

2010 Navy Birthday Message from
Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

For two hundred and thirty five years, the men and women of the Navy have gone down to the sea in ships. But today's Sailors also roam the depths of the ocean, soar in the clouds, patrol the mountain trails of Afghanistan, build airfields, hospitals, and schools, and care for those affected by disaster.

Through it all, the practices of deployment are the same. Sailors kiss their loved ones, cast a weather eye at the horizon, and set sail for weeks, months, or even years. In doing so, every Sailor sacrifices birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions in order to keep our Navy strong and our nation safe. Over our history, countless thousands have gone further, and made the ultimate sacrifice. In Afghanistan and Iraq today, some continue to do so.

It is because of the keen devotion to duty of every Sailor, and the tremendous professionalism exhibited by our forces, that the Navy has become the most formidable expeditionary fighting force the world has ever known. For two hundred and thirty five years, the Navy has formed the maritime bulwark of the United States - defending our shores; protecting our commerce; furthering our national interests; building partnerships with our allies; and when necessary, decisively carrying the fight to the enemies of freedom and those who would threaten America's peace, safety, and security.

You, our Sailors, continue to build on that legacy of selfless and patriotic service. Thank you for defending our country. Thank you for the sacrifices both you and your families make every day. Thank you for wearing the uniform. Godspeed and happy 235th birthday.