



NAVAL STATION EVERETT: STILL THE SAILOR'S CHOICE

U.S. Representative
Rick Larsen

Washington's Second
Congressional District

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A Note from Representative Rick Larsen

In December 2019, I released a report entitled “[Naval Station Everett: ‘The Sailor’s Choice’ Poised for the Future](#).” In that report, I outlined why Naval Station Everett is advantageous for both the Navy and sailors and their families, thanks in large part to the support of the local community.

Naval Station Everett (NSE) is *still* the sailor’s choice, and it should be the Pentagon’s choice as well for future frigate homeporting decisions. According to Navy Region Northwest, NSE is the most modern shore installation in the U.S.¹ It is also one of only two Navy-owned deep-water ports on the continental West Coast, making it an important strategic asset in the Indo-Pacific region. A strong Navy presence at NSE not only meets the strategic needs of the United States but also creates jobs and drives economic growth in the Puget Sound region.



In November of 2025, the Administration canceled the Constellation-class guided-missile frigate program, ending plans for 12 of these new ships to be homeported at NSE.² Since the cancellation, I have been working with local stakeholders and the U.S. Navy to understand how this decision will affect NSE, its sailors and the surrounding community. While I am disappointed by the Administration’s decision, it also creates an opportunity for NSE to be the homeport for new Navy missions.

I am working with local communities to ensure that the decisions regarding NSE will continue to sustain jobs in Northwest Washington and keep our country safe. Northwest Washington has consistently answered the call to serve, and I plan to hold the Administration and Navy accountable on the decision to cancel the Constellation-class guided-missile frigate program. The Navy must continue to invest in our fleet, workforce and the future of Naval Station Everett.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Larsen".

Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
Washington State, Second District

¹ Commander, Navy Region Northwest, “Naval Station Everett: About,” U.S. Navy, accessed September 23, 2026. <https://cnrnw.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/About/>

² Diamond, Randy. “Navy Secretary Sinks Plan to House New Frigates at Naval Station Everett.” *HeraldNet*, December 23, 2025. <https://www.heraldnet.com/2025/12/23/navy-secretary-sinks-plan-to-house-new-frigates-at-naval-station-everett/>

Section 1. Background



Naval Station Everett, Source: cnrnw.cnmc.navy.mil

Naval Station Everett (NSE) opened in 1994, making it one of the newest Navy installations. The base and community provide the 6,000 sailors and civil service personnel assigned to NSE with access to housing, child care and other services to improve their quality of life.³ The base can accommodate a large variety of Navy vessels, including aircraft carriers and guided-missile destroyers.

Over the past three decades, NSE has significantly expanded its on-site repair capabilities, including upgrades to its piers that enable pier-side Selected Restricted Availability (SRA) maintenance and intermediate-level repairs for homeported ships. These upgrades reduce the need for sailors to travel hours round-trip each day when ships are under repair, improving quality of life for sailors and their families.⁴

NSE is located on natural deep water at the Port of Everett, about 25 miles north of Seattle in Snohomish County, Washington. The Port of Everett provides full logistical support for the Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and Military Sealift Command. The Port supports more than 40,000 jobs in the region and is responsible for nearly \$21 billion in U.S. exports annually.⁵ More than 60

³ Military OneSource, “Naval Station Everett,” *Military Installations*, accessed September 23, 2026, <https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/in-depth-overview/naval-station-everett>.

⁴ Commander, Navy Region Northwest, “Operations and Management,” U.S. Navy, accessed September 23, 2026, <https://cnrnw.cnmc.navy.mil/Installations/NS-Everett/Operations-and-Management/>.

⁵ Port of Everett, “Seaport Overview & Economic Value,” accessed September 23, 2026, https://www.portofeverett.com/seaport/overview___economic_benefit.php.

percent of jobs in Snohomish County are tied to trade, making the Port of Everett a critical driver of economic development in the region.⁶



NSE Detail Map, Source: Final Environmental Assessment for Homeporting Constellation-Class Frigates at Naval Station Everett, Washington

⁶Snohomish County Government, “International Trade and Investment,” accessed September 23, 2026, <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2205/International-Trade-and-Investment>.

In October of 2021, the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) designated the Port of Everett as one of only 18 Strategic Commercial Seaports in the United States.⁷ With this designation, the Port is able to provide seaport capacity to move military assets during a national emergency or deployment. All Strategic Commercial Seaports, including the Port of Everett, must maintain readiness and be prepared to meet the military's needs with short notice, while minimizing disruption to commercial services and commerce.⁸ Close proximity to the Port of Everett gives NSE greater capabilities and strategic value.

Throughout its history, NSE has demonstrated its ability to quickly adapt to different types of ships and meet the Navy's evolving needs. The first ships to be homeported at NSE were the USS INGRAHAM (FFG-61) and USS FORD (FFG-54). NSE also homeported the aircraft carriers USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1997-2011) and USS NIMITZ (2012-2015). Since 2015, NSE has been home to seven guided-missile destroyers (DDGs) and the U.S. Coast Guard USCGC HENRY BLAKE (WLM 563).

In 2021, the Navy announced NSE as the homeport for the first 12 Constellation-class guided-missile frigates. As part of this homeporting plan, the Navy planned to station nearly 3,000 personnel and their families at NSE.⁹ However, in November 2025, the Navy announced the cancellation of the Constellation-class frigate program, which had been plagued by cost and schedule overruns.

⁷ Port of Everett, "Federal Maritime Commission Chairman Tours Port of Everett Seaport," May 21, 2026, https://www.portofeverett.com/news_detail_T31_R2450.php.

⁸ Port of Everett, "Port of Everett Designated Commercial Strategic Seaport for Military Support; One of Only 18 Seaports Nationwide," October 15, 2021, https://www.portofeverett.com/news_detail_T31_R1453.php.https://www.portofeverett.com/news_detail_T31_R1453.php

⁹ U.S. Navy, Department of the Navy. *Final Environmental Assessment: FFG NAVSTA Everett*. September 23, 2024, 1-1. https://www.nepa.navy.mil/Portals/20/Documents/FFG%20EA/2024-09-23%20Final%20EA_FFG%20NAVSTA%20Everett_508.pdf

Section 2. A Strategic Asset

As one of two Navy deep-water ports on the West Coast, NSE is an indispensable asset to the U.S. military's Indo-Pacific force posture, which makes it an ideal homeport for future frigate-class ships. Unlike other homeports on the West Coast, NSE offers direct access to the Pacific without the need to navigate congested waterways, tidal restrictions, bridges or other obstructions.

According to Navy personnel at NSE, Puget Sound ports like NSE are about two days closer to Asia than any other U.S. mainland port, allowing fast, easy access to the Indo-Pacific region. NSE also does not require regular dredging to maintain sufficient depth for Navy vessels, minimizing disruptions and ensuring reliable ocean access.

To support the goal of deterring China, the 2026 National Defense Strategy calls for strengthening the U.S. military's Indo-Pacific posture.¹⁰ NSE provides well-positioned and reliable pier space that should be used to its full potential to support the Navy's growing needs in the region.

In May 2026, the Navy released its Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 shipbuilding plan, with a goal of 450 total ships in the Navy's fleet by FY 2031, including 299 crewed battle force ships. The five-year plan also includes a significant expansion in the fleet's unmanned vessels, from 39 in FY 2027 to 83 in FY 2031 (see table 1).¹¹

Combined Total Navy Vessel Force Inventory					
	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30	FY31
Battle Force Ships	288	288	290	293	299
Auxiliary Ships	68	67	66	69	68
Unmanned Vessels	39	49	59	71	83
Total Vessel Inventory	395	404	415	433	450

Table 1. Source: U.S. Navy Shipbuilding Plan, May 2026

Such rapid expansion will require the Navy to use all available pier space. NSE is uniquely positioned to host additional platforms, and Everett's dynamic shipbuilding industry is ready to contribute.

Shipbuilding

In December 2023, Everett Ship Repair (ESR), based at the Port of Everett, was awarded a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) to support maintenance of the current DDG fleet and any future ships homeported on the base. ESR can repair ships both in and out of the water. The

¹⁰ U.S. Department of Defense, *2026 National Defense Strategy*, January 23, 2026, 18, <https://media.defense.gov/2026/Jan/23/2003864773/-1/-1/0/2026-NATIONAL-DEFENSE-STRATEGY.PDF>.

¹¹ U.S. Department of the Navy, *Navy Shipbuilding Plan*, May 2026, 15, <https://media.defense.gov/2026/May/11/2003928909/-1/-1/1/NAVY%20SHIPBUILDING%20PLAN%20MAY%202026.PDF>

shipyard's 3.5-acre facility at the Port of Everett includes a 21,000-square-foot fabrication shop, 1,250 feet of pier and three dry docks.¹²

ESR also recently acquired the floating dry dock Hercules, the largest floating dry dock in Puget Sound. With a lifting capacity of 35,000 long tons (LT), an inside beam of 135 feet and a length of 820 feet, the dry dock will enable the safe docking of some of the West Coast's largest ships.¹³ This investment in the region's maritime infrastructure expands ship repair capacity and strengthens the region's ability to support and serve the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard at NSE.

In August 2025, the Navy christened the first-of-its-kind No Manning Required Ship (NOMARS), the USX-1 *Defiant*, at the Port of Everett. The 180-foot-long, 240-metric-ton ship was built by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders on nearby Whidbey Island. It was the first ship built for the Navy with no provision or expectation of humans onboard. Beyond its technological significance, the *Defiant* has the potential to transform the way ships are designed, built and maintained. The building of the *Defiant* also demonstrates that Northwest Washington plays a critical role in driving Naval innovation, especially as the Navy expands its fleet of autonomous platforms.



Rep. Larsen attends the christening ceremony for the USX-1 Defiant – Everett, WA, August 2025

¹²Port of Everett, *Port Report: March 2024*, March 2024, <https://cms9files.revize.com/everett/March%202024%20Port%20Report.ESR.pdf>

¹³ Everett Ship Repair, "Everett Ship Repair Expands Capabilities with Acquisition of the Hercules – Puget Sound's Largest Dry-Dock," September 16, 2025, <https://everettshiprepair.com/everett-ship-repair-expands-capabilities-with-acquisition-of-the-hercules-puget-sounds-largest-dry-dock/>

As the Navy expands, adopts more autonomous platforms and renews its focus on deterrence in the Indo-Pacific, NSE and the surrounding community are well-positioned to support the mission and meet these evolving needs.

Defense Industry

Snohomish County is home to more than 150 defense contractors, which provide a robust support network for NSE. In FY 2023, federal defense contractors received more than \$300 million to provide goods and services in Snohomish County and were awarded an additional \$350,000 in defense grants.¹⁴ Snohomish County’s defense industry is particularly strong in providing shipbuilding and repair services. The table below shows the breakdown of defense-related work in Snohomish County.

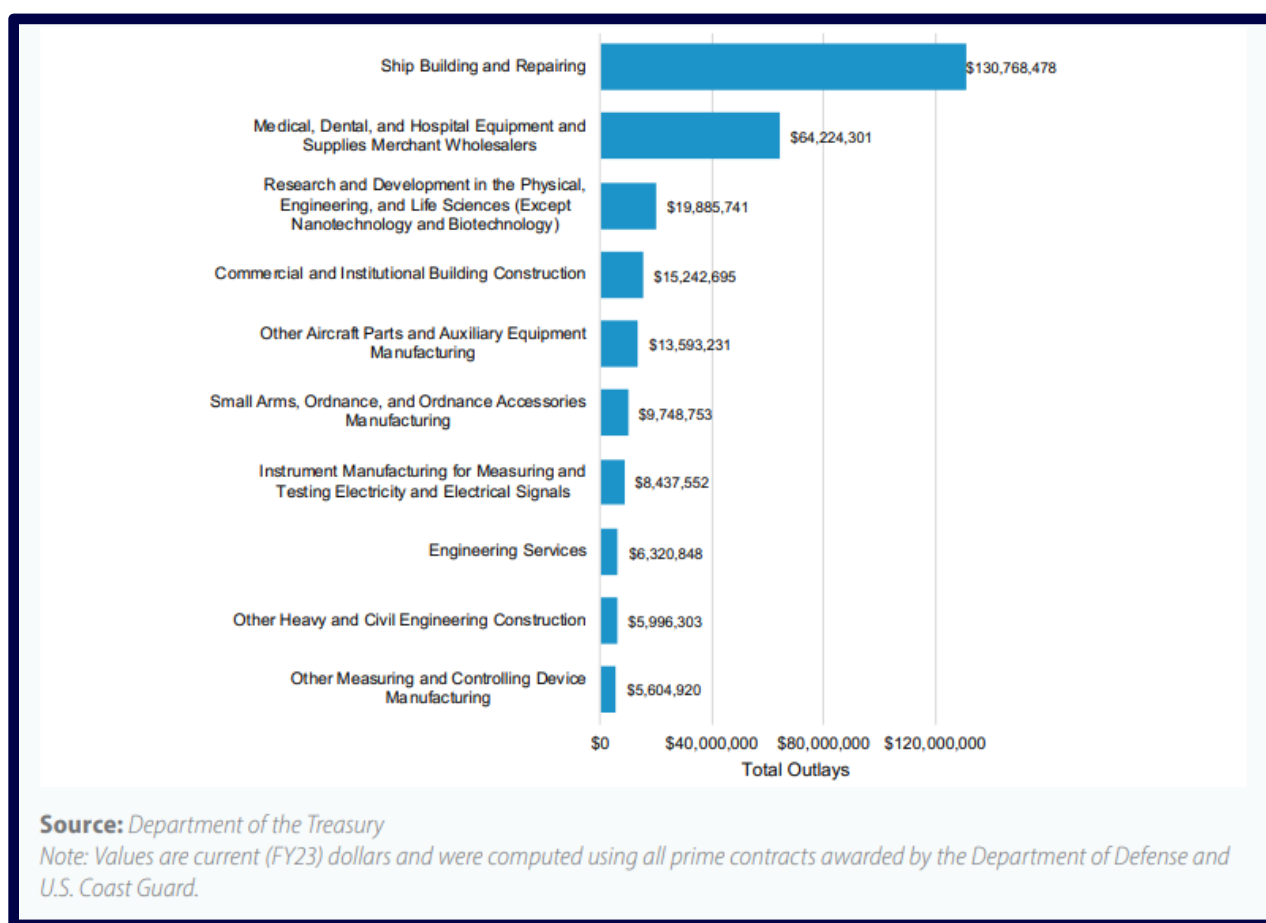


Table 2: Top Defense Industries in Snohomish County, FY23. Source: Washington Statewide Defense Economic Impact Study

¹⁴ Washington State Legislature, *Washington Statewide Defense Economic Impact Study*, 2024, 62-63, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d70140860791400013fe3ce/t/66fc72253600374ebb95f862/1727820337586/Washington+Statewide+Defense+Economic+Impact+Study.pdf>

Section 3. Community Support

With high-quality services on base and strong support from the surrounding community, NSE should be the Navy's top choice when considering any expansion of Indo-Pacific surface combatant capacity.

NSE provides sailors with robust medical care, including the David R. Ray Branch Medical Center, which is operated by its parent command, Naval Hospital Bremerton. This clinic provides routine and acute health care, pharmacy services, specialty appointments, vision care and dental care for active-duty servicemembers, retirees and their families.¹⁵ Everett is also home to the Everett Vet Center, which offers confidential mental health services and counseling for veterans, servicemembers and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting. Veterans also have access to health care at the Everett Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a 28,000 square-foot facility opened in 2022.



Rep. Larsen at the Everett Vet Center

The City of Everett is working to expand housing options to ensure that sailors and civilians have access to affordable housing. In July 2025, the City approved significant changes to its land use map and development regulations that eliminate most single-family zoning and require larger developments with affordable units in the parts of Everett most in need of affordable housing. In 2025, 1,000 new housing units were built and there are 1,000 more housing units currently being developed. In 2024, Congress approved \$19 million for the Smokey Point Navy Support Complex, an 88-unit public-private venture housing project, which began construction in January 2026. This complex will provide affordable rentals for junior enlisted families, supporting roughly 250-350 residents near NSE.

¹⁵ U.S. Navy, "Branch Health Clinic Everett," *TRICARE*, accessed September 23, 2026, <https://bremerton.tricare.mil/Clinics/Branch-Health-Clinic-Everett>



Rep. Larsen visits Everett Housing Authority's Madrona Square apartments

To support dependents, NSE offers a National Association for the Education of Young Children-accredited child care facility for children from six weeks to five years old, school-aged care and a school liaison. When on-base care is full, families are directed to the Department of Defense's Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood fee-assistance program to use community-based providers. Snohomish County is working to increase the supply of child care facilities by implementing a 2025 child care zoning ordinance and using American Rescue Plan investments to expand early learning facilities.

The community also supports sailors who choose to transition to civilian life in Everett following their service. Veterans receive support through services like WorkSource's job search assistance for a veteran or an eligible spouse, Everett Community College and Edmonds College's Veteran Resource Centers and Snohomish County's Veterans Assistance Program.



Rep. Larsen visits the Edmonds College Veterans Resource Center

Snohomish County has a wealth of high-quality employment opportunities for veterans in the area through thriving aerospace, technology and advanced manufacturing industries. The County is home to Boeing's largest factory and over 1,350 other aerospace businesses, creating jobs for tens of thousands of families each year.¹⁶ Manufacturing jobs account for 18 percent of the workforce, which is twice the state's average.¹⁷ Snohomish County ranks second in the state for technology-based jobs.¹⁸ The Port of Everett is also a major economic driver, supporting nearly 40,000 jobs in the region and creating a robust maritime sector.¹⁹

Multiple higher education institutions also contribute to the workforce, including Everett Community College, Edmonds College, Washington State University's Everett campus and University of Washington's campuses in Seattle and Bothell. These nearby institutions provide sailors with a clear pathway to employment after they retire from military service.

Many of these higher education institutions offer programs designed to train students for the aerospace and advanced manufacturing workforce, such as Edmonds College's Washington Aerospace Training and Research (WATR) Center, which offers specialty training programs that give people the skills they need to get a high-wage, high-demand job in manufacturing. The WATR Center includes a fuselage lab where students can get hands-on training inside an actual Boeing 767 Tanker. Additionally, the Maritime Institute at the Port of Everett was recently designated by the Maritime Administration as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education. The Institute, which offers specialized training courses for people interested in maritime careers in the Puget Sound, is a valuable training and education resource for area veterans.

The region has a robust and growing transportation network that helps sailors travel to the base, educational opportunities, employment centers, retail and housing. Sound Transit's Everett Link Extension is scheduled to bring the region's light rail network to downtown Everett by 2041. This extension will add 16 miles of light rail and six new stations, connecting Snohomish County to Seattle, Tacoma and other major regional cities. NSE is also located less than ten miles away from Paine Field, which provides commercial flights to many destinations across the U.S.

Lastly, Northwest Washington offers a wide variety of recreational activities for sailors and their families. NSE is within walking distance of Pigeon Creek Trail and Mill Town Trail, which offer scenic walking and hiking paths. Additionally, sailors can access places to hike, bike, kayak, raft and fish with their families with only a short commute. The City of Everett is also home to the

¹⁶ Snohomish County Government, "Economic Development Initiative," accessed September 23, 2026, <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/3642/Economic-Development-Initiative>

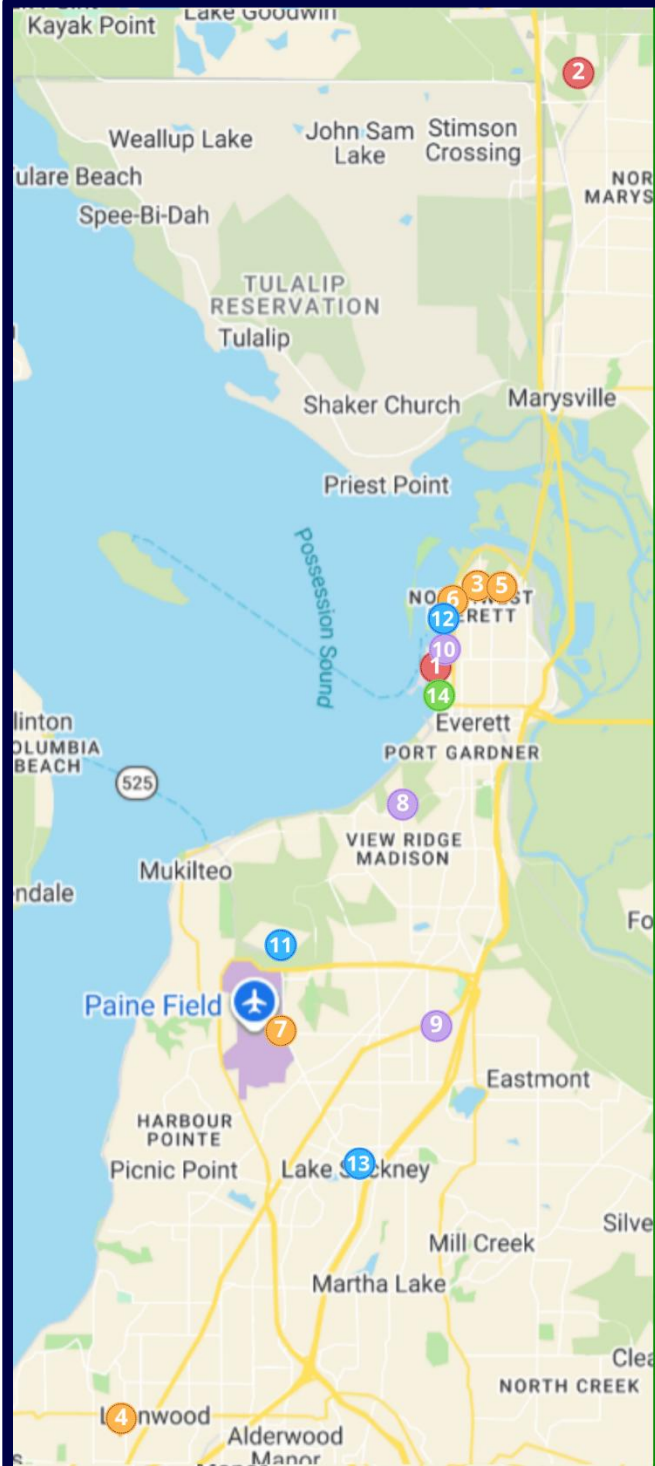
¹⁷ Snohomish County Government, *Employment Trends*, May 2024, 3, https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/122018/Employment-Trends_Draft-May-2024.

¹⁸ Association of Washington Business. "Manufacturing and Technology Study." <https://www.awb.org/reports-data/manufacturing-and-technology-study/>.

¹⁹ Port of Everett, "Economic Value," accessed September 23, 2026, https://www.portofeverett.com/your_port/economic_value.php.

Everett AquaSox, a minor league baseball team, and the Everett Silvertips, an American major junior ice hockey team.

NSE Community Map



NSE COMMUNITY MAP

Navy Facilities

1. Naval Station Everett
2. Smokey Point Navy Support Complex

Education

3. Everett Community College
4. Edmonds College
5. Washington State University - Everett Campus
6. Maritime Institute
7. Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center

Health Care

8. Everett VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
9. Everett Vet Center
10. David R. Ray Branch Medical Clinic

Workforce Development & Employment Centers

11. Boeing Everett Factory
12. Port of Everett
13. WorkSource Everett

Ship Repair

14. Everett Ship Repair

Section 4. Conclusion

The Navy must utilize NSE to its full potential by selecting it as the homeport for the next frigate and investing in its workforce. I will continue working with the community to ensure that future frigate homeporting decisions sustain jobs for Northwest Washington and keep our country safe, and I will continue holding the Navy accountable to ensure that it invests properly in NSE's future.

The Navy's own analysis of its homeporting decision for the Constellation-class frigates makes a compelling case for NSE as a leading choice for future frigate homeporting decisions. NSE combines modern facilities, deep-water access, proximity to the Indo-Pacific, existing piers and a robust support network from the surrounding community.

Everett has rightfully earned its reputation as 'The Sailor's Choice' through its welcoming and supportive community, high quality of life and modern facilities and amenities. NSE must now be the Navy's choice for additional assets and support.