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San Diego Navy/Marine Corps Dispatch

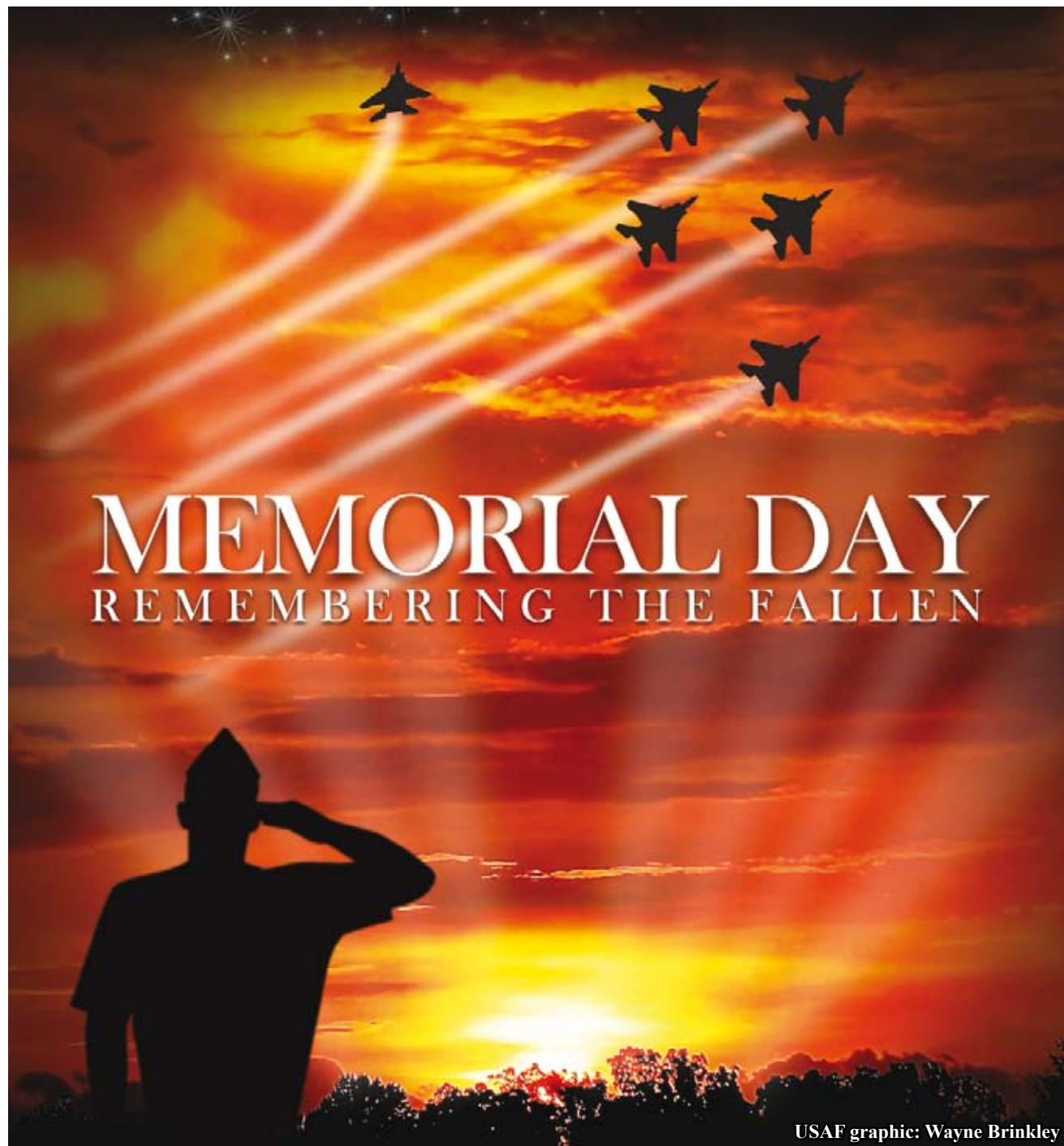
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USAF graphic: Wayne Brinkley

CANINE CALLIE, DOD'S ONLY SEARCH-AND-RESCUE DOG, RETIRES FROM SERVICE

by Dale Greer, 123rd Airlift Wing

She deployed six times in support of rescue missions across the United States, searching for victims trapped in the wake of floods, tornadoes, an avalanche, a collapsed coal mine tippie and multiple demolished buildings.

Along the way, over the course of a six-year career with the Kentucky Air National Guard's



123rd Special Tactics Squadron, she completed 15 military free-fall jumps and numerous rappelling or fast-rope missions while logging 750 flight hours in military aircraft. She also suf-

fered multiple puncture wounds, a corneal abrasion, at least two knee injuries and a rattlesnake bite that nearly killed her.

And now, Canine Callie — the only search-and-rescue dog in the Department of Defense — has stowed her gear for the last time. She was officially retired from military service during a ceremony at the Kentucky Air

National Guard Base here.

Her handler, Master Sgt. Rudy Parsons, also is making a transition. He's leaving his post as a pararescueman with the 123rd, where he has worked for the past 11 years, to assume a new role as career field functional manager at the Air National Guard Readiness Center in Maryland.

see Callie, page 4

Senior official outlines future priorities for special ops

by Matthew Olay, DOD News

Colby Jenkins, performing the duties of the assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, outlined his priorities for the future of the special warfare community while delivering remarks May 8 during Special Operations Forces Week 2025 in Tampa, Fla.

Jenkins cautioned the audience that America's adversaries are converging across regions and "the thresholds between peace and conflict."

"We do not need another threat briefing; we need action — focused and unrelenting," Jenkins said.

He added that such action recently came in the form of guidance from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who kicked off SOF Week 2025 with keynote remarks, May 6. Hegseth said his focus is on defending the homeland, deterring Chinese aggression while maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region and shifting burdens to partners and allies.

"SOF delivers persistent presence, asymmetric advantage and strategic effects across all three priorities every day, everywhere," Jenkins said, adding that SOF is also the only force in the Defense Department that delivers across all three lines of effort.

He then listed five priorities aimed at meeting Hegseth's guidance: designing the future force to prevail in future conflicts; maximizing the performance and resilience of SOF personnel; ensuring training and readiness meet future needs; aligning capability development to strategic priorities; and strengthening resource oversight and the institutionalization of accountability.

Regarding the first priority concerning force design, Jenkins said there needs to be a shift from static formations optimized for crisis response and counterterrorism to "adaptable, tailorable, multidomain SOF formations" meant to prevail in high-end conflict.

"The future of SOF is relentless: smaller teams, faster decisions, smarter systems [and] harder targets," Jenkins said.

As for performance and resilience maximization when it comes to SOF personnel, Jenkins said future operators will need to be agile, resilient, physically and mentally capable, and able to thrive in isolated, high-pressure environments.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4179258/>

Sea launched cruise nuclear missile to deliver in 2034, says admiral

USNI NEWS - The Navy is completing a milestone decision on the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile in Fiscal Year 2026 with delivery expected in 2034, said Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe on May 7. "We've already done an industry day" through its program office, the director of the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs said before the House Armed Services Committee's strategic forces subcommittee. Wolfe listed the sea-launched cruise missile as one of his three top warfighting priorities. In response to a question on the program's effect on nuclear-powered attack submarines and in his prepared statement, Wolfe said: "Executing this program requires careful balancing of resources," Wolfe has testified in the past that this missile provides the president a second-strike capability in case of a nuclear attack.

EOD officer added to EOD Memorial during ceremony on Eglin AFB

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — A fallen American Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer was honored during the annual EOD memorial ceremony on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. Army 1st Lt. Zachary D. Galli was the 345th name added to the EOD Memorial Wall during the ceremony at the Naval EOD School, May 3. Galli died during a training exercise on Fort Johnson, La, on May 11, 2024. During the exercise, Galli was leading EOD support operations for the 7th Brigade Engineer Battalion and coordinating the response of three EOD teams in the defense area.

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Attendees of the Experience Camp Pendleton Tour interact with exhibits within the Marine Corps Mechanized Museum, Camp Pendleton, May 1, 2025. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Patrick King

Experience Camp Pendleton Tour offers glimpse into Marine Corps history

by Sgt. Patrick King
Camp Pendleton

CAMP PENDLETON - Over 30 representatives from destination management companies and hotels gathered for the “Experience Camp Pendleton Tour,” a unique event providing an exclusive look inside one of the United States’ most storied military installations here on May 1.

In collaboration with the Marine Corps, the Camp Pendleton Historical Society aimed to

deepen the tour’s participants’ understanding of the base’s rich history, its ongoing role in national defense and to grow a deeper relationship with local businesses.

Attendees began their day at the Santa Margarita Ranch House, a National Historic Site dating back to the 19th century. This adobe structure’s service has extended from a Mexican land grant residence to the home of several Marine Corps generals.

The tour continued to the Las Flores Adobe, a National Historic Landmark showcasing California’s ranching heritage. Participants also visited the Marine Mechanized Museum, which highlighted the evolution of amphibious warfare through its extensive collection of armored vehicles and equipment displays, as well as the World War II/Korea LVT Museum.

Throughout the day, guides provided insights into the base’s transformation from a Spanish

Team Kadena elephant walk

by Senior Airman
James Johnson

18th Wing Public Affairs

KADENA AIR BASE, Japan - In a demonstration of combat readiness and regional deterrence, the 18th Wing conducted a large-scale elephant walk, May 6 here, assembling one of the most diverse formations of U.S. military aircraft in the Indo-Pacific.

Kadena AB brought together aircraft that regularly operate out of Kadena, day in and day out from the Air Force and Navy, along with Army Patriot missile batteries, for a single capabilities demonstration, highlighting the strength of America’s integrated air and missile defense and its commitment to joint operations.

The formation featured a

land grant to a pivotal military training ground established in 1942. Discussions covered various topics like the significance of the Navajo Code Talkers during World War II and the evolving role of women in the Marine Corps.

“This tour offers an incredible appreciation for the sacrifices and dedication of our service members,” said Daniel M. Whitley, one of the event coordinators



Air Force, Army and Navy assets line up on the runway for an elephant walk at Kadena AB May 6. Team Kadena showcased an array of aircraft, demonstrating a portion of the 100 aircraft operating from the Keystone of the Pacific. U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tylir Meyer

wide array of advanced platforms, including 24 U.S. Air Force F-35As, eight U.S. Air Force F-15Es, six HH-60 Jolly Green IIs, two MQ-9 Reapers, two MC-130J Commando IIs, six KC-135 Stratotankers, one

RC-135 Rivet Joint, one E-3G Sentry, two U.S. Navy EA-18 Growlers, one U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon and two U.S. Army MIM-104 Patriots.

The diversity of capabilities is a testament to the lethality Kadena can leverage to deter adversarial aggression in the Indo-Pacific region.

“Working alongside our allies and partners, Kadena stands ready to project airpower throughout the region to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific,” said Brig. Gen. Nicholas Evans, 18th Wing commander.

<https://www.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4177702/kadena-ab-demonstrates-readiness/>

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usaa.com/memorialday

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Service leaders with the Navy and Marine Corps discuss budget, combat readiness

by David Vergun

Navy Adm. James W. Kilby, vice chief of naval operations, along with Marine Corps Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, testified on a panel May 6 during a House Armed Services Committee subcommittee hearing on military readiness.

“At the time when we need to move faster to counter China and global instability, we are fiscally moving slower,” he said, noting that the Navy’s readiness is most vulnerable under a full-year continuing resolution.

Kilby said the service set a goal of making 80 percent of its ships, submarines and aircraft combat-ready by Jan. 1, 2027. To do that, he said it is reducing maintenance delays and improving manning, training, modernization and sustainment.

“We are seeing progress,” he said, adding that last year, the Navy increased surface ship depot maintenance from 41 percent on time to completion to 68 percent.

“Unfortunately, this progress



Marine Corps Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney at the House Armed Services Committee subcommittee hearing May 6. DOD screenshot

is not consistent across all platforms. I am not satisfied with amphibious ship maintenance. Our Navy and Marine Corps operate as a lethal, integrated force, and we have work to do here,” the admiral said.

The Navy is also focused on recruiting and retaining talent. Kilby said it is committed to attracting and developing Americans who can innovate, solve hard problems and dominate in combat.

Last fiscal year, the Navy recruited over 40,000 Sailors — the most since 2003 — and is

currently on pace to exceed this fiscal year’s recruiting goals.

Kilby said the Navy is also working on reducing wait times at child development centers and improving housing.

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Mahoney said that over 30,000 Marines are forward deployed, with the vast majority of them in the Indo-Pacific region.

Mahoney said he is concerned about the lack of amphibious ship availability, which inhibits littoral mobility and sustainment

AIR FORCE: EA-37B completes first training sortie

by Chad Watkins, 55th Wing
DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Arizona - The 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron flew the first mission training sortie for the EA-37B on May 2.

The EA-37B, a wide-area airborne electromagnetic attack weapon system using a heavily modified version of the Gulfstream G550 airframe, will replace the legacy EC-130H as a more modern, and cost-effective, commercial derivative aircraft. Ten of 14 EC-130H aircraft have been divested to date.

“The EA-37B and the professionals who support its mission represent the most recent evolution in a long history of EMS dominance for the ECG,” said Lt. Col. Jesse Szveda, 43rd ECS director of operations. “The capabilities of this platform are the cornerstone to addressing emerging threats in any AOR at any time.”

of forces. He is also concerned about the budget.

“The lack of on-time and predictable funding has hampered our ability to carry out a business plan, and it has constrained our ability to balance that readiness

The EA-37B sustains Joint Force military advantage in electromagnetic battlespace and builds a more lethal force by modernizing electromagnetic attack capabilities to deny peer competitors’ tactical networks and information ecosystems.

Additionally, the aircraft denies, degrades and disrupts adversary communications, information processing, navigation, radar systems and radio-controlled threats. It also employs offensive counter-information and electromagnetic attack capabilities in support of U.S. and coalition tactical air, surface and special operations forces.

“This EA-37B mission culminates years of planning and coordination between thousands of people spanning many organizations,” said Lt. Col. Tray Wood, 43rd ECS commander. “The hard work and dedication of these groups ensure the Electronic Combat Group is prepared

with modernization,” he said.

He isn’t concerned about the recruiting mission, noting that the Marine Corps attained its recruiting mission last fiscal year and will do so again this year without compromising standards.

for future conflict with the 43d Electronic Combat Squadron leading developments in the Electromagnetic Spectrum.”

The first EA-37B was delivered to the 55th Electronic Combat Group on August 23, 2024 to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to begin pilot training. Although located at Davis-Monthan AFB, the 55th ECG reports to the 55th Wing at Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The group is the sole operator of Compass Call aircraft in worldwide contingency operations.

A total of ten EA-37B’s are expected to be produced and assigned to the 55th ECG. The 43rd Electronic Combat Squadron flew the first mission training sortie for the EA-37B on May 2, 2025.

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<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/497739/ea-37b-completes-first-training-sortie>

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Callie
continued from page 1

Parsons said the experience of working with Callie changed his life.

“I had always been the sarcastic guy in the room,” Parsons told an audience of more than 100 Airmen gathered for the ceremony. “I always had a really negative quip. But when Callie came into my life, there was a massive shift. I wanted to be more uplifting as opposed to tearing things down.”

Parsons attributed that shift to the influence of Callie’s work ethic. He recalled how the Dutch shepherd refused to give up while searching through the rubble of a collapsed candle factory following a devastating tornado strike in Mayfield, Kentucky, in 2021.

“Her entire underbelly and paws were just ripped to shreds, and she was still working,” Parsons said. “I was really impressed with her character. It didn’t matter what was going on with her — she was always doing the job.”

That job involved search-and-rescue missions in Alaska, Indi-

ana, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia during which she located six deceased individuals and cleared more than 2,000 acres of rubble-strewn debris fields and collapsed structures, bringing closure to grieving families while substantially decreasing search time and mitigating operational risk to pararescuemen, according to Maj. Bryan Hunt, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron.

For these dogged efforts,



Maj. Bryan Hunt, left, commander of the 123rd Special Tactics Squadron, pins a Meritorious Service Medal to the collar of Callie. U.S. Air National Guard photos by Dale Greer

Hunt presented both Callie and Parsons with Meritorious Service Medals during the ceremony.

“This is a two-fold farewell,” Hunt said. “I know Rudy is going to argue that today’s ceremony is more for Callie than it is for him. I would argue that this is more for Rudy than it is for Callie. Without the handler there, is no dog. And without the dog, there is no handler.

Philippines, U.S. conclude Exercise Balikatan 25

CAMP AGUINALDO, Quezon City, Philippines - The Armed Forces of the Philippines hosted the closing ceremony of Exercise Balikatan 25, marking the successful completion of the largest annual combined military exercise between the Philippines and the United States.

During this 40th iteration of Balikatan, more than 14,000 Filipino, U.S., Australian, and Japanese service members trained shoulder-to-shoulder across the Philippine archipelago.

“Together, we executed complex training across the archipelago, building readiness for today and resilience for tomorrow,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm, the U.S. Joint Task Force commander. “From live-fire drills and humanitarian missions in Palawan to sea denial in the Luzon Strait with the deployment of NMESIS to Batan Island, we advanced our capability to deter, respond, and prevail.”

In a display of the increasingly modernized Philippine-U.S. alliance, the combined force conducted six all-domain field events, enhancing air and missile defense, counter-landing, and maritime security and strike capabilities. These events provided tactical and operational units with realistic, challenging training while refining command and control capabilities throughout the Philippines.

“The truth is, Callie is an amazing canine. She proved a lot of different concepts to the entire rescue community as a whole. But Rudy really took Callie and the program by the leash, and ran it from start to finish. As we stand here today for Callie’s retirement, she was able to obtain over a dozen state, federal and independent certifications in rescue. She also deployed six times in support of state and national-level calls for assistance. Rudy was at her side for all of that. It didn’t matter if the call for help came at 2 o’clock in the morning, they were going out the door.

“We are extremely proud of what Rudy was able to accomplish with Callie. We were

fortunate to have had him for as long as we did, and I cannot think of a more-deserving senior NCO to serve as functional manager at the Air National Guard Readiness Center.”

Parsons said the genesis of the canine program grew out of his experience deploying worldwide for search-and-rescue missions. At one point in his career as a Kentucky Air Guardsman, he traveled to 37 countries in just 12 months. One particular mission stands out — the effort to recover 11 lost souls from a pile of smoking rubble after their C-130 Hercules crashed in Afghanistan.

Continue reading at <https://www.ang.af.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/4181108/>.



Army

*Army medic receives award for fending off shooter, saving life

*Upgrades ahead across the special operations helicopter fleet

*Tweaks to Army’s physical fitness test are relatively modest

*Army basic trainee found dead at Fort Jackson was 22-year-old from Alaska

*Army names newly combined futures and training command

Navy

*Sea launched cruise nuclear missile to deliver in 2034, says admiral (see front page)

Marine Corps

*Death is the only winner so far in Camp Lejeune litigation

*A woman drove into a San Diego military facility by mistake. She now faces deportation.

*Dakota Meyer’s Marine Corps reenlistment uncommon, stats say

Air Force

*How a retired rescue helicopter and a hot rod Mustang honor an airman

*New B-52 radar program has Nunn-McCurdy cost breach, may be reduced in scope

*This 53-aircraft ‘elephant walk’ in Japan might be the largest we’ve ever seen

Space Force

*U.S. Space Force narrows field in \$100 million space laser terminal program

Your Military

*Judge awards \$680K to Hawaii military families over fuel-tainted water

*The Trump administration wants to promote school vouchers for military families. Would it help?

*How military spouses can save for retirement



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Laser-target facility helps to advance DoD's nuclear mission

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Naval Research Laboratory has a new strategic direction for its NIKE laser-target facility to align its world-class capabilities with the Department of Defense's nuclear strategic priorities.

The new strategic direction marks a shift from the facility's historical focus on Department of Energy missions, specifically those related to the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). The initiative emphasizes NRL's commitment to advancing national security through cutting-edge science and technology.

Originally constructed in 1995 with support from the NNSA, the NIKE (pronounced nai-kee) laser was designed to explore the physics of direct-drive inertial confinement fusion in support of the Nation's nuclear stockpile stewardship mission.

"NIKE is the world's most energetic krypton-fluoride excimer laser, delivering ultrasmooth pulsed beams at a wavelength of 248 nanometers with 2-3 kilojoules of energy," said Jason Bates, head of NRL's Laser Plasma Branch. "These unique capabilities enable researchers

to generate strong, stable shock waves and create exceptionally clean experimental conditions for studying extreme physical states of matter."

For decades, the NIKE facility and its scientific team have contributed to NNSA's flagship laser program at the National Ignition Facility, which recently achieved its landmark goal of ignition where the fusion of hydrogen nuclei produces more energy than the laser energy used to drive the reaction.

Over the years, NRL researchers have pioneered several critical innovations that have transitioned to other NNSA programs including monochromatic x-ray radiography, the Virgil gold M-band spectrometer, and the flashlamp-pumped disk amplifiers for neodymium-doped glass (Nd:glass) lasers. Nd:glass is a material used in certain high-powered laser systems.

Through the creative work of its research team, and a strategic partnership with the Air Force, NIKE's capabilities are now being harnessed to address the central science and technology needs of the DoD nuclear deterrence mission.

"This partnership between

NRL and the Air Force Research Laboratory represents a vital leap forward in our ability to simulate and understand the extreme environments that nuclear assets must navigate," Bates said. "NIKE's unique laser and diagnostic capabilities are unmatched, enabling us to close critical gaps in assessing the survivability of our platforms."

With adversaries such as China and Russia racing to build similar excimer-laser technologies, maintaining and safeguarding the NIKE facility is essential. A recapitalization and reinvestment strategy is underway to secure NIKE's future and support the revitalization of the nation's nuclear deterrence capability.

"NRL's NIKE facility is an important national asset with unique capabilities that allow it to serve a broad range of missions supporting stockpile stewardship, fusion energy research, directed energy, hypersonics, and fundamental studies of materials at extreme conditions. Its continued operation for the good of the Nation remains our goal through its new focus," said Joe Peñano, Ph.D., superintendent of NRL's Plasma Physics Division.

The division conducts broad theoretical and experimental programs of basic and applied research in plasma physics, laboratory discharge, and space plasmas, intense electron and ion beams and photon sources, atomic physics, pulsed power sources, laser physics, advanced spectral diagnostics, and nonlinear systems.

The effort of the Division is concentrated on closely coordinated theoretical and experimental programs in key areas. Considerable emphasis is placed on large-scale numerical simulations related to plasma dynamics; ionospheric, magnetospheric, and atmospheric dynamics; nuclear weapons effects; inertial confinement fusion; atomic physics; plasma processing; nonlinear dynamics and chaos; free electron lasers and other advanced radiation sources; advanced accelerator concepts; and atmospheric laser propagation.

The NRL Laser Fusion Program traces its origins to the late 1960s, when laser-produced plasmas were first used to investigate the effects of high-altitude nuclear explosions. The program was formally established in 1972 by the Atomic Energy Commission, the predecessor to today's NNSA.



The Navy's Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) Programs at Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) are responsible for policy development, resourcing, and oversight of quality-of-life programs for Sailors and their families. The Navy Quality of Life (QOL) mission is to strengthen the warfighting capability of the fleet, fighter and family by providing essential services that enhance well-being, resilience and retention through the delivery of its Fleet Readiness, Family Readiness, Housing, Support Services, Casualty Support, and Child and Youth Programs.



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Local Military

LIKE CARS, ROCKETS EVOLVE: NAVY'S RAMJET TEST PROVES GAME-CHANGING POTENTIAL

by Michael Smith

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division

NAVAL BASE VENTURA COUNTY, POINT MUGU - Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division successfully air-launched a Solid Fuel Integral Rocket Ramjet (SFIRR) from an unmanned vehicle for the first time, one step toward modernizing missile technology. The test also integrated the use of a fire control system on a BQM-34 unmanned target vehicle for live firing, demonstrating advancements in high-speed, long-range weapon capabilities. Launching the missile from an unmanned vehicle can allow warfighters to safely engage targets from greater distances.

As the lead prototype integrator, NAWCWD combined advanced propulsion, avionics and fire control technologies into the technology demonstrator in just 12 months. Rapidly transitioning technologies from research to operational use is critical for maintaining a warfighting advantage.

"This successful integration validates key aspects of our design and moves us closer to delivering an advanced propulsion system that will provide warfighters with greater range and speed," said Abbey Horning, product director of NAWCWD's Advanced Concepts, Prototyping and Experimentation office.

Although Solid Fuel Ramjet technology is not new, this test proves its relevance to the modern battlefield.

"We're not just revisiting an old idea; we're refining and modernizing it to fit today's mission," Horning said.

SFIRR simplifies missile propulsion by eliminating the complexity found in liquid fuel ramjet propulsion. This significantly reduces weight, allowing missiles to carry more payload and travel greater distances with increased maneuverability.



Horning highlighted additional benefits: "SFIRR offers a balance of affordability, reliability and performance tailored to the Navy's operational needs."

Ephraim Washburn, deputy director for energetics at NAW-

CWD, noted that technology evolution occurs across many industries. He compared SFIRR advancements to automotive improvements, where early designs laid a foundation, and ongoing developments continue to enhance performance.

"We've been driving cars since the early 1900s, but that doesn't mean we stopped improving them," Washburn said. "Solid fuel ramjet technology had significant investment in the 1970s and 1980s, but we're making it a modern propulsion

solution for the fleet today."

Recent advances are part of the Navy's ongoing efforts to ensure technological superiority. NAWCWD collaborates across government, industry and academia to deliver propulsion

innovations. Lessons learned from tests informed the development of a next-generation missile prototype aimed at enhancing speed, range and operational flexibility for future Navy strike capabilities.

"This is a combat-credible

A BQM-34 unmanned aerial vehicle launches from Point Mugu during a test of the Ramjet. U.S. Navy photo

technology," Washburn said. "We are working to refine its range, endurance, and targeting capabilities."



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NMCSD expands inpatient mental health ward, largest within DOD

SAN DIEGO (May 12, 2025) - Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the expansion of its 1 West inpatient mental health ward—an initiative that marks a significant step forward in strengthening behavioral health care for active-duty service members, veterans, and beneficiaries.

The expansion project, approved by the Defense Health Agency (DHA) in November 2024, originated from planning efforts launched in November 2022. Through a coordinated vision shared among leadership, clinical departments, facilities staff, and safety experts, the project was brought to life with the goal of increasing access, improving therapeutic outcomes, and reinforcing the Navy’s commitment to warfighter readiness.

“When our service members are struggling, it affects not only their individual readiness but the collective strength of our force,” said Rear Adm. Guido Valdes, Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific, and Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim.

“By delivering high-quality, evidence-based mental health services in a secure and supportive environment, this unit will

ensure our warfighters receive the care they need to recover and return to duty—or transition with dignity to the next phase of their lives.”

The newly expanded 1 West ward moves NMCSD closer to its goal of increasing capacity from a historic 36-bed limit across the 1 North and 1 West units to a total of 48 beds by the end of the calendar year. The initiative is expected to eliminate active-duty disengagements to civilian care, improve engagement with veterans and beneficiaries, and generate an estimated \$22.7 million in annual purchased care savings once all new beds are staffed and in use.

“This expansion reflects our unwavering commitment to providing safe, effective, and therapeutic mental health care within our own system,” said Capt. Elizabeth Adriano, Director of NMCSD. “By retaining our

service members in a military treatment facility, we preserve readiness, reduce costly external placements, and expand care

“This expansion not only allows us to recapture all active duty needing inpatient care—it establishes Naval Medical San

services that preserve the force, support families, and promote holistic well-being.

The mission of NMCSD is to provide a superior experience for

our patients, staff, and warfighters. NMCSD employs more than 5,000 active-duty military personnel, civilians, and contractors in Southern California to deliver exceptional care afloat and ashore.

Health care professionals at Naval Medical Center San Diego cut a ribbon to celebrate the completion of the 1 West Mental Health Ward expansion. Pictured (from left) are John Henley, Inpatient Mental Health department head; Capt. Elizabeth Adriano, NMCSD’s director; Rear Adm. Guido Valdes, commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific; and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Matthew Stier. U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Celia Martin



access to those who have served and continue to serve.”

The original 1 West ward was last renovated in 2008, primarily to meet updated safety requirements. The current expansion project not only reinforces safety standards with structural upgrades—including ligature-resistant door hardware, lock replacements, and improved CCTV—but also places a strong emphasis on enhancing the therapeutic environment.

Patients now benefit from access to a large outdoor courtyard, greater privacy, and improved treatment areas that support individualized care.

Additionally, the Program of Care has been refined to offer tailored therapeutic experiences, aligning treatment groups and clinical interventions with each patient’s specific diagnosis and symptom profile.

Diego as the largest psychiatric inpatient facility within the Department of Defense,” said. Cmdr. Nathan Hydes, NMCSD Director for Mental Health. “In addition, the expansion allows us to accept and treat a more diverse group of patients, which directly serves our multiple training programs, including the Navy’s largest psychiatric residency.”

The project’s success was the result of a joint plan of action and milestones (POAM) developed by the Directorate for Mental Health and the Directorate of Nursing Services, encompassing hiring initiatives, infrastructure improvements, space reorganization, and key procurement milestones.

The ribbon-cutting event highlighted the collective dedication and vision of the NMCSD team to deliver high-quality, mission-aligned behavioral health



The U.S. Navy deploys combat-ready Sailors, ships, aircraft and submarines around the world to areas of interest without relying on land bases in foreign countries. Today and every day, America’s Navy is operating to preserve the peace, deter aggression, and protect the American way of life.

Coast Guard disables vessel after high-speed maritime smuggling attempt near Point Loma

SAN DIEGO (May 12, 2025) - Coast Guard crews interdicted eight aliens May 10 following a high-speed maritime smuggling attempt near Point Loma.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector San Diego’s Joint Harbor Operations Center observed an 18-foot cuddy cabin vessel traveling at a high rate of speed northbound, roughly two miles south of Point Loma. Watchstanders maintained visual contact using surveillance cameras as the vessel entered San Diego Bay.

A Coast Guard Station San Diego boatcrew, already underway on routine patrol, was diverted to intercept the vessel. Upon locating the vessel, the crew attempted to establish communication with the operator, who then immediately fled the scene.

After multiple unsuccessful attempts to compel the vessel to stop using verbal commands and warning shots, the crew employed disabling fire. Four rounds were fired into the vessel’s engine, successfully disabling it.

The Coast Guard crew boarded the vessel and took positive control. A total of eight aliens were aboard: five adult males, one adult female, and two juvenile males, ages 16 and 17.

The aliens and vessel were taken to Ballast Point and transferred to awaiting Department of Homeland Security partners.

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Memorial Day Events

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, you can be part of the National Moment of Remembrance by pausing for a moment of silence at 3pm local time. Take a minute to remember those who have died serving our country. We are grateful to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.



Visit the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial at 11am this Memorial Day as we honor the service and sacrifice of Seaman Lakiba Nicole Palmer and her 16 fellow sailors who lost their lives during the terrorist attack on USS Cole on October 12, 2000. Our annual ceremony at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial pays tribute to all veterans, former Prisoners of War, and those still listed as Missing in Action, with special recognition of the USS Cole heroes whose ultimate sacrifice reminds us of the true cost of freedom. Through remembrance and education, we ensure that the legacy of our fallen servicemembers lives on. We invite veterans, families, community members, and all who wish to pay their respects to attend this solemn and meaningful ceremony. 6905 La Jolla Scenic Drive S. La Jolla, CA 92037

USS Midway Museum, Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony, 9am, Flight Deck. Join us for a special commemorative wreath ceremony in remembrance of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Includes guest speaker, flyover, and tossing a memorial wreath over the ship in honor of the fallen.

-U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Arizona Band, 11am & 2:15pm performance. Patriot music by instrumentalists on the flight deck.

-Bonita Vista High School's Music Machine, 12:30pm. Patriotic entertainment by one of SD's top-ranked show choirs.

-Don't miss USS Midway's Legacy Week, (May 23-May 26) an annual celebration that honors and remembers our military heroes, and celebrates our military heritage. The USS Midway Museum's "Legacy Week" is the heart and soul of Memorial Day commemoration in San Diego. Find the full schedule of events at: www.midway.org/event/legacy-week-2025

Miramar National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony - Sunday, May 25, 1pm. Please join us for our 14th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony. We will honor and remember over 1.2 million American men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice defending our country. The ceremony will include keynote speaker, Vice Admiral Daniel Cheever, Commander, Naval Air Forces/Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; music by Westwind Brass; Bugler; Bagpiper; and more. Ceremony is free and open to the public, with plenty of free parking.

National Memorial Day Concert - Sunday, May 25 at 5pm (PST), watch the live broadcast of the National Memorial Day Concert celebrating members of the U.S. armed forces. Livestream will be available at www.pbs.org/national-memorial-day-concert.

Fort Rosecrans Memorial Day Ceremony - Monday, May 26, 10 am. 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Dr. on Point Loma. One of San Diego's largest and most celebrated memorials dedicated to our fighting men and women. On this day we honor all of our fallen soldiers and remember them for their ultimate sacrifice to our country. www.facebook.com/FortRosecransMemorialDay/

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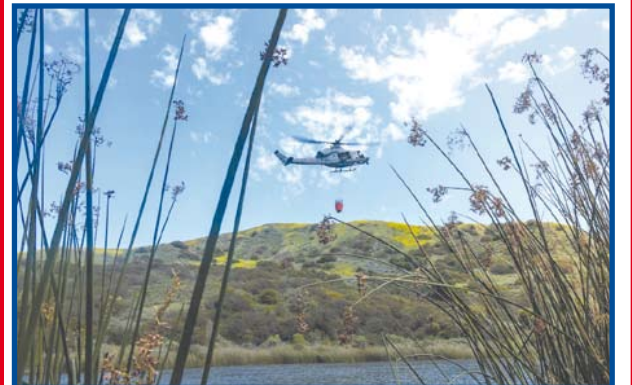
LOCAL ART GALLERY



CAMP PENDLETON (May 7, 2025) Luis Murrieta, a chief cook with MCAS Miramar, participates in the Culinary Team of the Quarter competition here. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Patrick King



NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN (May 7, 2025) Sailors launch the "killer tomato," a floating target for live-fire exercises, aboard destroyer USS Preble while deployed. U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jamaal Liddell



CAMP PENDLETON (May 1, 2025) Marines fly over Las Pulgas Lake in a UH-1Y Venom during the Cory Iverson wildland firefighting exercise between various agencies. U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Noah Martinez

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Knott’s Berry Farm - authentic interactive & affordable SoCal fun

The more I visit, the more I absolutely love Knott’s Berry Farm. From its humble beginnings as a family farm, for over 100 years Knott’s — and its signature Mrs. Knott’s fried chicken dinners, boysenberries and its Old West Ghost Town named Calico — has become world-famous. Other themed areas include Fiesta Village, the Boardwalk — where you find a great selection of thrilling, high-speed rides; and the Peanuts-themed Camp Snoopy — with rides that are especially fun for the park’s younger guests.

In Calico, you’ll step back into the wild west’s early history. There are streets lined with authentic buildings — including a one-room schoolhouse, a western museum, a blacksmith’s shop, a saloon and more — as period-correct townsfolk walk around, actively interact with park visitors and do townsfolky kinds of things. Live dramas that they re-enact include a bank robbery, spirited, town meetings, a hoedown (complete with its own small-town band) for everyone to participate in) and much more. Live plays are performed in Calico’s Bird Cage Theater.

On this visit to Knott’s Berry Farm, I went there to check out their famous Boysenberry Festival. My day began with an up-close look at their authentic steam engine-driven train, which gives visitors rides around the park. I watched in fascination as a train worker re-filled the steam engine’s water tank from the water tower. I learned that they do that about every two hours, if you’d like to see that for yourself.

While there, I overheard the sounds of an announcer nearby. I walked over to see that they were beginning their first of three Boysenberry Festival contests. These were mainly aimed at little kids but everyone, including adults, was encouraged to participate, so I did. On my very last try of the last contest I finally succeeded and won a prize (a Knott’s Berry Farm sticker). The contests were followed by an entertaining, kids-only, boy-

senberry pie-eating contest (no hands allowed!). Later in the day there was another boysenberry pie-eating contest for adults.

One of my favorite rides at Knott’s is the Calico Mine Co. train ride,

AutoMatters™ & More
by Jan Wagner



through a series of large caverns where miners are busy mining.

Another ride that I finally got to do (three times!) was the Butterfield horse-drawn stage coach ride. The unpredictable, real-live horses added to the excitement.

Later I enjoyed watching a performance of the “Knott’s PRESERVED” musical stage show. This energetic show was filled with talented performers who danced their way through early Southern California history.

Just before park closing, I ended my day with a ride on the arcade-style shoot-em-up “Knott’s Bear-y Tales — Return to the Fair” — with no wait time to get on! As I walked towards the exit I checked out the local vendors

and the merchandise in Virginia’s Gift Shop — with lots of Boysenberry treats, PEANUTS Headquarters and the Marketplace Emporium.

My annual pass included the add-on meal plan, which I used for the allotted two entrées per day.

Knott’s Berry Farm stands head-and-shoulders above that other, but by reservation only (even for annual passholders!) theme park (which I also have an annual pass to) for its abundance of live, themed, interactive activities and lots of performers-filled entertainment. Depending upon the time of year, themes include western, the Peanuts gang, holiday celebrations (you MUST visit in the summer during Founders’ Day) and more — and unlike that other well-known theme park, most of Knott’s seasonal entertainment is included at no extra cost (and without shutting the park down during normal operating hours for people who do not buy the extra cost experiences). They even have a first-class indoor ice-skating rink with world-class shows in the winter time.

I had a wonderful day at Knott’s. I stayed until closing time and I can hardly wait to return. For more information, including seasonal live entertainment and affordable annual pass information with meal plan and parking add-ons, visit Knott’s Berry Farm at: <https://www.knotts.com>.

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The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by
Lisa
Smith
Molinari

Have you ever had one of those days when everything just falls into place? When nothing unexpected happens? When you get everything done on time? When you end the day with a satisfying sense of accomplishment?

Yeah, me neither.

I often feel like an accidental passenger on a runaway train, careening toward some unknown destination, with me dangling precariously from the caboose, frantically grasping at the countless things that flash by — home repairs, work tasks, volunteer responsibilities, neglected relatives, social obligations, house cleaning, bills, holidays, family drama, daily minutia — desperately trying to take control to avoid a crash.

Other times it’s as if I’m being buried deeper and deeper by an avalanche of the never-ending items on my “To Do” list, overwhelmed and unable to catch my breath. Or, I envision myself as an old, washed up Raggedy Ann doll sinking into a pile of flashy new toys in an arcade machine at Chuck E. Cheez, longing for some kid with a pocketful of quarters to come along and use that metal claw to save me from drowning in my endless responsibilities.

Dramatic, I know.

I’ll admit that my mind concocts exaggerated visuals when my schedule gets hectic and I fall behind, but I can’t help but wonder, why does life always seem so busy?

Deployment mindset fortifies military spouses

Many years ago, my Navy husband deployed for a over a year with a Joint Task Force in Africa, leaving me alone with our three young children, a house and yard to maintain, bills to pay, needy relatives, a broken computer, our sloppy labradoodle, Scout meetings, carpools, gutters to clean, flag football games, doctors’ appointments, and a myriad of other responsibilities. Although I’d experienced shorter deployments as a Navy spouse, I wasn’t sure how I’d react to managing everything alone for an entire year.

My military spouse friends who’d endured many long deployments had told me that I needed to get used to serving cereal for dinner, wearing pajama pants all day, and drinking wine in the afternoon, because life as I knew it was over. They said I’d have a mental breakdown by the fourth month if I didn’t lower my standards, let the grass grow a foot high and allow the kids to watch PG-13 movies and go to bed without brushing their teeth.

According to them, a military spouse’s main task during deployment was survival. Everything else was optional.

Despite the overwhelming responsibility I took on that year, I surprised myself by managing just fine. Nothing was perfect by any means, but for the most part, I kept our household and family life running smoothly during that deployment, even without mid-day cocktails and Fruit Loops for dinner. I suffered mini-breakdowns here and there, but they were nothing that couldn’t be rectified with a good cry and a pint of Cherry Garcia.

Why then, do I become so over-

whelmed by the minutia of daily life now that the kids are adults and my husband doesn’t deploy anymore?

In retrospect, I now understand that I’d heard so many awful deployment stories involving unexpected chaos such as car troubles, stomach flu, burst pipes, teacher conferences, storm damage, and even childbirths that happened while military spouses were managing households and families alone, I was mentally prepared to handle just about anything that might happen. The deployment was such a significant life event, my subconscious had thoroughly prepared itself for combat.

Without realizing it, I’d built a strong fortification that protected me from the barrage of incoming stressors and unexpected events that inevitably happen during deployments.

Without a significant life event like deployment to trigger my natural defenses, my subconscious remains open and vulnerable. I take on too much. I write long “To Do” lists. I fall behind. I lose sight of what’s really important. I become overwhelmed by minutia.

Cue the dramatic visualizations.

Perhaps the key to handling the many responsibilities in our modern busy lives is to always maintain a “deployment mindset.” Whether our active duty spouses are home or away, military spouses should remember that our main task is survival; everything else is optional. And never forget, in the event of a breakdown, just have good cry and a pint of Cherry Garcia.

Veterans News

Pope Leo XIV’s father served in the Navy during World War II

by David Vergun, DOD News
...Pope Leo XIV’s father, Louis Marius Prevost, served in the Navy during World War II.

...Prevost was born on July 28, 1920, in Chicago. After graduating from college, he was commissioned in November 1943 and became the executive officer of a tank landing ship. He participated in the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, June 6, 1944, as part of Operation Overlord. He also commanded an infantry landing craft, which the Allies used to land infantry soldiers and Marines onto beaches during the war.

The Normandy coastline did not have the port capacity for the enormous number of materials needed to keep the Allied momentum going. The Navy subsequently sent Prevost and other landing ships to southern France, as part of Operation Dragoon beginning Aug. 15, 1944.

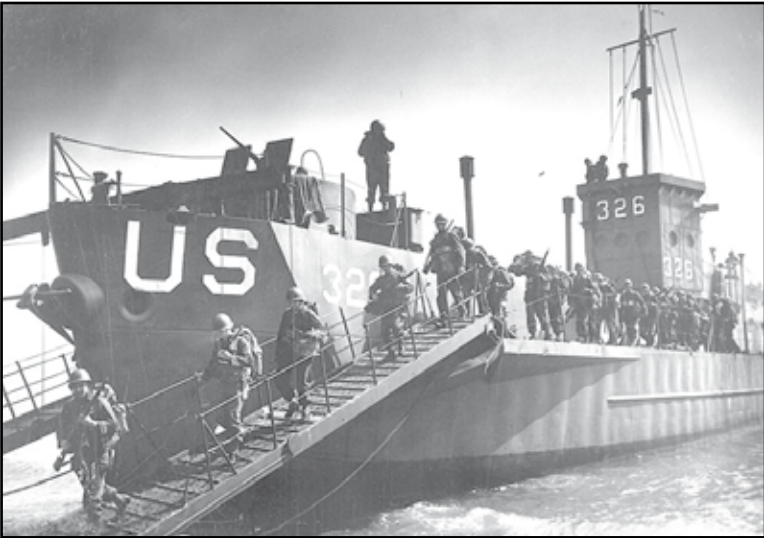
This forced the Germans to

defend a second front, diluting their effectiveness.

By the end of August, the Allies had captured the French ports of Marseille and Toulon, immediately using them to land supplies and equipment. In October 1944, more than a third of Allied cargo was shipped through those ports.

Prevost spent 15 months overseas and attained the rank of lieutenant junior grade before the war in Europe finally ended, May 8, 1945.

After coming home, he became head of Brookwood School District 167, an elementary school district in Glenwood, Illinois, and then principal of Mount Carmel Elementary School in Chicago.



Soldiers practice landings just prior to D-Day, June 6, 1944. U.S. Army photo

He was also a catechist — a teacher of the principles of the Christian religion.

He married Mildred Agnes Martinez, a Chicago native, Jan. 25, 1949. She worked as a librarian.

The couple had three sons:

John Joseph Prevost, a retired educator who lives in Chicago, and Louis Martin Prevost, a Navy veteran who lives in Florida. The youngest, whose birth name is Robert Francis Prevost, was elected as the first American pope, May 8, 2025. Mildred died June 18, 1990, and Prevost died in Chicago on Nov. 8, 1997.

FRA pushes ACES Act through House

On April 28, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 530, the Aviator Cancer Examination Study (ACES) Act, by a vote of 376-5 - a major win for military aviators at increased risk for cancer. The bipartisan bill, introduced by former fighter pilot Rep. August Pfluger (TX-11), directs the VA to study cancer rates among Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force aviators and aircrew. FRA members played a pivotal role by contacting lawmakers and sharing personal stories. Pfluger, reflecting on his time as a pilot, described the ACES Act as “a lifeline for those who have already given so much for our freedom.” With House passage secured, FRA is now shifting its advocacy to the Senate and urging members to contact their senators. Sharing stories and highlighting the bill’s importance can help ensure final passage.

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

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Across

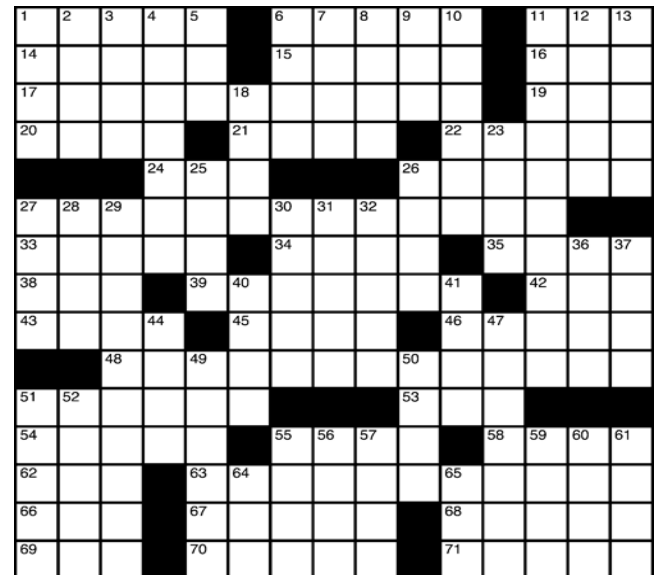
1 Like some questionable characters
6 Buffalo team
11 Pro with a gurney, briefly
14 Grade of tea leaves
15 Parting mot
16 Menagerie
17 Mythical hunter's shots of liquor?
19 With 22-Across, Lady Gaga, Madonna et al.
20 Work the bar
21 Remove from power
22 See 19-Across
24 Law school accrediting org.
26 Numbered ballpark souvenir
27 First mortal woman's moving supply?
33 Amherst sch.
34 "That was close!"
35 He or I
38 Plywood wood
39 Chicken soup, some say
42 "Selma" director DuVernay
43 Plant with fronds
45 Tablet
46 Capp chap
48 Greek hero's stilettos?
51 Paper or plastic, say

53 Letters for William or Catherine
54 Mill fodder
55 Shop clamp
58 Free speech org.
62 N.L. West, for one
63 Early man's computers?
66 Genesis name
67 Lazybones
68 Lyric poem
69 Where Schumer is a sen.
70 Stalks in a marsh
71 Royal-ly made?

Down

1 Shout target
2 "Take it"
3 Similar (to)
4 Whatsits
5 Currency with the ISO code JPY
6 Hindu title of respect
7 Mid-month day
8 Light air
9 Chair umpire's call
10 Harry, Duke of
11 Toll plaza choice in many states
12 Mandy of "This Is Us"
13 _turvy
18 Rise dramatically
23 Willow, but not Buffy

25 Bartlett alternative
26 Bit of slack facial flesh
27 _ pastry
28 Parisian gal pal
29 Stories
30 Time for fooling
31 Narrow racing boat
32 Memphis music festival street
36 Robbie's daredevil father
37 Where Mark Watney grew potatoes in a 2015 film
40 _ the air
41 Comic actor Bert
44 Mark Harmon TV drama
47 Advice from Bobby McFerrin
49 Bloviator's output
50 Kind of butter used in skin care
51 Poet Nash
52 In on, with "to"
55 Lowland
56 Wrote online, briefly
57 Old pol. divisions
59 Sound made by hitting coconut halves together
60 News article intro
61 Employed
64 Ike's monogram
65 Adopt-a-thon adoptee



Visit our military museums

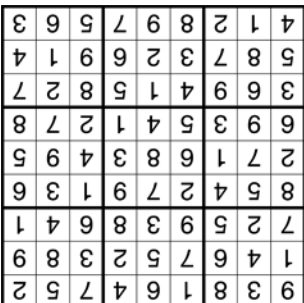
The Veterans Museum at Balboa Park. The Veterans Museum and Memorial Center is a museum located in historic Balboa Park of San Diego, California. Founded in 1989, it is dedicated to create, maintain, and operate an institution to honor and perpetuate the memories of all men and women who have served 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

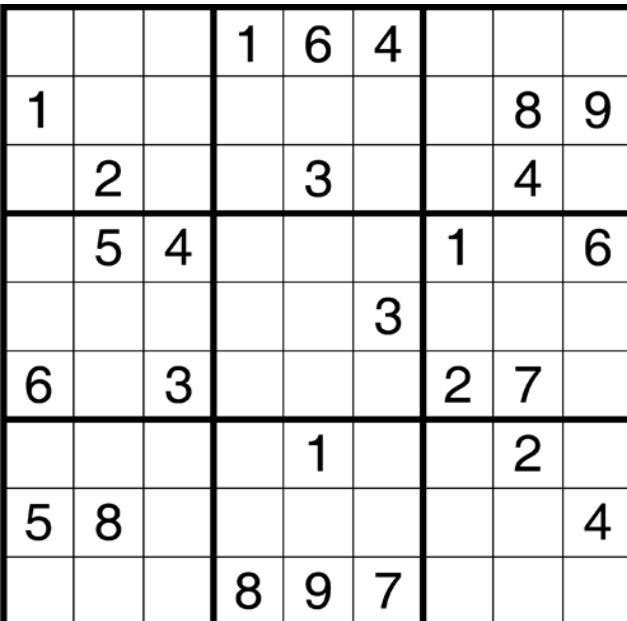
USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway Museum is a maritime museum located in downtown San Diego at Navy Pier. The museum consists of the aircraft carrier Midway. The ship houses an extensive collection of aircraft, many of which were built in So Cal.
FREE for children 3 & under and Active Duty military including 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: MCBCAMPEN_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/ for information. Hours: Open daily 10am-5pm • Last admission at 4pm

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.themech.org/>
24194 Vandegrift Blvd, Oceanside, CA 92058. (760) 725-5758
Mon-Thur 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-1pm, Closed Saturday & Sunday



ROY'S SUDOKU



MOVIES AT THE BASES

MOVIE SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE SO PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE DAY-OF TO MAKE SURE THE TITLE AND TIME ARE STILL CORRECT...

<https://sandiego.navylifefsw.com/> select movies at dropdown menu on left
<https://miramar.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/movies>
<https://pendleton.usmc-mccs.org/dining-entertainment/theater>

NBSD and 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.

Premium Offerings

- Audiovisual assistive equipment available to customers at the front counter.
- Handicap seats and child booster seats are available.

Movie Rating System

- G – General audiences ALL ages admitted.



PG – Parental guidance suggested some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 – Parents strongly cautioned some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

R – Restricted under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 – No one 17 or under admitted.

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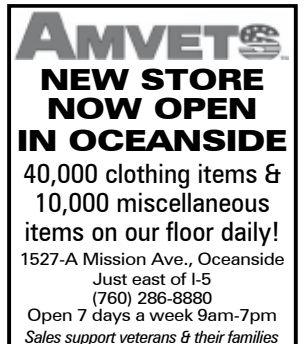
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Unique program helped save mom who survived cardiac arrest for 86 minutes

by Anita Lightfoot,
County of San Diego

A year ago, Michelle Alvarado faced death, only to be saved by an extraordinary medical procedure.

Recently, she celebrated that one-year anniversary with Nick Black, the National City Fire Department paramedic who made the right call at the right time and helped save her life.

Last May, Michelle experi-

enced sudden cardiac arrest.

Nick made the critical decision to have her ambulance bypass the nearest hospitals and take Michelle instead to Sharp Memorial Hospital. There, she was treated with an established medical procedure as part of an innovative County of San Diego pilot project used to treat patients in cardiac arrest.

For 86 minutes, Michelle received CPR by Nick, multiple

first responders, and the Emergency Department team to keep her blood pumping until she could be placed on ECMO.

ECMO, or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, is a medical procedure for critical patients with life-threatening heart or lung failure. An ECMO machine is used to pump blood out of a patient's body, add oxygen, remove carbon dioxide, and then pump the blood back into the body.

ECMO saved Michelle's life and was available to her because of a unique program that can be found in only a few locations around the world. In 2022, San Diego County brought together local medical leaders to create the San Diego Resuscitation Consortium (SDRC), with the goal of saving more lives using ECMO. A new system of care was established, and in 2023, the County launched the "Extracorporeal Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (ECPR)" pilot program.

As part of the pilot program, paramedics identify eligible cardiac arrest patients in the community and transport them to one of three participating local hospitals, Sharp Memorial, Scripps La Jolla and Sharp Grossmont. Emergency physicians are available around the clock to immediately initiate life-saving treatment.

On November 7, 2024, UCSD Medical Center Hillcrest joined the pilot program, becoming the fourth approved ECPR Receiving Center in San Diego County. The program is setting a new standard and transforming cardiac arrest care worldwide.

Not all patients suffering

sudden cardiac arrest are good candidates for the program. For those who are, ECMO can bring

them back from certain death. Patients like Michelle Alvarado are living proof.

FDA and NIH announce innovative joint Nutrition Regulatory Science Program

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced a new, joint innovative research initiative that will serve as a key element in fulfilling U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s commitment to Make America Healthy Again. With diet-related chronic diseases continually rising, it is imperative that the FDA and NIH work in lockstep to invest in gold standard science, prioritize a better understanding of the root causes to end the diet-related chronic disease crisis and safeguard the health of America's children.

Under the new Nutrition Regulatory Science Program, the FDA and NIH will implement and accelerate a comprehensive nutrition research agenda that will provide critical information to inform effective food and nutrition policy actions to help make Americans' food and diets healthier. The initiative will aim to answer questions such as:

- How and why can ultra-processed foods harm people's health?
- How might certain food additives affect metabolic health and possibly contribute to chronic disease?
- What is the role of maternal and infant dietary exposures on health outcomes across the

lifespan, including autoimmune diseases?

Answering these questions and many others will enable effective policy development and help promote the radical transparency Americans deserve about the foods they are eating and how those foods can impact their health.

"The FDA is focusing resources on the greatest contributors to the staggering health care crisis: chronic diseases," said FDA Commissioner Martin A. Makary, M.D., M.P.H., "Mirroring the highly successful FDA and NIH Tobacco Regulatory Science Program, we're bringing together scientific expertise from both agencies to transform nutrition and food-related research."

The FDA will provide its critical expertise in regulatory science and NIH will provide the infrastructure for the solicitation, review and management of scientific research.

The initiative will bring together experts in many disciplines—including chronic disease, nutrition, toxicology, risk analysis, behavioral science, and chemistry—all with the goal to advance the gold standard of nutrition and food science.

"Nutrition has always been a priority at NIH. By teaming up with the FDA, we're taking a major step toward answering big questions about how food affects health—and turning that science into smarter, more effective policy. It's time to tackle the chronic disease crisis head-on. That's why NIH is making this investment alongside the FDA," said NIH Director Jay Bhattacharya, M.D., Ph.D.

The FDA and NIH will work together to develop a research agenda for the Nutrition Regulatory Science Program and are committed to ensuring all research conducted under the Program is fair, independent and free of conflicts of interest.



SD County Fair Summer 'Pet-Tacular' coming June 11-July 6

Established in 1880, the San Diego County Fair now welcomes nearly one million guests each summer, making it the county's largest and longest-running annual event. The 2025 Fair will open June

11 through July 6, closed Mondays and Tuesdays, for a 20-day season. This year's theme celebrates pets and pet ownership—"Summer Pet-tacular!" The fair is cashless so bring a credit or debit card. There are cash to credit card machines available for a fee. Save money on admission by purchasing tickets in advance online. For more information, visit sdfair.com



Your Local USO Wants You!

Volunteers are our greatest asset and the backbone of the USO. Whether helping a Sailor or Marine with a connecting flight, distributing a Care Package, serving snacks with a smile, providing local information, or "welcoming home" ships and troops from deployment, volunteers are vital to the success of the USO's mission.

While the duties of a volunteer may vary, the goal is always the same – to improve the quality of life of service members, boost their morale, and serve as the link between service members and the American people.

Ready to apply to be a USO San Diego volunteer?

Visit www.volunteers.uso.org.

- On the right side see "Interested in volunteering?"
- Click red "Register Here" button
- Navigate to your area
- Finally, select the USO San Diego center nearest to you!

Positions may be available around San Diego county at:

Neil Ash Airport Center
Camp Pendleton USO Center
San Diego MEPS Center
Special Events Outreach



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*We will not share information with your command per HIPAA and Title 42 CFR, but TRICARE has records of services billed (if not the medical record). Records could be accessible for a special duty screening, medical board or security clearance check.

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86°	135°
87°	143°



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