



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

US Navy Birthday 2007

On behalf of everyone serving our Armed Forces, including their families, I wish all Sailors everywhere a very Happy Navy Birthday.

This birthday finds you -- as you have always been -- underway, ready to answer all bells. But it also finds you firmly anchored on the ground, supporting the Joint Force in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, conducting humanitarian assistance, and spreading the hope of a better future around the world.

As we celebrate your 232nd birthday, we also prepare to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great White Fleet's voyage around the world. Casting off from Hampton Roads in 1907, that long line of battleships and escorts helped define our Nation as a global maritime power ... and our Navy as a global force for good. On that cloudy December morning, as President Theodore Roosevelt looked on with pride, we opened the main steam valves and never looked back.

You and your families still make America proud. You are still, as Roosevelt himself referred to Great White Fleet Sailors, truly "citizens of the world." Thank you for your service. Have a great Navy Birthday.

M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy