

Retirement Ceremony

in honor of



Commander Aaron L. Woolsey
UNITED STATES NAVY

Presided by
Captain Gene G. Severtson
UNITED STATES NAVY

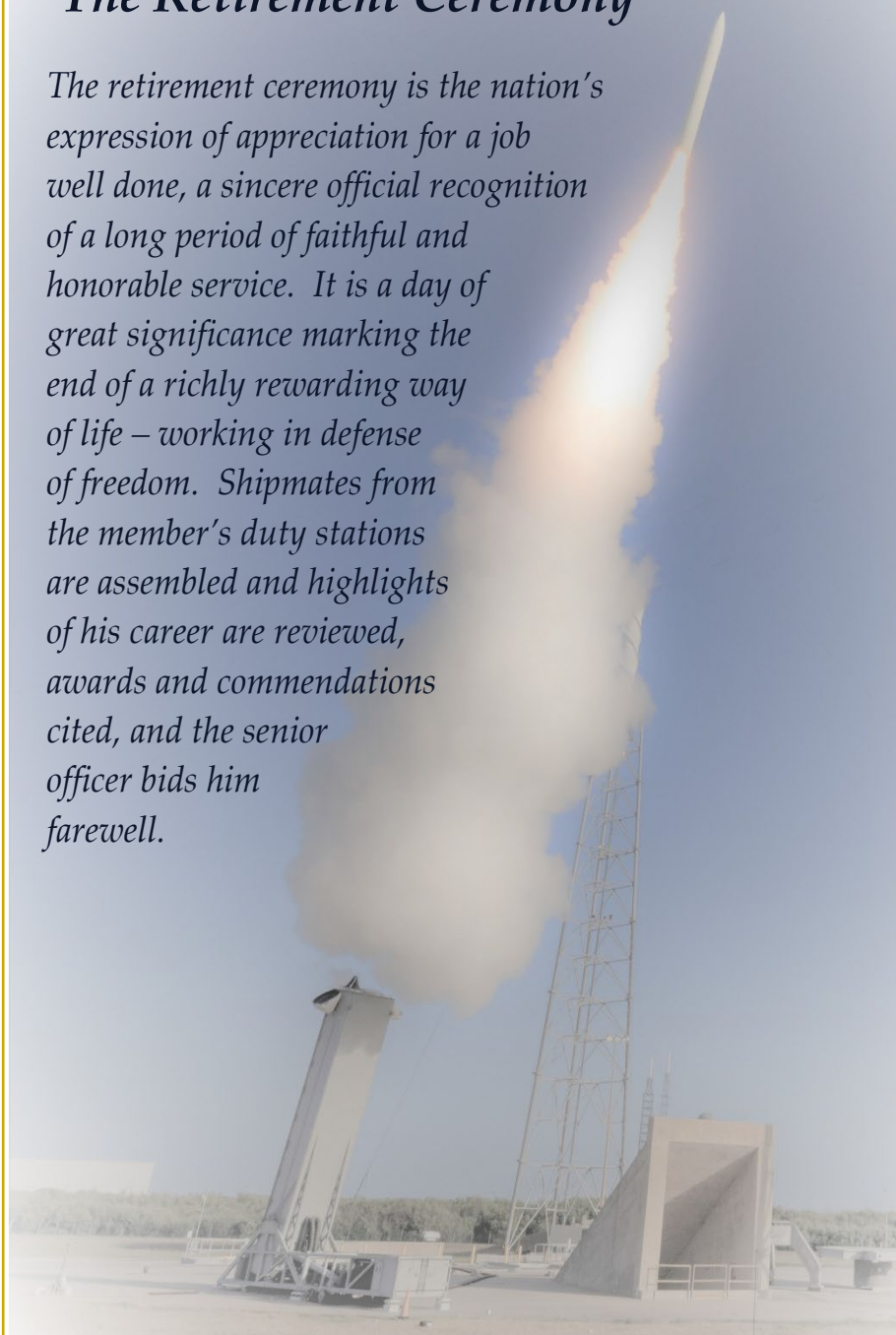
MAJOR PROGRAM MANAGER, CONVENTIONAL PROMPT STRIKE

Friday, 13 June 2025

The Navy Museum
Washington Navy Yard Washington, D.C.

The Retirement Ceremony

The retirement ceremony is the nation's expression of appreciation for a job well done, a sincere official recognition of a long period of faithful and honorable service. It is a day of great significance marking the end of a richly rewarding way of life – working in defense of freedom. Shipmates from the member's duty stations are assembled and highlights of his career are reviewed, awards and commendations cited, and the senior officer bids him farewell.





Captain Gene G. Severtson

Major Program Manager, Conventional Prompt Strike



CAPT Gene Severtson is a native of Spring Lake Park, MN and attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating with merit in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Control Systems Engineering. He also holds a Masters of Engineering Management Degree from Old Dominion University.

At sea, CAPT Severtson has served aboard USS HENRY M. JACKSON (SSBN 730 GOLD), USS DALLAS (SSN 700) as the Combat Systems Officer, and USS FLORIDA (SSGN 728 GOLD) as the Executive Officer. During this tour, FLORIDA participated in Operation ODYSSEY DAWN where she became the first SSGN to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in conflict. He commanded USS

NEVADA (SSBN 733 GOLD). During his time in command, the ship earned numerous unit awards, the Battle "E" Award and the Omaha Trophy as the top performing SSBN in executing the strategic deterrent mission.

Ashore, CAPT Severtson has served as an instructor and as the Executive Assistant to the Weapons & Systems Engineering Department Chair at the United States Naval Academy, Current Operations Branch Chief within the Special Activities Division at US Strategic Command - Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JFCC-ISR), Unmanned Systems and Future Payloads Branch Head on the staff of Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97), and Head of Tactical Submarine Design on the staff of Director, Undersea Warfare Division (OPNAV N97).

After transitioning to the Acquisition Professional community, he served as a Principal Acquisition Program Manager at Advanced Undersea Systems (NAVSEA PMS 394) and Submarine Combat and Weapons Control (NAVSEA PMS 425) and Major Program Manager, Undersea Defensive Warfare Systems (NAVSEA PMS 415). He assumed duties as the Major Program Manager for Conventional Prompt Strike in April 2025.

CAPT Severtson's decorations include the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (two awards), and various service and unit awards.

CAPT Severtson enjoys balancing his arduous professional naval career and his love for family, with his passion for endurance sports. As an accomplished triathlete, he routinely competes at the highest level as a member of the All-Navy Marathon, All-Navy Triathlon, and Team USA, all while finding time to coach high school Track & Field.

Commander William F. Murphy

Commanding Officer Navy Reserve Center Denver



A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Cmdr. William "Chip" Murphy, enlisted in the United States Navy in June of 1994 under an Airman Apprentice contract. While enlisted, Murphy served as a plane captain with the "Rough Raiders" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 125 in Lemoore, California, and as an intelligence specialist on the staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT)/5th Fleet in Manama, Bahrain. In 1998, Murphy was selected for the Broadened Opportunity Officer Selection and Training Program (BOOST) in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon successful graduation from the BOOST Program, he received a Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Scholarship to the University of Southern California (USC). He graduated from USC in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial systems engineering.

In 2003, he began flight training in Pensacola, Florida, and later Corpus Christi, Texas. In 2005, Murphy reported to the "Pro's Nest" of Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 in Jacksonville, Florida, for initial training as a P-3C Orion pilot. Murphy completed his first officer sea tour with the "War Eagles" of VP-16 in Jacksonville in April 2009. He made two deployments and two surges, deploying as an aircraft and mission commander. Murphy operated tactically in the 5th, 6th, and 7th fleet area of operations in the P-3C.

In 2009, he returned to Corpus Christi for duty as a T-34C instructor pilot with the "Boomers" of Training Squadron (VT) 27. In October 2011, he applied for and was selected as a full time support officer. He subsequently received orders to the "Wildcats" of VT-10 in April of 2012. During his department head tour, Murphy served as a T-6A flight instructor, reserve department head, and operations officer. In December of 2013, Murphy was selected as the full time support officer of the year from the squadrons across Training Air Wing (TRAWING) SIX. In August of 2014, he transferred to TRAWING SIX and served as the reserve operational support officer. In November of 2015, Murphy reported to the Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve where he served as the deputy executive assistant for two consecutive Chiefs of Navy Reserve. Murphy reported to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASN(M&RA)) in June of 2018 where he served as the Special Assistant Navy Reserve. In March of 2019, Murphy was screened for aviation command and returned to Corpus Christi, where he served as executive and commanding officer of VT-27. In July of 2023 he reported to NRC Denver where he currently serves as commanding officer.

Murphy has logged over 3,000 mishap-free flight hours, earned three Masters Degrees in three different disciplines (Engineering, Aviation, Business) and completed requirements for JPME Phase I with the Marine Corps Command and Staff Distance Education Program and Advanced JPME (JPME Phase II) with the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two Gold Star), Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two Gold Stars), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two Gold Stars), Navy Good Conduct Medal as well as multiple unit and service awards.

Commander Aaron L. Woolsey

Chief Developmental Test Principal Assistant Program Manager



CDR Aaron L. Woolsey, a native of Anaheim, CA, enlisted in the U.S Navy in April 1996. Upon completion of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Pipeline he received orders to the USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) as an Engineering Laboratory Technician. During this first tour, CDR Woolsey was selected to the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program in Newport, RI and was accepted for admittance to the University of Southern California to study Industrial and Systems Engineering. Finishing USC with his Bachelors of Science in 2003, he received his commission and reported to the Naval Postgraduate School to study C4I Systems Technology receiving his Masters of Science in June 2004. Upon graduation, CDR Woolsey reported to the USS BELLEAU WOOD (LHA 3)

to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). Following this deployment, CDR Woolsey returned to support the war effort as an individual augmentee in the United Arab Emirates as part of Embarked Security Teams supporting CTF 53. After completing the six month solo assignment, he reported aboard the USS BOXER (LHD 4) where he served as Assistant Navigator. Onboard BOXER, he qualified Surface Warfare Officer and again deployed in support of OEF/OIF. In 2007 he received orders to be the Damage Control Assistant aboard USS ROBERT G. BRADLEY (FFG 49) and supported counter-narco terrorism operations off the coast of South America.

At the completion of this tour CDR Woolsey exercised his option to become an Engineering Duty Officer and reported to the Naval Postgraduate School to study Applied Physics. Following graduation in 2010 he received orders to Defense Contract Management Agency supporting Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) production of the TRIDENT II D5 missile and development of the D5 Life Extension missile. After qualifying as an Engineering Duty Officer, CDR Woolsey reported to Program Management Office SSP Sunnyvale, CA and led the Missile Engineering Section and Launcher Division. Upon completion of these tours in 2016, he reported to SSP Headquarters as Deputy Branch Head for Reentry Systems supporting deployed and advance reentry systems programs. In 2019, CDR Woolsey led the Ship Integration Branch as Plans and Programs Section Head supporting the Common Missile Compartment for COLUMBIA and UK DREADNOUGHT programs. Following this tour CDR Woolsey reported to the Engineering Duty Officer School, Port Hueneme, CA as the Executive Officer and Senior Course Director, holding the position from May 2021 to November 2022. He then reported back to Washington, D.C and SSP as the Chief Developmental Test Principle Assistant Program Manager for the Conventional Prompt Strike Program.

CDR Woolsey's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. CDR Woolsey is married to his former squad leader, and fellow Trojan, Sonya Ehret of Cedar Rapids, IA. Together they have three daughters: Lainey (21), Vallie (19) and Marlee (17).





Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy'

- John F. Kennedy, August 1963



"Whatever happens tomorrow, you must promise me one thing. That you will stay who you are. Not a perfect soldier, but a good man."

*- Dr. Abraham Erskin
(Captain America: The First Avenger)*

PROGRAM *of* EVENTS

Arrival of Official Party

Presentation of Colors
U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard

National Anthem

Master of Ceremonies
Lieutenant Commander David West

Opening Remarks
Captain Gene G. Severtson

Guest Speaker
Commander William F. Murphy

Presentation of Awards

Retiree's Remarks

The Watch

Piped Ashore

Hosted Reception
Behind you!







The Watch

*For 25 – years
This Sailor has stood the watch*

*While some of us were in our bunks at night
This Sailor stood the watch*

*While some of us were in school learning our trade
This Shipmate stood the watch*

*Yes... even before some of us were born into this
world - This Shipmate stood the watch*

*In those years when the storm clouds of war were
seen brewing on the horizon of history
This Shipmate stood the watch*

*Many times he would cast an eye ashore and
see his family standing there
Needing his guidance and help
Needing that hand to hold during those hard
times - But he still stood the watch*

He stood the watch for 25 – years

*He stood the watch so that we,
our families, and our fellow countrymen
could sleep soundly in safety,
each and every night,
Knowing that a Sailor stood the watch.*

Today we are here to say:

'Shipmate... the watch stands relieved'

Relieved by those You have Trained, Guided, and Led!

Shipmate you stand relieved... we have the watch...

*"Boatswain... Standby to Pipe the Side...
A shipmate is going Ashore."*

Bos'n, Standby to Pipe the Side. A Shipmate is Going Ashore.

The custom of piping ashore that you'll witness at the conclusion of today's ceremony originated long ago. In the days of sail, the boatswain sounded his pipe to control the hoisting or lowering of a boatswain's chair in which a visiting officer was brought aboard and departed the ship. Members of the crew, designated as sideboys, tended the side, meaning they handled the heaving ropes. While the days of sail are passed, along with the sideboys' laborious task, the boatswain's whistle and a fitting formation of sideboys are used today in tribute to both officer and enlisted retirees. As the boatswain sounds his pipe, the sideboys will solemnly salute the honoree for his many years of naval service, now concluded, as he goes ashore for the last time.



GOING ASHORE

*Avast ye swabs, lands in sight-make haste in sail for
we land tonight and in the morn at break of day,
we'll man the rails and gangplank way.*

*The Bos'n's pipe will trill and shrill—as we send a
shipmate to the shore, there to remain forever more.*

*Tonight we'll crack a keg or two, gather round and
drink a toast to you.*

*We'll lift our mugs away up high, for the many
years that drifted by.*

*Remember throughout the many years, you sailed
away amidst the tears of loved ones left behind,
worried and hoping they'd be fine.*

*Of our shipmates too, my man, who followed you to
many lands, intine their names and faces, will be
forgotten as all those places.*

*But like the morning fog and dew, we'll endeavor to
remember you, and when morning sun lifts the
haze, and we sail again for many days, you'll
remember us as we will you, until the years leave
only a few to recall the good old days, of sailing men
o're the waves.*

History of the Washington Navy Yard

The Washington Navy Yard is the U.S. Navy's oldest shore establishment, in operation since the first decade of the 19th century. It evolved from a shipbuilding center to an ordnance plant and then to the ceremonial and administrative center for the Navy. The yard is home to the Chief of Naval Operations and is also headquarters for the Naval Historical Center and numerous naval commands. The original boundaries that were established in 1800, along 9th and M Streets Southeast, are still marked by a white brick wall that surrounds the Navy Yard on the north and east sides. The north wall of the yard was built in 1809 along with a guard house. After the fire of 1814, Commodore Tingey recommended that the height of the eastern wall be increased to ten feet, since along with the fire, looting by the local populace took its toll.

The first years saw the Washington Navy Yard become the Navy's largest shipbuilding and ship-fitting facility, with 22 vessels constructed there, ranging from small 70-foot gunboats to the 246-foot steam frigate Minnesota. USS Constitution came to the yard in 1812 to refit and prepare for combat action. Following the War of 1812, the Washington Navy Yard never regained its prominence as a shipbuilding activity. The waters of the Anacostia River were too shallow to accommodate larger vessels, and the yard was deemed too inaccessible to open sea. Thus came a shift to what was to be the character of the yard for more than a century: ordnance and technology. The yard boasted one of the earliest steam engines in the United States which was used to manufacture anchors, chain, and steam engines for vessels of war.

By World War II, the yard was the largest naval ordnance plant in the world. The weapons designed and built there were used in every war in which the United States fought until the 1960s. At its peak, the yard consisted of 188 buildings on 126 acres of land and employed nearly 25,000 people. Small components for optical systems, and enormous 16-inch battleship guns were all manufactured here. In December 1945 the Navy Yard was renamed the U.S. Naval Gun Factory. Ordnance work continued for some years after World War II until finally phased out in 1961. Three years later, on July 1, 1964, the activity was re-designated the Washington Navy Yard. The deserted factory buildings began to be converted to office use.

Today the Navy Yard houses a variety of activities. It serves as headquarters, Naval District Washington, and houses numerous support activities for the fleet and aviation communities. The Navy Museum welcomes visitors to displays of naval art and artifacts which trace the Navy's history from the Revolutionary War to the present day. The Naval Historical Center is housed in a complex of buildings known as the Dudley Knox Center for Naval History. Leutze Park is the scene of colorful ceremonies. And inside the buildings, the Washington Navy Yard continues to serve the Navy and the nation.





Conventional Prompt Strike
Inaugural End-to-End Flight Test
May 23, 2024 – Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii
“Fair Winds and Following Seas”