

Training Air Wings at Fallon



DECEMBER 2006

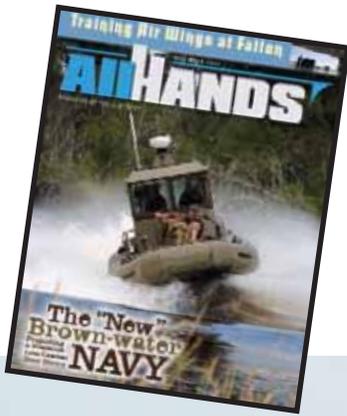
AI HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY



The "New"
Brown-water
NAVY

Projecting
& Presence
into Combat
Zone Rivers



[On the Front Cover]

RIVRON-1 Sailors perform insertion and extraction drills aboard a Small Unit Riverine Craft (SURC) while training at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Photo by MC1(AW) Brien Aho

[Next Month]

Look for the new Owner's and Operator's Manual and the 2007 calendar.

[Departments]

Around the Fleet — 6

Focus on Service — 38

History — 40

14 The “New” Brown-Water Navy

Members of Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 1 practice insertion and extraction drills in a Riverine Assault Craft (RAC) during the coxswain phase of riverine training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. RIVRON 1 will be the first of three riverine squadrons and is comprised of more than 220 Sailors, who are taking part in a three-month training evolution. RIVRON 1 is part of the new Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, Norfolk.

Photo by MC1(AW) Brien Aho



December



22 Corpsman Up!

As long as Marines are risking their lives to secure freedom for the Iraqi people during Operation *Iraqi Freedom*, you can bet that Navy corpsmen will be there answering the call of "Corpsman Up!"

Photo by MC2 Todd Frantom



30 The Scrimmage

The pilot watches as his plane is locked into the cat. He has butterflies in his stomach, but he's ready to fly over Iraq or Afghanistan or anywhere. If bombs need to be dropped he has the skill to drop them, because he practiced dropping them on "enemy" tanks deep in the heart of Nevada - Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nev., to be exact. He, like all pilots who now deploy with air wings, was trained at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC).

Photo by MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy



The Navy's new littoral combat ship, PCU *Freedom* (LCS 1), makes a spectacular side launch during her christening at the Marinette Marine Shipyard, Marinette, Wis. Displacing 3,300 tons and with a capability of reaching speeds of more than 40 knots, *Freedom* is designed to be a fast, maneuverable and networked surface combatant with operational flexibility to execute focused missions such as mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare and humanitarian relief.

Photo courtesy Lockheed Martin





Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa

MCPON Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles

Recently, I released my mission, vision and guiding principles that will guide the chief's mess in reconnecting with the Sailors we lead. I thought it would be valuable for me to share with you that document and some of my thoughts in developing it.

Mission: The mission of Navy Chief Petty Officers is to provide leadership to the enlisted force and advice to Navy leadership to create combat-ready Naval Forces.

These two primary tasks are what chiefs have been doing for our Navy for the better part of 113 years. We lead, pure and simple. The degree to which we walk away from that responsibility is the degree to which we walk away from what it means to wear those anchors.

But there is a lesson for all Sailors in this mission statement, whether they want to become chiefs or not, and that is that we all should be striving to develop our own leadership potential.— every Sailor can be a leader at any level.

Vision: A senior enlisted force that serves first and foremost as deck-plate leaders committed to developing Sailors and enforcing standards remains responsive, aligned and well-connected to both Leadership and Sailors; and conducts itself in a consistently professional, ethical and traditional manner.

This is the goal. This is where we should be talking to the chief's mess, and we must start right now. If we work hard at our mission, achieving this long-term vision should be relatively easy.

The guiding principles are the things — the notions — we should be applying, using and exemplifying each and every day. They should inform our actions and serve as a bit of a rudder as we make decisions.

Deckplate Leadership: Chiefs are visible leaders who

set the tone. We will know the mission, know our Sailors and develop them beyond their expectations as a team and as individuals.

Sailors need to see their Chiefs out in the workcenters, on the deck-plates, guiding and instructing them. It's our experience they most need when they face a problem they don't know how to fix. We need to let them know when they are doing a good job and we need to correct them when they are not. Daily interaction reminds Sailors of the command's mission, and of their sense of worth to the command.

Institutional and Technical Expertise: Chiefs are the experts in their field. We will use experience and technical knowledge to produce a well trained enlisted and officer team.

Our credibility with Sailors and junior officers depends upon our ability to know the ratings. We must keep pace with the technology, equipment and systems' modifications that dominate the lives and careers of our Sailors' chosen fields. Leadership is still job one, but we cannot be completely effective leaders and mentors if we let slip our expertise.

Professionalism: Chiefs will actively teach, uphold and enforce standards. We will measure ourselves by the success of our Sailors. We will remain invested in the Navy through self-motivated military and academic education and training and will provide proactive solutions that are well-founded, thoroughly considered, and linked to mission accomplishment.

From the time the anchors are pinned on our collar, we are expected to hold ourselves to extraordinarily high standards. That means we think through problems carefully, looking not just for the most efficient solution,



All HANDS

Number 1076 • December 2006
www.navy.mil

Secretary of the Navy
The Honorable Donald C. Winter

Chief of Naval Operations
ADM Mike Mullen

Chief of Information
RDML Gregory J. Smith

Commander, Naval Media Center
CAPT Gordon J. Hume

Chief of Production
Dennis Casaday

Chief of Publishing
LCDR W. Fred Kuebler

EDITORIAL

Editor
Marie G. Johnston

Managing Editor
MCCS(AW/SW) Joseph E. Dorey

Assistant Editor
Stephanie N. Collins

Photo Editors
MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy
MC1(AW) Brien Aho

Editorial Staff
MC1(SCW) Jess M. Johnson
MC2(SW) David G. Beyea
MC2 Rebekah Blowers
MC2 Washington Caicedo

EDITORIAL & WEB DESIGN

Slice Design

Design + Project Management
Richard Rabil
Elizabeth Imber
Natalie Taylor

Digital Prepress Specialist
Lisa J. Boettner

PRINTING

Universal Printing Company

GPO Printing Specialist
John Kennedy

All HANDS

Recipient of the following
Awards of Magazine Excellence
for 2005:



All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) Number 1076 is published monthly by the Naval Media Center, Production Department, 2713 Mitscher Rd. S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call 202/512-1800. Subscription prices \$45 (domestic)/\$54 (foreign); \$7.50 (single copy domestic)/\$9 (single copy foreign). **Postmaster:** Send address changes to All Hands, Naval Media Center, Production Department 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 **Editorial Offices:** Send submissions and correspondence to Naval Media Center Production Department, ATTN: Editor, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 Tel: DSN 288-4171 or 202/433-4171 Fax: DSN 288-4747 or 202/433-4747 E-Mail: allhandsmagazine@navy.mil Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32// **Authorization:** The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.



**Information Now Housed
Under One Internet Roof**

www.tricare.mil

Tricare.mil comprises five main content areas:

My Health

- Personal health information and online appointment scheduling for Tricare Prime enrollees

My Benefit

- Tricare benefit information

MHS

- Resources for Military Health System staff members

Pressroom

- The latest news about Tricare and the military health system

Tricare Providers

- Information for Tricare network providers



Financial Readiness Equals Mission Readiness, Official Says

Service members and their families need to learn the importance of financial management and smart saving practices, so DOD is focusing its efforts to make sure troops are prepared for the future, a senior DOD official noted recently.

“One of the most important aspects of our responsibility at DOD is to help military families with their quality of life and with the programs and activities that will help them have a full and successful life that we think the military offers,” said Leslye Arsht, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. “We’ve worked hard to put together a comprehensive program of financial assistance and guidance to help military families move toward a culture of saving and planning for the future.”

One of the initiatives DOD is

pursuing is a program called “Military Saves.” This program is under America Saves, a nationwide campaign in which a broad coalition of nonprofit, corporate and government groups help individuals and families save and build wealth.

“The idea behind Military Saves is to encourage military families, particularly young families, to start saving early for retirement and to build a financial safety cushion to use in case of emergencies,” Arsht said. “Having this cushion will prevent families from seeking short-term loans, which often come with high interest rates,” she said.

“The military pay system makes it really easy for you to do these allocations in your paycheck,” she said. “These small amounts of money – \$10, \$20 a month – actually adds up to quite a bit when you do it on a regular basis.”

Another program DOD recently launched is “Moneywise in the Military,” a traveling conference done in partnership



Ed Olander, a financial educator with Fleet and Family

Service Center, conducts a credit management class for Sailors at Naval Base San Diego. The class is designed to help Sailors learn about good and bad credit, as well as the responsibility of having credit.

Photo by MC3 Patrick M. Kearney

with the PBS television network. Moneywise in the Military will travel to five installations around the country, and possibly to more locations as DOD develops its relationship with PBS, Arsht said.

“Because we see financial stability and financial readiness as equating with mission

readiness, it’s really important to DOD to be able to help our families make good choices, and to start this culture of saving that will keep them from getting into the cycle of debt,” she said. 

Story by Army Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Ricky's Tour



Electronic Service Record Available for Enlisted Sailors

The Navy has officially launched the Electronic Service Record (ESR) within the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS).

The vision is for ESR to replace the current paper-based Field Service Record with an electronic records management application, automating most service record maintenance, and providing individual service members, personnel offices (PERSO) and customer commands secure worldwide access to service record data via the Internet.

"NSIPS is the Human Resources Management tool used

by our Personnel Support Detachments (PSD) and Navy Reserve Centers, so there was a logical fit for the ESR to reside within that software application," said CDR Susan Eaton, NSIPS program manager.

The implementation of the ESR will enhance reliability and productivity within the PERSO/PSD by making maximum use of corporate data, and eliminating redundant data input. It will allow global transactions for medals and awards, training and education, personnel qualification standards (PQS), and routine administrative remarks.

"ESR is also a significant change for individual Sailors, because they will have greater access to information that affects their careers," said Jim Giger, a military human resource specialist.

Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW) Sierra Dillon, an instructor at Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center (NMITC), was recently awarded the Samuel T. Northern Military Citizen of the Year (MCOY) award. Presented by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, the MCOY award recognizes Sailors who have outstanding ties to the community through volunteer work.



Dillon contributed more than 300 hours of community service this year, both as a volunteer and a coordinator. She also worked to involve the NMITC students in volunteer activities sponsored by the command.

"Once I started going to events I couldn't stop," said Dillon. "I've probably been to every event our command has held so far."

All active-duty and drilling Reserve Sailors can access their ESR by signing up for a self-service ESR account on the NSIPS Web page at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> using a Common Access Card (CAC)-enabled computer. Sailors

will be able to view their own records, as well as make minor changes, including emergency contact information, home and mailing address, official email address, and personal info such as race, religion and ethnic code. Navy Reserve Sailors can also put

continued on page 9

MCPON Mission *continued from page 4*

but the right one as well. They won't always be the same. It also means we appreciate the value of education and that we continue to pursue it personally and for our people. There are many different ways to be educated, from taking a college course to reading material on the Navy's reading list. Our self-motivation toward education and professionalism will drive that same motivation in our Sailors.

Character: Chiefs abide by an uncompromising code of integrity, take full responsibility for their actions and keep their word. This will set a positive tone for the command, unify the mess, and create esprit de corps.

Setting a good example is a prerequisite of good leadership. In fact, it may be the most indispensable quality of anyone trying to lead others, because one's credibility depends almost solely upon one's actions. Much is expected of us. We must rise to meet those expectations.

Loyalty: Loyalty must be demonstrated to seniors, peers and subordinates alike, and that it must never be blind. Few things are more important than people who have the moral courage to question the appropriate direction in which an organization is headed and then the strength to support whatever final decisions are made.

Our leaders require our advice and direction – no matter how unpopular that feedback may be. They also need us to support them when they make a decision – regardless of how we personally feel about it. To do less than that is to fail the chain of command.

Active Communication: Chiefs encourage open and frank dialog, listen to Sailors and energize the communication flow up and down the chain of command. This will increase unit efficiency, mission readiness, and mutual respect.

As Chiefs, we are – and should be – the main source of information for what's happening at the command. We must make sure our people understand how a given decision or policy affects them and their families. But that role as conduit also requires that we listen to their concerns and pass those along as appropriate to our leaders. Information, like loyalty, is a two-way street ... and most easily traveled when open and free.

Sense of Heritage: Defines our past and guides our future. Chiefs will use heritage to connect Sailors to their past, teach values and enhance pride in service to our country.

We didn't just join an "armed service." We joined the Navy. We became Sailors. That fact alone should elicit a sense of pride and camaraderie. We are the next generation in a long line of patriots and heroes – officer and enlisted – who decided to fight for their nation at sea and ashore. You can draw a straight line back from us all the way to John Paul Jones and Stephen Decatur, and when you get right down to it, there isn't all that much of a difference between them and us.

We have a great naval heritage, and we are adding to it every day. We need to celebrate that heritage. We need to honor that oath. It's a part of who we are. 

Around the Fleet



▲ **CDR (Dr.) Warren Gilbert (left) examines** a patient with a mock head injury during field training, part of Exercise *Natural Fire* at Camp Lonestar, Nginyang, Kenya. *Natural Fire* is the largest combined exercise between Eastern African community nations and the United States.

Photo by MC2 Roger S. Duncan

◀ **CSSN Sean Unterdorfer, the Bluejacket** of the Year for USS *Cleveland* (LPD 7), reads "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to the kindergarten class from Roxboro Elementary during Cleveland Navy Week.

Photo by MC2 Michael Sheehan

▼ DC3 Oran Feiner moves among the main shrouds

during the Chief Petty Officer turnaround cruise aboard USS *Constitution* in Boston Harbor. Each year, *Constitution* hosts approximately 300 CPO selectees for training.

Photo by MCSN Nick Lyman



To be considered for the "Around the Fleet" section, forward your **high resolution (5" x 7" at 300 dpi) images** with full credit and cutline information, including **full name, rank and duty station** to: navyvisualnews@navy.mil

Directions on how to properly submit photos can be found at www.navy.mil/photo_submit.html

Mail your submissions to:
Navy Visual News Service
1200 Navy Pentagon, Rm. 4B514
Washington, D.C. 20350-1200

Click on the **Navy's** home page, www.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.

continued from page 7

in their civilian employment information.

Commanding officers, executive officers, command master chiefs, and pass liaison representatives may obtain read-only access for Sailors in their Unit Identification Code by contacting their NSIPS access manager.

Giger stressed the importance of checking service records early and often. "A lot of Sailors wait until they're an E-5 or above before taking a personal interest in their record, but we are responsible for ensuring our records are correct and up to date. It is easier to correct errors if found early. Members should start reviewing their record periodically, and contacting their PERSO/PSD if they find errors.

"This, along with a periodic review of your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) on the Electronic Military Personnel Records System (EMPRS) will keep your records selection-board ready," said Giger.

In addition to reviewing service record data online, ESR implements self-service functionality for the first time. Initially limited to items such as emergency contact information, address and phone numbers, this will serve as a model for future self-service functions that will affect benefits and entitlements, such as the Record of Emergency Data.

ESR relies upon the NSIPS database, so changes made via the ESR application will accordingly update personnel information in NSIPS. However, for the immediate future, printed documents must still be forwarded to Navy Personnel Command to update the permanent personnel record, then filed in the field service record to ensure current records information is available. This process will continue until all activities responsible for

maintaining personnel records have access to ESR. Ultimately, ESR will replace the field service record (the service record jacket) that Sailors carry between PSDs when transferred.

A follow-on effort will merge the ESR with the Electronic Training Jacket (ETJ), providing Sailors with a single Web-based view of personnel and training history.

Corrections to the ESR must be submitted to the NSIPS Helpdesk by calling 1-877-589-5991 or email NSISHHELPDESK@navy.mil.

For more information about reviewing your record, visit www.npc.navy.mil. 

*Story by MCCS Bill Houlihan and
MCC Teresa J. Frith, NPC
Communications Office, Millington,
Tenn*

Tricare Information Now Housed Under One Internet Roof

Tricare beneficiaries will get a pleasant surprise the next time they visit Tricare Online. The Web site has a new name, a new look and a new home. It's now part of Tricare.mil, the official Web site for all Tricare information.

"We reorganized the Web site with our beneficiaries in mind," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director, Tricare Management Activity. "Now they can go to one site to look up benefit information, schedule an appointment or track claims. Everything's in one place, making the site easier to use."

Tricare.mil comprises five main content areas:

— My Health (Tricare Online): personal health information and online appointment

continued on page 11

Around the Fleet



► **More than 1,200 service members, civic leaders and civilians** came together to create a human flag during the "Hampton Roads Remembers" ceremony, Sept. 11, 2006, at Mount Trashmore Park, Virginia Beach, Va.

Photo by MCSN Christopher Hall

◀ **IC3 Steve Chisholm (bottom) and ET3 Joshua Miller** paint the exterior walls of the Theotokos Foundation in Limassol, Cyprus, as part of a community relations project. About 50 service members and civilian mariners from USS *Mount Whitney* (LCC 20) and the embarked Joint Task Force Lebanon staff participated in the painting of the residence.

Photo by GM2 Elizabeth Vlahos

▼ **A new father holds his child for the first time** after returning from a six-month deployment aboard USS *Russell* (DDG 59).

Photo by MC1 James E. Foehl





▲ Sailors assigned to *USS Texas* (SSN 775) join marsh restoration volunteers for a fan boat ride in Pierce Marsh before replanting marsh grasses in Hitchcock, Texas. The submariners participated in a Galveston Bay Foundation, Natural Restoration Conservation Services and Energy Company NRG project to help restore 200 acres of eroded vegetation.

Photo by MC2 Roadell Hickman

▼ AO3 Tristan Rose inspects ordnance staged at the bomb farm on the flight deck of *USS Enterprise* (CVN 65).

Photo by MC2 Milosz Reterski



continued from page 9

scheduling for Tricare Prime enrollees;

– My Benefit: Tricare benefit information;

– Military Health Staff: resources for Military Health System staff members;

– Tricare Providers: information for Tricare network providers; and

– Pressroom: the latest news about Tricare and the military health system.

In the next phase of Web site improvements, beneficiaries will be able to enter their profile and receive benefit information tailored to them. Tricare expects this feature to be available in winter of 2007. ☞

Story courtesy of American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Naval Safety Center Warns About Winter Driving Dangers

With the approach of winter and the holiday season, the Naval Safety Center is reminding Sailors of the hazards they can face while driving.

“The sad thing is we have a very high number of fatalities in the Navy in motor vehicles,” said Bonnie Revell, the traffic safety specialist at the Naval Safety Center. “That’s our number one killer.”

Between the Thanksgiving and New Years holidays last year, 10 Sailors died on the roads in their off time.

To stay safe on the road, the Safety Center advises that Sailors do a number of things to prepare for driving.

“Sailors need to plan their trips,” said Revell. “They need to be aware of the weather, carry emergency kits, blankets, some extra sand in the vehicle (to weigh down the rear) and the

most important thing is, slow down for the circumstances that you’ll be driving in.”

Winter driving safety doesn’t apply to just traveling, it’s something Sailors may need to prepare for every day.

“For everyday driving check out the situations. If they’re saying the roads are hazardous, give yourself plenty of time to get to and from your destination,” said Revell. “You’ve got to be aware of your surroundings and leave plenty of room in case there is a mishap. Remember that everybody doesn’t have the same skills you do.”

As Sailors begin to make travel plans, the Naval Safety Center wants to stress the importance of being rested.

“When you get in the vehicle, make sure you’ve got eight hours of rest. Don’t try to make a 10-hour trip after you’ve worked an eight-hour day,” said Revell. “Get to where you’re going safely because we need you to come back.”

For more information about winter traffic safety and other safety questions, visit www.safetycenter.navy.mil. ☞

Story by MC3 Davis J. Anderson, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic, Norfolk.

NKO Offers Online Community for Navy Families

The Navy is making available to spouses and families a Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Web portal similar to those used by Sailors for sharing information and resources. This new resource began testing in early September, and is now online for all NKO users.

Through the new family Community of Practice (COP),

continued on page 13

Around the Fleet



▲ **HTFN Chris Hutchison** enters a berthing space aboard *USS Hopper* (DDG 70) to combat a simulated fire during a general quarters drill.

Photo by MC2 John L. Beeman

► **DC2 Matt Ault, assigned to *USS Essex*, (LHD 2)** disassembles the self-contained breathing apparatus oxygen tanks at the conclusion of an advanced firefighting course conducted at the Afloat Training Group firefighting school at Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by MCSN Adam York





▲ **Team members of Explosive Ordnance Disposal**

Mobile Unit 6, Det. 14, are suspended from an HH-60H *Seahawk*, from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 11, during a Special Purpose Insertion/Extraction training exercise aboard USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65).

Photo by MC2 Milosz Reterski

▼ **SA Sean Costello assigned to Riverine Squadron**

(RIVRON) 1, loads the Riverine Assault Craft's bow .50-caliber machine gun. RIVRON-1, assigned to Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, conducted high-speed Small Unit Riverine Craft training and visit, board, search and seizure evolutions on the Cape Fear River at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Photo by MCSN Kenneth R. Hendrix



continued from page 11

family members will find information on everything from education to child care to housing. They can start and follow discussions and even use an instant messenger program to chat directly with members of their community, deployed family members or anyone with an NKO account.

"We felt it would be helpful to gather the basic information into one place," said Kip Route, a Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ombudsmen-at-large, who worked with the staffs at NKO and FamilyLine to bring the portal to life. "We are trying to contribute to what the CNO refers to as 'continuous readiness.' When families are prepared, Sailors can deploy around the world with a clear mind."

Since its founding, NKO has given Sailors the opportunity to connect with others in their specific fields. COP offers career-targeted links, making it easier for Sailors to get the information they need faster, without wading through the vast amount of information available throughout NKO.

Because families also have access to the Navy's portal, officials felt putting it all together there made sense. And the effort required an extraordinary level of teamwork between Navy ombudsmen, FamilyLine and NKO.

"Everyone saw the need and everyone pitched in to deliver to our Navy families a dynamic resource, right at their fingertips, for the information and assistance they will need to stay continuously ready," said Deborah Mullen, wife of Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Mike Mullen, who assisted the effort. "As Navy life changes, so, too, will the Community of Practice, and that's probably the best part of all."

Creating the portal was completed in less than two months. Much of the information had already been gathered by the members of Naval Services FamilyLine, a 41-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting the spouses of sea service members.

Even though the family COP offers instant access to a wealth of information via the Internet, Route says the portal could never replace local command ombudsmen.

"Ombudsmen are the critical communication links between family members and the command. The site even says that everyone should know their ombudsman. Additionally, ombudsmen strive to make sure spouses in a command know the resources available to them. This site is one of those great resources," said Route.

To get to the family COP on NKO, after signing in, click the "public communities and learning centers" link on the left of your home page. At the next prompt, type "family" into the search box marked "find a community page" and click enter. Next, click on the "Family Support" add link. This will add Family Support to your communities, and will show up each time you log into NKO. Once in the community, you can read and navigate through the introduction, checklists, discussions, feedback and other available areas.

To register with NKO and visit the family COP, visit www.nko.navy.mil. ☞

Story courtesy of American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

The “New” Brown-water NAVY

Projecting
a Presence
into Combat
Zone Rivers

Story and photos by MC1(AW) Brien Aho



▲ RIVRON-1 Sailors prepare their watercraft for insertion and extraction drills as part of riverine training at Camp Lejeune, N.C.



History has a tendency to repeat itself. Today's Sailor is once again being asked to think beyond the decks of a ship, carry a rifle and take on a role that has been out of the Navy's norm for the last 30 years.

Since Vietnam, the Navy has not been asked to get into close-quarter combat situations. But with the war on terrorism expanding, the Navy must move off the decks of large ships and once again project a presence in the waterways of foreign lands.

The battle on the waterways has moved from the dense jungles and harsh humidity of Vietnam's Mekong Delta of yesteryear into the open deserts and dry brush near the banks of Iraq's southern rivers. Protecting infrastructure, cutting off enemy escape routes, severing supply lines, searching out and destroying enemy troops and bases and providing a safe route for coalition troops to accomplish the mission is now the job of the newly resurrected Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 1, part of the new Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC).

"We're always going to need the ability to control the waterways in whatever country we go to," said Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Cameron J. Hohimer. "The ability to do that in countries we're friendly with training them and building

relationships the way we have been trained is definitely a good asset to the war on terror."

Moving out of the water and onto the sands of Iraq is a harsh reality check for many Sailors in today's environment. Strapping on a 50-pound pack, wearing 30 pounds of protective combat gear and carrying a weapon is what is being asked of them more and more often.

"We cannot sit out in the deep blue, waiting for the enemy to come to us. He will not. We must go to him," said ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations in a recent speech given at the Naval War College, Newport, R.I. "We need a green-water capability and a brown-water capability. I want the ability to go close in and stay there."

With NECC standing up RIVRON-1, the Navy is creating an armada of small but swift watercraft. Small Unit Riverine Craft (SURC) provides Sailors with a combat-capable boat that allows them

► **RIVRON-1 Sailors perform insertion and extraction drills** aboard a Small Unit Riverine Craft (SURC) while training at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

▼ **RIVRON-1 Sailors draw in the sand** while planning how they will attack "Combat Town" during the School of Infantry phase of riverine training.







▲ **RIVRON-1 Sailors capture one of** the "opposition force" members in "Combat Town."

to navigate waters much too shallow for conventional ships. Insertion teams now can be rapidly deployed, saving lives in the process by driving right up on the river banks.

"These boats ride up on nine inches of water allowing us to fly up rivers and get in close, inserting troops easier," said Gunner's Mate Seaman Joshua Bent.

SURC provides squadrons with an extremely fast and versatile boat that allows them to make 90-, 180- or complete 360-degree turns in a little more than a boat length.

"These boats slide. It's incredible. They basically pivot on the nose," said Bent. "These boats can walk sideways if you want. I couldn't believe it until I experienced it."

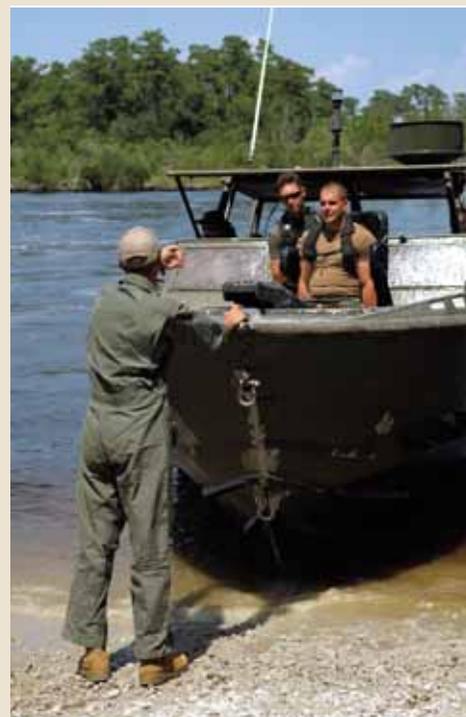
These compact, durable riverboats will be manned with Sailors who are eager to get into the action.

"The training we received was excellent; the Marine instructors really pushed us daily on the ranges."

—EN1 **Joshua Jackson**

"This is what I want to do," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Joshua Holder. "I just got back from a six-month deployment and I got a little taste of this in Iraq, going on the small boats, and when I saw these orders come out I saw this was what I wanted to do."

▼ **Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Erick J. Hodge**, a boat team instructor at the special mission training center, speaks with RIVRON-1 students as they train in a Riverine Assault Craft during insertion and extraction training.





▲ During the coxswain phase of riverine training, EN1 Joshua Jackson, assigned to RIVRON 1, drives a Small Unit Riverine Craft.

▼ RIVRON-1 Sailors carrying 70 lb. ruck sacks march toward "Combat Town." Land navigation and other such skills will likely be vital during the School of Infantry (SOI) phase of riverine training.



“Simunitions made training more realistic, we made sure our weapons were ready to send the fight back to the ‘enemy.’”

-BMC(AW) Scott Nordan



Sailors are stepping into the boots of Soldiers and Marines who have been patrolling the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers for the last four years protecting dams, capturing fleeing enemy combatants and conducting Maritime Interception Operations.

“Right now we’re receiving coxswain training,” said Engineman 1st Class Joshua Jackson. “I’m really enjoying the training here on the water where we’re learning basic navigation; rules of the road; and to not crash into a pier.”

At the School of Infantry (SOI) the first phase of training takes place with Marines who were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. They came off the battlefield and stepped into the role of instructor as 220 Sailors from many different ratings attended a three-phase pre-deployment course aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Experienced veterans of the conflict in Iraq and other areas in the world, these Marines have brought that knowledge to the different phases of riverine school and are determined to make sure Sailors are prepared for anything that might come at them when deployed.



▲ Simunition rounds are stacked up during the School of Infantry phase of riverine training.

“These instructors are hand picked, and we picked them because they have been there. They are experienced and will lead these students in the right direction,” said

Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Scudder. “We will teach them everything they will need to know, and we cover the full spectrum from an ambush scenario to insertion and extractions.”

“The knowledge these guys bring back from Iraq is broad,” said Holder. “I’ve been there, but my experience was not as exten-



sive as these guys. They're getting more in-depth than what I've seen yet."

The first phase, Common Combat Skills, teaches the Sailors basic infantry skills, ground navigation, vehicle check-point procedures and close-quarter combat, which they'll expand on with combined training as boat teams in the following phases.

Close-quarter combat training held at the mock city called "Combat Town" prepares the Sailors to conduct door-to-door searches. They carry a modified M-16, allowing them to use "simunitions," rounds which are low-powered, non-lethal paintball bullets. Simunitions hurt a lot more than paintball ammo, and those participating in simunitions exercises have to wear goggles and groin protectors.

"Simunitions made training more realistic. We made sure our weapons were ready to send the fight back to the 'enemy,'" said Chief Boatswain's Mate (AW) Scott Norden.

Training continued for the RIVRON-1 Sailors on how to handle other weapons. "We learned how to effectively shoot the M-16, .50 cal, 240G and MK-19s," said Jackson. "The training we received was excellent; the Marine instructors really

pushed us daily on the ranges."

After learning how to handle different types of weapons the Sailors finally got the chance to start training on the watercraft they will be using while deployed to areas like Iraq.

"The final exercise taught us about mission planning," said Norden. "We covered all aspects in depth, and we added more complex training on each mission so improvement was made each time we ran a mission to completion."

After completing their final exercise, RIVRON-1 will soon be deployed to Iraq where they will take over responsibilities near the Hyditha Dam.

"When I joined the Navy, I never thought in a 1,000 years that I would be doing this on small boats," said Quartermaster 1st Class Lance Allen. "I'm excited to have an opportunity like this." ❧

Aho is a photojournalist assigned to the Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/

▲ **RIVRON 1 Sailors stack up while** preparing to advance on "Combat Town." Such land-combat training is vital for the Sailors engaged in riverine training aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

▼ **HT3 Michael Downey assigned to** RIVRON 1 stands guard during the School of Infantry phase of riverine training.





Navy Support in OIF: CORPSMAN UP!

Story and photos by MC2 Todd Frantom



▲ In addition to carrying the same gear as the Marines, an FMF corpsman always has an emergency first aid kit that begins with the basics of scissors, sterile bandages and adhesive strips.

◀ According to HM1(FMF) John Trumble, some corpsmen in Iraq wear an American flag close to their heart while on patrol.

The platoon trudges across a muddy field of saw grass toward a white stucco dwelling. This house is one of many that Marines are searching for possible insurgents. Weapons are locked and loaded and tension is high with these warriors because an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded about two blocks away from their location the night before, taking casualties.

The first Marine in formation reaches the front door, ready for anything. He knocks. An old man hunched over a cane answers the door. He has an unnatural smile on his face, perhaps an attempt to put everyone – including himself – at ease. The Marine politely introduces himself to the owner of the residence, through a translator, and points away from the door, gesturing for everyone to exit the home. From out of the shadows two women and seven children emerge slowly slide past the Marines positioned on the outdoor carport.



▲ Marine Corps “grunts” sift through homes while searching for insurgents on a daily basis in Iraq. Their lives are continually on the line while serving at the tip of the spear.

“They’re all out,” shouts Rasheed Amedi, an Iraqi translator for the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. “OK, I’m going in, cover me,” responds Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Michael “Doc” Sarrazin as he joins the Marines already in the house.

What may seem out of place for most is actually a familiar scene played out every day in Iraq. Because of such seamless integration, when a Marine yells, “Corpsman up!” there’s a good chance that the Doc is already there, in the thick of things.

“I am a Marine,” said Sarrazin. “Yes, I wear a petty officer crow and I am in the Navy, but I am very much a Marine.”

Sarrazin didn’t join the Navy to further his education or see the world. He wanted to do his part in the Global War on Terrorism - helping others and saving lives.

“I have always had a plan,” said Sarrazin. “I wanted to finish Marine Corps school, go through Field Medical Service School (FMSS) training and be out in the field working with Marines, preferably in Iraq.”

That is exactly what he has done, along with many other Sailors who had the same goal in mind.

“It’s not that I wanted to go to war ... I just want to make a difference,” said Sarrazin. “It’s in my blood to help others, and I actually love the job. My respect for those Marines who sacrifice so much has given me the courage to join them.”

Sarrazin has been deployed to Iraq three times including this current deployment, and is now a field veteran among his Marine peers.

“Every day is different out here and you never know what to expect,” said Sarrazin. “It’s like playing hide and seek for adults in a very dangerous sort of way. I know that may sound morbid but it does keep the job interesting.”

For many corpsmen in Iraq their medical training comes second to being a Marine.

“We are so well-trained before ever entering the war here in Iraq, that when something bad does happen, responding



▲ HM3(FMF) Michael “Doc” Sarrazin carefully searches a room for weapons as a small boy cautiously watches what he’s doing.

medically is just second nature,” said HM1 (FMF) John Trumble.

“To me treating a wound is like riding a bike. Once you have learned how to do it, you can jump on at any time and ride,” said Trumble. “I concentrate more on making sure I don’t wreck the Humvee than how to properly wrap a wound.”

Another corpsman in Iraq, HM3(FMF) Robert Early has some of the same sentiment as Trumble and recalls his natural responses when an accident did happen.

“A civilian woman was caught in the crossfire during a recent firefight at the market right outside Abu Ghraib prison,” Early said. “Without any hesitation, I lowered my gun and ran out to get her. It all happened so quickly, but during the time everything seemed to be moving in slow motion. She was hysterical when I reached her and blood was gushing from her hand. All I could think about was getting her out of the line of fire so I

could stop the bleeding.

I grabbed under her arms and slid her to cover behind a vegetable stand. One of her fingers had been almost completely severed by a bullet, but I was able to save it and finally calm her down.”

While training is critical, training or lecturing does not make a warrior. A good corpsman or Marine has the mindset and courage to understand what they are doing and why.

“You have to stay focused,” said Early. “I have only been out here for two months and it’s no walk in the park. There is danger lurking at every intersection and behind every wall, but I understood what I was getting myself into. I chose to go ‘greenside’ because it is who I am.

“Within days of arriving and meeting my new brothers-in-arms, I realized that I was part of something special,” Early continued. “I could tell that they were

feeling me out, like I had walked into pre-season tryouts for my new football team.”

Early passed the tryouts and is now part of the greenside Navy where he is proudly called “Doc” by his grateful Marine comrades.

“Doc is a Marine, just like me,” said Lance Cpl. Angel M. Samano. “Although he cannot be replaced, we value the fact that he would be there to help us if need be and possibly save our lives. Doc is my best friend.”

This bond between Marines and their Sailor brothers is what makes the union a special one.

“The worst thing for me would be to lose a fellow Marine in the field,” Early said. “I really don’t think much about losing my own life; that is not why I am here.

“I believe most corpsmen are just born with the ‘Hoo-Yah’ gene in them,” said Early. “I feel like I am definitely in my element out here. I don’t see myself doing anything else and have a lot of pride in my job.”

Having what it takes for a Sailor to earn





▲ **Marines attached to 1st**

Battalion, 1st Marines, scan the horizon while standing fast at a checkpoint location. The barricade was set up during an Army raid of a nearby town to catch insurgents trying to flee the area.

◀ **Marines take whatever time**

they can to catch up on sleep during a long roadblock they set up along a strip of road located near a hotbed of insurgents.

“WE NOW SPEND MUCH OF OUR TIME TRAINING THE NEW IRAQI FORCES SO THAT THEY CAN TAKE OVER FOR US IN THE FUTURE.”

**- HM3(FMF) Michael “Doc” Sarrazin
1st Battalion, 1st Marines**

the nickname “Doc” can sometimes be credited to the individual’s upbringing.

According to Sarrazin’s mother, Teresa, Michael’s love of adventure and dreams of being in the military started at a very early age.

“When Michael was in preschool he enjoyed camping outside,” explained his mother in an e-mail. “I would put his tent up in our back yard where he would sleep outside all night by himself dressed like Daniel Boone. He wore a raccoon skin hat with a small canteen around his neck and a

wooden gun for protection. And of course he loved camouflage.”

“When he got older he always talked about being a Marine, a Navy SEAL or an Army sniper. So, it was no surprise to me when he went into the military,” she added.

A Sailor’s desire to become a corpsman is only part of the puzzle when describing their importance in war-torn Iraq. There their combat skills, along with life-saving ability is shared and recognized beyond the platoons they call family.

“Our mission is changing,” said



Sarrazin. "We spend much of our time training Iraqi forces so that they can take over for us in the future."

During Operation *Iraqi Freedom*, as long as Marines are risking their lives to secure freedom for the Iraqi people, you can bet that the Navy corpsman will be there as well, answering the call; "Corpsman up!"

"I wear the caduceus (hospital corpsman rating symbol) on my Marine Corps flak jacket over my heart - and that's where I will always keep it," said Sarrazin. ✍

Frantom is a Navy photojournalist currently assigned to Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y.

▲ **Rasheed Amedi, a translator for the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, discusses** evacuation plans with a resident of a home being searched by a Marine Corps battalion for possible insurgents and weapons.

▶ **HN Angelo Batay (right) spends his downtime building relations with** the Iraqi police.

Editor's Note:

In a recent letter to Sarrazin's wife, from Marine Corps Lt. Geiger, Michael's commanding officer, Michael's courage and professionalism was recognized.

"During one firefight, your husband bravely dragged a wounded civilian to cover and administered medical attention. Doc's actions helped the civilian survive multiple gunshot wounds," said Geiger.

"I cannot express how grateful I am that you would lend us your most precious resource, your husband. Doc is in good hands with 1st Platoon and I will do everything in my power to ensure your husband's safe return."

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil



▼ **Maintenance personnel from Carrier Air Wing 7** are briefed on the the day's work before flying starts that afternoon.





THE Scrimmage

Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center
pulls Air Wings Together before the "Big Game"

Story and photos by
MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy

Steam billows from the catapult as an F/A-18 *Super Hornet* is hurled from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. The next pilot watches as his plane is locked into the cat. He has butterflies in his stomach, but he's not nervous about carrying out his first mission. He's just anxious.

He's ready to fly over Iraq or Afghanistan or anywhere, really. If bombs need to be dropped he has the skill to drop them, because he practiced dropping them on "enemy" tanks deep in the heart of Nevada – Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon, Nev., to be exact. He, like all pilots who now deploy with air wings, was trained at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC).



“An air wing is composed of various squadrons that fly different kinds of aircraft,” explained LCDR Mark Grindle, NSAWC Air Wing Training Officer. “Between deployments in their turnaround training cycle they spend the first part of their training on their specific airplane. [Then] we take all those squadrons together as an air wing and train them for integrated power projection strikes.”

It’s almost like a football team breaking off into offense, defense and special teams during practice then coming back together when it’s time to face an opponent. Individual training is a key building block, but without the whole team, no war would be won nor mission accomplished.

To make the training as real as possible NSAWC gives the opposing team different uniforms.

▲ An entire air wing fills the flight line at NAS Fallon. Adversary aircraft are kept on another flight line nearby.

“In the fleet you won’t have opposition forces. During training when pilots practice, it’s grey airplanes flying against grey airplanes,” said Grindle. “Here, we try to come up with paint schemes that are clearly not like our own. So when they look out the window they see an aircraft that doesn’t look like their buddy. This way there is no confusion if this is a threat aircraft or a good guy.”

The enemy aircraft in Fallon don’t just look like enemy fighters, though. They also fly like them.

“The adversary planes we fly are the F-16, F-18 and F-5, and all our pilots have had formal adversary training,” Grindle said. “We

do the best we can based on what we know about the threat to replicate that threat. Our ‘red’ forces will emulate another aircraft and fly only to the limitations of that aircraft.”

Many of the adversary aircraft are piloted by Reservists, Top Gun instructors and other staff of NSAWC who have been through the same training in the past.

“They give us a great opportunity to hone our skills against a wide variety of planes and countries,” said CAPT Harold “Bud” Bishop, Commander, Carrier Air Wing 7.

Grindle made it clear though, that when actual combat missions are carried out correctly, U.S. pilots should only see fireballs downrange and not ever be face-to-face with

► **AO2 Michael Hugh** (right) from VFA-143 checks the serial numbers of ordnance about to be expended during live-fire training. Meticulous attention to detail is vital to ensuring accountability of ordnance used during training.

▼ **Training rounds litter** the ground on the live-fire range. While they don't explode, they fall with enough force to pass completely through aircraft placed as targets.



an enemy. In fact, the opposition aircraft are just a tiny part of what is taught at NSAWC.

From the air wing commander and pilots, to the maintenance people on the ground, all members of the air wing are getting training at the same time in Fallon. If you're a pilot your training might be on tactics, but if you're an intelligence officer or part of the air wing's intel department you might be getting training on how to assess a threat and present it to the air wing.

"We have to make sure the intelligence officers understand the intel we give them clearly," said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Chris Erwin, one of NSAWC's facilitators. "So when they are briefing they can be specific on the threat. If our pilots understand the threat then they will know how to defeat it, either by jamming or taking it out."

Some of the intel passed down by Erwin and the other facilitators describes Fallon's bombing ranges and how they are divided into four different mock countries with names like Hotlanta, Noregon, Pevada, complete with fake historical backgrounds on these countries. From there, intel officers and ISs are told about the countries' military capabilities and the disposition of their forces, but not the locations – that they have to figure out on their own during the days leading up to "war."

"We feed them message traffic just like they would get on the ship," Erwin said. "We give them a real-world environment, including all the instruments they would have underway. It's just here in our spaces."

The responsibility of keeping the planes flying and dropping bombs rests on some of the enlisted who visited the ranges, and they understand the seriousness of the work.

"The additional training we get out here, the pace and the momentum we have to have in place before we hit the boat is crucial for us," said Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class Alfred Miessner. "Otherwise for the junior guys it would be a culture shock and the same thing for the senior guys who haven't done this for a while. We work a lot of long hours to be able to let the pilots put the bombs on target."

For enlisted new to the squadrons this is the first time they will have to deal with a



▲ An aerographers's mate from Carrier Air Wing 7 gives a weather brief to the air wing pilots before a mission brief.

▼ (from left to right) LT John Dick, LCDR Mark Grindle and LCDR Christopher Schnadel get dressed before flying as adversaries to the Carrier Air Wing 7 pilots.





▲ In the Joint Control Facility, the staff of NSAWC can see the big picture during a strike mission. They can listen in on all operations, can see the aircraft maneuvering and even have cameras watching targets in the impact area.

rigorous schedule similar to what they will see underway.

“This is the place where we get people qualified and doing the job before we get out to do the real thing,” Miessner said.

The bombing ranges where the air wings train to fight this unknown threat is one of a kind in the country.

“We are able to go supersonic in some of the areas around here, and we can’t do that any other place in the United States because it would disrupt civilians,” said Bishop. “This is also one of the only places left in the United States where we can drop live ordnance.”

At the ranges near Fallon, pilots can drop 500-pound bombs on a set up convoy of tanks until they are completely destroyed. Then, the range crew tows out more tanks, and they do it again.

“We’ll move as much ordnance in one carrier air wing detachment here as they will during an entire cruise,” said Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class Donald McCallum. “We could build 50 or 60 bombs a day here. On a carrier during work-ups, you do about 30 a day. The most I’ve seen here was 150 in a day.”

This lets the AOs get more than enough practice to deploy before they ever reach the carrier. Fallon also gives the enlisted members of the air wing the rare opportunity to get to the range and watch the aircraft drop these weapons. Usually they would only be able to watch the planes fly off the ship and then help recover them.

The ability to drop bombs and fly at high speeds is not all that is done to add to the realism of the NSAWC training. The ground crew at the range also uses lasers to mark targets just like it would be done in the field. They also mark targets with smoke rounds fired from a howitzer.

If an air wing went through Fallon every few years and was taught the same thing every time, they would soon become complacent. That will never happen here.

“The training is very dynamic,” said Erwin. “If we have an East Coast air wing we will tailor the training to what they might come up against. If it were a West Coast air wing, it would be tailored to what



▲ **LCDR Mark Grindle and a guest pilot** from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 cross the flight line to the adversary aircraft they will fly against Carrier Air Wing 7 pilots.

◀ **AO1 Andrew Martinez supervises** a young sailor who fires a Howitzer used to mark targets on the range.

► **Without binoculars, the only time**

the aircraft at Fallon can be seen is during take-off and landing. Here, an F/A-18F *Super Hornet* launches on one of the many training missions conducted at NAS Fallon.

▼ **Marine Corps Lt. Col. Christopher**

Parkhurst checks a range map to relay coordinates to an aircraft about the next bombing run.



they could encounter.”

It's not only location-centric but it's also a constantly evolving curriculum. The school takes real world scenarios and incorporates them into each new class so by the time an air wing returns to Fallon they are facing an entirely new threat, always keeping them on their toes.

“We get feedback and lessons learned in the Gulf or wherever our forces are operating from air wing commanders who will tell us what we should focus on in future courses,”

said Grindle. “But we try not to get too specific because we want to train to the threat we don't know about.”

The staff of NSAWC all work together to keep each of the air wings up to date on the most current tactics and skills needed to win against any enemy they might encounter anywhere in the world.

“All of the success I've had was based on the training I received here,” said Bishop. “I feel confident that as the air wing goes back to sea they will be prepared because of the

talent of the people we have here and the training they provide.”

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil

Her Tool Kit

Story and photos by MC1(AW) Shane T. McCoy

When Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class April Perez goes to work, it's to help people rebuild their lives, and like any other builder, she brings along her tools. But her tools are not like those of most HMs – hers are more like that of a carpenter or handyman.

“Orthopedic surgery is a lot different than many other surgeries,” said Perez. “Because you are handling things like saws, drills, power tools, plates, screws and even bolt cutters.”

As an orthopedic technician or ortho tech, she assists surgeons in operations that would make most people cringe. She could work on a shattered femur one day and the next help rebuild an entire leg. As you might guess, she has no fear of blood or seeing a bone breaking through the skin.

“If you can get past the blood, my job is actually fun,” she said. “I know that we are helping them and they will be better off when we’re done.”

The results are amazing. When a patient comes in on a stretcher unsure of their future and then is up on crutches a few days later, even in pain, many are all smiles. Patients are quick to thank the surgeon, not realizing the vital roles played by ortho techs like Perez. Without their assistance during surgery these complicated operations would be more difficult for everyone.

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.

**Focus on.
Service**



Medal of Honor — More than a Medal

On Dec. 16, 1861, then-Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Wells created the Navy and Marine Corps Medal of Honor for enlisted members of the Department of the Navy. It is the oldest continuously awarded medal in the United States military and was the first of the service's Medals of Honor to be awarded.

Although the criteria for awarding the medal has changed over the years, such as going from a Secretary of the Navy award to being solely awarded by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, the award has been recognized as the highest honor any service member can receive.

Since it was created, 740 Sailors have earned the Navy and Marine Corps Medal of Honor. Originally, the citations for the award left out many details of the Sailor's actions. In the example below the citation has little information about the actions taken or even the battle in which the Sailor took part.

The first action by a Sailor to be honored was that of Seaman Benjamin Swearer. Born in 1825, in Baltimore, Swearer was awarded the nation's highest military honor on April 3, 1863, with a citation that barely recalls the circumstances in which he was involved, "Embarked in a surfboat from the USS *Pawnee* during action against Fort Clark, off Baltimore Inlet, 29 August 1861. Taking part in a mission to land troops and to remain inshore and provide protection, Swearer rendered gallant service throughout the action and had the honor of being the first man to raise the flag on the captured fort."

While this citation does not describe in any detail what the gallant service Swearer rendered was, future citations would include more descriptions of the actions taken. The actions of Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin G. Shields at Dong Xoai, Vietnam were meticulously documented. Although the citation isn't grammatically correct it does accurately depict the tremendous lengths this Sailor went to defend his fellow service members. The full text of Shield's citation, along with almost all the other Navy and Marine Corps recipients, is available on the Naval Historical Center website, www.history.navy.mil.

The driving force behind these changes were accusations that the award was being given too easily. Congress took action to restore the meaning of the award by listing guidelines in U.S. Title Code 10 which requires that before awarding the Medal of Honor there has to be an investigation to ensure there is "... no margin of doubt or

possibility of error in awarding this honor. To justify the decoration, the individual's service must clearly be rendered conspicuous above his or her comrades by an act so outstanding that it clearly distinguishes his or her gallantry beyond the call of duty from lesser forms of bravery; and it must be the type of deed which if not done would not

subject the individual to any justified criticism. The deed must be without detriment to the mission of the command or to the command to which attached."

In the case of the most recently declared recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps Medal of Honor, Marine Corps Cpl. Lance Dunham, his award was investigated for two years before being recommended to the President for presentation.

Dunham's award, like many of his fellow Medal of Honor recipients, will be presented posthumously. But not all those who earned the award died as a result of their action — 111 are still alive today.

Throughout the years, Congress has ensured there are special rights solely for Medal of Honor recipients and their families which include: a special pension of \$400 per month; an additional 10 percent retirement pay; and children of persons who have been awarded the Medal of Honor may be appointed as cadets or midshipmen at the service academies without regard to quota requirements. These are just a few of the honors reserved for these extraordinary servicemen.

Along with these special considerations come military honors, the most notable of which is the rendering of a salute to anyone wearing the Medal of Honor regardless of their rank or if they are in or out of uniform. If someone is wearing the Medal of Honor you can be sure they have earned that little bit of personal respect. 

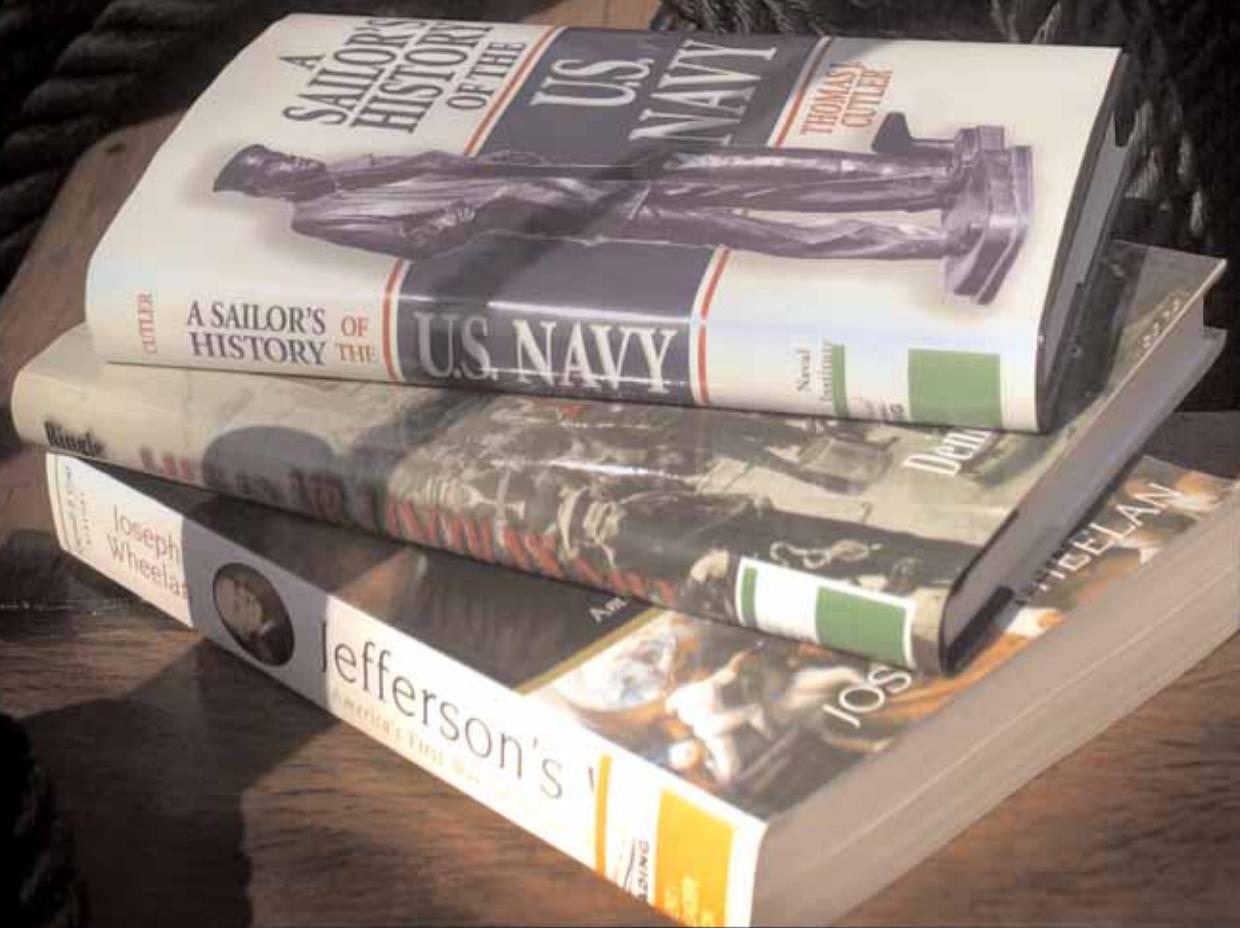
*Story compiled by MC1(SCW) Jess M. Johnson
assigned to the Naval Media Center.*



Graphic by MC2 Rodrigo Calcedo

Accelerate your mind!

NAVY READING



for more information go to: www.navyreading.navy.mil

DCFN REGINA KAMELESKY

DC CREDENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

CERTIFIED INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER - FIRE SUPPRESSION

CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY & HEALTH TRAINER

-EMERGENCY RESPONSE

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER CERTIFICATION



*A KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS —
IN THE NAVY AND BEYOND!*

[HTTPS://WWW.COOL.NAVY.MIL](https://www.cool.navy.mil)