

# ARMED FORCES DISPATCH



San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Dispatch

[www.armedforcesdispatch.com](http://www.armedforcesdispatch.com)

619.280.2985

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR NO. 3

JULY 1-15, 2026

Serving active duty and retired military personnel, veterans and civil service employees



**GUARDING MALACCA** Marines assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit train in defensive tactics aboard amphibious assault ship *USS Boxer* while transiting the Strait of Malacca, June 21, 2026. The unit routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Nicole Stuart

## Commissary celebrates 159 years

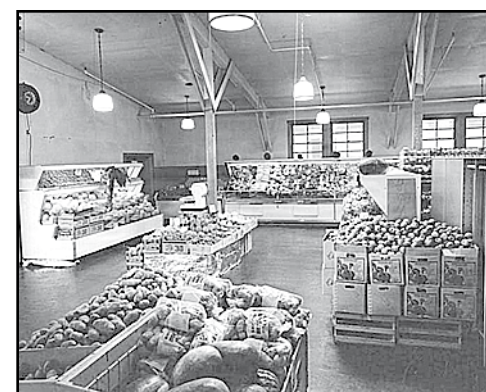
by Tamara Eastman, DeCA Historian

FORT LEE, Va. - America is celebrating its 250th birthday this year, but there is another birthday just as important.

On July 1, 2026, the Defense Commissary Agency marked 159 years that commissaries have been providing a valuable benefit of low-cost groceries to the military community.

The commissary benefit has evolved significantly over the century and a half. Initially, privileges were restricted to officers starting in 1825. However, the era of the modern benefit started on July 1, 1867, when Congress authorized enlisted service members to shop there as well.

A traveler back in time to the commissaries of the 1860s and 1870s, would find them to be nothing like today's commissaries, which offer a wide variety of



**Interior of the Presidio commissary in 1959. DeCA photo**

fresh produce as well as easy access to shopping that includes online ordering and curbside pickup through Click2Go.

Instead, the commissaries of the 19th century were set up in former wooden horse stables or warehouses. By 1896, the typical commissary had a stock list of around 81 items. Compare that with a stock list of around 15,000 in many commissaries today.

When U.S. troops started deploying overseas, commissaries followed. The first overseas commissary opened in Cuba in 1899, followed by another in China in 1900. The commissary in Panama opened in 1904.

The Naval Appropriations Act of 1909 created an allowance for the Navy's own stores, and the service opened its first store in Washington, D.C., in 1910.

In 1918, during World War I, the U.S. Army ran commissaries in France that included mobile stores operating from the back of trucks and carrying goods to the men on the front lines.

When World War II ended in 1945, U.S. military commissaries were operating on every continent except Antarctica in more than 1,000 locations. Before the Defense Commissary Agency, DeCA, was created in 1991, each service had responsibility for running its own commissary program under the following organizations:

<https://corp.commissaries.com/our-agency/newsroom/news-releases/>

## Sailor's fatal fall exposed drug ring aboard aircraft carrier *Ronald Reagan*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan - *Stars and Stripes* newspaper reported June 26 that a Sailor's fatal fall in 2023 sparked a Navy probe that uncovered a drug distribution network aboard aircraft carrier *USS Ronald Reagan* and led to punishment for 58 sailors, according to service officials and heavily redacted court records. The investigation resulted in six courts-martial, 24 administrative separations and 28 cases of nonjudicial punishment, Navy officials said. Court records describe a network that used the U.S. Postal Service to ship hundreds of LSD tablets to Japan that were then distributed to Sailors. Continue reading at <https://www.stripes.com/branches/navy/2026-06-25/uss-ronald-reagan-lsd-yokosuka-navy-22082696.html>.

## SEEKING HELP COULD BE EASIER UNDER NEW LEGISLATION

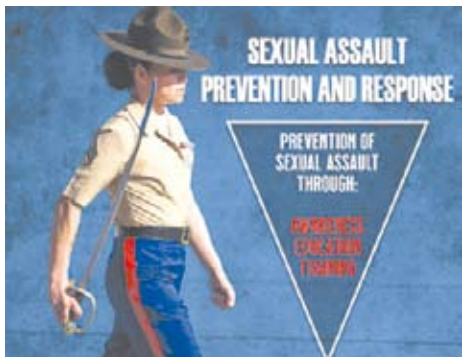
by Scott Sutherland  
staff writer

Under proposed Congressional legislation, victims of military sexual assault may be able to seek justice and accountability against the person who committed the assault.

Called the Military Sexual Trauma Accountability Act, it would allow active-duty service members and veterans to bring civil claims against the U.S. government for negligence that contributed to military sexual trauma over the course of their service. It would discontinue the

Feres doctrine, a 1950 Supreme Court ruling preventing the military from suing the federal government.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, a senior member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, is co-author of the legislation. She introduced it by saying that



Graphic courtesy of Joint Base San Antonio

in recent years, Congress has taken meaningful steps to help "empower service members to report instances of sexual assault and harassment."

"But in order to build on that progress and root out the negligence that has allowed for sexual harassment and assault to thrive in our military, survivors must be able to pursue every possible avenue for legal recourse," she said.

"It makes no sense that civilians can seek justice from the government when the warriors who have sacrificed everything to protect our nation cannot. This landmark legislation would right this wrong by tearing down the barriers that prevent members of the military and veterans from engaging the justice system to demand accountability and

finally begin to heal."

As part of a recent discussion panel at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, several survivors of sexual assault and harassment shared their story with Army leaders, according to a report by the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center.

One of those was Maj. Katie Crumby, an Army MP, who said she just began to speak out in the past two years about her assault that occurred 20 years ago when she was a private. This event was the first public forum where she had shared her story.

"The Army training I've received and the training I've given at company level command positions has emboldened me to speak out," Crumby said. "Even more so, my informal see **MST, page 5**

PRSR STD  
ECRMSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

### Read the Dispatch on line!

Pick us up in print on the newsstands on the 1st and 16th of each month. In between find fresh on-line editions at

[www.afdispatch.com](http://www.afdispatch.com)

Your **FREE**  
weekly paper

Take one!

# New study finds visitation to historic battlefield parks supports \$1.5 billion in annual spending

Landmark study, released for America's 250th birthday, demonstrates the economic power of heritage tourism and visitation to the nation's historic battlefield parks

(Washington, D.C.) — America's historic battlefields support more than 15,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in annual visitor spending, according to a new study that incorporates cell phone tracking and National Park Service visitor data to thoroughly assess the economic power of these preserved battlefield parks and historic sites.

Battlefields Mean Business shows how 20.3 million annual visits to national battlefield sites spanning conflicts and stretching across 31 states and two territories contributed to \$2.2 billion in

total economic output. The analysis was conducted by market research firm RRC Associates for the American Battlefield Trust. Report details are available on the Trust website.

"Battlefields Mean Business demonstrates what we have long known to be true: America's battlefield sites are more than places of historical memory. They are economic drivers and recreational destinations that collectively support their local communities," said David Duncan, president of the American Battlefield Trust.

A key innovation was the incorporation of mobile location data for 15 case study sites. Traditional methods face accuracy limitations at dispersed or open-access sites, where visitors enter

at multiple points or where formal counting infrastructure is limited. Sampling mobile location data provides a complementary source that enables observation of aggregate visitation patterns, including origins, dwell times and travel patterns.

## Among the key findings in Battlefields Mean Business:

- Battlefield visitation generates economic value across a spectrum of site types, from high-volume urban destinations to low-volume rural sites.
- Smaller and more rural sites pack a bigger per-visitor punch and provide valuable economic drivers their communities might not have otherwise.
- Battlefields function as part of broader tourism systems, often extending visitor trips and

increasing regional spending and cumulative impact in the heritage sector.

- Preservation fuels economic contributions, as access and interpretation lengthen dwell time.
- Beyond attracting visitors from afar, battlefields are important community for local residents.

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 62,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War across 160 sites in 25 states. Learn more at [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)

# The Story of America

*Video series tells our remarkable story*

Under the President's leadership, the entire federal government, state and local governments, the private sector, non-profit and educational institutions, and every citizen across this country are encouraged to join in this historic celebration.

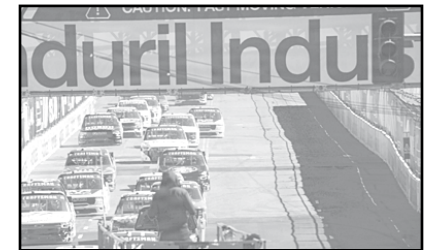
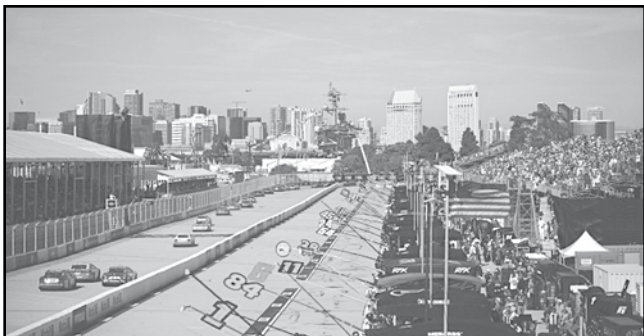
Task Force 250 invites citizens to have a renewed love of American history, experience the beauty of our country, and ignite a spirit of adventure and innovation that will raise our nation to new heights over the next 250 years.

In commemoration of events leading up to the July 4, 2026, anniversary, the White House presents this original video series, "The Story of America."

This history series tells the remarkable story of American Independence. It will highlight the stories of the crucial characters and events that resulted in a small rag-tag army defeating the mightiest empire in the world and establishing the greatest republic ever to exist. This is the story of America. This is our shared heritage and our proud destiny that will continue to lead us to unimaginable achievements in the centuries to come.

<https://www.state.gov/freedom-250>

## RECAP: NASCAR RACE WEEKEND



**C**ORONADO (June 21, h2026) - Corey Heim won his first professional race. NASCAR fans here witnessed their first professional race on a military base. It was a win-win for all.

In the Anduril 250 at NAS North Island, Heim reached the finish line 10.365 seconds ahead of Bubba Wallace.

"I'm speechless," Heim said after completing an extended celebratory burnout. "I mean, we started the race, I think we started 13th. We fell straight back to 20th. Then put on our scuffs from qualifying, struggled just as bad.

### WHAT THEY SAID

*Driver Jimmie Johnson, El Cajon native: "There's nothing like going home. I didn't make it all the way back to see my childhood home but to be in the area to drive around and see everything, the memories just come flooding back."*

*Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, honorary race starter: "Pay very close attention to that name on the windshield of every single driver, the name of an American who paid the full price so that not just them, but their spouses and their kids and their families... could live free."*

*"You can turn my runway into a speedway. The first-ever NASCAR race on an active-duty military base. Fighter jets overhead. Happy 250th, America."*

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF NASCAR VISUAL MEDIA

## PCS ORDERS VEHICLE INSPECTION

FAST • RELIABLE • MILITARY FRIENDLY SERVICE

Getting ready for your PCS move?

MAKE SURE YOUR VEHICLE IS ROAD-READY

with trusted local experts.



## OZZIE'S AUTO SERVICE

KEEPING MILITARY FAMILIES SAFE • OCEAN BEACH • SAN DIEGO

- Complete PCS Vehicle Inspections • Quick Turnaround Times •
- Honest, Experienced Technicians • Convenient Location

AVOID DELAYS IN YOUR MOVE • GET YOUR INSPECTION DONE RIGHT THE 1st TIME

**CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE - ONLY \$69.95**

**619-222-5358 • 6676 Sunset Cliffs Blvd • SD 92107**



**El Indio**  
Mexican Restaurant  
and Catering

Family Owned & Operated  
Since 1940

**Best Mexican Food  
in San Diego**

Free Parking! 10% Military Discount



3695 India Street • [www.elindiosandiego.com](http://www.elindiosandiego.com) • 619-299-0333  
Open Daily 9am - 8pm

## VA Disability Claim Denied?

*Know Your Rights and*

*Don't Take "No" for an Answer!*

Don't Risk a Permanent Denial and Lose Back Pay

*Call the Professional Advocates Today!*

Claims Agents Have over 80% Success Rate on Appeals

No Fees Unless You Win - Free Consultation!

**800-921-0310**

[www.VetDisabilityAid.com](http://www.VetDisabilityAid.com)

## Southern Command moves quickly to support Venezuela earthquake relief



### Army

\*Hungry bears are heading to Fort Carson this summer  
\*Army will lease land on bases for critical mineral production

### Navy

\*Seven Sailors injured during fire aboard USS *Indianapolis*  
\*USS *Nimitz* heads to New York City for International Naval Review

### Marine Corps

\*Marines create dedicated track for Doctor of Philosophy officers

### Coast Guard

\*N.J. Coast Guard swimmer to receive Pat Tillman Award at the ESPYs

### Veterans

\*Hundreds of veterans snag free World Cup tickets

### Defense Industry

\*ICEYE to double radar-satellite capacity by late 2027 as demand surges

Courtesy story  
U.S. Southern Command

As directed by the War Department, U.S. Southern Command is working with the State Department to support U.S. government relief operations in Venezuela in response to the devastating June 24 earthquakes.

Southcom is moving quickly to bring unmatched airlift, logistics and lifesaving capabilities of the U.S. military to help save lives and support the nation of Venezuela during this crisis.

The command has established an operational planning team that includes experienced subject matter experts from the Bureau of Disaster and Humanitarian Response, who are advising staff and leaders responsible for disaster relief planning and mission-related decisions.

Southcom has also initiated close coordination with other partners and allies in the region who have pledged to join the international assistance



underway to aid the people of Venezuela in their time of need.

A mix of international rescue teams, Venezuelans looking for loved ones and neighbors used shovels, heavy equipment, ropes and bare hands atop

mounds of toppled concrete throughout La Guaira, one of Venezuela's hardest-hit states.

The toll of Wednesday's quakes stood at at least 1,430 dead as of June 27aturday. Families reported at least 68,900 people missing.

**JTF Bravo members load and stage equipment into a Chinook helicopter in preparation for potential support to Venezuela's disaster relief response. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ethan Sherwood**

### Armed Forces Dispatch

published by Western States Weeklies, Inc.  
2604 B-280 El Camino Real, Carlsbad, CA 92008  
619-280-2985 • E-mail: editor@navydispatch.com  
Editor.....Scott Sutherland

The Dispatch is published online weekly on Thursdays, and in print on the 1st & 16th of each month 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 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. Subscriptions mailed USPS First Class.



**We stand ready to serve every soldier**

We're here to help the military community and their families make the most of their money.

**Our members can earn and save \$473\* per year by banking with us.**

**Visit [navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org) to join.**



Our Members Are the Mission

\*Dollar value shown reflects the 2025 Navy Federal Member Giveback Study, which considers internal analyses comparing Navy Federal products to industry national averages, and includes dividends earned on savings, lower loan rates, discounts, and other benefits. Individual results will vary. Image used for representational purposes only; does not imply government endorsement. © 2026 Navy Federal NFCU 14492-A (5-26)



**Pentagon drops commissary privatization**

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION - The Department of War has formally ended its exploration of privatizing the nation's 178 domestic commissary stores, confirming that outreach to the commercial grocery industry produced zero interest in acquiring a system legally required to deliver at least 24 percent savings to military shoppers.

Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Anthony Tata confirmed the decision publicly recently, noting that no private entity was willing to absorb what he called a "24 percent haircut right out of the gate."

A subsequent analysis signed by Deputy Under Secretary Sean O'Keefe concluded that privatization would create an unacceptable risk to the readiness and well-being of service members and their families, and that potential cost savings could not be realized without severely degrading the benefit itself. The decision was formally communicated to Congress in an April 3 letter.



**The commissary at Fort Belvoir, Va. Defense Commissary Agency photo by Kevin Robinson**

The reversal closes out a process that began with a September 2025 request for information issued under DoD's April 2025 directive to prioritize privatization of non-inherently governmental functions, specifically citing retail sales.

The RFI drew significant congressional and VSO pushback, and the FY2026 NDAA reinforced existing statutory language barring DoD from taking actions that conflict with restrictions on commissary privatization. DoD confirmed it is now shifting focus to technology and efficiency improvements within the existing commissary footprint.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates 235 stores globally on approximately \$1.5 billion in annual appropriations, a subsidy that makes the benefit possible and that no commercial operator could replicate without government support.

The FRA strongly welcomes the Pentagon's decision to abandon commissary privatization. For generations, the commissary benefit has been a non-negotiable pillar of non-pay compensation for our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, particularly for junior enlisted families stationed in high-cost installations and isolated forward posts where commercial alternatives are limited or nonexistent.

FRA has consistently held that a federal grocery benefit is not a marketplace asset to be handed to corporate operators; it is a readiness and retention tool funded by a promise made at enlistment. DoD reached the right conclusion, and Congress must ensure it holds.

**U.S. strikes Iran in response to attack on commercial vessel**

TAMPA, Fla. — U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces conducted strikes against Iran, June 26, as a powerful response to June 25's attack on a commercial ship that was transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. aircraft struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations and coastal radar sites after Iran hit M/V Ever Lovely on June 25 with a one-way attack drone. The Singapore-flagged cargo ship was exiting the Strait of Hormuz along the Omani coast at the time of Iran's attack.

The unwarranted aggression against commercial shipping by Iranian forces clearly violated the ceasefire. Furthermore, Iran's dangerous behavior undermined freedom of navigation as commerce increasingly flows through the vital international trade corridor.

CENTCOM forces continue to provide safe passage coordination and support to commercial vessels transiting the strait. The U.S. military remains present and vigilant to ensure all aspects of the agreement with Iran are adhered to, obeyed, and in full force and effect.

**U.S. forces conduct additional strikes after Iran's latest commercial ship attack**

TAMPA, Fla. - U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces conducted additional strikes against multiple targets in Iran, June 27, at the Commander in Chief's direction.

After June 26's U.S. strikes in response to the Iranian attack on M/V Ever Lovely, Iran was given a chance to honor the ceasefire agreement but elected not to when its forces launched a one-way attack drone that hit M/T Kiku June 27.

The Panama-flagged tanker was transiting near the Strait of Hormuz with more than two-million barrels of crude oil.

CENTCOM forces launched strikes today in direct response to continued Iranian aggression against commercial shipping. U.S. military aircraft targeted Iranian military surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defense sites, drone storage facilities, and minelayer capabilities.

Commercial vessel transits through the Strait of Hormuz continue. U.S. forces remain vigilant, lethal, and ready.

**Former Army Soldier pleads guilty to child exploitation crimes committed in Alaska and Texas**

Dept. of Justice  
Office of Public Affairs

A former Army soldier pleaded guilty June 24 to child exploitation crimes he committed while living in Alaska and Texas, including attempted production of child sexual abuse material depicting minors known to him, and trafficking of CSAM.

According to court documents, beginning in March 2021, Seth Herrera, 36, previously of El Paso, Texas, started using The Onion Router (TOR) and multiple encrypted and/or privacy-enhancing applications to access, possess, receive, and transport CSAM on his cell phones. Herrera used these phones to browse the dark web and used encrypted messaging applications to seek out, access and receive CSAM. He created his own publicly accessible group on one of the platforms where he stored his preferred CSAM files. In six weeks, he uploaded over 100 files to this group.

Across various applications, Herrera participated in hun-

dreds of groups and channels dedicated to CSAM. At the time, the defendant belonged to over 400 Telegram groups and over 1,400 Telegram channels alone. Some groups focused on CSAM involving bestiality, incest, and infants/toddlers.

Law enforcement seized Herrera's devices in May 2024 and discovered tens of thousands of CSAM videos and images, depicting sadistic and masochistic content of boys and girls ranging in age from infant through pubescent.

Starting in December 2022, Herrera also used various AI chatbots on Telegram and other websites to create morphed CSAM. In some instances, Herrera would take non-explicit images of children, some known to him personally, and use AI to undress and morph bodies, and make it appear as if they were engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

While fueling his desire for online CSAM, beginning in



**Seth Herrera**

March 2021, Herrera started taking surreptitious photos and recordings of minors known to him in El Paso, Texas. In December 2022, Herrera captured screenshots of minors via security cameras around his home. In one instance, Herrera used AI chatbots to enhance and improve the quality of an explicit screenshot. In total, Herrera secretly produced at least 28 photos and two videos of one minor from security cameras.

Herrera moved to Alaska in August 2023 and transported

all his CSAM files across state lines because they were stored in password-protected photo vaults on his phones.

On Aug. 23, 2024, Herrera was arrested at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, where he served as a Specialist, after a federal grand jury indicted him on transportation, receipt and possession of child pornography. On May 14, 2025, a grand jury in the Western District of Texas indicted Herrera on production and receipt of child pornography related to his conduct in El Paso. Herrera entered his plea under a global plea agreement after the Western District of Texas transferred their case to the District of Alaska on June 15.

He's scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 29 and faces a minimum penalty of 15 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

# Places of Worship

<p><b>B</b>ayview Church  <i>Attract...Assimilate...Activate</i> Terry W. Brooks, Sr. Pastor                  6134 Pastor Timothy J. Winters St., San Diego 92114 • (619) 262-8384                  Sunday Worship Services 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:15am                  Studies in Christian Living (formerly Sunday School) Tues &amp; Thurs online only 6pm (contact Church for sign up). In person Saturday 9am &amp; 10am                  www.bayviewbc.org info@bayviewbc.org</p>	<p><b>F</b>irst Baptist Church of Coronado  <i>"Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach Our World"</i>                  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><b>M</b>t. Zion Missionary Baptist Church San Diego  <i>"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work" - Nehemiah 4:1-6</i>                  Join us for worship services: Sunday School 9:30am, followed by Morning Worship at 11am                  Rev. Dennis Ray Anderson, D. Min., Pastor                  3045 Greely Ave., San Diego, CA 92113                  619-233-3296 - office</p>
<p><b>B</b>ethany Lutheran Church                  Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod                  2051 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., Ocean Beach 92107                  (Parking lot off the Alley - North of the building)                  Worship 11am Sundays                  Bible Class, Wednesdays 10am                  (619)222-7291 Office@BethanyLutheranOB.org</p>	<p><b>M</b>esa View Baptist Church                  Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CWO3, USMC (Ret.)  <i>Seeking Sinners; Saving Souls; Strengthening Saints</i>                  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><b>S</b>outhwest Baptist Church  <i>"To know Christ and to make Him known"</i>                  Welcome All   Retired Military/Chaplain as Pastors                  Sunday Bible Study: 9:30am   Sunday Worship Service: 11am                  Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm                  2295 Leon Avenue, San Diego, CA 92154   Phone: (619) 423-2477                  Email: pastor@swbcسد.org   www.swbcسد.org</p>
<p><b>C</b>hrist Community Church  <i>"Helping people love God, find community and make a difference"</i>                  Sunday services at 8:45am and 10:30am                  Children's ministry for all kids. Life groups for teens and adults.                  9535 Kearny Villa Rd. Mira Mesa, 92126. Just off I-15 and Miramar Rd.                  More Info: www.gotoChrist.com</p>	<p><b>M</b>ilitary Outreach Ministries Int'l Church  <i>"Supporting all families, all people, at all times"</i>                  Dr. Dennis Eley, Jr, Th.D., MBA                  Sunday Worship Service 12:30-2:30pm in person                  Thirsty Thursday Bible Study 7-8pm (on Zoom)                  Location: Murphy Canyon Chapel, 3200 Santo Road, San Diego, 92124                  619-733-0621 • www.militaryoutreachministries.org</p>	<p><b>S</b>t. 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.  <i>We thank you for your service!</i></p>

**Place your ad in our 'Places of Worship' directory...as low as \$15 per week!**

## Career and Education

# 'Agent Network' unleashed to transform AI-enabled battle management and targeting

The Department of War launched "Agent Network," the second Pace-Setting Project (PSP 2) and key element of the Department's new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceleration Strategy.

Led by the Department's Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office, in partnership with U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Southern Command, and U.S. European Command, Agent Network employs advanced, AI-enabled tools to compress the time it takes to turn intelligence into informed options for commanders around the world. The new capability will transform battle management, decision support, and targeting.

Agent Network will significantly decrease the time it takes to identify a critical development and act. This transitions traditional targeting from a slow process to a modern targeting approach that yields faster identification and results. The new capability utilizes AI-enabled agents to continuously scan defense intelligence and operational systems, translating findings into clearly presented

options for commanders within seconds. Agent Network does not autonomously select or strike targets; it ensures commanders remain in charge of every decision, empowering them to act on the most current and accurate operational picture possible.

"Agent Network delivers on



the Department's commitment to field AI capabilities with speed and accountability. By pairing established defense technology leaders with innovative new entrants, we are building an interoperable network of AI agents that gives commanders faster access to better information while

keeping human judgment at the center of every targeting decision. This is warfighting AI at operational scale," said Cameron Stanley, the Department's Chief Digital and AI Officer.

PSP 2 combines the strengths of America's most capable and established frontier AI com-

panies with the innovation of new entrants, a core principle of the Department's AI Acceleration Strategy. PSP 2 builds on foundational Command and

## DOW launches website to help industry partners navigate supply chain requirements

The Department of War (DoW) today announced the launch of a new website to provide guidance and resources for industry partners on the implementation of Section 805 of the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. This provision restricts future DoW procurement from entities identified on the Section 1260H list of Chinese military companies.

The new website <https://www.businessdefense.gov/805-waiver-request.html> managed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy serves as a central hub for information regarding the upcoming prohibitions. It details the timeline for both the Entity Provision or "direct" ban,

Control innovation by Palantir Technologies, which underpins the Department's Maven Smart System program, and Lumbr, which is led by veteran warfighters and intelligence professionals to implement AI orchestration technology operational on U.S. Government systems.

Throughout development and fielding, Agent Network will be subject to rigorous testing, operational evaluation and oversight to ensure it strengthens mission performance, while upholding U.S. legal and ethical obligations. This PSP will make available tangible, combat-credible AI capabilities on aggressive timelines, enhancing national defense while prioritizing precision, accountability and the reduction of collateral risk.

Agent Network is a prime example of the Department's accelerated approach to delivering AI capabilities to strengthen battlefield execution through its seven PSPs. For more information, visit the Department of War's AI Acceleration Strategy.

effective June 30, 2026, and the Goods and Services Prohibition or "indirect ban," effective June 30, 2027, which applies to supply chains.

The site provides critical resources for companies doing business with the Department, including a clear process for requesting a waiver. The waiver process is designed for partners who require additional time to transition away from suppliers on the 1260H list and requires a compelling justification and a detailed phase-out plan.

Industry partners are encouraged to visit the new website and email the Section 805 team with any questions at [osd.805-waivers@mail.mil](mailto:osd.805-waivers@mail.mil).

## Marines create dedicated track for Doctor of Philosophy officers

The Marine Corps added a new role called Career Doctor of Philosophy, Technical, to its list of primary military occupational specialties, according to a recent administrative message.

*Military Times* reported that the new MOS, listed as 8899, creates a dedicated career track for Marine officers who earn their doctorate through the service's PhD-Technical Program and serve in technical research and innovation roles.

In 2021, the service codified the Doctor of Philosophy career field to bolster its technical expertise by recruiting active-duty Marines officers to enroll in doctoral programs through MOS 8890. Although the track was initially listed as a primary MOS, the service cancelled that order in March 2025.

Nevertheless, lieutenant colonels and colonels who are accepted for the lateral move will be primarily responsible for leading and conducting original technical research programs and advising senior leadership at Marine Corps headquarters about them.

## U.S. Army's most recent court-martial results

On June 18, at a special court-martial convened at Fort Knox, Ky., Staff Sgt. James C. Burress was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of three specifications of violation of a lawful general regulation, one specification of assault consummated by a battery, and one specification of obstructing justice, in violation of UCMJ Articles 92, 128, and 131b. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 30 days and to be reduced to the grade of E-5.

On June 17, at a special court-martial convened at Kleber Kaserne, Germany, Sergeant First Class Piter Rivas was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of domestic violence in violation of UCMJ Article 128b. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 121 days.

On June 16 June, at a special court-martial convened at Fort Irwin, Calif., Sergeant Travarus J. Durham was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of wrongful appropriation in violation of UCMJ Article 121. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 150 days and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

On June 16, at general court-martial convened at Camp Humphreys, Republic of Korea, Private First Class Jodane L. Brown was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of child pornography in violation of UCMJ Article 134. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 13 months, to be reduced to the grade of E-1, and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

On June 16, at a general court-martial convened at Fort Campbell, Ky., Private First Class Eshon N. Newson was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of three specifications of burglary and one specification of assault consummated by a battery in violation of UCMJ Articles 129 and 128. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 36 months and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge.

For a complete list, <https://www.jagcnet.army.mil/ACMPRS/cases/docket-case-list>.

**Navy Family Readiness Program**  
Our civilian workforce leads the way  
in taking care of Sailors and their families. **We are hiring!**

**NAVY FFR CAREERS**  
**THIS WORKFORCE OFFERS A WEALTH OF EXPERTISE FROM WHICH FFR RECRUITS AND DEVELOPS LEADERS. GROW PROFESSIONALLY AND REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL WITH NAVY FFR. VIEW THE CURRENT OPENINGS AT [WWW.NAVYLIFESW/CAREERS](http://WWW.NAVYLIFESW/CAREERS). FIND A CAREER WITH THE CHILD AND YOUTH PROGRAM (CYP), AND OTHERS.**

## MST

continued from page 1

conversations with peers about sexual assault has prepared me to do something like this panel. With how much the U.S. Army is emphasizing the prevention of sexual assault, it's made it a little easier for me personally because I know I have a story I can communicate to my peers having been a junior member of this service 20 years ago. I feel I have a unique perspective to share."

Pentagon data shows an ongoing crisis, with over 73,000 military sexual assault cases estimated system-wide. While reported assaults in the U.S. military have recently decreased by

over 13 percent - largely driven by drops in the Army - incidents of sexual trauma against female service members continue to prompt major institutional, legal, and systemic reforms across the Department of Defense.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is proactive in helping former service members seek help and counseling for military sexual trauma. In a social media post, the VA affirmed that "we're here to support you in whatever way will help you best. We can help you learn more about how MST affects people. We can provide treatment that helps you cope with how the experience of MST is impacting your life."

The Fleet & Family Support Services San Diego encourages MST survivors to seek resources, both nationally and locally. If you think you were sexually assaulted, or if someone you supervise has been sexually assaulted, immediately contact the Safe Helpline at (877) 995-5247 or a local Sexual Assault & Response Program Coordinator (Naval Base San Diego SARC, (619) 261-3991), or Command Sexual Assault & Response Victim Advocate.

"It's never too late to speak up for yourself or someone else," said Maj. Katie Crumby. "Silence doesn't always make things better and time doesn't always make things go away."

## Come Pitch With Us!

Southern California Horseshoe Pitchers Association (SCHPA), a charter of the National Horseshoe Pitchers Association (NHPA), has clubs all over the southern half of California. These clubs all have first class horseshoe courts built to official specifications.

- Organized tournaments most weekends year around
- All skill levels and ages welcome. When you enter a tournament, you will be seeded with other players with similar skill levels for fair, enjoyable and friendly competition.
- Local clubs located at Balboa Park, Carlsbad, Encinitas
- For info visit <https://socalhorseshoes.weebly.com/>
- Join today and we'll see you at the pits!



**NHPA**  
National Horseshoe Pitchers Association  
"Come Pitch with Us!"



## Finished the work: China Lake cuts the ribbon on final recovery project

by Kimberly Brown

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division

Seven years ago in 2019, nearly to the day, two earthquakes changed the face of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake forever.

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division's facilities took the brunt of the damage, with cracks running through labs, office buildings, and magazines. In a blow to the community at large, NAWS

China Lake lost its chapel, where people had worshiped and wed for decades.

The chapel was one of the first to rise from the rubble. The headquarters building is one of the last.

On June 23, more than 200 people gathered on the lawn of the NAWCWD/NAWS headquarters building, colloquially called the "White House," to mark the end of an era: the final ribbon cutting on a nearly \$4 billion recovery effort.

"For years, the shared goal and rallying cry across this installation has been to 'Finish the Work,'" said Capt. Ben Wainwright, Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest executive officer, who helped lead the reconstruction effort as part of the Officer in Charge of Construction China Lake.

"Today, standing before this fully restored facility, I can proudly say that together, we have done exactly that."

And while the joint OICC, NAWS, and NAWCWD team rebuilt the bricks and mortar, it's up to those who repopulate the joint headquarters building to rebuild something even more important: the connection and culture that make China Lake special, said retired Capt. Jeremy Vaughan, former installation commander who now serves as NAWCWD's chief strategy officer.

Military and civilians working together. Scientists and administrators. Uniforms and dress shirts. Co-located, collaborating, "casual collisions" in the halls becoming breakthroughs.

The earthquakes scattered the center; the restoration begins the work of rebuilding something more.

"The White House gives us the opportunity – and the responsibility ... to rebuild the relationships that made this place extraordinary in the first place," he said. The China Lake Way, the culture, this is our true strategic advantage."

More than 80 years of history are baked into the facility, the nerve center of a community once characterized as "Rocket Town." Life magazine sent a photographer to the remote base then known as the Naval Ordnance Test Station to

capture the spirit of the community conducting the "secret research" and developing the weapons of tomorrow.

Though focused on warfare, the purpose of the work is the opposite, said Dr. L.T.E. Thompson, then the NOTS technical director on site.

"He stressed that the ultimate goal is to never have to fight again," said Rear Adm. Keith Hash, NAWCWD commander. "Because we're here to build strength that will maintain peace for our friends, neighbors, and families."

The photographer left with images of military work coupled with family life. Rockets and cosmic ray development alongside children at play and families at church.

"In short, a community built on love of family and love of country," Hash said, noting that although much has changed in the intervening decades, many things – important things – remain the same. "Generations of families continue the tradition of building the nation's defenses and keeping the men and women in harm's way returning home to their own families."



### Real Transformations. Proven Results.

See what advanced implant dentistry can do for your smile.

At Affordable Dental Health Providers (ADHP), we specialize in restoring confidence through precision, technology, and expert care. Explore our Before & After transformations and discover how modern dentistry can restore both function and aesthetics.

Complimentary exam & xrays

## SPECIAL OFFER \$1999

### Implant, Abutment & Crown

With decades of experience and a dedication to high-standard care, ADHP provides tailored treatment plans designed for long-term results and patient comfort. Transform your smile with confidence. Schedule your consultation today.



Call or text us Today!

**760-723-1193**

[www.adhp.com](http://www.adhp.com)

3108 HWY 76 • FALLBROOK CA 92028

## Veterans Helping Veterans

DO YOU HAVE Medicare but your needs have changed?  
**ARE YOU TURNING 65?**

Are you TRICARE or a Veteran using VA Benefits?

**ARE YOU A SENIOR?**

Do you have Medicare Part A & B?

YES! Then you are **ELIGIBLE** up to Additional **\$223/mo.** added to your **S.S.**

**Vince Parra • 619-763-2425**

SERVING ALL OF CA. • CA LIC: 0M89123

Struggling to afford your (Life Insurance) premiums?

Secure funds from your Life Insurance Policy Now!

Do Not Let Your Life Ins Policy Lapse

Pre-Plan: **FUNERAL OR CREMATION** starting at **\$40/mo.**

Pre-Plans for Military, Civilian, Retired, Seniors

## Where All Your Pipe Dreams Come True!

[www.edhansonsmuffler.com](http://www.edhansonsmuffler.com)

Proudly serving our Military since 1985!



**10% Off**  
**MILITARY DISCOUNT**  
(up to \$50 for active & retired)  
with valid ID.

3916 N. Barcelona  
SPRING VALLEY, 91977

\*Factory \*Custom \*Repairs  
\*Complete Replacements

**(619) 698-7030**

## MILITARY DAYS JULY 1-31

All current and former military personnel receive free Tram admission with valid military ID. Up to 4 guests receive 25% off regular Tram fare.

PALM SPRINGS AERIAL  
**Tramway**

888.515.TRAM [pstramway.com](http://pstramway.com)

# Naval Base San Diego reopens historic theater following \$9.2 million renovation

by Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Aja Campbell  
Naval Base San Diego

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO — Naval Base San Diego officially reopened its Base Theater following a \$9.2 million renovation project designed to enhance quality of life, strengthen community engagement, and support waterfront readiness.

The renovated facility serves as more than an entertainment venue. As a modernized multipurpose space, the theater will support command training, all-hands calls, leadership engagements, award ceremonies, briefings, and community events that directly contribute to mission readiness across the waterfront.

“This theater represents an investment in our Sailors, families, and workforce,” said Capt. Brian Bungay, commanding officer, NBSD. “Warfighting readiness begins ashore, and our people deserve professional spaces that support both mission execution and opportunities to connect as a community.”



Patrons attend Naval Base San Diego Base Theater reopening ceremony, May 29. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Aja Bleu Campbell

The project included upgraded audio-visual systems, enhanced acoustics, new seating for more than 600 patrons, HVAC and roof repairs, improved accessibility features, and modernized amenities throughout the facility. The improvements ensure the theater remains a valuable resource for the Navy community for years to come.

The reopening marks the culmination of months of collaboration between Naval Base San Diego, Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Com-

mand (NAVFAC), project contractors, and numerous stakeholders who worked to transform the theater into a premier gathering space.

During the ceremony, Bungay thanked the teams whose dedication made the project possible and emphasized the theater’s role in strengthening the bonds that make the Navy team successful.

The theater is available to support command functions, special events, training opportunities, and entertainment programs that serve Sailors and their families throughout the region.

## OCEANSIDE (June 27, 2026)

Bystanders watch U.S. Marines with the color guard for Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, march with the colors during the Oceanside USA 250 Festival here. The USA 250 Festival showcased patriotic displays and brought together families, local businesses, civic leaders and military personnel in celebration of Independence Day. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Noah Martinez





# VETERAN

COMPENSATION SERVICES

VETERANS WITH LESS THAN 100% VA RATING  
WE CAN HELP YOU!

✓ Risk-Free Consultation	✓ Over 95% Success Rate
✓ Experts in VA Documentation	✓ Thousands of Veterans Served
✓ Veteran Friendly Doctors	✓ Experienced A+ Rated with BBB



## www.VeteranComp.com



# STREAMLIGHT

STREAMLIGHT®

## POLYTAC® 1X

- ✓ DURABLE POLYMER DESIGN
- ✓ MULTI-FUEL: USES RECHARGEABLE SL-B9® BATTERY PACK OR NON-RECHARGEABLE AA OR CR123A BATTERIES
- ✓ TAA COMPLIANT

[STREAMLIGHT.COM/POLYTAC1X](http://streamlight.com/polytac1x)  
©2026 STREAMLIGHT, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

STREAMLIGHT®

## USS Nimitz to join International Naval Review 250 in New York City

NEW YORK CITY – The Navy announced that aircraft carrier USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68) will participate in the International Naval Review (INR) 250 here July 3-8, 2026.

*Nimitz* joins a robust, previously announced lineup of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels, as well as participation from more than 50 allied and partner nations, converging on New York Harbor to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States.

As the most iconic serving aircraft carrier in the U.S. fleet and the lead ship of her class, *Nimitz* brings unparalleled historical significance to what will be the largest international maritime spectacle in U.S. history. Named for World War II Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the carrier represents more than 50 years of active global defense, having played pivotal roles in missions ranging from Operation Desert Storm to Operation Inherent Resolve.

“Adding USS *Nimitz* to the International Naval Review 250 roster brings a legendary piece of American naval history and maritime dominance directly to the heart of this celebration,” said Vice Adm. Doug Perry, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet.

“For five decades, the Sailors aboard *Nimitz* have stood the watch, defending freedom and ensuring global maritime security. Having this iconic warship anchor in New York Harbor alongside our international partners will be a breathtaking tribute to our nation’s 250th anniversary and a powerful demonstration of American resolve.”

The arrival of *Nimitz* underscores the core themes of INR 250: celebrating the strength of international partnerships, showcasing the professionalism of the Sailors who make up the fleet, and honoring the deep, historical naval ties of New York City.

During the week-long event, *Nimitz* will be a centerpiece of the fleet following the monumental Parade of Sail July 4. While anchored, the ship expects to host distinguished visitors, and her crew of thousands of Sailors will engage with the citizens of New York and New Jersey through community relations projects, public events, and memorial ceremonies.

## 30th Rimpac kicks off in Hawaii

Rim of the Pacific, the world’s premier international maritime exercise, is underway in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

Known as Rimpac, the biennial exercise marks its 30th iteration this year, featuring a multinational force of some 30,000 personnel. It provides a unique training opportunity for allies and partners to strengthen their collective capabilities and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

### Rimpac 2026: Fast Facts

Theme: “Partners: Integrated and Prepared”

Host: Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Combined Task Force Com-

mander: Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet

Combined Task Force Deputy Commander: Chile

Vice Commander: Japan Maritime Component Commander: South Korea

Air Component Commander: Canada

The exercise, first held in 1971, continues this year through July 31. It will cover a wide range of capabilities including amphibious operations, gunnery and missile proficiency, anti-submarine warfare, air defense exercises, military medicine, humanitarian assistance and disaster response, counter-piracy, mine clearance, explosive ordnance disposal, and diving and salvage operations.

## USS Lake Erie home from deployment

from U.S. 3rd Fleet  
Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - Cruiser USS *Lake Erie* (CG 70) returned to its homeport of Naval Base San Diego on June 27, following 11-months of sustained operations at sea to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations.

*Lake Erie* conducted a wide range of command-and-control and maritime security missions in support of U.S. Southern Command-led Operation Southern Spear.

The ship served as the Integrated Air and Missile Defense



**Fireman Zachary Gilstrap USS Lake Erie, greets his loved one’s upon ship’s return to its homeport of Naval Base San Diego. U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Aaron Sandovalmendoza**

Commander and the U.S. Air Force Southern Command’s (AFSOUTH) Regional Air Defense Commander (RADC), supporting operations to counter illicit maritime activity that threatens the security and stability of the United States and our allies and partners.

These efforts resulted in the seizure or disruption of more than 2,900 pounds of narcotics and supported the enforcement of international sanctions against illicit oil smuggling, directly contributing to regional stability and homeland security.

## ‘Military Days’ at the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

PALM SPRINGS - During July, all U.S. military personnel with valid military identification—active, former and retired—receive free admission to the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, along with a special gift for “Military Days.”

Spouses of deployed military members, as well as military widows and widowers, also qualify for the promotion. Military personnel are encouraged to bring friends and family, and receive 25 percent off regular Tram admission for up to four guests.

While visiting the Tramway, guests can enjoy:

- ◆ Fine dining with breathtaking views at Peaks Restaurant, or casual, family-friendly fare at Pines Café.

- ◆ More than 50 miles of hiking trails within Mount San



## man on the street

In 2 or 3 words, how would your family describe you?



“A good person, and that’s how I would describe myself.”

Jose Arce  
NAB Coronado

“Reliable adventurer. I push the boundaries.”

Sam Money  
NAB Coronado



“Caring and loving. I grew up taking care of my brothers and sisters.”

YN1 Angelica Hernandez  
Naval Base San Diego

“Hard working and kind. I have 32 years of life’s experiences.”

Cameron Hood  
Naval Base San Diego



“A gentle soul.”

Luka Galyen  
Friend of the military



## ARENA FOOTBALL FRONTWAVE ARENA OCEANSIDE

San Diego Strike Force is a professional indoor football team in the Indoor Football League (IFL) based in San Diego County. The team provides fast-paced 8-on-8 arena football, serving as San Diego’s only professional football team.

[www.sdstrikeforce.com](http://www.sdstrikeforce.com)

## 2026 SCHEDULE

### HOME GAMES AT FRONTWAVE ARENA

Mon., March 23, 6pm	NAZ Wranglers at San Diego Strike Force*
Fri., April 17, 5pm	Quad City Steamwheelers at San Diego Strike Force
Sun., April 26, 4:30pm	Tucson Sugar Skulls at San Diego Strike Force*
Sat., May 23, 7pm	NAZ Wranglers at San Diego Strike Force*
Fri., June 19, 7pm	Vegas Knight Hawks at San Diego Strike Force*
Mon., July 6, 6pm	Arizona Rattlers at San Diego Strike Force*
Sat., July 18, 8pm	New Mexico Chupacabras at San Diego Strike Force*
Fri., July 24, 6pm	Tucson Sugar Skulls at San Diego Strike Force*

\*Conference

**For guaranteed BEST price ...  
pick up discount tickets at your local  
Military Ticket Office!**



by Jan Wagner

Two years in the making, the NASCAR San Diego Weekend on Naval Base Coronado — the first-ever NASCAR national-series races aboard an active military base — was a roaring success. The racing in all three of the races — the Craftsman Truck Series “Navy 250” race on Friday, the O’Reilly Auto Parts Series “United Rentals Driven to Serve 250” race on Saturday and the NASCAR Cup Series “Anduril 250 Race the Base” race on Sunday — was absolutely second to none, with non-stop thrills on the 3.4-mile, bumpy, multi-surface, 16-turn, “Qualcomm Circuit” street course. As the drivers negotiated the challenging course, they raced past military aircraft, USS *Carl Vinson* aircraft carrier and littoral combat ship USS *Cincinnati*.

NASCAR and our Navy hosts also raised the bar for unrivalled fan entertainment and engagement, taking it to a whole new level. There were numerous sponsor activations including automobile exhibits and challenging activities, a huge display of Navy aircraft, amazing Anduril drones, a wonderful LEGO-themed Kids Zone, racing merchandise for sale and so much more. Pre-race ceremonies included performances by the Leap Frogs — the Navy Parachute Team, as well as military aircraft flyovers.

Aside from the fact that these were the first-ever NASCAR races

## NASCAR San Diego Weekend - 3 breathtaking races & unrivaled fan experiences on Naval Base Coronado

on an active military base, another challenge unique to this venue was the limited vehicular access to Coronado. There are only two ways in: via the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and across the Silver Strand peninsula. Throughout the days preceding the event, news outlets and signs on the freeways warned of heavy traffic and advised going very early. To help ensure a good experience for the race fans, NASCAR limited ticket sales to 50,000 Saturday and Sunday.

Yes, there were a lot of pauses in the action in order to repair the sometimes-extensive damage done to the concrete barriers that were repeatedly hit, but when the racing resumed it was incredibly exciting and dramatic to watch. Spectators dared not look away even for a moment, for fear of missing something eventful happening on track.

In addition to the racedays’ activities, there were events aboard the USS Midway museum. During one, Kyle Larson made a spectacular surprise entrance by driving his racecar onto the deck and doing donuts, before revealing that he is the cover driver for the “NASCAR 26” iRacing game. I got to drive the “Qualcomm Circuit” on a sim.

NASCAR’s San Diego Weekend 2026 was definitely MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. At times it was, quite literally, a smashing success! NASCAR San Diego President Amy Lupo said: “Bringing NASCAR to the men and women who defend our nation and to the San Diego community in this landmark 250th year of our Navy and nation was an absolute privilege.”

Navy Capt. Loren Jacobi, skipper of Naval Base Coronado, said, “Working with NASCAR to host the inaugural NASCAR San Diego

Weekend allowed us to showcase the amazing dedication and service of our Sailors and Marines while celebrating 250 years of Naval strategic deterrence. The enthusiasm and support demonstrated throughout the weekend reinforced the strong bond between our military and the American people.”

NASCAR San Diego Weekend was a very special, perhaps one time only, racing event to celebrate America’s 250th birthday. Will there be a NASCAR San Diego Weekend next year, or ever again? NASCAR’s Ben Kennedy was asked that question in the post-Cup race Press Conference. In 2021-2024, for the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum (see <https://automatters.net>), NASCAR literally paved a racetrack inside the LA Coliseum for one weekend each year and then restored the Coliseum to its previous condition — three years in a row. In addition to the racing, there was live musical entertainment. Like that event, the NASCAR San Diego Race Weekend is also an effective way to introduce potential new fans to NASCAR racing. According to Ben Kennedy, over 60 percent of ticket holders for the NASCAR San Diego Weekend had never been to a NASCAR race. Therefore, like the Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum, this event could well be staged again for a couple more years, before moving along to other promising new markets — if all the parties agree to do it.

To explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, with the most photos and the latest text, visit “AutoMatters & More” at <https://automatters.net>. Search by title or topic in the Search Bar in the middle of the Home Page or click on the blue ‘years’ boxes and browse. Copyright © 2026 by Jan Wagner – AutoMatters & More #934r4

## The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by Lisa Smith Molinari

I cautiously reached into the dark, dank cavity and pulled out the filthy, wretched garments. Fearing for my safety, I pinched my nose shut and carried the contaminated bundle with an outstretched arm to be disinfected.

Our son, Hayden, was home from Scout camp, and I had the unenviable job of doing his dirty laundry. He, on the other hand, grunted at us, and promptly went to bed.

It was 2010 and our family was stationed in Germany. Hayden’s troop had spent a week in the Alps, sleeping in tents, white water rafting, cooking over a fire and hiking almost 30 miles. Hayden had a blast.

Summer camp. There’s nothing quite like it. The anticipation, fear, physical challenges, new understandings, and relationships formed. For a couple weeks every summer, a child is transformed to a place where campers experience powerful emotions and form intense bonds.

Then they go home and give their mothers their dirty laundry.

But I never minded. I was a kid once, too, and I wanted our three children to have the same experiences I had.

Like the 1970s summer when I went off to camp in the Pennsylvania mountains. The two-week church camp attracted an intimidating

## Lessons & laundry from summer camp

mix of sheltered do-gooders from the country, preppy snobs from the Pittsburg suburbs, and a few oddballs like me, all supervised by fresh-scrubbed, born-again, college-aged counselors.

Upon arrival, we were randomly assigned to the Galatians or the Romans teams, pitted to wage a battle of biblical proportions through competitions in archery, swimming, canoeing, gymnastics, basketball, macramé and other events. The first days of camp were hard for me. I thought my Kelly green corduroy shorts were fashionably preppy, but they were no match for the city girls’ Tretorns, Izods and Docksidars.

When it came to bible study, I couldn’t hold a candle to the country kids who’d read the Old Testament by third grade. Little did I know that we’d all bond through unexpected trials and tribulations.

Like the night we packed into a farm wagon for a tractor-pulled hay ride. We were so excited to ride around the lake and sing camp songs. But as the tractor chugged up the embankment from the lake to the road, something snapped, and the wagon broke loose.

Slowly at first, the cartful of campers rolled backwards toward the lake. As the wayward vessel picked up speed, counselors shouted, which triggered the campers to scream. I screamed too, believing that we’d careen into the dark water and all be tragically drowned.

Just then, we hit tall grass and inexplicably slowed, coming to a stop just before the water’s edge. It

was a miracle! It was church camp after all, and my cabin mates and I bonded over facing certain death.

Although he still harbors a bit of resentment, my husband, Francis (or “Frank” as he was then) had similar experiences. He, too, was shipped off to the mountains for two weeks in the 1970s.

Quite a husky fellow, Frank was relieved that each camper was entitled to one daily candy bar from the camp’s cantina. The only problem was, he couldn’t find the cantina.

On the overnight hike, Frank’s flashlight went missing. He accused the kid he suspected of stealing it, who flatly denied the charges. The next morning, the boy returned the flashlight, which he had stolen after all, now with dead batteries.

At the camp’s Sunday religious service, a guitarist had a seizure mid-song and collapsed on the altar. The counselors rushed to his aid, shoving a wallet in the man’s mouth so he wouldn’t bite off his tongue. The traumatic event made quite an impact on little Frank. That night in his sleeping bag, all he wanted was a candy bar to comfort himself, but he still didn’t know where the cantina was, and his flashlight didn’t work anyway.

Fun and adventurous, or traumatic and humiliating, all summer camps offer the same benefit: a kid experiences emotions on his own, without his parents there to guide or comfort him. And by the end, every camper in the world brings home a new understanding of himself, a groovy macramé bracelet, and a duffel bag full of dirty laundry for mom.

# Veterans News

## Families of Vietnam War missing gather to hear updates, share stories

by David Vergun

The bedrock of the warrior ethos is that Americans never leave behind a fallen comrade, said Anthony Tata, undersecretary of war for personnel and readiness.

Tata spoke June in Arlington, Va., to members of families who lost loved ones during the Vietnam War. The event was sponsored by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

“The Vietnam War may have

ceased more than half a century ago, but I know that for all of you, it’s never really ended, and you have spent decades carrying your silent vigil, a silent vigil for your unaccounted- fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, family and friends, and waiting for answers. Know that this War Department is focused on helping you find them,” Tata said.

The undersecretary applauded the work that teams are doing in the field around the world searching for remains, as well as the scientists who make the iden-

tifications in the laboratories at Hickam Field and Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

The DPAA mission is personal, Tata said, noting his own combat service and remembering his comrades who never made it home alive.

Kelly K. McKeague, director of DPAA, said his agency has been working to recover remains from the Vietnam War since 1985 and that DPAA-trained Vietnamese recovery teams have located the remains of many missing Americans.

Communicating and connecting is just as important as it is with accounting for your loved ones, McKeague said.

“This is that sacred obligation, that moral imperative that we have told you for years, that we live it, we don’t just talk it. We live it simply because we know your loved ones made the supreme sacrifice, you deserve those long-sought answers and that’s why we’re here,” he said.

While DPAA has been search-



Justin O’Connell holds up a picture of his grandfather, Marine Corps Maj. Francis Edward Visconti, at a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency event in Arlington, Va., June 25. DOW photo by David Vergun

ing for service members from all wars dating to World War II, the agency has prioritized finding the missing from the Vietnam War since firsthand witnesses in several nations where operations took place are aging and dying, McKeague said.

Justin O’Connell, grandson of

Marine Corps Maj. Francis Edward Visconti, held a picture of his grandfather, who died Nov. 22, 1965, when his UH-34D helicopter crashed during a night flight in a storm in South Vietnam.

He and three others on that flight are still missing. Next to O’Connell was his uncle, Tony Visconti, who was wearing an extra set of his brother’s identification tags.

Susan Lilly Harvey’s brother, Army 1st Lt. Lawrence Lilly, went missing in Southeast Asia when his Cobra helicopter went down. She said she’s been coming to these gatherings every year for 40 years.

### House delays VA omnibus

The House floor schedule for the “Take Care of America’s Veterans Act” (H.R. 9237) collapsed on June 25 as chamber-wide legislative activity ground to a halt over an impasse between House leadership and the White House on the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act. The 62-bill veterans omnibus, introduced June 10 by House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Jerry Moran (R-Kansas), had been cleared by the House Rules Committee on June 23 and was scheduled for a floor vote. The SAVE Act dispute, which involves voter identification requirements that are a top White House priority, triggered a broader freeze on House legislative activity, pushing all deferred floor votes, including H.R. 9237, into an indefinite hold.

Raymond L. Echevarria Jr.’s father, Army Sgt. Maj. Raymond L. Echevarria Sr., and two other soldiers went missing in Laos following a firefight with Viet Cong. An interpreter escaped to relay what happened.

Last year, 231 missing service members were accounted for, including eight from the Vietnam War, with the remainder from World War II and the Korean War. Most of the recovery sites are in Europe and Southeast Asia.

There are currently 1,565 missing U.S. personnel from the Vietnam War.

## VA ends gender identity-based programs, messaging and activities

The VA is directing all healthcare facilities to end gender identity-based programs and activities, as well as reclassifying medical care coordinators who help LGBTQ+ veterans as just “care coordinators,” as reported by *Task & Purpose*. The changes come from a June 12 memo signed by Under Secretary for Health for the Veterans Health Administration John Bartrum, directing department leaders to end “gender-identity based and gender-ideology based initiatives, and any activities, internal or external, that promote gender identity or gender ideology” at the Veterans Health Administration. “VHA funds, official time, facilities, or resources may not be used for meetings, training, working groups, promotional materials, events, or any activities promoting gender-ideology or gender-identity,” the directive says.

<https://taskandpurpose.com/field-guide/veterans-affairs-gender-lgbtq-care/>

# CLASSIFIED ADS

# MOVIES AT THE BASES

Movie schedules subject to change. PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE DAY-OF

**MCAS MIRAMAR**  
<https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies>

**MCB CAMP PENDLETON**  
<https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/theater>

**NAS NORTH ISLAND**  
<https://coronado.navylifew.com/programs/>  
 select recreation from top tab and drop down to movies

## NAS NI Lowry Theater Policy

- Outside food and beverage are NOT permitted: Sales from the snack bar support the movie program.
- These Theaters are cashless facilities. Debit and credit cards accepted only.

**NBSD 32ND STREET**  
<https://sandiego.navylifew.com/>

NBSD Theater IS NOW OPEN!!!  
 Welcome back to the newly renovated theater at Naval Base San Diego!  
 We are excited to reopen our doors Thursday through Sunday and invite you to enjoy a refreshed space made for comfort, entertainment, community and great movies. Bring your family, friends or shipmates and settle in for a relaxing time in front of the big screen.



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## Across

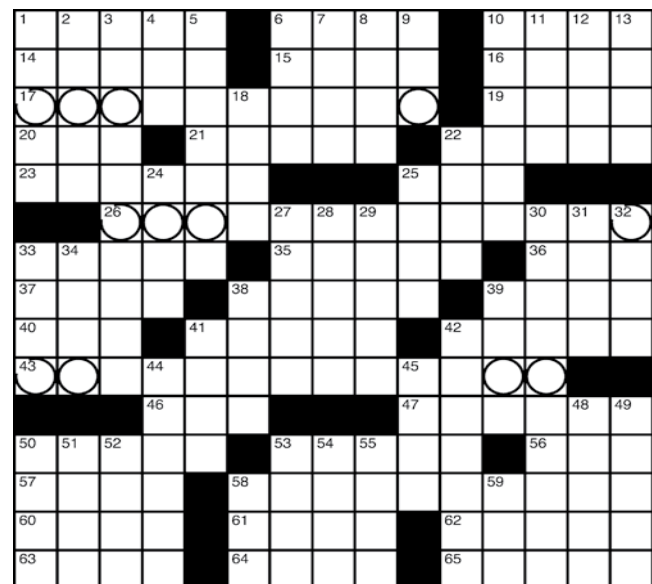
- Some artists' quarters
- Come to a halt
- About, on a memo
- All-: versatile machine
- Bizet's "Habanera," for one
- Handle roughly
- Holiday bloom
- Sketchbooks
- USO show audience
- All lathered up
- Magical lamp dweller
- Jong and Durance
- Oscar winner Kingsley
- Taft's Univ of Cincinnati position
- Things sometimes found under a tree
- Wolf cries
- 1959 folk hit with the line "Charlie couldn't get off of that train"
- Burden
- Gave out cards
- Animal house
- Time of your life
- Prolonged battle
- Number that's part of a nap
- UPS vehicle

## Down

- Feudal lord
- Broadcasting
- Natural gas, coal, etc.
- Atlanta-based station
- Goes up and down
- Pamplona parlor
- Vacation choice
- Like a slippery garage floor
- Remit
- Be about to happen
- Palindromic bread
- Designer Gernreich

## 13 "What \_\_\_ can I do?"

- Singer Diana
- Hair products
- Lions and tigers
- Lightning flash
- Support the team
- Composer Carmichael
- Young hooter
- Online advertising
- Arguing
- \_\_\_ a one: none
- Prod
- "Bus Stop" playwright
- Fizzles out
- Centers of activity
- Norse name similar to Stephen
- To a greater degree
- Numbskulls
- Campus cadets' org.
- Care for
- Exams
- \_\_\_-force winds
- Equestrian's strap
- River of Pisa
- Farm storage unit
- Tech news site
- Shrek, e.g.
- Bundle of cash
- Altar in the sky



**ARMED FORCES DISPATCH CLASSIFIEDS**  
 To place your ad, please call our Classified Advertising Department (619) 280-2985.

**CATERING**  
 We can cater your event with the 'Best Mexican food in San Diego!' Military Discount. El Indio 619-299-0333

**COIN SHOW**

**69th Annual COINARAMA**  
 Liberty Station Conference Ctr.  
 2600 Laning Rd.  
 San Diego, CA. 92106

**Sat. July 18**  
 10am to 6:00pm  
**Sun. July 19**  
 10am to 5:00pm  
**FREE ADMISSION FOR ACTIVE DUTY WITH ID**  
 Admission for both days is \$6  
 Coin Club Members \$5 Admission  
 FREE PARKING - FREE COIN APPRAISALS  
 U.S. & Foreign Coins, Gold, Tokens, Medals & Paper Money  
 Dealers present to buy, sell and appraise  
 Visit our website:  
[www.coinarama.com](http://www.coinarama.com)

**RENTALS APARTMENTS**  
 AVAILABLE NOW!!!  
 1, 2 or 3 BR's  
 Apartments, Townhouses & Houses  
**MOVE-IN SPECIAL!**  
**LEADINGHAM REALTY**  
 1062 Palm Ave., Imperial Beach  
 619-424-8600

**LEMON GROVE** - 1BR/1BA Bright upstairs unit w/balcony. Come home to quiet, well-maintained community, steps to shopping, dining, trolley. \$1700/MO. Call (619) 916-9187.

**RENTALS CONDOS**  
**SAN DIEGO** - 2BR/1BA, 805 sq ft. Secure & parking. New stove, micro, paint etc. \$2295/mo. Call Steven 619-572-1026.

**RENTALS HOUSES**  
**BAY HO** - 3BR/3BA, 1435 sf, utilities+wifi incld, new appliances, near CA 52. \$5575/mo 254-760-8593.

**EL CAJON** - 3BR/3.5BA, NEW Lennar home, 2 car gar. Tri-Level, includes refrig, stove, DW, W/D. Easy access to frwys 8, 67, 125, and 52. \$3500/mo. 619-213-7589.

**RENTALS TOWNHOUSES**  
**OCEANSIDE** - 3BR/2BA, fireplace, patio, W/D in garage, new windows & blinds. Water/trash paid. Military Discount on deposit. \$500 off 1st mo. rent. \$3550/mo. 858-229-6785.

**HOMES FOR SALE**  
**HEY! Did you know NOW is the time to buy in Imperial Beach!**  
 Record Inventory. Low buyer demand. But there's an expiration date: when rates drop and the cross-border sewage repairs finish, IB won't be this affordable again!

569 Delaware St., \$1.1M  
 5BR/3BA, Built in 2018, 2061sqft  
 Rooftop Deck: Ocean & Bay Views

211 Dahlia Ave. Unit M  
 Only 1 Block to Beach!-\$699K  
 2 Mstr Suites-2.5 Baths-2 Car Garage

270 Dahlia Ave #5  
 Listed at \$650K (Appraised at \$680K)  
 3BR/2BA Rooftop Deck Ocean View

634 8th St. #8 - \$550K  
 3BR/2BA 2 Car Garage  
 Beautifully Remodeled

+All VA Approved  
**BUYER BONUS:**  
 Deborah Pays for Your Appraisal  
 At Close of Escrow\*

*Deborah Vance*  
 #1 Realtor in Imperial Beach since 2019  
**619-884-8783**  
 Deborah@radiantrealtyca.com  
 www.DeborahVanceRealty.com  
 +Many more upcoming listings soon!  
 \*Applies to buyers represented by Deborah Vance in a successful close of escrow. Call for details.  
 DRE #01817973

## Visit our military museums

**The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park.** The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is a museum located in historic Balboa Park of San Diego, California. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to create, maintain, and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. <http://www.veteranmuseum.org/>  
 Active duty military, Museum Member, Children under 12: Free  
 Veterans/Seniors: \$4 • Adults: \$5 • Student ID: \$2  
 2115 Park Blvd, San Diego (Balboa Park) • (619) 239-2300  
 Hours: Call for current hours (619) 239-2300

**MCRD Command Museum & Historical Society.** Museum focusing on Marine Corps history from the 19th century to today is also a research library. <https://www.mcrdmuseum.org/>  
 Free admission • The Pass and ID Center may issue day passes to visitors who wish to visit the museum and do not possess military ID-call (619) 524-4200 for information on base access.  
 1600 Hochmuth Ave, San Diego, 92140 • (619) 524-4426.  
 Hours: Mon 8am-3pm, Tue-Fri 8-4; Family day 8-5:45; Sat 10:30-5, • Closed Sunday

**USS Midway Museum.** The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in So Cal. FREE for children 3 & under and Active Duty military including reservists (w/valid ID). Adult \$39 (ages 13+). Youth \$26 (ages 4-12). Veterans (w/ID) \$26\*Must show ID at entrance. Open daily 10-5, last admission 4pm. <https://www.midway.org/>

**The Ranch House Complex at Camp Pendleton.** Listed as the Santa Margarita Ranch House Nat'l Historic Site and as a California State Historical Landmark. Docent-led tours are available by appointment; masks required. Please email your request to: MCBPCAMPEN\_history@usmc.mil or phone (760)725-5758  
 The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization in support of the base's History and Museum's programs. Go to: [www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/](http://www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/) for information. Hours: Open Mondays 10am-2pm

**Marine Corps Mechanized Museum Camp Pendleton.** Managed under the auspices of Camp Pendleton's Museum Division Office, the collection of over 50 vehicles ranges from World War I to the first Gulf War. It includes Patton tanks, armored wheeled and tracked vehicles, trucks, jeeps and amphibious vehicles. When coming aboard Camp Pendleton, please ensure that you have a valid photo ID for every vehicle occupant along with current registration and proof of insurance. <https://www.themecch.org/> 24194 Vandegrift Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92058. (760) 725-5758. Mon-Thur 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm, Closed Saturday & Sunday

**Friends don't make friends wait in hot cars!**  
 When the outside temp is 90° your car heats up to 109° in 15 minutes and 124° in 30 minutes.  
 @cocotheadventurepup



## ROY'S SUDOKU

			1				4	
4					2	6		7
5	1							
	9						6	2
	4		7	5	8		9	
1	8						7	
							3	4
3		9	2					1
	5				7			

S	E	O	V	R	E	B	E	O	D	O	S	O	N	E
S	N	R	E	B	E	R	A	L	E	R	N	I	L	E
S	T	V	H	O	C	O	N	I	M	O	R	E	V	A
L	U	E	T	I	O	C	O	S	N	I	A	V	A	R
N	E	N	T	R	O	S	E	D	E	S	E			
A	T	O	C	K	E	T	R	U	R	E	L	I	V	E
V	I	L	T	L	A	V	E	S	E					
V	I	V	S	T	M	O	H	S	L	I	F	I	O	
N	E	D	A	N	O	O	H	C	H	A	M	A	V	
E	N	E	B	E	S	O	S	C	S	I	R	E		
E	I	N	G	E	A	P	O	S	S	I	G			
S	O	V	A	T	I	T	R	E	T	S	V	E		
S	O	V	A	T	I	T	R	E	T	S	V	E		
I	N	T	R	E	S	T	O	P	S	T	O			

6	8	6	7	1	3	4	5	2
1	5	7	4	8	2	6	9	3
4	3	2	5	9	6	1	7	8
5	7	4	6	2	9	3	8	1
3	6	1	8	9	7	2	4	9
2	9	8	1	3	4	5	6	7
6	2	3	9	4	8	7	1	5
7	1	9	2	6	5	8	3	4
8	4	5	3	7	1	9	2	6

# BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

**ADVERTISING**  
**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO ACTIVE DUTY AND RETIRED MILITARY, VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES**

**SOCIAL GROUPS**  
**MISSION VALLEY UFW POST 3787**  
 Service to Veterans, Active Duty and their families  
 • 4th of July Potluck 1-4pm. Bring dish to share  
 • Taco Tuesday-2nd Tuesday 4-6:30pm \$10  
 • Fish/Shrimp Fry-3rd Friday 4:30-7pm \$15-Full Meal + Dessert. Public Welcome!  
 (619) 281-0137 • Facebook UFW3787  
 4370 Twain Ave, San Diego, 92120

**CATERING**  
**EL INDIO**  
 Mexican Restaurant and Catering  
 Open Daily 9am-8pm • Free Parking!  
**10% Military Discount**  
 3695 India Street • Downtown San Diego  
**619-299-0333**  
 Family Owned & Operated Since 1940  
[www.ElIndioSanDiego.com](http://www.ElIndioSanDiego.com)

**PLUMBERS**  
**THE WORKS Plumbing, Inc. Service & Repair**  
 Complimentary Estimates  
 See our full menu of services at [www.theworksplumbingsd.com](http://www.theworksplumbingsd.com)  
 CA Lic. #994667 **760-238-4904**

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
 Edward Jones  
 It's never too early to start saving for tomorrow. We offer in-person guidance.  
 Caroline Talebi  
 Financial Advisor  
 2424 Vista Way Ste 325  
 Oceanside, CA 92054  
 760-439-9019  
 EJB-19325-A-E-DA-1

**URGENT CARE**  
 Carbon Health Urgent Care  
 Oceanside - Fire Mountain  
 • Immediate care for illness & injury  
 • Test & treat cold symptoms, UTIs & STI/STDs  
 • Workplace health, workers' comp, drug test, DOT physicals & TB tests  
 • Walk-ins & appointments welcome!  
 • Accepts: Humana, TRICARE, ChampVA, VA CCN, and more!  
**2484 Vista Way, #2484A • (442)372-7129**  
 Weekdays: 8am-6pm • Weekend: 8am-4pm

## Health & Fitness

### NMCS D pilots first virtual Trauma Nursing Core Course for Navy Medicine

by MC3 Jason Afable

**Naval Medical Center San Diego**  
SAN DIEGO — Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) launched the Navy's first pilot Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) delivered through a virtual platform, June 10, marking a significant advancement in trauma education and medical readiness across the Military Health System.

The three-day pilot course, conducted June 10-12, was led by U.S. Navy Lt. Justin King, Emergency Nurses Association faculty assigned to 1st Medical Battalion, Lt. Krista MacMurray, TNCC course director assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego, and program administrators Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Robert Tighe and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Exzabrea Hubisz, through NMCS D's Staff Education and Training Department. While program administration is centrally located at NMCS D, the virtual format is designed to expand access to both student and instructor Navy nurses worldwide.

Developed by the Emergency Nurses Association, TNCC is a standardized trauma education program for nurses, providing critical thinking skills and hands-on training needed to deliver high-quality trauma care in both hospital and deployed environments.

"This is a significant milestone, as it is the first time the Navy is using a virtual platform to provide TNCC to Navy nurses remotely," said King. "If successful, this platform will provide crucial TNCC access to students deployed in austere environments or stationed at small commands without established trauma programs."

The initiative reinforces NMCS D's role as one of the Navy's premier military treatment facilities (MTF) and a leader in developing innovative solutions that strengthen operational medicine and support warfighter readiness.

MacMurray said the virtual format addresses a longstanding challenge faced by smaller commands and geographically separated units.

"The significance of this program is that we can reach further units," said MacMurray. "Some of our students are from [Navy Medicine and Readiness Training Command] Twentynine Palms and [Navy Medicine and Readiness Training Command] Lemoore. They don't have programs out there, so they have to go to civilian programs, and the cost can be significant. So with this program, we're going to save the Navy some money and be able to help out our smaller commands."

By removing geographic barriers, the program aims to standardize trauma training across the fleet and ensure nurses assigned to remote commands or deployed locations maintain the skills necessary to care for combat casualties and critically injured patients.

"This will enhance readiness," MacMurray said. "We will be able to reach more people before they deploy, and even on deployment, we can provide this course virtually to them where they are."

The platform also offers a new approach for sustaining instructor qualifications. TNCC instructors stationed at remote locations can teach courses virtually, allowing them to maintain certification requirements without leaving their assigned commands. The model helps preserve a highly trained cadre of instructors and strengthens trauma education throughout Navy Medicine.

In addition to improving readiness, the virtual course is expected to generate substantial cost savings, according to King.

"Hosting the TNCC program at the MTF and reducing temporary duty travel for instructors and students will generate significant cost savings for Navy Medicine over time," King said.



**U.S. Navy Lt. Krista MacMurray, Trauma Nursing Core Course program director assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command San Diego, interacts with students online during the launch of the pilot virtual TNCC program at Naval Medical Center San Diego, June 10. The program reinforces NMCS D's role as one of the Navy's premier military treatment facilities and a leader in developing innovative solutions that strengthen operational medicine and support warfighter readiness. NMRTC San Diego supports Navy and Marine Corps readiness by ensuring its medical forces are ready to deploy and provide medical support, ashore or at sea. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Jason Afable.**

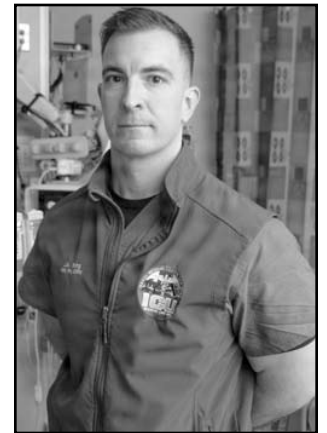
He added that the program's scalable model could have a future impact far beyond Navy Medicine, offering a blueprint to foster and expand joint-service medical education.

As the Navy's largest military treatment facility and a flagship medical center within the Defense Health Agency, NMCS D continues to drive innovation in healthcare education and operational medicine.

The virtual TNCC pilot demonstrates the command's commitment to delivering world-class training, expanding access to critical trauma education, and ensuring medical personnel remain ready to support service members wherever the mission requires.

The mission of NMCS D is to optimize health and enhance readiness. NMCS D employs more than 5,500 active-duty military personnel, civilians, and contractors in southern California to deliver exceptional care afloat and ashore.

*Editor's note: References to the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) are for informational purposes only and do not constitute an endorsement of ENA by the Defense Health Agency or NMCS D.*



**U.S. Navy Lt. Justin King, Trauma Nursing Core Course program director assigned to 1st Medical Battalion, poses for a photo ahead of the launch of the pilot virtual TNCC program, at Naval Medical Center San Diego, May 27. The three-day pilot course, conducted June 10-12, was facilitated through NMCS D's Staff Education and Training Department. The mission of NMCS D is to optimize health and enhance readiness. U.S. Navy photo by Mark Campbell.**

### VA speeds up delivery of prosthetic limbs to veterans

**VA expects a 42% drop in delivery times for thousands of Veterans**

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has streamlined the process of purchasing prosthetic limbs to more efficiently serve thousands of Veterans who receive prosthetics through the VA every year.

Under prior procurement rules, orders for all prosthetic limbs had to be approved by a contracting officer, which meant Veterans had to wait several additional weeks before delivery.

On April 22, 2026, VA Sec-

retary Doug Collins exempted approximately 95% of prosthetic limb orders from contracting officer reviews and determined that only the most expensive prosthetic limbs would continue to be subject to these reviews. Secretary Collins also authorized local purchasing agents to source directly from local suppliers whenever prosthetic limb prices are set by Medicare, in which case there is no negotiation over price and no need for review by a contracting officer.

These commonsense changes have already reduced Veterans' wait times for prosthetic limbs

by 10 days, and VA expects average wait times to fall more than 40 percent — from 94 days to 54 days — as facilities across the nation fully implement this new process.

"Every day counts for Veterans. By removing needless bureaucracy, VA is enabling clinicians and procurement teams to provide Veterans with high-quality prosthetic care, better and faster than before," said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

More than 45,000 Veterans rely on VA each year for major limb loss care. For more infor-

mation, visit these sites:  
 • **VA Amputation Care Services** at <https://www.rehab.va.gov/asoc/>  
 • **VA Orthotic, Prosthetic & Pedorthic Clinical Services** at <https://www.rehab.va.gov/oppes/>  
 • **VA Prosthetic & Sensory Aid Services** at <https://www.rehab.va.gov/psas/>

**Among other improvements, VA has:**  
 Enrolled more than 150,000 new Veterans in VA health care in 2026.  
 Opened 36 new VA health care facilities since Jan. 20, 2025, expanding health care access for Veterans around the country.  
 Reduced the backlog of Veterans waiting for VA benefits by 72% since Jan. 20, 2025, after it increased 24% during the last Administration.



**SoCalTruck.com**  
ACCESSORIES & EQUIPMENT  
10460 Mission Gorge Rd.  
Santee, CA 92071  
**619-749-0742**  
Work Smarter, Play Harder!

- Truck Bed Covers • Camper Shells
- Side Steps • Truck Racks
- Tool Boxes • Fuel Tanks
- Carpet Kits • Tow Hitches

**MILITARY DISCOUNT**  
Get \$25 off \$300 or more with this ad



**Spray on Bedliners**

## MAIN AUTO REPAIR

"ALL WORK GUARANTEED"

FREE ESTIMATES - Serving Military for Over 25 years

<b>BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL</b> from \$140 <small>Per Axle, Parts &amp; Labor included. Most Cars Standard Brake Packages</small>	<b>A/C Service</b> <b>\$95</b>	<b>Body Work and Paint</b>	<b>CLUTCH</b> <b>\$319</b> <small>Most Cars. Parts &amp; Labor included. Includes: Pressure plate and disc. Adjustment. New throw out bearing. Pilot bearing. Inspect flywheel</small>
<b>TIMING BELT SPECIAL</b> from \$199 <small>Most Cars. Parts &amp; Labor included</small>	<b>CV JOINT AXLE</b> from \$220 <small>Most Cars. Parts &amp; Labor included</small>	<b>FUEL INJECTION SERVICE</b> from \$89 <small>Most Cars. Parts &amp; Labor included</small>	

**3714 Main Street, San Diego • 619-238-4385**

# Put down roots, even on the move.

Use your VA home loan benefit and start owning this PCS.



**Whether it's your PCS or your ETS, there's never a wrong time to put down roots.**

Not only will buying a home help you build equity, but your VA home loan requires no money down - plus we'll waive your \$1,440 lender fee.\* And in some areas, owning a home is actually cheaper than renting.

## Let us help find the right VA Loan for you

Contact me today to explore your options!



### Mohamed Tawy

Producing Branch Manager/SVP of Mortgage Lending



C: (619) 599-5643

rate.com/mohamedtawy mohamed.tawy@rate.com

12625 High Bluff Dr Suite 110, San Diego, CA 92130



THE  
TAWY  
TEAM



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Receipt of application does not represent an approval for financing or interest rate guarantee. \*Restrictions may apply, contact Guaranteed Rate or Mohamed Tawy for current rates and more information. CA: Licensed by the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation

under the California Residential Mortgage Lending Act. Mohamed Tawy NMLS ID: 450660, AZ - 1018822, CA - CA DFP1450660, CO - 100522433, CT - LO-450660, DC - MLD450660, FL - LO81708, GA - 450660, HI - HI450660, ID - MLO-2080450660, IL - 031.0065248, KS - LO.0049014, KY - MC738712, LA - Licensed, MA - MLO450660, MD - Licensed, MN - MN-MLO-450660, MO - MO-450660, MT - 450660, NC - I194568, NH - Licensed, NJ - Licensed, NV - 69645, NY - Licensed, OR - Licensed, TN - 227350, TX - Licensed, VA - MLO-62142VA, WA - MLO-450660 Guaranteed Rate Inc.; NMLS #2611; For licensing information visit nmisconsumeraccess.org

Apply on line and receive expert advice with 100% transparency, including rates and payments.

### Proud partner of the USO

We are one of a small group of lenders that partner with the USO and their USO Pathfinder® program.

### Great savings & choice

We waive the lender fee (\$1,440) and have loan options for credit scores of 550 and up.

### FREE appraisal on home purchase or refinance

In honor of your service and to show our gratitude, we are offering a FREE Appraisal on a home purchase or refinance through August 31, 2026.

### A dedicated team of VA loan experts

Our VA specialist team includes 55 Vets and has processed more than \$12 billion in VA loans.