



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20372-5300

FORCE MASTER CHIEF

25 November 2008

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all of our Sailors for the outstanding job they do on a daily basis and for their commitment and sacrifice in support of the War on Terror and global humanitarian efforts.

During this time of celebration, we remember those Sailors that will spend this Thanksgiving at sea or on a foreign land, and especially our fallen warriors who had given the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom and democracy. It is through our Sailors courageous efforts that we are able to enjoy this holiday with our family and friends and give thanks to all we hold dear.

As the Navy's operational tempo and deployment schedules increase, much has been asked of our Navy family in support of our Sailors. As families celebrate without their Sailors, I want them to know that their sacrifice does not go unnoticed. Please keep these families in your thoughts as we celebrate Thanksgiving.

I would also like to extend my heart-felt appreciation to all the civilians and volunteers that comprise Navy Medicine. Your contribution to the Navy team is immeasurable, for your efforts ensure a ready force that is able to sustain the Navy's mission.

Bravo Zulu Navy Team and thank all of you for your service to our great country. Please remember, as we celebrate with family and friends during this joyous occasion, to do so responsibly and safely.

Sincerely,

L. A. MARTINEZ  
Force Master Chief  
Fleet Marine Force  
United States Navy