

ARMED FORCES DISPATCH

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San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Dispatch www.armedforcesdispatch.com 619.280.2985
Serving active duty and retired military personnel, veterans and civil service employees

SIXTY-SECOND YEAR NO. 45
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022



NELLIS TAKEOFF - An F-22 Raptor takes off for a weapons school integration mission from Nellis Air Force Base earlier this month. Nellis AFB, a part of the Air Force's Air Combat Command, is located approximately eight miles northeast of Las Vegas. The base itself covers more than 14,000 acres, while the total land area occupied by Nellis and its restricted ranges is about 5,000 square miles. US Air Force photo by Senior Airman Zachary Rufus

Naval Base Ventura County reinstitutes masks indoors

by Ensign Drew Verbis

Naval Base Ventura County
POINT MUGU - On Dec. 23, Navy leadership at Navy Region Southwest in San Diego and at Navy facilities in Ventura County began requiring all personnel to again wear masks indoors.

NBVC is following the mandated instructions referenced in the Consolidated Department of Defense (DoD) Coronavirus Disease 2019 Force Health Protection Guidance (29 Aug 22) which requires mask indoors when the community level is at 'High' per CDC guidance.

According to the *Ventura County Star*, base officials said they followed the Centers for Disease Control guidance and resumed the mandate Dec. 23 when the community level was considered "high." The county's average seven-day case rate was 14 per 100,000 and the number of hospitalizations stood at 72, according to the most recent Ventura County Public Health data published last Thursday.

Officials said in a news release last Tuesday they would monitor community levels and rescind the mandate when community levels dropped below high. The mask requirement covers the base facilities at Point Mugu, Port Hueneme and San Nicolas Island.



US Navy photo by Ensign Drew Verbis

DoD increases child care fees

The Defense Department implemented annual changes to the Child Development Program Fee Policy and restructured total family income categories which determine child care fees. The policy change includes fee increases necessary to ensure the department's ability to find and keep skilled child care staff and to continue providing quality care for military children. The DOD recognizes that in order to find and retain skilled staff and continue providing quality child care for military families, changes to the policy that guide child care fees are necessary to enhance recruitment and retention efforts. "Most families will see a change in child care fees, but we also know our families understand the importance of ensuring the DOD is able to attract the best employees from local labor markets," said Stacey Young, director of the Office of Military Family Readiness Policy.

Marine killed in Iraq in non-combat incident

A Marine died in Iraq this week as part of Operation Inherent Resolve, the Defense Department announced. Staff Sgt. Samuel D. Lecce was supporting the operation when he died from a non-combat related incident, defense officials said. Lecce, 32, was from eastern Tennessee, near Knoxville, the department said. He was based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., as part of the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion of the Marine Forces Special Operations Command. Operation Inherent Resolve was established in 2014 to fight the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Navy Cross awarded to Korean War veteran

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro awarded the Navy Cross to Capt. E. Royce Williams (Navy-Ret.) for his actions on November 18, 1952. This is an upgrade of the Silver Star Medal previously awarded to then-Lt. Williams on May 7, 1953, for his actions during the Korean War where he led a division of three fighter planes against seven enemy MiG-15s. "Having reviewed the findings of now numerous investigations related to the case of Capt. Royce Williams, I have determined this case to be special and extraordinary," said Del Toro

Pay raise, security programs highlight National Defense Authorization Act

by Jim Garamone
DOD News

President Joe Biden has signed the Fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act into law allotting \$816.7 billion to the Defense Department.

The act means a 4.6 percent pay raise for military and civilian members of the department, and includes \$45 billion more than originally requested to counter the effects of inflation and to accelerate implementation of the National Defense Strategy.

The act also authorizes \$30.3 billion for national security programs in the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and \$378 million for other defense-related activities.

Although inflation has been

dropping, the act authorizes \$12.6 billion for inflation impacts on purchases. It also funds \$3.8 billion more to account for inflation in military construction. It is a testament to the size of the agency that the act authorizes \$2.5 billion for inflation impacts on DOD fuel purchases.

One of the more contentious items in the act is requiring the defense secretary to rescind the mandate that members of the armed forces be vaccinated against COVID-19. "The department will fully comply with the law," DOD officials said. "DOD remains committed to the health and safety of the force and to ensuring we are ready to execute our mission at all times."

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III ordered the mandate

on August 24, 2021. The COVID-19 vaccinations have been successful. Some 98 percent of active duty service members and 96 percent of the total force have been vaccinated. Since April, only two service members have died from COVID-19.

Austin argued that the mandate is necessary to protect military readiness, and he has been clear in his support for maintaining it. Still, Congress has spoken and the department will fully comply with the NDAA, officials said.

On the personnel side, the act authorizes additional funding to address the effects of inflation on compensation. It also puts in place language allowing more service members to qualify for the basic needs allowance by increasing the eligibility thresh-

old and allowance size from 130 percent of the federal poverty line to 150 percent. The act authorizes the defense secretary to increase this benefit to 200 percent of the poverty line when appropriate.

The act increases bonuses and special pay for service members in qualifying career fields. The act also looks to give recruiters a tool to revive and extend temporary authority for targeted recruitment incentives.

DOD officials have said that roughly one-third of spouses must obtain new professional licenses every time they move to a new state. The act expands the scope of financial reimbursement related to spouse relicensing and business costs arising from a permanent change of station.

see **NDAA, page 4**

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Career Advice

In Interpersonal Edge this week ... Strategic timing for new ventures

See page 8

Base Movie Schedule

Devotion, I Wanna Dance With Somebody, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, Strange World

See page 10

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General Public Can Attend

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- Arrange to be escorted in on race morning by an authorized base patron.
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- Visit <https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org> and click the event link for full details & pricing.



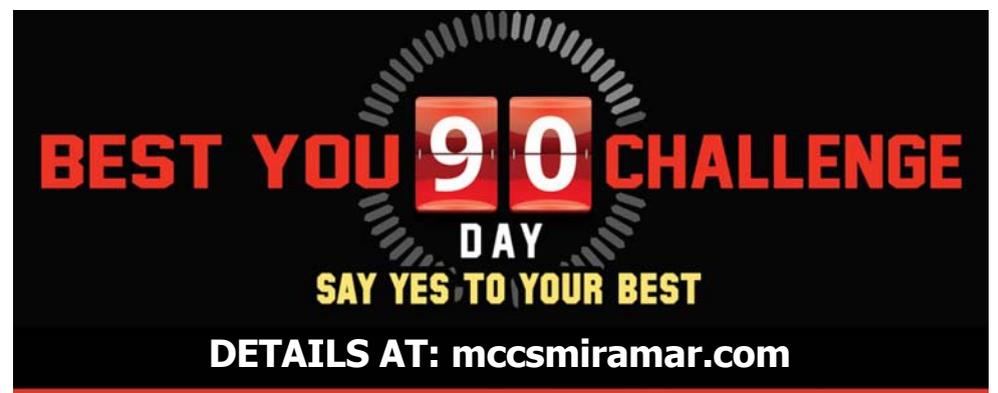
VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH COUNTY

We are the Veterans Association of North County. VANC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by Veterans for Veterans and active duty service people and their families to help them navigate life during and after service. We serve as a one-stop resource center for all active-duty military, Veterans, and their families. We centralize services from diverse agencies to assist with jobs, education, benefits, health, and wellness. We also support our local community by providing an exceptional space perfect for meetings, banquets, workshops, presentations and more.
For more details on events visit <https://www.vanc.me/>

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Tuesday Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 10-11am Yoga Wednesday January 4 6-7pm American Legion Post 760 Monday January 9 VANC First Monday Veterans Advisory Committee (Open to the Public) Tuesday January 10 9:30-11am Military Spouse Association Wednesday January 11 1-2:30pm Military Order of Purple Heart Thursday January 12 11am-1pm Gold Star Wives 6-7pm American G.I. Forum Saturday January 14 9-11am Involved Men of Oceanside 11am-1pm Buffalo Soldiers 11:30am-1:30pm Women Marines	Sunday January 15 10am-12pm Jewish War Veterans Monday January 16 VANC CLOSED Thursday January 19 6pm-7pm Marine Corps League Saturday January 21 8-4 Hunter Safety Class 9-11am Women Veteran Writing Group 11am-1pm San Diego Writers Group Wednesday January 25 5-6:30pm Wounded Warrior Project Saturday January 28 10am-12pm Military Order of World Wars
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Secretary of Defense makes holiday calls to service members

Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III spoke last Friday over video-teleconference with service members from each branch of the armed forces to thank them and wish them happy holidays.

The secretary expressed his appreciation for their service in defense of the nation and the support they provide to our Allies and partners around the world.

Austin highlighted the professionalism with which these men and women continue to perform their duties and offered his gratitude for their – and their families’ – service and sacrifice during the holidays.

“I really wanted to connect with you and thank you for

what each and every one of you are doing on behalf of our country every day, but especially during this holiday season. We are proud of you and very grateful for what you – and your families – sacrifice to keep us safe,” Austin said.

Here’s the list of the units he spoke with

USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). Sailors aboard destroyer *Chung-Hoon*, are providing maritime presence in the Western Pacific to reinforce the rules-based international order. Their mission is to challenge excessive maritime claims of coastal nations, reassure allies and partners, and work with joint, ally, and partner forces to exercise and improve interoperability across all domains of warfare.

13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines assigned to the 13th MEU are currently embarked on USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8) Amphibious Readiness Group in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command area of responsibility to provide a forward deployed, flexible sea-based Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF).

13th Space Warning Squadron (SWS) and Alaska Air National Guard (AK ANG). Guardians from the 13th SWS and Airmen from the AK ANG are stationed at Clear Space Force Station (SFS), Alaska, to provide strategic missile warning and space domain awareness. Clear SFS is strategically located on 11,500 acres of remote subarctic portions of interior Alaska.

46th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. Airmen from the 46th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron are forward deployed to an undisclosed location in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility to generate and sustain combat air power to rescue isolated personnel, ‘Anywhere, Anytime...That Others May Live.’

Task Force 101. Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment are deployed to a forward operating station in Poland to secure and operate the Material Aid Contribution Coordination Cell in support of Security Assistance Group – Ukraine.

The Defense Department recently released the 2023 Continental United States Cost-of-Living Allowance (CONUS COLA) rates, which take effect Jan. 1, 2023. In 2023, \$8 million will be paid to approximately 5,000 service members stationed within CONUS.

CONUS COLA is a supplemental allowance designed to help offset higher prices in the highest-cost locations in CONUS that exceed the average costs within the CONUS. Rates can increase, decrease, or remain the same, depending upon the non-housing prices in a duty location as compared to non-housing prices in average CONUS.

By law, a contractor provides the Department civilian cost data from each military housing area (MHA) and non-MHA for the following categories: transportation, goods and services, federal income taxes, sales taxes, and miscellaneous expenses. Data is adjusted to account for Basic Allowance for Subsistence, an allowance meant to offset the costs

for a member’s meals, and for cost savings gained from shopping at commissaries and exchanges.

This information is compared to the same cost data for average CONUS, which serves as a benchmark; the resulting ratio is called an index. By law, a CONUS COLA rate is only prescribed when the index meets a threshold of 108 percent, meaning the costs for non-housing types of goods and services in a particular location are at least eight percent more expensive than average CONUS costs. An index above 108 percent would qualify for CONUS COLA (e.g.,

a location that is 10 percent more expensive would qualify for a 2 percent CONUS COLA index).

This year, four MHAs will begin receiving CONUS COLA; two MHAs will receive an increase in CONUS COLA; one MHA will receive a decrease in CONUS COLA; and three MHAs will no longer receive CONUS COLA.

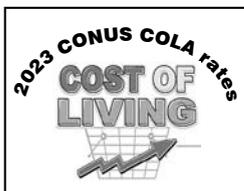
For non-MHA areas (non-metropolitan counties), 20 counties will lose CONUS COLA.

Military housing areas with the highest CONUS COLA rates: New York City, 8%; Martha’s Vineyard, Mass., 3%; and Staten

Island, NY, 3%.

Military housing areas with the largest decreases: Long Island, NY, 3% to 0%; San Francisco, 3% to 1%; and Nantucket, Mass., 2% to 0%.

The total amount of CONUS COLA a Service member receives varies based on geographic duty location, pay grade, years of service, and dependency status. Payments per CONUS COLA percentage point range from \$33 to \$59 per month for members with dependents, and from \$22 to \$45 per month for members without dependents. Service members can calculate their CONUS COLA rate at <https://www.travel.dod.mil/Allowances/CONUS-Cost-of-Living-Allowance/CONUS-COLA-Rate-Lookup/>.



Army

- Army extends deadline for 100% mold inspection of service’s buildings
- ‘I just want them to do better’: Soldier’s mom files wrongful death claim after loss of her son at Fort Hood
- Soldier’s family awarded ‘multimillion dollar’ medical malpractice claim from DoD

Navy

- USS *Paul Ignatius* returns to Rota from 6th Fleet patrol
- Navy pilot program temporarily suspends high-year tenure for enlisted Sailors

Marine Corps

- Death of Nigeria-based Marine embassy guard under investigation
- Marine recruiters, applicant stop jewel heist suspects at mall
- NC-based Marines back for Christmas after deployment to Europe

Air Force

- Air Force launches hypersonic weapon in first test
- Whiteman AFB’s only runway reopens after B-2 bomber accident
- AC-130J crews honored for being ‘eyes in the sky’ over Kabul in 2021
- Air Force sees 5G as one of many connectors on future battlefields
- Air Force conducts ‘first of its kind’ combat refuel of CENTCOM drone
- Operation Christmas Drop 2022 wraps up: ‘Best thing I’ve ever done in the Air Force’

Space Force

- Space Coast’s global nuclear tracking center gives Scouts a sneak peek
- Space Force practices ‘space combat tactics’ to win a European conflict

Coast Guard

- Coast Guard responds to fishing vessel in distress; 4 passengers including a dog onboard

National Guard

- National Guard airmen brave temperatures near minus 80 to rescue broken cargo plane at South Pole

Your Military

- The Army’s rejection led a man to hike thousands of miles in the mountains

Veterans

- Veterans groups plead Afghan Soldier’s asylum case in letter to Biden
- 7 veterans teaching in Florida through military service certification ‘pathway’

Military Culture & History

- ‘The Pale Blue Eye’ is a truly macabre military murder mystery movie
- A shuttered Army base that hosted an EOD unit will soon be a Netflix studio

Places of Worship

<p>Bethany Lutheran Church Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod 2051 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach 92107 (Parking lot off the Alley - North of the building) Worship 10:30am Sundays Bible Class, Wednesdays 10am (619)222-7291 LivingWaterSD7@gmail.com</p>	<p>First Baptist Church of Coronado “Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Our World” Jim W. Baize, Pastor www.fbcoronado.com Sunday Adult Bible Study 8:45am, Sunday Worship Service 10am Meeting in person and online on YouTube or Facebook FB: First Baptist Church of Coronado email: secretary@fbcoronado.com 445 C Ave., Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 435-6588</p>	<p>Mesa View Baptist Church Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CW03, USMC (Ret.) Seeking Sinners: Saving Souls, Strengthening Saints Sunday School at 8:45am • Morning Worship at 10am Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm 13230 Pomerado Rd., Poway • 858-485-6110 • www.mesaview.org</p>
<p>Bayview Church Attract...Assimilate...Activate 6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters St., San Diego 92114 (619) 262-8384 Sunday 6:45am, 8:30am, 11am Worship Service Studies in Christian Living (formerly known as Sunday School) Tuesday & Thursday 6pm, Wednesday 5:30pm & Saturday 9am www.bayviewbc.org info@bayviewbc.org</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran Church Traditional worship service firmly grounded in God’s eternal word Wednesdays at 6:30pm; Sundays at 8 & 10am Join us for New Year’s Day worship at 10am 3967 Park Blvd., San Diego 92103 Free lot parking behind church Find out more at gracesandiego.com</p>	<p>Military Outreach Ministries Int’l Church “Transforming the World, One Person at a Time” Dr. Dennis Eley, Jr. Th.D. MBA • dennis@militaryoutreachministries.org 7997 Paradise Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92139 Sunday Services In Person • 12-2pm Live Stream: 12:30pm on “Moministries” free church app www.militaryoutreachministries.org</p>
<p>Canyon View Church of Christ “Love God, Love People, Serve the World” Sunday Bible Classes for all ages 9am Sunday Worship 10am 4292 Balboa Ave., San Diego, CA 92117 Email: cvoffice@canyonview.org (Near corner of Balboa Ave. & Clairemont Dr.) www.canyonview.org (858) 273-5140</p>	<p>La Jolla Lutheran Church “We Follow Jesus” Sunday 9:30am Worship Wednesday 6:30pm Bible Study 7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 454-6459 LaJollaLutheranChurch.com</p>	<p>Resurrection Lutheran Church A Small Place with a Big Heart! Worship Service Sunday at 10:15 am. (please see website for details) 1111 Fifth Street – Coronado, CA 92118 – 619.435.1000 secretary@resurrectioncoronado.com – www.rl.church https://www.facebook.com/resurrectioncoronado/ The Rev. Dr. Brian Oltman, Pastor</p>
<p>Christ Community Church Helping people love God and each other! Services Onsite or Online Sundays 8:45 & 10:30am Children’s Ministries for All Kids! Small Groups for Teens & Adults of All Ages! 9535 Kearny Villa Rd., Mira Mesa 92126; Located just off Miramar Rd. & I-15 www.gotoChrist.com or (858) 549-2479</p>	<p>Living Water Lutheran Church “Whoever believes in me, streams of living water will flow from within him.” Meeting at Hampton Inn Corner of Carmel Mountain Rd. and El Camino Real Join us for worship at 8:45am (858)792-7691 LivingWaterSD7@gmail.com Pastor: Rev. Steven Duescher</p>	<p>St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 5150 Wilson Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942 Phone: (619) 463-6633 website: www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org Worship: 9am Pastor: Mark Menacher, PhD. We thank you for your service!</p>

US asks Australia to hand over former Marine accused of aiding Chinese military

by Seth Robson
Stars and Stripes

The Australian government has formally received a request by Washington to extradite a former U.S. Marine pilot accused of providing military training to China, Australian officials said Dec. 28.

The Australian Attorney-General's Department on Sunday received the Dec. 9 request to hand over the former Marine, Daniel Duggan, 54, who has been in Australian custody since Oct. 21, according to a statement e-mailed by department spokeswoman Jo White to *Stars and Stripes*.

The A-G's office said a magistrate in the Australian state of New South Wales is scheduled to consider the extradition on Jan. 10.

Duggan, wanted for alleged

money laundering and offenses under the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, was arrested on a U.S. request, according to the statement.

The Attorney-General met a Sunday deadline to formally receive the request, "and Mr Duggan's lawyer has been informed of that decision," the department stated.

Duggan's lawyer Dennis Miralis didn't respond to a message sent through his firm's website from *Stars and Stripes* seeking comment Wednesday.

The Australian newspaper reported Tuesday that Duggan was indicted in the U.S. on charges including conspiracy to unlawfully export defense services to China, conspiracy to launder money and violations of

the arms control act.

The allegations stem from work he did with the Test Flying Academy of South Africa between 2010 and 2012, the newspaper reported.

A former Harrier "jump jet" pilot, Duggan moved to Australia in the late 2000s and set up a business offering tourist flights near Hobart called Top Gun Tasmania, the newspaper reported.

Duggan served as a Harrier pilot from April 1989 to September 2002 with a deployment to Kuwait in 1999, according to an e-mail Nov. 9 from Marine Corps spokesman Maj. Jay Hernandez.

A father of six, Duggan renounced his U.S. citizenship a decade ago and has been a per-

manent Australian resident since 2002, *The Australian* reported.

His arrest came days after media reports that dozens of British pilots were recruited to teach the Chinese armed forces how to defeat western warplanes and helicopters.

Neither Hernandez, nor the Army or Navy responded to e-mails from *Stars and Stripes* in November asking if any other former service members are involved

with military training in China.

The Air Force isn't aware of efforts to recruit its pilots to train the Chinese military, Department of the Air Force spokeswoman Rose Riley said by email Nov. 9.

Duggan wasn't a fighter pilot, as many media outlets have reported, since he flew Harriers, which are short-takeoff, vertical-landing attack and reconnaissance planes, according to

Steve Ganyard, a former deputy assistant secretary of state who logged 4,200 career flight hours in 12 different tactical aircraft as a Marine Corps pilot.

"Anything a Harrier pilot was teaching the Chinese (fighter pilots) was made up or something he read in a book," Ganyard told *Stars and Stripes* in a Dec. 14 e-mail. "So in reality he scammed the Chinese by selling something he knew little about. Would imagine they want their money back."

NDA continued from page 1

The act also calls for a pilot program to reimburse military families for certain child care costs related to a permanent change of station.

There are several changes in the act regarding housing. The act extends the authority to adjust the basic allowance for housing in high-cost areas. It encourages DOD to coordinate efforts to address housing shortages. The act also makes the assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment the department's chief housing officer.

There were no surprises on active duty end strength with the Army set at 452,000; the Navy at 354,000; the Air Force at 325,344; the Marine Corps set at 177,000 and the Space Force at 8,600.

Other aspects of the act include the authorization of special duty pay for members based on cold weather climate conditions in which their duties are performed. The act also starts a program to reimburse Alaska-based service members for the cost of airfare to travel to their homes of record.

The NDA authorizes \$32.6 billion for Navy shipbuilding, an increase of \$4.7 billion. This will fund 11 battle force ships including three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers; two Virginia-class submarines; two expeditionary fast transports; one Constellation-class frigate; one San Antonio-class amphibious ship; one John Lewis-class oiler and one Navajo-class towing, salvage and rescue ship.

The act also calls for the Navy

to build a third Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and allocates \$2.2 billion to the effort.

The act funds eight F-18E/F aircraft, 16 F-35C aircraft, 15 F-35B jets and 12 CH-53K helicopters. The legislation also authorizes two more V-22 Osprey aircraft, seven E-2D Hawkeye aircraft and five KC-130J tanker aircraft. The act funds several unmanned aerial platforms including the Triton and Stingray systems.

The act authorizes the full fiscal year 2023 budget request for the European Deterrence Initiative and extends and modifies the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. It authorizes \$800 million in fiscal year 2023, an increase of \$500 million above the initial budget request.

More importantly, the act expresses the sense of Congress that the United States' commitment to NATO is ironclad, and emphasizes the importance of maintaining a unified response to Russia's unjust war in Ukraine and other shared security challenges, according to a release on the Senate Armed Services Committee website. The Senate release also stressed that the U.S. must continue to assist Ukraine in its fight against the unjust and unprovoked attack by Russia.

To that end, the act calls for an assessment of the required U.S. force posture and resourcing needed to implement the National Defense Strategy in Europe and uphold U.S. commitments to NATO.

Across the globe, the act extends the Pacific Deterrence Initiative through the fiscal year and identifies approximately \$11.5 billion of investments

in support of initiative objectives.

The U.S. military works alongside allies, partners and friends, and the act provides an increase of \$198.5 million for partner capacity building through the International Security Cooperation Programs account within the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

The NDA also calls for an independent assessment of DOD efforts to train, advise, assist and equip the military forces of Somalia, and authorizes an increase of \$10 million to support U.S. Africa Command's efforts to diversify the locations of its multilateral military exercises on the African continent.

The legislation extends the authority to assist Iraq to counter the Islamic State and provides monies to train Syrian allies against the terror group.

The act looks to provide long-term aid to Ukraine especially in waiving restrictions related to contracts for munitions to support Ukraine or to increase DOD's stocks of critical munitions. It also provides multi-year procurement authority for certain munitions.

The act authorizes DOD to establish a Center for Security Studies in Irregular Warfare to serve as a central mechanism for developing irregular warfare knowledge. The center will be open to allies and partners.

Finally, the act fully funds the U.S. Special Operations Command's budget including approximately \$250 million for unfunded requirements identified by the Socom com-

Industry event provides insight into battle lab needs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. - The 505th Command and Control Wing's 805th Combat Training Squadron, also known as the Shadow Operations Center-Nellis, hosted a classified Industry Day recently here. The

ShOC-N is the Air Force's premier Battle Lab supporting the experimentation, prototyping, integration, and testing of key technologies and capabilities designed to compress the kill chain and advance command

and control capabilities for joint and coalition warfighters.

The purpose of the industry event was to highlight the role the ShOC-N plays in experimenting with, developing, and delivering advanced C2 systems to the warfighter. ShOC-N's ability to provide a low barrier to entry, access to data, and an opportunity for feedback from operators makes it a very appealing venue for government and industry partners to experiment and integrate.

"Industry has advantages with their product lines and their ability to scale; our leadership sees that value and wants to find ways to partner with industry," said Lt. Col. John "Sox" Ohlund, 805th CTS commander. "When industry partners, acquisition professionals, developmental and testing engineers, and subject matter experts are all iterating face-to-face on a new product, it's amazing to see how quickly improvements are realized."

Industry partners gained an understanding of how the Air Force functions, current C2 challenges, future C2 requirements and geo-political problem sets. Discussions focused on how industry and government can collaborate to advance C2 capabilities by connecting to multi-domain systems of various classifications and, through ShOC-N hosted events, access warfighters for feedback in the Battle Lab.

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Armed Forces Dispatch (619) 280-2985

Published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.
2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com

Publisher.....Sarah Hagerty

The Dispatch is published weekly on Thursdays, by Western States Weeklies, Inc., as a commercial, free-enterprise newspaper. The editorial objective of the Dispatch is to promote support for a strong military presence. Contents of the Armed Forces Dispatch are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps. The Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or any other DOD component, does not approve or endorse this company, its products or services. The opinions and views of writers whose materials appear herein are those of the writers and not the publishers. Appearance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or any other DOD component, this newspaper, or Western States Weeklies, Inc. Consumers should make informed decisions when purchasing products and services, and when considering business opportunities, and research before investing. Subscription by mail is \$90 per year to CONUS or FPO address.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme receives patent for 'smart' fiberoptic system

Teri Carnicelli

NSWC, Port Hueneme Division

Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD) patented the process of applying a "smart" fiberoptic system between a metal surface and its protective coating in order to detect the beginnings of corrosion at the microscopic level, opening the door for wider applications through a licensing agreement with a commercial company.

The patent was awarded in November to Armen Kvryan, NSWC PHD's materials subject matter expert, as the primary contributor, and the late Lt. Cmdr. Todd Coursey as the secondary contributor.

"Todd did a lot of early work on this project and I felt it was important that his name be on the patent," Kvryan said.

The patented corrosion detection process makes use of NASA's Fiber Optic Sensing Systems, or FOSS. FOSS is a technology that utilizes specialized, commercially available optical fiber combined with a data collection device to gather real-time information related to pressure, temperature, weight, deformation and strain on complex systems and equipment.



A crew from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division view the assembling of a microFOSS unit Jan. 22, 2020. US Navy photo

In 2019, NSWC PHD partnered with NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, to build and test a type of micro-sized FOSS, called microFOSS.

"NASA developed FOSS; what I did is create a spinoff of that technology specifically for corrosion detection," which later became known as CorrFOSS, said Kvryan.

Tiny sensors live inside FOSS,

an optical fiber cable the width of a human hair, which can be affixed to the surfaces of ships beneath the paint layer and connected to any commercial-off-the-shelf data collection system. CorrFOSS can be used to measure slight changes in surfaces, such as when metal starts to oxidize, which makes them able to watch for and track corrosion.

"This smart fiberoptic system can detect even the smallest of

changes," Kvryan said. "The sensitivity of that fiber is extremely high since it is based on shifts in wavelength, and not physical appearance."

According to Kvryan, the biggest challenge with corrosion is by the time you see it, the affected material has already corroded significantly. FOSS, however, can nondestructively evaluate corrosion growth.

"Metallic coatings and paints shields material corrosion beneath," Kvryan said. "You can't see the area between the coating and the material, which is where a lot of corrosion initiates."

About CorrFOSS:

In mid-2019, Kvryan built a CorrFOSS prototype, a network of ultra-sensitive sensors, with parts he printed using a 3D printer. He recruited some U.S. Navy reservists to help set up and run some experiments in January 2020 to test the CorrFOSS as an early corrosion detector. Those tests took place at the Armstrong center; prototype development and testing later moved to a NSWC PHD lab.

"You have to mimic the corrosion process in a lab environment — there are cost-effective methods to replicate that behavior, and if you can detect it with

the CorrFOSS, you have shown it's effective in doing what you intend," Kvryan said. "That saves (potentially) the functionality and operational capability of any metallic structure."

Now that the CorrFOSS corrosion detection process has received its patent, the next step is to find funding to develop it — in this case, outside of the Department of the Navy.

"The Navy hires scientists and engineers to come up with solutions to some of its problems, but once a solution is determined, someone actually has to create the technology to implement it," Kvryan said. "So, who is going to actually develop and produce that technology? That's where our partnerships with industry really come into play."

At the beginning of this year, the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Startup Studio (HSSS) worked with Kvryan to connect him with industry partners who could take the CorrFOSS process to the next level.

HSSS is a program that brings together entrepreneurs, mentors and inventors to deliver technology solutions for homeland security. Conducted in partnership with the venture-building

company FedTech, HSSS pairs the next generation of entrepreneurs with federally funded, cutting-edge technologies to help move them from the lab to the market.

Kvryan was introduced to three entrepreneurs who had some technology background, making them better able to understand the CorrFOSS process. These entrepreneurs ultimately formed a limited liability corporation, FibrX LLC, and developed a business plan to pitch the process to venture capitalists and other funding sources by noting the different potential applications to both the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as specific industries, including the energy sector.

The FibrX team spent several months gauging interest amongst potential funding sources while it waited for NSWC PHD's patent to be approved. Now the command is taking the final step by signing a Patent License Agreement (PLA) with FibrX.

A PLA assigns the right to make, use or sell government intellectual property to any eligible entity.

"Essentially the government owns the patent, and we will be see **Patent, page 6**

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CARAT INDONESIA

Marines, Sailors from USS *Makin Island* practice at-sea strategies

by Gunnery Sgt.
Chad Pulliam
13th MEU

SITUBONDO, Indonesia - The 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, aboard *Makin Island* Amphibious Ready Group, and Sailors completed Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Marine Exercise Indonesia 2022 in Situbondo and Surabaya, Indonesia, Dec. 21. The 15 days of in-person and at-sea engagements enhanced interoperability and partnership between the Indonesian and U.S. militaries.

CARAT/MAREX Indonesia took place in Surabaya, Situbondo and in the Java Sea,

Dec. 7-21, focusing on shared maritime security challenges in the region and increasing proficiency in joint amphibious operations.

Throughout the first week of the CARAT/MAREX exercise, the ARG/MEU team worked with Indonesian navy and marine service members in subject matter expert exchanges and practical application of topics including restoring a school with our Indonesian counterparts, jungle training, reconnaissance dive exercises, small boat maritime patrolling training, and battlefield wound care.

“The exercise provided us the opportunity to work alongside our Indonesian KORMAR partners,” said 1st Lt. Scott Rogers, an engineer officer with Combat Logistics Battalion 13. “This iteration began with sharing knowledge and techniques in areas including construction and electrical practices. Following the knowledge exchange, we were able to work hand-in-hand with each other to restore a school in Situbondo, reinforcing the learning while helping the local community.”

Further strengthening ties, Navy Capt. Justin A. Kubu, commander of PHIBRON 7, and Marine Corps Col. Samuel L. Meyer, CO of 13th MEU, were able to meet with the leader of the Indonesian Marine Corps, and his staff. The meeting between leadership allowed both partners to discuss topics such as naval integration and the capabilities of the MKI ARG/MEU, as well as learn about Indonesian culture and shared values.

“They have welcomed us to their home with open arms, and as a result of their hospitality, we have strengthened our relationship and interoperability,



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Jonathan Natividad, an automotive maintenance technician with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, shakes hands with an Indonesian Marine Corps officer before an Engineering Civic Assistance Project. US Marine Corps photo

both ashore and at sea. Over 28 years, we’ve developed our partnership, and this year’s exercise reassures our united commitment to free and open maritime environments within the region,” said Myer.

In the second week of CARAT/MAREX, a bilateral coordination center was established, which enabled at-sea opera-

integrated mechanized infantry assault using KORMAR armor and our mixed platoons.”

The joint training executed during CARAT/MAREX improved mutual capabilities and strengthened the relationship between the U.S. and Indonesian navies and marine corps. Indonesian Navy Capt. Sumarji Bimoaji, commander of Escort Squadron 2nd Fleet Command, served as the exercise commander of the amphibious task force and landing force while the MKI ARG/MEU supported operations as deputy CATF/CLF.

“With the spirit of friendship, I hope CARAT 2022 will benefit the United States Navy and Marine Corps as well as Indonesian navy personnel,” said Bimoaji. “Moreover, I hope this exercise will be a milestone

in strengthening relationship for our countries. Therefore, side by side, we can maintain peace and build a better world.”

In its 28th year, the CARAT series is comprised of multinational exercises, designed to enhance U.S. and partner navies’ abilities to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

During CARAT Indonesia 2022, we have learned so much about our Indonesian partners.”

- U.S. Marine Corps Col. Samuel L. Meyer, 13 MEU CO

tions. The sea phase included joint training at sea, ship to shore movement, and culminated with a joint amphibious assault.

“The exercise provided an opportunity for my platoon to plan and execute a combined infantry and armor assault with a partner force,” said 1stLt. Austin Smith, 3rd platoon commander, Fox Company, Battalion Landing Team 2/4. “Integrating with our partner KORMAR forces mutually increased our capabilities by affording the opportunity to lead each other’s marines in the exercise. Together, we developed the scheme of maneuver over a terrain model before executing an

Patent continued from page 5

selling to FibrX the right to use the process,” Kvrnan explained. “Once that PLA is signed, they have full rights to the technology.”

Potential users

Beyond the DOD, another potential user of the fiberoptic corrosion detection system would be manufacturers of wind turbines, whose massively tall towers make regular maintenance checks both challenging and dangerous, Kvrnan said.

He added that these alternative energy producers are looking to expand into ocean-based turbines, with the posts either affixed to underwater bases or sunk into the seabed — again, a challenging proposition for corrosion detection.

“If you embed the FOSS cables to the metal first before painting, you will have a much more reliable and cost-effective method to detect the first indications of corrosion,” Kvrnan said.

“These fiberoptics are so good, I have several ideas on how to make use of them,” with the needs of the Navy and the fleet first and foremost in mind, he said.



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A Marine with Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division (Reinforced), provides security to an objective during harsh weather conditions as part of the recent Reconnaissance/Counter-Reconnaissance (RXR) training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport. US Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Luis Aguilar



Marines with 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing fire FIM-92A Stinger surface-to-air missiles during exercise Steel Knight 23 on San Clemente Island. Courtesy photo



A Marine Corps drill instructor with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, encourages a recruit during the bayonet assault course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Dec. 27, 2022. The recruits performed the course in groups of four, called a fire team, to simulate how to attack an enemy in a combat environment. US Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Grace J. Kindred



Navy and Republic of Korea Navy SEALs enter a building during a fully integrated target assault exercise as part of a military operations in urban terrain situational training scenario during a bilateral training exercise Dec. 1. NSW is the nation's premier maritime special operations force, uniquely positioned to extend the fleet's reach and deliver all-domain options for naval and joint force commanders. US Navy photo by MC1 Daniel Gaither



Marines with 1st Marine Division G-3 Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense platoon, I Marine Expeditionary Force, are led to a thorough decontamination station during exercise Steel Knight 23 Dec. 8. US Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel Childs



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training and Evaluation Unit Aircrew members conduct a poised exit over El Centro out of a C-2A Greyhound as part of a military free-fall exercise at El Centro Dec. 7. US Navy photo by MC3 Sebastian Portieleslopez

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Interpersonal Edge: Strategic timing for new ventures

by Dr. Daneen Skube
Tribune Content Agency

Q: All economic indicators predict that this next year will be a year of contraction. I was getting excited about launching new ventures, but think my timing will be off. How do you advise your clients about integrating timing into their business planning?

A: I recommend clients consider their timing on business planning in the same way we look at the tide. When the tide is outgoing, the powerful pull of the ocean will fight against the launching of new boats. But when the tide is coming in, boats will be supported by the ocean.

If we get stubborn and believe we can succeed despite what is happening around us, we will lose time, money, and opportunity, but not because our idea is bad. A good idea launched during an outgoing tide will struggle more than a bad idea launched amid an incoming tide.

No one can perfectly predict the future. We can and should read what experts predict when it comes to interest rates, the economy, and how global events will affect our industry. At the end of the day, data and intuition

have to mesh to help us make decisions.

If you are launching a new boat on an outgoing tide, you also want to ask yourself what the fall out could look like. If

Interpersonal Edge



by
Dr.
Daneen
Skube

the consequences could be mild, then even if you fail, you will learn invaluable lessons to use on the incoming tide. If the costs are high, then you definitely want to use this time to better prepare once the tide starts to shift in your favor.

Even if you decide not to launch your venture now, you can use this time to learn, prepare, save money, and improve your network. Outgoing tides allow us to rest, strategize, and get ready for the rush of opportunities that will follow the in-coming tide. Waiting does not mean you are giving up on your new ideas!

Another idea you can work with is consider that every event in your life is the universe conspiring to help you in some way. Perhaps there is some critical development, new skill, or new business contact that you needed time to create. If we look for the opportunity even when what happens isn't what we wanted, we usually find opportunities.

You'll adapt more quickly to a contracting business climate if you allow yourself to have both feelings and thoughts of disappointment. We all have moments of feeling sorry for ourselves, and thinking the world is against us. What we do next is critical. Do we pick our heads up and look to use this time or get stuck in feeling unlucky?

They say that luck is when opportunity meets preparation. Luck is also how we respond to feeling unlucky or disappointment. If we use our unlucky moments to go back to the drawing board and prepare, we end up "lucky." If we use our unlucky moments as a reason to give up, we make our temporary setback permanent.

The other optimistic news about an outgoing tide is you can count on the cycles of nature to

eventually bring the tide back in. If you prepared well, you'll be in the optimum position to ride that tide in the direction you've been waiting for.

Business may seem divorced from the natural world, but the same cycles that rule nature affect corporations. No farmer worthy of his or her profession fights nature. He or she pays attention, makes decisions according to nature, and knows there are times when a seemingly good crop won't thrive.

Timing is often the secret to launching a new venture. Let the tides of business work for you and not against your future success!

The last word(s)

Q: I'm so tired of getting disrespected at work. Is there a way I can influence my co-workers to respect me more?

A: Yes, I agree with Confucius -- a fifth-century BCE Chinese philosopher -- who wisely observed, "Respect yourself, and others will respect you."

Pre-enlistment course helps turn recruits into Soldiers

by Sgt. 1st Class Whitney Hughes
ARLINGTON, Va. - Amid one of the most challenging recruiting environments since the all-volunteer force's establishment in 1973, the National Guard has taken a modern approach to engaging prospective service members.

Only 23 percent of Americans ages 17-24 qualify to serve without a medical waiver, down from 29 percent in recent years. While obesity, addiction, medical and behavioral health top the list of disqualifiers, programs like the Future Soldier Preparatory Course work to mitigate the risk of a potential recruit losing eligibility.

"This program is important to the Guard because it focuses on turning unqualified potential warriors into qualified and ready applicants, ready to ship to basic training," said Lt. Col. Adam Allen, the enlisted strength maintenance branch chief at the National Guard Bureau.

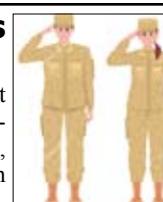
Since the inception of FSPC in early August, the Guard has referred over 500 potential recruits to the pre-enlistment

program at Fort Jackson, S.C., with 301 on standby.

"The program has proven wildly successful. By referring 88 percent of applicants, the would-be recruits receive personalized training for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery placement exam, increasing scores and career options upon completion," said Allen. "Additionally, FSPC instructors offer the tools for Soldiers to improve fitness and holistic health, including an exercise regimen, nutrition and good sleep habits."

Upon completion of the three-week course, trainees leave prepared to meet Army academic and fitness entry standards and begin basic training. Because of its three-pronged focus on education, holistic health and fitness, the program is more than just a precursor to basic training.

Continue reading *Pre-enlistment course helps turn recruits into Soldiers* at <https://www.army.mil/article/262936/>.



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Military and veteran family caregivers invited to apply to national fellowship program

by Lauren J. Mapp

After Anne and Dave Adkinson married in 2012, symptoms of Dave's injuries sustained during his time in Iraq as a Marine Corps infantryman began to worsen.

Until then, they didn't know Dave had a traumatic brain injury. Because of his TBI and toxic exposures in Iraq, he now has post-traumatic stress disorder, is losing his vision and experiencing neurological issues causing episodes of full body paralysis.

As his symptoms increased over time, Dave - who was previously stationed at Camp Pendleton - became unable to work and Anne pivoted to become his full-time caregiver. It was overwhelming at first to care for him and their four children, but becoming a Dole Caregiver Fellow helped Anne feel less isolated.

"I don't even have to explain anything - I'm like, 'Man we're having a day,' and everyone's like, 'Oh yeah,'" Anne said. "They all know because they do it, too. Instead of being

confused, they're living in it - they're in the same trenches."

Others caring for military personnel and veterans are now invited to apply for the 2023 fellowship through the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Fellows Program Manager Elizabeth Rotenberry said the program offers caregivers support and two years of active leadership training before they transition into the alumni network.

As foundation representatives, they advocate for veteran caregiver issues, advise the community on what the nonprofit needs and mentor other caregivers. Because it's a volunteer organization, the level of participation in the program is flexible.

Through the fellowship, Anne was able to find a work-from-home job with the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona. It accommodates her caregiving schedule, allowing her to work in the same room as Dave and assist him whenever he needs help, but it benefited her in many other ways.

"Just being able to own our

story and find the strength and power and resilience in it instead of feeling self-conscious about it has been a gift," Anne said.

Social Security Matters: Can I get survivor benefits while still working?

Social Security Matters is provided by a Social Security advisor with the Association of Mature American Citizens.

Dear Rusty: I lost my wife several years ago and I qualified for Social Security spousal benefits. Unfortunately, because of my income, I haven't been able to take advantage of this benefit. I'm 64 and still working. I believe I have until the age of 70 to receive this. Is there any way to claim any of this before I start taking my Social Security in a couple of years? Signed: Working Widower

Dear Working: Your entitlement to surviving spouse benefits from your wife actually never expires so, you can wait until you stop working full time, or until you reach your full retirement age (FRA), to claim your benefit as a widower.

Social Security's "earnings test" lasts until you reach your full retirement age which, for you, is 66 years and 8 months - the age at which your earnings

Submissions, which are due Jan. 15, involve an application plus a letter of recommendation, both of which are submitted through an online form.

More information and the application form is available at elizabethdolefoundation.org/fellows. For questions about the program, e-mail fellowsapplication@elizabethdolefoundation.org.

This story originally appeared in San Diego Union-Tribune.

from working will no longer affect your SS benefit. You can simply defer claiming your survivor benefit until you reach your FRA, or until you stop working full time and won't exceed the annual earnings limit (the earnings limit changes yearly; for 2023 it is \$21,240). But there's no way to avoid the earnings test if you're collecting SS benefits of any kind before you reach your full retirement age.

If you collect your surviving spouse benefit early and exceed the earnings limit, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by), and if your work earnings are high enough it can temporarily disqualify you from receiving SS benefits. The penalty for exceeding the earnings limit is also less severe in the year you reach your FRA.

You might take some comfort in knowing, anyway, that taking your survivor benefit before your FRA would mean it would be reduced (by 4.75 percent for each full year early) but waiting until you reach your FRA to claim it would mean you'll get 100 percent of the survivor benefit you're entitled to (the same amount your wife was entitled to when she died). And you can claim your survivor benefit (only) first and collect that, while allowing your personal SS retirement amount to continue to grow, up to age 70 if you wish. You should strive to maximize whichever benefit will be highest - your own, or your survivor benefit - and collect that benefit for the rest of your life. If you choose to claim your survivor benefit at your FRA and switch to your own higher amount at 70, your personal SS retirement benefit at 70 will be almost 27 percent more than it will be at your full retirement age. That would be a

good way to avoid the earnings test, maximize both benefits, and secure the highest possible Social Security benefit for as long as you live.

Whether waiting until 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit makes sense depends on whether it will be higher at age 70 than your survivor benefit at your FRA, and on your life expectancy. Average life expectancy for a man your current age is about 84 and you would break even moneywise at about age 81 if you wait until age 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit. So, you'd get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting until your FRA to claim your survivor benefit and - if it will be higher - waiting until you're 70 to claim your own SS retirement benefit. The choice is yours to make but longevity is the key, so you should carefully assess your potential life expectancy, including your family history, your current health, and your lifestyle to help you decide.

The urge to purge

The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

When the holiday is over, the presents have been stashed, and the leftover ham has been made into bean soup, there's a part of me that just wants to savor it all. To snuggle up on the couch with the family in my new pjs, nibbling from the tin of stale Christmas cookies, basking in the glow of the dying Christmas tree, watching movie marathons until my eyeballs bleed.

These days, there's so much hustle and bustle associated with the holidays, it's nice to linger a while. Let it all sink in. Take a moment to stop and appreciate the richness of life, our families, and our traditions, before another hectic year is in full swing.

However, there's another part of me that gets antsy. Like the plaque accumulating in my arteries from too much cheese dip, or the needles piling up under the tree, or the mounting credit card bills -- the holiday builds. Something takes over in me, and after weeks of excess and sloth, I'm hell bent on eating enough fiber, taking 10,000 steps a day, keeping accurate financial records, compulsively vacuuming, and fundamentally changing my entire personality.

By New Year's Eve, I'm feeling the urge to purge.

"Is it time?" I think to myself as I sip my coffee and stare at our lifeless Christmas tree. I could flip the switch to electrify the tiny lights, top off the stagnant water, and blur my eyes to the curling branches for one more week.

Or, I could take the whole damned thing down.

Positioning myself closer to the tree, I consider my options. I cock my head sideways and sigh, remembering her lovely pine smell on that first night. This tree had been with us for month of celebrating, shopping, eating, baking, and gift giving. Shouldn't we keep her for one more week?

In my sentimental haze, I reach out to touch a lovely blown glass ornament, and as my hand brushes against the branch, I set off an avalanche of dead pine needles.

"That's it," I think, "she's gotta go."

One by one, I remove our tree decorations, packing them away in the basement. Using a turkey baster, I suck the scummy water out of the tree stand, and detach the naked tree, lugging her dead carcass across our living room, out the front door, and across the porch, finally heaving her into the gutter in front of our mailbox.

Fueled by a colossal sense of relief, I march back into the house, going room by room to purge all evidence of Christmas. I shake candy wrappers out of the stockings, pack away the Nativity, derail the train, bubble-wrap my ceramic Christmas trees, store the Santa mugs, and silence the jingle bells.

I fill garbage bags with dying poinsettias, stale cookies, burnt candles, wrinkled wrapping paper, used doilies, broken candy canes, half a cheese ball, a whole fruitcake, a carton of egg nog and a stripped turkey carcass.

Invigorated, I storm out onto the porch and unwind the garland from the railings, tug until the twinkle lights give way from the gutter, and tear the wreath from the door, hurling it like a Frisbee onto the curb with our discarded tree.

I exhaust the remainder of my cathartic frenzy by firing up my Shop Vac. With crazed eyes, I suck up thousands of pine needles, glitter, crumbs, cookie sprinkles, red and green M&Ms, snips of ribbon, scraps of tissue paper, and a few gumdrops fringed with dog hair.

I dump the canister's contents in the trash along with several boxes and bags, and wheel the whole shebang out to the curb next to the tree cadaver. Grabbing the mail from the mailbox, I head back inside. I sit at the kitchen table in my freshly expunged house, pleased to have wiped my slate clean and ready for a fresh start to the New Year.

But then, I open the credit card bill and leaf through a month of reckless spending memorialized on paper. And inevitably, I glance down and notice my protruding stomach.

That's the moment I realize, the real battle to purge myself of the excesses of the holiday has only just begun.

AutoMatters™ & More by Jan Wagner



The 2022 Auto Club Finals at Pomona were held at Auto Club Raceway. Before driver introductions began on Sunday, race day, Lucas Oil announced that they'll be extending their sponsorship relationship with the NHRA through 2026, with a two-year option after that. Also before the racing began, fans walked the super-sticky race track.

There were 14 classes: Top Fuel, Funny Car, Pro Stock, Pro Stock Motorcycle, Top Alcohol Dragster, Top Alcohol Funny Car, Competition Eliminator, and Super Stock, just to name a few.

As the drag racers made their ear-piercing runs, you could literally feel the ground shake. In between runs, the teams went out to carefully check the track temperature.

According to Kelly Wade, writing on the NHRA website, Matt Smith earned his sixth Pro Stock Motorcycle championship, tying the late Dave Schultz and Andrew Hines as the only riders to have ever won as many titles. It takes a special kind of courage to drag race a Pro Stock Motorcycle, and Matt and his wife Angie both race. Their goals for this season were finishing first and second in the Championship points battle. They nearly accomplished that, with Matt winning the title and Angie finishing in third place — her career best finish.

2022 NHRA Finals with thoughts from Brittany Force

In the post-race press conference, Brittany Force said that winning her second Top Fuel World Championship "doesn't feel real yet. When they said 'You're the Top Fuel World Champion' and I went up on stage, it was a very surreal moment, but looking back at our last Championship, it's funny - we came out of Vegas, we went to the Finals, I lost in the Final on a red light. This season we won on a hole shot, so I came into this weekend feeling a little bit ahead of myself.

"Vegas until Pomona was the longest week of my life. I just had a gut-ache, I felt sick and it was like this weekend couldn't get here quick enough, and it just drug on."

"Once I finally got out here and I got with my team, and the wonderful car," she said, "it was this calm feeling I had. Suddenly the nerves I'd been carrying all week long, all season long, since this countdown began, calmed down and I felt okay, look at our season, we've had a great season with this entire team, and I feel okay going into race day, going into this weekend."

"It was such a strong season, start to finish. Right out of the gate, we came out strong. Five wins, ten number one qualifiers, the national mile-per-hour record ... just an incredible season for us! Comparing it to last season, way ahead of ourselves. Just came into this weekend feeling confident, feeling strong."

"The competition, gets tougher every single season. Coming into this season I knew it was going to be tough, and to be standing up

on the stage this morning with all those drivers out there, and how close our points were - that was the biggest thing. We knew it was going to come down to Pomona. We weren't going to be able to lock it up early, nobody was. We knew it was going to come down to not just two drivers, but there was a handful of us that could still win this thing - and that just shows you how close everybody is. Anything can happen, anything can change coming into Pomona, and it could be anybody's win. Just to look down the line and look at all the tough competitors, and how we've battled it out all season long. ... We were just lucky enough that we got there first."

"It's pretty cool because looking at my entire team, I think only one has won a championship. ... This was a first championship for them, so it's so cool to share that with them. Just outstanding. When I came back to the pits after we were crowned champion, we were screaming, hollering, jumping up and down, excited ... just a surreal moment."

To see the results, visit <https://www.nhra.com/results/2022/nhra-camping-world-drag-racing-series/52106/winners>.

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

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"For what it's worth, it's never too late to be whoever you want to be. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you find you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over."
- F. Scott Fitzgerald

RENTALS TOWNHOMES



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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

USS Midway Museum is recruiting for docents, air craft restoration, ship restoration and safety volunteers. www.midway.org/give-join/volunteers/

WANTED TO BUY

\$\$\$ WANTED \$\$\$ to buy RV's & trailers, boats running/not. We offer free tow 24/7. 1-800-613 5410 Al. 12/22

THINGS TO DO AROUND TOWN

Annie The Musical. Dec 28-Jan 1. \$56+. San Diego Civic Theatre, 1100 Third Ave, downtown San Diego. <https://sandiegogotheatres.org/>
San Diego Int'l Auto Show, Dec 30-Jan 2. SD Convention Center www.sdauto.com

Imperial Beach Farmers' Market, Fridays, 2-7pm. Free. Veggies, fruits, arts & crafts, family entertainment. IB Pier Plaza.

OMFG NYE. Fri-Sat, Dec 30-31, 7pm. Age 18+. Pechanga Arena San Diego, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd, SD, 92110. pechangaarenasd.com
New Years Eve, Sat, Dec 31
Time Travelers' Ball, Sat, Dec 31, 6:30-9:30pm. \$10; students/military with ID free. Avoid crowds at overpriced events, and drunk drivers on the roads after midnight! Safe, fun environment to ring in the new year doing what you love: DANCING WITH FRIENDS. Optional potluck dinner at 5pm.

• Dress in your favorite era ... casual, formal, or anything in between.
• Time Travelers' playlist by DJ Beata (submit your requests!)
• Dance games at 7 and 8 pm
• Photo corner plus group photo at 8:30 pm
• 9 pm live stream of Times Square Ball Drop War Memorial Building, 3325 Zoo Dr, Balboa Park.

New Year's Burning Bowl Ceremony, Sat, Dec 31, 7-8:30pm. Free. Release and burn what you want to let go of for 2022 and set your intentions for 2023. Registration is appreciated. Seaside Center for Spiritual Living, 1613 Lake Dr, Encinitas. seasidecenter.org

Nerd Comedy for New Years Eve, Sat, Dec 31, 7pm. \$35. Clever comedy and a nerdy audience make this Alcohol-Free New Year's Eve one-of-a-kind. Tickets online at www.oceansidetheatre.org or call the box office at 760-433-8900.

LA Chargers vs LA Rams, Sun, Jan 1, 5:20pm
La Jolla Open Aire Market, Sundays, 9am-1pm, La Jolla Elementary School, 1111 Marine St., on the southwest corner Girard & Center.

Hillcrest Farmers' Market, DMV parking lot every Sunday, 9am-2pm. Monthly visiting chef series. 3960 Normal Street, SD, 92103

Allied Gardens Sunday Market,

10am-2pm. Farm-fresh produce, eggs, meat & fish, flowers, more. Lewis Middle School, 5170 Greenbriar Ave, SD, 92120

Free Eco-centric Concert: Dryad. Sun, Jan 1, noon-12:45pm. Husband-wife duo guitar & flute, vocal harmonies. Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Rd, Escondido, 92029

Snow N Glow Holiday Festival, Thru Jan 1, Del Mar www.delmar-fairgrounds.com
Lightscape, Ongoing thru Sun, Jan 1. \$18-\$29. Immersive 1 mile walk thru world of wonder, 1 million lights. Tickets online. San Diego Botanic Garden, Encinitas.

Feliz Navidad, Ongoing til Sun, Jan 1, 11am-4pm. Free. Family-friendly immersive experience designed to bring the spirit of the holidays to life. Fiesta de Reyes, Juan Street at Calhoun Street, Old Town San Diego.

Ice skating outdoors: Liberty Station, 875 Dewey Road, \$20. Hotel Del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave, \$40.

Escondido Cars & Coffee. Every Sunday Morning, 8-11am. Free. Kit Carson Park, 3333 Bear Valley Parkway, Escondido. Cars, trucks, bikes!
Julian Certified Farmers' Market, Sundays, 11am-4pm. Free. Wynola Farms Marketplace, 4470 Highway 78, Julian.

Tournament of Roses Rose Parade, Monday, Jan 2, Pasadena
Rose Bowl NCAA at Rose Bowl, Mon, Jan 2, Pasadena

Holidays at Legoland California Resort. Thru Jan 2. legoland.com
Promenade Market downtown San Diego. 10am, Ongoing Saturdays thru Dec. Free. Enjoy crafts, coffee, and street food including Mexican, wood-fired pizza, gyros, smashed avocado toast, kettle corn, waffles and crepes, more. Ruocco Park, 585 Harbor Lane, SD, 92101.

Street Food Market. Sat-Sun, 10-4, ongoing thru Dec. Free. Lane Field Park Market is a street food market showcasing 20+ food vendors, boutique coffee, live music from 12:30-2:30pm. Food includes Vietnamese bao, Thai burgers, wood-fired pizza, waffles & crepes, Mexican, empanadas, sushi and poke, smoothies, hot mini-donuts, more. Lane Field Park, 1009 North Harbor Drive, SD.

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Published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.
2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008
E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com

MOVIES AT THE BASES

Movies & times subject to change. * Indicates last showing
Visit navydispatch.com/entertainment_03movies.htm to find your 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, December 29

5:50pm Devotion pg13

Friday, December 30

5:50pm I Wanna Dance With Somebody pg13

Saturday, December 31

12:50pm Strange World pg

3:10pm Devotion pg13

Thursday, January 5

5:50pm I Wanna Dance With Somebody pg13

For updates check <https://sandiego.navylifefsw.com/movies/>

Bob Hope Theater 577-4143
MCAS Miramar Bldg 2242

Friday, December 30

6pm I Wanna Dance w/Somebody (PG-13)

9pm No movie

Saturday, December 31

12pm No movie

3pm Strange World (Animation) PG

6:30pm I Wanna Dance w/Somebody

6:30pm Devotion PG-13

Sunday, January 1

CLOSED: In Honor of New Year's Day

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

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

Friday, December 30

6pm I Wanna Dance With Somebody pg13

Saturday, December 31

3pm Black Panther: Wakanda Forever pg13

6pm Devotion pg13

Sunday, January 1

1pm Strange World pg

3pm I Wanna Dance w/Somebody pg13

Friday, January 6

6pm Violent Night r

Q-Zone - NAB
Bldg. 337 • 619-437-3190

Family Friendly Movies:

Tues, Thur, Sat: 11 am. NDVDs

Friday, December 30

5pm The Woman King pg13

Saturday, December 31

11am Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank pg

Monday, January 02

5pm World War Z pg13

Tuesday, January 3

11am Finding Dory pg

5pm Tommy Boy pg13

Wednesday, January 4

5pm The Long Kiss Goodnight r

Pendleton Theater and Training Center
Closed Dec 24 & 31

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- Lab kit supply
- Highland hats
- Teacher's handful
- "Uncalled for!"
- Missouri's __ de Terre Lake
- Revival prefix
- Game millions can play
- *French cheesemonger's luggage?
- Like a storied equine statue
- Fire alarm?
- *Potemkin village?
- __ bargain
- Female monster
- Unoccupied ones
- Word in a kids' game recommendation
- Heroic collie
- Bks. in progress
- *Top performer who's hopelessly off course?
- Hydroelectric project
- Prodded
- Romcom subject
- Chartbuster
- Lyric poems
- Memo heading
- *Heresies?
- Cardiologist's implant
- Old-style "Listen up!"
- *PETA protester's emotion?
- Of yore
- Hill builder
- Sneerer's sentiment
- False move
- Word of assent
- Lays down the lawn
- What's taken in some court proceedings, and also (in two ways) from the answers to starred clues

Down

- NBC show with Ego Nwodim
- Try to win

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San Diego Humane Society looking for pet lovers to help during time of urgent need

San Diego Humane Society is facing multiple challenges right now. We are reaching out to you, and our entire community, to ask for help so we can continue our lifesaving work.

Due to incidents of canine distemper virus (CDV) at our shelters, we have temporarily suspended the intake of owner-surrendered dogs until Jan. 15 in order to prevent further exposure. Currently, all dogs who have either tested positive or been exposed to CDV are in quarantine. We are still taking in a high volume of stray animals, but with our shelters already at or over capacity, we are calling on our community to help us create additional space to house animals in need. While there is never an ideal time to face these challenges, we are already facing reduced capacity due to construction at our San Diego Campus.

This is an urgent need and we are asking everyone in our community to consider how they can help. Below are a few ways you can make a direct impact for the animals in our care:

1. Foster. SDHS has a critical need for foster homes for dogs, especially those who have been exposed to CDV and are under quarantine. Getting these deserving pets into foster care will reduce the spread of disease, increase the quality of life for dogs during their quarantine period, and free up space in at-capacity shelters. Support will be provided to fosters every step of the way. Learn more or sign up at sdhumane.org/foster.

2. Adopt. If you have been considering adding a pet to your home, now is a great time to adopt. In addition to giving a deserving animal a home for the holidays, you'll create much-needed shelter space for animals with nowhere else to turn. Visit sdhumane.org/pets to view pets who are ready for new homes.

3. Seek support. If you are considering relinquishing your animal, we have resources to keep pets with their families through challenging times. Visit sdhumane.org/supportservices for more information.

4. Rehome pets. If a community member cannot keep their pet, we ask they try rehoming them before bringing them to the shelter. SDHS offers rehoming resources that can help. These tools allow pet owners to create a profile for their adoptable pet and place the animal directly in their new home — eliminating the need for a shelter stay.

5. Reunite stray animals with their owners. Many stray pets are found close to home! If you find a stray animal, there are steps you can take to reunite them directly with their owner, skipping a trip to the shelter.

Together, we can be there for the animals who desperately need us. San Diego Humane Society, 5500 Gaines St., San Diego, CA 92110 | 619-299-7012. Campus Locations in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego.



My Pet World:

Dog's excitement at the park results in embarrassing behaviors

Cathy M. Rosenthal,
Tribune Content Agency

Dear Cathy,

We rescued a dog from South Carolina. He is about five to six years old. He looks like a German Shepard and yellow lab mix. We did his DNA, and he has twenty-one breeds in him -- mostly, Pit Bull Terriers, Chow Chow, and Golden Retriever.

He is well-behaved in the house, but when we take him to the park, he gets very hyper and sometimes mounts other dogs and people. In the car, he jumps from the back to the front. When we restrain him, he pants and breaths heavily. He seems to have so much anxiety at times. How do we stop the mounting?

-- Artie and Stella,
Smithtown, New York

Dear Artie and Stella,

Mounting can be an embarrassing behavior for any dog's owner. But rest assured, many dogs do it, and for various reasons. While the behavior is associated with mating, fixed dogs of either sex will mount dogs of the same and opposite sex when they want to display dominance over another dog, when they are super excited (i.e., like going to the dog park), or when they are playing.

During play, you may see milder versions of this behavior in which all the dogs may be doing it to each other. If everyone is happy, there's gently nothing to worry about. But even in play, if another dog doesn't like being mounted, or if your dog is being

obnoxious about it, there is a chance there could be a fight.

So, stop the behavior as soon as you see it, which means physically going over and pushing your dog off another dog or better yet, training him to get off the other dog with the "off" command. Use the "off" command when you want your dog to get off your couch, etc.,



and point in the direction you want him to go. When your dog understands this command, tell your dog "off" when he mounts another dog. Then ask him to "come" and "sit." After the "sit" command, you may offer a treat. By interrupting your dog's excitement, you are helping him to calm down and learn how to play better with his friends.

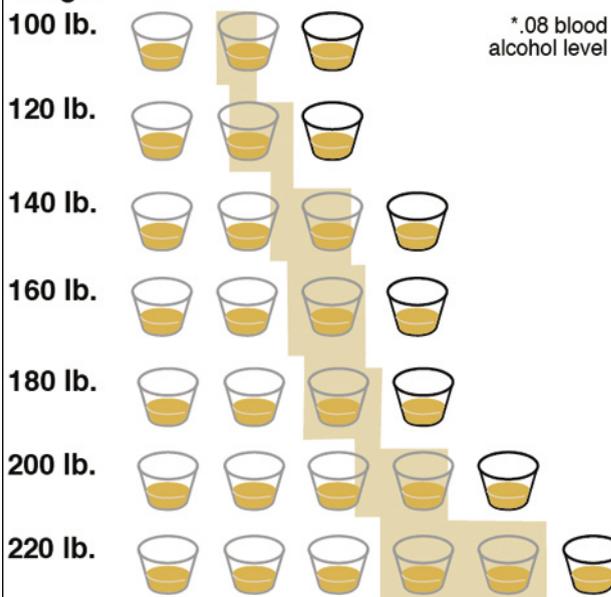
How much is too much?

Blood alcohol levels

■ Maximum legal limit* Likely impaired

☒ Over legal limit

Weight



One drink equals

- ☒ 1.25 oz. of liquor
- ☒ 5 oz. of wine
- ☒ or one 12 oz. beer

Deadly days

Percentage of traffic fatalities that are alcohol-related.

New Year's	69%
Super Bowl Sunday	64%
Christmas	48%
Thanksgiving	40%

Source: U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, AAA
Graphic: Staff, TNS

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



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SAVE \$\$



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