



Naval Education and Training Command
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MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navy Awards Ceremony Will Honor Military, Civilians Involved in Dec. 6 NAS Pensacola Shooting

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The U.S. Navy will conduct an awards ceremony at the National Naval Aviation Museum onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m.

The ceremony will recognize the bravery and selflessness of those involved in the Dec. 6 shooting at NAS Pensacola that left four dead, including the shooter, and eight injured.

Vice Adm. Mary Jackson, commander, Navy Installations Command, and Vice Adm. John Nowell, Jr., chief of naval personnel, whom will be the presiding officers, will present awards to 34 civilian and military personnel. The awards include Purple Heart, Secretary of Defense Medal for Valor, Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom, Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Life Saving Award. The awardees represent NAS Pensacola, Naval Aviation Schools Command, Marine Aviation Training Support Group (MATSG) 21, MATSG-23 and the Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

The ceremony is closed to the public. The Navy will stream the ceremony live on the MyNavy HR Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MyNAVYHR/>.

Schedule for media events:

- 8:45 a.m.** Arrive at NAS Pensacola West Gate (Gulf Beach Highway and Blue Angels Parkway) for escort as a group to National Naval Aviation Museum
- 9:30 a.m.** Media availability with Vice Adm. Mary Jackson and Vice Adm. John Nowell, Jr.
- 10:00 a.m.** Awards ceremony
- 11:00 a.m.** Media availability with four awardees
- 11:30 a.m.** Depart NAS Pensacola

Interested media please contact no later than noon, Thursday, March 12:

Cmdr. James Stockman, Naval Education and Training Command public affairs officer,
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AWARD DESCRIPTIONS

Since the Revolutionary War, the **Purple Heart**, the world's oldest military decoration in use, has been awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed during any action against an enemy of the United States.

The **Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom** is a decoration established to acknowledge civilian employees of the United States Department of Defense who are killed or wounded in the line of duty.

The **Navy and Marine Corps Medal** is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy or Marine Corps, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism not involving actual conflict with the enemy. Although many past awards were for heroism involving lifesaving, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal is not solely a lifesaving medal. It may be awarded for any heroic act not involving direct conflict with the enemy. However, for acts of lifesaving, or attempted lifesaving, the action must have been performed at the risk of one's own life.

The **Secretary of the Defense Medal for Valor** is the highest civilian award for valor presented by the Department of Defense. Created in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the medal recognizes government employees and private citizens who perform an act of heroism or sacrifice, with voluntary risk to their personal safety in the face of danger.

The **Navy Distinguished Public Service Award**, established in 1951, is an award presented by the U.S. Secretary of the Navy to civilians for specific courageous or heroic acts or exceptionally outstanding service of substantial and long-term benefit to the Navy, Marine Corps, or Department of the Navy as a whole.

The **Commendation Medal** is a mid-level United States military decoration, which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. Each branch of the United States Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service performed under the Department of Defense.

The **Life Saving Award** is presented to the fire fighter(s) whose performance was conducted with prompt and alert action, which specifically results in the successful saving of a human life. The actions taken may include the use of basic, technical or mechanical equipment in the successful lifesaving effort.



United States Navy Biography

VICE ADMIRAL JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
for Manpower, Personnel, Training, and Education, N1,
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations/Chief of Naval Personnel

Vice Adm. John Nowell is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Ocean Engineering and holds a Master of Science in Weapons Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Nowell's operational tours have spanned the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets to include forward deployed naval forces in Europe and the Western Pacific. He served aboard USS Callaghan (DDG 994), USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51), and USS The Sullivans (DDG 68). He commanded USS Porter (DDG 78), and Destroyer Squadron 60/Task Force 65. He also served as the maritime force commander (Combined Task Force-Bravo) for Joint Task Force Lebanon, Commander of Task Force West and Central Africa (CTF-365), and commander of the inaugural Africa Partnership Station deployment.



His staff assignments included tours on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Surface Warfare Directorate (N86), and executive assistant to the Director of Theater Air Warfare (N865); chief of the Theater Air and Missile Defense Branch (J-38); head of the Washington Placement Branch (PERS-441), executive assistant to the Commander, Navy Personnel Command/Naval Personnel Development Command, and director, Surface Warfare Distribution Division (PERS-41). Nowell also served as director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office in Washington, D.C.

As a flag officer, Nowell has served as chief of staff and director, Strategy, Resources, and Plans (N5/8) on the staff of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa/U.S. Sixth Fleet in Naples, Italy; Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet/Expeditionary Strike Group Seven/Task Force 76 in Okinawa, Japan, and most recently as director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (OPNAV N13).

Nowell assumed duties as the Navy's 59th Chief of Naval Personnel May 24, 2019. Serving concurrently as the deputy chief of naval operations (manpower, personnel, training and education) (N1), he is responsible for the planning and programming of all manpower, personnel, training and education resources for the U.S. Navy. He leads more than 26,000 dedicated professionals engaged in the recruiting, talent management, training and development of Navy personnel. His responsibilities include overseeing Navy Recruiting Command, Navy Personnel Command and Naval Education and Training Command.

His awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (six awards), Bronze Star, and various other personal, unit and campaign awards. Every ship that he has been assigned to has won the Battle Efficiency "E" award, and USS Porter (DDG 78) also won the Anti-Submarine Warfare "Bloodhound" award. Nowell was also the recipient of the 1987 Pacific Fleet Junior Officer Shiphandling Award.



United States Navy Biography

VICE ADMIRAL MARY M. JACKSON Commander, Navy Installations Command

Vice Adm. Mary Jackson is a native of Wimberley, Texas. She entered the U.S. Naval Academy in July 1984, graduating in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in Physics with an emphasis in Oceanography. Jackson earned a graduate degree from George Washington University in engineering management, was designated a surface warfare officer in 1989, and is qualified as a joint specialty officer.

At sea, Jackson has served on ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets with deployed operations in the Atlantic, Caribbean, Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and Western Pacific areas of operation. Her sea assignments include assistant operations officer and navigator on USS Willamette (AO 180); operations officer on USS Briscoe (DD 977); operations officer on USS Vella Gulf (CG 72); and executive officer of USS Stout (DDG 55). Jackson commanded USS McFaul (DDG 74), which served as the flagship for Combined Task Force 158 and Commander Destroyer Squadron 50 in the northern Persian Gulf.



Her assignments ashore include seamanship and navigation instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy; theater air and missile defense officer (J85) at U.S. Joint Forces Command, flag secretary to commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic Fleet; and head, surface junior officer assignments (PERS 412) at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee. Jackson served as executive officer at Naval Station Norfolk and subsequently commanded Naval Station Norfolk. Following an assignment as chief of staff to commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Jackson commanded Navy Region Southeast from July 18, 2014 to February 23, 2017.