

Roadmap for the IA Sailor



AUGUST 2008

All HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY



Climb
Aboard

TSV-1 *Prevail*



[On the Front Cover]

A Sailor from USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72) climbs aboard TSV-1 *Prevail* during Maritime Interdiction Operations training off the coast of North Carolina.

Photo by John Doucette

[Next Month]

The men and women of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 53, "The Capital Express," work around the clock to make sure Sailors and Marines worldwide have the provisions and supplies they need, whether they're at the tip of the spear or docked in San Diego.

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August



16 Providing Support to Boots-on-the-Ground

Since Sept. 11, 2001, there have been 67,000 Navy individual Augmentees (IAs) and Global War on Terrorism Support Assignments (GSAs). Currently, there are 15,000 Sailors on the ground in the Central Command area of responsibility. The skills they learned as Sailors are vital to joint and coalition forces. Their experiences are unforgettable.

◀ Photo by Ensign Christopher Weis

24 Climb Aboard TSV 1 *Prevail*



There are varied scenarios in TSV 1 *Prevail's* playbook – each complete with role players and realistic documents such as passports and manifests. All are meant to test a boarding team's ability to adapt to the scenarios Sailors may encounter while deployed, such as smuggling and piracy.

This time, *Prevail* flew the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Navy's simulated Treasure Coast region, while posing as a merchant ship. Some aboard *Prevail* pretended to speak no English, and that was just one challenge among many USS *Roosevelt's* (DDG 80) visit, board, search and seizure team encountered as it boarded the ship.

Photo by John Doucette



Two officers from the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Corry Station participate in a traditional "passing of the flag" ceremony during the retirement ceremony for CID Corry Station Director of Training Lt. Cmdr. Darrel Bishop at the National Museum of Naval Aviation atrium, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

Photo by Gary Nichols

Speaking with Sailors

Adm. Patrick M. Walsh
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Since September 11, 2001, over 67,000 Active Duty and Reserve Sailors have completed Individual Augmentation (IA) assignments, predominately in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am very proud of the exemplary performance of these young men and women. All of us should make time and find a way to express both pride and gratitude to those who have honored us by the hard jobs that they have taken and the remarkable distinction that they have earned for the United States Navy.



In the past year, I have spoken with "IA Alumni" in various commands – these conversations have proven to be nothing short of inspirational. For many Sailors, their assignments on the ground and oftentimes in a combat zone were defining moments in their lives that have brought a tremendous sense of personal satisfaction, contribution to a national mission, professional success, and intrinsic reward.

Yet, there is an aspect of this mission where I need your focus and leadership and they could benefit from your interest and assistance. Traditionally, our service culture deploys as part of a unit, such as a ship, a squadron, a Carrier Strike Group, Expeditionary Unit, or a SEAL Team. IA Sailors instead train, deploy, serve, and transfer from the combat zone without the benefit of 'traditional' support, camaraderie, and the unit cohesion that comes from fellow shipmates. My specific concern is that some Sailors may face challenges in the IA experience because they feel alone, or disconnected from

a parent organization that is unaware of their service or sacrifice, even when they return home.

We continue to learn how to improve support for those who serve in this non-traditional mission. In the past, individual Sailors absorbed the burden of many responsibilities that our traditional network of relationships would have readily covered during routine deployments. Families felt caught 'in-between' commands, outside of the watchful eye and steady hand of oversight offered by the extended Navy family. Redeploying Sailors – those returning home --need our attention and support, yet programmatic solutions alone will not relieve us of the obligations that we have to those who serve, especially in combat.

The overall health of Sailors is a critical duty for all of us. We have a responsibility to maintain the physical health of the force, but also promote a climate that supports the psychological well-being of those Sailors in our trust. Continued vigilance and a caring attitude are important because, untreated, combat stress injuries and other related mental health issues – including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, domestic violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder, can have debilitating effects on Sailors, their shipmates, and their families.

We know that early treatment programs that address Combat Operational Stress can produce positive results, so we have taken several steps to address the specific needs of those who have served in the combat zone. We designed the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) to streamline the process for reintegrating IAs with their units and families. We have run a highly successful "Returning Warrior Weekend" (RWW) program that brings together Reserve Component Sailors and their families to demonstrate that they are not alone in their transition. The response has been so positive that we will expand the program to include our Active Duty IAs. Additionally, the Department of Defense requires members to participate in Defense Health Assessments (pre-deployment and post-

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Stay COOL this summer

As the temperature rises, pay attention to the
Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) and the heat condition flag warning system.

90+

Strenuous outdoor activity should be suspended for everyone. Essential activity should be closely monitored for medical reasons.

88-89

Strenuous exercise should be suspended for those not used to the local weather. Personnel acclimated to the local weather may carry on limited duty that does not exceed 6 hours a day.

85-87

Strenuous exercise should be suspended for those not used to the local weather.

80-84.9

Exercise with caution.



U.S. 4th Fleet Officially Re-established

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead officially re-established U.S. 4th Fleet and named Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan as its commander during a recent ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

The ceremony followed the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) change of command, during which Kernan relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., who retired after 32 years of naval service.

Kernan, the dual-hatted NAVSO and 4th Fleet commander, is responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines assigned from East and West Coast fleets to operate in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters.

“Re-establishing the Fourth Fleet affirms our support for, and our desire to, enhance cooperative relationships with the navies and maritime services in the Caribbean and Central and South America. It recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the region,” said Roughead.

“Our Maritime Strategy raises the importance of forming global maritime partnerships by working with international partners as the basis for global maritime

security. Re-establishing Fourth Fleet allows us to more effectively employ naval forces to build confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts that focus on mutual interests.”

First established in 1943, 4th Fleet was one of the original numbered fleets. During World War II, the United States needed a command in charge of protecting against raiders, blockade runners and enemy submarines in the South Atlantic. That mission was fulfilled by 4th Fleet until it disestablished in 1950, and U.S. 2nd Fleet took over its responsibilities.

The new 4th Fleet will be headquartered in Mayport and co-located with NAVSO, taking advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place. Fourth Fleet’s re-establishment will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport, or result in any permanently assigned ships or aircraft.



▲ Adm. James Stavridis (right) Commander U.S. Southern Command, receives a salute from Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan (center) after assuming command of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO), U.S. 4th Fleet, during a dual change of command and fleet re-establishment ceremony held aboard Naval Station Mayport, Fla. Kernan relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., at left, who retired after 32 years of naval service.

Photo by MC2 Reginald L. Brown

With a focus on strengthening friendships and partnerships, 4th Fleet will directly support the U.S. Maritime Strategy by conducting five ongoing missions: support for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, traditional maritime exercises and counterdrug support operations. ☞

Story by MC3 Alan Gragg, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, Mayport, Fla.

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deployment); the results will give us the direct feedback needed to ensure an appropriate level of health care services.

These initiatives represent a sample of policies that we continue to develop, but the response that has the most potential to impact returning Sailors is the immediate and personal interaction of shipmates.

An IA brings real value back to the fleet. They have experience, insight, and perspective to share with their fellow Sailors, so sit down with them ready to take notes. The stories of how they responded to challenge, responsibility, and leadership roles, in unfamiliar terrain, with an unpredictable mission set, and

yet represented our core values of honor, courage, and commitment under fire with valor and without compromise will amaze even the saltiest among us. It is the reason why our Sailors, and the culture that they represent, are in high demand. When you listen, you validate the importance of their deployment, acknowledge the significance of their personal sacrifices and take the first steps in providing a heart-felt welcome back to Navy. I need your help to facilitate their return to the familiar, cohesive team that they missed while serving away from their ships, submarines, aviation squadrons, construction battalions, and headquarters staff.

I am charging you to know your shipmates and their families, know when they need help, know the resources available, and be their advocate. If ever there was a time and place to apply the lessons that we know about principled, accountable, and responsible leadership, then now is the time and this is the wartime mission. Shipmates take care of shipmates...it is the model of leadership that has proven itself consistently across the expanse of our successful, storied history; we owe our Sailors on the ground nothing less than our very best effort.

Thank you for your support. Your leadership, insight, and judgment are essential to the continued resilience and health of our Navy. ☞

New Service Uniform Available

As of July 31, 2008, the new E-1 to E-6 Service Uniform (SU) are available for purchase in Great Lakes, Ill., and California Navy Exchanges (NEX), according to NAVADMIN 190/08.

The SU is for year-round wear and replaces the summer white and winter blue uniforms. It is authorized to be worn for office work, watchstanding, liberty or business ashore when prescribed as the uniform of the day.

The new uniform is the result of significant research and input from the fleet.

“More than 500 Sailors participated in a six-month wear-test, evaluating four diverse uniform concepts, designs and colors,” said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson. Overwhelmingly, the approved SU design was selected above the other three.

Sailors will have up to 24 months to purchase the new uniform, depending on their duty station location. The mandatory wear date for all E-1 to E-6

personnel is July 2010. Clothing replacement allowances for FY08 and FY09 were increased to cover the purchasing of two sets of new uniforms by July 2010.

Basic SU components include a short-sleeved khaki shirt for men and a short sleeved khaki overblouse for women; black trousers with black belt and silver buckle for men and black beltless slacks for women.

Collar insignia consists of miniature silver anodized metal rank insignia for E-2 to E-6. Petty officers will wear large silver anodized metal rank insignia on their garrison caps. Men must wear a white undershirt.

Optional components include a black, Eisenhower-style jacket with epaulets, black pullover v-neck sweater and black skirt, beret and handbag for women.

The SU will be available for purchase via NEX uniform centers as follows:

July 08, Great Lakes, Ill., and California

Oct 08, Northwest and Hawaii

Jan 09, Gulf region and Millington, Tenn.

April 09, Naval District Washington

July 09, Tidewater

Oct 09, Southeast

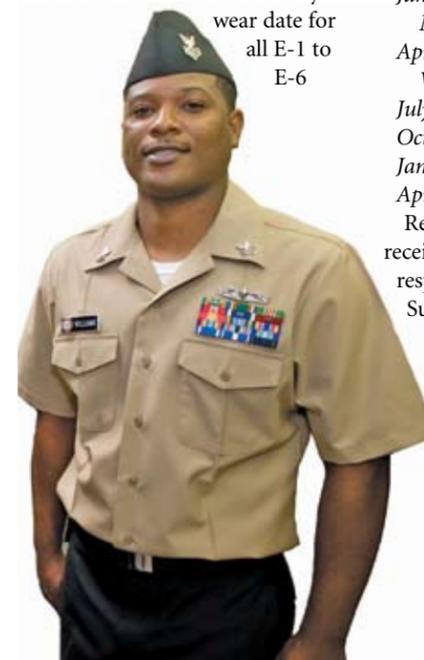
Jan 10, Northeast

April 10, Europe/Japan/Guam

Reserve component Sailors will receive their uniforms via their respective Navy Operational Support Centers.

For more information on uniforms and uniform policy, visit the uniform matters Web site at www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/. ☞

Story courtesy of Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington.



Master-at-Arms Seaman Paul Wilson, assigned to Naval Hospital Bremerton, recently helped rescue two elderly people from the cold waters of Puget Sound.

Wilson was on duty when he and MA2(SW/AW) Roberto Colon noticed a man and woman in the water near a capsized canoe. Wilson jumped into the choppy water and saw to the wife, who had on a life jacket, but her husband was struggling, getting tired and losing strength while trying to hold on. He then swam under the canoe and retrieved the husband’s lifejacket, and helped the man into it. Wilson then directed the husband to hold on to the canoe as he dragged it to shore.

“The water was cold, but I didn’t really pay much attention to that fact,” Wilson said of the experience. “I knew I was getting a little tired, but I couldn’t quit until we got to shore.”

Story by Douglas H. Stutz, Naval Hospital Bremerton, Wash.



Navy Seeks Applicants for LDO and CWO Programs

The Navy seeks applications from highly qualified Sailors in pay grades E-6 through E-9 for the FY10 active limited duty officer (LDO) and chief warrant officer (CWO) programs. Applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 1, 2008.

“Limited duty officers and chief warrant officers bring a variety of experience and perspective into the wardroom from their enlisted service,” said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. M.E. Ferguson.

The LDO community has 28 designators in the surface, submarine, aviation, general series and staff corps communities. The CWO community also has 28 designators in similar fields.

Eligibility requirements for

LDO include U.S. citizenship, and serving in pay grades E-7 through E-9 or an E-6 who has passed the exam for E-7. Active-duty applicants for LDO must have at least eight—but not more than 16—years of active-duty service.

Eligibility requirements for CWO include U.S. citizenship, and serving in pay grades E-7 through E-9. Active-duty applicants for CWO must have at least 12—but not more than 24—years of active-duty service.

These programs do not require applicants to have a college degree.

Complete application procedures, eligibility requirements and a listing of available designators can be found in OPNAVINST 1420.1A.

Eligible Sailors should apply for the designator for which they are most qualified, regardless of their current rating. Upon commissioning, Sailors selected for LDO/CWO will attend the

Around the Fleet

► **Handlers from Airship Management Services race toward a Skyship 600 blimp as it prepares to touch down at Naval Air Station Key West, Fla. The lighter-than-air vehicle was in Key West to conduct a series of maritime surveillance evaluations.**

Photo by MC2 Timothy Cox



▲ **Sailors discuss firefighting techniques before combating a simulated fire in the hangar bay aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) during a general quarters drill. General quarters drills are conducted to train all Sailors in the many facets of shipboard damage control.**

Photo by MC2 Ron Reeves

► **CE3 Jason Dingle, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7, mans an M-2 machine gun at the entry control point for the Logistical Support Area, Camp Shelby, Miss., during the battalion's unit field exercise to test its deployment readiness.**

Photo by MC2 Michael B. Lavender



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

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

Mail your submissions to:
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Washington, D.C. 20350-1200

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

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four-week Officer Development School in Newport, R.I.

For more information, active-duty applicants should read NAVADMIN 181/08. ✉

Story by MCC(SW) Maria Yager, Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17 Hospital Corpsmen Care for Iraqis

Hospital corpsmen assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 17 recently conducted health outreach operations in Fallujah, Iraq.

Cmdr. Gabriel Lee, regimental surgeon for the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment, along with Marine Headquarters Group Guardian Company, 3rd Squad, worked with the NMCB 17 team.

As part of the project, the joint crew provided minor medical and oral care to local civilians of the village.

"It's fulfilling to know that I am helping the Iraqi community," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Teri Brookins of Phoenix.

During the operation, Brookins and HM2 Lisa Haro of Sacramento, Calif., treated more than 35 women and children and passed out a number of hygiene products such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and over-the-counter vitamins.

"These children live so differently than my own. I look at the pictures of my kids, and then I see these children and wonder how they survive like this. The little things we take advantage of in the States, like good water and the ability to take a shower daily," remarked Brookins.

"Nutrition, or lack of it, is the biggest problem I see in these

children. Chewable vitamins are our biggest commodities. We give them to each child in hopes that it might just help a little."

Haro commented on how the operation helps build trust between local Iraqi villagers and coalition forces.

"To date, this is the most rewarding service I have done in Iraq. Most of the time when we first arrive, the women and children are intimidated by our tactical vests, Kevlar helmets, weapons and confidence but once we remove that 'warrior' image and make ourselves appear approachable while retaining our confidence, we are greeted with smiles and hand shakes." ✉

Story by MCz Kenneth W. Robinson, 22nd Naval Construction Regiment, Fallujah, Iraq.

Mustin's CIWS Crew Blows Away Competition, Wins Award

USS *Mustin* (DDG 89) recently earned the 2007 *Phalanx* Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Excellence Award.

Commander, Naval Surface Forces recognized *Mustin* as the superior CIWS ship in the Pacific Fleet, marking the first time the ship and crew earned this honor. USS *Taylor* (FFG 50) received the award for the Atlantic Fleet.

The *Phalanx* CIWS is a 20mm, rapid-fire, Gatling gun utilized as a last defense against anti-ship cruise missiles. CIWS has its own radar, which is capable of detecting, tracking, and engaging air and surface targets at a rate of 3,000 rounds per minute.

"We run electronic and mechanical systems at the same time, so we have to deal with both problems," said Fire Controlman

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▲ Deck department Sailors assigned to *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) take out three shots of the starboard side anchor chain to perform maintenance on the swivel shot and detachable links during the ship's Board of Inspection and Survey.

Photo by MC2 Andrew Meyers



◀ Sailors stationed aboard *USS Bulkeley* (DDG84) take their physical readiness test during their port visit to Souda Bay, Greece.

Photo by MC3 David Wyscaver

▶ SN Barry Rouchon steers *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) while operating in the western Pacific Ocean as SN Robert Johnson watches. *Kitty Hawk* is on her final course to the United States for decommissioning after 47 years of service, 10 of which have been in Japan. She will soon be replaced by *USS George Washington* (CVN 73).

Photo by MC3 Mathew Reinhardt



▲ NDCM Arne Philips, a master diver assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) 2, waits at the surface of the water for the go ahead to begin a dive on the former Soviet submarine that sank a year ago in the Providence River, Providence, R.I. Divers from MDSU 2, U.S. Army divers and a Naval Sea Systems Command support unit are preparing to salvage the former Soviet submarine that sank at her mooring point in about 30 feet of water during a nor'easter, which struck Providence in April 2007.

Photo by MC1 Eric Lippmann



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2nd Class (SW) Christopher Mach. The criteria for the competition included the age of the weapon, ability to conduct maintenance without technical assistance, days the weapon is out of commission and total rounds fired in the year.

Mustin leaders say the crew earned the award thanks to the efforts of their CIWS technicians, specifically Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Timothy Esler and Fire Controlman 3rd Class Nathaniel Oversen.

"We do our maintenance properly and take pride in our mount," said Mach. "We tend to go above and beyond. When the requirement says 'wipe', we scrub."

Mustin's busy operational schedule as a forward deployed naval forces (FDFN) ship means the crew remains especially diligent in maintaining the readiness of the system.

"Our CIWS team has worked hard to keep the mount up under challenging conditions," said *Mustin* Commanding Officer Cmdr. James T. Jones. "Their dedication has ensured that *Mustin* is always mission ready."

Mustin will have her name engraved on a trophy located at Commander, Surface Forces headquarters. The ship will also receive a plaque with the names of all CIWS maintenance members, and a \$1,000 contribution will be made to the ship's morale welfare and recreation fund. **S**

Story by Ensign Brian Greenert, *USS Mustin* (DDG 89), Yokosuka, Japan.

First LCS Gun System Demonstration Held at NSWC Dahlgren

The Navy recently rolled out the first Surface Warfare Mission Package (SUW MP) for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) at Naval Surface

Warfare Center Dahlgren, Va.

One of three interchangeable modules, the SUW MP is designed to provide war-fighting capability in the SUW mission area against small boats. The modules include anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare and mine warfare.

"The capability the Surface Warfare Mission Package brings to LCS is truly unprecedented. Never before has the Navy built a ship, complemented with three modular mission packages, that is as versatile and responsive to emerging war-fighting requirements. The lessons learned for LCS mission modules need to be captured and utilized from here forward for every surface combatant and amphibious ships we design for the U.S. Navy," said Vice Adm. Paul Sullivan, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command.

SUW MP will integrate with LCS to provide a flexible capability to rapidly detect, track and prosecute small-boat threats, giving the on-scene commander the capability to protect local assets and move a force quickly through a strategic waterway.

Rollout included the first modularized gun system capabilities demonstration of the MK 46 30 millimeter gun. With its standardized networking interfaces, this gun saves the Navy more than \$4 million per platform in re-engineering costs.

The MK 46 30 millimeter gun system is a two-axis stabilized chain gun that can fire up to 200 rounds per minute. This system uses a forward-looking infrared sensor, a low light television camera and laser rangefinder with a closed-loop tracking system to optimize accuracy against small, high-speed surface targets. The gun can be mounted forward and aft of an LCS' island to support different mission requirements and can be operated locally at the gun's weapon mount or fired remotely by a gunner in the ship's combat information center.

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▼ **Capt. Eric Kuncir (right)**, a surgeon assigned to USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) and Dr. Do Hoai Ky, a Vietnamese surgeon, perform a laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) on a Vietnamese patient during the Pacific Partnership mission in the Nha Trang, Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Photo by MC2 (SW) Joseph Seavey

▲ **Sailors gather in a hangar bay aboard USS Ronald Reagan** (CVN 76) as the ship approaches Hong Kong for a port visit during a routine deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility.

Photo by MCCS Spike Call

► **MU2 Robert Taylor plays a traditional Philippine kulintang** during a Pacific Partnership medical civic action program at Poblacion Elementary School, Guidulungan, Republic of the Philippines. The Pacific Fleet Band and a traditional Maguindanao folk group shared their music throughout the day, entertaining patients while they waited for medical assistance.

Photo by MC2 James Seward



“The SUW MP demonstrates the Navy’s commitment to design ships and systems that are more modular, affordable and adaptive to a future Navy with ship classes that deliver effective capability to fight in blue, green and brown water environments,” said Capt. Mike Good, program manager LCS Mission Modules.

The next phase commences with software integration from the gun to the Mission Package Computing Environment and includes land based end-to-end testing of the gun at NSWC Dahlgren.

LCS is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric “anti-access” threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The first LCS, *Freedom*, is scheduled for commissioning in 2008. **NS**

Story courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command, Dahlgren, Va.

New Ship Class Begins Operations in 7th Fleet

Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE 4) entered the waters of the U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet July 24, marking the first *Lewis and Clark*-class, multi-product, combat logistics support ship in service in the 52 million-square-mile region.

Byrd replaces MSC combat stores ship USNS *Niagara Falls* (T-AFS 3), which has been forward deployed supporting 7th Fleet since 1994.

Though the entry into the fleet’s territorial waters was unceremonious, it signals a significant change for Logistics Group Western Pacific, also known as Commander Task Force 73, which will operationally control

the ship while in theater.

“This ship will enable our command to provide the warfighter with a level of support that is unprecedented,” said Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, CTF 73 commander. “It brings a much more robust capability to the fight.”

The 689-foot-long underway replenishment vessel, known as a T-AKE, replaces the current capability of the *Kilauea*-class ammunition ships and *Mars*-class combat stores ships, and it also possesses the capability to refuel ships at sea.

“The combat stores ships are extremely capable and have developed a real ‘can-do’ culture for any mission in 7th Fleet. However, having the T-AKE as a one-stop logistics ship in the Navy’s largest theater will significantly improve the flexibility of our operations,” said Capt. Jim Smart, CTF 73 assistant chief of staff for logistics.

“While we say a sad farewell to *Niagara Falls* and honor her many years of fine service and her reputation for professional excellence, we welcome and are glad to have *Byrd* and its crew on the Navy team in the Western Pacific.”

Byrd has a crew of 124 civil service mariners working for MSC as well as a military detachment of 11 Sailors who provide operational support and supply coordination. When needed, *Byrd* can also carry a supply detachment.

MSC operates approximately 110 noncombatant, merchant marine-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners” **NS**

Story courtesy of Sealift Logistics Command Far East.

Sailors Of The Year Advanced To Chief

Story by MCCS(SW/AW) Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Office, Washington, D.C.

The 2008 Sailors of the Year (SOY) were advanced to chief petty officers during a ceremony hosted by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr., at the Navy Memorial July 17, 2008.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore SOY, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Heather Strow; Fleet Forces Command

Sea SOY, Explosive Ordnance Disposal 1st Class (ESW) Tyrone Logan; Pacific Fleet Sea SOY and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 1st Class (AW/SW) Justin Melton each received the Navy Commendation Medal prior to receiving their chief's anchors. The Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW)

Kathleen A. Reilly, could not attend and will advance at a later date.

Prior to the pinning, Campa explained that narrowing down a field of Sailors from across the Navy was difficult. But he added that, in the end, each of the four chosen displayed specific attributes that led to their selections.

EOD₁(ESW) Tyrone Logan

2008 Fleet Forces Command Sea Sailor of the Year

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

DOB: 1976

Years in Navy: 11 (Three with the U.S. Marine Corps and eight with the U.S. Navy)

Schools: University of Cincinnati; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, Bachelor of Science in Biology; Explosive Ordnance Disposal training

Duty Stations: 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Marine Corp Recruiting, Columbus, Ohio; EODMU 4, mobile detachments; EODMU 4 SOQ; EODMU 2, LPO for Det. 6; Iraq Deployment; LPO of CIF Det. 32

Off Hours: Mentoring Sailors



IS₁(SW/AW) Heather Strow

2008 CNO Shore Sailor of the Year

Hometown: Lancaster, Calif.

DOB: 1974

Years in Navy: 10

Schools: Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.; Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station Pensacola, Fla.; Cryptologic Technician Maintenance "A" School; Fleet Cryptologic System Maintenance School; and Combat Direction Finding (DF) Maintenance "C" Schools; Navy & Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center

Duty Stations: USS Boxer (LHD 4) (including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Southern Watch); USS McCampbell (DDG 85); Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet serving as N2 Leading Petty Officer; Individual Augmentation at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Off Hours: Completed an Associate Arts Degree in General Studies from Columbia College.



"In a maritime service that breeds leaders and patriots these Sailors have stood out because they best represent the qualities we value most in our people: first line leadership, rating expertise and, above all, a true desire to positively affect our Navy and our Sailors."

Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John Cotton, presented each Sailor Navy Commendation medals then offered remarks regarding their meritorious advancement to chief, their new roles in the Navy and he referred to the upcoming, six-week induction

in which they will participate.

Shortly after Cotton's remarks Strow, Logan and Melton stepped forward to receive their anchors and have their combination covers placed on their heads.

"As chiefs you will provide a traditional brand of leadership that our Navy has come to rely on, a brand of leadership that is grounded in 115 years of rich heritage," said Campa.

"Never again will individual accomplishments define your effectiveness.

From this day forward, the number one indicator of your success will be the success of the Sailors who look to you for leadership."

The Sailor of the Year program was initiated by then-CNO Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and MCPON Jack Whittet in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The next year, the program honored the top Shore Sailor of the Year. 

Houlihan is assigned to the office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

AT₁(AW/NAC) Kathleen A. Reilly

2008 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year

Hometown: Boston

DOB: 1974

Years in Navy: 20 (13 Active, seven Reserve)

Schools: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University majoring in Liberal Arts; Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Fla.; AV "A" School; Advance First-Term Avionics; Aircrew Candidate School; Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion School; AX "C" School; and ES-3A FRAMP; Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management

Duty Stations: Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 2 in Rota, Spain; VQ-5 in San Diego; VPU-2 in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; VP-64, NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa.; VR-53, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Off Hours: Staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives. Washington, D.C.



ABF₁(AW/SW) Justin H. Melton

2008 Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year

Hometown: Newport News, Va.

DOB: 1978

Years in Navy: 11

Schools: Basic Training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.; Airman Apprenticeship Training, Pensacola, Fla.

Duty Stations: USS Tarawa (LHA 1), San Diego; Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), Charleston, S.C.; Currently V-4 Division Leading Petty Officer, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)

Off Hours: Board of Directors of the Aviation Boatswain's Mates' Association - San Diego Chapter, and volunteers with the Meals-on-Wheels program.



Providing Support to Boots-on-the-Ground

Story by MC2(SW/AW) Jason McCammack

The Sailors of the 21st century Navy are filling roles entirely new to a service steeped in the traditions of the sea. Individual Augmentee (IA) and Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment (GSA) Sailors are serving in various combat support and combat service support billets on the ground and around the world. Since Sept. 11, 2001, there have been 67,000 Navy IAs and GSAs. Currently, there are 15,000 Sailors on the ground in the Central Command area of responsibility. “That’s a remarkable number... To have that many boots on the ground is [a real] indication of the type of contribution [the Navy is making],” said Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Patrick M. Walsh.

The skills they learned as Sailors are vital to joint and coalition forces. Their experiences are unforgettable.

“For many Sailors, these assignments were defining moments in their lives and included a tremendous sense of personal satisfaction, contribution and reward,” said Walsh.

When USS *Normandy* (CG 60) had to fill one of those billets, Yeoman 2nd Class Elizabeth Roberts volunteered.

“I found my IA tour to be extremely fulfilling and would do it again,” said Roberts. “I worked with some really amazing people [at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad] and would not have had the opportunity to know what working in a joint-[service] environment is like without my IA tour. I know [the

experience] changed me. I got a chance to do something different and to really grow professionally.”

Roberts said there were many benefits beyond knowing that the work she was doing was important to the Navy’s mission.

“[A tour like this] may help you get promoted,” said Roberts. “You meet people out there that you might not have had the chance to ever meet except in that environment.”

The path leading to these assignments has evolved since its inception, and for some Sailors the process remains unclear, but the Navy is working hard to debunk myths and bring clarity to the overall process.

Initially, all the requested fills were

processed as IAs. Now, GSA detailing is in place to reduce the number of Sailors sent on short notice. Now, Sailors have the ability to accept a GSA assignment as a permanent change of station (PCS).

“By the end of 2008, nearly 70 percent of all our requirements for the global war on terrorism will be filled through the normal [GSA] detailing process,” said Rear Adm. Sonny Masso, commander, Navy Personnel Command.

What is a GSA/IA and How Are They Selected?

GSAs or IAs are Sailors who support or “augment” another Navy, Marine Corps or

▼ Sailors man their M-16A1s and stand a vigilant watch, as they conduct convoy exercises during the Navy’s Individual Augmentee Combat Training course at Fort Jackson, S.C. The fast-paced, three-week course is instructed by Army drill sergeants and designed to provide Sailors with basic combat skills training prior to being deployed as individual augmentees mostly to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility (AOR).



Photo by MC1 Jackie Bratt

Army command, working with joint forces and using their Navy skills to provide essential support to a variety of operations around the world.

These Sailors usually get temporary assigned duty (TAD) orders and return to their current or "parent" commands once they complete their assignments. Assignments vary in length from a few months to a year or more.

Through GSA, assignments of at least one year are now incorporated into regular sea-shore duty rotation. Sailors can negotiate with their detailers for a GSA assignment when they are within their projected rotation date (PRD) window.

This means that instead of going TAD, Sailors detach from their current commands and are assigned administratively to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC). They will then transfer to their next PCS assignment once they return from GSA duty. This process makes these types of assignments more predictable for Sailors and their families.

It's very important for leaders, from chiefs to commanders, to know where their reporting Sailors have been and to understand their experiences. This provides the leadership an opportunity to better position the Sailors,

Photo by MC1 Jackie Bratt



▲ Sailors patrol through the woods during a simulated improvised explosive device (IED) awareness exercise.



▲ An Army drill sergeant points out different techniques used to crawl through hostile environments.

and the gaining command, for success.

As in the past, there will continue to be a need for IA assignments that aren't incorporated into the detailing process. In

these situations, Sailors remain assigned to their commands and go to their IA assignments on TAD orders.

Sailors are qualified for a number of

incentives as a result of their GSA or IA deployments. Benefits include advancement points for enlisted Sailors and follow-on duty station coast preference.

Detailers work closely with both officers and enlisted personnel to ensure a solid career path.

"We need to ensure that individuals doing an IA continue to have the upward mobility and career progression that we agreed to give them when they joined our great Navy," said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), executive



▲ Sailors listen closely as Army drill instructors provide combat survival skills training.

Photo by MC1 Jackie Bratt

Photo by PS1 William Hamb



▲ CM1 Jerry Jump, an individual augmentee Sailor attached to Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Khost, secures the perimeter during a groundbreaking for one of more than 50 schools funded by PRT Khost this year.

agent for the IA continuum. "We, basically, integrate the IA experience into their career. In addition, anyone with TAD orders for a year or more may use special orders to relocate their families."

The Navy has created a new Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC), and officers will be given a special Additional Qualification Designator

(AQD) that tags them as having completed a GSA or IA assignment. This will allow the Navy to track individuals and will be an automatic signal to selection boards.

Sailors stationed in a designated combat zone earn tax-free pay checks for the duration of their deployments, which can provide savings of thousands of dollars.

"If you are careful with your money, it can be financially beneficial ...," said Roberts. "While you are there you have no day-to-day expenses. I was able to come home debt free ..."

Mobilization and Training

Sailors with GSA or IA orders are processed at Navy Mobilization Processing Sites (NMPS). It is imperative that Sailors bring the following to their NMPS: medical and dental records, medications (90-day supply) and copies of prescriptions, government travel credit card and enough cash for two day's berthing and meals (approximately \$150 to \$250), proof of city/state residence, a copy of the completed ECRC IA checklist and a copy of the completion certificates for each mandatory prerequisite course completed on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) e-learning.

Individual orders will state if Sailors need to bring their personnel records to NMPS. Those who aren't required to bring their personnel record should also bring the following to NMPS: orders, updated Page 2, current contract/extensions, Page 4s (qualifications, awards and ASVAB), most recent evaluation/ FITREP (Fitness Report), family separation allowance form (if applicable) and an examination worksheet (if applicable).

Sailors spend about one week at NMPS to ensure all prerequisite items and the ECRC checklist are completed and that each Sailor is qualified to move forward.

Next up is basic combat skills training conducted by Army drill instructors at one of several Army bases across the country. Sailors' individual training sites are included in their orders.

"The Army drill instructors appreciate what the Navy is contributing to the mission and understand that many of the Sailors haven't served on the ground before," said Lt. Jason Ayeroff, a former IA. "They're taking the time to fully explain everything and

Navy Provides Flexible Support to GSA, IA Families

Story courtesy of U.S. Fleet Forces Command

"Being left behind when a loved one goes to war has got to be one of the hardest jobs in the United States military," President George Bush proclaimed at a recent ceremony highlighting the sacrifices of military spouses.

With thousands of Sailors deployed globally in GSA or IA assignments at any one time, providing necessary support to their families is essential to mission success according to Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF). USFF was recently designated as the Navy's executive agent for the IA Continuum which encompasses all aspects of these types of missions.

Recent feedback from spouses of Sailors who have gone GSA or IA indicates the support available is finding its mark.

"The surprising part is there's probably more support available today for an IA family than for families dealing with a regular deployment," explained Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Johanna Arocho.

Arocho, the mother of three children under 5 with another one due in November, is the wife of RP2 Jorge V. Arocho. He is currently serving an IA tour in Iraq.

"The increased support is a great thing because sometimes when a spouse is deployed as an individual, families don't know who to turn to for information or help. When your husband deploys with a ship it's obvious [who to call for information], but when he deploys by himself, who do I call? I think it's great Fleet and Family Support bends over backwards for IA families," Arocho said.

The support needs of families are as varied as the missions their Sailors conduct when deployed as a GSA or an IA. Flexibility in support is what FFSCs are embracing when dealing with families.

"Finding out directly from our IA families what their needs for support are is our goal," confirmed Colleen Charlton, chief of services for FFSC Oceana and Dam Neck.

"We're constantly trying to find out what they need to help make their family's IA tour successful. The answer doesn't have to reside in FFSC. If an IA family needs a form of support we don't provide, or they just don't live in a fleet-centric area, we'll find an organization

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Photo by MC2 (SW/AV) Jason McCammack

mentor when necessary. It's a good balance between mentorship and discipline. In the event that I need to call upon the skills I learned in this training environment, what I learned from the drill instructors could be the difference in getting me through a tough situation."

Sailors receive instruction in a diverse set of skills, including: basic rifle marksmanship, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), urban operations and entry point control, convoy operations, land navigation, first aid, rules of engagement, Geneva Convention and cultural awareness.

The tone of the instruction at the training sites reflects the mutual respect between Sailors and the Soldiers assigned to train them.

"This could have been a boot camp environment, but that wasn't the case," said Electronics Technician 1st Class (SS) James Caddell who went through Combat Skills Training at Fort Jackson. "They took into account that we're not newbies, straight out of boot camp. They treated us with the respect and dignity that an eight-year Sailor like myself deserves. It's been incredible. They've done nothing but help, praise and teach."

Sailors may require additional mission specific training. The location and length of the training is stated in a Sailor's orders.

After completing training in the United States, most Sailors receive additional training when they process through Kuwait, including several days of intense, mission focused training at Udari Range. From there, Sailors join their new commands in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. There are dozens of other locales, including many stateside commands, but the overwhelming majority of GSA and IAs are serving in the three aforementioned locations.

Life on the Ground

For many Sailors, their duties provided the kind of naval experience they had always longed for — an experience where they knew they made a difference.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class William Dorff served as an IA at Counter Rockets

◀ An IA Sailor from Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion 3 makes his rounds while on guard duty at Camp Bucca, Iraq.

Photo by MC2 Lenny M. Francioni



▲ EO1 Dillard Lane from Amarillo, Texas, assigned to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202, arrives with other Sailors at the camp before the Warrior Transition Program begins.

Ammunition and Mortar (CRAM) Command in Iraq.

"I maintained the LPWS (Land-based Phalanx Weapons System) mounts that defended the base from incoming rocket/mortar attacks. The six months that I spent in country in the CRAM-2 unit was the best six months of my naval career ...," said Dorff. "The job I was doing in Camp Victory actually mattered because it saved lives ..."

While there are a lot of Sailors working in Iraq and Afghanistan, many others are experiencing deployments in many other parts of the world.

Navy Reserve Information Systems

Technician 2nd Class Frank Gifford deployed to the Horn of Africa with U.S. Army Civil Affairs Team 402.

Gifford learned soon after his arrival that the local population did not have the skills or experience to efficiently deal with cattle. As fate would have it, Gifford was an experienced cowhand, having worked on farms for years.

"They wouldn't get close to the cattle, both because of the size of the animals, and their horns."

So Gifford leaped into action to help the local Ugandans. He jumped into the corrals with the cattle and ushered them into the vaccination shoot.

Photo by MC2 Lenny M. Francioni



▲ Sailors take a break at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Center to play hands of Texas Hold 'em.

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which can meet their needs in almost any circumstance and refer them to outside agencies for help," Charlton added.

One of the most well-received family support initiatives FFSC has implemented is reaching out to every family member dealing with these types of deployments.

According to Charlton, this started as a regional initiative fall 2007 and has grown Navywide. Now, FFSCs in every region contact families in their regions through the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS).

When an FFSC representative makes the initial call to families, they get a sense of what concerns the family may have. The initial call also determines if the family would like to receive regular monthly calls or just be added to an e-mail list which receives informational updates and a monthly newsletter known as, "Family Connection."

Other programs families can take advantage of at any Navy region's FFSC include: Family Pre-Deployment Readiness Briefs, monthly discussion groups focused on unique concerns of families and seminars focused on challenges or potential concerns when GSA and IA Sailors return from their non-traditional deployments.

For families not living in fleet-concentration areas, including most Navy Reserve families, FFSC hosts several online family discussion groups every month. Information for how to log on and what topics will be covered at these virtual meetings is available at: www.nffsp.org

The bottom line according to Charlton is answers and support are available to families. Additionally, the time-tested resource of other families who have already successfully completed a GSA or an IA deployment should not be overlooked.

"I highly recommend that any time an IA spouse has an opportunity to meet other spouses who have gone through IA deployments, they should talk to them, get to know them and find any information they're willing to share because they are the experts on these types of deployments," said Charlton.

With approximately 70,000 successful GSA and IA deployments completed, other Navy families who've gone through the experience should never be too hard to find.

Lori Hanley's husband, Cmdr. James Hanley, is currently serving his second IA tour, this time to Afghanistan. His first tour was in Iraq 2005-2006. He received the Purple Heart for injuries received from a rocket-propelled grenade.

"The first IA deployment you're not sure what to expect, but the second time you know what to expect and sometimes that can be

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Photo by MC2 Sandra M. Palumbo

Photo by MC2 Lenny M. Francioni

▲ A Sailor reaches the front of the line where he takes his gear to unload it, the custom inspectors are waiting and the supply clerks are counting up the items. The Warrior Transition Program helps service members make the shift back from Boots-on-the-Ground to Navy or civilian life.

“The locals were rather stunned by the crazy “*Mzungo*” (local slang for Caucasians) that would get in the corral with the livestock ...,” he said.

Gifford said his time in Uganda was unlike anything else he will ever experience.

“I was fortunate enough to witness the awesome experience of humanity at its finest. When it mattered most, several distinct groups of people, regardless of differences in creed, race, religion, language or nationality, came together to work effectively.”

The Way Home

The Warrior Transition Program (WTP) allows Sailors to participate in briefings and

interviews designed to provide a streamlined process for preventing or managing combat operational stress. The three-day transition program has the goal of preserving mission effectiveness and combat capabilities in the theater while minimizing the potential short-term and long-term adverse effects of an individual’s combat deployment.

For most Sailors the best part about WTP is getting rid of the mountain of gear they collected prior to deployment. WTP personnel collect gear and weapons and arrange for follow-on travel back to the States. By locating the gear collection process at the WTP in Kuwait, Sailors are now able to return home one week earlier on average.

These deployments have become a major

part of naval service in the past half-decade, and the work the Sailors are doing at these posts has had an incredible impact, according to Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead.

“... the individual augmentees ... are doing incredible work,” said Roughead. “They bring perspective and they bring skills that are really unique, but, most of all, they bring an attitude that’s just part of who they are as Sailors. If there’s a job to be done, we’re going to do it — we’re going to do it to the best of our ability.”

McCammack is assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington.



▲ During the Warrior Transition Program in the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), Navy individual augmentees have their inventory sheets verified to show that all of their combat gear has been turned in after completing their tour of duty. ECRC established the WTP to assist Sailors while they transition from their tours in a combat environment back to the United States. It gives a chance for Sailors to decompress from a high stress combat environment, turn in gear, go thru customs, receive end of tour briefs and prepare follow on travel arrangements.

Photo by MCSS John K. Ha



▲ SKSA Jennifer Faulkner greets her family after returning to Naval Station Norfolk. Individual Augmentees (IA) from Navy Provisional Detainee Battalion (NPDB) 2 returned home after completing a 16-month deployment, which included a year in Iraq where they guarded 19,000 detainees at Camp Bucca.

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even scarier,” she explained while recalling her husband’s injuries on the first deployment.

Hanley is quick to point out the improvements in family support during the past few years.

“Every aspect of support to IA families has significantly improved since our first IA deployment,” Hanley explained. “FFSC has been creative and innovative in implementing new programs designed to meet more IA family needs, and they’re always open to feedback for continued improvements.”

Hanley cited FFSC’s “webinar” online discussion groups as one of these improvements. The most important tip for successfully completing an IA tour according to Hanley, is start getting ready before you even become a GSA or an IA family.

“Preparation is key! Learn what an IA is and what potential challenges with IA tours are before your spouse is even selected for an IA tour. Empower yourself through knowledge — all of the information you need is available,” Hanley said. “Also, set goals for yourself and your family to stay focused throughout the deployment.”

One area in which the Navy is working to continue improving family support is getting more consistent support at the individual command level.

Among the “best practices” at the individual command level are: Designating a collateral duty GSA/IA coordinator to help Sailors and their families selected to serve in these types of tours; formal appreciation and welcome home events for Sailors and families; and peer mentoring by Sailors and families who have already served GSA or IA tours.

Most importantly, according to Kate Perlewitz, Director of Strategic Planning & Fleet Personnel Transformation at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, is for individual commands to take ownership of GSA and IA Sailors and their families and “do the right thing” to provide whatever support is needed throughout the deployment.

“IA Sailors and their families are proudly representing the commands from which they’re deploying. Although a Sailor may be serving an augmentee assignment as an individual, we must always ensure the family is never alone,” Perlewitz added.

Just as serving as a Navy spouse has been one of the toughest jobs in the Navy for generations, serving as a GSA or an IA family will never be easy. Ensuring flexible support to these families will remain a significant focus of Navy leadership until supporting families successfully is as engrained in the Navy culture as pierside homecomings.

◀ **USS Roosevelt (DDG-80)** follows **TSV-1 Prevail** during boarding training off the coast of North Carolina. *Prevail*, posing as a merchant ship, shows the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Treasure Coast training scenario.

Climb Aboard **TSV-1 *Prevail***

Story and photos courtesy of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk

In Onslow Bay, several miles off the coast of North Carolina, a small boat carrying Sailors armed with brightly-colored training weapons recently motored away from USS *Roosevelt* (DDG 80) toward TSV-1 *Prevail*, a one-of-a-kind training support vessel.



▲ A Sailor from USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72) climbs aboard TSV-1 *Prevail* during maritime interdiction operations (MIO) training off the coast of North Carolina.

Aboard *Prevail*, from the engine room on up to the bridge, the ship's master and crew members were deep in character as they played out their current scenario.

Prevail flew the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Navy's simulated Treasure Coast region, while posing as a merchant ship. Some aboard *Prevail* pretended to speak no English, one challenge among many the destroyer's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team encountered when they boarded the ship.

The 224-foot TSV-1 *Prevail* began her life as a Cold War-era ocean surveillance ship in 1986. In 2003, *Prevail* was converted into the Navy's first fleet training support vessel at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and she relieved an older training ship, R/V *Gosport*.

Since then, *Prevail* has trained 20 strike groups, about 500 individual ships and several thousand Sailors – particularly during Composite Training Unit Exercises (COMPTUEX), which *Prevail*'s Master George W. Fleck calls, “our Super Bowl.”

“During the work-up period prior to deployment, battle group ships have developed competencies in particular warfare areas. COMPTUEX provides the opportunity for the ships to work together as a team. COMPTUEX is a prerequisite for the next major event the battle group will face, the Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX),” said Wayne Gittelman, the Mobile Sea Range program manager at Commander, Strike Force Training, Atlantic (CSFTL).

Now based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, *Prevail* is crewed by 14 civilian professional mariners, and their number is augmented by Sailors during training missions. *Prevail* is part of the Mobile Sea Range, built around *Prevail* and two training support vessels, *Hunter* and *Hugo*, and is headed by CSFTL. *Prevail* is at sea 160 or so days a year to help other Atlantic Fleet ships train.

Prevail supports ships, submarines and carriers,” said Fleck. “*Prevail*'s work includes submarine sea trials, new construction builder's trials and research and development events.”

“It provides multiple capabilities supporting invaluable training for the fleet,” said Mike Hohl, who oversees live training support and requirements for U.S. Fleet

Forces Command, Norfolk.

“It's a national asset,” said Capt. Mark Kinnane, CSFTL training resources officer, regarding *Prevail*. “Everybody on the East Coast wants this ship. It does a lot more than Maritime Intercept Operation (MIO) training.”

Prevail can launch drones, engage in information warfare, block Global Positioning Systems and tow targets. She is a durable training partner that can carry advanced training equipment while deploying for long periods of time. The ship and her crew have developed into a floating theater and traveling acting company, posing as a merchant vessel and crew during maritime interdiction operations training. The crew's acting talents provide Sailors a training experience that is closer to real-world situations.

In the latter training, there are varied scenarios in *Prevail*'s playbook – each



◀ A visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team member from USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72) helps secure TSV-1 *Prevail*, a training support vessel that, among its varied capabilities, often hosts MIO training for Atlantic Fleet ships.

▼ FC2(SW) Salvador Rosas, security team leader of the USS *Ramage* (DDG 61) VBSS team, questions two members of TSV-1 *Prevail*'s crew, posing as foreign merchant crew members during recent training off the coast of North Carolina. *Prevail*'s crew doubles as an acting company during such training, often pretending to speak little English.



complete with characters for crew members to assume and realistic documents such as passports and manifests. All are meant to test a boarding team's ability to adapt to the scenarios that Sailors may encounter while deployed, such as smuggling and piracy. In turn, the scenarios developed by the staff of Commander, Strike Force Training, Atlantic,

have become a greater part of the training *Prevail* provides the fleet.

“We really got into it in 2001,” said Fleck, a retired Navy lieutenant commander who also commanded R/V *Gosport*, *Prevail*'s predecessor. “At the time, it was focused on sanctions. The idea was to stop smuggling in and out of the Persian Gulf.”

“The teams would only carry a pistol,” said Kevin Adams, *Prevail*’s chief engineer and an observer during MIO training.

“One shotgun, no helmets,” Fleck said. “They’d check papers, look around. ‘Is everybody okay? You’re not smuggling oil, are you?’”

Adams described the old teams as “more like a cop on the beat than SWAT.”

The Navy’s boarding teams have become more sophisticated, and *Prevail*’s training

constantly evolves to meet conditions Sailors encounter in real boarding operations, primarily in the Persian Gulf and near Africa.

“We continue to change based on the feedback we get from the warfighters,” said Gittelman.

In the past, for example, members of *Prevail*’s crew said teams were not required to cut into a space or use their own ladder to gain access to a ship if the targeted ship didn’t comply. Feedback from the fleet indicated these were the types of real-world scenarios Sailors faced while on deployment, so these situations became part of the curriculum.

“*Prevail* directly supports the Maritime Strategy by providing training tailored

to real-world missions that deploying battle groups will face,” said Gittelman.

“By presenting realistic scenarios stressing MIOs, surface and air threats and electronic threat presentations, we expand deployed crew and vessel competency. As a result, we dramatically increase the deployers’ ability to meet the core capabilities of maritime power and their ability to provide security, stability and sea power.”

During training scenarios aboard *Prevail*, Sailors may encounter a “stow away,” weapons, resistance and medical emergencies. They may have to breach their way in

– actually cut a hole in a door set up in a container on *Prevail*’s fantail. Careless teams may find a member snatched and have to deal with a missing shipmate or a situation developed by *Prevail*’s crew.

“Simple acting,” said Gil Peligro, an able seaman and *Prevail*’s boatswain. “Sometimes we pretend we’re fighting. Sometimes we say, ‘No English.’ One time, I pretended I broke my legs. They had to take me to the other ship. I applied for asylum.”



▲ HTC(SW) James Ulmer (center) served as an observer during MIO training aboard TSV-1 *Prevail*. Here, he conducts a safety briefing for a boarding team.

The other ship’s Sailors asked why he wanted to go to America.

“I want to meet Pamela Anderson,” Peligro responded.

The day *Roosevelt* Sailors trained, Fleck wore a red vest denoting a role player while he stood on the bridge. A red training gun rested in a binocular box near his chair. The “weapon” was something for the boarding team to find.

Earlier, the boarding process started with a query.

“This is Coalition Warship 80,” *Roosevelt* hailed.

Forrest Halley, *Prevail*’s third mate, affected a foreign accent when he replied to a series of questions over the radio.

“We are seven-four meter long,” Halley said, posing as the ship’s master.

“Are you carrying any weapons aboard? Over.”

“We carry one pistol for defense of ship,” Halley replied.

The boarding team came along *Prevail*’s starboard side, and Sailors climbed from their

boat to a rope ladder to reach one of the ship’s upper decks. The men fanned out with their weapons. Cmdr. Scott J. Tetrick of CSFTL and Chief Hull Technician (SW) James Ulmer of Assault Craft Unit 4 were among the observers watching *Roosevelt* Sailors come aboard.

The men deployed aboard *Prevail* as part of the military detachment to train several boarding teams that visited the training ship earlier this year. Along with Adams, they called a time out in the training for a briefing during which they discussed safety and procedures for the training aboard the ship. Then the Sailors went back into their positions to begin securing *Prevail*.

Some Sailors headed to the bridge. Others headed aft to keep track of the merchant vessel’s crew. Two Sailors remained on the deck. After a moment, Ulmer approached the young men.

“So,” he said. “Are you guys going to sit here the whole time or do you have another purpose?”

“Engineering,” one of the Sailors replied.

“Good answer,” Ulmer said.

The Sailors headed into the ship, and down toward the engineering spaces. On the bridge, Fleck, in character, made life interesting for a young Sailor while the boarding officer looked through the merchant ship’s paperwork.

“What kind of cargo do you have?”

Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class Ryan Ruch asked.

“Corn syrup,” Fleck said.

“Do you have any kind of weapons?”

“Yes,” Fleck said, not elaborating.

“Where is that located?” Ruch asked.

“Here,” Fleck said, motioning toward the nearby binocular case.

“Okay,” Ruch said. “Can you step over here please?”

After a moment, another Sailor recovered the red handgun.

Fleck, speaking with an accent, acted both aloof and bored. The scenario called for members of the merchant crew to subtly pump Sailors for information about their ship and its capabilities.

“How many your ship?” Fleck asked.

“I can’t give out that information,” Ruch said. “It’s classified.”

“What is classified? Who is boss?” Fleck asked.

The Sailor wouldn’t say.

“I speak to officer,” Fleck said. “I am captain of the ship. I am boss. I speak to someone like me.”

He didn’t stay quiet for long.

“What is number eight-zero?”

“It’s just paint,” Ruch said.

A *Roosevelt* ensign, the boarding officer, reviewed the ship’s paperwork while a petty officer videotaped each page. Fleck stood on the bridge with his hands behind his back.

“You like this job?” Ruch asked.

Fleck’s expression did not change.

“Is okay,” he said.

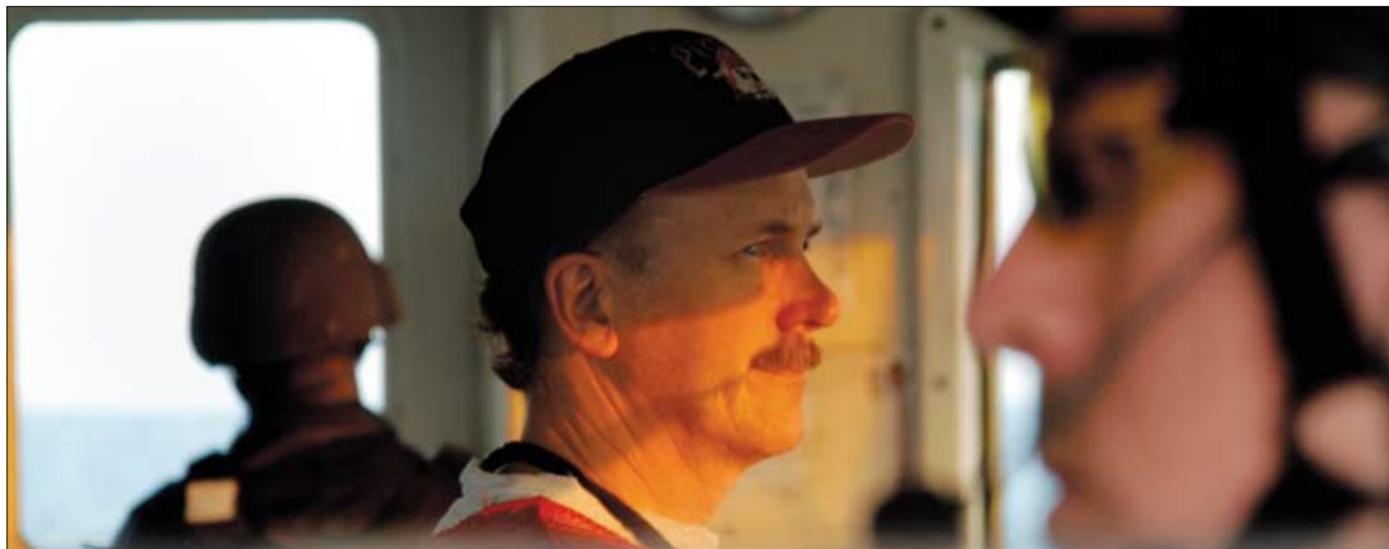
Several Sailors who recently trained aboard *Prevail* said the detailed simulation helped them train and brush up on MIO techniques.

“It’s a good option to have,” said Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Matthew Legere of USS *Ramage* (DDG 61)



▲ Training support vessel TSV-1 *Prevail* steams in the Atlantic Ocean during the the *Iwo Jima* Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) composite unit training exercise (COMPTUEX). *Prevail* provides a controlled training environment to the ESG for real-time compliant boarding simulations and other training scenarios during COMPTUEX.

Photo by MC3 Katrina Parker



▲ George W. Fleck, master of TSV-1 *Prevail*, stands on the bridge of the training ship he commands while flanked by Sailors from USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72) during a recent boarding exercise in Onslow Bay, near North Carolina. During recent MIO training aboard *Prevail*, Fleck portrayed the master of a merchant vessel being searched by the guided-missile cruiser's VBSS team.

while aboard *Prevail*. "It kind of gives us a better chance to train realistically."

"You can only run around topside of that," he added, motioning toward *Ramage*, "before you know every nook and cranny."

Engineman 3rd Class Patrick Doran, a member of the VBSS team for USS *Carter Hall* (LSD 50), said the team from his ship trained aboard *Prevail* in 2007 and applied what they had learned during their next deployment.

"You kind of get an idea when you're at school, but until you actually scale a ladder and come up the side of an actual ship and actually deal with how hot it is down in the engine room and pitching and rolling of the ship. It's different," he said. "It's more of a practical environment. By establishing a ship like this, they want you to get an actual feel for what it would be like if you did it for real. It's just a better training platform."

His boarding team also reviewed a videotape of their work aboard *Prevail*, Doran said. Videos are made by *Prevail* so teams can see first-hand how they did. The training helped the crew when they had multiple operations off the coast of Somalia last year, including a boarding.

"Boarding on the *Prevail* definitely helped with our real-world theater operations," said



▲ To realistically simulate foreign merchant vessels during MIO training for the Atlantic Fleet, TSV-1 *Prevail*, carries elaborate props such as these passports.

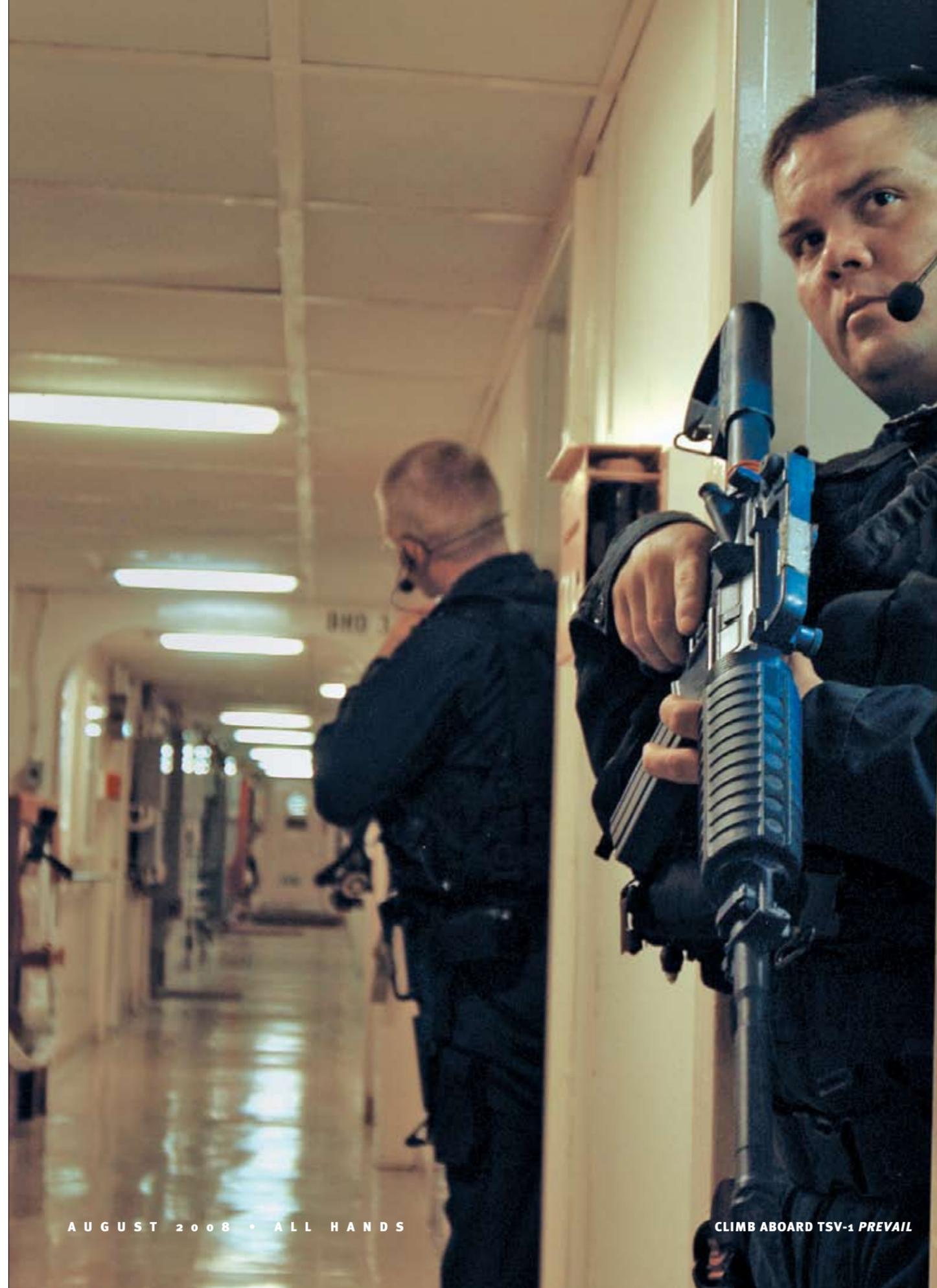
▶ A VBSS team member from USS *Ramage* (DDG 61) stands guard aboard TSV-1 *Prevail* during training.

Lt.j.g. Andrew Evans, who served as a boarding officer for *Carter Hall* VBSS team.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Mike Peterson, a *Roosevelt* Sailor, said *Prevail* provided more realistic training than Sailors often get for boarding operations.

"A lot of times you board your own ship or another ship of your class," Peterson said. "You never know what you're going to get into in the real situation." ■

Doucette is assigned to U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk.



Navy Earns Corporate Diversity Recognition

Story by Lt. Cmdr. Elizabeth Zimmermann

Readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology magazine helped the U.S. Navy earn honors as a Best Diversity Company for 2008.

The Navy was one of nine government agencies in a group of 100 honorees selected from a field of more than 600 companies, government agencies and other organizations that employ technical professionals. These groups were selected by readers of Diversity/Careers and visitors to its Web site: www.diversitycareers.com.

"I am committed to ensuring that we, as a Navy, are going to be one of the best places for a young person to start their career. We must all think and work as an organization to attract, recruit and retain our nation's best and brightest now and in the future," said Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead.

Readers listed the Navy as one of the best companies due to its support of minorities and women, attention to life-work balance and commitment to supplier diversity.

"The U.S. Navy is an organization like no other in the world. We have opportunities, and we give opportunities to young people in ways that no company, no other organization will," said Roughead. "We operate the highest levels of technology. We give our young people more authority, more opportunities for them to exercise their leadership and their initiative, than any other organization that I have ever seen."

The CNO expressed his desire to be considered on par with the top 50 companies to work for in the country, and it seems the Navy is doing just that.

When compared to Fortune's 2008 list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For, the Navy's quality of life and compensation offerings were found to be extremely competitive.

"We are all about opportunity. We are at the heart a learning organization, built upon training and development, the best that money can buy, in both our enlisted and our officers," said Vice Adm. John Harvey, director of Navy staff. "What we have to do is make people aware of these opportunities, the opportunity to serve, but also the opportunity to grow, and we bring that together [in the Navy]."

For the CNO's Diversity Policy, visit www.navy.mil.

**Zimmermann is Chief of Naval Personnel
– Diversity Directorate, Washington, D.C.**

French Sailors Experience Flight Operations Aboard U.S. Carrier

USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (TR) (CVN 71) recently conducted carrier qualifications while at sea with members of the French Navy during Operation *Brimstone*.

Pilots from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 31 and French navy pilots learned the value of camaraderie and the true meaning of the term "shipmate."

"Every day we had close air support



Photo by MCS3 Kyle D. Gahler

and air defense missions preparing us for carrier qualifications," said French Lt. Lebars Stephan, a *Rafale* pilot assigned to the 12th Fighter Squadron.

"It was very nice being aboard TR because we learned to work together as allies so we can fight more efficiently and effectively. For me, it was also nice to compare the specifics between the F/A-18E *Super Hornets* and the French *Rafale* aircraft."

While working together, the pilots of both navies recognized their similarities.

"It has been a real treat to have them [the French pilots] around because of the camaraderie and to see the different aspects of their coalition

capabilities," said Lt. Christopher Jones, a pilot assigned to VFA 31.

"Learning about each other's cultures helped us with our teamwork. They're just like us, because at the end of the day, we're still pilots and we share a lot of things in common, such as terminology, hobbies and motivational skills."

Other similarities included how flight operations are controlled and the importance of communications during flight deck operations and carrier qualifications.

"I was called this year to participate in carrier qualifications aboard TR," said Lt. Cmdr. Yann Beaufile, the French Air Boss. "Being an air boss is the same on an American or French aircraft carrier. In the tower, I have direct contact with all the French pilots as they're flying. Everything is pretty much the same on French and U.S. aircraft carriers. Both our navies are the only ones to operate with these catapults and arresting gear systems on the flight deck."

During their training, French and U.S. Navy pilots trained every day to ensure that TR carrier qualifications ran smoothly. Everyone agreed this experience helped instill a sense of pride and teamwork, strengthening allied relationships in training and war-time environments.

**Story by MCSN John Suits,
USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).**



Photo by MCS3 Jonathan Snyder

▲ Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Biggs shoots a French F-2 *Rafale* off USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) during combined French and American carrier qualifications during Operation *Brimstone*.

New Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Construction Underway



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jerry Morrison

▲ President of the United States George W. Bush and other DoD officials break ground for the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center during a recent ceremony at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

The future of military medicine recently began a new era in Bethesda, Md., as President George W. Bush helped break ground for construction of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Both the National Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center will combine to treat and care for service members and their families. The hospital will provide services for a variety of needs — from routine medical appointments to highly unique specialties.

The facility will also serve as the military's premier facility for treating wounded service members.

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said the future medical facility will provide service members with the care they need and deserve. Families of those injured in combat are important to the recovery process, he said, and they can now rest assured their loved ones will receive the best possible care available.

"Our warriors are our country's most important resource, and when they return injured or ill from war, we must care for them without fail. "Those who have earned our freedoms for us are guaranteed the best care and benefits."

Bush said he was proud of the steps military medicine has taken to ensure the treatment and care of the wounded remains paramount during a time of conflict. The future center will be host to a variety of remarkable health care advancements and research.

The President said the caregivers treating those injured in combat are essential to the overall mission of the United States in the war on terrorism. Treating the wounded is not always as easy as it sounds, he said, as specialty care is also a big part of the healing process.

"Our nation is engaged in very different battle for our freedom, yet our success still relies on these anonymous heroes, the healers who care for the troops. Giving our troops the care they deserve requires cutting edge medical facilities, and that's what this new facility will provide."

Story by HN Dustin Perry, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Boy Scouts Lead Annual Flag Raising Ceremonies in Spain

For the second consecutive year, the Boy Scouts from troop 73 at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota got a lesson in handling the flag of the United States from Sailors and Airmen.

NAVSTA Rota resides on a Spanish-controlled installation, where the U.S. Navy lives and works as guests. Instead of the U.S. national ensign flying over the base, the Spanish flag is seen every day. But, the Spanish Navy grants the U.S. Navy permission to fly the flag for five to seven days each year.

"Each year, we get about 30 requests to fly a flag over the base," said Senior Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Phillip Heldt. "That's why we are flying 30 today, and as Sailors request flags flown over NAVSTA Rota come in, we are ready to send them one of those."

"But, it was also a great opportunity to teach these kids and some of my people how

to properly handle the flag and to instill pride and reverence to this symbol of our country."

Heldt instructed the Boy Scouts in how to properly handle the flag and emphasized that the handling procedures should be done with reverence and respect.

"This was an amazing experience," said Boy Scout Dakota Jones. "I knew there were rules, but I never knew that folding the flag 13 times represented the original 13 colonies. And being able to raise the flag here in Spain was special since we only can have it flying a few days a year."

The Sailors and Airmen who helped with this event set an example to the young boys.

"I remember when I was in the Boy Scouts and to me, scouting is still as much fun from what I see," said Yeoman 2nd Class Airrion Lemons from the NAVSTA Administration Department.

"Now that I am in the Navy, it feels good to be able to pass on knowledge to them even though this was the first time I've had to raise flag. So it was a learning experience for [all] of us." ❧

Story and photo by MC1 Paul Cage, Naval Station Rota, Spain.



▲ OSCS Phillip Heldt, assigned to Naval Station Rota, Spain, explains how to properly raise the national ensign to Brennan Outar of Boy Scout Troop 73.

Mercy Biomedical Techs Save Money, Improve Lives in Southeast Asia

Biomedical engineer technicians (BMET) assigned to the naval hospital ship USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19) have made an impact on multiple hospital and clinic facilities in southeast Asia since the beginning of their Pacific Partnership 2008 mission, and now in Timor-Leste.

BMETs are electronics experts who repair a variety of medical and dental related electronic equipment. *Mercy* has a total of 12 BMET personnel from the U.S. Navy and Air Force who, since the beginning of the deployment, have provided free repairs on equipment, saving medical facilities including the ship more than \$1.53 million worth of equipment.

"The host nations in these countries placed a request for us to make these repairs," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/FMF) Alfredo Fontimayor, the leading chief petty officer of *Mercy's* BMET personnel. According to Fontimayor, there is a large demand for repair of medical equipment in Timor-Leste.

Mercy recently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste.

Fontimayor explained that in the Philippines, local medical facilities had difficulty maintaining and repairing medical equipment. Just as in the Philippines, there are very few local medical repair technicians in Timor-Leste.

"We have a guy who fixes the cars, but he doesn't touch the medical equipment," said



Photo by MM01 A. Nick De La Cruz

▲ HM2 Sean Simmons, assigned to the radiology department aboard USNS *Mercy* (T-AH 19), positions a 12-year old Timorese patient for a CT-scan while off the coast of East Timor during *Pacific Partnership* 2008.

Nyree Gracey, the Bario Pite clinic manager in Dili. The equipment is expensive Gracey explained and she wants to ensure that the person repairing it has a background in biomedical repair

"The equipment must have been broken for like two to three years. Some of them looked like they've been sitting there for a long, long time."

BMET HMC Israel Matondo said he encountered an X-ray machine that dated back to the 1940s at the Calbayog Public Hospital in Cotabato, Philippines.

"Replacement parts becomes a serious issue because most of the equipment [is] old," said Matondo. "Most of which just needed to be replaced entirely."

HM1 (FMF) Michael Thomas worked on replacing several small hoses on Dili General Hospital's mobile dental chair.

"Some of these hoses needed to be replaced after five years," said Thomas. "If you try to move a hose that's been stationary for 'x' number of years, and it's dried out it just cracks up like a piece of dry wax." ❧

Story by MC2(SW) Mark Logico, assigned to Pacific Partnership 2008, Dili, Timor-Leste.

NECC Joins RIMPAC 2008

Forces from Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) recently arrived on the island of Oahu to participate in the *Rim of the Pacific* (RIMPAC) 2008 exercise.

More than 500 Sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group (EODGRU) 1, Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadron 9, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 1, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Operational Support Unit 7 and Navy Cargo Handling Battalion 12 are participating in the biennial exercise. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 is also participating from the island of Guam.

Navy expeditionary forces are integral to executing the Maritime Strategy, which is based on expanded core capabilities of maritime power: forward presence, deterrence, sea control, power projection, maritime security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

During RIMPAC, these units will exercise their combat capabilities such as maritime security, explosive ordnance disposal, diving and salvage, expeditionary construction and logistics and maritime civil affairs.

In addition, RIMPAC is an opportunity to exercise the command and control of expeditionary forces, through an adaptive force package staff (CTF 171), commanded by Capt. Barry Coceano, commander, EODGRU 1.

"We will be exercising expeditionary combat and maritime security capabilities during RIMPAC 2008. RIMPAC will hone the skills of our expeditionary staff and sailors, ensuring they are flexible, rapidly deployable, self-reliant, self-sustaining and capable of operating in the most diverse environments worldwide."

RIMPAC is the world's largest multinational exercise and is scheduled biennially by the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Participants include the United States, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United Kingdom. ❧

Story by MCCS(SW/AW) Dave Nagle, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Pearl Harbor.



Photo by MC3 Thomas L. Rosprimm

▲ ET2 William Petrycki, of Sacramento, Calif., hammers a stake during an explosive ordnance disposal Operational Support Unit 7 camp build-up for *Rim of the Pacific* (RIMPAC).

Countdown to your new Navy Job:

A Sailor's Detailing Timeline

Courtesy of the OPNAV N12 Fleet Introduction Team

The Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CM S/ID) is a Navy career tool enlisted Sailors use to plan and develop their careers. CMS/ID provides Sailors the ability to explore future job possibilities and apply for Navy billets.

As you count down the months to your planned rotation date (PRD), several very important dates require your action. These actions ensure that your detailer and career counselor have the most accurate and current data about your professional achievements and qualifications, as well as personnel information that may determine whether you obtain your desired job.

18 Months to PRD! Personal Professional Information Review

You are approaching your PRD window. Perform the following steps:

From the CMS/ID Sailor homepage, click on the User Profile tab.

- Enter your e-mail address and phone number to receive correspondence directly from your detailer.

Click on the Personnel tab. Review your personal and professional information. Pay particular attention to the following, as this information may determine whether you are detailed to your desired job:

- EFM Status
- Security clearance
- Citizenship
- Number of family members
- Work with your personnel officer or personnel support department to update missing or incorrect information.

12 Months to EAOS/PRD Perform to Serve (PTS) approval required for all first-term Sailors

If you are a first-term Sailor, you must have PTS approval prior to re-enlisting and applying for a job. PTS applications are submitted once a month, from 12 to six months prior to EAOS. Click on the Personnel tab and scroll down to Support Information.

- Determine your PTS Status.
- Contact your command career counselor for more information.

MILPERSMAN 1306-126, First-Term Personnel Assignment Policy:
http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1306-126.htm

12 Months to PRD: Duty Preference Review

Click on the Preferences tab.

- Fill out your duty preference information.
- Contact your command career counselor and/or detailer for more information.

MILPERSMAN 1306-110, Enlisted Duty Preference. Submit no later than 13 months prior to PRD or whenever significant personal data changes.
http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1306-110.htm

10 Months to PRD: Duty Preference Review

Click on the Preferences tab.

- Review your duty preference information and ensure that it is current.
- Contact your command career counselor and/or detailer for more information.

9 Months to PRD: PRD Window

You have just entered your order negotiating window. Click on the Jobs tab.

- Review the available billets.
- Contact your command career counselor to submit your applications.

8-6 Months to PRD: PRD Window

If you are not under orders, click on the Jobs tab.

- Review the available billets.
- Contact your command career counselor to submit your applications.

5 Months to PRD: Assignment Point Warning

If you are not under orders, click on the Jobs tab.

- Review the available jobs within CMS
- Contact your command career counselor to submit your applications.

MILPERSMAN 1306-101. You are required to be under orders: http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1306-101.htm

4 Months to PRD: Assignment Point Alert

CMS indicates that you are not currently under orders. Personnel at the orders assignment point will be assigned in accordance with MILPERSMAN 1306-10 1.

- Contact your detailer as soon as possible.

0 Months to PRD: Execute orders to your new Navy job!

Tutorials & User Aids

If you have never used CMS/ID, tools are available to help you quickly engage the application to your benefit:

1. On the Internet, go to [Navy Knowledge Online](#) → [Career Management](#). [Navy Career Tools](#) → [Navy Career Tools - User Aids](#). Download CMS Essentials and CMS QuickStart for the Enlisted Sailor.
2. Also on NKO (and NKO at Sea) you will find a Navy eLearning course called Navy Career Tools (Tutorials & Support). The course catalog code is NAVAIR—NCT-001.

At the bottom of the personnel page, click [View Sailor History](#).

- This is the anonymous career information commands may view to rank and comment on your job application:
- NEC(s)
- Evals
- Platform type history (past commands in which you've served)
- PRIMs data
- Schools
- Warfare designator
- Work with your personnel officer or personnel support department to update missing or incorrect information.

Click on the Preferences tab.

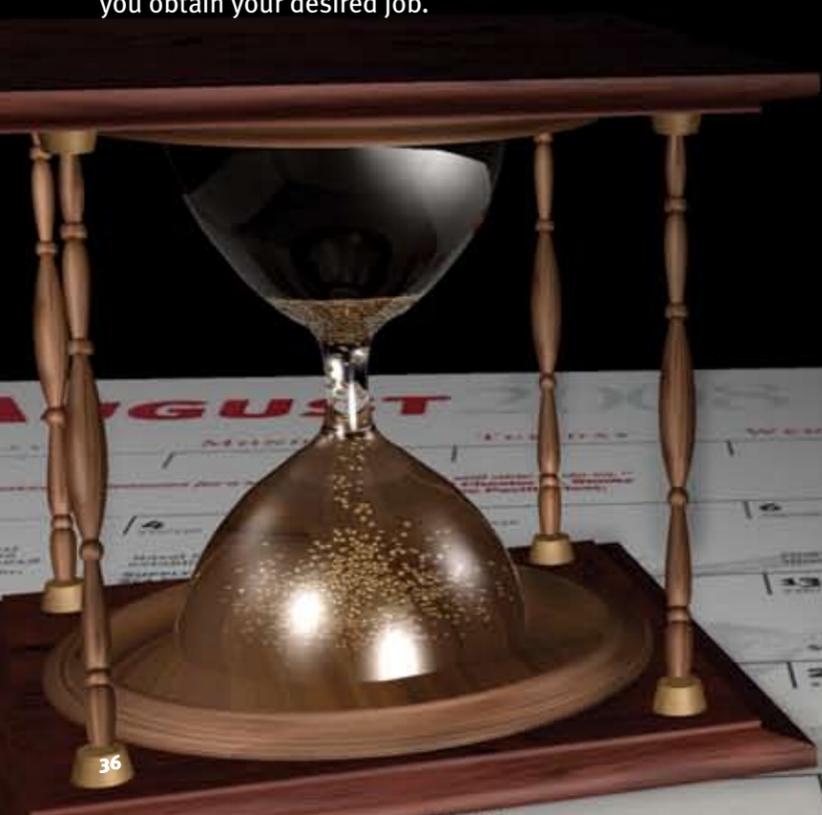
- Consider your next tour assignment options and desires, then update your duty preference information.
- Contact your command career counselor or detailer for more information.

MILPERSMAN 1306-100, Enlisted Distribution Management System. Policy regarding the Navy's Enlisted Assignment System:

http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1306-100.htm

MILPERSMAN 1306-104, Projected Rotation Date (PRD) Based on pay grade and community in which member serves:

http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1306-104.htm



Navy Medical Service Corps: Serving Since 1947

Story compiled by MC2 David Beyea

The Medical Service Corps (MSC) was established Aug. 4, 1947, following World War II. The need for officers who were skilled medical administrators had been well documented during World War I, and the beginning of World War II demonstrated the same need for officers that were skilled in sciences allied to medicine.

As a result of this need, 900 Reserve commissions in the Hospital Corps were granted to pharmacists, optometrists and scientists.

To keep these health professionals, the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947, Public Law 80-337, authorized the formation of the MSC as a staff corps of the Navy.

MSC was established with four specialty sections: supply and administration, pharmacy, optometry and allied science.

Of the original 251 officers commissioned into the MSC, 56 percent were former enlisted hospital corpsmen who formed the supply and administration section of the MSC officers. The remaining 44 percent made up the other three specialty sections: optometrists (4 percent), pharmacists (15 percent) and allied scientists (25 percent). All allied scientists were comprised of 18 diverse subspecialties: bacteriology, biochemistry, biophysics, chemistry, entomology, industrial hygiene, medical statistics, parasitology, pathology, pharmacology, physics, physiology, psychology, public health,

radiobiology, sanitary engineering, serology and virology.

These plank owners, with the common characteristic of having prior military service, were not required to complete a bachelor's degree during their enlisted years, before they became MSC officers. This meant that few

of the plank owners in the supply and administration section had obtained their college degrees before their commissions into the MSC.

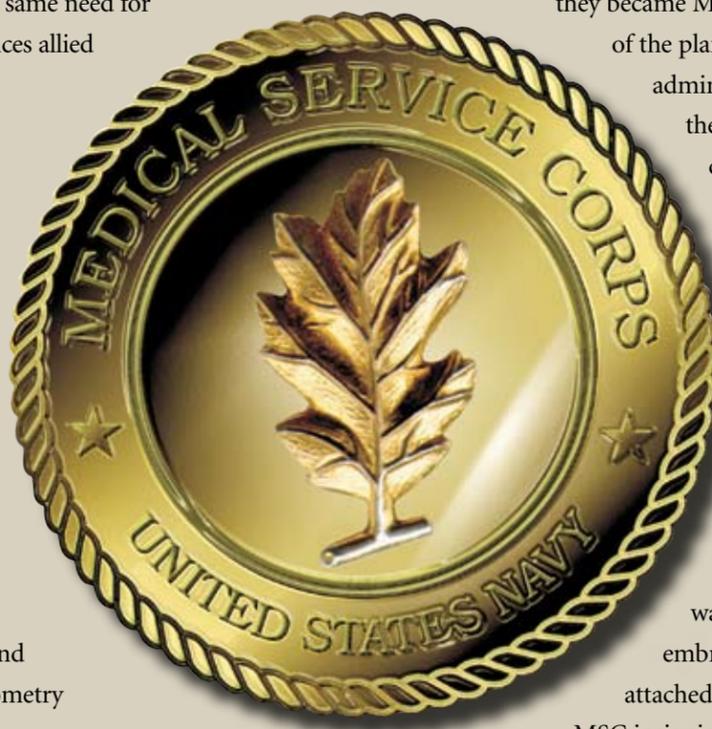
Conversely, the pharmacists, optometrists and allied scientists were required to have a bachelor's degree prior to commissioning.

To distinguish MSC officers from the other active-duty naval officers and based on the Naval Medical Corps insignia, a new insignia was designed - a spread oak leaf embroidered in gold with a twig attached below the stem became the MSC insignia.

Medical Service Corps personnel say the "twig" holds special significance for members of the Navy MSC.

Today, the MSC has grown to have more than 2,700 active-duty members and 750 active Reserve officers. They now serve in three broad specialty categories, health care administration (45 percent, health care providers (32 percent) and health care scientists (23 percent), each with 11 subspecialty areas, but all with the goal of providing quality health care for the Sailors and their families. **✉**

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



Plan ahead. Call a friend. Don't drink and drive.

It's better to call from the bar than from behind bars.



Photo illustration by MC1(AW) R. Jason Erumson and MC2(SW) Elizabeth Vlahos



P F A

ARE YOU READY?

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: [HTTP://PRIMS.BOL.NAVY.MIL](http://PRIMS.BOL.NAVY.MIL)