

Unless you've been living in a parallel dimension, you probably have noticed the Navy is constantly in the news for all the wrong reasons.

Meanwhile, the Navy continues to grapple with its culture that denigrates women: Sailors aboard the submarine USS Florida compiled a ["rape list"](#) of their female counterparts; a command master chief aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman resigned after telling sailors to ["clap like a strip club"](#) when Vice President Mike Pence visited the ship; and former SEAL and Missouri Gov. [Eric Greitens](#) – who was accused of sexually assaulting and blackmailing a woman – recently joined the Navy Selected Reserves.

Charges against Greitens were ultimately dropped. [The Navy is conducting a review of its policy for separating sailors](#) in light of his return to the service.

The over-budget and perpetually delayed aircraft carrier [USS Gerald R Ford](#) will not have all of its 11 weapons elevators working when it leaves the yards this October, [according to Breaking Defense](#).

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer told Trump in January that the president could fire him if all of the elevators were not working this summer. Spencer is "aware of the status" of the elevators now, said his spokesman Lt. Joshua Kelsey.

"He remains committed to ensuring the Navy and nation have a fully operational USS Gerald R. Ford and is working with the shipbuilder to get the ship at sea where it belongs," Kelsey told Task & Purpose.

Your friend and humble narrator gets no joy in writing about the Navy's streak

The Navy is its own worst problem. It always finds a way to make a bad situation worse.

Following two deadly ship collisions in 2017, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Bill Moran created the appearance of unlawful command influence by repeatedly blaming the former Cmdr. Bryce Benson, the former captain of the destroyer USS Fitzgerald, for one of the incidents, [a military judge found](#).

"The evidence demonstrates that these repeated comments were the result of a coordinated message as opposed to a single slip of the tongue," Navy Capt. J.T. Stephens ruled in December 2018. "The court finds that anyone who heard these statements would reasonably conclude that the CNO believes the accused to be guilty, which is problematic given CNO's positional authority."

Yet [Richardson continued to blame Benson](#) afterward, telling ProPublica for a Feb. 6 story: "Our commanders make decisions and our sailors execute and there is an outcome – a result of that decision. The commander 'owns' that outcome."

In April, [the Navy dropped charges against Benson](#). While Richardson's comments were not the sole reason why the case against Benson fell apart, they certainly contributed to the outcome.

The Navy made another unforced error when a Navy prosecutor [included a tracking device](#) in a May 8 email to defense attorneys for two Navy SEALs charged in connection with the death of a wounded ISIS fighter and Navy Times Editor Carl Prine.

As a result, a military judge removed the chief Navy prosecutor in the case of [Navy SEAL Chief Eddie Gallagher](#) on Tuesday, finding [the government had violated Gallagher's right to a fair trial](#).

I am tired of hearing about SEALs facing charges for serious crimes. On May 16, [Navy Chief Special Warfare Operator Adam Matthews](#) pleaded guilty to assault consummated by battery and other offenses for his role in the June 2017 [hazing death of Special Forces Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar](#), who was deployed to Mali at the time.

Fellow SEAL Navy Special Operations Chief Tony DeDolph – Melgar's team leader – is accused of approving the assault on Melgar and putting the Green Beret in a choke hold until he asphyxiated. Two special operations Marines also face charges stemming from Melgar's death.

Melgar's widow testified that her husband told her the SEALs in Mali were not mature and prone to juvenile antics.

If the SEALs don't get their act together, they will be required to have their wrists measured for the right handcuff size before they get their Tridents.

Come on Navy: You're better than this. The Marine Corps is supposed to be the dysfunctional sea service. Your job is to be the more regal military branch that puts up the bail money after the Corps has been in a bar fight. Please don't start eating crayons too.

When I was in the NAVY, the SEALs had Richard Dick Marcinko a real mans man. You never heard of him unfucking believable. The first mustang Commander of SEAL TEAM SIX. Medals include silver star Legion of merit bronze star and many others. Books RED CELL, GREEN TEAM, ROUGE WARRIOR AND OTHERS

The most kick ass unit in the fucking NAVY. A different sailor from today's lightweights