



2024

# Trident Refit Facility, Bangor Refit Review

Volume 35, Issue 7

**NAVSEA CMC  
VISITS TRFB**

**CMC Schimmel  
Meets with  
Sailors and  
Leadership**

**+PLUS**

**NAVAL HOSPITAL  
BREMERTON  
CONTINUES SOME  
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Commanding Officer.....Capt. Michael D. Eberlein  
Executive Director.....Mr. Edgar Benson  
Executive Officer.....Cmdr. Zachary D. Harry  
Command Master Chief.....CMDCM Chase M. Krause  
Public Affairs Officer.....Mr. Lonnie Collier



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# CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Team TRF Bangor,

We had a great Independence Day in July and I want to thank everyone for staying safe as we celebrated the birth of our nation. Seeing all the celebrations on the 4th of July, particularly the participation of the western Washington community in a massive fireworks display, is always a treat for me, and represents much more than an officially (sometimes) sanctioned chance to launch explosives from off-base residences.

Although August is officially back to school month (for families with school-aged children), the days of summer continue. Please exercise good ORM when partaking in outdoor activities like camping, hunting and fishing. I encourage everyone to stay hydrated and please keep an eye on campfires and backyard firepits during the dry season, and ensure you are following any local guidance ("burn bans").

Safety is not only paramount in our personal lives, but our professional lives as well. As our workload has picked up from previous levels, we are seeing more injuries at TRFB.

Every injury concerns me – particularly those that are due to lack of awareness or correction of hazards in our environment, such as unattended open hatches or grates.

Please continue to correct and report safety issues if and when you see them, regardless of who may have created the hazard. We need that data to best focus on areas to improve, and we don't receive enough "near miss" reports.

I hope many of you had a chance to participate in the walk and see other ways we can make ourselves safer and more effective; many solutions that help with an ergonomic hazard may also make it easier to get the job done faster and better. The best ideas come from the people doing the work – please keep pushing them forward.

July and August share an important event in Navy submariner history. It was 66 years ago, July 23, 1958, when the USS Nautilus (SSN 571), departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine". At 2315 on August 3, 1958, Nautilus sailed



under the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees North, a feat that had been called impossible.

This was possible because of the hardworking Sailors and civilians who never gave up, and who recognized how new technologies could rapidly change "the art of the possible."

This is something I think about as we are facing challenges with submarine maintenance we've never seen before. I am firmly convinced that we – the TRFB team – as custodians of the oldest SSBNs that have ever been put to sea, can provide effective solutions that have thus far not been able to be fielded. Most problems have solutions, sometimes you might need to take a pause and consider all options.

As usual please continue to exercise the good decision-making skills I have come to expect from such an exceptional team, stay safe and I'll see you on the "deckplates"!

V/R,

CAPT Mike Eberlein  
Commanding Officer  
Trident Refit Facility Bangor



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# THROUGH THE LENS

U.S. Navy Photos by MC2 Adora Okafor and Lonnie Collier, TRFB Public Affairs.



USS Nautilus (SSN 571) is escorted into New York Harbor on August 25, 1958.



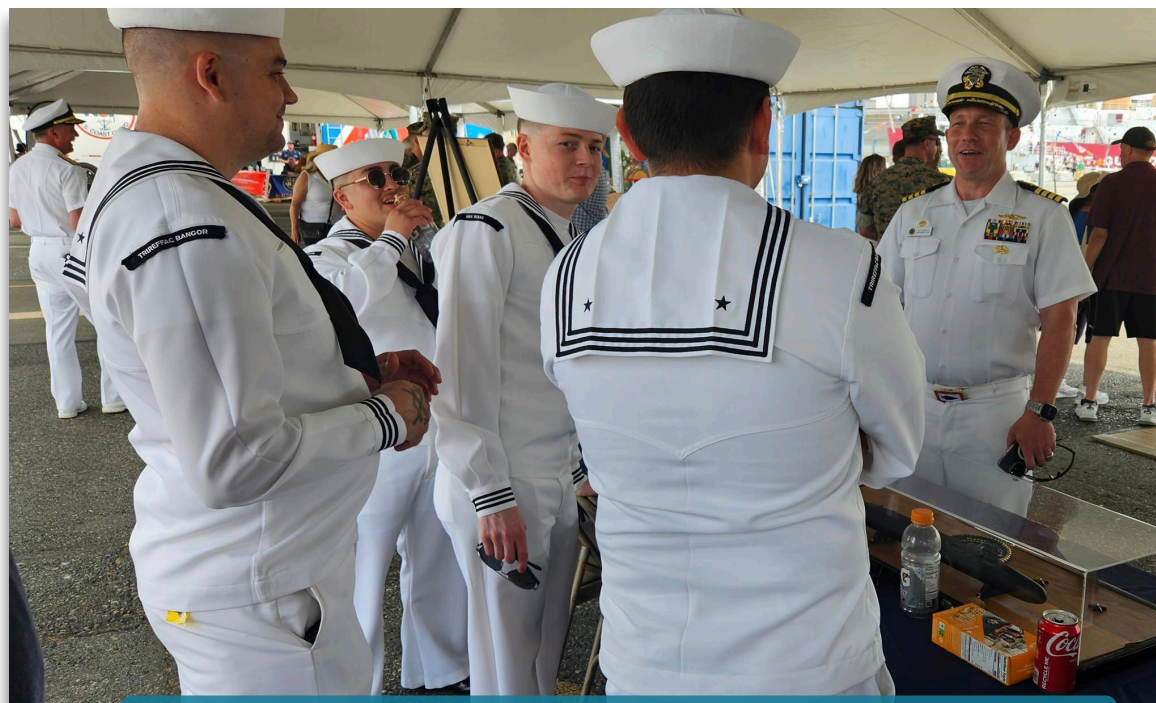
U.S. Navy Cmdr. Zachary Harry, executive officer, TRFB, participates in TRFB's annual Safety and Health Walk.



Crew members of USS Seawolf (SSN 21) inspect the boat after surfacing through Arctic ice, July 2015.



Sailors from TRFB assisted with carrying canoes from the water onto shore during the Suquamish Tribe's hosted portion of the 2024 Canoe Journey.



U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Eberlein, commanding officer, TRFB, speaks with TRFB Sailors at Seattle Fleet Week, 2024.



Sailors from TRFB assisted with carrying canoes from the water onto shore during the Suquamish Tribe's hosted portion of the 2024 Canoe Journey.





# NAVSEA CMC VISITS TRFB: CMC Schimmel Meets with Sailors and Leadership

Article & photos by: Lonnie Collier,  
TRFB Public Affairs.

Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Command Master Chief (CMC) Blake Schimmel traveled to Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) last week to tour facilities, meet Sailors and receive a command brief by TRFB's leadership team.

Schimmel toured TRFB's production and waterfront areas to see the improvements and upgrades to facilities that are currently planned or underway, and toured a submarine in maintenance to observe onboard repair and sustainment efforts.

The visit to TRFB was part of a week-long trip to various NAVSEA commands in the Pacific Northwest region to include Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Undersea Warfare Center-Keyport.

While at TRFB, CMC Schimmel held a series of town hall style meetings with TRFB's enlisted workforce. Topics ranged from local healthcare to the importance of TRFB's strategic deterrence mission to the U.S. Navy.

"TRFB ensures our submarines are maintained and are ready to fulfill their critical mission and protect our national security," said Schimmel.

"Ensuring Sailors have a high quality of life and the opportunities to train and develop is a key component of that mission.

"I think that this was an important trip for CMC Schimmel," said TRFB's Command Master Chief Chase Krause.

"He was able to speak to our Sailors and speak on how important they are to our Nation, as well as, see what our operations look like on the ground and what we do to ensure the Navy has submarines that are ready for whatever the future holds."

Before departing, Schimmel spoke to other senior enlisted leaders at TRFB.

"Train, guide and mentor, but do the right things yourself," he said. "You have to lead from the front and appreciate your Sailors for the tremendously important work that they are doing every day." 🇺🇸

Master Chief Blake G. Schimmel is a native of Wheaton, Illinois and graduated from St. John's Military Academy in 1989. He enlisted in the Navy in 1990 and completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Florida. Over his career, he also completed Electronics Technician "A" and "C" schools, Naval Special Warfare Combat Crewman (SWCC) School, Special Operations Radio Operators Course and the U.S. Army Basic Airborne Course.





# BRAVO ZULU!

U.S. Navy Photos and graphics by MC1 Adora Okafor and MC2 Sarah Christoph, TRFB Public Affairs



Bravo Zulu to everyone who volunteered to represent TRFB at Seattle Fleet Week, 2024.



Bravo Zulu to everyone who participated in TRFB's annual Safety and Health Walk, 2024.



Bravo Zulu to Cmdr. Jesse Gaskell for his outstanding meritorious service while stationed at TRFB.



Bravo Zulu to Autry Watts, Jr. on his well-deserved retirement from TRFB after 38 years of service. Fair winds and following seas!

# OBSERVANCES



Independence Day, known colloquially as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States which commemorates the ratification of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, establishing the United States of America.

## Canada Day

Canada Day is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867, with the passing of the British North America Act, 1867, united into a single dominion called Canada.

## Bastille Day

Bastille Day is the common name given in English-speaking countries to the national day of France, which is celebrated on July 14 each year. It is the anniversary of the Storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, a major event of the French Revolution.

## Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month occurs worldwide in July. It originated in the United States to commemorate the passing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July, 1990.

Looking for portrait or photo support, public affairs guidance, graphic or flyer design, or other command-related media requests? Stop by the Public Affairs office to make a request or appointment today!

Studio portrait walk-ins are held on Wednesdays from 0800-0900. Studio times may be adjusted to suit your schedule. Remember to bring the prescribed uniform, cover, and package instruction for the specific type of studio portrait requested.



