Rhumb Lines: Celebrating 235 years of naval service

By Navy Office of Information

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace." – President Theodore Roosevelt (1902)

This month is cause for celebration as the Navy observes 235 years of service to the nation.

While preparing for celebrations around the fleet, visit the Naval History and Heritage Command website, which is an excellent source for videos, facts and links to other resources on the Navy's storied history. For current information on today's Sailors and naval operations around the globe, visit www.navy.mil.

America's Navy - A Global Force For Good. Sailors and Navy civilians have answered the call to serve America, protecting the nation's security and carrying out the maritime strategy every day around the globe. Some examples of how the Navy carried out the core capabilities of the maritime strategy this past year are:

• Forward presence – The *George Washington* Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and the *USS Essex* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), part of the forward-deployed naval force in the Western Pacific, brought peace and security to the Asia Pacific region. The continuous forward presence of U.S. naval forces provides ready forces capable of immediate response to a wide range of missions, from threats to natural disasters.

• Deterrence – The Navy's ballistic missile submarines continuously patrolled, ensuring strategic deterrence. Other ships, aircraft and Sailors provided conventional deterrence that was achieved through demonstrations, such as the exercises off the coast of Korea following the *Cheonan* sinking, as well as other exercises with global partners.

• Sea control – The Navy maintained sea control to enable joint and interagency operations and maintain freedom of maneuver and access. The submarine force and other anti-submarine warfare platforms conducted exercises year-round to hone their skills to ensure sea control was maintained.

• Power projection – From CSG operations such as *Abraham Lincoln* CSG in the 7th Fleet or *Harry S. Truman* CSG support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to ARG deployments in the Gulf of Aden, the Navy extended its capability globally from America's shores.

• Maritime security – Drug, weapons and human trafficking, piracy and other crimes at sea require global response. The Navy worked alongside coalition partners in Combined Task Force-151 on anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden, bringing safety and security to mariners. From keeping freight safe around critical chokepoints to stopping vessels from carrying illegal drugs to our shores, America's Navy operates cooperatively around the globe to protect United States and global interests.

• Humanitarian assistance and disaster response – America's Navy is making the world a better place. Navy ships deployed to provide proactive humanitarian assistance with global partners in missions such as Pacific Partnership and Continuing Promise in the Caribbean. And when disaster struck, as with the devastating earthquake in Haiti or the floods in Pakistan, the Navy responded compassionately.

Key Messages

• America's Navy is "A Global Force for Good," protecting this nation's vital interests even as it joins with others to promote security and prosperity across the globe.

• Although our forces can surge when necessary, trust and cooperation cannot be surged.

• Seapower will be a unifying force for building a better tomorrow.

Facts and figures

• The United States Navy was formed October 13, 1775, when the Continental Congress passed a resolution to acquire the first two warships.

USS Constitution **sails into Boston Harbor June 4. Named for the written instrument embodying the fundamental organic law and principles of government of the United States of America, *Constitution* is the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, and is a major part of the Navy's storied history.**

U.S. Navy photo by MCC James Devine

• Now, 235 years later, the Navy operates 288 ships and submarines, more than 3,700 aircraft and employs almost 600,000 active and reserve Sailors and Navy civilians.

MCPON Navy birthday message

From MCPON(SS/SW) Rick D. West

"Shipmates and Navy families, on this wonderful occasion of our Navy's 235th birthday, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your outstanding dedication and commitment to our great Navy.

As you know, our Navy is the best it has ever been; we're operating on land, on sea, and above and below the world's oceans, with the most advanced equipment and technology, but, at the end of the day, we are only as good as our people. It takes Sailors like you to ensure we continually meet the demands of our expanded Navy environment and increased mission requirements.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your service to our nation and our Navy, and for truly making our great Navy a global force for good.

As we celebrate our anniversary, take a moment to remember those currently on watch around the world and those who have gone before us and laid the foundation to which you build upon.

I also want to say 'thank you' and express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to our Navy families. Your role in your Sailor's life and the Navy is vitally important.

Happy birthday shipmates! I am really proud of who you are and the outstanding job you do every day.

Happy 235th birthday Navy and HOOYAH!" – Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West

Presidential Proclamation: National Disability Employment Awareness Month

From the office of the President of the United States

As Americans, we understand employment and economic security are critical to fulfilling our hopes and aspirations. We also know we are stronger when our country and economy can benefit from the skills and talents of all our citizens. No individual in our nation should face unnecessary barriers to success, and no American with a disability should be limited in his or her desire to work. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we renew our focus on improving employment opportunities and career pathways that lead to good jobs and sound economic futures for people with disabilities.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the landmark civil rights legislation that established a foundation of justice and equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities. In the two decades since its passage, much progress has been made. However, Americans with disabilities continue to be employed at a rate far below Americans without disabilities, and they are underrepresented in our federal workforce.

My administration is committed to ensuring people living with disabilities have fair access to jobs so they can contribute to our economy and realize their dreams. To help achieve this goal, I signed an executive order in July to increase federal employment of individuals with disabilities. This directive requires federal agencies to design model recruitment and hiring strategies for people with disabilities, and to implement programs to retain these public servants. To ensure transparency and accountability, agencies will report on their progress on hiring people with disabilities, and the Office of Personnel Management will post the results of agencies' efforts online for public evaluation. As the nation's largest employer, the federal government can become a model employer by increasing employment across America of individuals with disabilities.

The 21st century economy demands a highly educated workforce equipped with the technology and skills to maintain America's leadership in the global marketplace. Technology has changed the way we work, and the federal government is leveraging emerging, assistive and other workplace technologies to improve the options available for everyone, including workers with disabilities. We must improve the accessibility of our workplaces and enable the collaboration and contributions of every employee, and that is why I look forward to signing into law the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010. This legislation will greatly increase access to technology, with advances in areas such as closed captioning, delivery of emergency information, video description, and other advanced communications - all essential tools for learning and working in today's technological society.

Individuals with disabilities are a vital and dynamic part of our nation, and their contributions have impacted countless lives. People with disabilities bring immeasurable value to our workplaces, and we will continue to address the challenges to employment that must be overcome. This month, let us rededicate ourselves to fostering equal access and fair opportunity in our labor force, and to capitalizing on the talent, skills and rich diversity of all our workers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2010 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to embrace the unique value that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities and to promote everyone's right to employment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth. – BARACK OBAMA