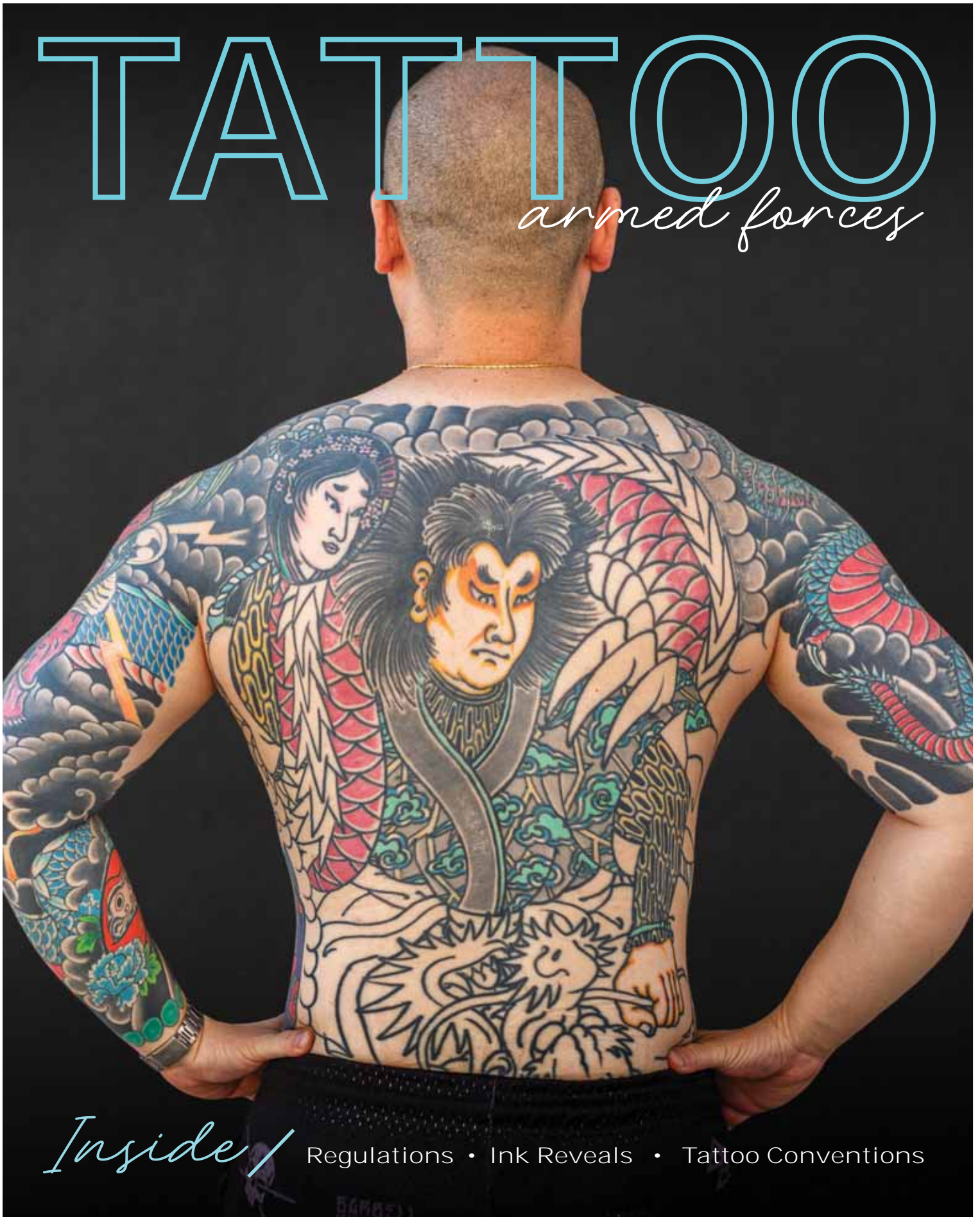


# TATTOO

*armed forces*



*Inside* / Regulations • Ink Reveals • Tattoo Conventions



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# TATTOO REGULATIONS

## in the Military

If you are an active-duty service member and are considering getting a tattoo, be sure to inform yourself of the rules and regulations. Here is an overview of current military tattoo policies:

### PROHIBITED

#### All Branches:

- Tattoos are prohibited on the head, scalp or face.
- Content must not be indecent, sexist, racist, obscene, extremist, gang-related, overtly sexual, discriminatory, incite violence or represent an organization that does.

#### Army:

- No tattoos on the front of the neck, or front of ears.

#### Air Force:

- No tattoos above the open collar on the head, neck or face.

#### Marine Corps:

- No tattoos above the seventh vertebrae on the back or above the collarbone on the chest.
- No tattoo can be visible above the collar of a crewneck T-shirt.
- **NOTE:** Certain duties still prohibit full-sleeve or full-leg tattoos due to interaction with and sensitivities to other cultures.

#### Navy:

- Tattoos cannot be visible through Whites.

#### Space Force:

- No tattoos on the front of the neck, front of ears, or hands beyond the allowed ring tattoos.
- Chest or back tattoos cannot be visible through any uniform.

### ACCEPTABLE

#### All Branches:

- No limit—in number or size—for tattoos on the chest, torso, arms, legs and feet.

#### Army:

- One tattoo on the back of the neck, not to exceed two inches in any direction.
- One tattoo behind each ear, not to exceed one inch in any direction.
- One tattoo on each hand, not to exceed one inch in any direction. One ring tattoo on each hand, and no limit to tattoos between fingers that are not visible when hands are closed.
- Permanent facial makeup must adhere to grooming standards.

#### Air Force:

- One tattoo ring on a single hand, and one tattoo per hand not exceeding one inch.
- A single tattoo on the back of the neck or behind the ear, not exceeding one inch.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.
- Permanent facial makeup must adhere to grooming standards.

#### Marine Corps:

- One ring tattoo on a single hand.

#### Navy:

- Any number and size of tattoos on hands.
- One tattoo on the neck or behind the ear, not to exceed one inch in any direction.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.

#### Space Force:

- One tattoo on the back of the neck or behind an ear that does not exceed one inch in any direction.
- One ring tattoo per hand.
- Cosmetic tattoos to correct medical conditions.
- Permanent facial makeup must adhere to grooming standards. ■

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# ARE YOU how to get a Tattoo

By Stripes Staff

**Americana and neo-traditional.** Americana tattoos consist of bold lines and classic primary colors, such as red, blue, yellow and green. These designs exploded in popularity with service members during World War II. Military insignias and unit crests, iconic red roses, Harley Davidson logos, daggers and skulls are examples of this type of design. On the other hand, neo-traditional tattoos twist Americana artwork by using non-conventional colors and a mash-up of abstract and classical designs.

**Biomechanical.** Biomechanical tattoos create the illusion that mechanical parts are a part of the human body, no matter where on the skin the tattoo is located. Skin tears to reveal mechanical parts underneath are a popular choice for this style.

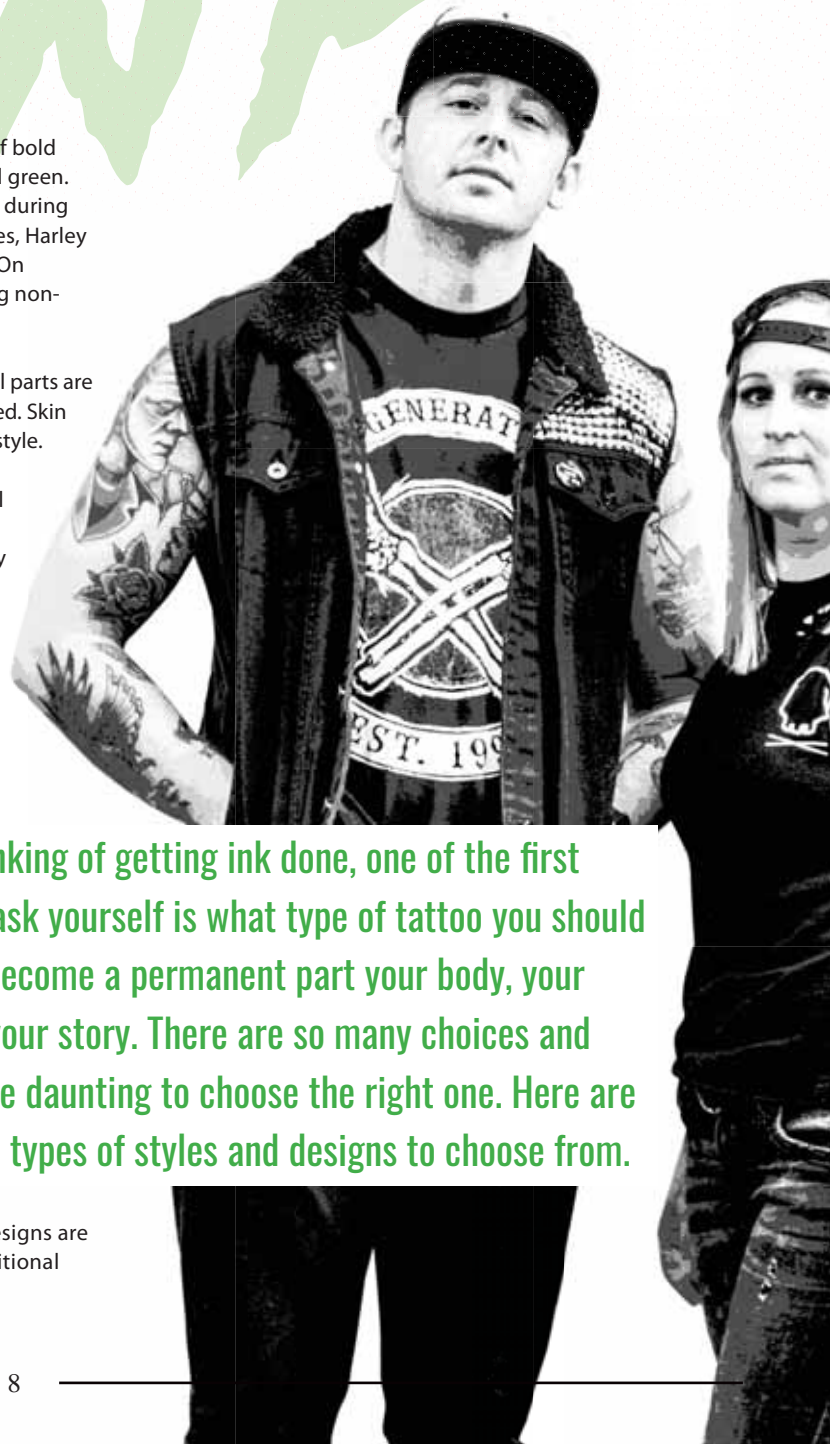
**New school.** If you are a fan of the bright and whimsical, the new school type of tattoo may be something worth considering. Lively characters (think of your favorite cartoon or comic hero) and vivid colors are usually used in new school ink work.

**Blackwork and black and grey.** Although these designs are done using only black ink, the tattoos are striking in their intricate work and etching or engraving styles. Blackwork often features less shading and uses the boldness of the ink to highlight the artwork. Black and grey also uses only black ink but focuses more on shading to make the grey stand out in the design.

**Kawaii.** These tattoos are all about cute, cuddly and colorful subjects: Think fuzzy animals, cartoons, sparkles and hearts. Kawaii originated in Japan and the style is used outside of tattoos on things like apparel and decorations. In kanji, Kawaii translates to "able to be loved, can/may love, lovable."

**Tribal.** These tattoos are more than just impressive and intricate designs. In Polynesian, Maori and Hawaiian cultures, these tattoos tell a story about the history of the people and land. Centuries ago, tattoos were done by painstakingly hand-tapping the ink into the skin. Although most designs are done via machine today, some studios on the islands perform the traditional hand-tapped method.

If you are thinking of getting ink done, one of the first questions to ask yourself is what type of tattoo you should get. Tattoos become a permanent part your body, your identity and your story. There are so many choices and sizes, it can be daunting to choose the right one. Here are some specific types of styles and designs to choose from.





**Stick-and-poke or hand-poked.** Similar to traditional tribal tattoos, stick-and-poke tattoos are done the old-fashioned way. A small, thin needle is inserted into ink and etched into the skin without using electric instruments. The resulting design is often more delicate and creates a hand-drawn effect. Stick-and-poke may be a good option for smaller tattoos.

**Watercolor.** These modern tattoos utilize brilliant color gradients to create a "painted" effect.

**Portrait/realism.** This kind of tattoo is just as the name describes; subjects typically involve people, animals and plants.

**Irezumi.** The Irezumi tattoo is a traditional Japanese style that most often portrays mythical motifs from Japan. Traditional tattoos can still be done by hand using Nara ink.

### ◆◆◆◆◆ things to consider ◆◆◆◆◆

**What is the cost?** The price depends on many different factors; but to put it bluntly, you get what you pay for. Do your homework and compare prices, read reviews and view photo galleries. Tattoos will likely be with you for the rest of your life. Quality tattoos are worth the money.

**Where to put it and what size?** Tattoos can be placed just about anywhere you want and can be as large or small as you desire. Just know the larger the tattoo, the longer it will take and the costlier it will be. You may want to consider factors such as the ease of covering it up for professional purposes, or maybe that your mom still doesn't approve.

**Aftercare is important.** Follow the aftercare advice verbatim. Your newly inked skin will be bandaged to staunch any bleeding. Remove the bandage between one to three hours later and wash very gently with warm water and mild soap. Pat dry. DO NOT RUB OR SCRATCH. Let it air dry and apply a thin amount of aftercare ointment. If the studio didn't provide any cream, any light, unscented lotion would work. Do not use bandages after the initial one. Over the next 10 days or so, you'll need to keep the area away from overexposure to the sun and water, which means no tanning, pools or baths (showers are okay).

**Don't scratch!** As the skin begins to heal, the tattoo will start to scab over and itch something fierce. Whatever you do, do NOT pick or scratch. If you do, you can mess up your beautiful masterpiece or worse, cause it to become infected. We have found that when the itching becomes almost unbearable, putting on a small dab of aftercare ointment or lotion helps immensely. After a few days, the scabs will flake away, leaving your tattoo looking fabulous. ■



Terry Dickerson is an IRS registered tax preparer with more than 16 years of experience in the Kaiserslautern Military Community.



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# ANCHORS, BULLDOGS AND CROSSES:

## *Tattoos and the Military*

By Stripes Staff

For those of us living in a military community, tattoos are a common sight. They are used to commemorate service, to represent patriotism, to honor a fellow service member or remember family. Some people decorate their body with art from their favorite fandom, sports team or memory. Every tattoo has its own story but tattoos themselves have a long history in the military community.



# THE FIRST TATTOO SHOP IN THE UNITED STATES OPENED IN 1846

**T**he tradition of tattooing and body marking goes back in history to at least 4000 BC, as seen on ancient mummies. The connection between tattoos and warriors, or those defending their home, may be just as old. In ancient Rome, soldiers were tattooed with identifying information to show membership to a certain group or unit. Societies around the world have had special tattoo designs for their warriors such as the blue patterns used by the Picts of Scotland and the black patterns created by the Maori of New Zealand. In the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church, which is not known for allowing body art, encouraged Crusader knights who tattooed the Holy Cross on their bodies.

The tradition of American military tattoos begins with the Navy. Exposure to Polynesian tattoos in the 1700's may have led to an explosion of tattooing among British, and then American, sailors. The word tattoo is Polynesian and entered the English language following Captain Cook's voyages in the South Pacific. Sailors used tattoos to show their achievements: an anchor meant he had crossed the Atlantic Ocean, a turtle indicated an equator crossing, and a ship meant he had sailed around Cape Horn. Tattoos were also used as talismans against superstition, and many of these motifs are still used by sailors today.

During the Revolutionary War, a sailor's tattoos were listed officially on their protection papers, which helped identify them as American if they were being pressed into the British Royal Navy. By the time of the Civil War a hundred years later, tattooing had spread to the Army. Each regiment was known to have at least one guy who could tattoo, with flags and weapons being popular. Tattoo artist Martin Hildebrandt, who opened the first tattoo shop in the United States in 1846, also traveled around the country tattooing soldiers.

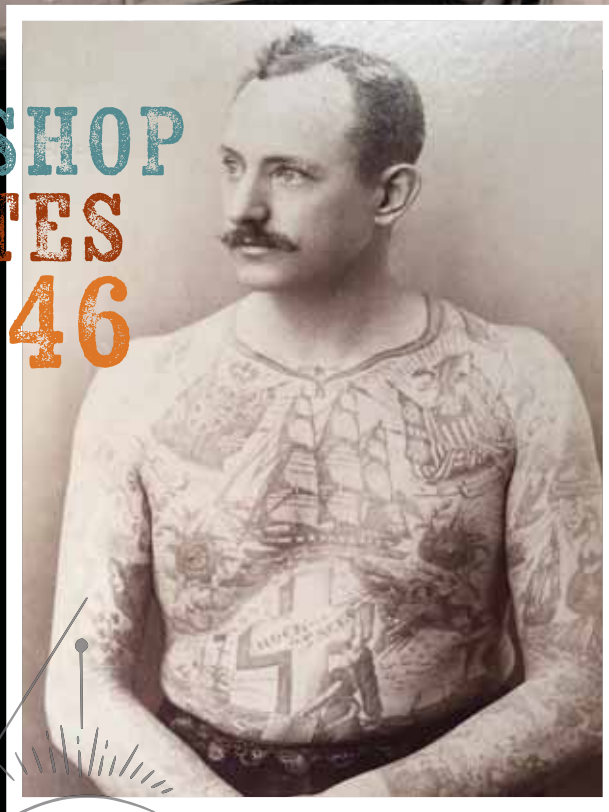


Photo of Jacob Hildebrandt displaying tattoos thought to be the work of Martin Hildebrandt ©www.artworldconfidential.org

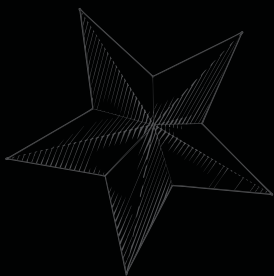
**“**The connection between tattoos and warriors, or those defending their home, may be just as old. In ancient Rome, soldiers were tattooed with identifying information to show membership to a certain group or unit.  
**”**

RIGHT: Navy Tattoo festured in "400 Photographs of Tattoos from the Last Century" by David McComb.

BOTTOM: La Belle Irene French postcard 1890 ©www.artblart.com



In the U.S., tattooing was synonymous with sailors and soldiers until the 20th century when it became popular with countercultural groups like gangs and circus sideshows.



©David McComb/www.tattoodo.com



In the U.S., tattooing was synonymous with sailors and soldiers until the 20th century when it became popular with countercultural groups like gangs and circus sideshows. This changed the view of body art into one associated with deviant behavior and the popularity of tattoos waned, even amongst the military. During the World Wars, official policy required tattoos to be covered by the uniform. Finally, in the 1970s body art became acceptable in the mainstream culture and military tattooing also saw a resurgence with art that reflected ones' field of service, experiences, and patriotism. Recently, tattoos have also been used as therapy for service members handling post-traumatic stress or chronic pain.

## THE MEANING BEHIND CLASSIC SAILOR TATTOOS



Full-rigged Ship - The sailing era tattoo of a sailing ship under full sail signifies that the sailor circled Cape Horn, the southern tip of South America.



Nautical Star - is a symbol of a sailor who can always find his way home.



Anchor - A single anchor indicates that a sailor has crossed the Atlantic or was a member of the merchant marine.



Swallow - Sailors earn a new swallow tattoo for every 5,000 nautical miles they traveled.



Crosses - They are believed to be applied on the soles of the feet to ward off hungry sharks.

# THE MOST POPULAR MILITARY TATTOOS

Flags, units, branch logos, dog tags, rank insignia, Maltese crosses, and deployment-related tattoos are common amongst all of the branches. But some motifs are held tightly within the culture and superstitions of certain military branches and units.

## **Navy:**

Anchors, swallows, nautical stars, compasses, ships, rope, dragons, turtles and pin-up girls.

## **Army:**

Camouflage, berets, field crosses and tanks.

## **Air Force:**

Jets, pilot wings, the Air Force logo, jolly green feet.

## **Marines:**

Bulldogs, "Semper Fi," Crash Fire Rescue insignia, "USMC."

## **Coast Guard:**

"USCG", anchors, cutters, life preservers, "Semper Paratus," helicopters.

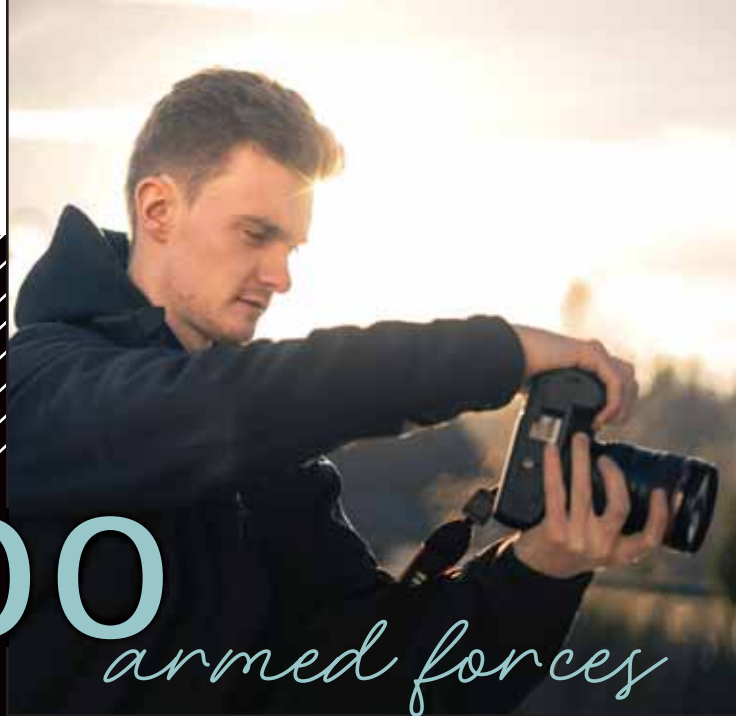
The Space Force hasn't existed long enough for popular tattoos to emerge as iconic amongst its members, but we'll see what develops in the future. ■



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TOP:  
Marine Corps  
tattoo in the  
American  
Traditional style  
BOTTOM:  
Fully rigged ship  
tattoo worn by  
Corey Warner.  
Photo by Brittany  
Atkins.



# TATTOO

*armed forces*

## *Behind the Lens*

Stars and Stripes' annual "Tattoo: Armed Forces" magazine pays special tribute to a popular, yet underrated audience in our military—those with tattoos. This one-of-a-kind magazine is designed to feature our military audience's current ink masterpieces and the stories behind them. As Fred R. Barnard put it, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Local photographer Tom Stamp truly captured the stories of our military audience and their civilian counterparts by showcasing their creativity, vivid designs and bold colors—letting their body art do the talking. Take an in-depth look at the works of art and their stories.

Tom Stamp, originally from Manchester, UK, is a versatile professional who blends the art of photography with the science of marketing.

His journey led him from the UK to Germany back in 2017, where he discovered his niche in motorsports photography at the Nürburgring Nordschleife. During his time there, he worked with many world-renowned car brands such as Porsche and Bugatti, as both a photographer and videographer through his position at Apex Nürburg.

In 2021, he set up his marketing and photography/video business in the Kaiserslautern military community, becoming a bridge between German companies and American customers. His deep understanding of both cultures allowed him to navigate cross-cultural marketing effectively.

Simultaneously, Tom continued to excel as a photographer, offering family photography sessions that beautifully captured the essence of families in the picturesque KMC area. His ability

to capture emotions and stories, not just smiles, make his work stand out from the rest.

Tom's journey to the KMC area also brought him closer to the military community, enabling him to document their stories, achievements and time here overseas.

Tom's work transcends borders and cultures, making him a sought-after photographer and marketer. You can explore his captivating work on:

Website: [www.tomstampmedia.com](http://www.tomstampmedia.com)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/tomstamp](https://www.instagram.com/tomstamp)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tomstampmedia](https://www.facebook.com/tomstampmedia)

For his next adventure he is gearing up to launch the much anticipated app "Off Base," helping Americans discover new and exciting deals and experiences in the KMC area.

Tom Stamp's journey is a testament to the power of passion, cross-cultural connections, and the art of storytelling through photography and marketing.

Whether you need marketing expertise or unforgettable photographic memories, Tom is the name to remember, and his journey continues to leave a mark in both worlds. ■

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## JULIANNA LECO

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"My sleeve started with one single anatomical heart on my forearm, which represents why I became a nurse. Nurses are never off duty and we live by core values (do no harm, justice, etc). My sleeve is a huge talking piece and something I am very passionate about. It also brings me out of my introverted shell! It is the ultimate teaching visual which has been used to teach many new nurses!"





## JASON KESSELRING

"I was 19 years-old when I got my first tattoo. Now, I have five of them. My favorite is my Polynesian piece because it represents my family who means the world to me. Among my favorites are also my edelweiss flowers—my daughter and I got these as matching tattoos."



## MICHELLE WAITE

"My favorite tattoo is my mom and bird tattoo. Because it's a photo holding a baby symbolizing my two kids. I love realism-style tattoos the most. Each tattoo represents a different stage of my life—they are my stories and I cherish each one."

ALEXANDER EN



On the cover



"Tattoos are a way to express myself, but I also see it has representing my Japanese heritage, and also the process of getting a tattoo as a test of the mind and body. My favorite style is traditional Japanese.

I had a vision when I planned my tattoos out to get a traditional full Japanese body suit. This meant that every tattoo I got was a part of a plan to be one interconnected suit and story.

My favorite tattoo has to be the Daruma on my left inner forearm. It is a matching tattoo with my wife, and was done in the tebori style, meaning hand-poked."



PAULINA & MICHAEL RIFFEY



**Paulina Riffey**

"I love watercolor tattoos. I think they look very unique and I don't really see people have them very often. I love the way soft colors and these sort of, wavy dreamy patterns, look on my skin. I know a lot of people prefer black ink, but for me, the more colors the better.

I already had a design in mind that I wanted to add to my arm to create sort of a semi-sleeve. I decided to go for it when my husband was making an appointment for his tattoo session."

**Michael Riffey**

"I was 15 years-old when I got my first tattoo. It's still my favorite—an image of OZZY (Ozzy Osborne) and I did it myself.

I've never had a tattoo removed. I do have a cover-up, three layers on my sleeve. I regret getting the tribal dragon on my leg. But I love storytelling-style tattoos, so I guess it's part of my story."





## MAKAYLA FANLO

"My tattoos have made me more confident and I love creating artwork or watching something I love come to life. Your body is a piece of art, so why not add more?"



## JAKE SCOTT

"My favorite is my sleeve on my left arm of Dragonball Z. I am a huge fan on DBZ and it played a monumental part of my childhood. I have been a huge fan of DBZ for 20 years. I have watched it a handful of times with my sons and they love it too. I get so many compliments on my sleeve. It transcends the language barrier. I ran a half-marathon in Disney Paris and I was sitting at the finish line eating a banana and a French man ... called over to me to get my attention and he pulled the sleeve of his right arm up, showing a tattoo of Goku he had. We were able to connect even though neither of us could communicate with each other."



## AISHA RICKLI-RAHMAN

"I am a marine biologist who has spent the last 10 years working in wildlife conservation. Seven of those years were spent as a field biologist working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service based out of Honolulu, Hawaii. I got to travel by ship to conduct remote field work on some of the most remote islands in the North and South Pacific Oceans. I have a strong love for the ocean and a very special connection to the Hawaiian Archipelago. So my Polynesian jellyfish (which I got in Hawaii by a local man who specializes

in Polynesian tattoos) is an homage to my roots (which are more in the Atlantic), my passion for wildlife conservation work and my time living and working in the Hawaiian islands. The piece is a free hand drawn black and grey jellyfish that is done in the style of realism with Polynesian designs woven into the bell and tentacles of the jelly."





## KAYLA BRANSON

"Tattoos have had a tremendous impact on my life. I grew up in a strict household so being able to finally express myself with the artwork I get has brought nothing but happiness to my life. Always puts a smile on my face when a stranger tells you they like your tattoos.

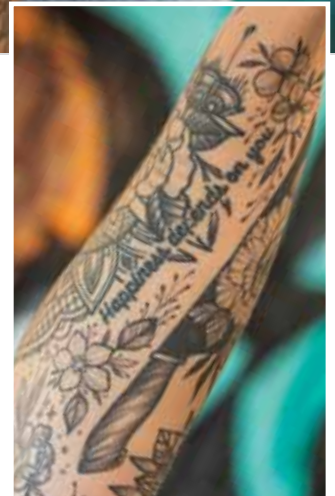
So far, I have 12 tattoos. I have a full sleeve on my left arm, five tattoos on my right arm, two on my right leg, six on my left leg and two on my back.

I got my first tattoo when I was 19. My favorite piece is the gypsy lady on my left arm—the detail is absolutely amazing and the artist even gave my tattoo a tattoo!

I love black and white style, but I love colored tattoos on other people.



I have a tattoo on my left forearm in that says "happiness depends on you." In 2017, I was hospitalized for attempting to take my own life. I often found myself searching for happiness in other people and depending on them for that. After healing and getting help I realized that you should never depend on others for your happiness and that you need to find it within yourself."





## AMANDA JARDINE

"My stomach is my favorite tattoo. I constantly get compliments on how pretty it is. It makes me feel confident and it covers a scar that I have always been embarrassed of on my stomach. It also has paisley patterns in the tattoo which is my daughter's name.

Most of my tattoos are done by the same lady and all have paisley patterns in them which are inspired by my daughter.

I also have a tattoo on my ankle that says "Child of God." I got it done at the oldest tattoo place in the world, in Israel, which I think is a cool memory."

# EMILEE SPARANO

"My favorite tattoo style is black and gray. I love the contrast between the ink and my skin.

My tattoos impact my life everyday. I work with kids and they ask about them a lot! In all, tattoos are a great conversation starter.

Most of my tattoos have special meaning to me. A lot of them are dedicated to my kids. I have their astrology signs and birth flowers represented. I also have a beehive representing my husband and home and three bees for the hive being the kids and I. The bee is the New Jersey state bug and honors where my husband and I are from and where we got married.

The moth is to remind me to always follow the light no matter how hard the path may be. My opposite arm is an owl which was my grandmother's favorite animal. It's surrounded by cherry blossoms which were my wedding flowers. To pay homage to my Native American heritage, the owl is wearing a turquoise necklace and the headpiece I wore at my wedding."







## CALISTA BLIZZARD

"Tattoos make my skin more me. Believe it or not, I got my very first tattoo when I was 13 years old. Tattoos are my way of expressing myself growing up with so much loss—tattoos were my way of grounding myself.

My very first tattoo, which is now part of my sleeve, is a key that has the word "honesty" in it. At the time my mother was having her first open heart surgery and she made me promise if anything ever happened to her I would always stay honest to myself because honesty is key.

My back piece incorporates lilies and a henna-like pattern, this references my grandmother who always told us even lilies grow in the mud.

My sleeve on my left arm was actually planned by me and my mother. She helped me pick each Greek mythological creature and each one has a special meaning behind it that relates to my family.

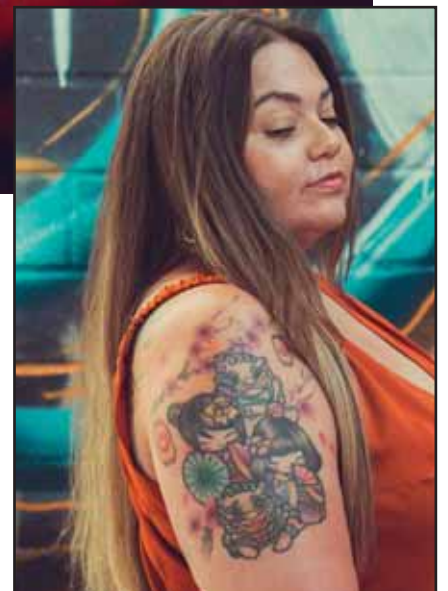
My side tattoo of a Valkyrie as well as the rose tattoo in the center of my abdomen is

a symbol of surviving and growing out of the trauma of my past.

My memorial tattoo for my mother and brother on my right forearm has a quote "We shall meet again in a place where there is no darkness." My mother died from heart disease and was my absolute best friend. She suffered on this earth. It also honors my brother who passed away from an overdose. Next to the quote, the stop watches are stopped on the day my mother passed and her birthday."



## SONDRA ROBINSON



"[Some of] my tattoos serve as reminders, others represent things I have been through and things I have overcome. Some just make me happy. I have a portrait of my dog Boujee Pearl, who has been my road dog for a decade. We have been through so much together.

I have Kokeshi dolls and Shisha dogs to represent the members in my immediate family that I got in Okinawa, Japan. My back piece represents my love for mythology, magic and partying. The piece on my thigh represents my soul—full of spirit, fire and passion. I also have a lotus flower and mandala to represent my past hardships and who I strive to be going forward."

# KATLYN HAMILTON

"Tattoos keep me going. I've been a really shy person most of my life and they've allowed me to have that outlet and helped me to get out of my comfort zone and talk to others about them. I have a lot of ideas for many more tattoos.

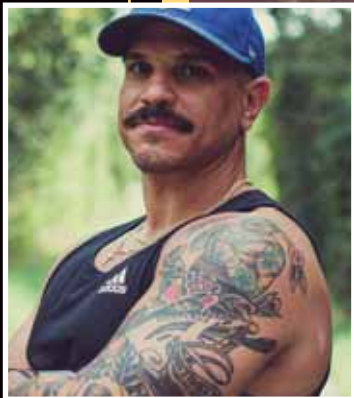
I got my first tattoo when I was 15. All of my tattoos have stories behind them but my special one is the one on my wrist. It says "love you, grandma" in my grandmother's handwriting. She passed away in December of 2020 from cancer and I miss her dearly.

I have had three tattoos removed. One on the back of my neck, one on my neck, and one behind my ear. I only got them removed to try and join the Air Force.

I don't regret any of my tattoos because, at the time of every tattoo, it's what I wanted to do. Whether I like them now or not, they all have a story to tell.

Tattoos are an outlet for me. It gives me my space to think and lets me be creative without having to be artistic myself. I always have a really good session and get that time to talk to each artist and get their stories of how they started and what made them decide to want to become a tattoo artist.

I always try and get a tattoo every place I visit it's like my souvenir. I've made some really good friends from my tattoos."



# JONATHAN GONZALEZ



"Every one of my tattoos have a meaning; I only get them if they mean or represent a time in my life. They have impacted my life in the way of memorable social interactions as well as personal recollections of the memories they represent.

I love all traditional styles as well as black and grey. My favorite is the silhouette of my daughter and I at the beach. And my passion for music and adventure are represented in some of my tattoos."



"My favorite tattoo is my floral sleeve. Not only is it beautiful and timeless, it is a symbol of strength and patience. I have over 24 hours of tattoo time into this sleeve. I started my sleeve before the pandemic and was unable to finish it for over a year due to the lockdown and a deployment to the Middle East. I've always loved nature and would consider myself a free spirit. The flowers in my tattoos help me to further express that.

When I was 16, I got my first tattoo in a friends camper and it now serves as a reminder that decisions have consequences. I don't regret the tattoo itself, but I wish I would have had it done by a professional. My tattoos have boosted my confidence as well as given me an alleyway to express myself in a manor that isn't considered "traditional." I think tattoos are a great way to empower women.

I have several tattoos with special meaning and a story. 1: "I'll be there" on my ankle. [It matches] with my life long best friend as a reminder of our friendship no matter how far away the military sends me. 2: A cactus with a deer skull on my outer forearm. Matching with my little sister in honor of our dad. 3: An American traditional "mom" tattoo for my mom. 4: My great grandmother's signature on my forearm. 5: A flower and monarch butterfly on my back in remembrance of my grandmother. The flower is one that she grew in her garden and the butterfly has always been a symbol of hope for my family. 6: Semicolon tattoo for suicide awareness. Since joining the military I have lost several battle buddies to the battle with depression. This tattoo serves as a reminder of their fight."

## MAKAELA RINGLEY-GARCIA



# NATALIE SLINGER



"My tattoos remind me to live life to the fullest. They have made for awesome conversation starters.

I have two favorites. My half-sleeve has the birth flowers of my wife, my mom, my dad, and then sunflowers which are mine and my grandmother's favorite flower.

On my leg, I have a long quote by Marilyn Monroe about everything happening for a reason. This tattoo serves as a reminder to me that I cannot control everything life throws at me."



## ANDREW SILVA

"Tattoos have definitely impacted my life. They are a constant reminder of my trials and tribulations. All of my tattoos have special meaning—it would take forever to write them all down.

My favorite tattoo I've gotten so far is Plato's allegory of the cave. It's to remind me of my escape.

I was 18 when I got my first tattoo. I have no regrets about any of them.

I don't really have a favorite style. It all depends on the artist and the work being done."



## ALLIE LIBERTZ

"My sea turtle tattoo is the most special to me and brings me such happy feelings! I got this tattoo while in Hawaii with my husband when we first started dating. We swam with sea turtles while we were there. It also represents my grandma's favorite animal.

All of my tattoos have a special meaning. I am trying to be better about getting spontaneous tattoos that have no meaning but I am so sentimental! I also have a mushroom tattoo to remind me of working at Mellow Mushroom. It was a job that gave me confidence and helped me afford college.

I hope to get some gaming tattoos in the future, as I am a Twitch streamer. But all of my tattoos are nature themed which really fits my vibe!"



# Proudly Serving ON THE OTHER SIDE

We asked and you delivered. These photos were sent in by U.S. military members serving in expeditionary locations on the other side of the globe. Each tattoo is a unique expression, a symbol of the individuality that enriches the collective narrative of those who proudly serve our nation.



CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP LEFT:  
Austin von Letkemann,  
Vitalik Phillips  
Alaina Dennison,  
Bryson Farris,  
Vanessa Vasquez



CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP LEFT:  
Isaac Conway,  
Michael Escobar,  
Ismael Reyes,  
Isamar Edwards,  
William Thornton



“

I have a tattoo of my home state. So I carry a piece of home no matter where I am.

# TATTOO CONVENTION Directory

by Tamala Malerk

**T**attoo conventions are a great place to not only get a tattoo in a style that might not be available from an “expert” in your local area, but also a wonderful place to meet fellow tattoo enthusiasts and see the latest in tattoo styles, news, machinery and art. No matter where you are stationed or visiting in Germany, there is a tattoo convention nearby for you. If you want to be tattooed by a specific artist at an event, make sure to reach out to them beforehand.

## Germany

**Ink Style Tattoo Event: Empfingen** | Oct. 28 to 29, 2023 | Taelsee Hall

**Kronacher Tattoo Convention** | Oct. 28 to 29, 2023 | Schützenhaus Kronach

**Mühlendorf Tattoo Convention** | Nov. 11 to 12, 2023 | Stadtsaal Mühlendorf

**Tattoo Convention Ludwigsburg** | Nov. 4 to 5, 2023 | Reithaus Ludwigsburg

**Tattoo Tatta: Tattoo and Art Convention, Bonn** | Nov. 4 to 5, 2023 | BaseCamp Young Hostel

**Höxter Tattoo Convention** | Nov. 4 to 5, 2023 | Residenz Stadthalle Höxter

**Mühlendorf Tattoo Convention** | Nov. 11 to 12, 2023 | City Hall

**Tattoo Weekend: Essen** | Nov. 25 to 26, 2023 | Essen Westhalle

**Siegen Tattoo Convention** | Nov. 25 to 26, 2023 | Siegerlandhalle

**Sonthofen Tattoo Convention** | Nov. 25 to 26, 2023 | Markthalle

**Moosburg Tattoo Convention** | Dec. 1 to 3, 2023 | Stadthall Moosburg

**Wolfenbüttel Tattoo Convention** | Dec. 2 to 3, 2023 | Lindenhalle Wolfenbüttel

**Fürstfeldbruck Tattoo Convention** | Jan. 6 to 7, 2024 | Veranstaltungsforum Fürstfeld

**Maritim Tattoo Convention** | Jan. 6 to 7, 2024 | Maritim Hotel am Schlossgarten Fulda

**Braunschweig Tattoo Weekend** | Jan. 13-14, 2024 | Braunschweig

**Tattoo Messe Erlangen** | Jan. 13 to 14, 2024 | Redoutensaal

**Tattoo Convention Grossmehring** | Jan. 20 to 21, 2024 | Nibelungenhalle

**Leeraner Tattoo Weekend** | Feb. 3 to 4, 2024 | Hotel Ostfriesen Hof, Leer

**Gütersloh Tattoo Convention** | Feb. 3 to 4, 2024 | Stadthalle Gütersloh

**Kassel Tattoo Convention** | Feb. 16 to 17, 2024 | Kulturbahnhof Kassel

**Tattoo Convention Goepfingen** | Feb. 24-25, 2024 | EWS Arena

**Cuxhavener Tattoo Weekend** | Mar. 2 to 3, 2024 | Kugelbake-Halle

**Detmold Tattoo Convention** | Mar. 2 to 3, 2024 | Detmold Stadthalle GmbH

**Coburg Tattoo Convention** | Mar. 23 to 24, 2024 | Kongresshaus Rosengarten

**Osterode Tattoo Convention** | Apr. 13 to 14, 2024 | Stadthalle Osterode am Harz

**Gods of Ink Tattoo Convention** | Apr. 19 to 21, 2024 | Messe Frankfurt – Forum

**Hannover Tattoo Convention** | Apr. 20 to 21, 2024 | Star Event Center

**Dortmund Tattoo Convention** | May 3 to 5, 2024 | Messe Dortmund GmbH

**Zwickau Tattoo Convention** | May 4 to 5, 2024 | Klubhaus Sachsenring

**Landshut Tattoo Convention** | June 15 to 16, 2024 | Sparkassen Arena

**Tattoo and Art Show** | May 11 to 12, 2024 | EDEKA Arena, Offenburg

Information provided by [www.worldtattooconventions.com](http://www.worldtattooconventions.com), Facebook events, [www.tattoofilters.com](http://www.tattoofilters.com), Tattoo Tattaa, [www.inkppl.com](http://www.inkppl.com) or the event websites. ■

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