

# SALUTE



PSNS & IMF

## ON THE MOVE

Code 700, Lifting and Handling, team members continue to find new ways to make use of their self-propelled modular transporters • PAGES 6-7



Team PSNS & IMF,

In every challenge we face, one thing remains constant: the strength of this workforce. You are the foundation of our mission, ensuring that our Navy remains ready to defend our nation. Your work is critical, and it is being recognized at the highest levels. The defense secretary, NAVSEA leadership and others across the Defense Department see the impact of what you do every day. You are a vital part of the national defense, and your dedication does not go unnoticed.

In his recent address, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth emphasized the importance of restoring the warrior ethos and rebuilding the military and its industrial base. He made it clear that our strength lies in our unity and share purpose—values that define our workforce. As the department refines its strategic priorities, the focus on shipbuilding and sustainment remains paramount. His commitment to prioritizing Virginia-class submarines in the budget relook underscores the importance of our work in maintaining and modernizing the fleet.

The work we do here matters. Every day, the efforts of this team directly impact the Navy's ability to operate forward, deter threats and defend the nation. Whether repairing submarines, managing complex logistics or providing critical support services, you are ensuring that our fleet remains ready. Each of you plays a role in strengthening our national defense.

I know that change bring uncertainty, and with a new administration, adjustments to policies and priorities are inevitable. Leadership at every level remains committed to keeping you informed and engaged as we navigate these changes together. Transparency and communication will continue to be a priority. One thing that will not change is our mission. Our focus remains on delivering world-class maintenance and sustainment to the fleet. We are an essential part of the defense industrial base, and our contributions are critical to ensuring that warfighters have what they need to succeed. The Navy, NAVSEA and the Defense Department recognize this, and they are committed to supporting us as we carry out this mission.

Supporting the warfighter is not just a job—it is a responsibility we all share. When we work together, we achieve more. The complexity of what we do requires teamwork, innovation and trust in one another. Every task, big or small, contributes to our shared success. The strength of this command comes from you—your expertise, your commitment and your willingness to take on the challenges that come with this mission.

I encourage you to take pride in the work you do and to recognize the impact of your contributions. What you do here matters—not just to this command, but to the fleet, to the warfighter and to our national security.

Thank you for your dedication and resilience. Together, we will continue to meet the mission with excellence. I am proud to serve alongside each of you.

Humility, Honesty and Dedication, always.

Captain JD Crinklaw  
Commander, PSNS & IMF

**In this issue:**



Navy leader's recent visit highlights innovation



New lunchtime option now available inside CIA



Command employees work to support Navy fleet

**On the cover:**

Thairon Sleeper, SPMT operator, Code 740, Riggers, maneuvers one of the code's six self-propelled modular transports along Farragut Avenue Feb. 21, en route to Dry Dock 5 at PSNS & IMF.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

# Code 700 director honored for her high-level leadership

PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

The National Association of Superintendents has selected Chris Klinkert as its 2024 Superintendent of the Year, according to a recent NAS announcement.

Klinkert, director, Code 700, Lifting and Handling Department, was selected for her work as a servant leader at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, according to the announcement.

During the past year, "Klinkert provided a high level of leadership consistently. She also provided service by living and promoting such leadership attributes as trust, transparency, safety and respect. Her unwavering drive to support our workforce has also cultivated a healthy relationship of accountability and respect with them," according to the announcement.

A committee of past awardess, including 2023 recipient Ben Godsey, George Washington (CVN 73) project superintendent, Code 312, Aircraft Carrier Program Office,

convened to select this year's award winner. In making the selection, NAS committee members noted Klinkert's ability to connect with employees at all levels across the command.

"Although Klinkert maintains an extremely busy schedule, she also takes time to connect with the workforce through daily interactions or activities after hours. She serves the NAS well through work on multiple committees, and she's a distinguished leader not only within the command, but is well respected and serves their community well," according to the



Chris Klinkert

Workforce Development KBA at PSNS & IMF."

Klinkert's commitment to service was also key in helping her to lead her department through a bevy of operations in 2024, according to the NAS announcement.

"Klinkert served the command well during 2024, while leading her department through continued support of non-stop execution of crane, rigging and dive operations across multiple projects and TDY locations while maintaining a critical eye on areas needing improvement and driving the right corrective actions to ensure continued growth," according to the announcement.

announcement. "Klinkert works across multiple departments to support the mission and vision of our command, serving as the co-chair of the Command Culture and Engagement Council and Co-Champion of the

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**ABOVE:** Rear Adm. Peter Small, chief engineer and deputy commander, Naval Sea Systems Engineering & Logistics, toured facilities at PSNS & IMF, Feb. 4, to learn about the command's technological advancements and infrastructure challenges. (U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

# INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Navy leader's recent visit highlights the shipyard's use of new technology and the need for expansion

**Max Maxfield**  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Peter Small, chief engineer & deputy commander Naval Sea Systems Engineering & Logistics, visited Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility to discuss current technologies in use at PSNS & IMF, as well as any challenges that must be overcome to expand the use of innovative technologies here.

Small was accompanied by Doug Vaughters, director of Aircraft Carrier Design & Systems Engineering, and



**AT LEFT:** Seth Haskins, additive manufacturing manager, Shop 31, Inside Machinist, leads Rear Adm. Peter Small, chief engineer & deputy commander, Naval Sea Systems Engineering & Logistics, on a tour of the facilities inside Building 431 at PSNS & IMF.

"Rear Adm. Small expressed high praise and appreciation to the engineering workforce. He reiterated the need for technical autonomy in decision making and the necessary balance between proper risk evaluation and acceptance in those decisions."

**Jason Holmstrom,**  
chief engineer, Code 240

Kurt Crake, director of Submarine & Submersibles Engineering.

The visit focused on cold spray, additive manufacturing, phased array ultrasonic testing, the RevospECT automated eddy current analysis software, and explosive bulge testing. Leadership discussions covered current capabilities, barriers to implementation, and opportunities for further innovation.

According to Joe Fenske, division head, Code 135, Non-Destructive Testing Division, the REVO software significantly increases the speed at which PSNS & IMF can inspect tubes inside of ship's equipment. While a proficient manual analyst can inspect a single tube in about two minutes, the REVO software can do the same inspection in six seconds.

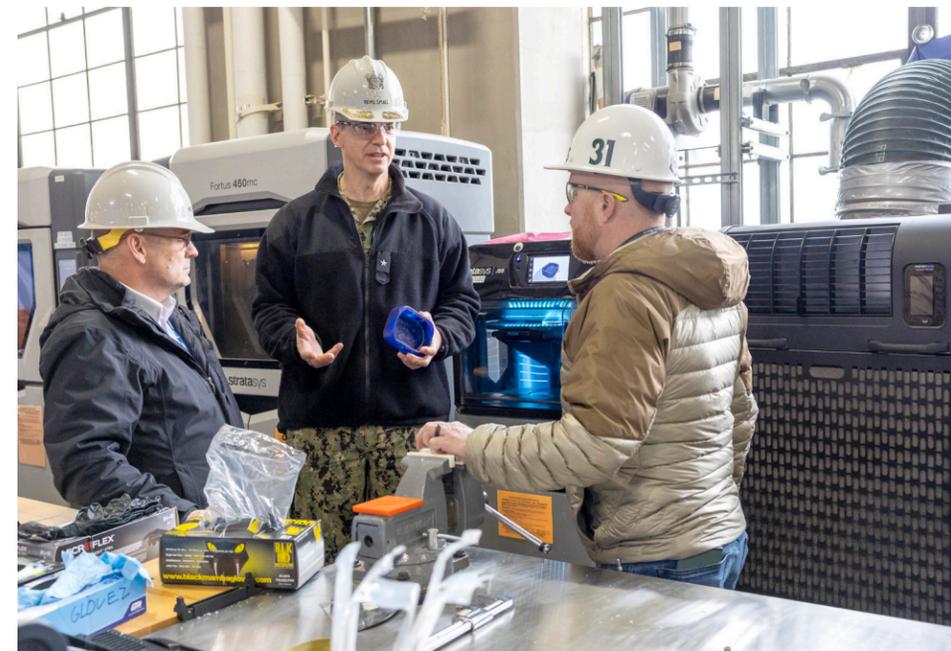
"During the PAUT and REVO discussion we spoke to Rear Adm. Small about the importance of having a high-speed data network in place to move data," Fenske said. "Both PAUT and REVO could see productivity increases if the Shipyard had the ability to do remote data analysis. We could have a fewer number of inspectors on TDY, while the data analysts remain in the Shipyard."

While PSNS & IMF has embraced innovative solutions to work more efficiently, Fenske said, PSNS & IMF is still continuing to find technologies it can leverage to become more productive in the future.

Small also discussed how policies and procedures might be adjusted to help speed up work at PSNS & IMF by empowering engineers and mechanics to develop and implement solutions to problems locally, whenever feasible.

According to Jason Holmstrom, chief engineer, Code 240, Small discussed how PSNS & IMF and NAVSEA can streamline the communications and approval process for proposed repairs to keep projects moving forward as quickly as possible, while managing and balancing risk.

"The time spent discussing these topics was valuable for him to gain perspective on the issues we face daily," Holmstrom said. "Rear Adm. Small expressed high praise and appreciation to the engineering



workforce. He reiterated the need for technical autonomy in decision making and the necessary balance between proper risk evaluation and acceptance in those decisions. He stated several times that we have to be careful and balance the short-term drive to return ships to sea against long term loses, highlighting several recent examples where the imbalance between operations and maintenance has caused a significant backlog of mandatory repairs that are now impacting our ability to effectively support the Navy."

**TOP:** Rear Adm. Peter Small, chief engineer & deputy commander, Naval Sea Systems Engineering & Logistics tours Shop 31, Feb. 4.

**ABOVE:** Seth Haskins, additive manufacturing manager, Shop 31, Inside Machinist, briefs Rear Adm. Peter Small Feb. 4, during a tour of PSNS & IMF facilities.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

# DOING THE HEAVY LIFTING

Code 700 team members continue to find new ways to use their mobile self-propelled modular transporters

Max Maxfield  
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

**C**ranes could be considered part of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility “brand” due to their visibility throughout the local community. People all around Sinclair Inlet can regularly see various portal cranes at PSNS & IMF trundling about, carrying large objects. Conversely, the Hammerhead Crane is one of the first large and stationary things ferry passengers see when they exit Rich Passage on their way to Bremerton.

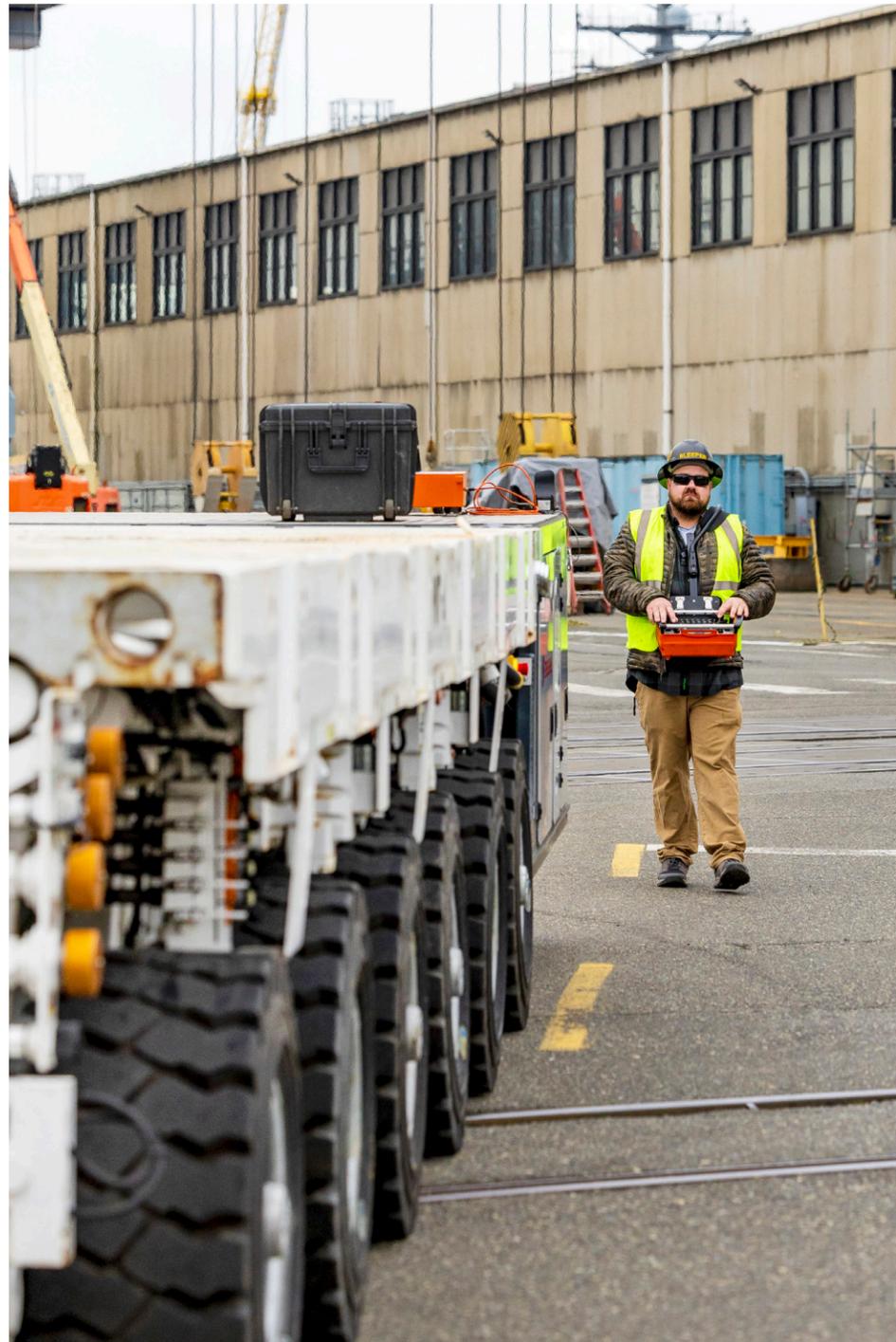
While cranes are one of most essential pieces of heavy equipment at a shipyard, the professionals in Code 700, Lifting and Handling, actually have a wide variety of ways to lift and move very heavy things. One of the most versatile pieces of equipment they use is a self-propelled modular transporter.

SPMTs look a bit like the trailers towed behind semi-trucks, except they have rows of wheels running their entire length. A qualified operator wearing a wireless remote controlled device called a “belly box” walks beside the SPMT.

According to Joe Mick-Hager, Material Handling Equipment supervisor, Code 740, Rigging & Operations, PSNS & IMF, an SPMT is actually comprised of two different units; a module and a power pack. They can be used together in various configurations to move very heavy things, very precisely, just about anywhere. Each six-axle trailer has a working load limit of 240,000 pounds, and they can be used in tight spaces, including inside dry docks.

“SPMTs are made up of individual units called ‘modules’ that can be connected — both longitudinally and laterally — to create larger platforms tailored to the specific loads,” Mick-Hager said. “Each trailer has its own set of wheels that can turn independently, which allows for omnidirectional movement.”

“This is all controlled by a sophisticated computer system,” he continued. “The trailers have a hydraulic suspension system that controls the platform height by using hydraulics, ensuring stability and even



**ABOVE:** Thairon Sleeper, SPMT operator, Code 740, Riggers, maneuvers one of the code's six self-propelled modular transports along Farragut Avenue Feb. 21, en route to Dry Dock 5 at PSNS & IMF. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

weight distribution across all modules. They do not have a built-in crane or ramp, so forklifts or cranes are used set the load onto the trailer.”

According to Mick-Hager, PSNS & IMF is continually finding new things SPMTs can be used to lift or move.

“From lifting an entire aft submarine assembly and enclosure weighing in at just under 300,000 pounds, to carrying an empty CONEX box, they can do anything,” he said. “When we initially got the units in 2020, we put out that if someone thought we could move something with an SPMT, let us know. That list just keeps growing. We have been able to modify lifting and handling processes by using SPMTs that have saved the command hundreds of man hours, sometimes on a single process.”

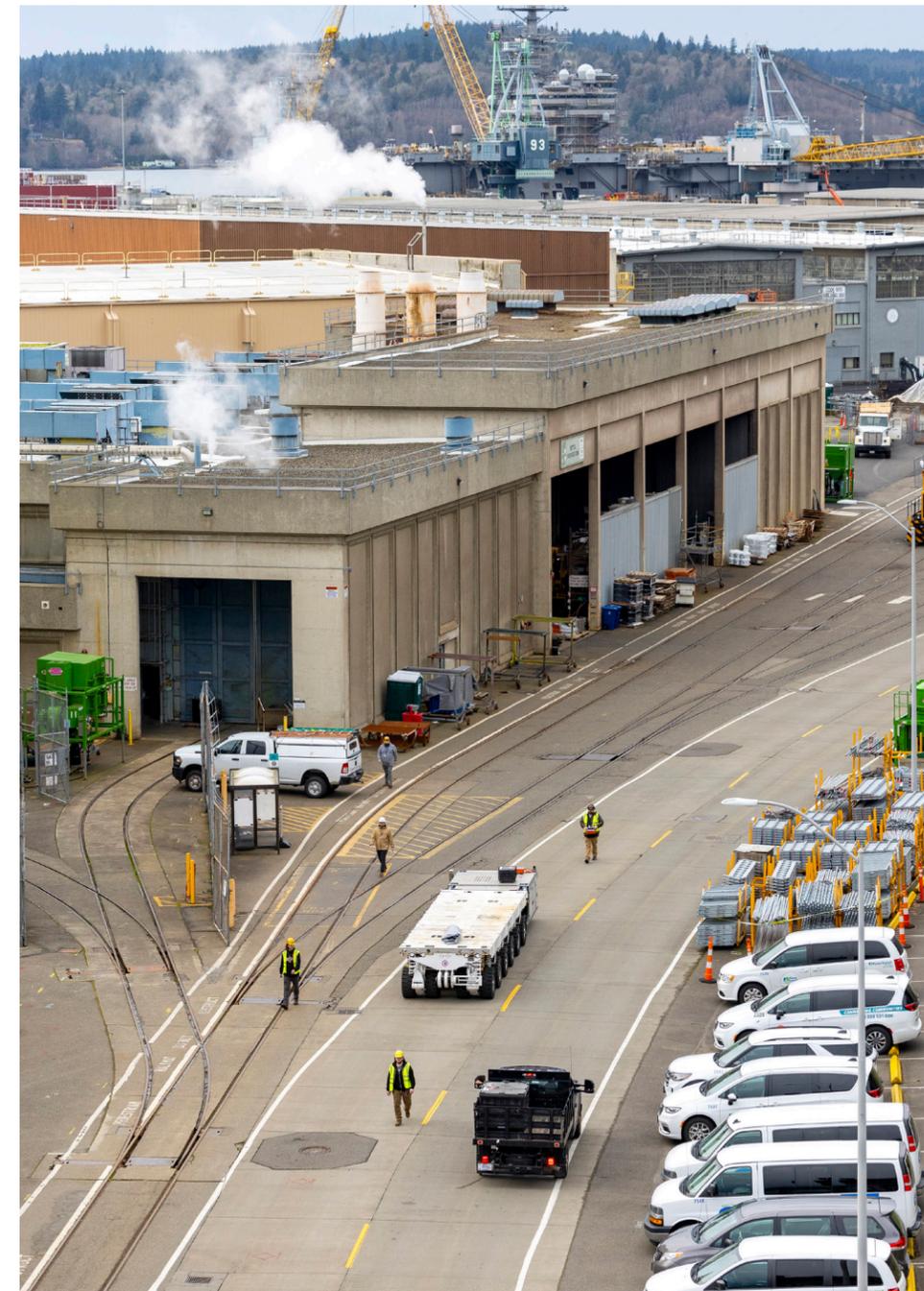
Mick-Hager credits the versatility of SPMTs for much of the savings.

“They have a little bit of crane in them, some forklift, a touch of high-lift platform and some flatbed tractor-trailer too,” said Mick-Hager. “Plain and simple though, they are mobile and adaptable. Our portal cranes are restricted to our crane rails, and our mobile cranes cannot drive on their wheels with a load attached to the hook. Loads can be placed onto the SPMT and be transported to their final destination anywhere in the shipyard.”

Mick-Hager said an SPMT isn't always the right tool for the job. Which material handling equipment Code 700 uses, depends on the size and weight of the item being moved. If an item fits on a flatbed trailer and it has the capacity, a flatbed trailer would most likely be the correct choice. The SPMT's are used for very different things than flatbed trailers.

“These machines can be used to transport material, but their main function is to assist with installation and removal of large and/or heavy items on the ships and submarines,” he said. “The uses are not limited to that. If there is a use for the SPMT and it is the correct tool for the job, we will utilize it. There are a lot of things to like about them, but if I were to narrow it down to one thing, it would be the carrying capacity and how maneuverable they are.”

According to Mick-Hager, Code 700 has 19 qualified operators, and Code 730, Crane Maintenance Division, has 10 qualified operators. These professionals, who must complete a week-long certification course, work across all shifts at the command. They not only have to know the operating characteristics of the SPMTs, they also need to know how the hydraulic system works and how to properly set up the unit. They have to know how to adjust the hydraulic system and how to properly set up the programing on them. Code 730 has a team of qualified operators who have also



**ABOVE:** A team of Code 740, Riggers, maneuvers a self-propelled modular transport along Farragut Avenue Feb. 21, before delivering it to Dry Dock 5.

**AT LEFT:** Austin Collins, rigger, Code 740, helps guide the self-propelled modular transporter near Dry Dock 5.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

received additional training to maintain and troubleshoot problems with the units.

“Code 730 handles everything on the maintenance side, from scheduled maintenance, troubleshooting issues, weight

testing and assistance to set up or assemble the units,” said Mick-Hager. “Whether it’s connecting the PPU to the trailer, connecting multiple trailers together or the initial valve set up.”

# Command continues to expand food choices on the waterfront

## PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility has added yet another lunchtime food option for members of the command workforce inside the Controlled Industrial Area.

Sweet Dahlia Baking is now serving everything from pepperoni rolls and meatball sandwiches to steak & ale pot pies and Sweet Dahlia dogs from the former Juan's Food Trailer outside Building 460.

"Employee Food Service continues to find more solutions to enhance food options inside the shipyard," said Para Kan, management and program analyst, Code 1101.2, Executive Support, who has been working to expand services at PSNS & IMF.

"With the recent closure of the Navy Bean trailer, the workforce has been needing another reliable location for lunch," Kan said. "Expanding food variety for our employees is part of enhancing our quality of life at work."

Sweet Dahlia is a local business that operates in Bremerton and on Bainbridge Island, Kan said. Owner Stacey Wadkins is hoping to expand hours in the coming weeks to include breakfast as well.



**AT LEFT:** India Wadkins, left, and her mother, Stacey Wadkins, owner of Sweet Dahlia Baking, serve lunch to command employees, Feb. 19, from the former Juan's Food Trailer outside Building 460 at PSNS & IMF. Sweet Dahlia offers a different menu each day.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

"We bake our donuts and other pastries in our store," Wadkins said. "We can also do catering orders over the phone for your department meetings. Just give us a call."

Sweet Dahlia offers a different menu each day. Current hours are 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. For menu information, visit [sweetdahliabaking.com](http://sweetdahliabaking.com).

For catering or for large orders, call 206-201-3297.

Employee Food Service is a self-sustaining non-appropriated funds entity under Navy Region Northwest. All food sales go directly back to their employees, equipment, and supplies. No mission-funded appropriated fund subsidies are allowed.



## Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility



Join us as we honor our nominees for 2024 at the Admiral Theatre:

**Wednesday, April 23, 12 p.m.**

There will be a **live streaming** event for those who wish to support our nominees and watch the ceremony online. Details will be posted on our official Facebook page, [facebook.com/PSNSandIMFontheWaterfront](https://facebook.com/PSNSandIMFontheWaterfront).

See 'News You Can Use' for more information

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# Employee News Notification System

PSNS & IMF employees can receive emergency alerts and breaking news specific to PSNS & IMF by site locations (e.g. operating status due to inclement weather), and opt-in to receive special event notifications by registering in the

Everbridge Alert Portal. Sign up now to receive alerts on your personal devices by the directions at the following link: [Member.everbridge.net/306355722256718/event](https://Member.everbridge.net/306355722256718/event). Or text "PSNS" to 888777 (message and data rates may apply).



Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility  
**EVERBRIDGE ALERT PORTAL**



## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS | Staff delegation tours shipyard



**ABOVE:** Cliff Anderson, Ford class program manager, Code 312, Carrier Program, leads a congressional staff delegation representing Rep. Emily Randall on a tour of Dry Dock 6, Feb. 20.

**AT LEFT:** Cliff Anderson, middle, Ford class program manager, Code 312, Carrier Program, and Cody Matheson, right, production facilities and plant equipment manager, Code 900, Production Resources, lead a congressional staff delegation representing Rep. Emily Randall on a tour of PSNS & IMF facilities, Feb. 20.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 3

- **Navy Reserve Birthday:** The U.S. Navy Reserve's birthday is March 3.

### March 5

- **Blood Drive:** The monthly Armed Services Blood Drive will take place March 5 in Building 850A, room 160, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### March 7

- **Employee Appreciation Day:** National Employee Appreciation Day is March 7.

### March 9

- **Daylight Savings Time:** Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour March 9.

### March 17

- **St. Patrick's Day:** The annual St. Patrick's Day celebration is March 17.

### March 25

- **Medal of Honor Day:** National Medal of Honor Day is March 25.

### March 29

- **Vietnam War Veterans Day:** National Vietnam War Veterans Day is March 29.

### April 1

- **April Fools Day:** The annual April Fools Day observance is April 1.

### April 10

- **USS Thresher (SSN 593):** USS Thresher (SSN 593) was lost at sea April 10, 1963.

### April 11

- **Submarine Day:** National Submarine Day is April 11.



During February 2025, the following employees with a combined 365 years of corporate knowledge retired. We thank them for their dedicated service.

Richard E. Burton, Code 135

Steven J. Clark, Code 300N

Larry B. Mabe, Code 246

James A. Marker, Shop 51

Paulino F. Membrere, Shop 38



Wayne A. Menard, Code 610

Kelvin R. Perez, Code 701

Joseph R. Romonsky, Code 377

Gary S. Schmitz, Shop 75

Robert D. Taitague, Code 280

ASBP  
Armed Services Blood Program

**1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**  
 March 5, 2025  
**9AM - 3PM, BLDG. 850A, RM 160**

For full details, visit News You Can Use on the PSNS & IMF SharePoint home page.

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## VOLUNTARY Leave Transfer PROGRAM

This program authorizes federal employees to donate annual leave to other civilian federal employees. If you wish to donate annual leave or have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Office at 360-476-8289/7015, or visit Building 435, 3rd floor, Room 338, or fax your donation form to 360-476-8723.

### Code 105.3

Asher Benedetti-Saputo

### Code 106.2

Daniel Gilbert

### Code 109

Shawn Fellows

### Code 200

Lueida Johnson

### Code 246.1

Jacqueline Lewis

### Code 260

Krista Beyale

### Code 260M

Paul Greil

### Code 300N.5

Alle Alexandra Noble

### Code 432

Rolf Jacobson

### Code 500

Eric Toves

### Code 600

Wayne Menard

### Code 710

Natalie Denson

### Code 900A

Robyn Rogers

### Code 900F.12

John Quinene

### Code 980

Coral Ledford

### Code 1200N.42

Jodi Fitchett

### Code 2320

Donna Taylor

### Shop 06

Douglas Willis

### Shop 26

Robert Castillo

### Shop 38

Brook Herrick

Wilbur Hinman

Tim Thompson

### Shop 51

Jeffrey Frankowski

Michael Norgaard

### Shop 56

Scott Joers

### Shop 57

Jason Allen

Dustin Bigelow-York

### Shop 64

Shane Anderson

### Shop 71

Sherlyn Lowe

### Shop 99

Jenny Crutcher

## Rideshare

**Gig Harbor Vanpool:** Picks up at Gig Harbor Albertsons and Purdy Park & Ride, beginning at 6:30 a.m. Departs PSNS & IMF at 3:30 p.m. Call 360-373-2586.

**Pierce Transit Vanpool:** Picks up at Tacoma Community College at 6:10 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-Lot) at 4:10 p.m. Call 253-226-5586.

**Tacoma Vanpool:** Picks up at Parkland Park & Ride at 4:55 a.m., Tacoma Narrows Park & Ride at 5:15 a.m. Departs shipyard (G-Lot) at 3:05 p.m. Call 253-202-5819.

**Rideshare policy:** To post a Rideshare ad, email psns.pao.fct@us.navy.mil or come to Building 850, fifth floor, Congressional and Public Affairs Office to fill out an ad form. All information is subject to use in Salute — print and online.

## SALUTE

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## REMINDER:

## PED Policy and QR Codes

- QR codes are prohibited for use on all shipyard graphics.
- Activating camera phones inside the CIA is a violation of PED Policy.



# AROUND THE YARD

PSNS & IMF EMPLOYEES WORK AS A TEAM IN SUPPORT OF THE U.S. NAVY FLEET



**ABOVE RIGHT:** A welder from Shop 26, Welders, performs a shielded metal-arc weld on a waster sleeve in Building 460, Feb. 18.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Patrick Sison and Rodney Clark, shipfitters, Shop 11/17, Shipfitter, Sheet Metal, Forge & Heat Treat Trades, grind pieces of steel for a Reactor Compartment Package in Building 460, Feb. 19.

**ABOVE:** Kevin Hemry, mechanic electrician, Shop 99, Temporary Services, performs staging and testing on heat and smoke detectors before shipboard installation, Feb. 19.

**AT RIGHT:** Ariel Armendariz and Jorge Ochoa, both welders, Shop 26, Welders, operate a submerged arc welding machine on bulkhead pieces for a Reactor Compartment Package on the "big slab" in building 460, Feb. 18.

(U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)

