

Secretary of the Navy Holiday Message to the Fleet, December 2008

The holiday season is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends, and to reflect on the blessings of freedom that you protect. Those deployed overseas and serving far from home are called upon to spend the holidays separated from loved ones, and to focus on the vital missions that defend the liberty we hold dear. This sacrifice is part of your service, and it represents an enduring commitment to duty and country. Your families at home have also sacrificed, and their role in supporting you during times of demanding duties and family separation is critical to your success. Strong and supportive families contribute significantly to the cohesiveness and effectiveness of our navy family.

As you share the spirit of the holiday season with family and loved ones, or with your fellow shipmates and Marines, remember what we are fighting for, and never forget that you are in the thoughts and prayers of the American people at this time of year.

Thank you for your service, and may god bless you and your families.

The Honorable Donald C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy.