CNO and MCPON Visit Norfolk for Naval Safety Command Establishment, Fleet Engagement



Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday salutes Sailors assigned to USS Mason (DDG 87) during a visit to the ship on Feb. 4. CNO Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith were in Norfolk for an establishment ceremony for the Naval Safety Command, previously known as the Naval Safety Center, and to visit various local commands. *U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeremy R. Boan*

NORFOLK, Va. – U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith visited Norfolk Naval Station to attend the establishment ceremony of the Naval Safety Command and visit local Norfolk-based commands on Feb. 4.

Gilday was the guest speaker for the establishment ceremony, during which the Naval Safety Center was elevated to the Naval Safety Command.

This elevation, highlighted during his remarks at the Surface Navy Association symposium in January, was a key component of Gilday's call to action for the U.S. Navy to "get real, get better."

"The establishment of the Naval Safety Command expands our focus on safety and leverages 'get real get better' principles, while we evaluate safety management and performance of the Navy and Marine Corps," said Gilday.

The get real, get better program seeks to reduce the gap between the Navy's least and most capable performer, cement dynamic learning and innovation into Navy culture, and build better leaders and teams who are ready to solve problems more effectively.

"The significance of today's establishment can be summarized simply: It's a vital change that will increase warfighting readiness," said Gilday. "Almost no aspect of naval operations can be separated from risk, but risk can be reduced."

The Navy elevated the Naval Safety Center to the Naval Safety Command following the USS Bonhomme Richard fire and the Major Fires Review.

"We will empower our Sailors, Marines and civilians by collecting their insights to bolster our safety culture," said Commander, Naval Safety Command Rear Adm. Frederick Luchtman. "Ultimately, the command will serve as a force multiplier of a culture that incorporates risk management and accountability by all individuals, regardless of rank and position."

Gilday, Luchtman and Hailey unveiled the command's new seal during the ceremony. Key elements of the seal include a blue

and red shield representing protection across the naval enterprise, blue for the Navy's dominance on, under and over the maritime domain, and red for the courage and tenacity of the Marine Corps, said the command's press office. The globe behind the shield symbolizes naval warriors, wherever they serve worldwide, under the protection of safety principles.

The new command motto featured on the seal, "Enabling Warfighting Readiness," is a testament to the command's mission to preserve warfighting capability, combat lethality and enable readiness by working with its stakeholders to identify and mitigate or eliminate hazards to reduce unnecessary risk to people and resources.

"The Naval Safety Command will provide transparency into emerging risk trends and the current safety status of all commands through enhanced risk identification, communication, and accountability, as well as data collection, management, and product dissemination, which will protect our most important resource, our Sailors, Marines, and civilians whose lives we value above all else." Luchtman said.

For more information or resources from the Naval Safety Command, visit the command website at https://navalsafetycommand.navy.mil.

Other Visits

While in Hampton Roads, Gilday and Smith also visited the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Mason (DDG 87) and the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg (CG 64) where they met with Sailors and leadership.

"Having the opportunity to travel with CNO while having unfiltered, candid conversations with Sailors provides essential feedback that improves our fleet and increases combat readiness. Our people are truly paramount to readiness; without them, Gettysburg and Mason could not perform the

multitude of missions they were designed for. It is our Sailors who will ensure we prevail in combat," said Smith.