THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

March 15, 2017

GREETINGS TO ALL COMMEMORATING THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BATTLE OF EXERCISE TIGER

On behalf of the Department of the Navy, it is my pleasure to
extend greetings and thanks as you gather at the U.S. Coast Guard
Station Barnegat Light, for the 28th annual wreath laying and national
tribute commemorating the WWII Battle of Exercise Tiger. And, to all
veterans being honored today, congratulations.

Seventy-three years ago 551 U.S. Army Soldiers and 198 U.S. Navy
Sailors lost their lives in combat. On April 28, 1944, eight U.S.
Navy LSTs (Tank Landing ships) comprised of Convoy Taffy 4, were
preparing for the upcoming Normandy invasion known to the world as D-
Day. Without warning, nine German Navy E-boats attacked the convoy.
Despite suffering battle damage and horrific casualties, the U.S. Navy
ships held their own against a much larger enemy force. When courage
counted most, those Army and Navy crews met that challenge. The
Battle of Exercise Tiger and the LSTs of Convoy Taffy 4 remains one of
the shining moments in the history of U.S. Naval Amphibious Warfare.

I commend the U.S. Exercise Tiger Foundation for their continued
efforts and devotion to keep this day a day of honor and remembrance.
The U.S. Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light is commended, as well, for
their historic uninterrupted wreath laying tribute, honoring this
battle for 28 years, the longest wreath-laying ceremony in USCG
history. To all our veterans gathered today, thank you for your
service. For those being honored for their Vietnam War participation
by the Department of Defense, let me add, welcome home. Best wishes
for a memorable tribute.

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Sean J. Stackley
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