

**Base Movie Schedule**

See the latest movies offered on the bases for free or reduced prices. Check our weekly schedule.

**See page 10**

**Difficult page to turn in Afghanistan**

“...the greatest gift I have received from service are the bonds and friendships of those who have served alongside me.”

**See page 11**

**Your FREE weekly paper**  
Take one!

Navy Marine Corps Coast Guard Army Air Force

# DISPATCH

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



SIXTY-FIRST YEAR NO. 17  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021

## NAVY DISPLAYS ‘AIR WING OF THE FUTURE’ ON UPGRADED AIRCRAFT CARRIER CARL VINSON OFF HAWAII

by Wyatt Olson,  
Stars and Stripe

ABOARD USS CARL VINSON NEAR HAWAII - The Navy exhibited the working parts of its Large-Scale Exercise 2021 on Aug. 14, a display of technology and sea power the Navy's highest-ranking officer said makes its worldwide fleet too formidable and too diffuse to challenge.

“It’s a big ocean, the Pacific. That’s a lot of battle space,” Adm. Michael Gilday, chief of naval operations, told reporters aboard aircraft carrier USS *Carl Vinson*. “So, we want to come at a potential adversary from many different vectors, not just on the sea, but in the air, under the sea, on the land — the Marine Corps — in space and in cyberspace.”

The generic-sounding, world-wide Large-Scale Exercise 2021 crossed all those domains, with live and virtual training, “leveraging everything we have in the toolkit to present a very formidable threat to anybody that might try to hold our interests at risk,” Gilday said.

The exercise started Aug. 3 and concluded Aug. 16. It took place across 17 time zones and involves elements of five numbered fleets - the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th and 7th — within U.S.



Capt. P. Scott Miller, commander of *Carl Vinson* aircraft carrier, surveys aircraft on the ship's bow as it steams north of Oahu, Hawaii, on Aug. 14. Photo by Wyatt Olson/Stars and Stripes

Fleet Forces Command, U.S. Pacific Fleet and U.S. Naval Forces Europe. About 36 vessels, from carriers to submarines and including *Carl Vinson*, are taking part in Large-Scale Exercise 2021.

*Carl Vinson* and some of its strike group spearheaded 3rd Fleet’s portion of the exercise near Hawaii. As part of the exercise, the 3rd Fleet command deployed from San Diego to a tent complex at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Gilday gushed over the virtual core of the exercise - computer-generated scenarios and “enemies” - and its utility.

“We can take geography - let’s say geography in Northeast Asia - and superimpose it wherever we want, where we have ships operating,” for example, he said.

“And then we can also add in virtual ships into that same battlespace so it’s a much more robust, much more realistic

training for the kind of operations we want to do,” he said.

This approach to training leaves potential adversaries facing “a holistic, numerically superior and highly trained force,” he said.

In the real world, a lengthy upgrade has turned *Carl Vinson* into the Navy’s cutting-edge carrier. Its flight deck has been retrofitted to accommodate Lightning II stealth fighters and Osprey tiltrotor aircraft.

The Navy has dubbed the collection of aircraft on *Carl Vinson* as “the air wing of the future.”

Its other embarked aircraft include EA-18G Growlers, F/A-18E and F-18F Super Hornets and the E-20 Advanced Hawkeye.

“Deploying with this part of the ‘air wing of the future’ is unprecedented, I would say,” Capt. P. Scott Miller, commander of the *Carl Vinson*, told reporters Aug. 14.

“It’s an evolution of what naval aviation is doing,” he said. “From my perspective as the aircraft CO, it’s been

fairly seamless, integrating those forces together.”

The carrier air wing includes about 70 airplanes, Cmdr. Tim Osborne, the vessel’s air boss, told reporters.

From his perch above the flight deck, Osborne oversees the launching and retrieval of all aircraft and tracks them up to 10 miles from the carrier.

The flight tempo has varied during the exercise, from 50 up to 125, he said.

“Today we’re looking at about 105 sorties total,” he said.

## U.S. could evacuate up to 9,000 a day from Afghanistan

by Jim Garamone, DOD News

Air operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, continued through the late hours of Aug. 17, getting between 700 and 800 people out of the country, said Army Maj. Gen. William D. “Hank” Taylor, the Joint Staff’s deputy director for regional operations.

Taylor spoke alongside DOD Press Secretary John F. Kirby at the Pentagon. The men said the airport is under U.S. control, and there are about 4,000 U.S. troops on the ground in Kabul.

The evacuation operation is ramping up, and Kirby and Taylor said the U.S. effort could be airlifting between 5,000 and 9,000 people a day. Taylor said he anticipates one aircraft in and out of the airport each hour.

Throughout the night, nine C-17s arrived at the airport delivering equipment and about 1,000 U.S. troops. Seven C-17s departed with between 700 and 800 passengers including 165 Americans.

The airport is open to military aircraft and limited commercial flights, Taylor said.

see **Evacuation, page 3**

## FORMER PARATROOPER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY SKYDIVING IN CORONADO

World War II hero Tom Rice celebrated his 100th birthday Sunday, Aug. 15, by parachuting out of a C-47 plane over Coronado where he landed on the beach near the Hotel del Coronado.

Tom Rice was born in August 1921 in Coronado, California. He graduated from Coronado High School in 1940. After his sophomore year of college, he volunteered for the Army in 1943 because he considered himself a risk-taker. At Camp Toccoa, Georgia, Rice became a paratrooper. He completed 19 months of training, which focused on enhancing soldiers’ cooperation and efficiency, at the school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Rice then joined the 101st Airborne Division and deployed to Great Britain in 1944.

In Great Britain, the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division trained for Operation Overlord. On June 5, 1944, Rice’s company equipped a Douglas

C-47 aircraft with machine guns, ammunition, mortar bombs and radio equipment. There were 18 paratroopers in total aboard the aircraft. Rice’s division was initially separated upon landing because the aircraft had been traveling at 164 miles per hour, which was 54 miles per hour faster than the recommended speed for a jump. Once Rice found the other paratroopers, they secured the roads in Cotentin, France. A civilian couple in a French farmhouse gave them ammunition and directions. At 8 p.m. on D-Day, 280 American paratroopers, including the 501st, captured the Barquette lock in Basse-Abbeville, France.

After the battle, the 101st Airborne Division returned to England and trained for Operation Market Garden. At 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 17, 1944, they parachuted into the Netherlands and began moving through Holland towards the Ardennes

see **100th birthday, page 10**



**TOM RICE**

Pictured above: Rice, in remembrance of the 75th anniversary of D-Day, parachuted into Normandy at age 97.



# Proudly Serving Our Brave Military

Get your discount today. ¡Hablamos Español!

## Dawn Grant

760-753-7907

1155 Grand Ave, San Marcos

[geico.com/san-marcos-grant](http://geico.com/san-marcos-grant)

## Ralph Sanchez

619-264-1751

386 East H St, Chula Vista

[geico.com/chula-vista-sanchez](http://geico.com/chula-vista-sanchez)

## Aaron Zazzera

619-321-3789

1400 Camino De La Reina, San Diego

[geico.com/san-diego-zazzera](http://geico.com/san-diego-zazzera)

## Vu Muth

858-293-6910

6615 Flanders Drive, San Diego

[geico.com/san-diego-muth](http://geico.com/san-diego-muth)

## Justin Hall

619-219-6600

70 Town Center Pkwy, Santee

[geico.com/santee-hall](http://geico.com/santee-hall)

## Donald Sewell

760-697-9550

258 N El Camino Real, Encinitas

[geico.com/encinitas-sewell](http://geico.com/encinitas-sewell)

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans, and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. GEICO contracts with various membership entities and other organizations, but these entities do not underwrite the offered insurance products. Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. Coverage is individual. In New York a premium reduction may be available. GEICO may not be involved in a formal relationship with each organization; however, you still may qualify for a special discount based on your membership, employment or affiliation with those organizations. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2021 GEICO

# National Military

by C. Todd Lopez,  
DOD News

Mountains of data are generated when the U.S. military conducts missile testing, and not all of that data is even used, simply because there's more information to be processed than there are people to process it, the director of the Missile Defense Agency said.

"When you look at the amount of data we pull from a test, let's just pick a [ground-based midcourse defense] test — terabytes of data," Navy Vice Adm. Jon A. Hill said during a presentation at the Space & Missile Defense Symposium in Huntsville, Ala. "Are we assessing all that data? The answer is no."

Hill said that following such a test, even one that has been by all measures successful, engineers might come back later, after looking at portions of the data that resulted from the experiment and find things that reveal important facts about what happened — things that wouldn't otherwise be readily apparent.

"It's not unusual for one of our great engineers to come back later and say you know in this telemetry stream I found something really interesting here. This valve did not do what we thought it was going to do," Hill said.

That's just one engineer looking at a portion of a stack of data that he couldn't possibly get through on his own. Processing all that information is a good task for artificial intelligence, Hill said.

"With machine learning and artificial intelligence, you can go into that whole vast amount of data and you can start to see interesting attributes rise and we're seeing that now once we start to institute artificial intelligence and machine learning," Hill said.

But in the world of missile defense, there's much more than

## Vice admiral discusses potential of AI in missile defense testing, operations



just the testing and assessing of systems. There's also actual operations: the detection of threats, command and control of systems and engagement with a threat.

Those areas can also be enhanced by artificial intelligence, Hill said, "and this is the challenge to industry."

A big priority for MDA, Hill said, is making life easier for the operators of the complex systems used to protect the U.S. from missile threats. AI can help make their job easier, he said — and put their attention on things that matter.

"The more artificial intelligence capability/machine learning that comes in to make the load easier — to get rid of some of these tedious tasks in the planning thing — that takes advantage of the brain of our sailors, our soldiers, our airmen, our guardians — that allows them to think about fighting the battle, not fighting the system," he said.

Right now, Hill said, MDA is starting to look at places where AI can be used to detect, track and discriminate targets, conduct command and control operations, and engage targets.

"How does that translate into some of these major functions of the system? That's what we're going after now. You start to see areas where you can improve algorithms and how you do that detect-control-engage sequence," he said. "I'm pretty excited about this. But I want to get it into an area to where we can start having more discussions about how we take what is in now primarily in the science and technology world and port that right into [the] No. 1 priority in my mind: making the operator's life easier, so we can get weapons on target."

**A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense Interceptor is launched in the Marshall Islands Courtesy photo, Missile Defense Agency**

## Evacuation continued from page 1

American troops have worked with Turkish forces to secure the airport. They're aided by some Afghan security forces. Outside the airport is the Taliban.

"We've had no hostile interactions, no attack and no threat by the Taliban," Taylor said. "We remain vigilant. I want to reinforce that we are focused on the present mission to facilitate the safe evacuation of U.S. citizens, [special immigrant visa personnel] and Afghans at risk -- to get these personnel out of Afghanistan as quickly and as safely as possible."

U.S. commanders in Kabul are in contact with Taliban com-

manders outside the airport, Kirby said. "There's communication between them and us," Kirby said. "And I would just let the results speak for themselves: ... There's been no hostile interactions from the Taliban to our operations at the airport."

This is a dynamic situation, and many things could change - security, availability of aircraft, even just the weather, Taylor said. Army Maj. Gen. Christopher Donohue, the commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, is going to Kabul to take command of the airport. The overall mission remains under Navy Rear Adm. Peter Vasily, the commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan-Forward.

## Armed Forces Dispatch (619) 280-2985

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

Publisher.....Sarah Hagerty

The Dispatch is published weekly on Thursdays, by Western States Weeklies, Inc., as a commercial, free-enterprise newspaper. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department of the Navy and is in no way associated with the Department of the Navy. The editorial objective of the Dispatch, however, is to promote support for a strong military presence. 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 Dispatch or Western States Weeklies, Inc. Consumers should make informed decisions when purchasing products and services, and when considering business opportunities, and research before investing. Subscription by mail is \$70 per year to CONUS or FPO address.



Presenting Sponsor  
**EDCO**  
edcodisposal.com  
"We'll Take Care of It"

Town and Country  
SAN DIEGO  
Monday, August 30, 2021

Times: VIP: 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
General Admission: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Location: Town and Country Hotel  
500 Hotel Circle North – Mission Valley

## TASTE • ENJOY • MINGLE



Don't miss out. Order your tickets now!

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

**MAIN AUTO REPAIR**  
"ALL WORK GUARANTEED"

**FREE ESTIMATES - Serving Military for Over 23 years**

<b>BRAKE SERVICE SPECIAL</b> from <b>\$99.95</b> Per Axle, Parts & Labor included. Most Cars Standard Brake Packages Don't Wait Until You Have a Problem!	<b>A/C Service and Repair</b>	<b>Body Work and Paint</b>	<b>CLUTCH</b> <b>\$219.95</b> Most Cars. Parts & Labor included. Includes: Pressure plate and disc. Adjustment, New throw out bearing. Pilot bearing. Inspect flywheel
<b>TIMING BELT SPECIAL</b> from <b>\$129.95</b> Most Cars. Parts & Labor included	<b>CV JOINT AXLE</b> from <b>\$119.95</b> Most Cars. Parts & Labor included	<b>FUEL INJECTION SERVICE</b> from <b>\$39.95</b> Most Cars. Parts & Labor included	

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

# Southern Command speeds to aid Haitians

by Jim Garamone,  
DOD News

A U.S. Southern Command joint task force has already begun working to aid the people of Haiti, which was recently hit by a devastating earthquake and is now being flooded by a tropical storm.

Joint Task Force-Haiti is

moving to the island nation in support of the mission, which is being led by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The southwest part of the island was struck by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake Aug. 14. The damage was extensive, and reports out of the area say at least 1,400 people were killed.

## Total Navy Battle Force: 296 Ships underway

Deployed ships underway: 76

Non-deployed ships underway: 31

Total ships underway: 107

## Ships deployed by fleet

Fleet Forces: 1                    3rd Fleet: 13

4th Fleet: 3                    5th Fleet: 20

6th Fleet: 16                    7th Fleet: 57

Total: 110

On top of that, Tropical Storm Grace hit the affected area making rescue and recovery efforts more difficult.

Southern Command is working with USAID to get help to the Haitian people quickly. "U.S. Southern Command is working to assess damage, develop common operational pictures, and provide lifesaving support for the people of Haiti," Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said during a news conference.

The command moved the task force to Haiti Aug. 17. Kirby said DOD is also flew eight helicopters to Haiti.

USS *Arlington*, a Navy amphibious ship, is also sailing to Haiti. The ship, which has an onboard surgical team, carries MH-60 helicopters and landing craft to move supplies to shore. USNS *Burlington* will support the relief effort, as will



(photo, top) A Coast Guardsman, right, helps paramedics stabilize a patient for travel in Haiti, Aug. 15. (left) Coast Guard helicopter crew embarks members from an urban search and rescue crew in Fairfax, Va. Aug. 16. A humanitarian effort is underway in Haiti after a powerful earthquake struck the region. Coast Guard photos



P-8 Poseidon aircraft that will provide aerial coverage to get a clear picture of what the situation looks like on the ground.

The 14-person assessment team is on the ground in the affected area and will report back to SOUTHCOM.

DOD will work closely with personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard, which has two cutters in the adjacent waters. The Coast Guard has sent seven other cutters to the region and is providing aerial support, Kirby said.

## Navy

- USS Cole, USS Gravely Take on Black Widow, Large-Scale Exercise 2021
- Pacific Partnership Concludes in Palau
- Commander, Navy Recruiting Command Deploys Mobile Engagement Vehicles Across the Nation

## DoD

- Troops En Route to Afghanistan Aim to Help Remove Civilians, Pentagon Official Says
- DOD Deploys Forces to Protect Kabul Embassy Drawdown

## Army

See something, say something: Army observes Antiterrorism Awareness Month

## Marines

- Marine Corps Systems Command supports LSE, tests Force Design concepts during Island Marauder 21
- Marine Rotational Force-Darwin brings the HIRAIN to Exercise Loobye

## Coast Guard

- Coast Guard, County of Kauai partners complete successful search and rescue exercise off Kauai



## Places of Worship

### L a Jolla Lutheran Church

"We Follow Jesus"  
Sunday 9:30am Worship and Sunday School  
Wednesday 6:30pm Bible Study  
7111 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037  
(858) 454-6459  
[LaJollaLutheranChurch.com](http://LaJollaLutheranChurch.com)

### L iving Water Lutheran Church

Meeting at Green Flash Brewery Gathering Room  
6550 Mira Mesa Blvd.  
(Entrance Directly in back - off Sequence Dr.)  
Worship 8:45am  
(858)792-7691 [LivingWaterSD7@gmail.com](mailto:LivingWaterSD7@gmail.com)  
Pastor: Rev. Steven Duescher

### M esa View Baptist Church

Dr. Darrow Perkins, Jr., Th.D. Pastor/Servant CWO3, USMC (Ret.)  
*Seeking Sinners; Saving Souls, Strengthening Saints*  
Sunday School at 8:45am • Morning Worship at 10am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm  
13230 Pomerado Rd, Poway • 858-485-6110 • [www.mesaview.org](http://www.mesaview.org)  
Opening soon!

### M ilitary Outreach Ministries Int'l Church

"Transforming the World, One Person at a Time"  
Dr. Dennis Eley, Jr., Th.D., MBA [dennis@militaryoutreachministries.org](mailto:dennis@militaryoutreachministries.org)  
Sunday Worship Service (in-person) 12pm to 2pm  
7997 Paradise Valley Rd, S.D., CA 92139 619-773-6032  
Live Stream: 12:30pm-1:30pm on "Moministries" free church app  
Or [www.militaryoutreachministries.org](http://www.militaryoutreachministries.org) click on 'live stream' blue button

### R esurrection Lutheran Church

A Small Place with a Big Heart!  
Worship Service Sunday at 10:15 am. (please see website for details)  
1111 Fifth Street – Coronado, CA 92118 – 619.435.1000  
[secretary@resurrectioncoronado.com](mailto:secretary@resurrectioncoronado.com) – [www.r.lchurch](http://www.r.lchurch)  
<https://www.facebook.com/resurrectioncoronado/>  
The Rev. Dr. Brian Oltman, Pastor

### S t. Luke's Lutheran Church

5150 Wilson Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942  
Phone: (619) 463-6633  
[website: www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org](http://www.st-lukes-la-mesa.org)  
Worship: 9am  
Pastor: Mark Menacher, PhD.  
We thank you for your service!

## AZTEC FOOTBALL 2021 DISCOUNT MILITARY TICKET VOUCHERS



NOW AVAILABLE AT YOUR MWR OR  
MCCS TICKET OFFICE FOR JUST \$10!

Purchase a voucher at any MWR or  
MCCS Ticket Office and redeem  
vouchers at GoAztecs.com/Military  
for seating in select sections.  
Advance online redemption is  
strongly recommended.

For more information, visit your  
local military ticket office or call  
(619) 767-6000 to find a location  
near you.

## 2021 AZTEC FOOTBALL HOME SCHEDULE

All 2021 home games will be played at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, CA

SEPTEMBER 4 | 7:30 PM  
SDSU VS. NEW MEXICO STATE

SEPTEMBER 18 | 4:00 PM  
SDSU VS. UTAH

SEPTEMBER 25 | 12:30 PM  
SDSU VS. TOWSON

OCTOBER 9 | TBA  
SDSU VS. NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER 30 | 7:30 PM  
SDSU VS. FRESNO STATE

NOVEMBER 13 | 7:30 PM  
SDSU VS. NEVADA

NOVEMBER 26 | 9:00 AM  
SDSU VS. BOISE STATE

IN COOPERATION WITH SDMAC FOUNDATION

Place your ad in our "Places of Worship" directory....as low as \$13 per week!

## 'Standing by and ready to help': VA encourages Afghanistan War vets to seek counseling

by Nikki Wentling,  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - The Department of Veterans Affairs urged veterans Aug. 17 to seek mental health care if they need help coming to terms with the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan - a country where hundreds of thousands of veterans served in the 20 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Taliban's rapid conquest of the country during the past week left some Afghanistan War veterans stunned and troubled. In messages to vets, Republicans and Democrats in Congress, as well as President Joe Biden's administration, listed available mental health resources, offered consolations and encouraged veterans

to check on each other. VA Secretary Denis McDonough said the VA is "standing by and ready to help."

"When our country was at-



**Undated photo of Veterans Affairs head-quarters. Courtesy photo**

tacked, you and your loved ones made the heroic choice to run toward the fight. That

courageous sacrifice matters and has made us safer, no matter what happens today or any other day," McDonough said. "It's entirely natural to feel a range of emotions about the latest developments in Afghanistan — and if you are feeling depressed, angry, heartbroken, or anything else, we at VA are here for you.

"Taliban fighters swept into

Kabul on Sunday nearly two decades after the American military drove them out, end-

ing the Afghan government's rule of the country and forcing President Ashraf Ghani to flee Afghanistan. It also signaled the final stage of the U.S. involvement there, and staff at the U.S. Embassy evacuated.

Even before the takeover, the VA on Friday warned it had seen an uptick in veterans seeking mental health care. The department attributed the increase in demand to America's withdrawal from Afghanistan and the upcoming 20th anniversary of 9/11. Nearly 2 million post-9/11 veterans are enrolled into VA health care.

In response to the news out of Afghanistan, the VA said veterans could feel frustrated, sad, helpless, distressed, angry, betrayed or morally stressed.

Some veterans could experience increased symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep poorly, drink or use drugs or feel guarded.

"Veterans should be on the lookout for red flags if news of Afghanistan starts changing behavior," said Sonya Norman, director of the National Center for PTSD Consultation. "These include isolating, using alcohol and drugs or any increase in unhealthy behaviors compared to normal."

The department encouraged veterans to spend time with loved ones, practice self-care, stick to their routines and limit their media exposure. Veterans can also visit a Vet Center or access the VA's mental health services at [mentalhealth.va.gov](http://mentalhealth.va.gov).

Mike Linnington, the CEO of Wounded Warrior Project, urged veterans in a video message Tuesday to contact his organization for help. Linnington is an Afghanistan War veteran, and he said he was troubled by the news out of Afghanistan during the past few days.

"Reach out to a battle buddy today. Check in with them," he said. "Now is not the time to go it alone. Please lean on us and one another to get through these difficult times."

Disabled American Veterans, which comprises 1,300 chapters across the United States, said thousands of their trained service officers are available to connect veterans to available mental health resources if they're having trouble finding any.

"For nearly 20 years, a generation of American warfighters has sacrificed life, limb and well-being for their fellow countrymen and the people of Afghanistan," said Andy Marshall, national commander of DAV. "For many, witnessing the ongoing situation there will bring about strong and complex emotions that will be difficult to process."

## FRA NewsBytes: VIP Act, predatory protection, access to services

### House passes Veterans in the Park (VIP) Act

The House unanimously passed the "Veterans in Parks Act" (VIP-H.R.4300). The bill would give veterans and Gold Star families free lifetime access to national parks and public federal lands, and also give active-duty military free annual passes.

The America the Beautiful Pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges. This includes some of the country's most iconic natural treasures, ranging from Acadia National Park to the Redwood National Forest. The VIP Act would allow all veterans, active-duty service members, and Gold Star Families to visit all national parks and public lands free of charge. In 2020, the America the Beautiful annual pass became free for veterans and Gold Star Families; however, this change for veterans has never been put into law and could be undone in future years.

The bill protects these passes by codifying them into law and making them lifetime passes instead of annual passes. Finally, this bill also creates annual passes for current service members, which can be converted into lifetime passes once they leave the military.

### Push to protect vets from predatory pension poachers

In a letter to Secretary of VA Denis R. McDonough, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester Jerry Moran are continuing to push for Veterans Affairs to focus on proactive, community-based outreach to better protect veterans and survivors across the country from predatory pension poachers.

Aging vets represent a segment of vulnerable individuals who are increasingly being targeted by bad actors preying

upon the VA pension benefits veterans have earned. While they are often victims of scams including being overcharged for home care, charged for services they did not receive, or given



The House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health held an oversight hearing to examine veterans' access to home and community-based services.

Veterans Affairs staff provided the subcommittee with information on the VA's home-based and community care programs such as home-based health care, home aid, medical foster care, respite care, etc. The VA has expanded from 68 to 70 sites in 2019 and six more were added in 2020. During the hearing, it was noted that the VA will continue to consider further expansions as needed.

For more information about



### We're here to help you live Life Simplified

We offer independent senior living with life-enhancing amenities, serene outdoor spaces with spectacular views, and competitive rates without the buy-in fees and commitment of a life plan community.



**The  
GATEWAY**  
Retirement  
Community

ALFLic.#374601329

To schedule your tour today, call  
**858-487-1197**  
TDD 800-545-1833 x359  
Language Asst. Svcs. 562-257-5255  
12751 Gateway Park Rd., Poway  
[TheGatewayRetirement.org](http://TheGatewayRetirement.org)

**LIVE IN FULL COLOR.**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**BLUEMAN.COM**

**LUXOR**  
LAS VEGAS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021 [www.armydispatch.com](http://www.armydispatch.com)

# Sailor, Marine, photographer: A journey of goals and growth

by Lt. Travis Weger

Born on Nov. 10, the Marine Corps birthday, the stars aligned for Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jen S. Martinez, formerly Marine Staff Sgt. Martinez, to join the Marine Corps. After almost a decade serving on active duty, she transferred to the Navy Reserve.

Originally slated to join as a combat engineer, Martinez started her career in strategic communications after her recruiter asked if she enjoyed telling stories and taking photographs.

"I really developed my passion for taking photos in middle school," said Martinez. "I would have heaps of disposable cameras waiting to be developed. Photography was just something I've always been drawn to and when I found out it was something I could do in the military, I jumped on it as soon as I could."

After high school, she joined the Marine Corps for the structure and mentioned the way that they tackle problems head-on was something that she needed at the time.

Of Okinawan descent, one of



**MC1 Jen S. Martinez, a member of the Combined Joint Information Bureau. Navy photo by Lt. Travis Weger**

her first duty stations was with III Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, which afforded her the ability to visit family on the island for the first time in almost two decades.

After years of working with Defense Media Activity and several other commands, she set her eyes on finishing her degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she is currently completing her undergraduate degree in journalism with an emphasis on social

media and podcasting.

Finishing her degree was a promise to her parents that she wanted to fulfill. Focusing on school also gave her an opportunity to fixate on her personal goals and growth.

"Mental health is very important to me," she said. "The reserve gives me an opportunity to focus on the parts of the military that I really enjoy, while being able to take a step back and concentrate on myself and finishing my degree."

Martinez set her eyes on the Navy Reserve after a desire to learn more about naval tradition-

tion. She describes it as newness and potential for growth in her new career with the Navy.

In March 2020, she joined the Navy Office of Information, U.S. Pacific Fleet, where she serves in the production department.

While on her first annual training, she served as a member of the Combined Joint Information Bureau for Exercise Talisman Sabre 21 in Australia. Throughout the exercise, she has traveled across the country to tell the story of the partnership between the U.S., Australia and other participating nations.

"It's funny to be off active duty for a little bit, fall right back into what I'm used to and be with my military family," said Martinez. "It's like a light just switched on and I never left."

She describes the Navy Reserve as an organization that is familiar and provides security while she is in school. Martinez also recommends for those transferring off of active duty to consider transferring to the reserve for the opportunities it provides.

"Even if it's just a weekend a month or an annual training a year, being able to go back

and see my military brothers and sisters is always worth it," said Martinez. "The reserve gives that connection and it's strengthening. This is all the stuff I missed doing while I was a Marine and I'm really happy I get to have it back in my life."

TS21 is a large-scale, bilateral military exercise conducted biennially across Northern Australia designed to enhance the U.S.-Australia alliance which is an anchor of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. Exercises like this provide effective and intense training to ensure the forces are capable, interoperable, responsive, and combat-ready.

## Navy recruiting deploys mobile engagement vehicles across the nation

equipped with tools for recruiters to implement in their day to day efforts. MEVs are currently being shipped out with a tent, display table and flags, ready to be set up at any event to aid recruiters.

"The custom MEV setups serve as an integral part of the display that will greatly add value to on-site recruiting," said graphic designer Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Gonzalez. The idea for the MEVs stems from the Nimitz 18 wheeler currently being used by recruiters across the nation to engage with audiences. The Nimitz has features that include

digital data capture, a virtual reality mission, photo opportunities and more.

"The Nimitz is one asset and it is in high demand from coast to coast," said Cmdr. Scott Milliet, NRC advertising and marketing operations officer. "Sometimes the Nimitz is just too large to bring to events. MEVs allow recruiters to expand efforts of the Nimitz with more availability to the NTAGS and access to more locations and venues."

One of the first NTAGs to get use of the MEV is NTAG New England. They began their use

of the MEV by picking it up in Millington and driving it back to their home base. Along the way they made social media posts using #PATRIOT to build a following.

They stopped at various landmarks in the Northeast and shared their experience with their followers.

"We also started a planning calendar to track and ensure constant use at venues where recruiters can interact with our target audience across New England," said Chief Mass Communication Specialist Joshua Wahl, public affairs officer for NTAG New England. "We see Recruiting, page 9

# MyCAA

CLASSES AVAILABLE EVERY SATURDAY

**FREE FOR MILITARY SPOUSES!**

Programs Offered Include:

- **Dental Lab. Technician**  
(4 weeks long, Tues-Thurs 10-3)
- **Dental Assisting Training**  
(4 weekends long, Sat & Sun 9-5)
- **Dental Lab CAD/CAM**  
(4 weekends long, Tues-Thurs 10-3)
- **Chair Side Assistant CAD/CAM**  
(Sat & Sun)

**California Dental Certifications**

**858.722.8504**

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

# RIDE FREE all September with PRONTO!

The new way to pay for transit is here.



Get PRONTO today and ride free all September. Free rides only valid with PRONTO card or app.

Valid for MTS bus and Trolley and NCTD SPRINTER and BREEZE.



[RidePRONTO.com](http://RidePRONTO.com)



# Capt. Eric Winn takes over as skipper of USS Harpers Ferry



**Cmdr. Eric Winn, right center, is ushered in as the commanding officer of amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) by the ship's crew during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 13. Navy photo by Ensign Jon Saadey**

by Ensign Jon Saadey

SAN DIEGO — Amphibious dock landing ship USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) held a change of command ceremony on the ship's flight deck onboard Naval Base San Diego Aug. 13.

Cmdr. Eric Winn relieved Cmdr. William A. Fensterer as commanding officer during the ceremony. Capt. Anthony Rodriguez, commander, Amphibious Squadron (CPR) 5, presided over the ceremony.

Fensterer led the crew through a successfully undocking follow-

ing an arduous 16-month Chief of Naval Operations drydock planned maintenance availability, including a first pass Light Off Assessment.

During the ceremony, Fensterer expressed his appreciation to his crew.

"Your hard work grinding out win after win inspired me every day, and I can't thank you enough for everything that you do to make this ship successful! We are *Harpers Ferry*, and it was an honor and a privilege to serve alongside you as your captain!"

Winn addressed the crew after assuming command, expressing his excitement for the future.

"Through the power of our Sailors, we will be ready!" Winn said. "Ready to project power from the sea! Ready to execute any mission assigned! Ready to do what must be done."

Winn is originally from San Antonio. He graduated from Morehouse College in 2003, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and was commissioned through NROTC. Winn also holds a Master of Science in Systems Engineering

and Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School. At sea, he served as auxiliaries officer with USS *Simpson* (FFG 56), training officer with USS *Cleveland* (LPD 7), first lieutenant with USS *Carter Hall* (LSD 50), operations officer at CPR 4, and executive officer on USS *Harpers Ferry*.

Fensterer's next assignment is on the staff of commander, Navy Personnel Command.

*Harpers Ferry* is a cargo variant of the amphibious dock landing ship class bearing its name.

## This week's snapshots



MCAS MIRAMAR  
July 29, 2021

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Christopher Mahoney, commanding general of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), taxis during his last flight at Miramar. This was Mahoney's final flight as the commanding general of 3rd MAW. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Quince Bisard



NAB CORONADO  
Aug. 13, 2021

Vice Adm. Roy Kitchener, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CNSP), speaks with midshipmen from the Naval Academy during the 2021 CNSP Midshipmen Summer Initiative Training Program. Navy photo by MC1 Kevin C. Leitner



USS JOHN P. MURTHA, at sea  
Aug. 14, 2021

John P. Murtha amphibious transport dock ship offloads vehicles from a Landing Craft, Utility assigned to Assault Craft Unit 1 during exercise Freedom Banner 2021. Freedom Banner is an annual exercise that involves strategic projection of the Maritime Prepositioning Force. Navy photo by MC2 Curtis Spencer



IN NETWORK PROVIDER

PROUDLY TREATING UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

DO NOT SUFFER ANY LONGER  
**DEPRESSION  
ANXIETY  
PTSD ... and more**

**GET THE LASTING HEALING YOU DESERVE TODAY**



**BRAIN CENTER TMS**  
TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION

Technologically Advanced Brain Healing

**CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT TODAY**

**619.648.5350**

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

# NAVWAR team recognized as winners, finalists for Navy's Acquisition Excellence Awards

by Elisha Gamboa

**M**ultiple individuals and teams from across the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command (NAVWAR) enterprise have been recognized as winners and final candidates for the 2021 Acquisition Excellence Awards.

The annual Department of the Navy Acquisition Excellence Awards Program recognizes individuals and teams who have made outstanding contributions in enhancing competition and promoting innovation throughout the acquisition lifecycle and in support of Navy and Marine Corps acquisition programs.

As one of five major Department of Navy acquisition commands, NAVWAR provides research and development, systems engineering, testing and evaluation, technical, in-service and support services to its respective acquisition program executive offices (PEOs) dur-

ing all phases of a program's lifecycle.

The following NAVWAR and PEO teams and individuals were recognized for their efforts during fiscal year 2020.

**The Program Executive Office for Digital and Enterprise Services (PEO Digital) Naval Enterprise Network (NEN) Program Office (PMW 205)** - Winner of the Dr. Al Somoroff Acquisition Award for implementing creative and effective management processes resulting in lower costs, with more than \$258 million in savings.

NEN Program Office demonstrated outstanding resource management and enhanced competition resulting in better buying power for the government by implementing "Alpha Contracting." The program ensured the delivery of quality supplies and services to the customer during the Next Generation Enterprise Network – Recompete end user hardware contract transition.

Additionally the NEN Program Office improved sustainability and readiness for operational forces by leveraging COVID-19 supplemental funding, via the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Securities Act, to properly resource Navy Enterprise Office

ity in a very short time, despite budget shortfalls and equipment shortages caused by a global manufacturing slowdown.

To address these challenges, McNeal led the NEN Program Office in leveraging supple-

forts during FY20.

Armantrout's transparency ensured team members understand the program impact on missions and how each team effort directly contributes to warfighter operations. He delegated responsibilities appropriately while providing proper guidance, direction and encouragement; allowing staff to be empowered and motivated to produce quality products.

Armantrout was resourceful in leading the team to utilize the first PEO C4I middle tier acquisition for rapid fielding, while successfully transitioning one of two rapid deployment capabilities into the first PEO C4I software acquisition pathway program. He led acquisition solutions through the disruptive trials of COVID-19 restrictions, balancing team execution and delivery of critical cybersecurity capabilities to the warfighter, while focusing on the health and safety of all involved personnel.

**Debra Streufert**, NAVWAR Contracts branch head, Program Executive Office for Manpower, Logistics, and Business Solutions (PEO MLB) -- Finalist for Acquisition Professional of the Year for her stellar oversight of PEO MLB's multi-billion dollar contract portfolio.

This portfolio includes manpower, personnel, training and education systems; the Logistics Functional Area Management program

support consisting of 200 programs of record; and an array of defense business systems for the Navy.

PEO MLB tasked the Navy Enterprise Business Solutions Program Office (PMW 220) to realign the entirety of its contract efforts from the Naval Supply Systems Command's Business Solutions Center into NAVWAR. Essentially, PMW 220 had previously used BSC as an assisted acquisition organization, but was now transitioning into a direct oversight role.

Because of the scope and scale of all the contracting efforts, PMW 220 consulted Streufert for her expertise in order to plan for and execute the contractual moves. Her involvement and leadership were key to the transition's success.

Streufert also led PEO MLB and PMW 220 in awarding over 11 major contracting efforts in an extremely aggressive and short period, resulting in more than \$1.5 billion in tasks and the transfer of all Navy Enterprise Resource Planning work efforts from NAVSUP to NAVWAR. Her leadership, contracting, and business skills were essential to accomplishing this major change.

Overall winners for the categories of Program Managers of the Year, and Acquisition Professional of the Year will be announced at the Acquisition Excellence Awards Ceremony this fall.



**Logos from left, for Program Executive Office Digital and Enterprise Services; Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence; Program Executive Office Manpower, Logistics and Business Solutions. Navy illustration by Rick Naystatt**

365 migration and sustainment efforts.

**Capt. (Ret.) William McNeal**, former program manager, PEO Digital's NEN Program Office (PMW 205) - Finalist for Program Manager of the Year for PEO Digital's NEN Program Office, for his exceptional leadership in addressing multiple challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all while continuing to advance NEN Program Office priorities.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NEN Program Office faced a globally-distributed workforce, in a remote work status that required vastly expanded network access and new tools for interaction and productiv-

ment funding via the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Securities (CARES) Act to resource Office 365 migration and sustainment efforts through FY20, providing more than 360 thousand users across the Navy with a reliable and secure tool for maximum collaboration and productivity during COVID-19.

**John Armantrout**, program manager, the Program Executive Office for Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I) Cybersecurity Program Office (PMW 130) - Finalist for Program Manager of the Year ACAT II and III for his leadership, team-building, collaboration and ethics leading the Cybersecurity Program Office acquisition ef-

**FLEET WEEK SAN DIEGO**  
FLEET WEEK SAN DIEGO IS  
NOV 4<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

**FLEET WEEK ACTIVE DUTY GOLF Tournament**  
HELD AT SINGING HILLS GOLF RESORT AT SYCAMORE

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

The Fleet Week Active Duty Golf Tournament is exclusively for enlisted men and women as well as Junior Officers (O4 & below)

See the top four teams compete head-to-head for the right to display the annual Fleet Week Inter-Service Trophy as 22 teams from area military commands participate for prizes in a scramble format.

The tournament is held at the beautiful Sycamore Resort and concludes in the evening with awards ceremony.

Cost: \$30 registration fee for participants  
Tournament Includes: 0010 Lunch & Beverages  
Golf Awards & Coat Prizes  
Team Photo & Trophy  
Hole In One & Putting Contests

Schedule of Events:  
10:30 am Registration, Driving Range Open  
11:00 - 12:45 pm Putting Contest, Lunch  
1:00 pm Shotgun Start  
5:30 pm Dinner, Awards & Prizes

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR THIS TOURNAMENT  
SCAN ME

Or visit our webpage at: <https://fleetweeksandiego.org/golf-tournament/>  
For additional info, contact: Judy Cobain at [judy@fleetweeksandiego.org](mailto:judy@fleetweeksandiego.org) or call (619) 856-1545

The Department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.

**El Indio Mexican Restaurant and Catering**  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1940  
**"Best Mexican Food in San Diego"**  
3695 India Street • [www.elindiosandiego.com](http://www.elindiosandiego.com) • 619-299-0333  
**Open Daily 9am - 8pm**  
**Free Parking! 10% Military Discount**

**RIDE TRAIN in Campo!**  
Active Military Discounts (with ID)  
[www.psrm.org](http://www.psrm.org)

**MILITARY DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE**

**IT ALL STARTED WITH A PASSION FOR BURGERS, BACON, AND BEER. But we have even more awesomeness to bring you with a full menu, chock full of all sorts of over-the-top options (and even some healthy ones). And we will always pay homage to the original 50/50 patty - made of 50% ground bacon and 50% ground beef.**

**★★★★★**

**"BUSY PLACE, GOOD MUSIC, NICE ATMOSPHERE, FRIENDLY SERVICE, AND GREAT FOOD."**

-STEWART M.

**SLATER'S 50/50 BACON BURGERS BEER**  
2750 Dewey Rd. #193  
San Diego, CA 92106  
(Located in Point Loma at Liberty Station)

619.398.2600

SanDiego@Slaters5050.com

Mon-Fri: 11am to 10pm  
Sat-Sun: 10am to 10pm

# Cindy McCain visits with Sailors aboard Abraham Lincoln

by MC3 Catie Coyle

PACIFIC OCEAN - Cindy McCain, businesswoman, philanthropist, author, and wife of the late Sen. John McCain, visited Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) along with a group of business executives as part of the Commander, Naval Air Force's Distinguished Visitor Program, Aug. 8-9.

"I'm in awe of the talented women and men aboard Abraham Lincoln," said McCain.

"They do it all — work on jets, provide medical and dental care, cook for thousands of people and drive the ship. It's like a floating city."

McCain's familial ties to the Navy are extensive and span several generations. Her hus-

band, late Sen. John McCain, the 2008 Republican nominee for President, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1958. As a naval aviator, he served during the Vietnam War and endured six years as a prisoner of war (POW) in Vietnam. He retired from the Navy as a captain in 1981 and moved back to Arizona where he began a decades-long career in politics. He passed away in 2018 and is buried in the United States Naval Academy Cemetery.

His father was a submariner and his grandfather was a naval aviator. They were the first father-son combo to reach the four-star rank. Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56) is named after all three McCain veterans.

Her son Jimmy served in the

Marine Corps, and her son Jack serves in the Navy Reserves.

"This experience means so much to me," said McCain. "These Sailors' pride and professionalism remind me of why John advocated for them throughout his career, in both naval and civil service. I'm so thankful for this experience and the opportunity to thank them

at sea and watch them do what they love while serving our country."

McCain co-founded the McCain Institute in 2012, a think tank whose mission is to "advance leadership based on security, economic opportunity, freedom, and human dignity, in the United States and around the world." She was recently

nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as the ambassador to United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

The Distinguished Visitor Program provides civilians the opportunity to visit an operational aircraft carrier at sea and witness operations firsthand. Visits typically include tours of

the flight deck, hangar bay, various spaces throughout the ship and an overnight stay aboard. It is designed to strengthen civilian-military ties and enhance the public's understanding of military operations.

Abraham Lincoln is underway conducting routine operations in the U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations.

## USS Higgins, USS Howard arrive in Yokosuka, join DESRON 15

team for years to come."

YOKOSUKA, Japan - Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers, USS *Higgins* and USS *Howard* arrived Aug. 16, to their new forward-deployed location here.

The forward presence of *Higgins* and *Howard* directly supports enduring national security strategic guidance initiatives to posture the most capable units forward in the Indo-Pacific Region. Their addition to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 15 continues support toward the security of the United States and its allies and partners, including shared strategic interests.

The United States values Japan's contributions to the Indo-Pacific and its long-term commitment and hospitality in hosting U.S. forces forward-deployed there. These forces, along with their counterparts in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, frequently operate together allowing a rapid response with maritime and joint forces to uphold a rules-based international order that promotes security and well-being.

*Higgins* and *Howard*'s arrival brings striking power and operational readiness to maintain a presence in the region, preserve peace and security, and further our maritime partnerships.

"We're excited to have Higgins and Howard join our forward-deployed team," said Capt. Chase Sargeant, commander, Task Force (CTF) 71. "These two ships will be an integral part of the 7th Fleet

*Higgins* is a Flight II destroyer with ballistic missile defense capabilities and *Howard* is a Flight IIA destroyer capable of embarking two MH-60 variant helicopters with improved ballistic missile defense, anti-air, and surface warfare capabilities.

"These destroyers are some of the most capable ships our Navy has to offer," said Sargeant. "Adding them to our forward deployed forces is a clear signal of our continuing commitment to our partners and allies, and our mutual commitment to maintaining stable regional maritime security."

Sailors and their family members received relocation briefings and support, to include the current Commander Naval Forces Japan COVID-19 mitigation measures all service members and their families are expected to adhere to. These measures ensure the United States Navy is doing its part to stop the spread of the corona virus and protect Sailors, their families and the local community.

As the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed fleet, 7th Fleet employs 50 to 70 ships and submarines across the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans. U.S. 7th Fleet routinely operates and inter-acts with 35 maritime nations while conducting missions to preserve and protect a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

## Recruiting

continued from page 6

have a close relationship with USS *Constitution* and also continue to focus the MEV usage in communities with limited exposure to Navy opportunities."

NTAG New England will often bring the MEV to *Constitution*. Together they help align opportunities and amplify their message to the public. Recently, they held a Medical Corps commissioning ceremony aboard *Constitution*

## The Meat & Potatoes of Life



by  
Lisa  
Smith  
Molinari

We used to be so good together. You comforted me. You made me happy. I loved you...

But after all these years, I've become too dependent and I now realize, it just isn't healthy. I need more balance in my life. I need to strike out on my own and try new things.

It's not you, it's me.

Carbohydrates, I'm breaking up with you.

In the early days, I couldn't foresee how addicting our relationship would become. I didn't fear our love affair, because I believed the science of the 1990's, which decreed that low fat carbs were healthy fuel for my body. I was so naive, ignorantly indulging in second helpings of sticky rice, snacking on crackers, and adding a hunk of ciabatta bread alongside my lasagna. Oh, the ciabatta bread!

When I gained weight, I never blamed you. I thought fats were my enemies. As long as I didn't put peanut butter, mayo or cheese on my sandwich, I believed it was health food. As long as I ladled red sauce instead of white on my heaping plate of spaghetti, it was good for me. As long as I used skim milk

## Breaking up is hard to do

— a big bowl of cereal, a glass of juice and butter-less slices of toast were the perfect breakfast. What a fool I was!

When I married a Navy man, you didn't leave me. In fact, our threesome was quite happy in an open relationship. Together, you and I won my new husband's heart, and his stomach, too. We knowingly triggered the salivating jets under his tongue, as we plied him with home-made pasta dishes, starchy casseroles, pies and cookies. We moved, unsuspectingly, from duty station to duty station — fat, dumb and happy.

While stationed in Monterey, California, you introduced us to the wiles of sourdough. We were so naughty, loading chowder into your bread bowls. While stationed in England, you never told us that the baked beans the English dollop on their breakfast plates, pour over their toast, and glob on their baked potatoes were as bad as the scones, biscuits and puddings. Excess glucose surged through our blood while we were stationed in Germany, as we washed pretzels, noodles and potatoes down with wheat beers. In Florida, we were so busy avoiding fried pickles, sausage gravy and boiled peanuts, we didn't notice that you were secretly feeding our addiction with sweet tea, sticky barbecue sauce, and starchy corn bread. You followed us to New England, tempting us with molasses-sweetened brown bread, clam cakes, frozen lemonade, maple syrup, whoopie pies, jonnycakes and Boston Cream Pie.

One last thing before you go. If, by chance, I should have a moment of weakness over, let's say, a bag of Hershey Kisses during a hormone spike, I can tell you right now that it will be a nothing more than a meaningless fling.

So long, excess carbs. It's been nice knowing you.

## 2023 Nissan Z Global debut - with facts, figures

Last week I told you that it was imminent. Last night it happened - the Global Debut in Brooklyn, N.Y., of the seventh-generation successor to the iconic Datsun 240Z sports car - just five miles from where that car had made its World Debut in 1969.

Having owned several Datsun Z cars over the years, of course I watched the event's live stream. It would have been great to be there in person, but watching online was the next best thing. You can watch a reply of that 20-minute event here, on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/rw9K7n5sJ0>

What I will do here today is share with you some of the facts, figures and photos of the car that we have been eager to learn about and see.

There are two models: Sport and Performance, plus a special Proto Spec edition, which is limited to 240 units. Drive is via the rear wheels.

This car is at once true to the original and yet fully modern in its execution. It begins with the car's name. For the first time ever, its name is simply the Nissan Z. By omitting a reference to the displacement of the model generation's internal combustion engine, its new name is well suited to go forward into the future.

With its exterior design that features a long hood and gently sloping two-passenger cabin that leads into a practical hatchback, the Nissan Z takes its strongest design cues from the 240Z, with a hint of the 300ZX at the rear. It will be available in monotone and two-tone colors. The white LED lights at the front suggest the reflections from the clear headlight covers that were available for the 240Z's headlight buckets. The Nissan Z is very similar to the Z Proto design study, which was introduced in September, 2020.

Like the original 240Z, the 2023 Nissan Z also has a 6-cylinder engine, but that is where the similarities end. Whereas the first such engine was a 2395cc straight six with triple

SU carburetors, the new engine is a thoroughly modern, 3.0L V6 Twin Turbo, 24-valve DOHC rated at 400 horsepower @ 6,400 RPM and 350 lb-ft of torque @ 1,600 – 5,600 RPM, with Electronic Variable Valve Timing Control; small pitch, silent cam chain; drive-by-wire throttle and more.

Also like the original, the Nissan Z will be available with your choice of a manual transmission or an automatic—but here the manual is a 6-speed close-ratio unit with available SynchroRev Match®, allowing heel-and-toe downshifting, and an advanced launch assist control system in Z Performance models. The automatic is an electronically controlled 9-speed transmission with Manual Shift Mode, Launch Control, Downshift Rev Matching, Sport or Performance paddle shifters, and more.

With a welcome nod to the 240Z, the instrumentation includes an analog triple-pod cluster above the dashboard (turbocharger boost, turbocharger turbine speed and voltmeter). The two passenger seats are either black woven seat cloth with synthetic suede inserts, or leather-appointed seating surfaces with synthetic suede inserts (Performance). The modern displays are either 8.0-inch or 9.0-inch.

The standard audio system includes six speakers, with an 8-speaker Bose® audio system available. Also available are Active Noise Cancellation and Active Sound Enhancement (Performance), hands-free Text Messaging Assistant, NissanConnect® with WiFi, Voice Recognition and much more.

Suspension is double-wishbone at the front and multi-link at the rear. There is a 2-point front strut tower brace and high-response monotube

AutoMatters™ & More



by Jan Wagner

shock absorbers. A sport-tuned suspension, mechanical clutch-type limited-slip differential, and Sport Brakes (14.0-inch front/13.8-inch rear rotors and 4-piston front/2-piston rear aluminum caliper) are available (Performance). The wheels are 18-inch aluminum alloys, with 245/45R18 front / 245/45R18 rear Yokohama ADVAN Sport high performance tires. Optionally available are 19-inch RAYS® super-lightweight forged-alloy wheels with 255/40R19 front / 275/35R19 rear Bridgestone Potenza® S007 high-performance tires (Performance).

Safety technologies include Vehicle Dynamic Control with Traction Control System, Automatic Emergency Braking with Pedestrian Detection, Blind Spot Warning, Lane Departure Warning, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Intelligent Forward Collision Warning.

The 2023 Nissan Z is expected to go on sale at Nissan Dealers throughout the U.S. in spring 2022. Pricing has not yet been released.

Search at: <https://www.nissanusa.com/live/reveal?postreveal=true>.

See the most photos and most recent text, and explore a wide variety of content dating back to 2002, at [AutoMatters.net](http://AutoMatters.net). On the Home Page, search by title or topic, or click on the blue 'years' boxes.

Copyright © 2021 by Jan Wagner – AutoMatters & More #705



# Difficult page to turn in Afghanistan

**“Remember that the righteousness of a mission is not dependent on the outcome and your valor should be celebrated independent of geopolitical outcome.”**



by Grant Campbell

George Santayana was a philosopher and professor at Harvard until 1911. A celebrated academic whose students included Robert Frost, T.S. Eliot, and W.E.B. Dubois, he spent his life studying and teaching moral philosophy, metaphysics, religion, among other subjects.

He often spoke on the philosophy of war including its greater effects on society despite never serving as a soldier who participated in armed conflict, nor is there any evidence that he was witness to war in his lifetime. Even though much of his musing on the matter may have been more abstract than from actual personal experience, he is credited with what I believe is one of the greatest aphorisms about combat when he said, “only the dead have seen the end of war.”

His words offer a penetrating declaration both about the state of humanity, but also about the path of the combat veteran when their time in uniform has ended. Since those that declare the need for war often never have to participate in its acts, it is left to the soldier to contemplate the after-effects of both their time in war as well as the broader results of the conflict itself. The American veteran is once again faced with such a task.

As these words are written, the Taliban has seized control over the heavily defended city of Mazar-i-Sharif giving them complete control of Northern and Western Afghanistan leaving the current government only a precarious hold of the capital of Kabul and portions of the East.

The U.S. has hastily sent 3,000 troops to aid in the evacuation of personnel and, hopefully, many of the Afghans who have aided the American mission over the years.

Although it is premature to declare the fall of the country as inevitable, most area experts around the globe

now feel that not only will the Taliban retake Afghanistan, but it will happen in the very near future.

If this probable trajectory comes to fruition, the world will be left to process the return of Afghanistan to a land ruled by those who see democracy, women's rights, freedom of religion, and free expression as antithetical to the proper order of things. In other words, it will be almost exactly as it was 20 years ago.

According to the Department of Defense, the war in Afghanistan has taken the lives of over 2,400 American and 1,100 NATO soldiers. These figures do not include the estimated 3,800 U.S. private security contractors who have been killed or, according to The Costs of War Project, the almost 70,000 Afghan soldiers and over 40,000 Afghan civilians who have died. U.S. war costs since the beginning of the conflict have eclipsed \$800 billion.

On the positive side, the United Nations estimates that, since 2001, the average life expectancy in Afghanistan has increased from 56 to 64 years of age. Maternal mortality has dropped by more than 50%. Literacy has increased by almost 10%. 89% of city residents in Afghanistan have access to clean water compared to 16% before 2001. There has been a 17% decrease in child marriage and enrollment in primary school by girls has more than doubled. All these figures, while encouraging, are likely to rapidly reverse.

This leaves the American public to process these events and assess the justification of the cost. It will be debated and discussed for decades to come on television, at political podiums, in social gatherings, and chat rooms...but probably nowhere more than the minds of the over 800,000 that have served in the war.

During my time in Afghanistan, my primary job was not to fight, but rather to save. When wounded soldiers and civilians came to me, it was my responsibility and expectation that I would not allow death to take them. My operating rooms ranged from large, hardened structures to tents to old Soviet ammunition bunkers. We would apply our skills and knowledge amongst the screams, the dust, the rocket attacks, and overall chaos to save life and limb. Well more often than not we succeeded, but there were agonizing times that we did not. For those years, I had a front row seat to the sacrifice that was demanded of this war.

Like most veterans, the greatest gift I have received from service are the bonds and friendships of those who have served alongside me. We share a common experience that will link us together for the rest of our lives. However, the belief in the mission was also a buoy to my soul

when faced with some of the more challenging times there. I developed a love for the country and its people and an understanding of the suffering that they have endured. Existing amongst those who want to kill you in austere conditions is made easier by the belief that your sacrifices will offer an incremental piece to make the world a better place. In short, I wanted a better future for Afghanistan.

My own boots have been on the ground in the provinces of Kandahar, Logar, Paktika, Kunduz, and Parwan between 2012 and 2016. Of those, only one has not fallen to Taliban forces at the time of writing this article. Many of the friends I have made are still there and are in grave danger. Some are desperate to escape with their families to avoid enslavement, torture, or death and some have pledged to remain and fight for the future of their home even if it costs their lives. I think about them often, but never more than I have over the past several weeks.

There is and will likely always be a divide of understanding between veterans and civilians in terms of the experience of war. Many vets have stated that the divide is made easier by a public that may not understand their stories but appreciate and celebrate the mission that they strived for and hopefully accomplished. The accomplishment of that mission is likely going to be a component that Afghanistan veterans will be denied. So much of the military mindset is focused around achieving objectives and the coming events will be a tough pill to swallow. Winning every battle but seeing the war as lost is a dichotomy that is difficult to accept.

To my fellow veterans: We must reconcile ourselves with the fact that it is unlikely that we will have a Normandy or Iwo Jima to visit in peacetime to share our stories and celebrate the stability and beauty that is there now. There will likely be no shortage of news and information that will show us the backslide that Afghanistan is experiencing and will likely continue to endure. We will question our mission and whether our actions could have been done differently. We will be tasked to resist the temptation to surrender to bitterness and disillusionment.

My challenge to you is simple. Remember that your decision to defend the nation after attack was voluntary in the face of danger and possible death. You served with distinction and brought honor to the uniform issued to you. The horror that was 9/11 has not visited the homeland since your commitment.

Remember that the righteousness of a mission is not dependent on the outcome and your valor should be

celebrated independent of geopolitical outcome. We are now charged with the care of each other and to carry ourselves in a way that would bring pride to our brothers and sisters who did not survive.

To the public: Remember the fear and uncertainty that was pervasive in the American soul following 9/11. Remember how we all knew something would have to be done and it would require the lives of some of our citizens. Remember there was a small percentage of our population that said, “I will go.”

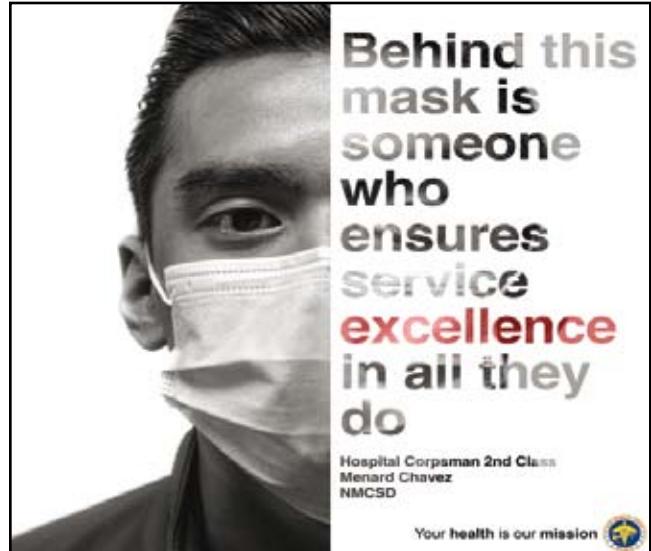
We watched them leave their families and lives, often many times over, to push back an infectious scourge that had breached our borders. We prayed for them and supported them and celebrated their return. Most importantly, remember that we enjoyed a stability and security that was provided by them often at tremendous cost.

We have come a long way as a society since the dark days of post-Vietnam hostility and malaise, but the coming days will remind us that war is not a simple equation. It involves costs of lives and treasure that has been a fact for all human history, but the cost of a portion of our society feeling abandoned and disregarded is one made by choice. We have not always gotten that choice correct in our history, but we have the opportunity to show we have learned from our mistakes and remember that the celebrations and thanks we gave our military over the past two decades were given because we valued the people in uniform independent of the geopolitical condition of the globe.

Benjamin Franklin once said, “wars are not paid for in wartime, the bill comes later.” There is absolutely no expectation that the public will completely understand the soul searching that is likely to occur amongst our nation’s veterans over the near future. But remember that there is an inherent virtue of the volunteer in times of war, and it is a spirit that should be applauded. If history has taught us anything, it’s that the need for such men and women will come again. How we embrace our warriors and commit to their value after the fighting is over will be a far greater verdict on our nation than the volume of the cheers during the actual conflict.

Dr. Grant Campbell practices medicine in Charlotte, NC. He served as a Trauma Surgeon in the United States Army in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan and currently serves on the Board of Advisors for The Independence Fund.

**“Like most veterans, the greatest gift I have received from service are the bonds and friendships of those who have served alongside me. We share a common experience that will link us together for the rest of our lives.”**



## TOP QUALITY FIBERGLASS TONNEAU COVERS & TRUCK CAPS

- Improved gas mileage
- High-strength honeycombed reinforced
- Improved security
- Weather protection
- New SL Model has Patented Hinge System
- Low profile design
- Smooth clean lines

**SocCalTruck.com**  
ACCESSORIES & EQUIPMENT

10460 Mission Gorge Rd • Santee • 92071  
**619-749-0742**

**SNUGTop**  
THE PERFECT FIT



**SocCalTruck.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



An Accella Brand

**Spray on Bedliners**

**SUBARU XPERIENCE**  
of El Cajon



**SUBARU.**



**Maintain  
the Love**

COMPLIMENTARY MAINTENANCE

Purchase or lease any new (previously untitled) Subaru and receive a complimentary factory schedule maintenance plan for 2 years or 24,000 miles (whichever comes first). See Subaru Added Security Maintenance Plan for intervals, coverages & limitations. Customer must take delivery before 12-31-2021 and reside within the promotional area. All participating dealers only. See dealer for program details and eligibility.

### 2021 SUBARU IMPREZA

**\$265**  
Mo. + Tax  
LEASE



Security deposit \$0. Due at signing \$2995. Lease for 36 Months, Residual \$14,468. Cap cost \$20,258. 10,000 miles per year. Tier 1 Credit Needed to Qualify. 1 at this lease #717165.

### 2021 SUBARU WRX

**\$407**  
Mo. + Tax  
LEASE



Security deposit \$0. Due at signing \$2995. Lease for 36 Months, Residual \$18,522. Cap cost \$28,874. 10,000 miles per year. Tier 1 Credit Needed to Qualify. 1 at this lease #214555.

## MILITARY ONLY SERVICE SPECIALS!!

### 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT

**\$89.95**  
+ tax

- Precision computerized wheel alignment
- Adjust caster, camber & toe
- Inspect suspension for wear
- Center steering wheel • Inspect tires

Must present coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount and cannot be applied toward previous purchases. Offer expires 8/31/21.

### OIL CHANGE & TIRE ROTATION + MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

**\$99.95**  
+ tax

- Install Genuine Subaru oil filter
- Replace engine oil (up to 5 qts conventional oil)
- Top off under the hood fluids
- FREE Check & set tire pressure to vehicle specifications
- FREE Multipoint inspection
- FREE Car Wash
- FREE Battery Test

Synthetic, V6 & V8 additional. Subarus only. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount and cannot be applied toward previous purchases. Please present coupon at time of write up. Offer expires 8/31/21.

**900 Arnele Ave., El Cajon • 619-440-0404**  
**www.SubaruOfElCajon.com**

All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Offer expires 8/31/21.

**SOUTH COUNTY**  
BUICK | GMC



**GMC**  
WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

### 2021 Buick Encore

**\$278** PER MO.  
+ TAX

LEASE



White. \$2995 Drive off. 36 months @ \$278 mo. + tax. 10,000 miles per year.  
Stk #3210467. Vin #MB376187.

### 2020 Buick Encore GX

ONLY  
**\$22,800**

Plus tax & fees.



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

### 2021 GMC TERRAIN SLE Elevation Package

**\$223** PER MO.  
+ TAX  
LEASE



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

### 2021 GMC ACADIA SLE Elevation Package

**\$285** PER MO.  
+ TAX  
LEASE



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

**2202 National City Blvd.  
619-375-0409**

**WWW.SDMILITARYAUTODISCOUNTS.COM**

All advertised prices exclude government fees and taxes, any finance charges, any dealer document processing charge, any electronic filing charge, and any emission testing charge. Offer expires 8/31/21.