

SALUTE

2026 Friends & Family Day

IN PICTURES

Thousands enjoy behind-the-scenes look during daylong shipyard celebration

• PAGES 6-7





Team PSNS & IMF,

I'd like to offer my sincere gratitude to team PSNS & IMF for the hard work, countless hours and tireless dedication towards making Friends and Family Day 2026 a huge success. Whether you were part of the planning committee, here to volunteer your time, or with family and friends enjoying the day around our shipyard, I extend a hearty congratulations and Bravo Zulus on a job well done! Your enthusiasm and support left me with a renewed sense of pride in our work, our mission and each other. Seeing our vital work through the eyes of friends and family is a special thing, and I'm so proud of our whole team. Coming together in celebration of our mission and doing so during America's 250th Birthday honors the deep connection between our shipyard and the nation's history. Just as generations of shipbuilders and Sailors have done before them, our combined team continues to maintain Navy operational readiness.

Bringing friends and family from our local communities inside the gates to connect with our mission and reinforce our shared history helps rally support for our Sailors, Marines and Navy. Giving our neighbors a chance to see for themselves the work we do here to return our warfighters back to sea is vitally important to our mission. This event was a big win for both the command and the community at large. Both inside and outside of gates, the Navy is relying on us and the critical work we do here. When we come together to champion this effort, we project strength and unity.

Speaking of wins, I'd like to take a minute to highlight the hugely successful completions of two recent PSNS & IMF projects: USS San Juan (SSN 751); and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70):

- USS San Juan's recently completed reactor servicing work constituted a decisive win for the command, coming in more than 1,800 man-days under budget and 15 days ahead of schedule. Most importantly, quality performance improved significantly from other recent defueling availabilities, with a reduction in significant events from five to two and a reduction in combined work delays from 470 to 60 hours. Congratulations to all 250 project team members — led by Dave Harden, Code 300N.4, and Bob Cornwell, Code 2370 — from Codes 2370, 300N, 500, 139, 105 and 1120; and Shops 06, 11, 17, 38, 72 and 99.
- USS Carl Vinson completed a six-month planned incremental availability June 12 at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego. As always, our PSNS & IMF project team worked closely with Ship's Force, Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, Newport News Shipbuilding, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, the Type Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command and other supporting organizations during the availability, which included a massive influx of critical new and growth work, far exceeding historical norms. Through it all, this unified, multi-command coalition of naval maintenance authorities and industrial partners worked in lockstep while successfully absorbing several months' worth of unplanned repairs in a minimal amount of extra time to return a fully modernized, combat-ready carrier with improved lethality back to the fleet. Congratulations to you all on a job well done.

As always, thank you for everything you do for our command, our Navy and our nation. A Ready Team Defines Us. Quality Drives Us. Mission Unites Us.



Captain JD Crinklaw
Commander, PSNS & IMF

In this issue:



Rail inspection team earns Special Act Awards



Code 1101.1 employee receives Navy's CSAM



New berthing barge arrives at Pier C on NBK

On the cover:

Robert Bell, rigger in charge, Code 740, Riggers, shows Nolan Fournier, 5, how to hand signal a portal crane July 25, during 2026 Friends & Family Day at PSNS & IMF.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Four public shipyards embrace AI to help accelerate workflows in support of the Navy's mission

By Max Maxfield
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility is using the artificial intelligence powered by Palantir Foundry to help accelerate submarine maintenance periods through the integration of AI/Machine Learning tools via their Foundry platform, which is being used to better develop and scale workflows across all four public shipyards.

Code 100TO, the PSNS & IMF Transformation Office, is working with mechanics, supervisors, engineers, project managers, and others throughout the command to build the knowledge base Foundry needs to continue to improve its ability to support the mission.

According to Michelle Haas, digital transformation project manager, Code 100TO, Palantir Foundry is part of the broader ShipOS initiative, which is managed by the Maritime Industrial Base Program in collaboration with Naval Sea Systems Command. She said it is much bigger than a traditional project management tool.

"Foundry serves as a unified enterprise operating system that integrates real-time data from legacy databases, supply chains, and scheduling into a single environment," Haas said. "It gives decision makers and mechanics complete visibility across the entire workflow."

Capt. JD Crinklaw explained in a July 10 All Hands email that Foundry can significantly improve all product lines and accelerate the return of fleet assets back to the fight. He said AI capabilities that are now available to the general workforce have grown enormously over the past decade, and the list of tools approved for use at PSNS & IMF continues to expand rapidly.

He said one application that is production-ready within Foundry is ShipMate.

"ShipMate is designed to help any shipyard user navigate our expansive reference database to find the right information and make well-informed decisions," Crinklaw said. "Additional tools currently in development within Foundry are targeted at specific challenges our shops and codes face every day, including document

certification, Task Group Instruction development, deficiency resolution, and resource allocation."

While comprehensive databases often have the information project managers, planners and mechanics need to get the job done, they can be cumbersome to use. Finding the information needed within the database

slows everyone down. Haas said Foundry aggregates all this disparate data into one platform, replacing manual paperwork with automated workflows and real-time predictive analytics.

"A standard database simply stores and retrieves information," she said. "It becomes flexible AI when it can actively synthesize unstructured data, identify hidden bottlenecks, automate complex scheduling logic, and generate predictive alarms, such as forecasting component failures or delays up to 180 days in advance."

Haas said Foundry, which is currently linked to UIPI/IPIs, MAT, SupDesk, AIM, QLIK, and other data tools, can only reach its full potential if the workforce embraces a culture of data-driven responsibility. Users can help make Foundry "smarter" by moving away

See 'AI' on page 10



ABOVE: Jenna McGrath, director, Code 100TO, Command Transformation Office, briefs supervisors and managers on the benefits of AI July 9, during a town hall meeting on Innovation and Technology in the Shipyard Auditorium. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)



ABOVE: Josh Avery, rigger, Code 740, Riggers, and Tyler Voss, mechanic, Code 740, Riggers, switch the tracks in front of Portal Crane 62, July 8, as it transits the shipyard alongside Dry Dock 5 at PSNS & IMF. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

CRANE RAIL INSPECTION TEAM ANSWERS THE CALL

Group comes together quickly to evaluate the shipyard's train, crane tracks

By Max Maxfield
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

When Naval Sea Systems Command 04, Industrial Operations, directed Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility to conduct a comprehensive audit of all train rails, portal crane rails, and elevated crane rails throughout the command, the Crane Rail Certification Program Audit Team answered the call.



AT LEFT: Captain JD Crinklaw, commmander, PSNS & IMF, congratulates members of the inspection team for their efforts July 7, during an awards ceremony. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott Hansen)



ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF, poses for a picture with members of the Crane Rail Certification Program Audit Team July 7, during an awards ceremony for team members outside Building 850. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott Hansen)

Personnel from across PSNS & IMF worked together to accomplish the mission. They included Quality Assurance specialists from Code 136, Engineering & Analysis Division; engineers and the division head from Code 710, Technical Division; the inspection supervisor and branch head of Code 721, Inspection Branch; auditors and the branch head from Code 723, Quality Assurance; the inspection supervisor from Code 725, Test and Inspection; the division head from Code 750, Regional Division; a supervisory engineer from Code 900F, Production Facilities and Plant Equipment; an engineering technician and a supervisory nuclear engineer from Code 2370, Nuclear Refueling Engineering Division; as well as the nuclear facilities and equipment manager from Code 3910, Nuclear Facilities.

According to Jenny Farley, division head, Code 720; Inspection/Test/Quality Assurance/Training Division, which is one of three divisions that comprise the Crane Maintenance Team, there was a short deadline for the evaluation of the rail program, which is

critical to PSNS & IMF operations.

"The rail program has many key stakeholders who needed to work together to get the evaluation accomplished," Farley said. "The rails, whether for railroad or cranes, are mission critical. It was vital to make it through the evaluation to ensure we did not have any critical defects that would affect the mission."

The audit didn't find any new major issues with the rails. What the team discovered is just how well the processes PSNS & IMF uses to get the ground rail defects repaired were working.

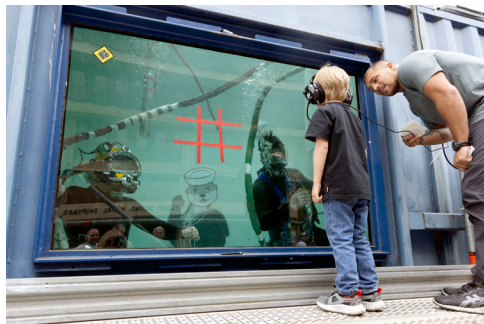
"The teaming among multiple departments and organizations to repair an issue before it even met the definition of Marginal, which is the most minor of defects, was excellent, and it meant that we were able to continue meeting the needs of the mission," Farley said. "We learned ways to communicate better and developed a working group, so the key stakeholders had one place/group to all meet up and ensure alignment."

Because of their fast and comprehensive audit of the rails and

the overall inspection and maintenance program, 23 people each earned a Special Act Award, which was a tiered monetary award based on their level of effort/involvement in the audit. They also received a Special Achievement Award certificate signed by Capt. JD Crinklaw, PSNS & IMF commander.

"This highlights that whenever our shipyard is challenged, our teammates rise to the task at hand and meet it head on," Farley said. "The Code 723 internal auditing group was not used to auditing groups outside of Code 700, Lifting and Handling. It was with the help and partnership of the others who joined the team that the group was able to take on the task."

"The group performed well together and met the deadline," she said. "We learned that the processes we are using to get ground defects repaired are working, which in turn means we are not negatively affecting the mission. This is the most important thing! Cranes support so much of what happens here and at our detachments that, without them, we could quickly cause a backlog of work."



OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: Greg Johnson, insulator, Shop 57, Pipe Insulators, helps family members select cardboard cutouts to take home. The cutouts were made on a gasket cutter by Shop 56 employees for 2026 Friends & Family Day visitors. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM: Chad Markham, electrician, Shop 99E, Temporary Services, shows members of his family the remains of a recently dismantled submarine. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

THIS PAGE, ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, right, commander, PSNS & IMF, Capt. William Sumson (incoming commander) and Command Master Chief Shelly Williams pose for a photo during the America 250th Birthday celebration, July 25. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: Members of the Code 760 Bangor Dive Locker play tic-tac-toe with Rowan Myles, 5. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

THIS PAGE, MIDDLE LEFT: Nicholas Gourley, marine machinist mechanic, Shop 38, Marine Machinists, gives family and friends a tour of Building 431. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: Visitors cross the brow to board USS Helena (SSN 725). (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

To see more pictures, visit the Event Photography Library at NAVSEA_PSNISIMF_1160 on SharePoint.



2026 Friends & Family Day IN PICTURES

More than 6,000 participants take part in daylong event

2026 FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY, BY THE NUMBERS

10,041: Registered visitors	1,000: Hotdogs consumed	3: Birthday cakes served
6,292: Event participants	21: Buildings toured	2: Navy vessels toured
3,000: Hamburgers served	4: Number of food trucks	2: Navy goat participants

Code 1101.1 employee honored for her 'exceptional leadership'

PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Emily Knutson, employee support and outreach branch head, Code 1101.1, Strategic Workforce Partnerships, has been awarded the Civilian Service Achievement Medal for her work on a multi-year initiative at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

Knutson received the medal July 13, during an award ceremony in the Code 100 Conference Room, for her “exceptional leadership and tenacity in securing special wage and salary rates for critical workforce sectors” within the command, according to a citation signed by Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, PSNS & IMF.

The CSAM is the fifth-highest Navy civilian award. It recognizes contributions equivalent in scope to those recognized for service members by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

“Through meticulous data analysis and tireless advocacy, [Knutson] successfully coordinated with agency-level leaders across the Department of the Navy and the Department of War to achieve final approval from the Office of Personnel Management,” according to the citation. “Her efforts



AT LEFT: Chris Byron, PSNS & IMF chief of staff, presents Emily Knutson, employee support and outreach branch head, Code 1101.1, Strategic Workforce Partnerships, with the Civilian Service Achievement Medal, July 13.

(U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

directly combated severe compensation disparities, impacting [more than] 8,000 employees by significantly reducing attrition and improving recruitment among the federal wage system, professional engineer and contract specialist workforces.”

Knutson’s efforts also helped bolster command readiness by ensuring the

shipyard maintained the technical expertise required to execute vital fleet maintenance, according to the citation.

“Her exceptional professionalism, personal initiative and unwavering devotion to duty reflected great credit upon herself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service,” according to the citation.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

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Change of Command Ceremony

CAPTAIN JD CRINKLAW

CAPTAIN WILLIAM SUMSION

PSNS & IMF

PUGET SOUND NAVAL SHIPYARD & INTERMEDIATE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

AUGUST 14, 2026



ABOVE: Capt. JD Crinklaw, commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility, presents Lt. Cmdr. Masis Torosyan with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal July 1, during an award ceremony in the Code 100 Conference Room in Building 850. Torosyan received the award for his meritorious service while serving as a shipyard docking officer at PSNS & IMF, according to the citation. Torosyan quickening took charge of the scene June 19, when a caisson began rapidly taking on water. "Displaying exceptional damage control acumen, he directed emergency dewatering efforts, coordinated the rapid deployment of equipment and personnel and oversaw the restoration of buoyancy and stability" of the caisson, according to the citation. "His decisive leadership under pressure prevented a catastrophic loss, averted an environmental disaster and preserved the command's operational repair capabilities," according to the citation. (U.S. Navy photo by Scott Hansen)

'AI' from page 3

from localized workarounds (like offline spreadsheets) and ensuring consistent, accurate data entry into the unified platform. Only then will the AI have the right baseline to make accurate predictions.

"We want it to reach a level where it provides complete, accurate, real-time feedback across the entire supply chain, allowing management and mechanics to proactively mitigate risks rather than reacting to them after they occur," she said. "As it matures, it will assist higher-level Navy decision-makers, engineers conducting cross-class analysis, and the broader network of over 100 suppliers in the submarine and surface ship industrial base."

Crinklaw encouraged all shipyard personnel to actively engage with these tools as they become available throughout all shops and codes.

"Your use and your feedback are what will drive their continued development and improvement," Crinklaw said. "They are built to provide real value to the people doing

the work, and you are the key to unlocking their full potential. Additionally, specific individuals will be asked to participate directly in the development phases of some of these tools."

"This is a meaningful opportunity to directly shape the direction of the yard, and I strongly encourage your engagement with the development teams when that opportunity arises," he continued. "The changes we are making now represent a genuine investment in this command; one that will pay dividends for years to come."

Even though Foundry will continue to improve over time, it is already a valuable tool for the workforce now. Haas said it currently produces automated schedule planning workflows, rapid material review assessments, and unified data foundations that contribute to better decision making.

Command employees interested in learning more about current AI tools available should visit flankspeed.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/FoundryCollaboration/SitePages/PSNS-Page.aspx. See "News You Can Use" for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 5**
- **Blood Drive:** The monthly Blood Drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Aug. 5, in Building 850A.



- **Change of Command:** PSNS & IMF will conduct a Change of Command ceremony at 10 a.m. Aug. 14.

- Aug. 29**
- **Marine Reserve Birthday:** The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve will celebrate its birthday Aug. 29.

- Sept. 7**
- **Labor Day:** The annual Labor Day federal holiday is Sept. 7.



- **Shipyard Anniversary:** PSNS & IMF will celebrate its 135th anniversary Sept. 16 (1891).

Use of the camera feature on your personal cell phone in any capacity, including QR Code scanning, FaceTime, Google Chat or any video conferencing apps, is strictly prohibited in any PSNS & IMF space. See 'News You Can Use' for more information.

1st WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
August 5, 2026

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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Ashtyn Wargo
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Shawn Duffy
Douglas Willis

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Thomas Hickerson
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AROUND THE YARD

NEW BARGE ARRIVES AT PIER C ON NAVAL BASE KITSAP • (U.S. Navy photos by Wendy Hallmark)



TOP: A team of line handlers with Code 740, Riggers, works to moor newly arrived Yard Repair Berthing and Messing barge 61 at Pier C on Naval Base Kitsap, July 20. It's the first new berthing barge to arrive at NBK since 2000.

ABOVE LEFT: Line handlers Samuel Machen (left) and Chris Davis, both Code 740, Riggers, use docking line to secure YRBM 61 to the dock after the new berthing barge's arrival at Pier C on Naval Base Kitsap, July 20.

ABOVE RIGHT: Barge YRBM 61 arrives at Naval Base Kitsap under tugboat escort, July 20, before being moored at Pier C. It's the first new Yard Repair Berthing and Messing barge to be delivered to the base in the past 26 years.