**UNITED STATES NAVY BIRTHDAY SPEECH**

tHANK YOU FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY/TONIGHT. I’D LIKE TO BEGIN BY WISHING OUR UNITED STATES NAVY A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

EACH YEAR, AS WE CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY, WE TAKE THE TIME TO reflect on OUR EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY AND CONSIDER HOW IT HAS SHAPED US INTO THE NAVY WE ARE TODAY.

A LOT HAS CHANGED during THE past 239 YEARS. OUR FLEET HAS GROWN FROM TWO VESSELS TO 286 Deployable Battle Force Ships. OUR DIVERSITY IN PEOPLE AND JOBS HAS EXPANDED IMMENSELY AS TECHNOLOGY AND WARFARE continue to evolve, and our emphasis on HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE HAS also increased to a more prominent ROLE.

we are here today/tonight, celebrating the Navy’s birthday -- to honor and celebrate those who have come before us AND THOSE WHO ARE HERE WITH US TODAY. our rich history goes back to THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS DELEGATES who, in 1775, ESTABLISHED THE NAVY DURING THE AMERican revolution.

At a time of complete UPHEAVAL, our purpose was to DISPATCH ARMED VESSELS TO SEARCH FOR SUPPLIERS TO THE BRITISH ARMY. THE first FLEET GREW TO AROUND 50 SHIPS DURING THE WAR AND The navy's squadrons and cruisers SUCCESSFULLY seized enemy supplies and carried correspondence and diplomats to Europe, returning with needed munitions.

Additionally, they took nearly 200 British vessels as prizes, contributing to the demoralization of the enemy, WHICH forcED the British to divert AWAY FROM OUR warships, protecting OUR convoys and trade routes.

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION EMPOWERED CONGRESS TO PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN A NAVY, AND SINCE 1794 OUR SHIPS HAVE BEEN MANNING THE SEAS. OUR NAVY’S PAST IS WOVEN TIGHTLY INTO OUR CURRENT MISSION, AND BOTH WILL CONTINUE TO SHAPE OUR NAVY’S FUTURE.

TODAY, THE VALUE OF HAVING A strong naval power CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED; 70 PERCENT OF THE EARTH’S SURFACE IS COVERED BY WATER, 80 PERCENT OF THE WORLD’S PEOPLE LIVE NEAR THE OCEAN, and 90 PERCENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRAVELS BY THE SEA, WHICH MEANS OUR SAILORS NEED TO BE 100 PERCENT ON WATCH.

NO OTHER BRANCH OF THE MILITARY CONDUCTS MISSIONS ON ALL FRONTS like the navy does. the seas are a lifeline for all nations—they make the world smaller AND BRING US CLOSER TO FRIENDS AND FOES ALIKE.

People sometimes forget that the Navy’S mission is the same whether we are a country at war or at peace. When conflicts are resolved, we don’t pack up and go home until the next need arises … INSTEAD, we REMAIN steadfast to the mission and we never stop working, day or night. so it’s vital we continue to protect u.s. interests, defend our homeland and continue to build trust with other nations. AS WE ALL KNOW, THIS IS NO SMALL FEAT.

the efforts and strains it takes to protect a nation AREN’T JUST FELT BY OUR SAILORS, BUT ALSO BY THEIR FAMILIES. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF THE SPOUSES, CHILDREN, PARENTS AND OTHERS CLOSE TO OUR SAILORS. WE KNOW OUR SUCCESS IS DEPENDENT UPON A SUPPORTIVE, STABLE HOUSEHOLD, AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NAVY ARE ONE OF the CNO’S TOP PRIORITIES.

THE NAVY BOASTS SOME OF THE BRIGhTEST, MOST TALENTED MEN AND WOMEN OUT THERE, AND I THINK THE NAVY’S BIRTHDAY IS NOT ONLY AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR HISTORY, BUT ALSO OUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS. OUR SAILORS ARE HEROES WHILE ON DUTY AND OFF and PERFORM SELFLESS ACTS EVERY DAY. for example, **INSERT ACTIVE DUTY STORY**

and **insert appropriate local hero story. EXAMPlE:** right here in portland, PETTY OFFICER SEAN KRILOFF DONATED BONE MARROW TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A COMPLETE STRANGER. HE WAS MOTIVATED TO DO SO AFTER SEEING HIS GRANDFATHER LOSE HIS BATTLE WITH LYMPHOMA.

inspiring stories like these are what continue to attract like-minded people to JOIN OUR force. over the past year, mORE THAN 47 thousand sailors have joined the navy.

Attracting the Best and the Brightest is necessary for the navy to conduct a 24/7-365 day operation to meet our country’s challenges.

as our chief of naval operations outlined earlier this year, a state of constant readiness is required TO MEET CURRENT DEMANDS, and WARFIGHTING WILL BE OUR NUMBER ONE MISSION. OUR SHIPS ARE MOVING FROM PLATFORMS TO PAYLOADS, AND INFORMATION PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY WILL CONTINUE TO RAPIDLY EVOLVE. WE’LL WORK TOGETHER WITH OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO continue this progress.

and we will continue to hone our warfighting skills. FORTY-SIX PERCENT OF OUR FLEET IS currently UNDERWAY.\*\* EARLIER THIS YEAR WE ANNOUNCED A REPOSITIONING OF THE FLEET, WHICH MEANS THAT BY 2020, SIXTY PERCENT OF OUR WARSHIPS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. AS CHINA CONTINUES TO GROW ITS INFLUENCE, IT’S VITAL TO PROTECT U.S. INTERESTS AND BUILD THAT RELATIONSHIP, ENSURING FUTURE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY.

WE NEED TO BUILD A RELEVANT AND CAPABLE FUTURE FLEET, STAYING WITHIN TIGHT BUDGETS, WHILE MEETING OR SURPASSING ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

We are working toward building that capable future fleet. TODAY’S FIGHT IS NOT THE FIGHT OF OUR FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS. GLOBALIZATION MAKES OUR WORLD SMALLER, WHICH IN TURN, MAKES IT CRITICAL THAT THE SEAS STAY PROTECTED AND OPEN. NEW TECHNOLOGY HAS CREATED AN AGE OF INFORMATION, WHICH MEANS THE NAVY RELIES ON UP-TO-THE-SECOND INTELLIGENCE NOW MORE THAN EVER. As we speak, the navy has been devEloping “flexrotor uav,” a long range, un-manned surveillance aircraft that can take off and land like a helicopter even in heavy seas. AND IT can fit on vessels too small for large drones. while it still has some time before IT BECOMES operational, the office of naval research envisions a UAV that can ULTIMATELY PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE COVERAGE WITH LESS EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE THAN CURRENT EQUIPMENT.

eQUIPMENT LIKE THE FLEXROTOR SUPPORTS US IN OUR “CULTURE OF READINESS,” WHICH IS REQUIRED TO WIN ANY WAR. we need to keep our equipment up-to-speed, keep our people trained and ensure all of our operations are cost-efficient.

when the navy seals located and killed osama bin laden in 2011, they acted on REAL-TIME intelligence, moved swiftly, and UTILIZED skills from YEARS OF training. they found success, but that doesn’t mean we can stop there. al-qaeda AND ROGUE WARRIORS ARE STILL A THREAT, AND THE NAVY IS CONTINUALLY WORKING TO DIMINISH DANGERS TO U.S. INTERESTS by development of innovative and precise navy equipment and systems.

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE’LL CONTINUE TO make IMPROVEMENTS IN AGILITY AND EFFICIENCY.

FINALLY, IT’S CRITICAL WE develop AND SUPPORT OUR SAILORS, CIVILIANS AND NAVY FAMILIES. WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DRAW FROM A POOL OF THE best TALENT AND ensure our ranks ACCURATELY REFLECT THE faces of our NATION TODAY.

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2014, WE HAVE 325,143 active duty Sailors. Our Ready Reserve is at 107,524 and 3,574 RESERVES ARE CURRENTLY MOBILIZED.\*\* our civilian force is 201,000. we are a large organization. [pause} and we cannot exist without the commitment of our active duty, reserve and civilian forces, in addition to the support of the navy families. we understand that People are our most important resource. And we understand that is not just our people, but other people who can benefit from our help.

ON EVERY CONTINENT – IN PEACE AND DURING WAR -- WE’VE PROJECTED MARITIME POWER AND DEMONSTRATED A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE SEAS. ULTIMATELY, IT IS OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ACTIONS THAT WILL SHAPE HOW THE WORLD VIEWS US.

TODAY, WE WANT TO REINFORCE THAT WE ARE MORE THAN WARRIORS. OUR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS ARE SECOND TO NONE, AND IT’S BEEN A CORE VALUE FOR THE NAVY SINCE THE 1800S when the uss jamestown and uss macedonian provided food to ireland and scotland during the potato famine.

MORE RECENTLY, when a devastating tsunami hit japan LAST YEAR, our pacific fleet ships immediately UNITED to be in the best position to help those in the devastated area.

the PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP, CURRENTLY IN ITS SEVENTH YEAR, has assisted thousands IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION SINCE THE Indian Ocean TSUNAMI THAT DEVASTatED THE REGION.

THE USNS MERCY HAS MADE ITS WAY TO CAMBODIA AS PART OF ITS 2012 tour, providing healthcare assistance and environmental sustainability.

and the navy continues, day after day, helping other people, providing safe sea lanes, and performing operations at a considerable pace. these are the things that we are here to celebrate. these are the things that make us proud to wear the uniform.

ON THIS NAVY BIRTHDAY, IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SPEAK with YOU here today/tonight. IT is BECAUSE OF ALL OF YOU THAT WE ARE ABLE TO KEEP THE SEAS OPEN AND KEEP AMERICA FREE.

THANK you FOR YOUR CONTINUED VIGILANCE. happy birthday TO THE united states Navy!

* \*NOTE: RECRUITMENT Numbers are posted at <http://www.defenselink.mil/Releases/> on or about the 10th of each month.
* \*\*Note: For updated information on the status of the Navy, go to: [Www.navy.mil](http://Www.navy.mil). Click on “About” and select “STATUS of THE NAVY.”