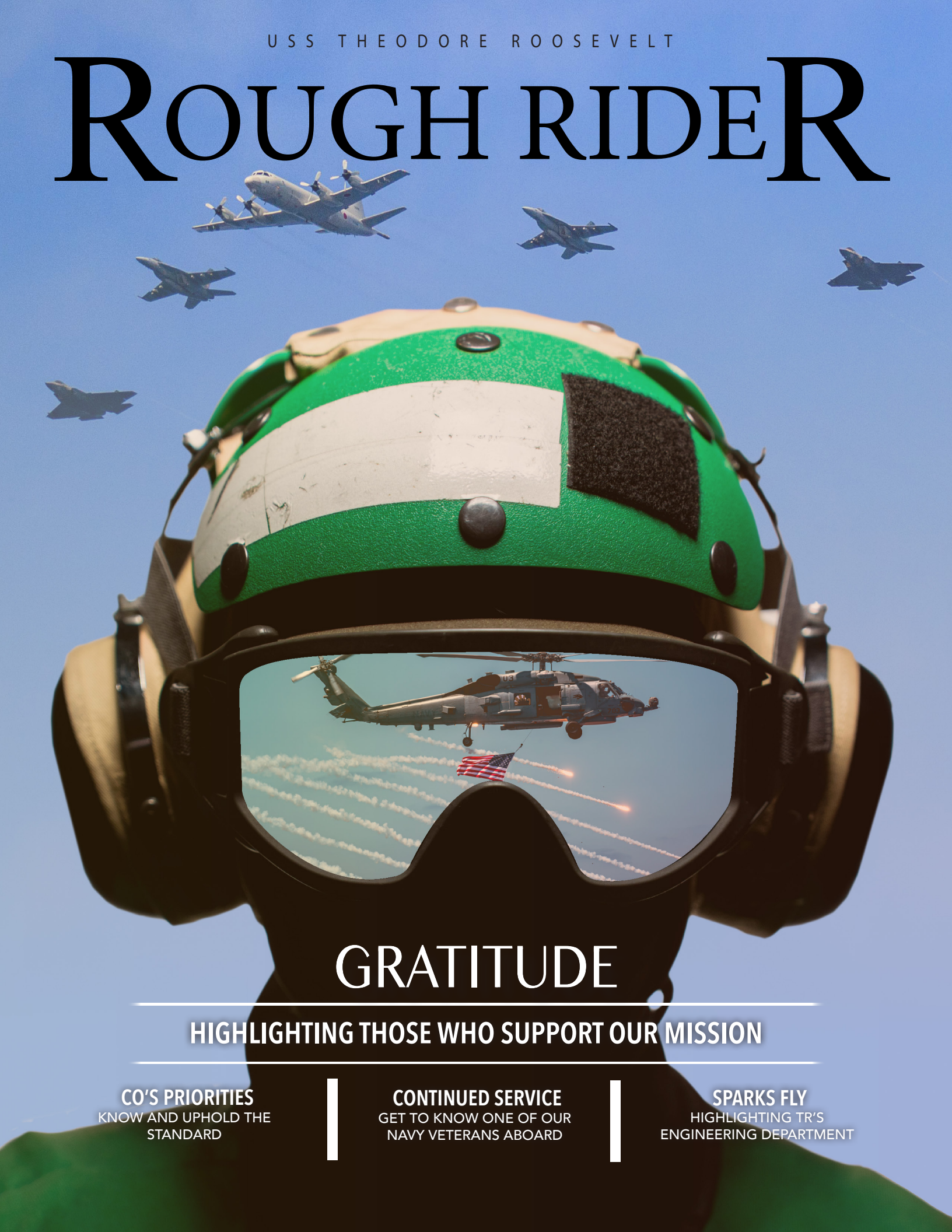
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

ROUGH RIDER



GRATITUDE

HIGHLIGHTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

CO'S PRIORITIES
KNOW AND UPHOLD THE STANDARD

CONTINUED SERVICE
GET TO KNOW ONE OF OUR NAVY VETERANS ABOARD

SPARKS FLY
HIGHLIGHTING TR'S ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

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ON THE COVER: USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT PHOTO ILLUSTRATION MADE FOR THE ROUGH RIDER MAGAZINE COVER. (U.S. NAVY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MC3 MADDIX ALMEYDA)

PLAN OF THE MONTH

Your Leadership Tool for Communicating Internally

NOVEMBER 2026

IMPORTANT DATES:

NOV. 3- U.S. GENERAL ELECTION

NOV. 10- MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

NOV. 11- VETERANS DAY

NOV. 26- THANKSGIVING DAY

MONTH-LONG OBSERVANCES: NATIONAL MILITARY AND MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH

DEADLINES:

NOV. 6-13 - FY27 Q1 NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE (NSW) FLEET SCREENING WINDOW

NOV. 15- E6 ACTIVE-DUTY & TAR EVALUATION CYCLE

NOV. 30 - PMK-EE COMPLETION DEADLINE FOR UPCOMING E-7 ADVANCEMENT EXAM

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



USNCC ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE

FULLY ONLINE AND ASYNCHRONOUS PROGRAM OFFERED THROUGH THE U.S. NAVAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO IMPROVE LEADERSIP AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WHILE EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT.

MONEY MATTERS

INCREASED HAZARD PAY

THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR (DOW) HAS DOUBLED HOSTILE FIRE PAY (HFP) FROM $225 TO $450 AND INCREASED IMMINENT DANGER PAY (IDP) FROM $225 TO $275.



FIT TO FIGHT



RELIGIOUS SERVICES

COMMAND RELIGIOUS MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT OFFERS WEEKLY CATHOLIC, JEWISH, LDS, CONTEMPORARY & TRADITIONAL PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICES.

RESOURCES

FREE CARE PACKAGES

REQUEST FREE CARE PACKAGES, TOILETRIES, SNACKS AND GAMING MATERIALS DIRECTLY TO YOUR FPO/APO ADRESS THROUGH THE USO. FILL OUT THE REQUEST FORM ON WWW.USO.ORG/PROGRAMS/USO-CARE-PACKAGE-PROGRAM.



WARFIGHTING READINESS



TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS:
WE MUST EXCEED THE STANDARD (DC, 3M, WATCHSTANDING)

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS:
KNOW YOUR ROLE AND HOW THIS CONTRIBUTES TO THE FIGHT

ACCOUNTABILITY:
LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIP AND PERSONNEL READINESS

NAVY CORE VALUES



HONOR:
SERVE WITH HONOR
IN YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS –
BE A DEPENDABLE TEAMMATE

COURAGE:
HAVE THE COURAGE TO SPEAK UP
WHEN SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT

COMMITMENT:
WE ARE COMMITTED
TO THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION
AND TO EACH OTHER

SAILOR RESILIENCY



HABITABILITY:
TAKE CARE OF YOUR LIVING SPACES
AND ELEVATE ISSUES
WHEN YOU NEED SUPPORT

MENTAL HEALTH:
USE THE SHIP'S RESOURCES
TO MAINTAIN YOUR PERSONAL WELLNESS

FITNESS:
ENSURE YOU'RE FIT TO FIGHT –
WORK OUT IN THE GYM
OR TAKE A GROUP PT CLASS

SIMPLE AS ABC'S

Story by MC3 Maddix Almeyda

On an aircraft carrier flight deck, there is little room for error. Aircraft launch and recover just feet away from Sailors working in a fast-paced, high-risk environment where training, trust and teamwork are essential. Lt. Cmdr. Alcides Sanchez knows that environment from both sides, as an enlisted Sailor, and now as a commissioned officer aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Sanchez joined the Navy 27 years ago after talking with a friend who served as an Aviation Electronics Technician. At the time, Sanchez was working as a janitor and supporting a growing family. He saw the Navy as an opportunity to build a more stable future.

"I was working as a janitor at the time before I came to do all this stuff," said Sanchez. "I already had a fiancé and a daughter, so I had to make sure I'd figure that out."

He enlisted as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) and advanced quickly, making first class petty officer in five years. For Sanchez, success came from a straightforward approach: focus on the job, keep things simple and trust the process.

"I was only five and a half years in and I wasn't sure if my name was going to get called or not, just because of how junior I was" Sanchez said as he described finding out about his advancement to Petty Officer First Class. "I was in the lounge by myself and my name got called out. My entire work center just rushed in on me and it was great."

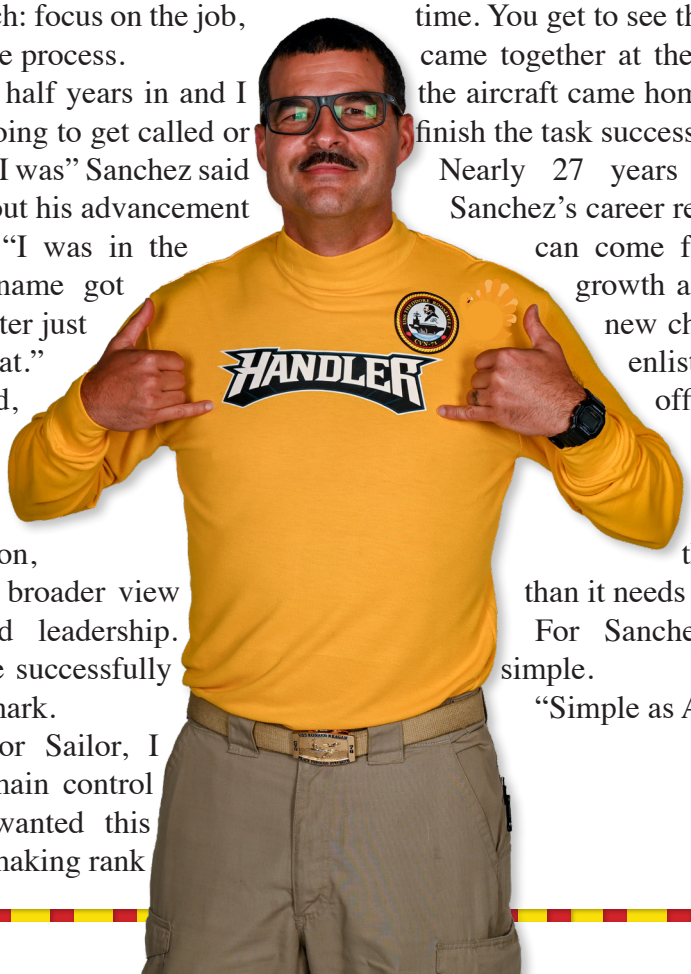
As his career progressed, Sanchez began looking beyond his own work center and toward greater responsibility. He began pursuing a commission, a role that would give him a broader view of shipboard operations and leadership. His decision paid off when he successfully commissioned at his 15-year mark.

"When I was a junior Sailor, I remember walking past the main control office and thinking that I wanted this office," says Sanchez. "I was making rank pretty quickly. I found the job very easy. I enjoyed what I did. When I made Chief, and eventually Senior Chief, I was deciding whether or not I wanted to go the Master Chief route or the officer route for the second part of my career."

Becoming a commissioned officer, or 'mustang,' allowed Sanchez to build on his enlisted experience while taking on a wider role in the ship's mission. He saw how the work of individual Sailors connected to the efforts of entire departments and the embarked air wing.

One of his most memorable experiences came while serving aboard USS Abraham Lincoln, where he held his first handler position before reporting to the Roosevelt. The experience reinforced the importance of coordination between the air wing and the ship's Air Department, especially during combat operations.

"It was very rewarding to see the team in action, both the air wing and the Air Department," said Sanchez. "To see the support from the ship, to come and make sure that we were taken care of during that time. You get to see the outcome, how everybody came together at the end. Nobody got hurt, all the aircraft came home safe and we were able to finish the task successfully."



Nearly 27 years after joining the Navy, Sanchez's career reflects the opportunities that can come from hard work, continued growth and a willingness to take on new challenges. His journey from enlisted Sailor to commissioned officer has also shaped the way he approaches leadership: keep the mission clear, trust the team and avoid making the job more complicated than it needs to be.

For Sanchez, the principle remains simple.

"Simple as ABCs."

DEPARTMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT



ENGINEERING

BY MCSN DEVIN KRAEMER



"....WE ALWAYS NEED TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING"

-DCFN JAMES GOINES

Keeping an aircraft carrier operational takes more than just Airmen. Onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), the Engineering Department maintains the systems that support daily operations to carry out the mission across the globe.

Sailors with engineering rates, or "Snipes," maintain systems across the entire ship. Their work ranges from heavy maintenance to rapid response during emergencies. Whether preventing a problem or working to fix one, their responsibilities help keep the ship ready for all operations.

Electrical power, ventilation, refrigeration and water distribution all play a role in keeping the ship functional. When equipment stops working as it should, Engineering personnel identify the problem and make repairs to the system before returning it to service.

"We have rovers out making sure everything in the engineering plant is all good," said Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Kaelyn Aceret. "So, whenever someone calls about, let's say, flooding or a fire, we immediately go to investigate and figure out what's going on."

Preventing those problems in the first place is just as important. Daily maintenance watches ensure things like pressure levels and electrical connection are running at an optimal level to ensure the safety of all aboard Theodore Roosevelt. Watches can be long and meticulous, for a good reason, and remain crucial to the mission every day.

"We have a lot of high priority equipment on the ship," said Electrician's Mate 1st Class D'Angelo Burford. "We ensure those are taken care of, worked on, corrected and maintained properly."

Not every problem can be prevented. When unforeseen casualties strike, those who work daily to prevent system failures must spring into action to minimize damaging results and troubleshoot the proper solution as quickly as possible. Damage control plays a large part in the engineering department to keep any ship running as smoothly as it should.

Engineering Sailors maintain firefighting equipment to respond to emergency casualties such as fire and flooding. Damage Controlman Fireman James Goines, who works with Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) systems and prepares for emergencies as a member of the ship's flying squad, says he's always prepared for what the day might bring.

"My day-to-day is pretty cool. I work on a lot of AFFF systems, so it's a lot of maintenance and then I get ready for drills," said Goines. "Since I'm part of the flying squad, we always need to be ready for anything that needs our attention."

From routine inspections to emergency response, the Engineering Department helps keep Theodore Roosevelt operating effectively and ready to fight. The systems its Sailors maintain support the crew's daily lives and the carrier's ability to carry out its missions at sea.

















JAPAN






SHINJUKU
新宿
東日本会社線
1230円区間
小児610円
発売当日限り有効
下車前途無効
2781 21:23

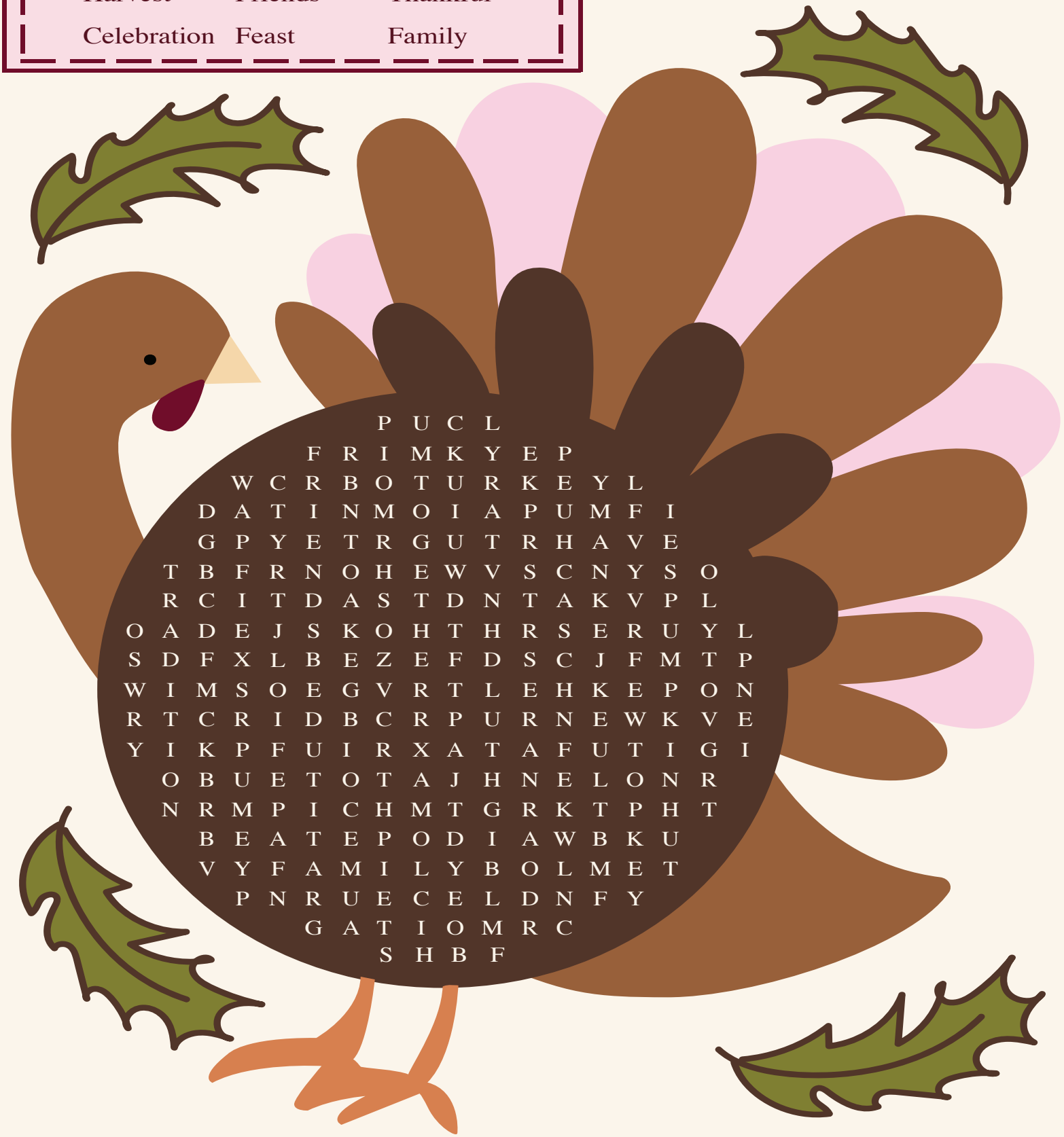




Word Bank:

Tradition	Gratitude	Together
Turkey	Pie	Pumpkin
Harvest	Friends	Thankful
Celebration	Feast	Family

Moose tracks
Your monthly trot through humor AND entertainment



P U C L
F R I M K Y E P
W C R B O T U R K E Y L
D A T I N M O I A P U M F I
G P Y E T R G U T R H A V E
T B F R N O H E W V S C N Y S O
R C I T D A S T D N T A K V P L
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V Y F A M I L Y B O L M E T
P N R U E C E L D N F Y
G A T I O M R C
S H B F

How many turkeys can you spot throughout the magazine?
Find the answer at S:_ALLHANDS\MEDIA\MOOSETRACKS

CONTINUING SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTING ONE OF OUR VETERANS ABOARD

STORY BY MCSA KELLIE GIVEN



For Stephen Joseph Kemery II, supporting the fleet involves more than servicing shipboard printers. It means staying connected to the Sailors operating the equipment, sharing lessons learned across 12 years in uniform, and helping a new generation navigate the rigors of life at sea.

Kemery, a Navy veteran who transitioned to civilian life after serving as a petty officer second class, currently works as a contractor, maintaining multifunction printing systems aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Through technical troubleshooting and daily deckplate interactions, he bridges technical support with mentorship for Sailors across the ship.

Kemery began his naval career as an aviation support equipment technician, serving nine years before cross-rating to mineman. His duty stations included the amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5), Naval Air Station Sigonella in Sicily and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he served as a detention guard. That diverse operational background gave him experience with long deployments, shipboard routines and personal resilience.

“My time in the Navy definitely taught me how to be flexible,” said Kemery. “You learn how to embrace situations that can’t change, accept them and move on to the next task at hand. You only control what you can control.”

That mindset guided his return to the fleet in 2021, when he accepted a position as a subcontractor for Xerox. The role offered him an opportunity to bring his technical expertise back to an operational warship.

Aboard Theodore Roosevelt, Kemery maintains printing networks, troubleshoots hardware failures, replenishes supplies and coordinates repair logistics.

Because his work takes him into spaces across the carrier, he interacts with Sailors of every rank and rate. Kemery



often provides an approachable sounding board for junior Sailors navigating personal or professional hurdles.

"I remember there were times when I was a junior Sailor and didn't want to go talk to a Chief so I think it's nice to be able to show some of the junior guys that people genuinely care," Kemery said.

When Sailors encounter difficulties, Kemery encourages them to speak candidly and helps them identify the appropriate leaders within their chain of command to resolve issues.

While shipboard communication and quality-of-life resources have evolved since his time in service, replacing long waits at shipboard phone banks with expanded digital connectivity and enhanced Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs, Kemery notes that the core experience of serving at sea remains the same.

"They're the same Sailors that just came into the Navy," Kemery said. "They're just trying to navigate it."

Kemery also takes pride in seeing former shipmates advance into senior enlisted leadership roles.

"The memories that you make on this deployment will last you a lifetime," Kemery said. "The people that you work with and the friendships you build can remain meaningful long after the deployment ends."

For Kemery, serving the Navy from a civilian role is an extension of that shared commitment. Whether working to address a printing casualty or mentoring a deck seaman, Kemery remains an integral part of the collective effort keeping Theodore Roosevelt and its crew mission-ready.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION OF STEPHEN KEMERY II AS COPY BOSS ABOARD TR, OCT. 2026, LEFT, AND AS AVIATION SUPPORT EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS IN ITALY, AUG. 2009, RIGHT.

PHOTOS OF



U.S. Navy Sailors, unload a MK 38 machine gun system. *Photo by MC2 Aaron Haro Gonzalez.*



An F-35C Lightning II, assigned to Strike Fighter Squadr
Haro Gonzalez.



U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Gregory Williams steers the Anzac-class frigate HMAS Stuart (FFH 153) during a passenger exchange. *Photo by MC3 Alexia Mezick.*



U.S. Navy Hull Technician Fireman Cesar Martinezn par
Photo by MC3 Cesar Nungaray.

SMOOTH SEAS NEVER M

THE MONTH



ron (VFA) 25, launches off the flight deck. *Photo by MC2 Aaron*



rticipates in a small arms live fire qualification exercise.



U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate Seaman Katie Castaneda, poses for a photo while standing lookout watch on the fantail. *Photo by MCSA Kellie Given.*



U.S. Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Odalis Carroll, conducts training on an aircraft firefighting hose on the flight deck. *Photo by MC2 Aaron Haro Gonzalez*

ADE A SKILLED SAILOR



HONORING OUR HEROES AT HOME

By MCSN Nathan Austin-Fink

Long workdays, rigorous watch rotations, and extended deployments away from home are common features of life in the military. Behind every deployed service member, however, stands a network of spouses, parents, children, and friends whose quiet resilience anchors the homefront.

Each November, the Department of War observes National Military Family Month, an annual recognition established in 1993 by the Armed Forces YMCA to honor the sacrifices and steadfast contributions of military families.

Aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), currently operating at sea, family support serves as a foundation for crew morale and mission readiness. For Sailors deployed, maintaining connections across thousands of miles helps bridge the gap created by long separations and missed milestones.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Esteban Mercado, assigned to Roosevelt, prioritizes regular communication with his loved ones to help navigate the demands of life underway.

"I call my family whenever I get the chance to check in on my mom and siblings to not lose any bit of that connection to them," said Mercado. "I wouldn't be here without my family. Without them, I never could have come this far."

Through digital messaging, phone calls and care packages, families stay connected through months of separation while managing households, careers and the uncertainty inherent to military operations. For many crew members, the sacrifices made at home serve as their primary source of motivation.

Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Heaven Eboigbe, credited her mother with instilling the discipline and perspective needed to excel aboard a deployed warship.

"'You must be the change you wish to see in the world,' that's what my mom always told me," Eboigbe said. "I know she gave up a lot of what she wanted to give me what I needed, and I can't even process how much I appreciate her for being there for me as much as she was."

While underway operations demand constant focus from the carrier's crew, leadership emphasizes that mission success remains intrinsically tied to family support. Throughout Military Family Appreciation Month, Theodore Roosevelt Sailors continue to acknowledge the indispensable role their families play in supporting them and sustaining the fleet.

2026

KEEN SWORD





SINCE 1986, KEEN SWORD IS A ROUTINE, BIENNIAL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE DESIGNED TO INCREASE READINESS AND INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN THE JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCE (JSDF) AND U.S. MILITARY FORCES.



PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED
U.S., JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, FRANCE,
NEW ZEALAND AND THE PHILIPPINES.


さようなら
Goodbye
カラオケ まねきねこ
渋谷センター街
Get into the Gaming Oasis
GiGO