

SALUTE



PSNS & IMF

A CHANGE OF COMMAND

Capt. William Sumsion
becomes 53rd shipyard
commander • PAGES 6-7



In this issue:



Shipfitter earns award for technical excellence



Employees reflect on the meaning of Labor Day



Capt. William Sumsion takes reins of command

On the cover:

Capt. William Sumsion, commander, PSNS & IMF, addresses Sailors, civilian employees and visiting dignitaries Aug. 14, during a change of command ceremony in historic Building 460.

(U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

Team PSNS & IMF,

Let me begin by saying it's an honor to serve as your 53rd shipyard commander. My family and I are so happy and excited to be part of this hardworking Navy community, and we're grateful for your support. I will be relying on your experience and expertise as I dive into the work of supporting you and our vital mission of maintaining, modernizing and retiring our Navy's fleet.

On behalf of the Navy and our Nation, I appreciate your individual efforts. You are essential to our nation's security. As Vice Adm. Downey alluded to during his recent Change of Command address, the tempo and complexity of our current naval operations make the need for our maintenance mission here at PSNS & IMF an even greater priority. To be sure, our Sailors at sea are carrying out both offensive and defensive strikes in effort to maintain maritime dominance. So, we as a shipyard must be ready to do our part as well. Our Navy and our nation are counting on us in our collective national defense. It starts here in Bremerton.

In the coming months, we have a busy schedule ahead us, as we continue to perform critical work for our Navy here in Bremerton and Bangor, across the water at Everett, and in Japan and San Diego. From carrier availabilities and submarine refits to destroyer maintenance and inactive ship disposal, we will be working around the world keeping the fleet fit to fight. Together, we are committed to delivering technical excellence and skilled workmanship to our customers in the fleet. It takes all of us to make that happen. The work we do here, the successes we celebrate and the failures we learn from are done together as one team.

Along with our day-to-day mission, we as a command continue to look ahead to the shipyard of the future. In the coming days, we will be cutting the ribbon on the seismic retrofit of Dry Dock 4, while continuing to push forward with preparations for our multi-mission dry dock. The strength of the Navy has always been its people, and I'm excited to see all that we can accomplish together — as a team — as we build toward that better future.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank former commander Capt. JD Crinklaw and our incredible command team for their unwavering support these past few weeks. I'm forever grateful to you all for helping make this transition a smooth ride for me as an individual and as your commander.

I know there are great things in store for us as a command in the years to come, and I look forward to sharing in those successes and lessons learned with you as a team.

Thank you again for all you do in support of our Navy and our nation.

We are TEAM PUGET.

Captain William Sumsion,
Commander, PSNS & IMF

Civilian Service Commendation Medal

Shipfitter honored for his 'technical excellence and innovation'

PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Bryan Lewis, shipfitter mechanic, Shop 11, Shipfitters, has been awarded the Civilian Service Commendation Medal for independently designing and 3D-printing a custom fixture fit up tool for use on X98 and X99 hulls in support of Reactor Compartment Disposal Package Projects at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility.

Lewis received the medal July 24, during an award ceremony in the Code 350 Conference Room, for "consistently setting the standard for technical excellence and innovation as a structural metal expert," according to a citation signed by Jason Dirstine, deputy production resources officer, Code 901, Production Department.

The Navy CSCM is the fourth-highest Navy civilian award. It recognizes civilian employees who perform well above their expected pay grade or specialty, equivalent to the level of the military's Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

"[Lewis'] revolutionary design replaced cumbersome manual layout tools, enhancing precision and completely transforming the installation process," according to the citation. "His technical expertise reduced installation



AT LEFT: Capt. Anthony Oxendine, deputy commander, PSNS & IMF, presents Bryan Lewis, shipfitter mechanic, Shop 11, Shipfitters, with the Navy CSCM award, July 24.

(U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

timelines by half, yielding a savings of 56 man-days per set of fixtures, for a projected total of 224 man-days saved across four planned sets of fixtures per docking, conserving over \$116,480 in direct labor costs."

Lewis' new fit-up tool also proved itself to be more accurate than the old manual tools, according to the citation.

"His tool eliminated scribing inaccuracies, preventing up to 320 total man-days of

worst-case rework across four sets of fixtures, avoiding an estimated \$166,400 in potential corrective costs and significantly reducing hazardous rigging lifts," according to the citation.

"Lewis' unwavering commitment to his craft, collaborative spirit, and exceptional professionalism reflect great credit upon himself, Shop 11 and the Department of War," according to the citation.

Help SHAPE THE FUTURE of Japan TDYs



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

— Have you gone TDY to Japan, considered it, or chosen not to volunteer?



Take a short, anonymous survey to help us understand what motivates TDY participation.
See News You Can Use for a link to the survey.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Command employees reflect on the vital work they do in support of the Navy fleet



**Jason Zink, Electrician,
Shop 99, Temporary Services**

"Labor Day is vital because it recognizes the hard-working Americans who keep this country moving. It honors the men and women who wake up early, work the weekends, and do whatever it takes to support their families and keep our nation running."

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility has been integral to the region, the State of Washington and the national defense ever since its founding in 1891. PSNS & IMF employees arrive at work each day ready to maintain, modernize and retire the Navy's fleet.

This Labor Day, as we pause to celebrate hardworking Americans all across this country, command leadership would like to honor the more than 12,000 employees here in Bremerton — along with its workforce members across three detachments in San Diego, Everett,



**Casey Woods, Welder Apprentice,
Shop 26, Welders**

"Labor day is an important holiday to celebrate because it is a reflection of how hard we work, and it is nice to feel recognized. My favorite part of my job is performing critical work on the subs—knowing that this hands-on work plays a real part in a much bigger mission."

Washington and Yokosuka, Japan — who support our nation's Navy as it defends our freedom and our way of life.

While the work at PSNS & IMF has remained a constant for the past 135 years, its methodology has evolved in order to meet the ever-emerging needs of our Navy. Meanwhile, the commitment and tenacity of the command workforce remains steadfast. So, as we pause to honor our workforce, command leadership would like to acknowledge all who contribute to our mission at the shipyard and beyond. Your hard work and commitment help keep the Navy's fleet strong.

In honor of Labor Day, *Salute* asked command employees to reflect on the work they do in support of the Navy fleet:

**Julie Brown, Supervisory Human Resources Specialist,
USPACFLT Human Resources Office Northwest**

"I think it is important to know and understand how we got to where we are as a society. To remember that a lot of the employment rights we take for granted weren't always here. Generations of hard-working Americans have paved the way for us through their sacrifices."



**Roman Castro, Marine Machinery Mechanic,
Shop 38, Marine Machinist**

"I think Labor Day is an important holiday to celebrate because it's to recognize and appreciate the people whose work and sacrifices keep the country running, and safe. The best part about my job is being on the deck plates supporting the mission and collaborating with peers."



**Mark Baxter, Shipfitter,
Shop 11, Shipfitters**

"[Labor Day] recognizes the sacrifices and hard work performed by people who keep our nation moving forward. [I like] knowing that the work we do supports the people who protect our country and the rights we've been given."



**Vincent Conklin, Non-Destructive Testing Inspector,
Code 135.2, Non-Destructive Testing, Operations**

"Labor Day is more than just a day off. It's a big 'thank you' to everyone who works hard to keep our country running, and a reminder that every worker deserves fair pay, safe jobs, and time to rest."

A CHANGE OF COMMAND

Capt. William Sumsion takes the reins as the shipyard's 53rd commander

By Max Maxfield
PSNS & IMF Public Affairs

Capt. William Sumsion became the 53rd commander of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility during a change of command ceremony Aug. 14, at the shipyard in Bremerton, Washington. Sumsion relieved outgoing commander Capt. JD Crinklaw, who led PSNS & IMF and its more than 15,000 employees and Sailors since May 2023. Shipyard employees and invited guests from the community attended the event, held in the shipyard's historic Building 460.

In his final remarks, Crinklaw said it was an honor of a lifetime to have been given the opportunity to lead the historic command, which is built on a proud tradition of excellence.

"When I assumed command of this shipyard, I well understood the immense weight of our mission: to maintain, modernize, and retire our Navy's fleet, ensuring the Pacific Fleet remains lethal, agile, and ready to fight and win in an increasingly contested maritime environment," Crinklaw said. "What I could not have fully predicted—and what our Navy's history will record with deep respect—is the extraordinary crucible through which this waterfront would forge its reputation over this tour.

Crinklaw led the shipyard through more than five million resource days of maintenance, modernization, and retirement work on ballistic missile submarines, attack submarines, guided missile submarines, as well as various classes of surface combatant ships, including six aircraft carriers assigned throughout the Pacific Fleet area of operations.

Crinklaw will assume the duties of acting Deputy Commander Portfolio Acquisition Executive Industrial Operations-Shipyard Operations.

In his remarks, Crinklaw thanked every member of the command for their mission focus, dedication and ability to work through any challenge they faced.

"We did not merely execute routine maintenance schedules; we navigated a convergence of infrastructural, operational, economic, and human challenges unlike any in modern shipyard memory," Crinklaw said. "But at every turn, this team of professionals did what it has done for over a century: you rose to the occasion, you adapted, and you delivered."

See 'COMMAND' on page 10



ABOVE: Vice Adm. James Downey, back row right, who was recently commander of both Naval Sea Systems Command and Portfolio Acquisition Executive Industrial Operations, and Rear Adm. Scott Brown, back row left, deputy commander, Industrial Operations, Naval Sea Systems Command, preside over the Change of Command ceremony Aug. 14 at PSNS & IMF, as Capt. William Sumsion, right, takes the reins of command from Capt. JD Crinklaw. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

BOTTOM LEFT: PSNS & IMF Change of Command participants salute during the traditional Presentation of the Colors, Aug. 14. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)

BOTTOM RIGHT: Hundreds of Sailors and civilian workforce members watch as Capt. William Sumsion takes the reins of command from Capt. JD Crinklaw. (U.S. Navy photo by Jeb Fach)



National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September 2026

Suicide Loss Remembrance Walk

Sept. 15, 11 a.m. - Noon
State Street Gate

Suicide Loss Support Group

Sept. 24, 11 a.m. - Noon
Building 850A,
Room 120

**No Judgment.
Just Help.**



988lifeline.org

988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

 Call

Text

 Chat Deaf/HoH

988

**WHOLE-
PERSON
CARE**

911

 Medical
Emergency Fire

 Crime in Progress

 Life-Threatening Situations

Contact the Command Counseling Program at 360-340-2745.



ABOVE: Capt. Willam Sumsion, commander, PSNS & IMF, salutes as he's piped ashore Aug. 14, following a change of command ceremony at PSNS & IMF in Bremerton. Sumsion became the shipyard's 53rd commanding officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Wendy Hallmark)

'COMMAND' from page 6

"After navigating seismic efforts, operational demands surged to historic highs, he said. "We faced the relentless pressure of managing four—and at peak times, five—simultaneous aircraft carrier maintenance period stackups also managing multiple submarine availabilities, defueling, and recycling. Coordinating thousands of mechanics, balancing competing priorities across multiple nuclear-powered capital ships, and executing under unforgiving deployment timelines is a staggering industrial high-wire act. It was overwhelming, but you executed it with grit and precision, ensuring our vessels returned to the tip of the spear."

Crinklaw concluded his remarks by thanking members of the command for serving the Navy and the nation well during his tenure.

"To the men and women of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility: as I prepare to pass the watch, I leave you with my deepest respect and enduring gratitude," he said. "Never forget that every weld you make, every valve you overhaul, and every ship you return to the fleet carries the safety of American Sailors and the security of our nation with it. Thank you for your tireless dedication, your unmatched craftsmanship, and the profound privilege of serving as your commanding officer."

Sumsion joined the U.S. Navy while attending Eastern Washington University in

2001. After commissioning and teaching at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command, he completed his graduate education at the Naval Postgraduate School. He subsequently qualified as a Diving Officer. He later earned his Engineering Duty Officer Submarine Dolphins aboard USS Louisiana (SSBN 743).

Sumsion has served at a variety of assignments and locations worldwide, including spending 13 months in Afghanistan as an Individual Augmentee, attached to various U.S. Army units. Most recently, he filled in as Commander of Industrial Operations, Norfolk Naval Shipyard from his role at Naval Sea Systems Command (SEA 04).

In his remarks Sumsion thanked Rear. Adm. Scott Brown, deputy commander, Portfolio Acquisition Executive Industrial Operations –Shipyard Operations, for the opportunity to lead the command, as well as everyone who helped him reach this milestone in his career.

"Several mentors and leaders have been guiding me for years, with many of them on the leadership wall," Sumsion said. "Rear Adm. Hak (Kavon Hakimzadeh), Rear Adm. (Diana) Wolfson, Rear Adm. (Daniel) Ettlich, Rear Adm. Brown, Capt. (Jip) Mosman, Capt. (Michael) Oberdorf and Capt. (Brian) McLain. As I'm now here in this role, I am grateful for your guidance and support."

Vice Adm. James P. Downey, who until recently was the commander of both Naval Sea Systems Command and Portfolio Acquisition Executive Industrial Operations, presided over the ceremony.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 29

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

Sept. 1-30

- **Suicide Awareness:** The annual Suicide Awareness Prevention Month begins Sept. 1.

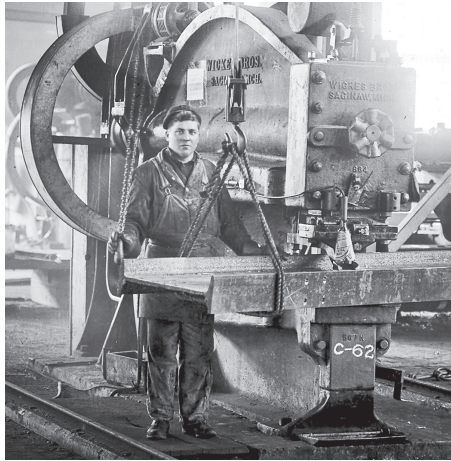
Sept. 7

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

Sept. 11

- **Patriot Day:** The annual Sept. 11, 2001 anniversary.

Sept. 16



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

Oct. 13



- **Navy Birthday:** The U.S. Navy will celebrate its 251st birthday Oct. 13.



REMINDER:

PED Policy and QR Codes

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
Sept. 2, 2026
9AM - 3PM, BLDG. 850A, RM 160

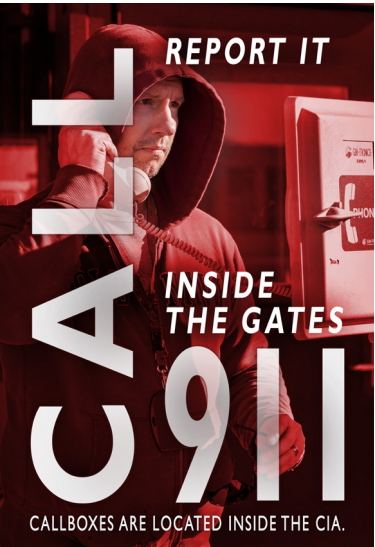
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DONATE BLOOD**

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

**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 360-476-7015, or visit Building 435, 3rd floor, Room 338, or fax your donation form to 360-476-8723.

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Code 105.6 Shelly Germaine	Code 1102 Robyn Rogers	Shop 26 Thomas Finn	Carlton Gerren Victoria
Code 109 Shawn Fellows	Code 1166 Carie Hagins	Shop 31 Thomas Hickerson	Montgomery
Code 2305.24 Jennifer Garrett	Code 2330 Ashtyn Wargo	Shop 38 MaryJane Gordon	Shop 57 Aunoa Iokia
Code 244.1 Shawna Pappas	Shop 06 Shawn Duffy	Shop 51 Catherine Derry	Shop 64 Jesse Peirce
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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEXT DEOCS SURVEY

WHAT IS THE DEOCS?

The Defense Organizational Climate Survey, commonly referred to as the DEOCS, is a tool that provides commanders and Department of Defense leaders with important feedback about the current climate within their organization.

The DEOCS focuses primarily on areas such as military equal opportunity, civilian Equal Employment Opportunity, leadership, organizational effectiveness, perceptions of discrimination and sexual harassment, and sexual assault prevention and response.

IS THE DEOCS ANONYMOUS?

YES! While command leadership and survey administrators will be able to review survey responses, they DO NOT have the ability to see who has completed the survey. All answers are protected and confidential.

NOTE: Under state and federal law, certain circumstances may require survey officials at a higher level to break confidentiality. For example, if a participant indicates a direct threat to harm themselves or others within their response, confidentiality will be breached.

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION MATTERS

DEOCS gives participants the ability to share about their experience within the organization. Gaining insight into respondents' "shared perceptions" helps to identify and address command-wide trends. Support program improvement and enhanced command readiness is made possible with DEOCS findings.

HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY

Those with computer access will receive an email with a link to the survey. Participants will then be prompted to enter their DOD ID number, which can be found on the back of their Common Access Card (CAC). Participants also have the option to take the survey from the comfort of their home, using the provided URL or QR code. Additionally, participants have the option to skip ANY questions they do not wish to answer.

NOTE: Per the PSNS & IMF PED instruction, the survey QR code may only be used OUTSIDE of the CIA.

2HR TIME OFF AWARD!

Employees in the department/ trade with the highest participation win a 2-hour time off award!

**2026 SURVEY
WILL BE HELD
SEPT. 8-25.**

