

2007 FOOTBALL

NAVY

MEDIA GUIDE

An aerial, black and white photograph of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. The stadium is packed with spectators, and the football field is visible in the center, showing yard lines and players. The surrounding campus buildings and parking lots are also visible.

NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM

JACK STEPHENS FIELD AT NAVY-MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL STADIUM



Jack Stephens Field at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium marks its 49th year as the home for Navy's football team this fall. This 34,000-seat facility was built at a cost of \$3 million with all of the money raised through private contributions. The stadium was dedicated on Sept. 26, 1959, when Navy defeated William & Mary, 29-2 and was rededicated on Oct. 8, 2005, when Navy defeated Air Force, 27-24.

In the 203 games played in the stadium since its dedication, the Midshipmen have attracted 4,943,139 fans. Seven-of-the-10-largest crowds to watch games in the stadium have been for Navy-Air Force games with the largest being in 1997 when 36,172 fans jammed the facility on October 11 for the contest between the Mids and the Falcons. The stadium record for attendance is 36,918 set last year against Rutgers.

As it heads into the 2007 season, Navy has a record of 116-86-1 (.574) in games played at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

Dedication Plaque

The dedication plaque for Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium reads as follows:

"This Stadium is dedicated to those who have served and will serve as upholders of the traditions and renown of the Navy and Marine Corps of the United States. May it be a perpetual reminder that the Navy and Marine Corps are organizations of men trained to live nobly and serve courageously in peace, champions of our integrity; in war, defenders of our freedom."

Significant Moments

- * **Sept. 26, 1959** - Navy defeats William & Mary, 29-2, in the first game played at the stadium.
- * **Sept. 24, 1960** - President Eisenhower watches as the Midshipmen defeat Villanova, 41-7.
- * **Nov. 12, 1960** - Heisman Trophy winner Joe Bellino of Navy sets a school record by scoring four touchdowns in a 41-6 win over Virginia.
- * **Oct. 26, 1963** - Heisman Trophy winner Roger Staubach leads the Mids to a 24-12 win over unbeaten Pittsburgh by completing 14-of-19 passes, seven to Jim Campbell.
- * **Sept. 18, 1965** - Syracuse hands Navy its first defeat in Stadium history, 14-6, ending a 13-game win streak at that site.
- * **Sept. 23, 1967** - Navy receiver Rob Taylor sets school records for most catches (10) and most yards receiving (140) in a game, as Navy beats Penn State, 23-22, when Taylor catches a 16-yard TD pass with 57 seconds left.
- * **Oct. 23, 1976** - Tony Dorsett becomes the NCAA's all-time career rushing leader when he runs for 180 yards and three TDs in Pitt's win.
- * **Nov. 12, 1977** - Navy beats Georgia Tech, 20-12, as Naval Academy alumnus President Jimmy Carter watches.
- * **Sept. 12, 1981** - Navy defeats The Citadel for its 500th all-time win.
- * **Nov. 7, 1981** - Eddie Meyers sets a Navy record for most rushing yardage in a game with 298 yards and four touchdowns in the Mids' 35-23 win over Syracuse.
- * **Nov. 17, 1984** - Navy defeats second-ranked South Carolina, 38-21, in one of the biggest upsets ever for the Mids. It marks only the third time Navy has beaten an opponent ranked this high.
- * **Nov. 9, 1985** - Navy quarterback Bill Byrne sets school records for

passing yardage (399), pass attempts (52) and pass completions (37) in a single game, but the Mids lose to Syracuse, 24-20.

- * **Sept. 22, 1990** - Alton Grizzard becomes Navy's all-time career total offense leader in a 23-21 win over Villanova.
- * **Nov. 23, 1991** - Jim Kubiak, a Plebe, sets a school record with his 406 yards passing against Wake Forest. He completed 37-of-54 passes that day in Navy's 52-24 loss/
- * **Oct. 5, 1996** - The Mids explode for 64 points to top Duke, 64-27, on Homecoming.
- * **Nov. 9, 1996** - Navy clinches its first winning season since 1982 with a 30-14 victory over Delaware.
- * **Nov. 16, 1996** - Chris McCoy sets a school record with 44 rushing attempts vs. Tulane. McCoy finished with 214 yards rushing as the Mids cruise to their seventh win of the season.
- * **Sept. 13, 1997** - Chris McCoy ties an NCAA record by rushing for three touchdowns on consecutive carries, as Navy defeated Rutgers, 36-7.
- * **Oct. 18, 1997** - Gerald Wilson returns an interception 95 yards for a touchdown, as Navy defeats VMI, 42-7. The 95-yard interception return is a stadium record and second longest in school history.
- * **Nov. 8, 1997** - Chris McCoy rushes for two touchdowns, giving him a school-record 36 career touchdowns, as Navy defeats Temple, 49-17. The previous record was held by Bill Ing in NCAA history and Pat McGrew has a 91-yard touchdown run, second longest in school history and longest in stadium history, as Navy rolls over Kent State, 62-29.
- * **Aug. 30, 2003** - Kyle Eckel rushed for 129 yards and two touchdowns, while Craig Candeto rushed for 96 yards and two scores as Navy defeated VMI, 37-10. The win was the first by Navy at home in four years.
- * **Nov. 22, 2003** - Quarterback Craig Candeto directed touchdown drives on all eight possessions he played as Navy destroyed Central Michigan, 63-34, in front of a Senior Day crowd of 29,527. Candeto, who rushed for 100 yards in the first quarter, finished with 150 yards rushing and three touchdowns and 105 yards passing and one touchdown. The win made Navy bowl eligible for the first time since 1996.
- * **Nov. 20, 2004** - Seniors Kyle Eckel, Aaron Polanco and Eric Roberts rushed for two touchdowns apiece as Navy routed Rutgers, 54-21, in front of a Senior Day crowd of 33,615. Navy, which scored 47-consecutive points in the game, rushed for 476 yards and 613 yards of total offense. The victory gave the Mids an undefeated record at home for the first time since 1996.
- * **Oct. 8, 2005** - On a day that was already special because of the rededication of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, sophomore Joey Bullen made it even more memorable by drilling a 46-yard field goal with four-tenths of a second remaining to give Navy a thrilling 27-24 comeback victory over Air Force and the inside track to its third-straight Commander-In-Chief's Trophy.



The Largest Crowds

Oct. 14, 2006 vs. Rutgers	36,918
Oct. 11, 1997 vs. Air Force	36,172
Oct. 3, 1998 .vs. West Virginia	36,009
Oct. 9, 1993 .vs. Air Force	35,753
Oct. 12, 1985 vs. Air Force	35,663

The Rear Adm. Hamilton Locker Room Complex

The Rear Adm. Thomas J. Hamilton Locker Room Complex at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium was officially dedicated at the opening game of the 1992 season.

The \$800,000 facility includes home and visiting team locker rooms, training rooms, an officials' dressing area and an office for the stadium supervisor. There are separate dressing and bathing areas for coaches in each of the locker rooms.

The locker rooms accommodate approximately 100 players and coaches for each team. The 16,000-square-foot structure is of masonry construction and is completely air conditioned. The facility actually includes two buildings and incorporates the arch which has been a traditional part of the entrance at the north end of the stadium. The arch was refurbished to match the decor of the complex.

Terwilliger Family Scoreboard

The Terwilliger Family is honored to have the scoreboard named after them for their contribution to the Naval Academy and to the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium renovation project. Ron Terwilliger is a member of the Class of 1963. His brother Bruce is a member of the Class of 1965. Both were varsity athletes, scholars and served on active duty upon graduation. They are honored to give back to the Naval Academy, which gave so much to them.



Jack Stephens Field

The United States Naval Academy Campaign: Leaders to Serve the Nation received a \$10 million gift from Mr. Jackson T. Stephens of Little Rock, Arkansas in 2003. Mr. Stephens is a 1947 graduate of the Naval Academy and Chairman of Stephens Group, Inc. His gift supported the ongoing renovations of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium, the Class of 1947 Legacy project to benefit the Academy's Museum, and other important Campaign priorities. The field at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium is named "Jack Stephens Field" in honor of the donor.

This Is Navy Football
 United States Naval Academy
 Season Outlook
 Coaching Staff
 Midshipmen Bios
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 2006 In Review
 Record Book
 History of Navy Football
 Bowl History
 NMCM Stadium
 Media Information

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United States Naval Academy

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STADIUM RENOVATIONS

Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium has been totally renovated over the previous four years and transformed into a state-of-the-art multi-use facility hosting Navy football and lacrosse as well as a myriad of other local, regional, national and international events. The \$40M project was started in the summer of 2002 and was completed in the fall of 2004.

The project was privately funded by the Naval Academy Foundation and the Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA). Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. of Baltimore, MD served as the general contractor and both 360 Architecture of Kansas City, KS and Alt, Breeding, Schwarz of Annapolis, MD directed the design.

New components have included two state-of-the-art video scoreboards, chair back seating, ADA seating platforms and access ramps, concession stands, end zone seating, luxury suites, and additional sideline seating created by lowering the playing field to give the stadium a more intimate look and feel. In 2004, a 12,000 sq. ft. two-story banquet facility was constructed to host class reunion dinners and other Naval Academy functions. The first floor, N-Room, houses plaques listing the names of all USNA varsity letter winners and can seat 600 for a banquet or formal dinner. The second floor is the future home of the Willis Bilderback-Dinty Moore Navy Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The James Carrington Room will display lacrosse photos, trophies and memorabilia representing the proud tradition of Navy Lacrosse.

The banquet rooms are serviced by a full kitchen and bar areas with a fully-integrated audio and video system that features ten large screen televisions and the ability to give business presentations on both levels of the banquet facility.

The banquet facility is just one of many hospitality areas located in the stadium complex. Ten sideline suites are located on the east side of the stadium and eight in the south end zone. Large party tents are utilized with great views of the field in the southeast and southwest corners of the facility. Class reunions are frequently held in Class Ring North, located behind the battle arches in the north end, offering alumni an in-stadium tailgating opportunity.

A completely renovated press tower was completed prior to the 2004 season. The top level holds booths for television play-by-play and coaches' video, along with tower suites. The fifth level is dedicated to the writing press, radio booths, coaches' booths, scoreboard, public address and operations areas. A newly-constructed level, named the Flag Bridge, was erected under the old press area in the seating bowl. It has 71 permanent seats in front of additional stools, tables and chairs which allows for flexibility in hosting game day viewing or special events on non-game days. The press



Press Box

tower is accessed by two elevators and a stair tower at midfield.

In 2005, the lower concourse restrooms were expanded and the concourse was totally resurfaced. A major change to the stadium came with the installation of a new synthetic field surface, FieldTurf, which allows the stadium to be used 365 days a year.

The multi-purpose nature of Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium has allowed it to host the 2005 NCAA Women's Lacrosse Championship, 2005 Women's Lacrosse World Cup, and the Good Samaritan High School All-Star Football game, as well as

numerous high school and local youth events.

The memorial aspects of the original structure were preserved and enhanced during the renovations. More than 8,000 chair back memorial plates were removed, refurbished and reinstalled in the new seats. Hundreds of memorial plaques received the same treatment and are featured on the Memorial Plaque Wall in the North Memorial Plaza. Battle arches and class arches have been constructed to tell the illustrious story of the Naval Services. Each combination of battle arches contains a history lesson on the left arch and a description of the particular battle on the right. Each and every battle fought by either the Navy or Marine Corps is depicted through the use of color-coded battle streamers allowing visitors to chronologically view the story of the brave men and women who we honor for their service to our country.

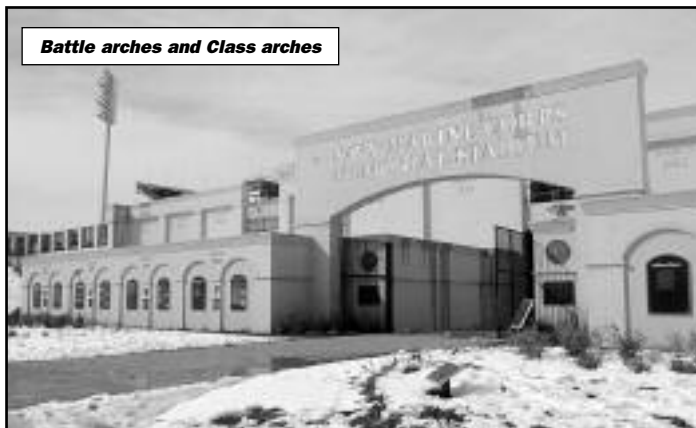


View from the Flag Bridge

The stadium was rededicated on Oct. 8, 2005 before Navy's annual battle with Air Force. The Mids won the game, 27-24.



Banquet Room



Battle arches and Class arches

STADIUM BATTLES

World War I

BATTLE FOR CHATEAU-THIERRY

MAY 31-JULY 10, 1918

Germany had started its deepest drive into France after four years of war and had driven French forces back to the town of Chateau-Thierry. Needing assistance, the French called upon American reinforcements to help hold the city. The key to the battle plan was to keep the Germans from entering the city via a series of bridges that crossed the Marne River. German troops made several attempts to cross the Marne River in early June, but U.S. Marines attached to the 2nd Division helped hold the city in the hands of the Allies.

BATTLE FOR BELLEAU WOOD

JUNE 1-26, 1918

In conjunction with the defense of Chateau-Thierry, U.S. Marines were dispatched to Belleau Wood, five miles outside Chateau-Thierry. Using close hand-to-hand combat, the Marines launched six successive assaults, which pushed the Germans from the woods. Suffering over 5,000 casualties - approximately one half their strength - they cleared the woods by June 26. It would be as close as the Germans would get to Paris, some 50 miles away, for the rest of the war.



Marines dancing with visitors aboard the battleship New Mexico in 1917. When the United States intervened in World War I in April 1917, Major General Commandant George Barnett decided that to uphold the Corps' reputation as 'the first to fight' it was imperative for Marines to serve with the American Expeditionary forces in France. Accordingly, two Marine regiments were combined into one army-sized regiment, the 5th Marines, which, with the grudging consent of the War Department, sailed with the first contingent of the AEF in June 1917. In the spring of 1918, it was joined by the 6th Marines to form the 4th Brigade (Marines) and second division, AEF. This unit played a distinguished part in the battles of Belleau Woods, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont and the Meuse-Argonne.

World War II

Pacific Theatre

PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941

With one brief and swift attack on the unsuspecting and slumbering American military bases in Hawai'i, Japanese aircraft severely crippled the U.S. Pacific Fleet and brought the United States into World War II. The attack turned Dec. 7, 1941, into a "date which will live in infamy" for all Americans. The Japanese leadership felt America would soon enter the war and the only way the empire could win such a battle was to catch the U.S. by surprise and destroy its Pacific Fleet before it could attack Japan. On the American side, the thought of an attack on the Hawaiian Islands was discounted by almost all involved, leaving the ships and planes in and around Pearl Harbor vulnerable. Just before 8 a.m. on December 7, Japanese planes began their bombing raids on Battleship Row. In no time, four battleships were sunk, or sinking, with the remaining units of the fleet suffering severe damage. A second wave of Japanese planes began their run at Pearl Harbor just before 9 a.m., inflicting further damage on ships and destroying planes parked at nearby airfields. While it was a successful mission, it was not the total victory Japan was counting on. American carriers were at sea at the time of the attack and the submarine base, fuel storage and repair facilities remained mostly unscathed. However, it would be nearly five months before the Americans could slow down Japanese aggression.

BATTLE OF WAKE ISLAND

DECEMBER 11-23, 1941

Just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese fleet continued its offensive in the Pacific Ocean by attacking the American base on Wake Island. Over the next 11 days, Marine shore batteries continually fended off numerous attempted landings by the Japanese.

Finally, on Dec. 23, Japanese forces overran the island and it remained under their flag until the end of the war. During Japan's invasion of the island, close to 1,600 American military and civilian prisoners were taken, with most forced into hard labor on the island, followed by a transfer to prisoner of war camps in China. Nearly 100 American prisoners remained on Wake Island and were eventually executed.

The United States made several attempts at retaking Wake Island, but it was not until Sept. 4, 1945, that Japan surrendered the island back to control of the Marines.

BATTLE OF THE JAVA SEA

FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, 1942

Java Island was the last of the oil rich Dutch controlled islands in the Malay Barrier and was being defended by a combined fleet of American, British, Dutch and Australian cruisers and destroyers (ABDA) commanded by Dutch Adm. Doorman. A large Japanese fleet escorting amphibious forces targeted to take Java engaged the far weaker combined forces of the ABDA in what is described as a confused and somewhat unorganized defense by the ABDA since they had never operated together. All ABDA forces fought valiantly but were defeated and the survivors were forced to retreat toward Australia.

The retreating ABDA forces were totally overwhelmed by the superior numbers of Japanese surface and air forces in the region. The Japanese would take control of the oil rich Java Island over the course of the next two days.

BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA

MAY 7-8, 1942

The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first-ever engagement between carrier fleets. Japan intended to extend its defensive perimeter from New Britain in the Bismarck Archipelago south to New Guinea and east to Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. U.S. leadership was able to break the Japanese codes and intercepted messages regarding Japan's intentions. They sent the aircraft carriers Yorktown and Lexington into the Coral Sea to counter the Japanese invasion of Port Moresby, New Guinea. Scout planes, bombers and fighter planes from each side spent two days searching the Coral Sea for each other's fleets. At the end of the two-day battle, Japan had sunk the Lexington and damaged the Yorktown. The Americans sank one Japanese light carrier, damaged another and seriously crippled the Japanese naval air components from both carriers, which not only stopped Japanese aggression in the area, but would also hinder Japan in the upcoming Battle of Midway.

This Is
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BATTLE OF THE ALEUTIANS

JUNE 3, 1942-AUGUST 15, 1943

On June 3, 1942, Japanese forces attacked U.S. forces stationed in the Aleutian Island chain as part of the Japanese diversion for the Midway invasion. Within four days, the Japanese were in place on the islands of Kiska and Attu. Foggy, cloudy weather hampered fighting on both sides throughout the course of the next year. The weather also meant the Japanese had difficulty in building airfields necessary to defend against American attacks. American forces began working their way through the chain of islands in late September of 1942. One of the few naval surface engagements of war (The Battle of Komandorski Island) took place in March 1943 with no air or submarine units taking part. By mid August, the islands were back in control of the United States.

BATTLE OF MIDWAY

JUNE 4, 1942

Known as the turning point in the Pacific war, the Battle of Midway began in similar fashion as the Battle of the Coral Sea. Japan intended to extend its defensive perimeter to include the Midway island group. Again, the United States' ability to break the Japanese naval code allowed for intercepted messages from Japan to alert American forces to the Japanese battle plan.

Knowing the U.S. had limited ships, Adm. Yamamoto deployed a far larger fleet for the invasion. He split his far superior forces into smaller elements, each with defined roles for the invasion. His lead element was a four aircraft carrier task force, commanded by Adm. Nagumo with the mission to knock out the airfield on Midway and lure the remaining U.S. fleet out of Pearl Harbor to be destroyed. The U.S. countered with the remaining trio of carriers deploying them in two separate task forces commanded by Adm. Fletcher and Adm. Spruance to counter the invasion. Long range U.S. patrol planes from Midway sighted the Japanese forces giving the U.S. the edge of knowing where their opponent's forces were first.

Japan began by attacking the airfield on Midway Island with over 100 planes, but the American airfield remained operational. U.S. forces from Midway conducted several uncoordinated attacks on the Japanese carriers with no damage. Following uncoordinated attacks by U.S. torpedo squadrons from the U.S. carriers and the eventual sighting of U.S. forces by a Japanese scout added to the decisions that Adm. Nagumo must make. His decisions to switch the second strike on Midway and rearm for a strike on the American carrier cost him precious time. American dive-bombers spotted the carriers and began an attack that left three Japanese carriers damaged and sinking. American forces found and sunk the fourth Japanese carrier. Japan's fleet suffered irreparable harm in this defeat and would never again reach the strength advantage it held over the Americans prior to Midway.

BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL

AUGUST 7, 1942-FEBRUARY 8, 1943

Japanese forces were building an airfield on Guadalcanal to extend their defensive barrier and work progressively to establish bases that would eventually cut off the lines of communication from the U.S. to Australia. There were many "firsts" associated with the Battle of Guadalcanal. It was the first large-scale U.S. offensive operation against the Japanese and the first time Japan lost a territory in the war. On the morning of Aug. 7, 19,000 Marines invaded Guadalcanal in Operation Watchtower and were able to take control of the Japanese airfield. U.S. Marines endured numerous attacks by the Japanese forces during the next six months, including the Battle at Tengeru and the Battle of Edison Ridge. By late December, the Marines had 35,000 men of their own on Guadalcanal when Japan decided it could not take the island. The last Japanese troops evacuated from Guadalcanal in early February.

Five major naval engagements (Battle of Savo Island, Battle of the Eastern Solomons, Battle of Cape Esperance, Battle of Santa Cruz and three phases of the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal) took place around the island as both sides contested for sea and air dominance. U.S. forces lost the carriers Wasp and Hornet during these naval battles, but gained our initial foothold in the Southwest Pacific region and began to push the Japanese back.

BATTLE OF SAVO ISLAND

AUGUST 9, 1942

Cruisers and destroyers of Japan's Eighth Fleet arrived off the southern shore of Savo Island in the early morning hours of August 9, two days after U.S. Marines had landed on Guadalcanal. Allied ships consisted of American and Australian cruisers and destroyers, with personnel tired from days of continuous alerts, were divided into three groups, each one protecting an entrance to beachheads on Guadalcanal. Japanese cruisers went undetected as they slipped past outlying American picket destroyers and sank four allied cruisers. The Japanese forces withdrew without damaging any of the amphibious units. Along with Pearl Harbor, this is regarded as one of the worst defeats in American naval history.

BATTLE OF THE EASTERN SOLOMONS

AUGUST 23-25, 1942

The Battle of the Eastern Solomons ensued when Japan attempted to send reinforcements onto Guadalcanal and to defeat U.S. naval forces in the region. This battle continued the carrier versus carrier warfare. Three U.S. carriers - Saratoga, Enterprise and Wasp - versus three Japanese carriers deployed in two separate groups. U.S. forces sank the light carrier supporting the transports carrying the reinforcements to Guadalcanal, but the two heavy carriers weren't damaged, while at the same time, Japan was able to damage the Enterprise. The Japanese heavy carriers withdrew, leaving the reinforcement troops on transports unprotected after the sinking of the light carrier. As those transports made their way toward Guadalcanal, planes from Henderson Field spotted and sank some of the transports and escorts which forced Japan to pull back.

BATTLE OF THE SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

OCTOBER 26-27, 1942

Japan attempted again to send reinforcements onto Guadalcanal and to push U.S. naval forces away from the area. A large Japanese Task Force of four carriers and four battleships plus escorts moved south to engage a smaller U.S. force of two carriers and one battleship plus escorts. Planes from each side discovered and attacked opposing carriers on the morning of Oct. 26. Both sides were able to inflict damage on each other, but by the end of the battle neither side could claim total victory. The carrier Hornet was sunk, but the Japanese failed to push their numerical naval advantage and withdrew, leaving Guadalcanal still in the hands of the U.S. Marines and U.S. naval forces in the area supporting the operation.



Battleship CALIFORNIA lists from the flooding effect of two torpedo hits. Following peacetime practice, the ship had not seen Condition Red. With it being impossible to check flooding, the ship slowly settled to the bottom of Pearl Harbor during the next three days, following the Dec. 7 surprise attack.

NEW GEORGIA CAMPAIGN**JUNE 21-AUGUST 5, 1943**

With Guadalcanal safely in the hands of the U.S., the next phase of the American battle plan was to continue through the Solomon Islands. Operation Cartwheel was to end at the main Japanese naval facility in the Southwest Pacific region at Rabaul, on the island of New Britain. The first step towards Rabaul involved Adm. William 'Bull' Halsey leading his ground and naval forces in capturing airfields on the islands of New Georgia. Marines landed on Segi Point and slugged it out with the Japanese defenders in some fierce jungle fighting. Within two weeks, U.S. forces had an important airfield set up and by Aug. 5, the Japanese airfield at Munda was in the hands of the Marines. Japanese resistance ended on New Georgia the following day.

BATTLE OF BOUGAINVILLE**NOVEMBER 1-25, 1943**

The U.S. quickly moved up the Solomon Islands via the "Slot" towards Rabaul after the Battles of Vella Gulf (Aug 6-7) and Vella Lavella (Oct. 6-7) where U.S. destroyers engaged in night action and beat Japanese units, forcing their withdrawal. On Nov. 1, Adm. William 'Bull' Halsey and his troops were ready to take Bougainville. After strong Japanese resistance initially slowed down the invading Marine force, including air attacks from Rabaul, the U.S. forces were fully entrenched on the island by the end of the day. The naval engagement, the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay (Nov. 2) between American and Japanese cruiser and destroyer forces stopped the superior Japanese surface group from shelling the Marine landing areas and attacking the American forces on Bougainville. Nearly 34,000 Marines were on Bougainville inside of a week, but it would take until Thanksgiving Day for the Japanese resistance to end.

BATTLE OF RABAU**NOVEMBER 5, 1943**

As an added bonus of taking Bougainville, the U.S. had also isolated the Japanese forces remaining on Rabaul, which had been the central staging location for Japanese air and surface action in the Southwest Pacific region. To help fortify its position, Japan moved a number of ships and planes to the New Britain city in hopes of fending off an attack. Fearing it would soon be outnumbered and in danger of the new Japanese threats, Rear Adm. Frederick Sherman took his two carriers and made a surprise attack on Rabaul. With every plane at his disposal in the air, the Americans damaged over 10 Japanese ships while losing just 10 planes of their own. U.S. air power kept up the attack on Rabaul for two more months until the Japanese surrendered the island. The advance up the Solomon chain to Rabaul would see naval engagements between American and Japanese surface groups of cruisers and destroyers.

BATTLE OF TARAWA**NOVEMBER 20-23, 1943**

With the battles in the Solomon Islands progressing, American military leadership decided it was time to open a second front in the Pacific Theater across the central Pacific. The start of this front would take place on Betio Island at the central Pacific atoll of Tarawa. The landing would not be easy because Japan had turned the small island into a fortress with 5,000 troops ready to defend the airfield. A brief but ineffective naval bombardment preceded the landing of the Marines, and this allowed the Japanese to open fire on the invading forces. One obstacle faced by the Marines were the reefs surrounding the island, which caused numerous landing craft to get stuck before reaching the beachhead. Marines had to wade ashore under intense fire from Japanese shore positions. By the second day of fighting, more Marines landed and established a second beach to assist in securing the island. It would take two more days before Tarawa was finally secured with only 17 Japanese defenders surrendering.

BATTLE OF CAPE GLOUCESTER**DECEMBER 26-30, 1943**

The 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions arrived at two separate beaches on Cape Gloucester on the tip of New Britain Island on the morning of Dec. 26 to relatively light resistance. Members of the U.S. Army had landed 12 days earlier and successfully drew Japanese troops away from the main Marine landing area. Difficulty still laid ahead for the Marines as they struggled getting through the dense, tropical rain forest on New Britain. Three days after landing, the Marines had reached and taken over the airfield at Cape Gloucester, driving Japanese troops into the nearby mountains. After an unsuccessful counterattack by the Japanese the following day, the airfield was safely in the hands of the Americans.

BATTLE OF KWAJALEIN**FEBRUARY 1-6, 1944**

Moving from Tarawa along the Central Pacific front, U.S. Pacific forces were to move on to the Marshall Islands at Kwajalein Atoll. Planes from Fifth Fleet carriers began attacking the islands surrounding Kwajalein Lagoon on Jan. 29, with the hopes of limiting Japanese resistance to a planned landing. By the Feb. 1 invasion, the Japanese were down to just 29 planes to cover the entire chain of the Marshall Islands. As part of the invasion, Marine and Army forces landed on two separate islands at different points in the lagoon, and had the area secured in less than one week. The fighting was close and savage with the Japanese fighting to the last man. Only 30 of the 8,000 Japanese troops surrendered.

BATTLE OF HOLLANDIA**MARCH 30-APRIL 28, 1944**

The Japanese were using Hollandia as a major air base from which they could support several different areas in the Southwest Pacific Theater. While it contained strong air power, it lacked ground support. It was there where Operation Reckless was to land and attack in one of General Douglas MacArthur's most brilliant campaigns during the war. Fifth Fleet carriers supported the U.S. landings, pinning Japanese forces between American and Australian units. Deception was then employed as the Americans quickly landed at two different areas on April 22 and soon took control of all airfields and by April 28, Hollandia was secured.

INVASION OF THE MARIANAS**JUNE 15-AUGUST 12, 1944**

Continuing the Central Pacific drive, the Marianas Islands were key to American offensive action against Japan since they were the closest islands that allowed long-range bombers to make non-stop raids on Japan. The first target in the chain of three islands was Saipan, which was invaded by U.S. Marines on June 15, 1944. Mountainous terrain and the presence of 30,000 Japanese soldiers on the small island resulted in a three-week battle before the Americans had control. American forces next moved three miles south to the island of Tinian, which came under U.S. control in one week. The final island, Guam, proved to be difficult for the U.S., for it took three more weeks before the entire chain of islands were taken.

BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINE SEA**JUNE 18-20, 1944**

With the U.S. Navy supporting Army and Marine forces on the ground on Saipan, Japanese military leaders decided to launch a carrier air strike against the transports supporting the invasion. The plan backfired as the American carrier aircraft shot down over 300 Japanese planes, while losing just 30 of their own and suffering almost no damage to the fleet. This came to be known as the Marianas Turkey Shoot. The next day, American pilots found and attacked the Japanese fleet, inflicting even more damage. Not only was the battle itself a decisive victory for the United States, it ended most of the remaining Japanese air power.

THE BATTLE FOR PELELIU**SEPTEMBER 15-NOVEMBER 24, 1944**

What was believed to be an easy seizure of Peleliu Island in the Palau Island group as a stepping-stone from the Marianas to the Philippines, turned into a costly two-month battle for the U.S. The Japanese forces offered little resistance after the pre-invasion naval bombings by the Americans because Japan wanted to conserve assets until the actual attack. When the 1st Marine Division did land, it quickly moved away from the beaches but found the Japanese entrenched in numerous caves and tunnels on the island. It was another island where close combat was the only way to extract the defenders from their positions, and it was not until late November that Peleliu was in the hands of the Americans.

BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF**OCTOBER 23-25, 1944**

This is the largest naval battle in history. The Japanese attempted to repel the American invasion on the Philippine Islands at Leyte. Three separate Japanese naval groups were used in their plan: not one of them had the remaining carriers coming from the north as bait for Adm. Halsey, the other two were surface groups of battleships, cruisers and destroyers moving from the east of the Philippines and were to transit through the straits north and south of Leyte and attack the U.S. transports supporting the invasion. U.S. air power was effective as Halsey's carrier planes recorded a strong victory in the battle of the Sibuyan Sea over one of the surface groups which was badly mauled and appeared to be withdrawing. Halsey moved his main battle forces north to engage the approaching Japanese carriers. The Japanese group that was transiting the straits south of Leyte was met and defeated by U.S. forces of the Seventh Fleet. However, during the night, the Japanese group that was hit earlier in the day by Halsey's aircraft changed course and transited the straits north of Leyte unopposed. The Japanese struck in the Battle off Samar, sinking one escort carrier and several U.S. destroyers. Uncertain of his opponent and facing stiff fighting from the U.S. force defending the transports, the Japanese commander withdrew before closing on the transports. While that was going on, American carriers engaged and sunk four Japanese carriers in the battle of Cape Engano, ending one of the most decisive naval victories in American history. Leyte Gulf saw the beginning of the use of the kamikaze.



During the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the USS Reno stands off the starboard quarter of USS Princeton, while fighting fires on board the bombed carrier, October 24, 1944. Note Reno's forward 5"/38 twin gun mounts in the foreground, with local fire control sights on top.

BATTLE OF LINGAYEN GULF**JANUARY 2-8, 1945**

U.S. Seventh Fleet assets transporting the Sixth Army moved from Leyte to Luzon in the Philippines battling Japanese air and kamikaze attacks, suffering a heavy toll. One escort carrier was sunk, another damaged and the battleship New Mexico, four light and one heavy cruisers were heavily damaged. The landing took place on Jan. 9 without much opposition and a northern drive to liberate Manila began.

BATTLE OF IWO JIMA**FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 16, 1945**

The Americans planned to use Iwo Jima as another air base from which to strike Japan. Seventy-four days of air strikes preceded the Feb. 19 landing of 30,000 Marines. Difficulties for the Marines started as soon as they arrived on the beach. The primarily volcanic ash terrain slowed their movement and made them easy targets for the Japanese. The ash also caused the American vehicles to clog and stall on the beach. The Japanese effectively used a series of underground bunkers and guns on Mount Suribachi to their advantage. Four days after their initial landing, the Marines had taken Mount Suribachi and raised the U.S. flag at its peak. Even with the Stars and Stripes flying on Mount Suribachi, it wasn't until March 16 before the Americans had total control of the island.

BATTLE OF OKINAWA**APRIL 1-JUNE 21, 1945**

While Iwo Jima was important to the Americans because of its air distance to Japan, Okinawa was strategic because it could be used as a staging area for an invasion of Japan. The American forces landed on Easter Sunday to relatively light Japanese resistance. This was due to the fact the Japanese commander had withdrawn his forces and hidden its 100,000-man army in caves and tunnels on the southern end of the island awaiting the advancing Americans. It would take three weeks before the Americans could secure just that part of the island. During the battle for Okinawa, the Japanese used the kamikaze in mass raids called kikusui (Floating Chrysanthemums) in Operation TEN-GO to repulse the invasion. From April 6 through June 21, Japan conducted nine massive air assaults against the naval forces supporting the Army and Marine units on Okinawa. Seven aircraft carriers were damaged and 34 American vessels were sunk with 368 damaged. Over 5,000 sailors were lost off Okinawa. Okinawa would end up as the bloodiest battle in the Pacific as more than 80,000 Japanese troops died in the battle, while the Americans lost close to 8,000 men on Okinawa and suffered nearly 32,000 casualties.

World War II**Atlantic and European Theatres****BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC****1941-45**

Germany enjoyed overwhelming success against the Americans with its submarine campaign against U.S. ships that were delivering goods and war materials across the Atlantic Ocean to England.

Unprepared for the start of the war, the Americans lacked not only cargo ships, but also escort vessels necessary to protect the convoys. In the first seven months of American involvement in the war, German U-boats sank well over 600 American cargo vessels. It was not until 1943 when the United States had built up enough ships and developed the war infrastructure to ensure relatively safe crossings of the Atlantic. However, the U-boats would continue to pose a significant threat to the Allies until the end of the war. It was during the Battle of the Atlantic that U.S. naval forces captured U-505, the only U-boat ever successfully captured intact.

THE BATTLE OF NORTH AFRICA**NOVEMBER 8-11, 1942**

At the outbreak of World War II, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed on the importance of defeating Germany first. U.S. military leaders pushed for a European invasion, but due to the strength of German forces on the European continent, a more realistic plan called for the invasion of North Africa code-named Operation Torch. On Nov. 8, 1942, American and British forces conducted amphibious landings in Morocco near Casablanca; and at Oran and Algiers, Algeria. All these forces were escorted to the landings area by British and American naval task forces. To support the landings, allied naval forces engaged Vichy French naval units defending these regions of French North Africa. Within two days time, the Allies had control of 1,500 miles of territory and used the next three weeks to pour 185,000 troops, 20,000 vehicles and 200,000 tons of supplies into the area.

INVASION OF SICILY**JULY 9-AUGUST 17, 1943**

The invasion of Sicily, code-named Husky, would involve over 2,500 Allied ships and nearly half a million Allied troops during its 38-day battle. The invasion began when American-led forces landed on the west coast of Sicily, while British forces landed on the east side of the island. With the help of naval gunfire support from the Western Naval Task Force, Vice Adm. Kent Hewitt's commanding forces established a foothold on Sicily. Gen. George Patton's forces raced across Sicily to Marsala, east to Palermo, and then on to Messina. Sicily became the first European region to be liberated.

BATTLE OF SALERNO

SEPTEMBER 13-16, 1943

On Sept. 3, Allied forces crossed the narrow Strait of Messina and began the invasion of Italy.

Operation Avalanche involved a two-pronged invasion of Salerno, Italy. Vice Adm. Kent Hewitt and Lt. Gen. Mark Clark landed American forces in Salerno on Sept. 13, while British forces that had entered Italy on Sept. 3 raced northward to meet with Allied forces. German forces rushed to repel the invasion, but naval gunfire support from destroyers and cruisers proved to be vital for the U.S. forces in holding against the German units. By Oct. 1, the Allies occupied Naples and attempted to continue their trek to Rome in the Battle of Anzio.

BATTLE OF ANZIO

JANUARY 22-MAY 16, 1944

German troops retreated from Salerno and established a defensive barrier along the Gustav Line in the mountains of central Italy, causing the Allies to advance at a very slow and costly pace. Anzio was planned to be the end around the German defenses to push Allied forces inland behind the German line and cut off their supplies forcing them to retreat further up the Italian peninsula. The landing was a surprise to the Germans, but they were able to regroup quicker than initially estimated and stopped the push inland by the U.S. and British forces at Anzio. A long stalemate ensued between the two sides. Naval forces supporting the beaches at Anzio with gunfire were key to the Allies not being driven back into the sea. It was not until May 16 that Allied troops were able to control Anzio, with the Germans falling back. The Allies were now positioned just 20 miles from Rome and would go on to liberate the city on June 4.



Guns from the USS Nevada fire on positions ashore, during the Normandy Invasion landings on "Utah" Beach, June 6, 1944.

INVASION OF NORMANDY

JUNE 6, 1944

To achieve victory in Europe, an invasion across the English Channel into German-controlled France was required. Both the Allies and the Axis knew this, but the only question for the Germans was where would it take place. After a year of planning, the Allies decided to land at five beaches in the Normandy region of France. Originally scheduled for June 5, the invasion was postponed to the following day due to inclement weather. When it did start, American and British paratroop divisions were dropped behind the targeted beachheads, followed by heavy naval bombardment on the actual landing sites. British and Canadian forces landed on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches to comparatively light resistance, as did one American division that ended up well south of the targeted Utah Beach. Omaha Beach would be a different story for the remainder of the American forces. Heavy gunfire with little American cover support greeted the Americans that had to wade onto Omaha Beach because their landing crafts couldn't make it all the way in. Worse, once on the beach, the Americans faced German troops who were well entrenched on the surrounding bluffs.

Slowly, the Americans began to take control of the landing zone and, thanks to support from Allied destroyers that nearly grounded themselves, the Americans drove the Germans from the beachhead by the end of the day. All told, more than 5,000 Allied ships moved over 714,000 troops, 111,000 vehicles and 250,000 tons of supplies into Normandy in the first three weeks, making it one of the largest invasions in military history. The invasion of Normandy is known as D-Day.

INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

AUGUST 15, 1944

Planned originally to take place at the same time as the Normandy invasion, the invasion of Southern France was delayed until August. French and U.S. forces landed and their objective was to seize the port of Marseille and protect the Allies' southern flank. Allied forces landed along the shores of the French Riviera between Toulon and Marseille to little resistance. Bombing raids and naval gunfire that preceded the 8 a.m. landings on the two beaches helped soften and confuse the German resistance. Within days, the Germans were retreating from all points in southern France in the face of a combination of Allied and Free French Forces. Just one week after the initial landings, the Americans had pushed 200 miles inland. The German Army would never be the same.

The Korean War

THE INCHON INVASION

SEPTEMBER 15-29, 1950

Within days of the initial June 1950 invasion, North Korean forces seized Seoul, South Korea, and continued to push south. U.S. forces that came to the aid of South Korea were driven back with the South Korean Army and were pinned in a small, defensive position around the seaport city of Pusan. In Operation Chromite, conceived by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, U.S. troops were to invade the port city of Inchon in central Korea and move eastward to Seoul, cutting off the North Korean supply lines to the south as they went.

U.S. Navy planes and ships began bombing Inchon on Sept. 10, with the Marines entering the city itself on Sept. 15. By the next morning, the Marines had Inchon under American control, and took nearby Kimpo airfield just two days later. With the supply lines cut, an offensive push by the Army forces in the south drove the North Koreans back. The South Korean capital of Seoul was returned to control of the South Korean government by the end of the month.

CHOSIN RESERVOIR

NOVEMBER 3-DECEMBER 3, 1950

In Nov. 1950, Chinese forces struck at the United Nations troops moving north toward the Yalu River border between China and Korea. The 1st Marine Division was positioned around the Chosin Reservoir and was attacked and surrounded by massive numbers of Chinese. The Marines fought through and were able to withdraw to the coast. Some of the action was extremely close and was fought in some of the harshest winter conditions ever seen in the region.

The Vietnam War

Quang Nam, Quang Nhai,

Quang Tri and Thua Thien

Quang Nam, Quang Nhai, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien are provinces in central Vietnam. When U.S. forces divided the country of Vietnam into zones for tactical control, these provinces fell into I Corp sector, controlled by the U.S. Marine Corps. Within Quang Nam was the city of Da Nang, the initial site of the Marine's landing and operational area in Vietnam. In Quang Nhai Province, Operation Starlight became the first offensive operation by the U.S. Marines in South Vietnam. Marine troops battled opposing forces in an attempt to prevent an attack on the Chu Lai enclave. After encountering heavy resistance on their initial landing, the Marines received support from the air and from nearby ships that swung the battle in favor of the Americans. Hue City, the site of intense urban fighting during the Tet offensive in early 1968, is in Thua Thien. Within Quang Tri was the U.S. Marine base camp of Khe Sanh, which was assaulted and placed under siege for 72 days during the Tet offensive in 1968. Marines remained active patrolling and conducting combat operations in these areas from 1965-1971.

YANKEE STATION**1964-1973**

Yankee Station was the center for naval air operations during the war. Daily strikes of upward to 100 aircraft were launched from the carriers that were stationed off the coast. The position of Yankee Station was at the entrance to the Gulf of Tonkin in the South China Sea, some 100-120 miles off the coast of Vietnam just north of the 17th parallel.

OPERATION MARKET TIME**1965-1972**

The 1,000-mile coastal waters of Vietnam were used by the Viet Cong to smuggle troops and weapons into South Vietnam. The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard initiated Operation Market Time in 1965 to limit the supply of the Viet Cong. Using patrol boats, swift boats and cutters as well as land-based planes, the Navy patrolled the South China Sea for any signs of smuggling. It is hard to determine what percentage of smugglers Operation Market Time stopped, or at the very least reduced the effectiveness of the Viet Cong to boost support for its troops in South Vietnam.

THE MEKONG DELTA**DECEMBER 1965-SEPTEMBER 1968**

The Mekong Delta, a vast waterway of rivers and marshes on the south tip of Vietnam, was used by the Viet Cong to transport supplies and attack U.S. and South Vietnamese forces in the region. The U.S. Navy developed and deployed special built Patrol Boats River (PBR) to interdict the enemy supply lines in Operation Game Warden beginning in March 1965. Shortly, U.S. Navy helicopter unit called "Seawolves" flying Army Huey's were created to assist the PBRs in the operation in the Mekong Delta. The Navy worked with the Army to strike inland and developed the Mobile Riverine Force, which assisted in transporting forces up rivers for assaults and provided cover fire from special built vessels that were called monitors.

The Persian Gulf War**OPERATION DESERT STORM****AUGUST 1990-MARCH 1991**

There were several distinct phases of Operation Desert Storm. In Aug. of 1990, President George Bush responded to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait by sending American troops to protect the Kuwaiti border in Operation Desert Shield. What began as a defensive force would eventually grow into an offensive machine. By the end of 1990, close to 700,000 Allied troops were in the theater. On the night of Jan. 16, 1991, Desert Shield ended and Desert Storm began as the Allies began air and sea strikes on Iraq. Following continuous bombing for 38 days, the ground war began. The one-sided war would last just another 100 hours as the Allies quickly and decisively forced the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Somalia**DECEMBER 1992-MARCH 1994**

With the collapse of dictator Said Barre's government in January of 1991, famine and civil war gripped the East African nation of Somalia with political control falling into the hands of ruthless warlords who began to hoard food relief and send more than 25 percent of Somalia's six million inhabitants into a famished state. After initial United Nations operations failed to end fighting and distribute food to the starving people, the U.N. approved a multinational task force, commanded by the United States to execute Operation Restore Hope, a military mission authorized to use all necessary means to distribute foodstuffs to the starving Somolians.

U.S. Navy vessels provided sealift for a multinational ground force spearheaded by U.S. Navy SEALs and a force of 1,800 Marines which secured key Somali installations on the night of Dec. 9, 1992, which would be bolstered by over 1,000 Seabees and elements of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. U.S. and coalition forces battled the warlords on numerous occasions, with U.S. Marines actively seeking out and disarming these gunmen and restoring a general sense of security to the Somali capital of Mogadishu and the surrounding areas.

On May 4, 1993, the U.S. officially relinquished operational command to the United Nations, transitioning into Operation Continued Hope, during which U.S. Army Rangers participated in several skirmishes and firefights with gunmen, including the 1994 battle depicted in *Black Hawk Down*, which left 18 American soldiers dead in a 15-hour battle. The last U.S. peacekeeping contingent left Somalia in March of 1994, ending U.S. involvement in the region.

Bosnia**JANUARY 3, 1992-OCTOBER 12, 1995**

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the nation once known as Yugoslavia deteriorated into civil war between the Croats and Serbs, enraged by economic, ethnic and religious differences. After several failed cease-fire agreements, the United Nations eventually yielded some of its peacekeeping power to NATO forces.

In its first military action since its founding in 1949, NATO forces spear headed by the United States, Great Britain and France attempt to facilitate peace in the region torn by civil war and genocide through military force. From 1992-95, during operations such as Sky Monitor, Deny Flight and Deliberate Force, U.S. aircraft under NATO command, flying from both land bases and deployed aircraft carriers, took part in over 20,000 combat air patrols and 20,000-plus strike and support missions to repel Serbian offensives. These air strikes, combined with the presence NATO and UN personnel on the ground, created safe zones for civilians and eventually facilitated the cease fire which ended in the Dayton Peace Accords in November of 1995, which instilled a 60,000-man NATO coalition to maintain the peace as political rebuilding efforts continue.

Kosovo**MARCH 24-JUNE 20, 1999**

NATO aircraft, led by both land and sea-based U.S. strike fighters, engaged in Operation Allied Force, a bombing campaign to rid Kosovo of a Serbian military presence under the control of Slobadan Milosevic, the Serbian President at the time. Serbian military and paramilitary forces were being used to systematically eliminate the Albanians living in Kosovo, and wanting to avoid genocide on the scale of what happened in Bosnia, NATO elected to act quickly and decisively. The unrelenting attacks forced the Serbians to the bargaining table, allowing for U.S. forces on the ground to engage in humanitarian efforts to help rebuild the war-torn nation. After over 30,000 sorties flown from both sea and air, the U.S. lost no soldiers in combat and suffered only two downed planes throughout the 79-day air campaign. The quick action of U.S. and NATO forces was a key factor in halting the genocidal practices of Milosevic and his forces, as well as bringing stability and relief to the Balkan nation.

Operation Enduring Freedom**SEPTEMBER 11, 2001-PRESENT**

In response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States declared war not on another nation, but on the institution of terror. From its beginning in Afghanistan to its latest iteration in Operation Iraqi Freedom, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps forces have held true to President George W. Bush's statement of, "We will not tire, we will not falter, we will not fail," with regards to ridding our planet of those who promote and use terror as a weapon. Thousands of members of the Naval Service, both in the air and on the ground, have and will continue to participate in this effort until its goals have been met. While there has been no projected timeline for this conflict, U.S. forces will continue to battle the forces of terror until the world becomes safe from those who wish to attack the principles of freedom

Many of the battle accounts were taken from the Historical Atlas of the U.S. Navy, published by The Naval Institute and authored by Craig L. Symonds, professor of history at the Naval Academy. Bosnia was written based on information from the website, www.aristotle.net/bosnia, Kosovo was written based on information from www.defenselink.mil and Somalia was written with assistance from the Joint Military Operations Historical Collection. Additional assistance was provided by Mary DeCredico, chair of the history department at the Naval Academy; Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Teis, an instructor in the history department; and by MIDN 1/C Tim Leonardi.