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SUBJ/INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE//

RMKS/1. Active and reserve Sailors, Department of the Navy civilians, and families: our Nation's Independence Day is a time to honor the enduring strength and sacrifice of our United States Navy servicemembers, past and present.

- 2. From John Paul Jones and USS Bonhomme Richard's valiant battle against HMS Serapis at Flamborough Head, to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz's sweeping campaign across the Pacific, to the ongoing combat operations in the Red Sea, American Sailors have bravely stood the watch for 250 years, promoting our freedom and prosperity in every ocean around the world.
- 3. Charged with the enormous responsibility to defend our homeland, deter aggression, assure freedom of navigation, and uphold our national security interests abroad, our naval warriors never shy away from a challenge. We are the world's premiere maritime fighting force, operating with Honor, Courage, and Commitment from seabed to space. Today, alongside the Joint Force and our Allies and partners, the Navy remains postured and ready to fight and win.
- 4. Our legacy extends beyond combat. It lives in the alliances we build, the partnerships we forge, and the values we defend. In peacetime and in war, our Sailors stand ready: for national tasking, to respond to crises, and to answer our Nation's call.
- 5. To our entire Navy family, thank you for your continued service and sacrifice we are grateful to have you on our team. As you celebrate our Nation's independence this weekend, we ask that you do so solemnly, responsibly, and patriotically.
- 6. Released by ADM J. W. Kilby, Acting Chief of Naval Operations and MCPON J. M. Honea, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

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