



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

As we celebrate and commemorate the 232nd birthday of our Navy, I thank all who are serving today, military and civilian; to our families who stand by and support us; and to our fellow sea service, the U.S. Marine Corps. We are a great team, ready today and preparing for tomorrow.

From our humble beginning with six frigates more than 200 years ago, we have become the most dominant and influential naval force ever to sail the world's oceans. We ensure freedom of the seas, project power in support of national interests and support allies and partners around the world. We are at once powerful, yet compassionate when reaching out to others in need. While the tools of our profession; ships, airplanes, and submarines are impressive; they are of little worth without our people who give them value. It is you, every Sailor, Navy civilian and family member serving around the world or here at home, who truly keeps our Fleet on a steady course today, and sets the course for generations to come. Your commitment to service and individual readiness makes us the navy we must be. On duty and off, you are the face of our navy and nation.

Happy birthday, Shipmates. I am proud of who you are and what you do. Thank you for your service and that of your families.

Sincerely,

Gary Roughead
Admiral, U.S. Navy