The Knox County Joint Veterans Council are looking for volunteers!!!

The Knox County Joint Veterans Council is located at the Knox County Veterans Service Office located at 105 E Chestnut St. Mount Vernon, Ohio. The post conducts regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The meeting time is 7:00 P.M. Contact Carol Riley @ 740-504-3264 to schedule services. Contact Eddie Stage@ 740-504-1597 if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



They stand guard silently, vigilantly through whatever Mother Nature dares throw at them. They do so with great pride to honor one of their own. And they do this without thought of payment. For them, honoring a fallen brother-in-arms is compensation enough.

For the families of the deceased soldier, they are the ever-watchful sentinels, and their selfless act is a much-appreciated tribute.

They are the Joint Veterans Council.

Navy uses 3-D printing to manufacture destroyer parts

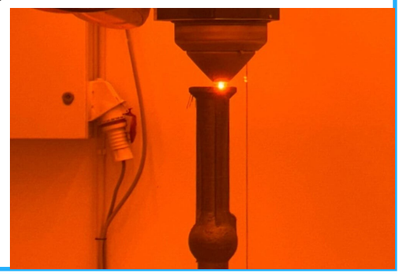
The Naval Sea Systems Command engineering directorate has streamlined a manufacturing process to allow for the 3-D printing of parts for Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. Recent NAVSEA guidance allows waterfront engineers to use additive manufacturing, better known as 3-D printing, to produce vessel parts and components classified as low-risk — meaning parts that are not vital to the safety and function of the ship.

The parts were manufactured for the guided missile destroyer Arleigh Burke — the lead ship of its class — by the Spain-based Forward Deployed Regional Maintenance Center (FDRMC) Detachment Rota in collaboration with Spanish allies. “We have empowered and equipped our waterfront and forward-deployed engineers and maintainers that directly support our warfighters,” said Rear Adm. Pete Small, NAVSEA chief engineer, in a release. “This project executed with our Spanish allies further proves the significant readiness AM generates for our ships, restoring a critical system while meeting the compressed timeline for the ship’s forward-deployed patrol.”

The destroyer Arleigh Burke had a pair of leaky eductors, or jet pumps, in its vacuum collection holding and transfer (VCHT) system, according to the release. Both needed to be replaced prior to the vessel returning to patrol duty to stop the system from potentially failing during deployment.

While educators are traditionally made of cast bronze and take nearly a year to produce, 3-D printing the parts shortened the manufacturing process by 80%. The total process, including the planning phase, took only two months. The 3-D printing manufacturing itself took only seven days to produce the pumps prior to installation. Speeding up the part replacement allowed the ship to be on time for its upcoming scheduled patrol in the U.S. Sixth Fleet area of operations.

Although 3-D printing has been in use for some time, NAVSEA’s move to expedite the process of parts manufacturing comes at a time when the Navy is suffering from a lagging shipbuilding industry and is being urged to modify manufacturing and repair processes overall. At a June 10 hearing, Sen. Roger Wicker, chair of the Senate Armed Service Committee, described the current state of naval shipbuilding as “in an abysmal condition overall” despite some recent improvements.



After more than 80 years, this Marine returned home from Guadalcanal

Following a decade-long recovery and identification mission led by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency — and more than 80 years since he was killed in the hellish Guadalcanal campaign — U.S. Marine Corps Pvt. Charmning Rowe returned home this month. “Today we close the chapter on a story that began in 1942 and bring home a hero,” said Sgt. Matthew Wedding, the Marine charged with escorting Rowe’s remains. “This mission embodies our commitment to never forget and to fulfill our promise to bring every Marine home.”

A native of Orlovista, Florida, Rowe enlisted in the Marine Corps on Jan. 20, 1942, just six weeks after the United States’ entry into World War II. Following recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina, Rowe was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Division.

The American campaign to wrest the island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese began on Aug. 7, 1942. The first land campaign of the Pacific, Guadalcanal was to play an outsized roll in turning the Japanese tide in the war. It was, as historian John D. Lukacs writes, “America’s first steps toward the ultimate, unconditional victory over Japan almost exactly three years later.” Between July 1942 and February 1943, the U.S. won the naval battle, the air battle and the land battle — initially with nothing more than sheer tenacity and courage, but then by grinding down the enemy with increasingly superior lines of supply.

At just 21 years old when he arrived on Guadalcanal on Sept. 18, 1942, Rowe was among those many green recruits facing down a ruthless enemy. He would be killed only six days later. During a patrol southwest of the vital Henderson Field, Rowe engaged in a firefight with Japanese forces near Mount Austen. Rowe and three other Marines — Pvt. Randolph R. Edwards, Pfc. Erwin S. King, and Pfc. Morris E. Canady — were killed by enemy gunfire and buried in hasty battlefield graves dug by his fellow Marines.

The graves were known as Hill X and Hill Y. Six other fallen Marines would shortly be buried alongside the men. However, according to the Marine Forces Reserve, “despite post-war efforts by the American Graves Registration Service in the late 1940s, none of the 10 Marines buried at Hills X and Y were recovered. In 1949, Rowe was officially declared ‘non-recoverable.’”

In 2012, the case was reopened by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency following new intelligence that revealed postwar recovery teams may have searched the wrong locations due to mislabeled records, the Marine Forces Reserve wrote. A 1942 aerial map that had gone previously unnoticed and unused in a Hawaiian museum archive held the key to locating Rowe and his fellow Devil Dogs. In 2016, excavation efforts resumed, leading to the discovering of human remains and military artifacts.

On June 5, the remains of Rowe were, at long last, repatriated to his family in Orlando. “This mission highlights the institution’s commitment to never leaving a Marine behind,” said 1st Sgt. Juan Duque, inspector-instructor, 4th Marine Logistics Group.



Why Patrick Star is the blue falcon of Bikini Bottom

Every unit has one. The soldier who raises his hand when the sergeant says, “Any questions?” The one who forgets to shave, shows up late and gets the whole squad smoked on a Saturday morning. We call this person the blue falcon. And in Bikini Bottom, that individual is Patrick Star. To civilians, Patrick is just SpongeBob’s best friend — the goofy sidekick with no job, no ambition and a brain full of cotton candy. But to anyone who’s ever worn a uniform, he’s something far more familiar: the smiling saboteur, the well-meaning liability, the person you can’t leave unsupervised for five minutes without catching a misconduct charge by association. Patrick isn’t evil. He’s worse. He’s friendly, enthusiastic and entirely unaware of the consequences of his actions, which is exactly why he keeps getting his friends in trouble.

Patrick checks every blue falcon box. He’s got poor situational awareness, questionable hygiene and an uncanny ability to say exactly the wrong thing at the worst possible moment. He once ate a chocolate bar and then spent an entire episode trying to frame someone else for the crime, despite having chocolate all over his face. In “I Had an Accident,” he breaks SpongeBob’s fragile psychological recovery by dressing up in a gorilla suit. And in “Big Pink Loser,” his desire to imitate SpongeBob leads to widespread chaos at the Krusty Krab, culminating in a disastrous attempt at food service that would get any E-3 locked out of the DFAC permanently. He’s the guy who borrows your gear and brings it back broken. The guy who volunteers both of you for a 24-hour CQ shift because he “thought it would be fun.” And worst of all? He’s somehow your best friend. In the armed forces, there’s a phrase: “Never attribute to malice what can be explained by incompetence.”But with Patrick, the line gets blurry. He’s not trying to ruin lives — he just does. His sheer lack of awareness is so profound that it becomes a superpower. You can’t get mad at him because he’s too stupid to understand what he did. But that doesn’t change that he just canceled your liberty.

In “The Secret Box,” he torments SpongeBob for an entire episode over the contents of a mysterious lockbox, only to reveal at the end that it contains nothing but a piece of string. It’s a perfect metaphor for what it’s like working with a blue falcon. You spend hours trying to track down the problem, only to find out there was no plan, no purpose — just pure, chaotic dumbassery. The thing that makes blue falcons dangerous isn’t just what they do — it’s who they do it to. Patrick rarely ruins his own life. He ruins SpongeBob’s. He’s the walking embodiment of “You get smoked for what your buddy did.” SpongeBob ends up missing work, losing his job or facing some kind of underwater existential crisis, and Patrick just stands there blinking. In a military context, Patrick would be the guy you share a barracks room with. The one who gets drunk, floods the latrine and passes out on your bunk, then wonders why you’re getting counseled by the first sergeant. He’d be the private who mistakes “police call” for “clean up your own trash,” then tells the command sergeant major that “nobody explained the standard.”And somehow, despite all this, you still hang out with him. Blue falcons are never true villains. They’re just the idiots who make you look like one.

SpongeBob’s relationship with Patrick is one of the most psychologically accurate portrayals of enlisted friendship ever animated. He knows Patrick is a liability. He knows bringing him anywhere is a risk. And yet he keeps doing it. Why? Because in every squad, there’s that one guy everyone protects. Patrick has that status. He’s the guy no one wants to throw under the bus — even though the bus is clearly headed straight for you. SpongeBob covers for him, defends him, even praises him. In “Rock-A-Bye Bivalve,” they raise a baby scallop together, and Patrick completely checks out of parenting — but SpongeBob never throws him out. He just sighs and handles it. That’s how it is in the military. You don’t abandon your blue falcon. You adapt to him. And then you pray to every deity that he doesn’t show up drunk to the safety brief. Patrick is different from your average burnout because he genuinely believes he’s helping. He’s the guy who thinks starting a fire in the motor pool is “innovation.” The guy who forgets to wear gloves on an ammo detail but explains it’s because he “wanted to feel more connected to the mission.” That’s why he sticks around. He’s not mean. He’s not malicious. He’s just monumentally unfit for independent action — and too friendly to exile. You don’t promote him. You don’t trust him with keys. But you don’t leave him behind, either.

Deep down, every veteran has a soft spot for their own personal Patrick. Because, for all the chaos he causes, he’s still your guy. Your idiot. Your walking Article 15 with a heart of gold. You just keep him far away from the sign-in roster and pray he doesn’t discover grenades.

Pictures of the Month



Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft fly in formation over Wake Island, June 7, 2025.



Children interact with a Quad-legged Unmanned Ground Vehicle during the Army's 250th birthday celebration at Fort Bragg, N.C., June 10, 2025.