

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED/
ROUTINE
R 231546Z DEC 25 MID320018429857U
FM SECNAV WASHINGTON DC
TO ALNAV
INFO CMC WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
SECNAV WASHINGTON DC
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ALNAV 094/25

MSGID/GENADMIN/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC/-/DEC//

SUBJ/2025 SECNAV HOLIDAY SAFETY MESSAGE//

RMKS/1. Season's greetings to the world's most dominant and capable Naval Fighting Force. The winter holidays are a chance to pause, if only briefly, to spend time with family and friends, and to recharge for a new year that will demand the very best of us. Your effort and commitment this past year has been extraordinary, and it is noticed, valued, and deeply appreciated.

2. This is my first Christmas as your Secretary of the Navy, and I'm struck by how consistently the Department of the Navy delivers-globally deployed, 24/7/365, across a mission environment that does not slow down because the calendar changes. That readiness depends on discipline, professionalism, and a culture that treats safety and risk management as operational requirements-on duty and off. The holiday period is historically one of our most dangerous times because off-duty mishaps rise, especially motor vehicle accidents. In 2024, we lost 12 Shipmates during the holidays-9 due to private motor vehicle mishaps. Even one is too many. This season calls for celebration but be smart about it. I'm asking you to exercise sound judgment, plan ahead, and look out for one another so we are all here, healthy, rested, and prepared to execute our mission in 2026.

3. The holidays can be joyful, but they can also be heavy. Some are separated from loved ones; some are carrying financial stress or personal struggles that aren't visible in the workspace. Check in on your teammates; consistently and deliberately. Make room at the table, invite the Sailor or Marine standing alone, and ensure no one feels forgotten. To those who have the watch, thank you. Your service makes everyone else's time with family possible. If you or a Shipmate needs support, help is available through the Fleet and Family Support Center, Marine and Family Services, Military Family Life Counselors, Deployment Resiliency Counselors, command chaplains, your chain of command, Military OneSource at (800) 342-9647 or militaryonesource.mil, and the Military Crisis Line (Dial 988 and press 1, or text 838255). These resources exist to help so make the call and use them.

4. Please take this time to unplug where you can, rest, recuperate, and reconnect with what matters. But build safety into every plan, every drive, every trip, every choice. We need you, and your family needs you, back whole and ready. You have my deepest respect and gratitude for what you do for our Navy, our Marine Corps, and our Nation. I'm proud to serve alongside you, and I look forward to 2026 as we continue advancing the naval mission together.

5. May God bless the United States of America, and the Navy Marine Corps Team that defends her. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and best wishes for the New Year.

6. Released by the Honorable John C. Phelan, Secretary of the Navy.//

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