

Navy Wages War on *Malaria*



MAY 2008

# AMBLANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE

# Horn of Africa

on and off duty





**[On the Front Cover]**  
LNCS Alicia Barnes, assigned to Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Africa, presents a young girl with a back pack full of school supplies.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente

**[Next Month]**  
All Hands accompanies USS San Antonio (LPD 17) during an operational evaluation.

## [Departments]

- Around the Fleet — 6
- Something to Think About — 32
- Focus on Service — 34
- This Just In — 36
- History — 40

# May



## 14 Horn of Africa

Helping people is what Combined Joint Task Force — Horn of Africa is all about, but three Sailors stationed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, took this mission to heart and found themselves helping at an entirely different level.

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock

## 22 100 Years and Counting

Although nurses have served in every war since the Civil War, it wasn't until May 1908 that the Navy Nurse Corps was officially recognized. Then-President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill authorizing the establishment of the Navy Nurse Corps.

Photo by MCC Stephen K. Robinson



## 26 Navy Wages War on Malaria

Currently, more than 180 different nations and more than 40 percent of the human population are faced with malaria. Eliminating this deadly disease as a threat to deployed service members is the job for the men and women who work at the 10 research labs around the world.

Photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson





**ADAN Fabian Guevara** presents a box of cremains to Navy Chaplain Cmdr. John Swanson to be committed to the deep during a burial-at-sea held aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) for 33 former service members.

Photo by MC2 James R. Evans

# Speaking with Sailors

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

## In the Shadow of the Capitol

**T**here is a Sailor on watch in the heart of our nation's capital and he never stands relieved. Just outside the Navy Memorial, a statue that has become one of our Navy's most enduring images greets hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

MCPON Billy Sanders said that, "He is the classic American Sailor. That statue looks like bronze, but there is plenty of salt, paint, sweat, fuel oil and courage stirred in."

*The Lone Sailor*® may be the most recognizable, and most famous, display at the Memorial. He was designed with the fleet in mind – 25 years old at most, a senior second class petty officer who is fast becoming a seagoing veteran.

He stands on the edge of a world map in Memorial Plaza, surrounded by towering masts, signal flags and waterfalls. Tributes to Sailors from past wars are found in every direction and the memorial itself sits just a few hundred feet away.

And that, Shipmates, is where our heritage lives. If you haven't visited the Navy Memorial, you should. If you visit Washington, D.C., give yourself an afternoon to walk through what I consider to be a Navy treasure.

Look through the computerized Deck Log and read the biographies of your shipmates past and present. Entry costs you nothing but the few minutes it takes to press a few keys. Walk around the memorial, into the library or to the exhibits and learn of our Navy's history through sound, video or book.

Or do as I do. Seek out a veteran you see walking through the exhibits and ask him or her about life in our Navy. Ask them to sit down and tell you of life in the North Atlantic during World War II or the South China Sea during Vietnam. Tell them about the life you lead in today's Navy and I'll bet you'll both be surprised



Photo by MC2 Nardello Genacelo

▲ **Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)** Joe R. Campa Jr. speaks to Sailors aboard USS *Mustin* (DDG 89) during an all-hands call on the mess decks.

to learn that most things haven't changed.

Due to advancements in technology, creation of new rates and shifting missions, the way we fight has evolved over the years. But, the memorial reminds us all that the culture and the attitude of the United States Sailor has remained unchanged. The memorial is a living tribute to those of us who serve our nation at sea and live by the words – ship, shipmate, self.

The memorial is also a tribute to the sacrifices made by our Navy families. Just inside the front entrance, you'll find *The Homecoming*® statue depicting the reunion of a Sailor, wife, and child. It's a scene many of you are familiar with, the timeless image of what our Navy represents, a Sailor coming home from the sea after defending this nation.

Visit the Navy Memorial when you can. If you can't make it to our capital, go to their website, <http://www.lonesailor.org/index.php>, and find out what the Memorial Foundation does for each of us all year round. ⚓

### AllHANDS

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# Ultimate Sacrifice

Take time this Memorial Day  
to remember those who gave  
their lives to defend our freedom.



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## Mercy Hall Opens

**The National Naval Medical Center recently unveiled the completed renovation at Mercy Hall, Bethesda's wounded warrior outpatient lodging facility in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.**

Renovations made to the facility were designed to improve quality-of-life standards for its residents and to bring the building into compliance with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The Navy and Marine Corps team has always recognized the importance of taking care of the people in uniform," said Rear Adm. Richard Jeffries, commander, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda. "We will do what is necessary for the people who protect our freedom."

Cpl. Joseph Duncan, who was wounded in Ramadi, Iraq, has been a resident of Mercy Hall for a month. He said the renovations have made his recovery process much more comfortable.

"Places like [Mercy Hall] give you a peaceful mind set," Duncan said. "To go from being shot at every day to being able to sit out in the yard and listen to the birds and smell the fresh air is important to a patient's recovery."

Jeffries thanked the people who contributed to the completion of Mercy Hall — the contractors who built it, the officials who authorized it — but he said the honors need to be given to the people who live there.

"It's an honor to take care of these great

Americans who willingly volunteered to serve, guaranteeing our cherished rights and freedoms," Jeffries said. "Those who reside with us have paid a personal price for that service during this country's war on terrorism."

Navy Surgeon General, Vice Adm. Adam Robinson, Jr., who started the renovation project while serving as the National Naval Medical Center commander, said the concept of Navy Medicine is patient- and family-centered care.

"If we don't get anything right ... we must get this right," Robinson said. "We must be integrators of care, we must do the medical and the non-medical case management, we must take care of all the needs of the patients and their families if we are to honor our wounded warriors."

Two years ago, Navy medicine recognized Mercy Hall was in need of major repairs and upgrades. After initial upgrades were made the building was made available to be used as a lodging facility for service members undergoing outpatient care. Service members who could live outside the hospital's walls, but still needed to be close to medical care, Robinson said.

Assistant Secretary of Defense Gordon England said the event was symbolic because the Bethesda campus was built during World War II and Mercy Hall was constructed during the Vietnam War.

"While the roots of Mercy Hall lay in the past it's truly a bridge to the future," he said. "This reflects [the people's] deep commitment to America's war fighters." ❧

**Story by MCC(AW) Paul DeLaughter, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.**



U.S. Navy photo

▲ The new Navy physical training uniform consists of a gold t-shirt and blue shorts. The t-shirt will have the word "NAVY" in safety reflective letters on the back and on the front. The shorts will have the Navy seal on the left leg.

stock the PT uniform beginning in June.

The final wave, which begins in August, will include NEXs in Rhode Island; New York; Connecticut; Maine; New Jersey; Mississippi; Louisiana; Texas; and Pensacola (Whiting Field and Corry Station) and Panama City, Fla.

In August, Sailors will also be able to purchase the PT uniform through the Uniform Support Center's toll-free phone center or its Web site at [www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com). ❧

**Story by Kristine M. Sturkie, Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs.**

## New PT Uniforms Ready to Hit the Shelves

**The Navy's new Physical Training or PT uniforms are ready to hit NEX Uniform Center shelves beginning this spring. To ensure there are enough uniforms in stock to meet demand the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) is rolling out the uniforms in three waves.**

"We want to ensure the rollout of the new PT uniform goes as smoothly as possible," said Cmdr. Mark Friermood, director, NEXCOM's Uniform Program Management Office. "Creating these waves allows us to watch our stock levels to ensure that the product meets the demand and that our manufacturers can keep us in stock. We know Sailors are enthusiastic to get the new uniforms, and we assure you, over the next five months everyone will."

The new PT uniforms consist of a gold shirt with reflective Navy lettering and blue shorts with Navy lettering and reflective markings, and will also be required wear for all group and unit physical training in the Navy, as well as the semi-annual physical fitness tests.

"It's to support the culture of fitness and provide a uniformity among Sailors," said Robert Carroll, the head of the naval uniform office at Chief of Naval Personnel. "To achieve this, the Navy's leadership decided to adopt the new PT uniform."

Although the new PT uniform is a must for Sailors, they need not have to worry about paying the extra costs. Since Oct. 1, 2007, uniform replacement allowance was adjusted to allow for the purchase of two sets of short

sleeve shirts and shorts.

The short sleeve gold performance PT shirt sells for \$10.99 while the blue nylon shorts, available in two inseam lengths, six inch and eight inch, are \$13.99. While only the short sleeve PT shirt and shorts are mandatory, there are other optional PT gear that will be available for purchase. Compression shorts are \$9.99 for men's and ladies' regular length and \$11.99 for the men's long length; long sleeved gold performance PT shirts are \$11.99; 2-pack performance quarter length socks with arch support are \$3.75 and 2-pack no show socks with arch support are \$3.55.

The first delivery wave began in April when Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., issued the gear to new recruits, and simultaneously, flag officers, commanding officers and command master chiefs also had, and still do, the opportunity to purchase the new uniforms by calling the Navy exchange uniform call center.

"It's called leading from the front," said Carroll when explaining why a commanding officer can get his PT uniforms right away. "The Navy wants to lead its Sailors from the top."

In May, Sailors stationed in Virginia; West Virginia; Washington, D.C.; Maryland; Pennsylvania; California; Indiana and Illinois can begin purchasing uniforms from their local NEX.

NEXs in Hawaii; Europe; Japan; Guam; the Northwest and Southwest, which includes Jacksonville, Key West, Orlando and Mayport, Fla.; Georgia; Cuba; and South Carolina will

Hospitalman Elvis H. Gichini, assigned to National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., accepts the Angels of the Battlefield award from Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and retired Navy Rear Adm.



S. Frank Gallo, national executive director, Armed Services YMCA at a recent gala in Washington, D.C. The annual award is given to Navy corpsmen and Army medics who risk their lives on the battlefield to save others. Other Navy recipients include Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Joel Grey, HM3 Joshua Chiarini and Navy Reserve HM1 Sean Baney.

The evening's master of ceremonies, retired Marine Col. H.C. "Barney" Barnum Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient who now serves as deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for reserve affairs, said every service member reveres his "doc."

"Our corpsmen ... carry the scars of battles won and battles lost, deep in their souls, unseen to men," he said. "Not the battles of bullets flying back and forth, but the battles of life and death on the face in front of them and all around them."

Photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley

Ocean. Earhart disappeared in 1937 over the central Pacific Ocean during an attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

Earhart's niece, Amy Kleppner, served as the ship's sponsor, breaking a bottle of champagne across the bow to formally christen the ship *Amelia Earhart*.

"This ship was built specifically to support the fleet, and we are ready to show what it can do," said Capt. John Pope, the ship's civil service master. "It's an honor to be the first master of a ship like *Amelia Earhart*."

USNS *Amelia Earhart* will be crewed by 124 civil service mariners working for Military Sealift Command. The ship will also have a military detachment of 11 U.S. Navy Sailors to provide supply coordination.

Construction began on USNS *Earhart* in December 2006, and the ship is scheduled to deliver

to the Navy later this year. The Navy expects to build 14 T-AKES, the first 11 of which will serve as combat logistics ships. The remaining three are expected to be part of the Maritime Prepositioning Force (Future). All 14 of the ships will be owned and operated by the Navy's Military Sealift Command. ❧

Story courtesy of Military Sealift Command.

## Victim Advocates Recognized for Assisting Sailors

Commander, Navy Region Southwest Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) acknowledged the efforts of the region's Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI)

# Around the Fleet

► **Special warfare** combatant-craft crewmen assigned to Special Boat Team 20 link together during a free-fall parachute jump from a C-130 at approximately 12,500 feet.

Photo by Shane Hollar

▼ **Sailors aboard the** amphibious dock landing ship *USS Ashland* (LSD 48) play basketball in the well deck during a steel beach picnic.

Photo by MCSN Mandy Hunsucker



▲ **Sailors assigned to *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) and Carrier Air Wing 5** bow their heads in prayer during an Easter sunrise service on the flight deck. The carrier was at sea conducting routine training following completion of sea trials after a scheduled maintenance period at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by MC3 Juan Antoine King



▲ **MCPON Joe R. Campa Jr. congratulates MM1 Michael Lamme** after presenting him with the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal he earned while aboard *USS Frank Cable* (AS 40). Lamme is recovering from severe burns from a steam leak aboard the ship in December 2006.

Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalobos



▲ **SN Tanner Springer and other members of the deck department of *USS Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72),** wait to retrieve a rigid hull inflatable boat during a man overboard drill.

Photo by MC2 James R. Evans

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](mailto:navyvisualnews@navy.mil)

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*continued from page 7*

victim advocates during a recent luncheon and ceremony.

Twenty-eight Navy Region Southwest SAVI advocates were recognized at the ceremony held at Naval Base San Diego. The event provided senior leadership and FFSC a chance to formally recognize the time Sailors volunteer for the SAVI program

FFSC Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) Latricia Kamins said a big part of the program's success is senior leadership's ability to recognize their Sailors in their volunteer efforts.

"It was important for the leadership to have knowledge of and be aware of the great work and long hours these volunteer advocates are performing on a daily basis, in addition to working their full-time jobs as Sailors," Kamins said. "I am always amazed by the advocate's dedication and commitment to this program and the victims. Many may think being an advocate is a simple collateral duty. It is not. It takes a very special, dedicated and compassionate person to do the work they do."

During the ceremony, victim advocate Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW) Amy Vejil of Surface Warfare Medicine Institute, was named "Victim Advocate of the Year."

"I think helping to educate people about sexual assault and helping people who have been in a similar situation as me is why I do this," she said. "I would absolutely advise others to become an advocate. You can help others in need and it's very rewarding. We can never have too many advocates"

Vejil is among 200 victim advocates who serve in the San Diego community.

When a call is made to the 24-hour SAVI Advocate Response Line, an advocate goes immediately to meet with the sexual assault victim and explains the restricted and unrestricted reporting options available to active-duty Sailors. A victim advocate will continue to provide advocacy to a sexual assault survivor until the survivor no longer requests services. ❧

*Story by MC1 Christal A. Bailey, Navy Region Southwest, San Diego.*

## Hundreds Compete with Navy SEALs in 30th Annual Race

Nearly 600 athletes recently battled it out in the surf, sand and on asphalt at the 30th Annual Superfrog Triathlon and the first SuperSEAL competition at Silver Strand State Beach, Calif.

The goal of the two endurance races, open to the public, was to promote fitness and to raise money for the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) Foundation, said Moki Martin, the race director. The foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides support for NSW service members, past and present, and their families in times of need.

The "Superfrog" is a half-Ironman, circuit-style race composed of a 1.2-mile, open-ocean swim followed by a 56-mile bike ride over flat pavement. The last event is a grueling 13.1-mile run, largely through soft sand.

Athletes set off in groups, identified by different colored swimming caps. Each participant wore an electronic chip around their ankle that logged their

*continued on page 11*

# Around the Fleet



▲ Waves crash over the bow of the amphibious transport dock ship *USS San Antonio* (LPD 17) as the ship speeds to the last known location of a missing fishing vessel off the North Carolina coast. The ship braved 14-foot waves during the search for the fishing vessel, which reported losing electronic and navigation capabilities. The craft returned to port using a magnetic compass.

Photo by MC1 Erik N. Hoffman



▲ Rear Adm. Christopher J. Mossey, commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic leads members of the NAVFAC Midwest wardroom into the water during the annual Polar Bear Plunge 2008 at the Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., boat basin.

Photo by Bill Couch



▲ A special warfare combatant-craft crewman assigned to Special Boat Team 22 climbs a ladder to an Army MH-60 *Blackhawk* helicopter assigned to the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment the during a cast and recovery exercise along the Pearl River in Mississippi.

Photo by MC3 Robyn Gerstenslager



▲ Deep sea divers assigned to Mobile Diving Salvage Unit 1, deployed with Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), search the crash site of a World War II military aircraft for the remains of fallen service members. JPAC is tasked with accounting for all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts.

Photo by MC2 Christopher Perez



▲ AN Jacob Larsen holds "Fod," a screech owl found on the flight deck of *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). The owl was discovered in the left-main wheel well of an F/A 18 *Hornet* during a pre-flight inspection of the aircraft.

Photo by MC3 Damian Martinez

continued from page 9

individual start and finish time. Navy SEALs are special warfare commandos whose training is weighted heavily toward running and swimming, making a triathlon perfect for a SEAL-inspired event.

The new SuperSEAL event is a shorter, Olympic-distance event designed to attract athletes who would rather not subject themselves to the rigors of Superfrog, said Martin. The first event was a 1.5-kilometer swim in Silver Strand State Beach Bay, much calmer than the crashing ocean waves, just meters away. This was followed by a flat 40 kilometers bike ride and a 10-kilometer run over solid pavement and dirt trails. Event planners intend to hold the SuperSEAL again next year in conjunction with the Superfrog.

"I'm so proud it has got to this point because of all the hard work during the past 30 years," said Martin, a retired SEAL. Martin founded the Superfrog in 1979 and competed in the first four races. Since then, the event has evolved from just a handful of participants to the well-attended event it is today.

Capt. Roger G. Herbert, commander, NSW Center, presented ornamental detonator-box trophies to winners in various categories, a fitting tribute to Navy SEALs. Philippe Krebs, from La Jolla, Calif., was the overall Superfrog winner in the male category, with a race time of 4:18:06. Emily Finanger, 28, who travelled from Boulder, Colo. for the race, took first place in the women's category with a race time of 4:37:41 – her second consecutive Superfrog win. Both champions were awarded decorative wooden paddles.

"It's a really hard race," said Finanger. "It's always a challenge

mentally because of the multiple loops. The Navy SEALs are tough people and it's really neat to be racing with that caliber of athlete."

More than 220 athletes entered the Superfrog this year. All finishers earned a special 30th anniversary commemorative medal strung from a green ribbon. Almost 350 athletes entered the SuperSEAL, each of whom received a T-shirt marking the event.

The competitions attracted racers of all ages.

"I do this every year if I can," said Ray Hollenbeck, a retired SEAL and the most senior Superfrog participant. Hollenbeck tackled the bike leg of the race as part of a relay team. He was a contestant in the first Superfrog and was proud to be part of the ongoing tradition, he said.

Many athletes took part in the event to kick start the upcoming triathlon season. Others just wanted to do something to give back to the military community.

"Any time I can do anything for the military, for me, that's the number one thing," said Monique Beauchamp, one of the many SuperSEAL participants. "I really like to support our armed services."

Hundreds of people came out to support the Superfrog and SuperSEAL events either by cheering on participants or volunteering to direct racers, hand out water, keep time or one of the many other important jobs behind the scenes.

"The race absolutely cannot happen without our volunteers," said Lt. Cmdr. Eric D. Rehberg, the assistant race director. "We have had such incredible support, including the MarVista JROTC, Boy Scouts and Naval Special Warfare." ❧

Story by MC3 Michelle L. Kapica, Naval Special Warfare, Coronado, Calif.

# Bush Confers Highest Military Decoration on Fallen Navy SEAL

Story by John J. Kruzal

President Bush posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Master-at-Arms (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor, whose mortal sacrifice in Iraq saved the lives of two fellow SEALs and several Iraqi soldiers.

The fallen SEAL's parents, George and Sally Monsoor, accepted the honor on their son's behalf during a White House ceremony. The Medal of Honor, awarded for gallantry in combat exceeding the call of duty, is the nation's highest military decoration.

"In September 2006, Michael laid down his life for his brothers in arms," Bush said. "Today, we remember the life of this faithful Navy SEAL, and on behalf of a grateful nation, we will present Michael Monsoor's family with the Medal of Honor that he earned."

Monsoor, a 25-year-old machine gunner with SEAL Team 3, was providing security at a sniper lookout post Sept. 29, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq, when a fragmentation grenade hit his chest and bounced to the floor. Positioned next to the single exit, only Monsoor could have escaped harm.

Instead, he threw himself onto the grenade. Monsoor used his body to absorb the blast and shield two nearby SEALs. The SEALs and eight Iraqi soldiers survived, some with wounds, others unscathed. Monsoor died a half hour later.

"One of the survivors puts it this way: 'Mikey looked death in the face that day and said, 'You cannot take my brothers. I will go in their stead,''" said Bush, quoting one of the SEALs saved by Monsoor.

In remarks today, the president



Photo by MCI(AW) Brian Aho

▲ MA2 (Seal) Michael A. Monsoor was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for diving onto a grenade to save his teammates in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on Sept. 29, 2006. Monsoor also received the Silver Star for his actions in May during the same deployment in 2006 when he exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to rescue and treat an injured teammate. Here his parents, George and Sally Monsoor receive the Medal of Honor from President George W. Bush.

characterized the petty officer as an unlikely candidate for the SEALs. As a child, he suffered from asthma attacks and coughing fits that routinely landed him in the hospital, Bush said.

But the asthmatic child resolved to wean himself off his inhaler, strengthening his lungs by challenging his siblings in swimming races.

The determined child grew into a young man who eventually completed SEAL training, which Bush called the "ultimate test of physical endurance."

"Less than a third of those who begin this training become SEALs," he said. "But Mike would not be denied a spot."

The maritime component of U.S. Special



Photo courtesy of the Monsoor family

▲ Monsoor attended cold weather training in Kodiak, Alaska, in 2004.



Photo courtesy of the Monsoor family

▲ Monsoor, left, participates in a patrol in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operations Command, Navy SEALs are expert reconnoiters and stealth warriors, often performing clandestine operations that larger forces cannot conduct undetected. Today Monsoor became the first SEAL to earn the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq and the second SEAL to receive the award since Sept. 11, 2001.

Monsoor was also inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, where his name was engraved alongside some 3,445 recipients of the nation's highest honor.

The SEAL was previously awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with combat "V" device and a Purple Heart before becoming the fourth servicemember to receive the Medal of Honor since the beginning of Operations *Enduring Freedom*

and *Iraqi Freedom*.

Awarded by the president in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor was created in 1861 as a personal award of valor for members of the Navy. Today, every service branch confers the rare honor upon those who distinguish themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life."

"The Medal of Honor is awarded for an act

of such courage that no one could rightly be expected to undertake it," the president said. "Yet those who knew Michael Monsoor were not surprised when he did."

For more information on MA2 (SEAL) Monsoor, visit [www.navy.mil/moh/monsoor/index.html](http://www.navy.mil/moh/monsoor/index.html).

**Kruzal is assigned to American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.**



Photo by Brian Aho

▲ Deputy Secretary of Defense The Hon. Gordon England presents George and Sally Monsoor with the memorial portrait of their son, MA2(SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor, that will be placed in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

► Sailors begin to clear a classroom as part of a three-day Joint Service Community Assistance Volunteers (CAV) project around Lemonier, Djibouti.

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE Horn of Africa on and off duty

Story by MC1 Scott Cohen  
Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock



▲ A Djiboutian orphan writes a welcome message on a chalk board as volunteers begin to clear a classroom.

Helping people is what Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa is all about, but some service members took this mission statement to heart and found themselves helping at an entirely different level.

Three Sailors stationed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, organized an all-volunteer effort to repair, renovate and reinvigorate the schoolhouse of a local orphanage in need of attention. Through years of neglect and lack of money, the state of disrepair of the orphanage and its facilities was dreadful.

Chief Petty Officer Michael Leach, Information Systems Technician 1st Class Henry Foss and IT2 Ralph Dubuisson spearheaded the project and led the Community Assistance Volunteer's (CAV) project to fix and restore the orphanage.

Foss, the vice president of CAV realized there was a genuine need to help the

children of the orphanage.

"We found this project through the chaplain and his group," Foss said. "Dubuisson and Leach told me about the conditions at the orphanage. We were looking for a big project to kick off our efforts and this afforded the CAV an opportunity to make a big difference."

Foss, along with Dubuisson and Leach planned out exactly what was needed. First was money.

"We had to figure out how to fund the project," Leach said. "We organized a few fund raisers in camp and raised a sizable amount of money from the goodwill of service members deployed here."

As the hands-on portion of the project neared, Dubuisson reflected on the amount of work the project was going to require.

"At the beginning, it felt like we wouldn't complete the project in time," Dubuisson said. "The schoolhouse was in rough shape."



▲ HN Oscar Marino wipes down a classroom wall.



▲ SK1 Carl Hunt brushes off the dirt from a classroom window shutter.



▲ A toilet in the boy's orphanage waits for a good pressure washing.



▲ Working alongside a Navy Seabee, a young Djiboutian orphan helps fill a hole in a classroom door as prep work before painting a room in a local school.



◀ Service members take time for lunch during a Joint Service Community Assistance Volunteers (CAV) project at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.



▲ A member of the Joint Service Community Assistance Volunteers (CAV) paints a classroom.

Foss shared the same concerns. "When I looked around, some of the desks were missing backs to the chairs, seats were half put together, walls were covered with grime, paint was chipping and corners were covered with cobwebs."

The first day six people came to work, but as the project went on, the number of people mushroomed.

"By the end of the project 85 personnel took part in the project," Leach said. "We all came together on our off time to help the people of Djibouti. The ones who really needed it the most."

Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and Airmen went to work applying more than 65 gallons of paint throughout the building. They swept floors and scrubbed the tiles by hand.

"After the first day of work we were averaging about 25 military members per day," Foss said. Military members from Camp Lemonier were not the only ones to help restore the orphanage. Local Djiboutians rolled up their sleeves to help improve the quality of life for some of their own.

"By the second day we had more than 15 locals working side-by-side with us," Foss

added. "This is what made it even more rewarding."

With more than 400 man-hours invested in the project, the members of CAV had an additional gift for the orphanage.

Navy Seabees upgraded the electricity for the building – with a specific reason in mind. With some of the money raised, the members of the CAV bought washing machines so the children could have clean clothes,

"All the clothes were being washed by hand because the old machines were broken." Leach said. "This will help the orphanage's staff focus on the children and their



▲ Djiboutian students attend class in the newly renovated classroom. ▲▼



▲ Djiboutian students are released from class for the day after the renovations were complete.

education rather than the time-consuming task of hand-washing dirty clothes."

In the end it was the pride of their accomplishment that will keep the CAV seeking out new projects in the future.

"After the project was finished, I felt this overwhelming sense of pride," Foss recalled. "We just made a difference in someone's life. It's a feeling that can't be imitated by anything else."

In the future, members of the CAV are hoping to start projects in other buildings besides the schoolhouse including the administration offices, living quarters and bathrooms. ☞

*Cohen is a mass communications specialist assigned to CJTF-HOA.*





◀ Everyone gathered around (from left to right) LT Hollis Simodynes, DCC Danielle Saunders, LNCS(SW/AW) Alicia Barnes and Army 1st Lt. Jody Glover after the backpacks were distributed.

# Chalking it Up:

## Strengthening the Bond through Education

Story by Jennifer Zeldis  
Photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Jennifer Redente



As chalk squeaks on a chalkboard, girls giggle to themselves and a teacher flips pages in a new book. These are the traditional sounds that resonate from a schoolhouse in America. These are also the sounds that drew three Camp Lemonier service members to teach English at a girl's orphanage in Djibouti, Africa.

In late September 2007, while on a six-month deployment in Djibouti, Lt. Hollis Simodynes, Senior Chief Legalman (SW/AW) Alicia Barnes and Chief Damage Controlman (SW) Danielle Saunders began

teaching a group of 60 girls at the Centre Aicha Bogoreh.

This orphanage is named after the wife of former Djiboutian President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, who was outspoken on women's affairs both internationally and in Djibouti, until her death in 2001. The center was developed as a place where young girls could be protected and educated when their families could not provide them with opportunities. The Djiboutian government does not provide much funding for education, for girls in particular. By secondary school, less than 20 percent of

girls are in school.

By October, Simodynes was coordinating the education mission and teaching an intermediate-level class.

"I tried to use the experience I gained teaching at the U.S. Naval Academy to help the teachers create lesson plans and class objectives," said Simodynes. "The girls were very adept at languages. They all speak Somali and Afar languages including various dialects, French and some Arabic."

Barnes and Saunders were teaching a beginner's English class twice a week. Heather Rice, a civilian working with a



▲ LNCS(SW/AW) Alicia Barnes reads to her students.

non-governmental organization (NGO) in Djibouti, rounded out the team by teaching the advanced class. All of the service members involved in the community relations endeavor taught during their off-duty hours.

Each class had approximately 20 students and ranging in ages from 8 to 20 years old. The group taught English two nights a week, for an hour at a time.

The students Saunders and Barnes taught ranged in ages from 7 to 10. Saunderd taught the girls songs in English to keep them engaged. The sounds of “Heads, shoulders, knees and toes” frequently echoed in the hallways outside of her class.

Saunders said she loved to see the expressions on the girls’ faces when she danced and acted silly while they sang because they are not used to seeing a teacher act that way as their Djiboutian teachers are very strict in class.

“Coming to teach at the orphanage after a long day at work is a bit like PTing,” said Saunders. “You might be convinced you are too tired to do it, but afterward you are exhilarated and so happy you did.”

Barnes’s class was entirely different. Her girls were always seated, quietly working on worksheets or listening to a story, but when she walked into the classroom; her students would begin to hop up and down,

calling her name, which they pronounce “Ah-lee-cia!”

Barnes said, “I told my girls that they were responsible for making sure that everyone was ready to listen and learn when they come through the door.”

However, Rice’s class was always lively, with the teenage girls hopping out of their seats to conjugate verbs. Rice has been teaching English in Djibouti for the past seven months at the university through an NGO. Rice always stayed after classes to tutor girls individually who had questions, noting how wonderful it was to see the way the girls thrived on personal attention.

Simodynes taught an older intermediate group ranging in ages from 12 to 20 years

old. Several of her students had a real gift for languages. The English classes were voluntary, and after a long day at French or Arabic school, students would quickly eat dinner and come to English class.

“My favorite part of class is when we would share a laugh about something. [I found] if they recognize the humor of a situation, they have full comprehension,” said Simodynes. “I [tried] to keep the classes lighthearted and fun for my students, which is easy to do because they are always ready with a smile.

“They had a lot of questions for me during the last six months. We have talked about my family, and I brought in pictures to show them of my husband and my nieces and nephews. They are genuinely interested in how I live in America – what is different and what is [similar] to their lives. I hope I was a positive representation to them of an American woman who serves in the military.”

None of the volunteers had taught English as a second language, but with the support of their command, they were able to gain the skills necessary to provide high-quality lessons to their students.

“Lt. Simodynes and LNCS Barnes put a lot of effort into preparing for class and we were happy to support their efforts, because it is such a worthy cause,” said Cmdr. David Williams, the executive officer for Camp Lemonier, Djibouti. “By engaging and educating the youth in Djibouti, we enable the next generation of Africans to solve African challenges, a key tenet of the CJTF-HOA mission.”

As the volunteer teachers’ story made its way through Camp Lemonier, other women volunteered to help out.

“I really enjoy working with the girls,” said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Teresa Gomez, an explosive detection K-9 handler. “It really makes you feel like you’re making a difference when you see their faces light up when you walk into the room, because



▲ The students gathered two nights a week for English classes taught by the Sailors from Camp Lemonier.

they are eager to listen and learn. Knowing they look forward to the time we spend with them, makes it harder to leave them when the evening’s over.”

“In coordinating this mission, I unintentionally became a student of diplomacy,” said Simodynes. “I quickly learned that I cannot approach everyone the way I might approach an American. And the language barrier has been difficult at times. It has broadened my perspective though, and I am glad to have had the experience.”

As the four women completed their deployments, they said they will miss the adventure of leaving Camp Lemonier and heading out onto “Somali Road,” while watching out for crater-sized potholes on a “Mad Max” style roadway. But most of all they will miss the chalk squeaking on the chalkboard, the sound of giggling girls and flipping open the pages of a new book. ✎

*Zeldis is assigned to the Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General, Washington, D.C.*

## The Back Pack Brigade

When Army 1st Lt. Jody Glover visited the orphanage she immediately noticed that the girls did not have basic school supplies. She began e-mailing her friends and co-workers with the idea of sending back packs to the girls filled with school supplies and the volunteer teachers were soon involved.

For several months, the group of Navy volunteer teachers collected the back packs and supplies sent by service members, friends and family of the Department of Leadership, Ethics and Law, U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, and Federally Employed Women, D.C./Metro-Area Chapters.

“When Lt. Hollis Simodynes organized the donation drive for the orphanage, we all saw an incredible opportunity to help these young girls,” said Capt. Rick Rubel, a professor of ethics from the U.S. Naval Academy. “This was a rare chance to give directly to people who need it without going through an agency that may have to pay for overhead costs.

“The pictures that came back of the girls opening the gifts was so inspiring, we all asked if we could do it again and give more next time. Lt. Simodynes has shown the great compassion for our brothers and sisters who have less than we do – I’m proud to serve with her.”

Collectively, the donors gave more than 50 back packs stuffed with notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, magic markers, rulers, flip flops, shampoo, soap and candy.

“I knew the book bags were pouring in so I chose to focus on the less glamorous items Hollis said were

needed like shampoo, flip flops, chalk and pencils,” said Lt. Kerri Chase, a U.S. Naval Academy staff member. “Imagine these things that we here in the U.S. can find in a dollar store, [but] are inaccessible and unavailable to these young girls, who did nothing to choose or deserve their surroundings. It makes any donation seem like it is not enough.

I would jump at the chance to do it again! The real thanks goes out to Lt. Hollis Simodynes for seeing that the donations made it in to the deserving hands of these young girls. I don’t imagine she will ever forget these girls, but I am certain they will never forget her.”



▲ Girls head back to class with their new back packs.

100 Years and Counting

# The Navy Nurse Corps

Story by MC2(SW) David Beyea



## For the last 100 years

they've served their country and their patients.

Starting as a small group of volunteers in Washington, D.C., the Nurse Corps has grown, becoming an invaluable part of the Navy.

### In the beginning

"There have been nurses with the Navy even before 1908," explained Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler, Nurse Corps director. "There were nurses [Catholic Sisters of the Holy Cross] who were on *Red Rover*, [a military hospital ship] during the Civil War, providing care for Sailors."

Although nurses have served in every war since the Civil War, it wasn't until May 1908 that the Navy Nurse Corps was born. Then-President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill authorizing the establishment of the Nurse Corps.



Photo by MC3 Kelly E. Barnes

▲ **Cmdr. Sandra Hearn, a pediatric nurse attached to USNS Comfort (T-AH 20),** inspects a patient's throat at the Youth Dental Foundation in Paramaribo, Surinam.



Photo by MC3 Kelly E. Barnes

▲ **Lt. Megan Zeller, an intensive care unit nurse,** checks the vital signs of patient, while he recovers after surgery aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) while in Acajutla, El Salvador.

During that first year, candidates traveled to Washington, D.C., from around the nation, for a chance to become a Navy Nurse. Those who passed all the tests became known as the "Sacred Twenty."

"Nurses were assigned to duty at the Naval Hospital, Washington D.C.," wrote Beatrice Bowman, one of the Sacred 20, who eventually became the superintendent of the

Nurse Corps. "There were no quarters for them, but they were given an allowance for quarters and subsistence. They rented a house and ran their own mess. These pioneers were no more welcome to most of the Navy, than women are when invading what a man calls his domain."

As the corps doubled in size within a year of its creation, nurses were soon assigned to medical facilities outside the capital area. Commanding officers of naval hospitals didn't know what to do with female nurses in a hospital without any female patients.

The nurses worked hard to demonstrate

they could fit in, and by 1910 the Nurse Corps expanded again. This time Nurses were being sent to medical facilities overseas, from the Virgin Islands to the Philippines.

### Throughout the Years

By the beginning of World War I, the Nurse Corps was comprised of 160 military nurses. That number swelled through the years of the war. At war's end, there were 1,034 nurses in the Navy.

"The most important thing about our history, is that our nurses were in every war during the past 100 years. They were right there on the front lines, taking care of casualties," said Bruzek-Kohler.

Two years after World War I, the Nurse Corps was brought a little farther into the Navy. A Naval Appropriations Act was issued, recognizing the Navy Nurse Corps as part of the "Navy Establishment." This paved the way for 11 nurses to become the first female military nurses to serve aboard a hospital ship.

"That the time has come when we are a part of the military forces and are expected to carry out that military recognition makes us feel more than ever, the love of country and its emblem," wrote Chief

## Time Line

**May 13, 1908** - President Theodore Roosevelt establishes the Nurse Corps.

**1909** - BUMED begins sending Nurse Corps to facilities outside of Washington D.C.

**1910-1911** - Nurses begin to serve overseas

**1916** - Naval Reserve Force established. The Navy Medical Department could now recruit nurses under its provisions.

**1917-1918** - World War I. Nurse Corps grows to 1,034 nurses. Vassar Training Camp formed to train increased number of nurses.

**1918-1919** - Spanish Influenza Pandemic. While treating the 121,225 Navy and Marine patients admitted to Navy medical facilities with influenza, 31 nurses died.

**July 4, 1920** - Naval Appropriations Act recognizes the Navy Nurse Corps as part of the "Navy Establishment."

**1921** - Eleven nurses report aboard hospital ship USS *Relief* (AH 1).

**January 1922** - When the Knickerbocker Theater's roof collapse killed 97 people in Washington D.C., Navy nurses Anne Harkins and Florence Vivia were on scene to render medical assistance.

**1922** - Navy Medical Department institutes an education program for the Navy Nurse Corps.

**May 13, 1926** - Public Law 217 grants Navy nurses' retirement benefits.

**March 28, 1928** - Congress authorized disabled Army and Navy nurses to hospitalization at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

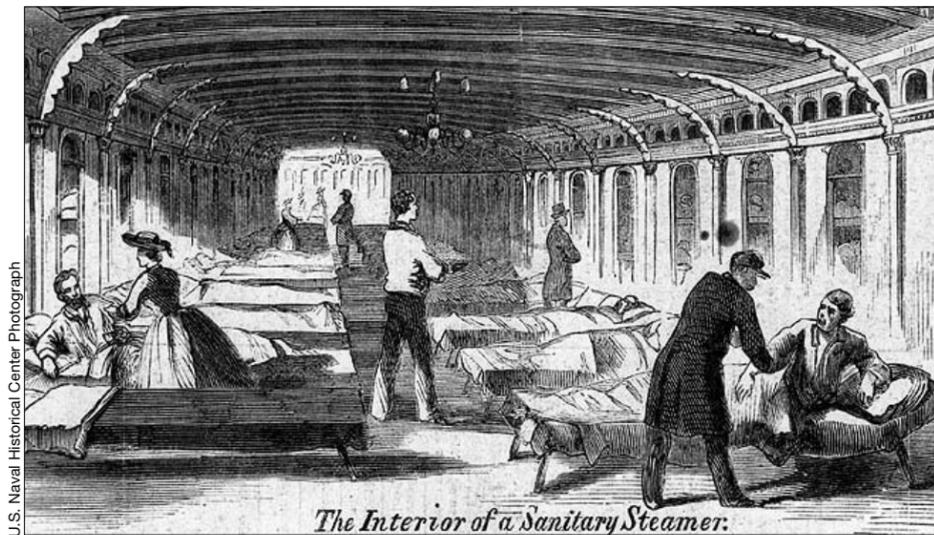
**Jan. 19, 1929** - Congress authorized Navy nurses to receive care at government hospitals, when Navy facilities were not available.

**June 20, 1930** - President Herbert Hoover passes Disability Act for Navy and Army nurses.

**1933** - Field hospital from USS *Relief* (AH 1) established in Long Beach, Calif. after an earthquake.

**Jan. 1, 1935** - Josephine Bowman, last of Sacred Twenty retires from active duty as Superintendent of the Nurse Corps.

**Dec. 7, 1941** - Attack on Pearl Harbor. Thirteen Navy nurses aboard *Solace* (AH 5), work for three days without sleep, treating 327 burn cases.



U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

*The Interior of a Sanitary Steamer.*

▲ Line engraving published in "Harper's Weekly", 1862. This may represent a view in one of the wards of USS *Red Rover* (1862-1865), which served as the U.S. Navy's hospital ship on the Western Rivers during the Civil War.

Nurse Beatrice Bowman as she described serving aboard USS *Relief* (AH 1) and saluting the flag in 1921.

"The first time going over the side on liberty and saluting when you feel that the entire population of the surrounding country has spy glasses leveled upon you, is not the easiest thing to do. However, like a cold bath after the first plunge, I liked it."

As the years went by, the Nurse Corps gained more and more recognition within

the Navy, and receiving the same retirement benefits, government medical care and disability benefits as the rest of the Navy. By 1944 Navy nurses were granted full military rank, as commissioned officers. The Nurse Corps became an official staff corps of the U.S. Navy three years later in 1947.

Throughout this time, Navy nurses continued to care for all those in need, no matter their situation.

"We had, in World War II, 11 nurses

on the Philippine islands, who became imprisoned by the Japanese Imperial forces," said Bruzek-Kohler. "For 37 months they took care of any one who needed care, while they themselves were prisoners."

During the war, flight nurses were established. They cared for casualties, as they were being evacuated from war zones.

"The first flight was unreal ..." recalled Lt.j.g. Kathryn Van Wagner, a flight nurse who helped to evacuate battle casualties on



Photo by Marine Corps Col. Paula M. Fitzgerald

▲ Capt. Kenneth E. Leonard, a general surgeon, and Lt. Kimberly L. Bell, a perioperative nurse, check the ears of a Djiboutian boy during their visit to several local clinics in Damerdjog, Djibouti .

Okinawa. "The fighting was going on very close to the plane. On the way to Saipan, I never covered the faces of the ones who had died. When I made rounds I stopped at their litters and spoke to them. ... I didn't want the others to know that anyone had been lost."

By the time of the Korean War, the Navy Nurse Corps had more than 3,000 active-duty nurses.

"During the Korean War, we even had a nurse who was an amputee. She came on active duty and took care of amputee casualties," said Bruzek-Kohler.

## Today and Tomorrow

As the Nurse Corps' celebrates its 100th anniversary today, and prepares for tomorrow, it continues to develop, providing more opportunities and responsibilities than the Sacred Twenty would have ever imagined.

"As an ensign, you are working on the floor, and you're responsible for a lot of different things," explained Lt. Cmdr. Christine Palarca, a Navy Nurse. "This includes taking care of patients, taking care of your corpsmen and making sure that the corpsman is educated and ready to go out to the field. That's our primary job as nurses."

When they started, they were one small group in one city, but today they are a legion. You can find them wherever men and women serve, from the White House to Afghanistan. You can find them wherever there are people in need, whether it's providing care after Hurricane Katrina or aboard a hospital ship, traveling the

world to tend to the sick in Indonesia. You can find them in Navy history, saving lives.

"I'm extremely proud and honored to wear this uniform," said Palarca. "And I look forward to seeing the future of the Nurse Corps." ❧

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



Photo by MC2 Erika N. Jones

▲ Navy Lt. Tara Collins, who was attached to the Medical Treatment Facility aboard USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19), shows nurses from a local hospital in Kupang, Indonesia, what germs look like by using a black light during a hand washing lecture.

## Time Line

**Dec. 10, 1941** - Five Navy nurses captured on Guam by Japanese.

**Jan 6, 1942** - Eleven nurses taken prisoner by Imperial Japanese forces in the Philippines. For 37 months as prisoners, they treated sick and injured POWs.

**July 3, 1942** - Public Law 654 grants Navy nurses "permanent relative rank" of commissioned officers.

**1942** - Nurse Lt.j.g. Ann Bernatitus becomes first naval recipient of Legion of Merit award.

**1943** - Three Navy nurses establish a flight nursing school in Rio de Janeiro.

**Feb. 26 1944** - Navy nurses granted full military rank.

**November 1944** - USS *Higbee* (DD 806) named after Nurse Corps Superintendent Lenah Higbee.

**February 1945** - First flight nurses evacuate 1,700 casualties from Okinawa.

**March 8, 1945** - Phyllis Daley commissioned as the first African-American member of the Nurse Corps.

**December 1945** - Navy re-establishes school for native nurses and medical practitioners in Guam.

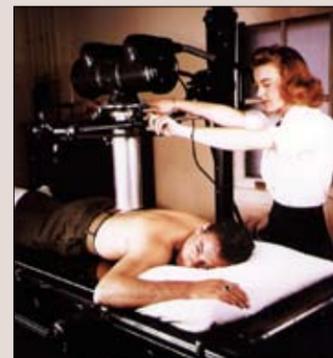
**April 16, 1947** - Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947 makes Nurse Corps an official staff corps of the U.S. Navy.

**Sept. 19, 1950** - Navy VR-21 plane crashes into the Pacific, with no survivors. Eleven Nurse Corps officers died in the accident, marking the largest reported loss of military nurses in history.

**October 1950** - Lt.j.g. Sarah Griffin, a Navy nurse amputee, is recalled to duty to provide physical therapy in Naval Hospital Oakland's amputee center.

**1951** - Nurse Corps reaches a peak of 3,218 active-duty nurses.

**1955** - A Navy nursing division is established at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.



U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

▲ **WAVE Pharmacist's Mate 3rd Class Winifred Perosky** prepares to X-Ray Marine Private First Class Harold E. Reyher, circa spring 1945.

**February 1961** - Nurse Corps officers are assigned to the White House Medical Unit.

**September 1961** - Navy nurses participate in hurricane Carla relief efforts.

**1962** - The Nurse Corps Anesthesia program established at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

**August 1965** - Lt. Vera Noble becomes first woman to make an escape using buoyant escape method, and first student to complete a new course in applied hyperbaric medicine.

**Aug. 25, 1965** - Ens. George Silver becomes the first man to receive a commission in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps Reserves.

**1966** - Public Law 89-609 authorizes male nurses to receive commissions in the regular Navy.

**1967** - Public Law 90-130 gives Nurse Corps equal promotion opportunity with line officers to the grades of captain and commander.

**1970** - Navy nurses who became pregnant on active duty are permitted to stay in the military.

**1971** - Male nurses assigned and deployed with surgical teams to aircraft carriers.

**1971** - First Navy Nurse Practitioner Program starts.

**February 1972** - First Pediatric Navy Nurse Practitioner program starts.

**April 26, 1972** - Navy nurse, Rear Adm. Alene Duerk becomes the first woman in Navy history to hold flag rank.

**1980** - Rear Adm. Frances Shea takes command of the Naval Health Sciences Education and Training Command, becoming

the first nurse to serve as a commanding officer.

**1983** - Capt. Mary Nielubowicz becomes the first Nurse Corps commodore and is appointed Nurse Corps Director.

**1992** - Twenty-nine Navy nurses are mobilized in response to Typhoon Omar in Guam and Hurricane Andrew in Florida.

**July 2007** - Rear Adm. Christine Bruzek-Kohler becomes the first two-star Nurse Corps Director.

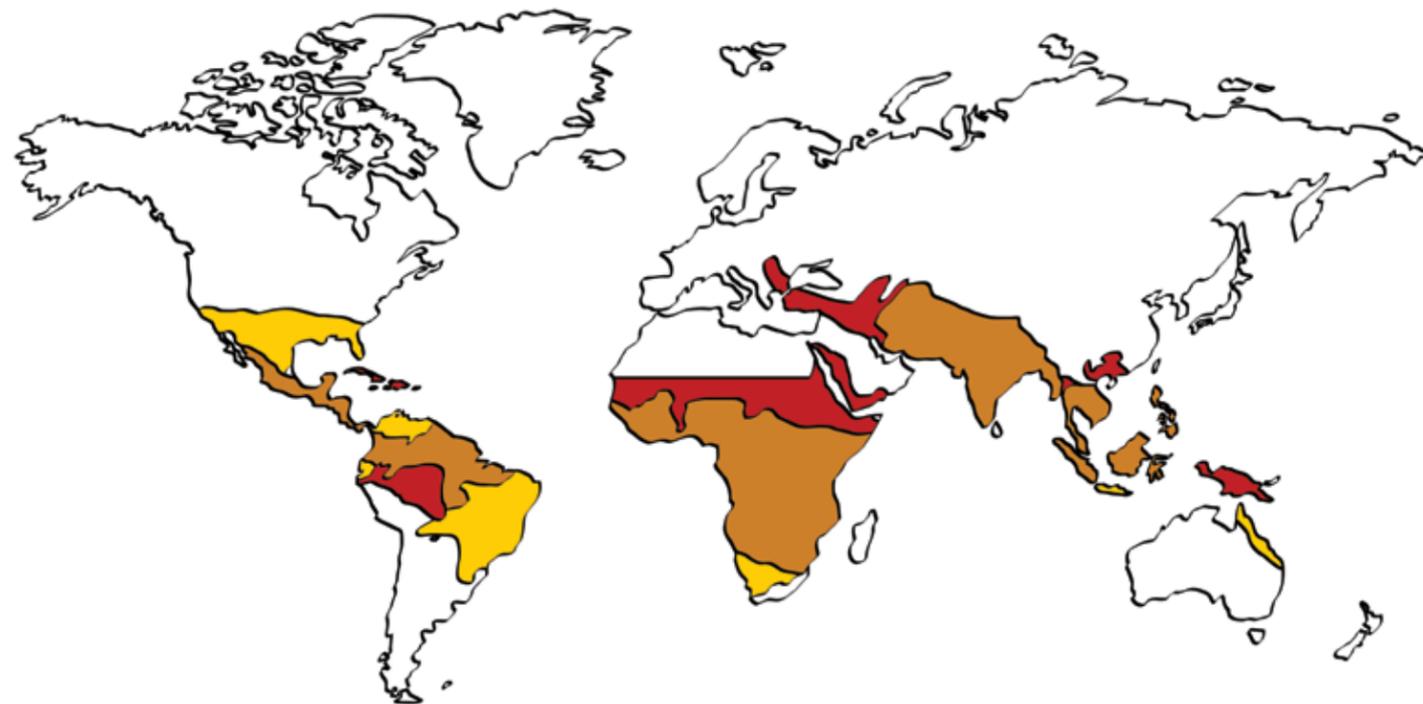
**May 2008** - Navy Nurse Corps celebrates its 100th birthday.

# Navy Wages War on *Malaria*

Story by Lt. Jennifer Cragg and MC1(SW) Nick de La Cruz,  
photos by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson

In recent years the effort to eradicate an age-old disease, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where 90 percent of its impact is felt, has become a global cause-celebre. Stars like actress Ashley Judd, technology mogul Bill Gates and British soccer sensation David Beckham have brought attention to the disease and the millions of lives it leaves broken in its wake.

The disease is malaria and it isn't contained in countries, states or by borders. It can affect anyone – and everyone is at risk if not protected. Currently, more than 180 different nations and more than 40 percent of the human population are deeply affected by the disease.



- Where Dengue and Malaria are transmitted
- Where Dengue is transmitted
- Where Malaria is transmitted

The effort to fight this insidious disease is the full time job of more than a hundred military and civilian doctors and scientists working in the joint Army-Navy Military Malaria Vaccine Program at the Naval Medical Research Center (NMRC)/Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), in Silver Spring, Md., and at overseas DoD laboratories in Indonesia (NAMRU-2), Peru (NMRC), Ghana (NAMRU-3 Detachment), Cairo (NAMRU-3) Kenya (USAMRU-Kenya) and Thailand (AFRIMS).

Malaria, considered a long-lasting disease of the blood, kills more than 1 million children every year. An estimated 600 million people live with this clinical disease daily, and another 1 to 2 billion live with it, but don't know it. They are the hosts of this killer parasite which is transmitted by mosquitoes.

## Malaria and the Military

Malaria has also taken an enormous toll on U.S. forces over the years.

In 1943, General Douglas MacArthur said,

“This will be a long war, if for every division I have facing the enemy, I must count on a second division in the hospital with malaria, and a third division convalescing from this debilitating disease.”

Malaria has not gone away or even weakened since World War II, and American forces have suffered serious lost time due to illness from the disease in Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, and most recently, Liberia, in West Africa.

According to Cmdr. David Fryauff, deputy director, Malaria Vaccine Program and chairman of the Institutional Review Board and NMRC, “Liberia was a wake-up call. It showed that even though we have drugs,



▲ Cmdr. David Fryauff, deputy director, Malaria Vaccine Program, takes clinical testing personally. As a child Fryauff watched his father, who had acquired a form of malaria while serving in the Philippines during World War II, succumb to violent outbreaks of fever due to the disease.

mosquito repellents and bed netting that can provide almost 100 percent protection from malaria, these things count for nothing unless they are used correctly. Despite having the best medical intelligence in the world and the knowledge that Liberia was infested with malaria and the mosquitoes that carry it, U.S. forces were put at risk because the awareness of the threat did not guide their actions.”

This failure, to make use of the tools avail-



▲ Changing out the water is one of the tasks involved in growing mosquito larvae. The insectary at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research produces 5,000,000 adult mosquitos per year for use in clinical research.

able to prevent malaria, might well have been avoided if there were a safe, effective vaccine like the one that protects against smallpox, measles, polio, tetanus and many other diseases that used to kill in large numbers.

vaccine for malaria,” said NMRC Executive Officer, Capt. Vincent DeInnocentiis. “We are making great strides and malaria is a problem for the entire world.... Our main mission is to protect our forces, but this



▲ Tracy Brown an insectary technician is one of the people responsible for raising the mosquitos used in clinical research. The insectary is kept at 80 degrees fahrenheit with 80 percent humidity to simulate a tropical environment.

Removing this deadly disease as a threat to deployed service members is the mission for the men and women working at research labs around the world, stationed in each U.S. theater.

“We do our research solely for science; our scientists are world renown and we are fortunate to have men and women who are working to find cures and vaccines for some of the greatest threats to our forces; we are fortunate to have these great assets in uniform working to find a

potential vaccine will have a global affect.”

In addition to the 10 labs around the world, NMRC and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research were formally unified in July 2007. They joined staffs and facilities to form the U.S. Military Malaria Vaccine Program. This union is the culmination of more than five decades of cooperation in the field of malaria research between the two services.

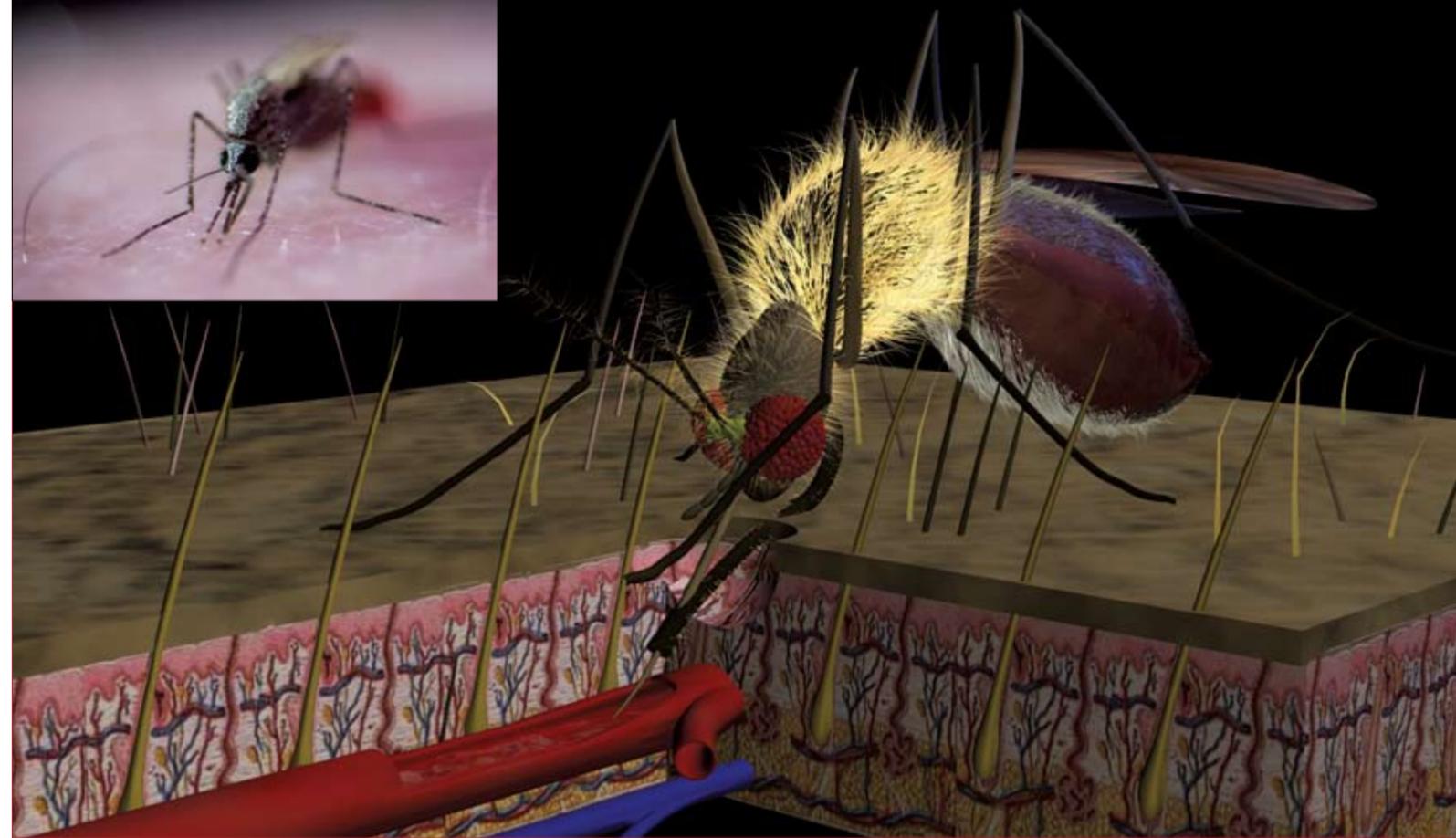
## What is Malaria?

A person gets malaria from the bite of an infected female mosquito. The mosquito bite injects young forms of the malaria parasite into the person’s blood. The parasites travel through the person’s bloodstream to the liver, where they grow to their next stage of development. In six to nine days, the parasites leave the liver and enter the bloodstream again. They invade the red blood cells, finish growing and begin to multiply quickly.

The number of parasites increases until the red blood cells burst, releasing thousands of parasites into the person’s bloodstream. The parasites attack other red blood cells, and the cycle of infection continues, causing the common signs and symptoms of malaria: chills, fever, muscle pain and diarrhea. In more extreme cases they can include lung, heart and kidney problems, brain damage and worst-case scenario death.

Malaria parasites can also be transmitted by transfusion of blood from an infected person or by the use of needles or syringes contaminated with the blood of an infected person.

According to Capt. Thomas Ritchie, a medical doctor and the malaria program director at NMRC, “If you live in a malaria endemic area, you develop a clinical immunity to the disease; it is this immunity that allows the host to tolerate the malaria in their blood. So, there are a lot of people who are affected, but without symptoms. A blood screening can’t detect the parasite and the number of clinical diseases is about 600



▲ The inset photo shows what people see when a mosquito lands on an arm and bites. The drawing shows how the mosquito injects malaria parasite into a person’s blood.

million a year, which is a drop in the bucket to those who are classified in a ‘quiet state.’”

## Making it Personal

The men and women who work at the NMRCs are dedicated to enhancing the health, safety, readiness and performance of Navy and Marine Corps personnel. The mission of Navy Medicine Research and Development is to conduct medical research in a wide range of disciplines. The Navy’s medical research and developmental laboratories play an instrumental role in the worldwide monitoring of new emerging diseases, such as avian influenza, that threaten both deployed forces and the world population. The threat of the deliberate use of biological agents as weapons in the future may require infectious diseases to be classified as battlefield related. The Navy’s medical

research efforts are aimed at providing solutions and producing results to future medical readiness for what lies ahead on the battlefield, at sea and at home.

These men and women are literally putting their lives on the line to find a vaccine to both stop this preventable tragedy and protect our deployed forces.

Fryauff has taken a deeply personal role in the clinical testing by infecting himself with malaria.

“We have a wonderful, effective radiation vaccine; I received that vaccine, but it wasn’t pleasant receiving it,” commented Fryauff.

During the clinical testing, Fryauff was a willing volunteer who received more than 1,000 bites from infected mosquitoes carrying a weakened form of the parasite that causes malaria. After Fryauff finished receiving the

weakened parasite, over the course of several months and close evaluation, the experiment was completed. He was then challenged again, by allowing mosquitoes, though not as many, to instead infect him with a form of malaria at a strengthened level.

“I was protected; I acquired a beautiful immunity, but not like you see in nature. The immunity I developed prevented the malaria parasite from appearing in my blood,” said Fryauff. “I think we have a very exciting vaccine already, I was challenged with the live malaria and I proved that [our vaccine] was a good one. We are on the verge of some really exciting stuff.”

According to Fryauff, it is neither economical nor practical to vaccinate service members using live mosquito bites, so NMRC is attempting to backtrack on how he was able to acquire this immunity.

According to Ritchie, DOD looked at malaria-related causalities in the tropics and it turned out that malaria caused the loss of more man days at work than enemy fire.

In World War II, there were 12 million man days lost to malaria and in the Vietnam conflict there were 2 million man days lost, so it turns out that mission capability is one of the major threats.

Ritchie explained that the results of this study were reemphasized when a Marine Expeditionary Unit deployed to Monrovia, Liberia, in August through September of 2003.

“The mission had to be aborted after only 10 days because more than 44 percent of the troops were affected by malaria,” said Ritchie.

Fryauff added that DOD developed effective drugs, that when used in full compliance, can be 100 percent effective and prevent malaria from ever taking hold in its hosts. But, Fryauff cautioned the biggest hurdle is ensuring service members adhere to the strict regimen.

“Our problem is compliance. Some of the pills are required on a daily basis. You have

to start prior to entering the risk area to convince yourself and your doctor that you can take the medicine. You don’t want to find out in the thick of things that you can’t tolerate the drug,” said Fryauff. “It is possible that some of these drugs are very short acting. That is why they are given on a daily basis. If the drug level is really low at a certain time, the malaria parasite can leave your blood stream. But, those main drugs are drugs that ... are going to kill the parasite in the blood stage.”

Fryauff added that when deployed to malaria endemic areas, service members should take the precautions such as avoiding mosquitoes from dusk to dawn, using the prescribed netting, and taking the drugs provided.

“There will come a time,” said Fryauff, “when the current malaria drugs being used won’t prevent malaria, so the need for a vaccine is even more important.”

Doctors and scientists at NMRC are actively pursuing different drug avenues, trying to stay one step ahead of the disease.

“We don’t have that many drugs available

for prevention of malaria. We have four drugs – not all these drugs can be used by the same people – each of them have their pluses and minuses, their good and bad side effects,” said Fryauff. “We are always moving in the background to find out if the malaria parasite has developed tolerance and eventual resistance to the drugs.”

Doctors at NMRC believe that coupled with the vaccine, the drugs will not only better prepare Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines forward deployed to malaria prone areas, but it will also provide a value to the world.

For Ritchie, coming to work every day knowing that he and his colleagues are doing the best that they can to overcome this tragedy is very rewarding.

“Our whole team is galvanized to fulfill this [important] mission, and [it] will certainly help the military, but has a much larger public health impact,” said Ritchie. “One of the most wonderful parts of the field of research in tropical medicine, is that we share the same mission with the rest of the world of improving public health and saving

lives; improving the quality of life in parts of the world where there is a lot of economic suffering. Working with international teams from Ghana and Tanzania, for example, increases our knowledge of the disease, and this has helped to develop a strong bond of international friendships that will hopefully enable us to find a vaccine.”

## The Future of Malaria Prevention

Part of finding a vaccine for malaria comes from the countless number of volunteers who willingly become infected with the disease.

Army and Navy researchers have successfully induced an unnatural malaria immunity that completely blocks infection by using gamma radiation within the parasite carried in the mosquito. These would then be used as the injector mechanism. This process is convenient because it calls for everything to be done inside a lab.

More than 300 human volunteers have been safely immunized from mosquito bites by injecting the radiation-weakened falciparum malaria. Ninety-five percent of

*“This will be a long war, if for every division I have facing the enemy, I must count on a second division in the hospital with malaria, and a third division convalescing from this debilitating disease.”*

— General Douglas MacArthur, 1943

these volunteers also developed immunity against the fully intact parasite. But, this protection only lasts up to nine months.

“The primary mission for the Navy is to develop a vaccine that can be used by military members when they are deployed to malaria-endemic areas,” said Cmdr. Judith Epstein, clinical investigator with NMRC for nearly 10 years.

Epstein said the Navy’s history in terms of vaccine trials goes back to the 1970s – making the Navy one of the pre-eminent groups where scientists are committed to finding a vaccine.

The vaccine she has been working on is one that many experts say may hold the greatest

promise for providing either complete protection or nearly complete protection.

“It is called the attenuated sporozoite vaccine, [that follows] a theory tested back in the 1970s using mosquitoes that were infected with malaria, irradiating them and letting them bite people. And, we find that they provided excellent protection,” said Epstein. “We have the potential to develop a malaria vaccine and the eyes of the world are really on the Navy to see what the Navy will be able to do.”

*Cragg is deputy chief of publishing, Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C., Brunson is a photojournalist at Naval Media Center, and de la Cruz is assigned to National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.*



▲ Malaria is transferred to adult mosquitoes by allowing them to ingest infected blood through an artificial membrane feeding device in a controlled environment.



▲ A volunteer has blood drawn in part of a safety lab. Doctors from the Medical Department Clinical Trials Center at NMRC, Bethesda, Md., monitor the volunteer’s response to a malaria vaccine.



▲ An Elispot is a clinical test researchers use to quantify immune cellular response to various malaria vaccines. Dark purple spots represent cells which have been stimulated by a vaccine.

► Last year the Malaria Department, Clinical Trials Center at NMRC, Bethesda, Md., saw approximately 75 volunteers. The center’s Director, Dr. Jose Mendoza-Silveiras says that more volunteers would greatly help in their effort to develop a vaccine to prevent malaria.



## Career Sailors on Course for Comfortable Retirement

**M**ost people would not consider a career in the military if they wanted to make a fortune, but a recent Navy message indicates that a Navy retirement can be worth millions of dollars over the course of a lifetime.

Of course, those millions include future dollars affected by inflation, but Sailors can rest assured that their retirement pay will maintain its real value over time.

“Although Sailor career satisfaction is not based solely on compensation, we recognize that pay and benefits are an important factor in Sailor and family satisfaction, and as a result – retention,” said Capt. William Foster, director of Navy Personnel Command’s Center for Career Development, author of the message.



NAVADMIN 076/08 Pay and Compensation provides examples of current earnings and benefits, and retirement income potential based on the Pay and Compensation Calculator located on the Navy Personnel Command Web site.

The Pay and Compensation Calculator shows active-duty service members and reservists their current pay as well as the future retired pay they can earn after serving 20 or more years of qualifying service. The results are estimates based on input entered to the tool. For confirmation of pay, refer to a pay specialist.

Using the Pay and Compensation Calculator, Foster demonstrated how a Sailor in boot camp today might fare after a Navy career.

An 18-year-old Sailor in boot camp today, who makes the Navy a career and advances to chief petty officer, retiring after 24 years, would be 42 when hanging up the uniform in 2032. Under the High-3 retirement plan, that Sailor is projected to earn \$5.1 million in retirement pay by the age of 82. That does not include additional benefits like “TriCare for Life” medical coverage and exchange and



Photo by MC3 Paul J. Perkins

commissary privileges.

If the same Sailor in boot camp today rose through the ranks, served 30 years and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer in 2038, projected earnings are \$11.6 million in retirement pay by age 88.

According to Foster, most civilian retirement plans are Defined Contribution Plans, such as 401(K) plans, requiring investment (usually payroll deduction) by the individual. Most employers match part of the investment but matching is limited and varies by employer.

“Our military retirement is a defined benefit plan requiring no monetary investment by the service member. What makes our plan so valuable is that active-duty Sailors receive it from the moment they retire rather than having to wait until age 65. Plus, it is adjusted upward for inflation each year. Less than 5 percent of defined benefit plans do that,” said Foster.

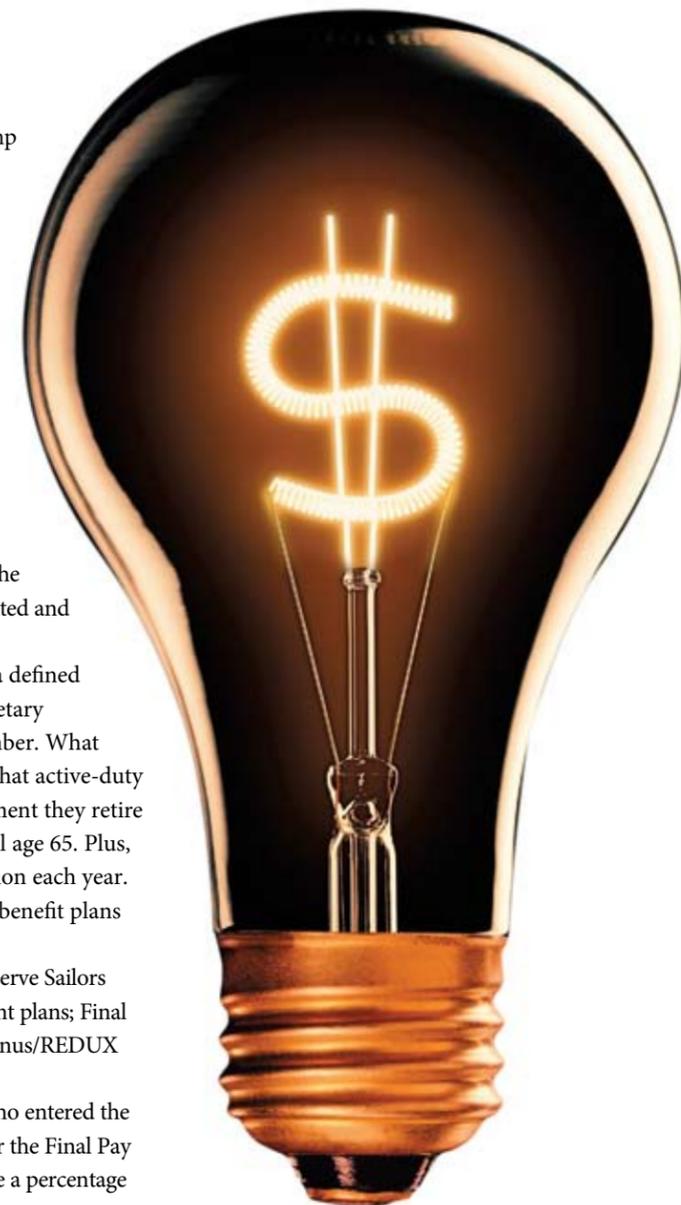
Currently active-duty and reserve Sailors fall under one of three retirement plans; Final Pay, High 3 or Career Status Bonus/REDUX (REDUX).

Final Pay applies to Sailors who entered the Navy before Sept. 8, 1980. Under the Final Pay system, eligible members receive a percentage of their final basic pay.

High 3 applies to Sailors who entered active duty between Sept. 8, 1980, and July 31, 1986. Under the High-3 system, eligible members receive a percentage of the average of the highest 36 months of basic pay.

Sailors who entered the Navy on, or after Aug. 1, 1986, must choose between the High-3 retirement system or REDUX at their 15th year of service, according to Foster.

Members who elect REDUX receive a \$30,000 Career Status Bonus (CSB), after 15 years of active duty if they agree to serve at least 20 years of active-duty service. Their retirement pay is calculated at a lower percentage rate if they retire before 30 years of active duty (i.e., 40 percent of High 3 years of base pay at 20 years of service).



Additionally, REDUX retirees receive 1 percent less in their annual cost of living increases than High 3 and Final Pay retirees.

Foster and his team conduct Career Management Symposia at installations worldwide where they educate Sailors about their Navy benefits and what they’re really worth.

To learn more about your Navy benefits and use the pay and compensation or retirement calculator, visit [www.NPC.Navy.mil](http://www.NPC.Navy.mil) and click on the “Stay Navy” button on the left side.

*Story courtesy of Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.*

# “Doc” by Any Other Name

Story and photo by Lt. Richard Stone

**H**ospital corpsmen enjoy a diverse choice of jobs. As the largest rate in the Navy, the title Hospital Corpsman has evolved through several names, but always focused on caring for the sick and injured.

Some corpsmen work in hospitals – on wards, pharmacies and operating rooms – while others work in tactical areas, like out in the field with the Marines. The best ones have a mix of experiences in different environments - like Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (FMF) Aaron Begaye at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP), Va.

Begaye’s first duty station was in Hawaii with the 3rd Marine Division, where the title of “Doc” is hard earned. Entrusted with the medical well-being of more than 900 Marines at Battalion, Begaye taught preventative medicine classes, held sick call, went on 21-mile “hikes” and was ready to administer emergency aid if a mishap occurred at a weapon qualification range. A major accomplishment was earning his FMF insignia. He had to prove his competency in land navigation, NBC, combat casualty and weapon qualifications, then went before two mock boards before taking exams and being awarded his FMF pin.

Always interested in the science of surgery, he went to surgical technologist training at Portsmouth. After 24 weeks of learning to assist surgeons and scrubbing

in on a myriad of surgical procedures, Begaye used his training while deployed to Iraq. Once again he was hailed as “Doc” while taking care of “his” Marines.

“It was an honor to serve with the Marines, especially as their corpsman,” Begaye said. “The camaraderie, the lack of luxuries. . . . After an experience like that you have a better appreciation about what you really have. It changes your outlook on a lot of things.”

In February 2006, Begaye returned to NMCP’s main operating rooms (OR) where he is now senior division leader in charge of junior surgical techs. Working the night shift has its challenges and Begaye’s responsibilities are many. It takes thousands of manhours each month to ensure all of the instruments used the day before are disseminated for the next day’s surgical cases throughout the 17 operating rooms.

While all of this is going on, Begaye and his nighttime skeleton crew know they may have to drop everything to help in an emergency. It’s a fast-paced environment and the crew often has little notice when emergency cases come in. It may be the middle of the night, but patients can rest assured they’ll get top-notch care when Begaye is on floor. **S**

*Stone is assigned to Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, Va*



## PE 2008 Strengthens Maritime Partnerships

Story Courtesy of USS *Nassau* Strike Group

Phoenix Express 2008 (PE 08) recently wrapped up the in-port portion of the exercise and immediately began the underway portion of the two-week exercise with 12 ships getting underway from Naval Support Activity, Souda Bay, Crete.

“Two ships from the *Nassau* Expeditionary Strike Group (NAS ESG), USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) and USS *Nashville* (LPD 13); along with USS *John L. Hall* (FFG 32) and USNS *Patuxent* (T-AO 201) are representing the United States. Eight other ships are also participating in the exercise, including the Algerian training ship *La Soummam* (937); the French salvage ship FS *Acheron* (A 613); the Greek auxiliary ship *Evros* (A 415); the Greek frigate HS *Spetsai* (F 453); the

Organization’s (NATO) Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Center (NMIOTC). The center offered classroom training to the participants, as well as simulator training and practical exercises. Throughout the courses, students learned small boat handling, small arms training and proper container inspection.

“NMIOTC is NATO’s newest training facility and provided PE 08 participants with a valuable opportunity to come together to share information and prepare for exercise execution,” said Capt.

Robert G. Lineberry, officer-in-charge of the exercise and commander, NAS ESG. “Their training was essential to ensure our success for this exercise.”

Underway events focused on maritime domain awareness and the automatic identification system including interaction between forces afloat and a maritime operations center ashore.

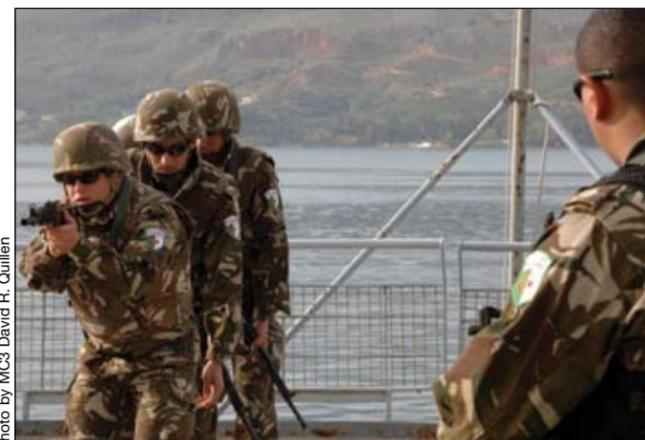
Combined maritime forces also conducted force protection, maritime interdiction

operations (MIO), search and rescue (SAR), replenishment at sea and towing and helicopter operations. A comprehensive and robust underway training agenda provided participants with numerous opportunities to operate together and develop productive relationships.

Inport events were hosted at Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete, and focused mainly on medical and MIO training. Combined maritime forces also conducted workshops in helicopter operations and safety, damage control and firefighting, navigation, deck seamanship, search and rescue SAR, small boat operations and a leadership round table.

Exercises like PE 08 enable participants to advance information sharing, which is crucial to maintaining a region free from transnational threats, as well as enhance capability to conduct multinational peacekeeping missions.

PE 08 is the third annual exercise in a long-term effort to improve regional cooperation and maritime security. The principal aim is to increase interoperability by developing individual and collective maritime proficiencies of participating nations, as well as promoting friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation. **NS**



▲ Service members from Algeria participate in an Exercise Phoenix Express 2008 training exercise aboard a mock ship at the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Center

Moroccan frigate *Mohammed V* (611); the Portuguese frigate NRP *Corte Real* (F 332); the Spanish corvette SPS *Infanta Elena* (P 76); and the Turkish frigate TCG *Gelibolu* (F 493).

While in port, members of PE 08’s combined maritime forces trained at the newly certified North American Treaty



▲ Members of the visit, board, search and seizure team from USS *John L. Hall* (FFG 32) approach LCU 1661 in a rigid hull inflatable boat during a Phoenix Express training exercise.



▲ A maritime interdiction operations team practices fast-rope training scenarios during Phoenix Express 2008



▲ Sailors from the Tunisian navy stage an assault from an SH-60 *Seahawk* onto USNS *Patuxent* (T-AO 201) during a training exercise.

## “DC Olympics” Go International

Story by MCSA Jonathan Pankau

USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) recently hosted multinational service members from 10 countries for damage control training and demonstrations during Exercise *Phoenix Express* 2008 (PE 08) in Souda Bay, Crete.

In addition to *Nassau*’s crew, Sailors from the amphibious transport dock ship USS *Nashville* (LPD 13), the guided missile frigate USS *John L. Hall* (FFG 32), and multinational service members from nations around the Mediterranean Sea participated in the “Damage Control Olympics.”

“Each team competes in damage control events to see who can get the best time,” said Lt. Cmdr. Scott Gray, *Nassau*’s damage control assistant. “The real reward is the time spent together and collaborative efforts in training our multinational partners to learn these necessary skills.”

Training events included relay races, operating portable fire pumps, and setting up de-smoking fans. There were also demonstrations showing the use of portable hydraulic access and rescue equipment and the self-contained breathing apparatus.

Damage Controlman 3rd Class Joseph Mendel, a member of *Nassau*’s Flying Squad, said sharing information, techniques, and training practices among multinational partners is a critical part of PE 08.

“It’s important to collaborate with all these countries because all of us have so many different ways to go about shipboard firefighting,” Mendel said. “If there’s a more efficient way to go about shipboard damage control, this exercise pools all of our thoughts together.”

PE 08 is the third annual exercise in a long-term effort to enhance regional cooperation and maritime security. The principal aim is to increase interoperability by developing individual and collective maritime proficiencies of participating nations, as well as promoting friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation.

Exercises like PE 08 enable participants to advance information sharing which is crucial to maintaining a region free from transnational threats, as well as enhance capability to conduct multinational peacekeeping missions. **NS**

Pankau is assigned to USS *Nassau* (LHA 4).

# Maritime Partnerships: Music to Southeast Africa's Ears

Story by MC2(SW) Elizabeth A. Vlahos, photos by MCSN Mandy L. Hunsucker

“For nearly four years, the U.S. Navy has been actively supporting West and Central African nations in their efforts to increase maritime safety and security in their region,” said Capt. Nick Holman, Commander, CTF-363 Southeast Africa. “We want to provide the same kind of active support to Southeast Africa.”

“In this sense, USS *Ashland* (LSD 48) has moved to the tip of the spear.

Following in the footsteps of USS *Forrest Sherman* (DDG 98) and USS *Normandy* (CG 60), *Ashland* engaged the Southeast African countries that in 2007 her predecessors had visited. She is the first U.S. Navy ship to visit this year. *Ashland* is part of the Southeast Africa Task Force under U.S. Naval Forces Europe, which has been tasked with building maritime partnerships in the Indian Ocean region. The task force’s focus centers on increasing maritime domain awareness, as well as better equipping the countries in that region to block pirates, drug traffickers, unlawful fishermen, and other such unsavory characters from entering their waters.

The island of Mauritius was *Ashland’s* first stop, where she almost immediately engaged the local community. During her stay in Port Lewis, her crew taught the Mauritian Coast Guard operational techniques in the areas of damage control and maritime interdiction, conducting numerous shipboard drills. In



▲ U.S. and Malagasy Navy sailors practice damage control and firefighting techniques aboard USS *Ashland* (LSD 48) during a port visit to Antsiranna, Madagascar. *Ashland* is deployed as part of U.S. Naval Forces Europe Southeast Africa Task Force to promote maritime safety and security initiatives in the region.

addition, roughly 60 Sailors conducted a community relations project at the Mother Augustine Home for Elderly Women, painting, renovating and doing yard work in and around the home.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (SW) Medreng Gulibert couldn’t say enough positive things about the opportunity to get out into the community and help its people in need.

“We painted six rooms, did some gardening and made some repairs,” Gulibert said. “I enjoyed doing it and would recommend anyone to participate in a community relations day.”

*Ashland* then steamed toward the island of Reunion, where she became the first ship to visit the island since USS *Spiegel Grove* (LSD 32) docked in 1961. Holman and *Ashland’s* commanding officer, Cmdr. Jeff Ward, visited

Reunion’s naval base and met with General de Brigade Bruno de Bourdone de Saint Salvy, the commander of all French forces in the Indian Ocean.

While in port, her crew hosted nearly 200 local officials and French military personnel aboard for a shipboard reception. *Ashland* Sailors also competed with French sailors in a friendly game of soccer.

Holman was emphatic about the point that the Navy would not wait another 47 years to return to the island of Reunion.

“For the past couple of years, the U.S. and French navies have been collaborating in the Gulf

of Guinea,” said Holman. “We’re looking forward to increasing our interaction with them on the other side of Africa as we begin to work together to promote regional



▲ MU3 James Riley, a member of the U.S. Naval Forces Europe Brass Quintet, plays along with trumpet players from the Malagasy Navy band in Antsiranna, Madagascar. USS *Ashland* (LSD 48) is the second U.S. Navy ship to visit the country since 1972

maritime awareness and help build the naval capabilities of our partners in Southeast Africa.”

The next stop for *Ashland* was Antsirirana, a small port city on the tip of Madagascar. The ship hosted a group of Malagasy Sailors for a day of exchanging information as well as performing shipboard drills.

A key group of players in the mission, however, was not directly connected to the strategies or drills. The U.S. Naval Forces Europe brass quintet has also made an impact at each port that *Ashland* has visited.

The quintet’s first performance was at the Francois Mitterand Conservatory, where they played first before and then alongside jazz and percussion students. Claude Ricaud, the conservatory’s director, was excited about the group’s visit.

“For us, it’s very exciting to have people visit from around the world,” said Ricaud. “It gives us new ideas and ways of looking at things.

The quintet also performed several shows around Mauritius for music students, children from disadvantaged communities, the Mauritian Minister of Youth and Sports, and for concertgoers at Port Lewis’ outdoor amphitheater.

Musician 1st Class David Blaine was enamored of his experience in Mauritius.

“Everyone was so receptive of us,” he said. “It was just wonderful to interact with all the kids and adults.

In Reunion, the quintet entertained local residents at a town fair, and in Madagascar they played a number of concerts in conjunction with the Malagasy Navy Band.

“This deployment has been a wonderful opportunity for my Sailors to see a part of the world not many people in the U.S. Navy have visited before,” said Ward. “It’s also gratifying for the crew to play such an active role in forging partnerships with these nations.”

For those looking to build stability and peace in Southeast Africa, those words are music to anyone’s ears. ☞

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

# Frank Cable Sailors Help Build Philippine Village

Story by MC1(SW) Cynthia Clark

Sailors assigned to USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) recently completed a three-day community relations project to help build houses for families in need.

Some 270 families will soon relocate to a new village that residents are building with the help of The Gawad Kalinga Foundation. The Sailors assisted local efforts by painting, shoveling dirt and rocks, and completing beautification projects.

“This is one of the ways we are thanking the community for the hospitality they have shown us while being in (Subic Bay),” said Capt. Pat Scanlon, USS *Frank Cable* Commanding Officer. “I think the large number of *Frank Cable* Sailors who showed up these past few days has left a positive image and will have an impact on the community.”

The relocation project, which started nearly a month ago, before the Sailors arrived, is in its final stages.

“To build well over 200 houses in a short amount of time is remarkable,” said Hull Technician Fireman Steven Robinette. “I think this has been a humbling experience for all of us.”

The Gawad Kalinga Foundation is now in the process of transforming poverty stricken areas with the goal of building 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years, from 2003 to 2010.

Peter Tumanda, the Gawad Kalinga Provincial Head of Zombales, thinks with enough help they can obtain the goal.

“When people such as the *Frank Cable* [Sailors] come out here to help us, we feel like we can make our goal achievable,” said Tumanda. “We have made a lot of progress through the years and we aren’t done yet. If we can change the environment of these unfortunate people, we can change their mindset and soon they can be happy again.”

The Nagyantok community that is moving in will also have access to two churches, a community center and a school, which was also being built.

“I would really like to see what this place looks like in the future,” said Scanlon. “They have made so much progress in a month; imagine what they can do with more time.” ☞

Sippel is assigned to USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40).



▲ Sailors assigned to USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) shovel dirt during a community relations project to help build houses for the Nagyantok community, Zambales, Republic of the Philippines.

Photo by MCSN Jacob Sippel

# History

## 'Keep the Fleet Fit to Fight'

Compiled from *Fit to Fight! Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard 1902-2008*

In the late 19th century, the United States expanded its Navy and by 1900, became the third largest Navy in the world, but to fuel the fleet, the Navy needed coaling stations and repair yards around the globe – like the one offered by Hawaii.

### The Birth of the Naval Shipyard

The only coal depot in the entire Pacific was a wooden shed on the waterfront in Honolulu that could hold about 1,000 tons of coal. In 1899, the Naval Coal Depot was constructed at Honolulu Harbor. The depot increased its capacity to 20,000 tons of coal, and had two piers and two slips for ships. In February 1900, the coal depot was officially renamed "Naval Station, Hawaii."

Congress finally authorized funds for the Navy to acquire the land around Pearl Harbor, March 3, 1901. The Act of May 13, 1908, marked the "birth" of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard when Congress appropriated more than 3.5 million dollars for the construction of a large drydock "to admit the largest ships." Throughout May 1908 to June 1919, there was constant activity and continuous growth of the naval station and its shipyard.

The decade from 1919-1929 was one of great growth with shipyard waterfront developments, the expansion of the submarine base, and the addition of a shipfitter's shop and mine storage facility.

After the Depression began in 1929, the U.S. Navy and Congress were forced to reduce funding for projects at Pearl Harbor. Channel dredging and some construction continued. In 1935, a 200-ton hammerhead crane was erected at the Repair Basin, and in 1939, six massive concrete fleet moorings were constructed at Ford Island and were known as "Battleship Row."

The developments in Asia culminated in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. War had come to Hawaii and Navy Yard Pearl Harbor.

### A Day That Will Live in Infamy

Pearl Harbor was just waking up early on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. During the next few hours, 361 Japanese planes bombed and strafed military targets on Oahu. All but 29 Japanese planes returned to their aircraft carriers. At Pearl Harbor, nine U.S. Navy warships were sunk and 21 were severely damaged. As a result of the attack, 2,403 servicemen were killed and 1,143 were wounded. On USS *Arizona* (BB 39) alone, 1,177 men died. Sixty-eight civilians, including shipyard workers, were dead, and 35 wounded.

From that day forward, throughout the next four years, the men, women and machinery at the Navy Yard Pearl Harbor never shifted out of high gear. The facilities went on a 24 hour-a-day schedule, with three shifts operating seven days a week.

On Aug. 14, 1945, the Japanese agreed to an unconditional surrender, and ceremonies ending the war took place in Tokyo Harbor on Sept. 2, 1945. By December 1945, the shipyard's name was changed from "Navy Yard Pearl Harbor" to "Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard."

When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, the shipyard workforce was again called on to maintain and repair a fleet at war keeping the fleet "Fit to Fight."



The Naval Coal Depot at Honolulu Harbor

U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

A major shift in the Cold War era at Pearl Harbor came when the first nuclear-powered submarine, USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571), visited Pearl Harbor in July 1958 for work.

With the escalation of the Vietnam War in 1964, the shipyard again became more than a repair and maintenance depot. It became a staging area for deploying troops and their equipment, as well as for ships' provisions.

In early 1970, both the war in Southeast Asia and the Cold War kept the U.S. Pacific Fleet engaged on a full-time basis. Just as they had done during World War II and Korea, Shipyard workers devoted themselves to keeping the fleet "Fit to Fight" with a seemingly endless array of repairs and overhauls.

The 1980s saw improvements to shipyard infrastructure and buildings. Shipyard workers once again helped ensure the Pacific Fleet could deter the Soviet Union as the Navy implemented its Reagan-era "Maritime Strategy."

At the beginning of the Gulf War in 1991, many U.S. naval ships that had been serviced at Pearl Harbor were deployed to the Middle East to support the liberation of Kuwait, providing a full range of combat support during Operation *Desert Storm*.

### Epilogue

As Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard enters its second century, the outlook for its future is bright. The shipyard can support national missile defense capabilities while it prepares for new naval technologies such as Virginia-class submarines.

Roughly 60 percent of the Navy's submarine force will be based in this region, to include the homeporting of three of the first four *Virginia*-class submarines. More are expected to follow as the Los Angeles-class submarines are retired from the fleet.

Shipyard Commander Captain Gregory R. Thomas, holds a vision of the shipyard that extends to 2035 and beyond. "... Keep the Fleet Fit to Fight."



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