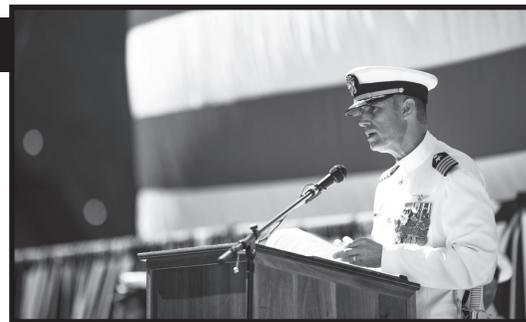


Fair winds to former USS John C. Stennis Commanding Officer Capt. Ronald Reis who was relieved by Capt. Michael Wettlaufer in a change of command ceremony on July 26.

Reis was CO of the ship for 30 months and in his poignant farewell posted online he wrote to his crew: "BRAVO ZULO for all that you do for your Navy and your country every day! It's been an amazing journey, and one that I will always cherish."



Former Commanding Officer Capt. Ronald Reis

I failed ... now what?

Letter from the Editor

By Jessica Borrelli, PSNS & IMF *Salute* Editor

I am a **public** affairs specialist. Say what? How embarrassing. Let's try again. I am a public affairs specialist. And you better believe that's not the first time someone forgot an "I" in public. But thanks to the embarrassment of countless teammates in the public affairs world, I'm extremely cautious every time I write my title. That's sadly not the only time an error has been published. While some are quite hysterical—for example when I didn't catch that Commander's Corner said our commander climbed Mr. (vice Mt.) Shasta—others are not so much. However, there is always a lesson learned, a takeaway, that I gain from such a mistake.

Fail. Mistake. Crash. Flunk. Whatever word you want to use, the meaning is the same. You were unsuccessful. Why does that automatically bring about stress and embarrassment? There are times when those feelings are valid. But then again, there are many times being unsuccessful can lead to an incredible learning experience, a situation where you reach the other side even better for having experienced something that didn't work.

One comment we receive every time we put out a *Salute* survey is that people want *Salute* to tell the whole story—including the not so wonderful situations that take place at PSNS & IMF. We agree with you. When the *Salute* team has those not-so-perfect moments, it's published for 11,000 people to see and weigh in on. Needless to say, we know not everything is perfect. So we're giving you—our readers, our teammates—an opportunity to tell the unsuccessful stories.

We've heard the term "safe to fail." Do you have something your work crew tried, with the best of intentions, and it just didn't work? I guarantee you can look back at that situation and find something you learned, or even something others can learn, from your story. Let's share those stories because we all know work isn't perfect all the time and who knows how someone could benefit from that failure, the unsuccessful situation, you found yourself in?

We've heard the quote from Thomas Edison that he didn't fail, he just found 10,000 ways that didn't work. Truth is, according to the Smithsonian, he had more than 40,000 pages of notes and tested 1,600 materials for the light bulb filament before he finally found something that withstood a 40-hour test in his lab. He took his failures and learned from them. If he hadn't, you might be reading this issue by candlelight.

This isn't the time to slam on a co-worker or supervisor; we'd simply like to hear about the efforts that didn't work, but ones that might create an opportunity for improvement for accomplishing the mission.

So, let's embrace and share our failures; we all can benefit from gaining the full picture. Just ask Ford about the Pinto ... flame on!

And on that note...

Speaking of "safe to fail," our July 3 issue of *Salute* included a 3-question survey about the paper which you, our readers, so kindly sent responses to. We've been making changes to the paper since the early part of the year and you told us what you liked and what we "failed" with.

We want to let you know we are already looking to make improvements, starting with the next issue, based on your suggestions. More on these survey results will also be in the next issue, so look for them on Aug. 15. Thanks for your time!