

# BATARG BEACON

A full-page background image showing two Marines in a black zodiac boat on the ocean. The Marine in the foreground is wearing a helmet, sunglasses, and a tactical vest, holding a rifle. The Marine behind him is also in uniform and looking forward. The boat has the number '12009' and 'C65' visible on its side. The water is choppy with whitecaps.

Issue 7

April 22, 2020

## Freestyle Fridays

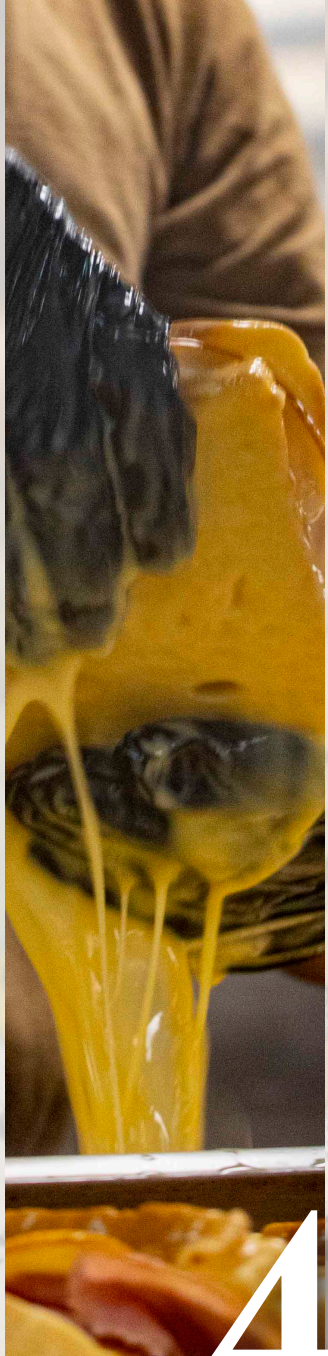
New York's galley brings morale to the crew

## BATARG/26th MEU stays mission-ready during pandemic

## Fuel for the Focused

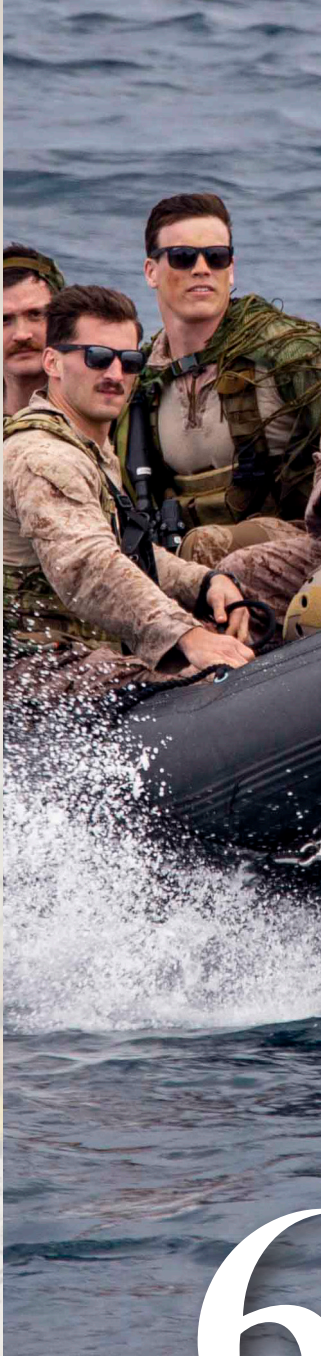
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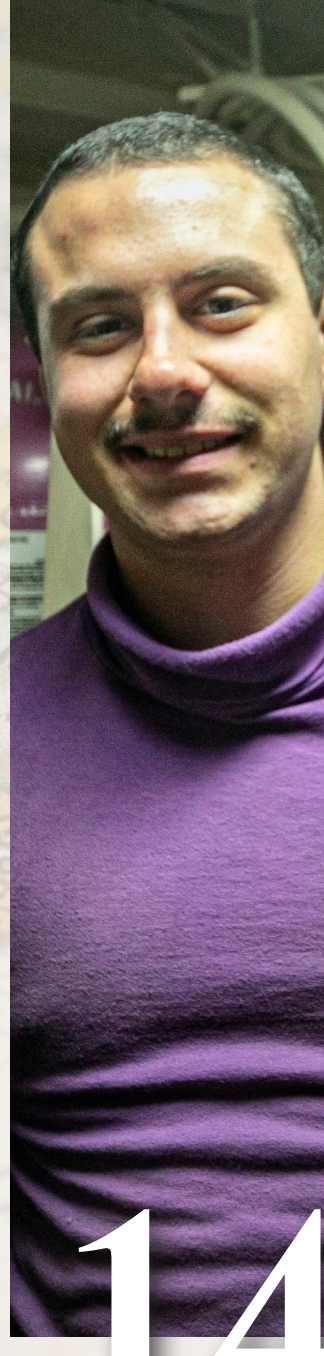
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The official magazine for the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group

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Seaman Recruit Didier Alvarado, assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), sands down a rail during shipboard preservation, March 11, 2020. Photo by MC3 Griffin Kersting





# Freestyle Fridays

## New York's galley brings morale to the crew

Story and photos by MC2 Lyle Wilkie

Aboard the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), the ship's culinary specialists are taking a creative approach to change up their weekly routine and raise morale for the crew.

The culinary specialists decided to make special meals that aren't normally served for the Sailors and Marines aboard on what they call 'Freestyle Fridays'.

"I sat down with my [first class petty officers] at the beginning of the deployment and told them I

want to do one special meal a week," said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Robert Phifer, leading chief petty officer of supply department's S2 division aboard New York. "They brainstormed together and came up with 'Freestyle Friday'. So every week around Wednesday, they sit down and come up with a theme meal for the upcoming Friday. They bring their idea to me and we discuss it in detail and then finalize the meal."

On the New York, the menu for each week does not differ

very much: Tuesday they serve tacos and burritos, Wednesdays are burger days, Saturdays are reserved for pizza and wings, and steak and seafood are generally served on Sundays. Now, Fridays are for a special meal every week to bring a flavor from home to the ship.

"The first classes come up with a menu based on a theme and what type of items we have available in our storeroom at the time," said Culinary Specialist 1st Class Andrew Carlin. "We use

these items to freestyle different dishes to appeal to a massive group of patrons. Every Monday we have a meeting to hash out what we would like to do for that week. Of course we have to get the thumbs up from Senior Chief Phifer for approval."

Past themes have included Cajun and Caribbean flavors and a grilled cheese day.

"I made Friday my cheat day just so I could enjoy the Freestyle Friday meals," said Gunner's Mate 3rd Class Nathan Valle, a New York Sailor. "My favorite meal was the Caribbean themed Freestyle Friday because of the yellow rice that almost reminded me of home."

These meals also serve as a good way for the first class petty officers to teach their junior Sailors in the galley.

"The junior culinary specialists get the chance to learn a lot from the senior Sailors when these meals are being prepared," said Ensign Dicoda Waugh, New York's food service officer. "They take pride in what they do and the morale has definitely been boosted based on all the positive feedback received from the crew."

These meals also help to bring the galley crew closer together as a team and as a family.

"Working together has helped us learn more about each other," said Carlin. "Being in the galley together is a unique experience. We laugh together, tell stories, and put love into our products. When you work side by side with your shipmates, you learn a lot about them as a person."

The senior leadership in the galley say they could not be more proud of what the culinary specialists have done for the crew.

"This is the meal the culinary specialists look forward in to serve to the crew," said Phifer. "Their goal is to top the Freestyle Friday from the previous week. They love what they do and they are good at it. It feels great to know my Sailors are speaking life into the crew."

**Left:**

*Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Stephen Fuqua flips a monte christo sandwich in New York's galley.*

**Right:**

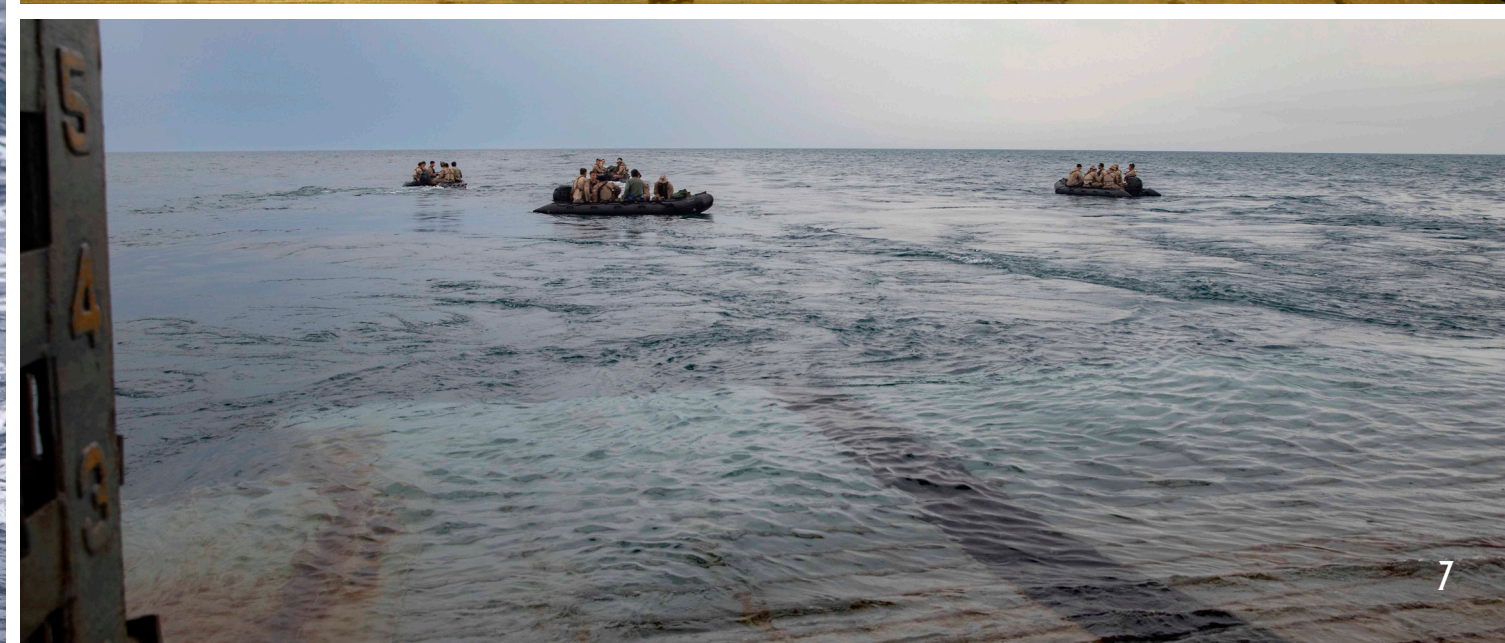
*Culinary Specialist Seaman Olarenwaju Omogbolahan chops cilantro in New York's galley.*

**Below:**

*Culinary Specialist Seaman Recruit Richard Martinez, center, serves ice cream to Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Baylen Mobley, left, on the mess decks aboard the New York.*







*Clockwise from top left:*

Marines assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) operate a combat rubber reconnaissance craft near the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), April 15, 2020. Photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie.

Marines, with the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), enter the well deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), April 10, 2020. Photo by MCSA Darren Newell.

Marines assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) operate combat rubber reconnaissance craft near the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), April 15, 2020. Photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie.

Marines, with the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), carry a combat rubber reconnaissance craft to the sea from the well deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), April 15, 2020. Photo by MC2 Kaitlin Rowell.

Marines, with the Maritime Raid Force, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), depart the well deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), April 15, 2020. Photo by MC2 Kaitlin Rowell.

Marines, assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), operating a combat rubber raiding craft prepare to enter the well deck of the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21), April 15, 2020. Photo by MC2 Lyle Wilkie.





# CPO Birthday Remarks

*Speech by Command Master Chief Ryan Lampkin, Bataan CMC*

Although we are in a high tempo area of operation, we can never be too busy to do what Chiefs do best...train, mentor and inspire. This year, we're celebrating 127 years of our chiefs' trusted leadership, technical expertise, and mentorship.

Chiefs have always put our Navy ships on our backs and carried them to sea. And for more than a century, Chiefs have been the humble stewards of our heritage and the enforcers of the standards we need to succeed.

Those standards are what keeps all of us strong and what keeps all of us moving forward.

There are no greater words of influence than what's written in the CPO Creed. I encourage you to read it for yourself. It's a timeless living document, and for a Chief, it sets a high bar of daily expectations for conduct and for actions.

Today as we celebrate our birthday, we take an opportunity to show the unity of the Chiefs' Mess and to remind ourselves that it is a privilege to guide and mentor our Sailors.

Chiefs are the lynchpin to any command, and we lead the way. We are the backbone of the Navy and have the experience and expertise both professionally and personally to get the job done.

And it is our job to instill our values in those coming up behind us.

A Chief's responsibility is tremendous and rewarding, and not everyone gets the opportunity.

This doesn't make us special in the sense that we should be celebrated. We do what we do because we are focused on service to our Sailors. You may not always like what we have to say, but we do what we do because we want you to succeed.

Today is about the Sailors of all paygrades, to include our officers, who we lead and train.

Today is about giving back, and encouraging all Sailors to lead the charge.

Get onboard with the Sailor 360 concept and learn about what chiefs do: lead, motivate, mentor and inspire. We want to leave a legacy that others want to be a part of.

And in order to leave a legacy, and continue a tradition of excellence, we need to be the ones to uphold good order and discipline and be that technical expert on the deckplates.

Today we honor, recognize, and celebrate the fundamental role Chief Petty Officers play in the United States Navy.

Thank you, happy birthday to the Mess, and Navy Chief, Navy Pride!





# BATARG/26th MEU

## stay mission ready during pandemic

*Story by Bataan Amphibious Ready Group Public Affairs*

The Sailors and Marines of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit are taking additional precautions while deployed at sea to stay healthy and mission ready in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

“The Bataan ARG and 26th MEU team is taking significant steps to remain a flexible, adaptive and persistent force in this region during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” said Capt. Lance Leshner, Commodore of the ARG. “We are a fully capable crisis response team for our nation. We are inspired by the strength of our families, who are enduring this pandemic back home, and in their honor, we stand strong and ready for any mission our country gives us.”

In addition to the flagship amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), the amphibious ready group also includes the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York (LPD 21) and the dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51). There are about 4,000 Sailors and Marines combined in the ARG/MEU.

“As a forward deployed crisis response force, we must remain mission ready at all times,” said Col. Trevor Hall, commanding officer of the 26th MEU. “Force protection measures against COVID-19 infection are paramount to our mission and ability to provide stability in the region.”

Among the measures implemented aboard one or more ARG ships to reduce the risk of virus transmission are: The addition of a second daily shipwide cleaning, with a focus on applying disinfectant to commonly touched surfaces, such as door knobs and computer keyboards; the employment of food service personnel to distribute silverware, napkins and condiments, to reduce the number of people touching those items; the careful limitation and screening of any personnel coming to or departing ARG ships; vigilant hand washing and sanitizing; and social distancing among Sailors and Marines when practical or necessary.

“Our response to COVID-19 has been made most effective by our thorough Navy-Marine Corps integration,” said Cmdr. Arriel Atienza, officer in charge of the embarked Fleet Surgical Team 4 and Commander, Amphibious Task Force surgeon. “Through open cooperation and constant communication, our blue-green team keeps a close watch on the most current epidemiological and theater guidance. Our commanders have the information they need to implement every necessary precaution, keeping our Sailors and Marines as healthy as possible.”

There have been no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 among Bataan ARG or 26th MEU personnel to date.

The ARG and MEU are operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of maritime security operations to reassure allies and partners and preserve the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in the region.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The expanse includes 20 nations and three critical choke points for global commerce, at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and strait of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.





*Clockwise from top left:*

Culinary Specialist Seaman Charles Smith, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), cleans a surface on the salad bar on the mess decks, April 12, 2020. Photo by MCSA Darren Newell.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Isac Santoyo wipes down a bulk head and all other surface contacts during cleaning stations aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan, April 13, 2020. Photo by MC1 Jaq Renard.

Aviation Support Equipment Technician 3rd Class Peter Hebert, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), cleans a table on the mess decks, April 12, 2020. Photo by MCSA Darren Newell.

Information System Technician Seaman Tasia Coker wipes down all surf contacts during cleaning stations amphibious assault ship USS Bataan, April 13, 2020. Photo by MC1 Jaq Renard.

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Abby Swisher, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), cleans a table on the mess decks, April 12, 2020. Photo by MCSA Darren Newell.

Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Robert Brown, assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), participates in cleaning stations, April 12, 2020. Photo by MCSA Darren Newell.





# Fuel for the Focused

## New York awards stand-out Sailor

*Story and photo by Seaman Katelyn McClain*

Going above and beyond to be prominent among peers was just one of the reasons Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) Airman Mark Nicosia was recently named the Sailor of the Week for the amphibious transport dock ship USS New York's (LPD 21).

"My job on this ship is pump room operator," said Nicosia. "I send JP-5 [fuel] to wherever it needs to go, ensuring its successful delivery."

Nicosia is responsible for aligning pump room valves to transfer fuel throughout the ship, such as the flight deck, for embarked aircraft and other locations for small boat and ground support equipment.

"Nicosia operates at full speed all the time; if he is given a task he will ensure it is seen through to completion," said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Swartz, the air boss onboard New York. "He is a quick learner and utilizes the knowledge retained in all aspects of operation."

He was chosen to be the Sailor of the Week for earning the JP-5 pump room operator qualification ahead of schedule; a job normally held by a seasoned petty officer third class. His work led to 98 successful flight deck fueling evolutions and two landing craft, air cushion (LCAC) fueling evolutions with zero mishaps. Over the past two months, Nicosia received 97,000 gallons of JP-5 and has issued over 10,000 gallons of fuel to aircraft, LCACs, vehicles, and small boats.

"To describe him in one word would be 'enthusiastic' because without hesitation, he is first to accept and take ownership of the most demanding tasks," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) Junior Rodriguez, Nicosia's department leading chief petty officer.

Nicosia plans on reenlisting in hopes of picking up third class petty officer.

New York, with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and the embarked 26th Marine expeditionary Unit, is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of maritime security operations to reassure allies and partners and preserve the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in the region.





# Navy Extends Travel and PCS Restrictions, Authorizes Leave Accrual

Story by Mark D. Faram, Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Department of Defense's ongoing travel restrictions and Stop Movement order has been extended, meaning that, unless rescinded earlier, this update keeps all Navy permanent change of station moves and non-essential official travel on hold until June 30.

The extension was announced in NAVADMIN 116/20, released April 21. The message replaces NAVADMIN 080/20, released March 21, and is an updated version of the "one-stop" roll-up of all the Navy's personnel-related policies in place to mitigate the spread

of COVID-19 throughout the force.

The message also announced recently approved special leave accrual for military members on active duty, of up to 120-days because of COVID-19 travel restrictions. This authorization applies to leave earned between March 11 and Sept. 30, 2020 and Sailors will have until the end of fiscal-year 2023 to use or lose those days.

"Our workforce is our first line of defense," Vice Adm. John B. Nowell, the Navy's Chief of Naval Personnel wrote in the message. "All hands must

proactively take action to ensure the health of our force and to ensure we mitigate the spread of COVID-19, in order to maintain our readiness."

Navy personnel officials encourage Sailors and Navy civilians to read through the message carefully, in its entirety, as it also contains clarification for some policies already in place. Among those current policies is guidance for pregnant Sailors, those with expired Common Access Cards, information on leave accumulation, selection boards and COVID-19 entitlements among several others.

"We recognize many

of the policies in this NAVADMIN will place a strain on our force," Nowell wrote, "but they are absolutely necessary to preserve our ability to conduct the mission."

Exemptions from the continued travel restrictions remain in place and were clarified in the message. Recruiting and training new Sailors for the fleet remains a priority, so movement for accessions, basic training, advanced individual training and follow-on travel to the first duty station will continue.

As was announced previously, transfers for those

retiring and separating are not affected by this order.

Patients, as well as their authorized escorts and attendants, and medical providers are allowed to travel for the treatment of DoD personnel and their family members.

Travel for deployments and redeployments – including U.S. Navy vessels, embarked units and personnel – is also authorized. Waivers for travel deemed mission-essential, necessary for humanitarian reasons or warranted due to extreme hardship will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

"Local commanders will

exercise prudent judgment when determining mission-essential travel and granting waivers, and err on the side of conservatism," Nowell wrote. "This is not business as usual. The expectation is that these waivers are done on a case-by-case basis and that they are very limited in number."

As the Navy's understanding of COVID-19 evolves and conditions change, Nowell wrote, all guidance will continue to be evaluated. Feedback from commanders is welcomed and is a critical part of revising current policies or issuing additional guidance.

"It is virtually impossible

to address all specific cases or situations," Nowell wrote. "However, commanders have the latitude to adjust direction based upon their unique situation."

More information is available in NAVADMIN 116/20.

The latest DoD policies can be found at: <https://www.defense.gov/explore/spotlight/coronavirus>. For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mynavyhr>, Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mynavyhr> or visit <https://www.navy.mil/cnp>.

Above:

Janet Owens, an agent at MyNavy Career Center, answers emails from Sailors and their families. Since the Navy's first announcement in mid-March to stop movement due to COVID-19 global health pandemic, MNCC personnel working at Navy Personnel Command have been working round-the-clock to assist Sailors who have been impacted. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chad Swysgood.





## PHIBRON 8 26 MEU

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# Navy's Expeditionary Medical Teams Provide COVID-19 Support in New Orleans, Dallas

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brittney Kinsey, All Hands Magazine

Navy medical personnel assigned to Expeditionary Medical Facility-M (EMF-M) have deployed as part of a U.S. Northern Command-led COVID-19 response to support civil health authorities in existing facilities in New Orleans and Dallas.

The first 50 personnel with EMF-M deployed to New Orleans April 1, followed by more than 60 additional personnel on April 4. They will work at the temporary federal medical station at New Orleans' Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

"As we see more and more hospitalizations, this medical monitoring station will play an essential role in freeing up ICU beds for the most critically ill," said New Orleans Homeland Security and

Emergency Preparedness Director Collin Arnold.

The EMFs work in coordination with federal, state, and local health officials to ensure equipment and resources are in place and are operationally capable to safely treat patients in an effort to lessen the strain on hospitals in the New Orleans region. Personnel assigned to the EMF will provide acute and emergency care in the personal housing units at the convention center.

The personal housing units will serve as isolated individual housing units for symptomatic patients transferred from area hospitals and who require observation, housing, meals and isolation while awaiting their COVID-19 test results.

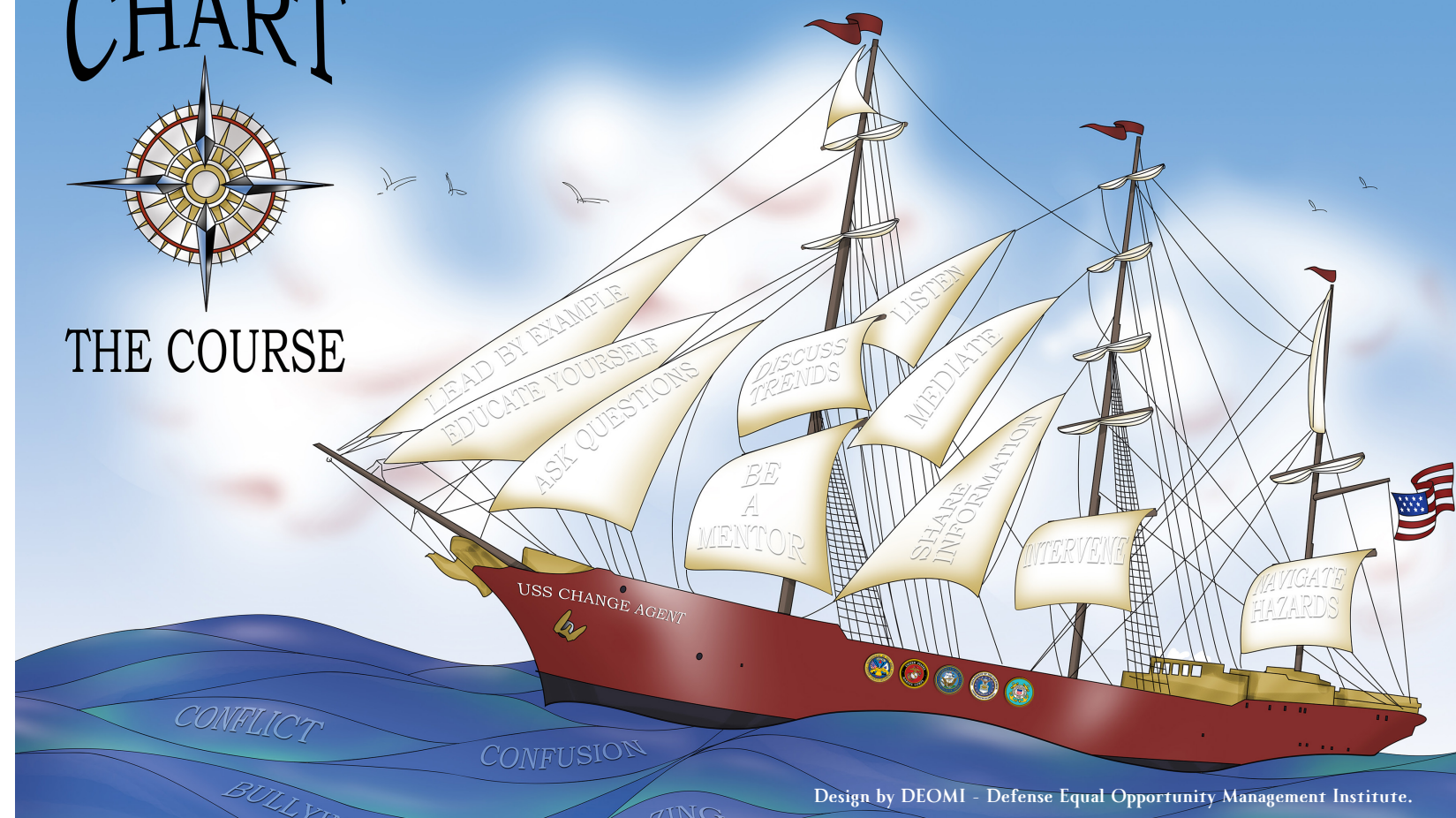
Once results are received, patients will be either released or transferred to the appropriate level of care depending on the patient's COVID-19 status. If the patient tests positive for COVID-19, they may be transferred to the medical monitoring station across Convention Center Boulevard.

Additionally, over 170 personnel deployed to Dallas, April 3 to work in a temporary federal medical station established there to assist local medical personnel. Both locations will treat recovering COVID-19 patients and "low-acuity patients" -- those who are ill but whose symptoms don't require intensive or emergency care. All patients will be screened first at a local hospital.

## CHART



## THE COURSE



Design by DEOMI - Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute.





# OPSEC

## MAINTAINING OPERATIONAL SECURITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### WHY ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

Criminals, Terrorists, and Foreign Intelligence Entities target social media profiles identifying US Navy or military affiliation information; such as ship movements, hangout spots, cellphone numbers, and home addresses. All this information can put you and your loved one at risk.

### SAFETY TIPS

Keep your loved one safe by keeping sensitive information away from the world and not oversharing on social media.

Check your privacy settings and ensure great accomplishments are only seen by the ones who truly appreciate what your loved one has done.

### DANGEROUS TO POST



Navy Mom  
#proudnnavymom

My daughter is a sonar technician on the USS Kidd.



Mike  
#militaryspouse

My wife is stressed out because her department is shorthanded.



Marine Girlfriend  
#i<3mymarine

My boyfriend will be in Singapore tomorrow!



Navy Wife  
#usnavywife

My husband comes home from deployment in three days!



### SAFE TO POST



Navy Mom  
#proudnnavymom

My daughter is a sailor on the USS Kidd.



Mike  
#militaryspouse

My wife is a hard worker!



Marine Girlfriend  
#i<3mymarine

My boyfriend gets to see the world!



Navy Wife  
#usnavywife

My husband will be home soon!