Option Pkg 11

\$285 Mo. + Tax



MSRP \$30,834. Security deposit \$0. Due at signing \$1999. Lease for 36 Months, Residual \$19,117.08. Military Rebate \$500. 10,000 miles per year. Tier 1 Credit Needed to Qualify. 3 at this price.



SUBARU

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All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Offer expires 2/28/21.



#1 2020 VOLUME BUICK DEALER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SOUTH COUNTY
BUICK | GMC

2021 Buick Encore GX

\$227 PER MO. + TAX



Satin Steel Metallic.

\$1995 Drive off. 36 months @ \$227 mo. + tax. 10,000 miles per year. This includes \$2000 Conquest Rebate (Must have a non GM Lease). Stk #3210033, Vin #MB051383.

2021 GMC TERRAIN SLE Elevation Package

\$223 PER MO. + TAX



\$1995 Drive off. 36 months @ \$223 mo. + tax. 10,000 miles per year. Rebate of \$1350. Plus this includes \$1500 Conquest Rebate (Must have a non GM Lease). Stk #3210113, Vin #ML332250.

2020 Buick Encore GX

ONLY \$22,800

Plus tax & fees.



Burnished Bronze Metallic. MSRP \$28,300, Discount \$ 2,000, Customer Cash \$3,500. Buick & GMC Conquest Rebate (Must have a non GM Lease). Stk #320298, Vin #LB112588.

2021 GMC ACADIA SLE Elevation Package

\$285 PER MO. + TAX



\$1995 Drive off. 36 months @ \$285 mo. + tax. 10,000 miles per year. Rebate of \$3000. Plus this includes \$1000 Conquest Rebate (Must have a non GM Lease). Stk #3210128, Vin #MZ147605.

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