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SUBJ/COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY 84TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO THE FLEET//

RMKS/1. This year, we commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Battle of Midway, a pivotal moment in our naval history that continues to serve as a powerful reminder of the direct line between combat readiness and decisive victory. From June 4-7, 1942, the United States Navy, though outnumbered, achieved a victory that altered the course of the war in the Pacific. This commemoration is not merely a reflection on a past event, but a rededication to the warfighting ethos that secured that victory and which we must embody today to meet the challenges of a new era of strategic competition.

2. The Battle of Midway was a stark demonstration of naval lethality. Through superior intelligence, tactical innovation, and sheer audacity, our forces ambushed and shattered the Japanese fleet. The sinking of four Japanese aircraft carriers-Akagi, Kaga, Soryu, and Hiryu-was a catastrophic blow to their naval power, from which they never fully recovered. This victory halted the enemy's advance across the Pacific and passed the operational initiative to the United States and the Allies, proving that a smaller, more agile, and more determined force can outthink and outfight a larger adversary.

3. The triumph at Midway was forged in the courage of our Sailors and aviators who flew into the teeth of withering fire, and in the intellectual rigor of our cryptanalysts who provided the critical intelligence advantage. This fusion of human bravery and technical acumen created a decisive warfighting advantage. It is a timeless lesson: victory in the maritime domain is achieved by lethal and ready forces who can seize the initiative and deliver overwhelming combat power at the decisive moment.

4. Today, as we operate in a contested environment, the lessons of Midway are more relevant than ever. Our commitment to developing and fielding a more lethal and capable force is the modern-day expression of the spirit of Midway. We are accelerating the delivery of new capabilities, integrating manned and unmanned systems, and honing our warfighting skills in high-end, live, virtual, and constructive training environments to ensure we maintain our combat credibility. The striking power of the Carrier Strike Group, the reach of our long-range fires, and the resilience of our distributed formations are all designed to deter our adversaries and deliver decisive combat power when called. We will remain hard to find, hard to kill, and lethal.

5. All commands are encouraged to commemorate the Battle of Midway and use this occasion to reflect on its lessons. We must reinforce a culture of

excellence that prioritizes warfighting and the warfighter. Every training evolution, every maintenance check, and every operational decision must be made with a clear focus on building a more lethal and ready Navy. Our quality of life initiatives are directly tied to our lethality, ensuring our warfighters are focused and prepared for the high-end fight.

6. By every measure, victory at Midway should have been beyond our reach. Yet, the Sailors there, through their exceptional skill, unwavering morale, and profound valor, reversed the course of the war. Let us honor their legacy by ensuring we are ready to do the same. We will be prepared to fight and win decisively. All ahead flank.

7. Built in the Foundry - Tempered in the Fleet - Forged to Fight.

8. Released by ADM Daryl Caudle, 34th Chief of Naval Operations and MCPON John Perryman, 17th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

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