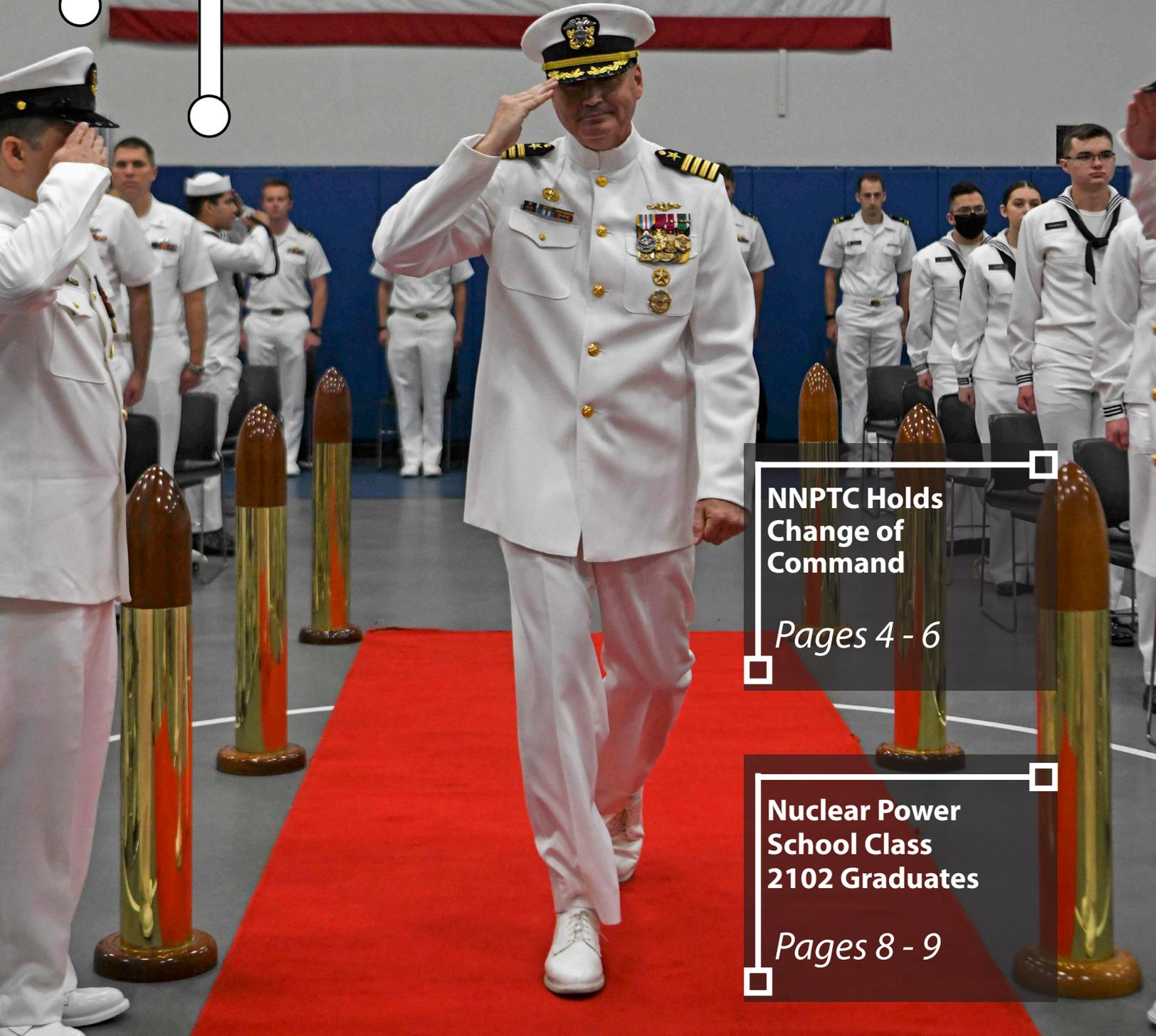


the primary loop

June 2021

Volume 2, Issue 9



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Anchor on the Command Philosophy

Greetings NNPTC and readers of the Primary Loop! I've asked the editorial staff for Executive Officer Jones, Command Master Chief Gruell and myself to each write a column, once per quarter. This will give the command an opportunity to hear from each member of the NNPTC Triad at least four times a year, in writing. Since the change of command on June 4, I have been working to flatten our communications and ensure our message reaches each of you and more importantly, your communications reach us. The Primary Loop is one fantastic way to do this.

You may have heard the IMC announcement I made on June 4. In case you did not: "I have been impressed by the staff's ingenuity, professionalism and constructive dissatisfaction with the status quo. Students, I have been impressed by your determination, eagerness to learn and willingness to serve your country. I am very proud to be a part of this incredible team.

Based on feedback from the staff and naval tradition, we will promulgate a command philosophy and post it in each classroom. I want to highlight the philosophy's supporting idea – "All in on every Sailor" refers to students and staff – we are responsible to send morally, mentally and physically fit nuclear operators and sea-going leaders to the fleet. This is the purpose of NNPTC.

At any time if you are uncertain to our priorities, I'd like you to anchor here, on the philosophy. I hope that it communicates to you that we are very fortunate to be Americans, where places and opportunities like NNPTC exist. That we have a responsibility to our fellow citizens to maximize our effort here, and that once you leave NNPTC you will have improved in every way possible.

In our encounters together, I hope you have seen my enthusiasm for what we do and my conviction that we do this correctly. You will notice that I communicate a lot and that I value your fearless communication. I am passionate about your personal and professional development, and I look forward to our time together."

Since June 4th, we have also socialized and written a new Command Philosophy. It will be printed below this article and should be posted around the command by the time of this printing. I want it to serve a couple purposes. First, the philosophy should align our efforts in one direction. I hope the philosophy adds coherence and priority to our work. Second, the philosophy should be the starting point where we can provide commander's intent and allow the staff to do their jobs. Our staff is highly trained and exceptionally competent. With the right intent and guidance, we can perform our jobs efficiently and make a large impact on our 3000 students.

Lastly, I have been energized by our conversations and your relentless desire to improve our command. I am extremely proud of your efforts and excited for our years ahead together. Best to all of you.

Very Respectfully,

CO



NNPTC

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

“All in on every Sailor”

We are ‘all in on every Sailor’, both Staff and Student.
We develop our team morally, mentally and physically.

Morally: We instill the Navy’s core values in our students by living them and formally teaching them. We coach and expect all Sailors to live a life of integrity and humility, while treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Mentally: We provide world-class education while always striving for improvement. We develop competent Sailors, with excellent character, who are knowledgeable, tough and professional. We provide the Fleet highly skilled, nuclear trained Sailors and return our staff as exceptional leaders.

Physically: Physical well-being underpins our mental and moral well-being. We live a culture of fitness and a diet of substance. We maintain our health, our bodies and our minds. We are physically tough.

This is our responsibility – each person assigned to NNPTC should leave NNPTC stronger, smarter and a better person. In order to serve our families, our Navy and our country.



NNPTC Holds Change of Command

Story by MC3 Keyly Santizo
Photos by MC2 Jessica Gomez

Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) held a change of command ceremony in Goose Creek, South Carolina, June 4, in the command's Multi-Purpose Room.

Capt. Scott J. McGinnis relieved Capt. Andrew G. Peterson III as commanding officer of NNPTC during the ceremony. Adm. James F. Caldwell, director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program, was the presiding officer and guest speaker for the ceremony.

"It's truly been a privilege to be here," Peterson said. "Three years ago I spoke of being humbled by the enormity of the responsibility. I am so honored by the talent here at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. What you've accomplished over the last three years is extraordinary, and I'm honored to have been a part of it."

Peterson, a native of Lunenburg, Massachusetts, served as commanding officer of NNPTC since June 2018. Peterson will report as commanding officer of Naval Support Activity, Joint Base Charleston next.

"Today we're here to celebrate two great leaders from our nuclear community Capt. Peterson and Capt. McGinnis," Caldwell

“You are exactly the right leader,” said Caldwell.

said. “Now [Peterson] will be the first person to tell you all the accomplishments, they belong to his team. He refuses to take credit for it, but what I will tell you is he always highlighted your accomplishments to me. What he did do was he enabled an environment where creativity and innovation thrive, alongside

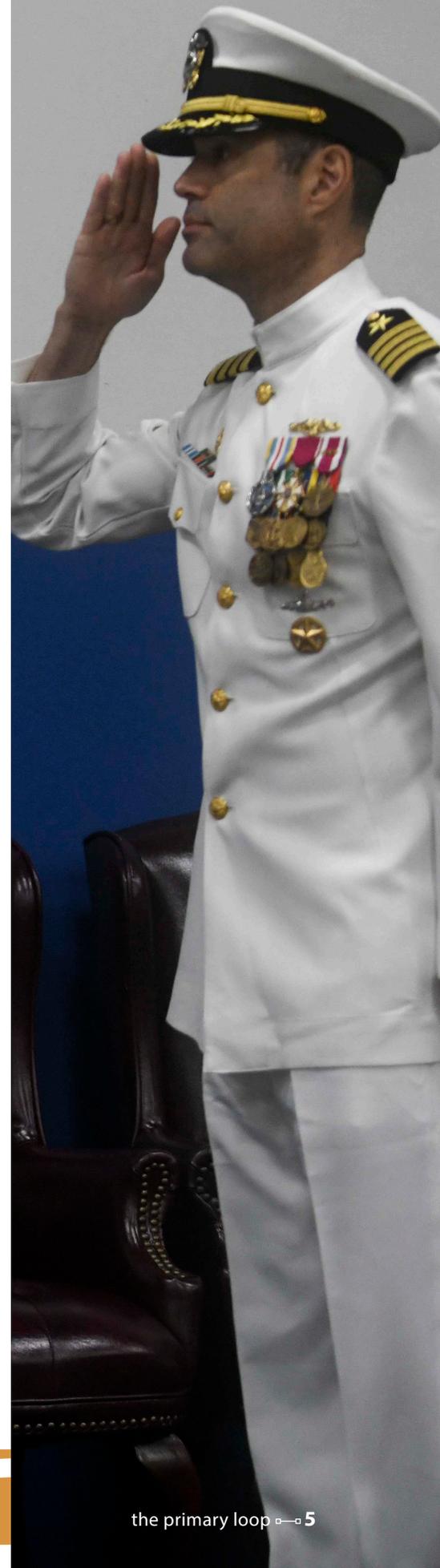
a healthy respect for rules and standards. This is an area where ideas are heard and acted upon, where the team felt that they could make a difference. And I have to tell you, admittedly recommending changes to the way we train nuclear operators takes a bit of courage and fortitude.”

During the ceremony, Caldwell presented Peterson with a Legion of Merit award in recognition of his accomplishments as commanding officer at NNPTC.

“You are exactly the right leader and this is a fantastic job,” said Caldwell to newly minted commanding officer McGinnis. “Over your tour you, too, will have enormous influence on the program, and the most precious resource that we have. I have absolute faith in you and I encourage you to challenge us and your team. Bring us new ideas, develop yourself and your people and make our program even better. On behalf of all of us at Naval Reactors, welcome to our team; welcome to our family.”

McGinnis, from Richmond, Virginia, reports as commanding officer of NNPTC after serving as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command sensitive activities division chief.

“I look forward to carrying a torch of innovation, upholding our high nuclear standards,” McGinnis said. “I am thoroughly excited and engaged to be a part of our team. I have no higher calling than to support you in our mission of developing the highest skilled nuclear trained Sailors. Your success is vital to our Navy and





our national security.”

In 1993, the Nuclear Field “A” School and Nuclear Power School were joined to create NNPTC. A move from Orlando, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina began in May 1998 and was completed in January 1999. Construction of the new command allowed Nuclear Field “A” School and Nuclear Power School to be located in the same building.

Nuclear Field “A” School’s mission is to provide fundamental rate training for future nuclear Machinist’s Mates, Electrician’s Mates and Electronic Technicians. Nuclear Power School’s mission is to train officer and enlisted students in the science and engineering fundamental to the design, operation and maintenance of naval nuclear propulsion plants. The naval nuclear program is widely acknowledged as having the most demanding academic program in the U.S. military.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel W. Ranker

Hard Charger Award

Nuclear Power School Class 2102

By MC2 Jessica Gomez

The Fleet Reserve Association Low Country awards one Sailor during each Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC) Nuclear Power School (NPS) graduation with the Hard Charger Award, recognizing the individual's outstanding effort as a highly-motivated student and model Sailor.

Machinist's Mate (Nuclear) 3rd Class Daniel W. Ranker was selected from more than 300 students for the Hard Charger Award in NPS Class 2102 during their graduation at NNPTC, June 25, 2021.

After receiving the award, Ranker was given an opportunity to make a speech.

"I genuinely could not have done this without the support from my family and all of you who I have seen grow so much and been so inspired by every time I walked through the door of that beautiful building," Ranker said during his speech. "Just remember, being in the Navy you are part of something greater and you really all have made such a huge difference in my life and I know you'll make a huge difference out in the fleet."

Ranker joined the Navy and reported to Recruit Training Command on May 6, 2020. He said he drew influence from family and friends for his choice in branch of military.

"My uncle was in the Navy for four years," Ranker said. "After speaking with him, his sister, and a retired senior chief, I thought the Navy sounded awesome. I was interested in the combination of personal and professional development you can't get anywhere else."

Ranker reported to NNPTC on July 3, 2020, and was placed in Nuclear Field "A" School class 2043-A. He graduated on Oct. 16, 2020, and began NPS on Jan. 7, 2021.

Ranker is expected to begin prototype training at Nuclear Power Training Unit in Goose Creek, South Carolina later this month.

"I feel like prototype training will remind Sailors of the unique opportunity they have been gifted with," Ranker said. "The philosophy that has brought me to this point has been I'm ready to put my best foot forward and give it everything I got, while making as large of a positive impact as possible."

Ranker said he hopes to be stationed on a carrier in San Diego following prototype training. He says he is most looking forward to meeting people in other ratings.

"I love my fellow nukes (nuclear trained Sailors), but last I heard we only make up about 3 percent of the entire enlisted Navy," Ranker said. "Everyone who serves has earned my respect and to think there are so many other professional Sailors out there doing their thing is very exciting to me."

Ranker said he would like to congratulate all those who have volunteered to serve in the nuclear field.

"I know you can rise to the occasion, and I don't doubt that working smarter and harder can get you wherever you need to be," Ranker said. "Congratulations to NPS Class 2102. Thank you all for your sustained efforts and thank you to all the amazing staff at NNPTC for your embodiment of the Navy core values."





CLASS 2102 GRADUATES NUCLEAR POWER SCHOOL



Following NPS graduation, Sailors will attend prototype training at Nuclear Power Training Unit in Goose Creek, South Carolina.







PHOTOS AROUND NNPTC





NNPTC

Sailor Saves Neighbor's House

By MC3 Keyly Santizo



Electrician's Mate (Nuclear) 1st Class Preston Bitzer, a basic electricity instructor at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command and a native of Monroe, Michigan, went above and beyond when he fought a fire at his neighbor's house Dec. 2, 2020.

Q: Can you describe what happened and your initial reaction?

A: It was probably 0630 in the morning. I saw a huge glow in my neighbor's backyard and I enquired for a second: 'I wonder what's going on over there?' And then, all of a sudden, I saw a huge pillar of flames shoot up out of the yard.

So, I ran around the block, took a look in their yard, and I saw their entire side yard was just in flames. So then, I went to the front door, rang the doorbell like a million times, hit the door a bunch of times. When people finally came to the door they were angry - obviously - they just got woken up at 0630. They're like, 'What? What do you want?' and I said, 'Well your house is on fire! You should get out of the house and definitely call the fire department!'

I ran back over to the yard. I asked them if they had a fire hose. They said no; so I went over to the yard and I tried to break into the [other] neighbor's yard to get a fire hose. It was really dark; I couldn't see a whole lot. I couldn't see where the handle was. Apparently that neighbor must have heard the commotion because he came out and opened the gate to his backyard. And so I went in there, grabbed the fire hose and pulled out enough slack and threw it over the fence.

The guy who lived at the house that was on fire then came out and he, as I turned the hose on, started spraying down. I jumped the fence to help him - he was in his boxers with no shirt on, and I was in my full uniform and I told him, 'Hey, I got this. You should go put some clothes on.'

I started fighting the fire. The whole fence was engulfed. The side of the house was starting to melt off. So I fought the fire for probably three to four minutes, and I noticed two propane tanks that were in the fire and I thought, 'We have to get those out of there, I don't want to die here.' So I asked him if he had gloves. He did, so he went around the yard opened the gate and grabbed the tanks and threw them in the front

yard.

The fire ended up getting put out.

Q: What were some of the emotions you were feeling during the event? Have you ever dealt with fires before?

A: Honestly, a lot of excitement because as a submariner I've been trained to fight fires for the last four years. I've definitely had to deal with fires on the ship, but actually putting extinguishing agent on a fire I have not gotten to do. Those were my neighbors, right, I would hope that if I was in their situation that someone would have definitely gone out of their way to figure out what was wrong.

Q: What was the most challenging part of fighting the fire? How did you feel afterwards?

A: Opening in response. Now there was like a huge dump of adrenaline, like jumping a six foot fence without problem. It was like going on with crazy superhero powers.

I felt proud. Afterwards, the neighbors were very thankful. We're like friends now; we just had a barbecue at their house a few weeks ago. So they were super thankful and it made me feel good inside that I did something worthwhile.

Q: Do you have any advice for someone else who might find themselves in that type of situation?

A: Don't wait for someone to tell you that it's your time to step up. If you see something wrong, whether it's someone on the side of the road or suspicious activity in your neighborhood, whatever it is you have to be willing to step up and figure it out. Had I not stepped in, the fire department said of the fire if five more minutes passed the house would have been lost, because it would have broke through the window and burned the whole house down.



**BM2
Cody Wilson**

Hometown:

Hoopeston, Illinois.

Why he joined: To get out of my small town and see new places. Working a factory job was the only decent paying job and it was not something I could see myself doing forever.

Favorite part of the Navy:

I enjoy meeting new people and sharing sea stories. I love seeing the diversity we all share.

Most memorable port call?

Crete, Greece...oh the memories.

Hobbies:

Hunting, fishing and bowling.

Hometown:

Wichita, Kansas.

Why he joined:

To set myself and future family up for a better life than what I had before.

Favorite part of the Navy:

Meeting new people and being able to see other countries.

Most memorable port call?

Busan, South Korea.

Hobbies:

Hunting, shooting, boating, off-roading.



**BM2
Kyle Leedy**

Hometown: Miami.

Why he joined: Looking for a non-traditional education that allowed me to gain useful skills while learning about myself.

Favorite part of the Navy:

The people that I work with and those who inspire me to improve myself.

Most memorable port call? Portugal.

Hobbies: Outdoor activities: hiking, hunting, camping, surfing, snowboarding, practicing martial arts such as Jiu-jitsu and taekwondo.



**ETN1
Axl Stedman**



Chaps' Corner

Share a Smile

By Lt. Pete Canales

Happy days are here again! This phrase is also the title of a song from the '20s/'30s, that was coincidentally released just prior to the Great Crash of the New York Stock Market. Interestingly, this began a difficult time in American history known as the Great Depression. This song speaks about being rid of the long sad times, that the skies above are clearer again, and to sing a song of cheer again. What I find amazing is that even during a difficult time, this song remained popular throughout the 1930s and to the end of the Great Depression.

Well in June, at least for me, it was the dawn of another "happy days are here again" because I could once again see, for the most part, everyone's smiles! Hopefully you are as delighted as I to resume some of the routine functions we took for granted prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included being able to see each other smile.

A smile, though seemingly a simple gesture, is

anything but. It is one of God's many ways of allowing us to relay our elation and allow others to share in our love and happiness. Although we may say it is just a "simple" smile, it is much more. Scientists state that a smile requires the usage of anywhere from 10 to 12 muscles. According to Lowry Dental, "Smiling also elevates your mood, decreases your stress muscles, relaxes those around you (because smiles are contagious), and even makes you more attractive to others!" I also believe that smiling boosts our confidence.

With our masks no longer needed in safe and secured environments, we can now spread happiness to those around us with a smile. According to the website oxsci.org, "[in] various studies, smiling is 'contagious', proving the [contagious rumor] right. When you see a smile, your orbit-frontal-cortex activates, which processes sensory rewards. Therefore, when you catch another person smiling you feel rewarded, which is a

good feeling, causing a smile!" So, if you want others to feel "rewarded," give them a smile. Plus it is free to do and burns calories!

For me, the smile takes on a different meaning. My father was always known for his smile. He worked in the banking industry for over 30 years and a lot of his customers would tell me that on a bad day, they would head over to the bank just to see him smile. His smile affected hundreds, if not thousands, of people around him. Oh how I miss his smile. I hope his smile lives on in me.

So for me, the original lyrics to "Happy Days Are Here Again" ring true, because for over a year, it was a sad time for me.

So long sad times
Go long bad times
We are rid of you at last.

Hopefully you feel the same that happy days are here again. I hope to see and share many smiles in the coming days.



GDYNIA, Poland (June 12, 2021) Fire Controlman (Aegis) 3rd Class Avery Deakins lowers the ensign during a sea and anchor evolution aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Roosevelt (DDG 80), June 12, 2021. Roosevelt, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on its second patrol in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of regional allies and partners and U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrea Rumble)



EAST CHINA SEA (June 6, 2021) An MH-53 Sea Dragon helicopter attached to Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14, Detachment 2A, approaches the flight deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42) while conducting deck landing qualifications. Germantown, part of Amphibious Squadron 11, along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to enhance interoperability with allies and partners and serve as a ready response force to defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Yeltsin E. Rodriguez)

Answer Key

May Solution

U	S	U	A	L		G	I	R	L		O	N	T	O
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H	O	L	Y		S	O	N	G		A	B	O	V	E
I	S	E	E		O	L	E	O		R	E	V	E	L
N	E	S	S		P	L	O	T		A	L	E	R	T

the primary loop

Commanding Officer

Capt. Scott J. McGinnis

Executive Officer

Cmdr. Phil Jones

Command Master Chief

EMNCM(SS) Derek G. Gruell

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Steven K. Reidel

Assistant Public Affairs Officer

Lt. j.g. Stephan A. Munari

Media Leading Petty Officer

MC1(SW/AW) Darren M. Moore

Editors/Layout

MC3 Keyly Santizo

Contributors

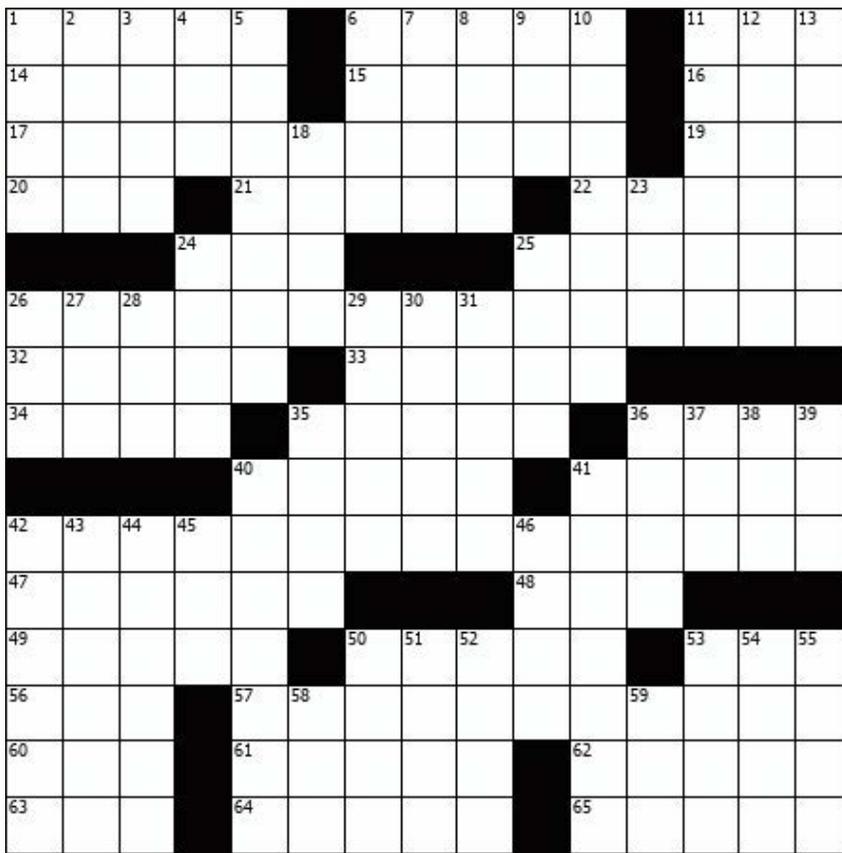
MC2(SW/AW/IW) Jessica Gomez

The Primary Loop is an authorized publication for the staff and students of Naval Nuclear Power Training Command.

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Cover photo: Capt. Andrew G. Peterson III, commanding officer of Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), is piped aboard during a change of command ceremony at NNPTC, June 4, 2021. During the ceremony, Capt. Scott J. McGinnis relieved Peterson as commanding officer of NNPTC. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Jessica Gomez)

Game Corner



Across

1. Commit a coup d'etat
6. Preamble
11. Court bisector
14. Come to a point
15. Five of a kind
16. Words with pickle or jam
17. Start of a quip
19. Avenue of exposure for many artists
20. Mother ptarmigan, e.g.
21. Chihuahua cash
22. Church pinnacle
24. First name in life vests
25. Rock on the edge
26. More of the quip
32. Colorful chalcedony
33. Some fallout
34. Global extreme
35. Where jewelry is often exchanged
36. It may have fallen on a foot
40. Much-impersonated star
41. Configuration
42. More of the quip
47. Cheep substitutes?
48. "I object!"
49. Calgary Stampede, for one
50. Ship of the desert
53. ___-mo replay
56. Have title to
57. End of the quip

Down

1. Where many Mormons live
2. Wise person
3. Abreast of
4. M.L.K. title
5. Get ready
6. Fleming and Paisley
7. Captain of the Nautilus
8. Family follower
9. Howard of "American Graffiti"
10. Kickoffs
11. Aircraft fleet named after an admiral
12. Dining selection
13. Cheers, notably
18. Swamp thing
23. Architect of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
24. Adam, to Eve
25. Hippodrome section
26. Emulate Nelly
27. It may be inflated with hot air
28. Guy's companion
29. Round of applause, e.g.
30. Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
31. Many a climactic movie scene
35. Some microbrewery offerings
36. Bounty bellow
37. Cheerleader's cry
38. Big Four firm employee (Abbr.)
39. "For ___ a jolly good fellow"
40. Endue
41. Storm protection
42. Not like this clue
43. Outperform
44. Poitier of film
45. Bauxite or galena
46. Stimulate
50. "Fame" singer Irene
51. Elemental building block
52. Feel the lack of
53. Type of card game
54. Maui necklaces
55. Capital on a fjord
58. Chromaticity
59. Doctors' org

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