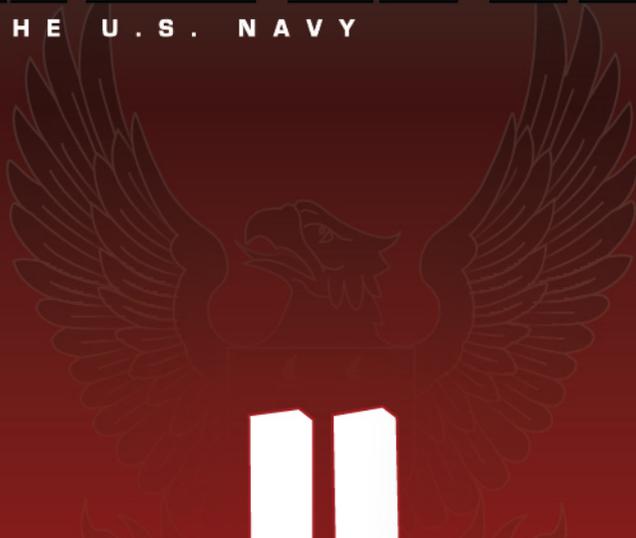


November 2009

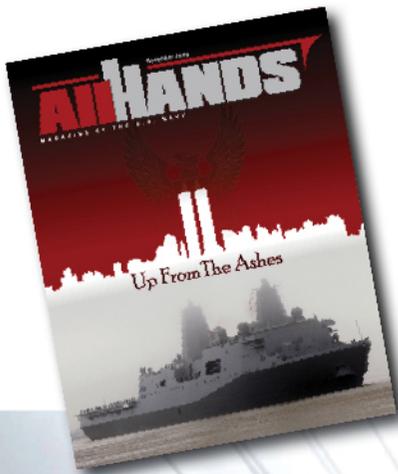
ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY



Up From The Ashes





[On the Front Cover]

USS *New York* (LPD 21) leaves the Northrop Gruman Ship Systems in Avondale, La.

Photo by John P. Curtis illustration by William Spencer

[Next Month]

All Hands takes a look at what the Seabees of NMCB 11 are doing in Horn of Africa, and gets the answer to the question, "Who is Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy?"

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26 Hands Across the Water

During a nine-day period early this fall, when Tropical Storm Ketsana struck the Philippines; an earthquake of 8.3 on the Richter scale struck 120 miles south of American Samoa, wiping out villages; and two severe earthquakes struck Western Sumatra, Indonesia, Pacific Fleet quickly deployed a full humanitarian assistance response. The Sailors knew it meant many, many exhausting hours of work under arduous conditions. But they also knew that their efforts would bring comfort, ease the suffering of strangers and save many, many lives.

Photo by MC2 William Ramsey



Sailors assigned to USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) embark Marines from 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during combat rubber raid craft exercises off the coast of Okinawa. *Harpers Ferry* is part of the *Denver Amphibious Ready Group*.

Photo by MC2 Joshua J. Wahl





November



12 After the Burn

Providing superior care for the seriously ill and injured Sailors is an all-encompassing effort that involves top-notch medical care, all-embracing family support and comprehensive non-medical case management. This is the type of care the Sailors burned in a 2006 accident aboard USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) have received at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio. Several years later, we check how far they've come.

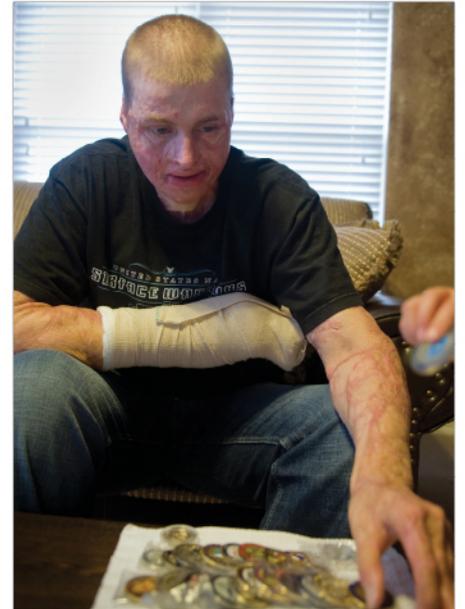


Photo by MC2 Jhi Scott

20 Up From the Ashes

Just before the 1st anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, then-Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England named a future naval vessel in honor of the victims of the World Trade Center. The keel of *New York* (LPD 21) was laid in August 2004. With the 7.5 metric ton bow stem being placed aboard the ship, there has never been a stronger connection to a ship with its namesake.

Photo by MC2 Sharon Renfroe



Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy MCPON(SS/SW) Rick D. West

Shipmates,

This month, millions of Americans will spend a day of thanks with loved ones and we'll all take a few moments to consider how fortunate we are to live in this great country. We'll also be giving thanks to those of you deployed or overseas, defending us and defending freedom.

There is another group of Sailors and Navy families I'd ask that you keep in your thoughts this holiday season: our wounded warriors and their loved ones.

I've had the honor of visiting many of them at our naval and Veteran's Administration (VA) hospitals around the country, and every one I've met has inspired me through their strength, their courage and their limitless dedication to this country.

November has been set aside as Warrior Care Month, and that's an excellent opportunity to honor these heroes for all they've done and for the support their families continue to give them in their recovery. This is a time that we, as a Navy and a nation, prove that Americans understand the importance of caring for those who have given so much on our behalf.

I'd also like you to consider and show your gratitude to the amazing group of people who have made it their life's work to support and care for our wounded warriors. Navy Safe Harbor provides Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and their families a beacon of hope through non-medical support following a serious illness or injury.

We have Sailors returning from Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere who are suffering from injuries that we, as a Navy, haven't dealt with on a significant scale. Safe Harbor is the organization that has employed the right people to help our men, women and their families on almost every level of their recovery. They provide support that includes pay and personnel issues, invitational travel orders,

lodging and housing adaptation, child and youth care, transportation needs, legal and guardianship issues, education and training benefits, commissary and exchange access, respite care, Traumatic Brain Injury/Post Traumatic Stress support services, transition and much more.

One misconception about Safe Harbor is that enrollment eligibility is limited to combat-related wounds or injuries. Sailors injured during liberty or through shipboard accidents, as well as those that have incurred a serious illness, whether physical or psychological, are all welcomed into Navy Safe Harbor.

If you're a Sailor, a leader, a family member; you need to know about Safe Harbor. You need to know what they can do and why they do it.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.safeharbor.navy.mil.

www.navy.mil.

If you find an opportunity to thank a wounded warrior, do it. If you find yourselves in the company of a wounded warrior's family, understand what they've gone through and what lies ahead. And if you have a chance to meet some of the great folks who work so hard to care for our wounded shipmates and their families – Thank them. They deserve it.

HOOYAH Warriors! 



MCPON Rick West speaks with AOCM Wil Wilson after having breakfast with local command master chiefs and senior enlisted leaders.

Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalobos

All HANDS

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www.navy.mil

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**Warning signs of
suicide are
not always this
obvious...**

ACT.

ASK - CARE - TREAT

ASK if someone is thinking
about suicide.

Let them know you **CARE**.

Get them assistance
(**TREATment**) as soon as
possible.

Life Counts.

WWW.SUICIDE.NAVY.MIL

Military leaders: Sexual Assault - 'Not in my Navy'

Key stakeholders were identified and charged in NAVADMIN 282/09, to reinforce Navy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program (SARP), which was established in 1994 under the name Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI).

The name change aligns with the mission of the program, underlining the importance of both prevention and response.

While Navy was the first service to develop a program of its kind, it is not resting on past successes as it seeks to eliminate sexual assault from its ranks.

"We will raise the bar when it comes to sexual assault prevention and response," said Rear Adm. Dan Holloway, director of the Navy's military personnel, plans and policy division. "We will call upon the total workforce – active, Reserve and civilians – to educate themselves and their shipmates on prevention and response programs, to report crimes, or suspected crimes before they occur, and to speak out when called upon during investigations and prosecutions."

The chief of naval operations designated chief of naval personnel as the executive agent for sexual assault prevention and response program. The bureau will work closely with other key organizations including medical, legal, criminal investigations, security, victim advocacy, military commands and civilian resources to redouble their efforts to educate the total force on preventative and response programs.

"Sexual assault is inconsistent with our Navy Ethos and our Navy total force will be held to the high standards which they are expected to maintain as we reinforce a culture intolerant of sexual assault," said Holloway.

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

Navy Moves to Meet Information Age Challenges

The Navy is merging its information technology, intelligence and communications operations into one organization to better address Information Age challenges, including threats to computer networks, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, recently said.

"If we, as a Navy, are to remain dominant in this Information Age or Cyber Age, or whatever moniker you choose to put on it, I think that we have to take advantage of the new opportunities that exist, such as the vast stores of collected data – information and intelligence that often lie at rest, unrecoverable, unavailable and untapped," Adm.



Photo by MCI, Tiffini Vanderwynt

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead delivers remarks during the DON Sexual Assault Prevention Summit in Washington D.C.

Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, said during remarks at a Center for Strategic and International Studies-sponsored event.

Because the Navy must capitalize on its ability to access, filter, analyze and then disseminate information to warfighting commanders for action in real time, Roughead said, it's consolidating its intelligence directorate, communications networks and related information technology capabilities to form a single new organization: the deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance.

The reorganization is slated for completion by year's end.

The Navy also is standing up Fleet Cyber Command, Roughead said, to be operated by the reconstituted U.S. 10th Fleet. The 10th Fleet was involved in efforts to thwart enemy submarines during World War II. Fleet Cyber Command will be a subordinate unit to U.S. Cyber Command, the formation of which was directed by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates earlier this year.

Cyberspace presents "a huge

potential vulnerability for us because of our dependence on the electronic world for communications - for everything we do," Gates said during a recent speech at the Air Force Association conference at the National Harbor in Maryland. It is important, Gates said, for DoD and the military services to integrate the different information technology and communications elements "from exploitation to defense," to achieve unity of effort.

Today's Navy requires "uninhibited access to assured communication capabilities in cyberspace" to operate, Roughead said. But, he added, ever-present online saboteurs with various allegiances and intent make cyberspace a daily battlefield.

"We must be prepared to operate in cyberspace when it's denied, and then we must also be able to deny space when it's required or when it's appropriate," Roughead said.

People are key in cyberspace, Roughead said, and that's why the Navy is moving its information technology, intelligence, information warfare,

oceanography and space cadre specialists into a new Information Dominance Corps.

Now numbering about 44,000 officers, enlisted members and civilians, the corps is slated to add 1,000 trained technicians in the near future, Roughead said. Military members will retain their current branches and skill ratings, he added.

Military officials have found that new technology has mitigated concerns that battlefield data collected by unmanned aerial vehicles and other methods in overseas combat zones would be overwhelming to commanders, Navy Vice Adm. David J. Dorsett, director of naval intelligence, told reporters after Roughead's speech.

U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, Dorsett said, have successfully employed a series of tools that "enabled operational commanders, down to the brigade and, in several cases, the battalion and that type of level, to get large quantities of information."

Another aspect of this tool

set, Dorsett continued, involves systems that can rapidly "fuse, synthesize and make sense of this tremendous volume of data" by overlaying or sorting it according to the category of intelligence, such as technical- or human-based.

"That overlaying then provides clarity and leads to operations against adversaries, insurgents, terrorists," said Dorsett. "We are using the Navy's intelligence structure and the Navy's oceanographers, overlaying information concerning how pirates operate – trends, activities – with what the weather looks like during a period of time," Dorsett said. That information, he added, is shared with U.S. partners to determine where anti-pirate forces need to operate.

"And, what we've seen is fairly significant successes in putting forces in the right place to counter pirates in their attempts to hijack ships," Dorsett said. **SS**

Story by Gerry Gilmore, American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Scholarships Offered to Sea Services Family Members with Alaska Residency

The Navy League and Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) announced requirements for applications for the Alaska Sea Services Scholarship for academic year 2010-2011.

The program awards up to four \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate education annually to dependent children or spouses of legal Alaska residents who are currently serving in the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard (either active duty or Reserve), retired from those services, or were serving at time of death or missing-in-action status. Applicants who meet the residency requirement will be ranked according to academic proficiency, character, leadership ability, community involvement and financial need.

"These scholarships are an outstanding way for our

sea service members to make undergraduate education affordable for their dependents," said Larry LeDoux, Alaska commissioner of education. "We strongly encourage all qualified Alaskans to apply and take advantage of this great program."

The scholarships are made possible by funds raised as a War Bond during World War II to honor the Sailors of USS *Juneau* (CL 52).

The application deadline is March 1, 2010, for the FY 10 selection board, which convenes in April 2010.

Applicants must show acceptance at an accredited college or university for full-time undergraduate study toward a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science degree. No more than two scholarship awards may be given to any individual during pursuit of a four-year degree. **SS**

Story by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command, Newport, R.I.

Shipmates

World War II Sailor Named Honorary Marine

The title of Honorary Marine was recently awarded to Frank DeAngelis, a World War II Sailor, at the Gray Research Center, Quantico Marine Base, Va. DeAngelis served aboard USS *Salem* (CM 11) and USS *Odum* (APD 71) in the 1940s as a Water Tender 2nd Class. DeAngelis has built more than 800 shadow boxes by hand for the families of Marines killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I've been making shadow boxes for 40 years; I never dreamed of all the good that has come back to me," said DeAngelis, an 83 year-old New Jersey-native.

The shadow boxes, which display an individual's medals and awards, were a way for DeAngelis to honor a service he held in high regard.

The title of Honorary Marine has been bestowed upon fewer than 70 individuals since the program's inception in 1992.

"Being an honorary Marine is a big deal in the Marine Corps," said Lt. Gen. George J. Flynn, commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command. "We make you earn it. We also check you out to make sure you are observing the values of the Corps that we believe set the Corps apart from the other services."

Flynn presented DeAngelis with his citation, joking, "It's time to make you a Marine and finally make something out of you."

Story and photo by Cpl. Sean P. Cummins, Combat Correspondent, Quantico Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va.



Around the Fleet



Photo by MC3 Daniel Viamontes

▲ CSSN Chaohua Lin receives a message before establishing a primary fire boundary during a major fuel oil leak drill aboard amphibious command ship USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19).

▶ SN Nicholas S. Maloney heaves a messaging line to line-handlers on the pier as USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) prepares to moor at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, Japan.



Photo by MC2 Joshua J. Wahl

ABH3 Gregory Scott, from Irvington, N.J., guides an F/A-18C Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 125 onto Catapult 2 during flight operations aboard USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).



Photo by MC3 Walter M. Weisman



Photo by MC3 Matthew Bash

▲ A combined team of U.S. Navy visit, board, search and seizure team members from USS *Anzio* (CG 68) and members of U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team 91104 conduct weapons retention training exercises in the Indian Ocean aboard *Anzio*, the flagship for Combined Task Force 151.

New PQS Available for LS, MC and RP Rating

The Center for Service Support in Newport, R.I., recently released new personnel qualification standards (PQS) for logistics specialists (LS), mass communication specialists (MC) and religious program specialists (RP) ratings.

A PQS is a compilation of the minimum knowledge and skills that an individual must demonstrate in order to qualify to stand watches or perform other specific routine duties necessary for the safety, security or proper operation of a ship, aircraft or support system.

"These new qualifications standards reflect what is necessary to be successful in the fleet for the LS, MC and RP ratings," said Richard Price, the CSS PQS manager. "As technology, requirements and ratings change, we will continue to update PQS to help the 21st-Century Sailor stay current and relevant."

The electronic-only versions of the PQS booklets are available on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) via the Navy PQS link found on the left side of the main NKO page. From the Navy PQS page, Sailors should follow the PQS 43200 Series link on the left side.

The Center for Service Support (CSS) is comprised of active-duty, civilian and contractor personnel, who direct the training efforts of 13 learning sites around the Fleet, including the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md., and the Naval Technical Training Center in Meridian, Miss. The CSS team ensures curriculum is current, as each team member works to develop innovative training methods aimed at preparing Sailors in the logistics,

administrative and media ratings to support the Fleet's warfighting mission.

CSS was established in Athens, Ga., on Feb. 7, 2003, and moved to its new facility at Naval Station Newport's Fitzgerald Hall, adjacent to the Surface Warfare Officers School on July 8, 2009.

Story by MCCS(SWAW) Melissa Weatherspoon, Center for Service Support, Newport, R.I.

\$555 Million DoD Homeowners Assistance Program Details Announced

DoD recently announced details for the temporary expansion of the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP).

Using \$555 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), this program is designed to partially reimburse eligible military personnel, surviving spouses, and federal civilian employees whose service to the nation has required them to relocate and sell their primary residence at a loss.

Potential eligible personnel include:

- Active and former service members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard;
- Civilian employees of the DoD and non-appropriated fund activities; and
- Surviving spouses of both fallen service members and civilian employees. Potential eligible personnel who have sold a primary home for a loss or are considering selling their home are encouraged to visit the DoD HAP Web site <http://hap.usace.army.mil> to check specific program criteria, and if eligible, apply online.

Continued on page 11

Around the Fleet

▶ Ima Black, widow of the Navy's first MCPON, Master Chief Gunner's Mate Del Black, recently met with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West during his visit to Winter Park, Fla.



Photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalobos



▶ Sailors receive training on how to properly hold the fire hose during a flight deck scrub exercise aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75).



Photo by MC3 Matthew D. Williams

▶ HTFN Gillian Jackson brazes a pipe in the welding shop aboard the USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68)

EO2 Norman Patton watches over EOCN Amber Schmickuses as she carves out a drainage way with a 135H caterpillar grader.



Photo by MC2 Marc Rockwell-Pate



Photo by MC3 John Phillip Wagner

Continued from page 9

While the HAP expansion is not designed to pay 100 percent of losses or to cover all declines in value, it can help protect eligible applicants from financial catastrophe due to significant losses in their home values.

Supporting military families is one of administration's highest priorities and includes leadership and engagement by Michelle Obama and Jill Biden. In February 2009, the Congress provided ARRA funding for a temporary expansion of the HAP to address unique economic pressures faced by military personnel who are forced to relocate during these unusually adverse housing market conditions. After conducting an extensive analysis to determine how best to prioritize the finite funds available while maximizing assistance to as many people as possible, the DoD developed specific eligibility criteria designed to take care of people in the greatest need. These program details have been published in the Federal Register and are now available for public comment.

ARRA funding allows the DoD to temporarily expand HAP to partially reimburse losses from the sale of a primary residence in the following priority order:

1. Homeowners wounded, injured, or ill in the line of duty while deployed since

Sept. 11, 2001, and relocating in furtherance of medical treatment;

2. Surviving spouse homeowners relocating within two years after the death of their spouse;

3. Homeowners affected by the 2005 BRAC round, without the need (which existed under previous law) to prove that a base closure announcement caused a local housing market decline; and

4. Service member homeowners receiving orders dated on or after Feb. 1, 2006, through Dec. 31, 2009, for a permanent change of station (PCS) move. The orders must specify a report-no-later-than date on or before Feb. 28, 2010, to a new duty station or homeport outside a 50-mile radius of the service member's former duty station. These dates may be extended to Sept. 30, 2012, based on availability of funds.

Each of these general categories has more specific eligibility requirements which have been updated at the DoD HAP Web site <http://hap.usace.army.mil>. 

Story courtesy of DoD.

To be considered for the "Around the Fleet" section, forward your high resolution images with full credit and cutline information, including full name, rank and duty station to:
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Click on the Navy's home page, www.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.



after the Burn

“After the war itself, we have no higher priority than caring properly for our wounded.”

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

Providing superior care for seriously ill and injured Sailors is an all-encompassing effort that involves top-notch medical care, all-embracing family support and comprehensive non-medical case management. Whether the injury occurred in the battlefield in Iraq, in an off-duty incident or while performing routine maintenance aboard a ship, this commitment does not change. This is a story of personal courage, unwavering dedication and perseverance.

Story and photos by MC2(AW/SW) Jhi Scott

“Twelve steps, twelve steps, that’s all I kept telling myself as I reached the third and final platform,” said Machinist’s Mate 1st Class (SW) Michael Lammey. “I use to count the steps as I was going down for watch, so I knew exactly how many I had left. But once I reached that last platform, I got light headed.”

In 2006, following a friends and family day cruise, personnel from USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) were conducting preventive maintenance checks of steam safety valves when one of the boilers had a major steam leak sending steam into the engine room. Though the Sailors were burned severely by the steam, they were able to shut down the boiler before evacuating the area and possibly saved the ship from extensive damage or more casualties.

“Michael calls me at 7:30 p.m. and tells me to come and get him in an hour from the ship; so I began to leave when not even 15 minutes later, I got another call from one of his shipmates’ wife, and she says that something happened on the ship and Michael is on his way to the hospital,” said Rose Lammey, Lammey’s wife. “I didn’t think it was anything serious. I thought Michael had cut his finger or something. So when I got to the gate of the hospital, I spoke with the gate guard and asked him if he knew of anything and immediately he told me, ‘I’m sorry Mrs. Lammey, there was an explosion on the ship, and it’s really bad.’”



MM1 Michael Lammy and his wife, Rose look at the ribbons that Michael earned throughout his career and while aboard USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40). Lammy, wants to talk to service members around the country, telling his story about how "something so routine can turn deadly in moments" and to "never take anything for granted."



▲ Following a surgery in Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, the staff transports a patient from one bed to another to move him to a recovery room.

Having burns on the majority of their bodies, six Sailors were flown to Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. A Burn Special Medical Augmentation Response Team (B-SMART), a nine-member team made up of some of the leading burn trauma experts, met them at Tripler. From there, the Sailors were assessed and flown to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), San Antonio. Once the Sailors reached BAMC, the doctors and nurses on staff knew exactly how to treat these patients.

“The patients pretty much go into surgery immediately. After they are stabilized, we go through the various procedures,” said Specialist Gerald Laxson, vocational nurse in the ICU. “The primary one they go through is the excision and graphing of their skin, where they will cut out the dead tissue and cut out areas of the patients’ uninjured skin and place it over the injured areas. They are in pain and we do everything we can to help them get through [but] with a burn patient, once they lose their skin, they’ve lost that barrier to fight off the environment and to fight off infection. So that becomes our job.”

On top of providing care to the injured service member, ICU medical personnel also

provide a certain level of comfort and training to service member’s family and friends, ensuring that questions about their loved one’s condition are heard and answered.

“Military families are really overwhelmed when they see the patient for the first time, and they sometimes don’t know how to handle it so we have to step in and talk to them or they might have to see a psychologist,” said Kelly Miller, acting clinical nurse specialist.

Families may become overwhelmed during this period and stricken with grief. Navy Safe Harbor Command provides the injured service member and his or her family with a Safe Harbor contact, who can assist them with scheduling appointments, pay issues or even helping the family member find a job.

“We’re considered the patient concierge, and we provide anything as long as it doesn’t



▶ A patient has surgery to remove burned skin from his legs in the emergency room.

concern medicine,” said Veronica Bailey, with Navy Safe Harbor non-medical care. “We make sure they get to their appointments, help them try and resolve their financial issues or at least point them in the right direction. We pretty much help them with everything that they can’t do for themselves, as well as help the families who come down here [to Navy Safe Harbor]. We are the one-stop shop, and we do what needs to be done.”

“Navy Safe Harbor is a wonderful program the Navy has created for our Sailors and now Coast Guardsman,” said Lt. Cmdr. Sandy Cole, assigned to Navy Safe Harbor non-medical care. “The injured member knows the basics of how to get care, but they never go any further than that because the need isn’t there when they are well. When they become injured, there’s so much coming at them at one time, they don’t know what to really focus on.”

“I tell them, ‘You focus on getting better, and let us do the worrying,’” added Cole.

For the Sailors who were burned aboard *Frank Cable*, there was a friendly face waiting for them as they came through the emergency room doors. Chaplain Maj. Anton Ciomperlik, a former Sailor and boiler technician, who knows the dangers of working in a boiler



◀ To regain a full range of motion, staff members at the Center for the Intrepid massage MMC Bruce’s hands in an attempt to stretch the skin along with other rehab techniques.

▼ MMC Robert Bruce II goes through daily rehab at the Center for the Intrepid.





◀ MMC Robert Bruce II talks about making chief during his weekly quarters with Navy personnel and staff members at BAMC.

▶ MM1 Michael Lammey listens in to Navy personnel during their weekly quarters held at BAMC. Lammey and other Navy personnel and hospital staff come together every Wednesday and discuss issues they may be having and also their accomplishments.

▼ HMC Tim Alonzo congratulates MMC Robert Bruce II on his selection as a 2009 chief petty officer during their weekly quarters at BAMC.





▲ Army Capt. Michelle Greer, chief of occupational therapy at BAMC adjusts a tumbuckle splint on a patient that helps the patient's range of motion.

room, assisted the patients as they were brought in from Honolulu.

"I was in chief's room when he first got here, and it was really hard for me, as an old Sailor, to see one of my fellow shipmates in that condition," said Ciomperlik. "I know what steam can do to you, and to see an accident like that was tough.

"I think the chaplain's job is very unique in this situation," said Ciomperlik. "We are the spiritual advisors for the service members and the family members, and I know for a fact some of these folks' faith is one of the reasons they made it through their ordeal. In Petty Officer Lammey's case, his faith got stronger while he was in here, and I know that it brought him through a lot of difficult times. But Lammey is a real trooper, a real Sailor and a good man."

After going through the initial steps in the ICU at BAMC, the patients progress to the step-down unit where they start their rehabilitation.

"In step-down, they still have surgeries but they are not in critical condition. So we get them to their rehab sessions, and one of our main goals is to help get them back to doing their normal day-to-day activities whether

cooking, cleaning or whatever," said Sgt. 1st Class Harrison Jules, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Progressive Care Unit.

In the step-down unit, the family involvement is greater.

"Family is a huge part of the recovery process, and we put a big emphasis on having someone here at their bedside if they are in-patients or here to help them as a non-medical attendant assisting them in the rehab phase," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/AW) Anthony Reyes, Navy liaison for BAMC. "It's a huge asset toward the recovery process because it's not like it's a stranger telling you that you need to do it. It's more like your wife or mother in your ear helping you step by step, day by day."

"The families are very involved, and they want to learn and they want to get them feeling better so they can move on," said Army Capt. Christina Moore, a clinical staff nurse. "We also encourage the family to bring food in so they can eat as a family. That gives the patient and the family a break and they really forget about what's going on and focus on just talking and enjoying each other's company. That's a stress reliever."

Adjacent to BAMC, the Center for the Intrepid is the primary location patients go to for physical therapy. The four-story building was opened in 2007, and it's where patients are taught by specially trained doctors and nurses to regain their ability to live and work productively.

"We're here to try and get them back to doing the same things they were doing before their injuries," said Cindy Ridge, assigned to the Institute for Surgical Research at the Center for the Intrepid. "With burn patients,

you have to work under doctor's orders first, then you have to work with them on their endurance and range of motion because when they are burned, their skin contracts and so we work with them on stretching that out so they can have full range of motion with their limbs. We also want them to know that life does go on after this."

Having specially trained personnel explain benefits to the service member, whether getting out or staying, makes life a little easier.

"Congress has made so many wonderful laws and opportunities for our service members that it's difficult for a service member to understand what's available," said Cole. "We are trained to know what's being implemented for our Sailors and what benefits they could possibly be eligible for. Some of these people have been blown up, lost limbs and the question is what do you want to do after you recover. So we get them past the pain and surgeries and start moving forward. Do they want to go to school? What about their wives, kids or even what financial issues they may encounter after getting out. It's a step-by-step process, and we have to recognize the steps to help them move forward and live productive lives in the civilian world. That's how the Navy is. We take care of our shipmates."

Service members want to continue on with their lives as normal and in some cases that means continuing to serve their country.

"We work with the patients on them getting back to as close to 100 percent as they can, but I find it that most of the patients we have want to continue on serving," said Ridge.

"Going through physical therapy and trying to get back to active duty is a long road.



▲ After going through surgery to try and correct fingers on his right hand, MM1 Michael Lammey learns to write with his left hand.



▲ CTIz Chad Kueser, who lost both of his legs in Iraq during a mortar attack on his base, is a part of the Navy's Safe Harbor Program.

Building their endurance up, learning to walk again, just getting through each day is tough. I've seen these patients from when they first came into the ICU until they become outpatients and knowing that they want to go back and defend this country motivates me."

Keeping the patients morale up can go a long way in the rehab process. Going on trips with other patients and family members not only builds a type of support system but it takes the persons mind off of what they have been through and gives them a chance to relax.

"The last outing we went on, we had about 149 people participate," said Ciomperlik. "You have married couples or single soldiers with a friend or relative who comes with them, and they just have a blast. Their kids splash all of the water out of the pool. They participate in the archery events, go fishing and horseback riding."

When a patient is discharged from the hospital, they become an outpatient which means they are capable of treating themselves, a family member is treating them or a caregiver can treat them while being at home. Taking care of a wounded warrior is no small

task. Performing eight hours of wound care, and dealing with the mental wounds that go along with certain injuries are just some of the issues Rose Lammey had to deal with once her husband was discharged.

"It has been a very long road since the accident until now," said Rose. "When I first got here, they told me that Michael was burned over 55 percent of his body and after they did the skin graft, he was going to be burned over 90 percent of his body. They also told me that since he bleeds so much that he might not make it through the surgeries. So for him to make it out of what he has gone through was kind of a big deal. There were times that I was down but his spirit and our faith always lifted me back up, and I knew that if he could get through this, I could as well."

Helping those who can't help themselves can be overwhelming at times, but for Cole, it's an honor and privilege to serve those who are serving and have served.

"I don't care if they have served in Operation *Enduring Freedom* or if they raised their hands for only one day, I'm going to do my best to help in anyway that I possibly can,"

said Cole. "It's an honor to serve with these people, I just love them."

"Commander Cole has been very helpful with things I've had to deal with the Navy, my retirement paper work not being done correctly, issues that I've had with the VA and the department of the Navy just helping me," said retired Cryptological Technician 2nd Class Chad Kueser, injured in Iraq during a mortar attack. Currently working for DoD, Kueser has begun school at American Military University with the support of the Navy Safe Harbor program.

"It's not all paper work. It's anything that they can be helpful with to help us get back to a normal life," Kueser added.

Going back and speaking with Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen is another part of the transition process. Having gone through similar injuries, some personnel who come back are able to talk about their lives going on and help those servicemen and women to understand that they are not alone.

"The folks who are coming back need to know that they are not alone in their fight," said Kueser. "There are a lot of people out here that would love to talk to them and be there for them. There are programs in place, people like Mrs. Cole and other outlets so all they have to do is ask. Going through it alone is very difficult. We are here to help, too."

Four of the six Sailors who were burned aboard *Frank Cable* survived their injuries. Going through what they have been through has only strengthened their goals and beliefs.

"This situation has done nothing but strengthen my beliefs in not only myself, but in God, and I want to tell my story throughout the Navy," said Lammey. "I think this situation should not be forgotten. It should be used as a learning tool, and the Sailors should know that a routine check or maintenance that is being performed daily can become real in an instant. Take your jobs seriously and don't take anything for granted because it can be taken away in a second." ❧

Scott is assigned to Defense Media Activity - Anacostia, Washington D.C.



MMC Robert Bruce II rides a segway around the Center for the Intrepid where he is seen for his rehab. The Center for the Intrepid is one of the most technologically advanced rehabilitation center for amputees and burn victims.



Up From The Ashes



Story and photos by MC2(AW/SW) Jhi Scott

Sept. 11, 2001, promised to be no different than any other morning in New York City. It had dawned bright and beautiful, and as the smog lifted, the famous New York skyline was easily recognized. Millions of people roamed the streets and hurried off to work never realizing that skyline would change forever.

Most people heard the first reports of a plane crashing into the World Trade Center's north tower, and thought it was a hoax or an accident. But as millions of Americans tuned to the news, they heard or saw another plane appear 16 minutes later and strike the south tower, causing a large ball of fire and smoke to fill the air. That's when it was clear - America's freedom was under attack.

Photo by MC2 Shannon Renfro





IT2 James Alcorn and New York fireman Henry Gullotti share the duty of colors for Engine 8, Ladder 2, 8th Battalion in New York City. The fire station welcomed the Sailors of USS *New York* (LPD 21). The Sailors had the opportunity to share sentiments with the first responders of the Sept. 11 attack.

On that morning, 2,603 people died in New York City when the World Trade Center towers collapsed. Two other planes crashed that day, at the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa., adding 215 more victims to the list. Americans everywhere came together to rebuild the hope and spirit of the country.

Just before the 1st anniversary of the collapse of the towers, then-Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England named a future naval vessel in honor of the victims of the World Trade Center.

“On the day the towers fell, all Americans were New Yorkers,” said the Honorable Gordon England. “This is not a war of our choosing, this is not a war we can ignore and this is not a war that will go away if we walk away from the battlefield. This fight brought to our shores that day is a struggle that will require strong, steady and sustained leadership. USS *New York*, and her sister ships will be living tributes to every hero who died at the World Trade Center.”

On Sept. 9, 2003, molten steel recovered from the towers was poured to form the ship’s 7.5 metric tons bow stem thus creating the strongest connection it has ever been between a ship with its namesake.

“The ship is made out of steel that came from the trade center, some of that steel may have come down on my head,” said Robert Ostrofsky, a retired New York City firefighter. “It’s going to be part of a ship, so I’ve got a special attachment to that ship. As long as that ship sails the seas, I feel like I’m aboard.”

“In the beginning, there were many thoughts about *New York* and what she’s going to symbolize,” said Lee Ielpi, father of a firefighter who was killed in one of the towers.

“The ripple sent out by that ship as she cuts through the water says to those countries, as she lands on their shores, ‘Just remember why we’re here. We’re here to preserve our freedoms and help you preserves yours,’” added Ielpi.

For Northrop Grumman, the building of *New York* was running smooth and on time. Shipyard workers took a special interest in the making of this historic ship. One even put off retirement to build this ship after working for 40 years.

Then, a year after construction began, on Aug. 29, 2005,, one of the most deadly hurricanes in U.S. history, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in southeast Louisiana as a Category 3 hurricane smashing levees and causing more than \$125 billion in damage.

The shipyard workers showed that the American spirit cannot be broken even during times of adversity and got back to work, under those trying conditions.

“Hurricane Katrina had a huge impact on the construction of the ship and more importantly on the work force that helped construct the ship,” said Cmdr. F. Curtis Jones, commanding officer of USS *New York*. “They went through a period where they were getting no work done and just trying to survive in the New Orleans area. They recovered from that, did a fantastic job on the ship and in many ways, the ship has already been a part of two huge disasters which is a testimony to the ship’s spirit.”

“The ship is going to carry with her the spirit of the people from New Orleans who built her, their desire and dedication,” said Ielpi. “Their dedication after their tragedy and ours [New Yorkers] has linked us together forever through the making of this ship.”

Being linked to two of the largest disasters in U.S. history and being a plankowner on this great warship is something many Sailors just couldn’t pass up.

“Having the opportunity to serve on *New York* to finish out my career in the Navy really does mean a lot to me,” said Command Master Chief(SW) Robert Stocklin, who has 28 years of service and plans to retire following his tour aboard *New York*. “The significance is enormous, and to be a part of the first crew to sail and get this ship underway ready for combat means a lot.”

“Being a plankowner has made me happy, as well as proud, because I am a native New Yorker, and I was in the city on 9-11 when the towers were hit,” said Storekeeper 2nd Class Yudi Vazquez. “The

morale aboard *New York* is unlike any other ship that I’ve been on. We’re enthusiastic, we’re more than ready to get the ship out and show the rest of the world what we stand for – and that’s freedom.”

Jones, was overwhelmed with emotion as he spoke about being a New York native, a plankowner and the first commanding officer of *New York*.

“[LPD 21] is the [newest ship named] *New York* to serve and we’re just taking up the standards from some pretty awesome ships, but what truly makes this ship so special is the crew members aboard,” said Jones. “I’m not sure anyone can have this feeling.

It’s all-encompassing, and gives [me a huge] sense of pride.”

As a state-of-the-art *San Antonio*-class ship, *New York*’s mission is to embark, transport and land elements of the Marine Landing Forces. The 684 ft. dock landing ship (LPD) has the ability to carry as many as 800 troops, if needed. The ship can carry V-22 tilt-rotor *Osprey* aircraft, three different types of helicopters, 14 expeditionary fighting vehicles, several air-cushioned landing craft and can travel at a speed in excess of 22 knots.

“The ship’s motto is appropriate of strength forged through sacrifice – ‘Never Forget,’” said the Honorable Vito Fossella, representative of New York’s 13th District. “Of course we will never forget because the World Trade Center itself is part of the ship. It’s inspiring to see the wreckage of ground zero transformed into a magnificent and mighty Navy vessel that will patrol our homeland, protect



Steel recovered from the World Trade Center hangs as reminder to the crew of what they represent and the people they fight for everyday. In building USS *New York*, 7.5 tons of steel were used to create the bow stem.



GO Interactive

Learn more about This ship @

www.navy.mil/ussny





◀ The first crew of USS *New York* (LPD 21) led by Commanding Officer, Cmdr. F. Curtis Jones, Executive Officer Cmdr. Erich B. Schmidt and Command Master Chief Robert W. Stocklin take control of the ship following acceptance trials. "There's a greater sense of dedication being aboard this ship seeing that it has the towers literally built into it. She's ready to sail," said Jones.



Photo by MC2 Shannon Renfro

▲ A Sailor looks at the photos and memorial dedicated to the fallen fireman of Engine 8, Ladder 2, 8th Battalion in New York City. The fire station gave a special tour to the Sailors of USS *New York* (LPD 21).

▶ *New York* (LPD 21) transits along the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico to conduct builder's trials.

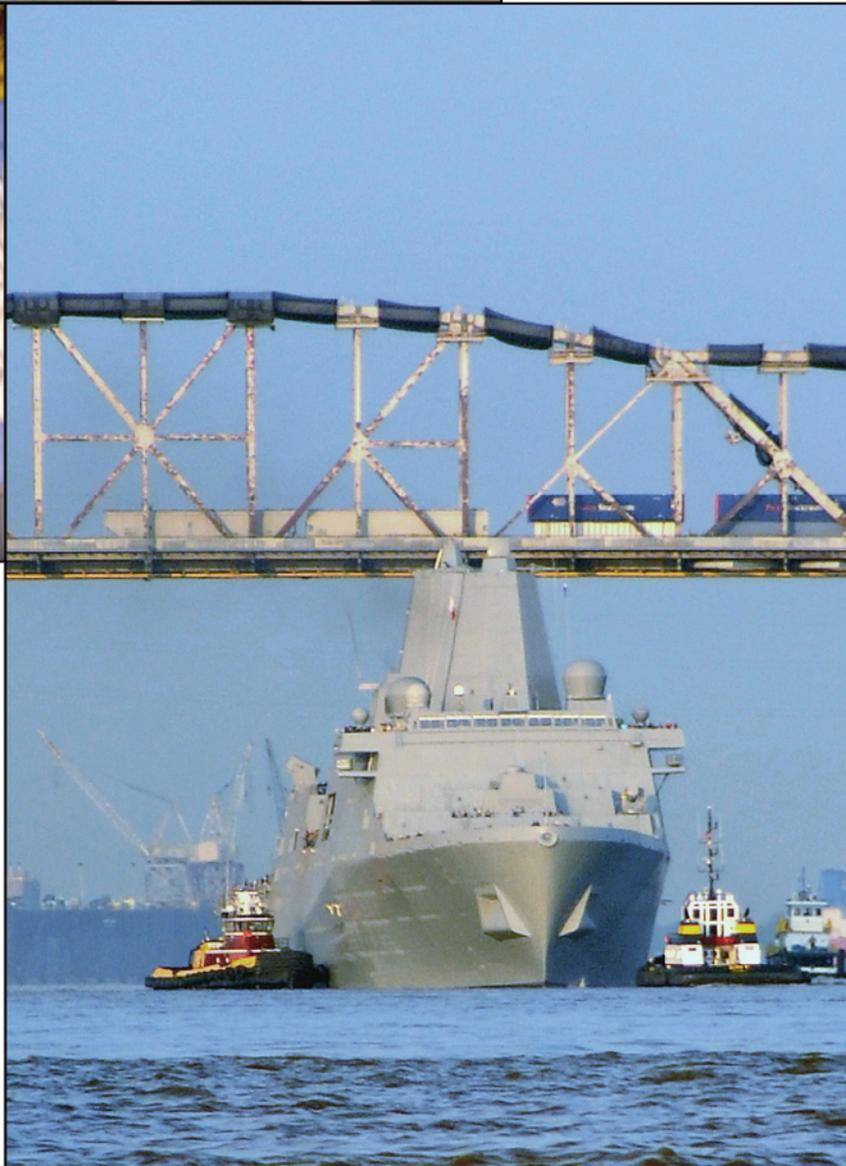


Photo by MC1 Corey Lewis



Sailors assigned to USS *New York* (LPD 21) and members of the commissioning committee are introduced during a pre-game ceremony at Yankee Stadium. The New York Yankees organization recognized Sailors assigned to the ship before a Sept. 11, 2009, major league baseball game.



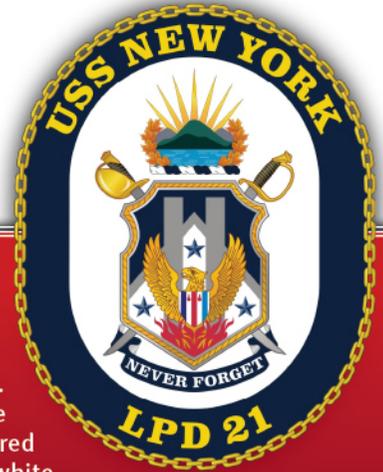
our nation, guard our safety, defend freedom and defend liberty.”

As USS *New York*, is commissioned this month, the Sailors and Marines look forward to their mission without losing sight of their roots.

“Knowing that I helped build this ship, and I was one of the first [Sailors aboard] makes you proud,” said Ship’s Serviceman 2nd Class Ebony Rodgers. “I’m ready to get underway and show off the ship and show what we represent as USS *New York*.”

**Scott is assigned to
Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.**

SHIP’S CREST



The shield is dark blue and gold, the colors traditionally associated with the Navy, represent the sea and excellence. The crossed swords represent the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The red is for sacrifice and valor and the white recalls purity of purpose. The gray chevron

and two vertical bars represent the bow of LPD 21 and the Twin Towers respectively. They are conjoined to emphasize the use of 24 tons of steel recovered from the World Trade Center, to construct the 7.5 metric ton bow stem of USS *New York*.

The phoenix rising personifies the hope and determination of this nation to rebuild and regroup to fight terrorism. The shield on the phoenix’s breast honors the New York City Fire Department, New York City Police Department and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The vertical red stripe is for the Fire Department, the dark blue stripe is the traditional blue for the Police Department and the light blue stripe is for the Port Authority Police Department.

The celeste is taken from the patch of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The celeste also alludes to coastal waters and the port of New York. The red drops represent blood shed and the ultimate sacrifice made by the men and women of 9/11. The stars commemorate the three battle stars the battle ship USS *New York* (BB 34) earned during World War II. The border of the shield is adapted from the New York State Seal.

The sunburst represents the crown of the Statue of Liberty. They represent the seven seas and continents of the world and also suggest a direct connection to the littoral missions of USS *New York* anywhere in the world, past and present. The mountains and lakes surrounded by the maple leaves represent the natural beauty of the State of New York.

Source: LPD 21 Christening Booklet

Hands across the Water

Photo by MC2 Byron C. Linder

U.S. Marines unload a CH-53E *Super Stallion* helicopter assign to the Dragons of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 265 with relief supplies for remote areas of west Sumatra, Indonesia.



*“It’s not every day you get an opportunity
Mate 2nd Class (SW) Bradley Bonman, of
help people out*

Story Compiled by MC2 Elizabeth Vlahos

Surrounded by millions and millions of square miles of ocean, the people of Indonesia, the Philippines and American Samoa braved unpredictable weather conditions and had only a few places to look for help when disaster struck – helping hands across the ocean.

On Sept. 25, Tropical Storm Ketsana struck the Philippines, killing more than 250 people and displacing 300,000 others. Four days later, an earthquake of 8.3 on the Richter scale struck 120 miles south of American Samoa, generating 15-foot waves in some of the territories’ islands that wiped out entire villages. At

least 65 people lost their lives in Samoa, along with more than 20 in American Samoa and at least six in neighboring Tonga.

When it rains, however, it pours, as the calamity was not yet over. On Sept. 30, two severe earthquakes struck Western Sumatra, Indonesia, killing more than 750 people, collapsing thousands of buildings and triggering landslides that engulfed entire villages, destroyed roads and isolated other villages in the region.

Though to many Sailors the maritime strategy may seem more abstract than a Jackson Pollock masterpiece, these events in Indonesia, American Samoa and the Philippines give it a clarity that can only be obtained from personal experience.



to help someone out like this,” said Gunner’s Boston. “This is one of the jobs of the Navy, to when they need it.”

As the Pacific Fleet deployed a full humanitarian assistance response, the Sailors knew it meant many, many exhausting hours of work under arduous conditions.

The Sailors of Pacific Fleet had their work cut out for them. Some walked flooded streets feeling moisture creeping into their boots, saturating their feet, to deliver potable water. Others loaded and unloaded supplies until the muscles in their arms burned as the boxes of supplies grew heavier with each passing second. Yet others endured the mosquitoes and the unyielding heat to provide medical care to injured victims.

But these Sailors also knew that the above annoyances were trivial compared to what the local people had just experienced.

Disasters Don't Take Holidays

If disaster readiness was an Olympic sport, then Fleet and Industrial Center (FISC) Yokosuka, Japan, would win the gold medal in a heartbeat. FISC Yokosuka supports a theater-wide plan to pre-stage and distribute disaster relief aid in anticipation of such disasters, and a key hub for disaster relief aid is their detachment in Singapore.

As Mother Nature raged on, FISC Yokosuka Det. Singapore calmly initiated an audit and assembled a full complement of disaster aid supplies and readied them for delivery to Navy ships and aircraft operating in the area.

Rodolfo “Rey” Ranada, a civilian logistics support representative for FISC Yokosuka Det. Singapore, knows that the potential for disaster never takes a holiday.

"These disasters can happen anytime, so we assume they will, and we prepare for them," Ranada explained. "We stay up as late into the night as we need to get these supplies ready."

The inventory itself seems impressive to the casual observer. Their supplies includes almost 4,000 20-gallon standard plastic "jerry cans," almost 2,000 more collapsible water containers, 2,500 blankets, 1,200 blue poly tarps and hundreds of cases of insect repellent and sun screen. Ranada, though, does not limit himself to what's in the warehouses.

"This is an important and, we hope, life-saving effort; humanitarian assistance always is. So we do the best we can," he explained.

The importance of FISC Yokosuka's efforts hits home for Ranada in more ways than one.

"I have family who were just flooded out in the Philippines," said Ramada, "so I know how valuable this is to storm and mud slide victims."

Ranada's philosophy of disaster readiness seems fatalistic, but it sums up what FISC Yokosuka is about.

"In the FISC world, there really is no 'aftermath,' just more preparation for the next disaster."

Taking It To the Streets

Ketsana had barely departed the Philippines when Joint Special Operations Task Force - Philippines (JSOTF-P) teams delivered 500 pounds of food to Santa Lucia High School Sept. 26. The next day, a civilian helicopter contracted by JSOTF-P unloaded and distributed an additional 4,200 pounds of food and water in Cainta, northeast of Pasig City.

A team of about 100 Marines from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) flew in from Okinawa Sept. 29 to assess the situation. The next day, the cavalry rode in as USS *Denver* (LPD 9), and the amphibious dock landing ships USS *Tortuga* (LSD 46) and USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49), with embarked Marines and Sailors from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), set sail from Okinawa.

Denver offloaded Marines and equipment from the 31st MEU Oct.

2 and continued on to Indonesia to participate in relief efforts there.

Medical personnel attached to the MEU set up a medical civil affairs program at an elementary school in Marikina City, Philippines, Oct. 1 that provided care for more than 760 medical and dental patients. A food-distribution mission that same day provided more than 2,400 meals for residents of Quezon City, Philippines.

Members of Navy SEAL teams and Naval Special Boat Teams 12 and 20, along with U.S. medical troops attached to JSOTF-P, worked with the island nation's military and government officials to rescue people from rooftops, deliver food and distribute medical supplies. The tireless efforts did not go unnoticed, as local officials praised the quick response.

"The work the U.S. military did was terrific," said Roman Romulo, congressman for Pasig City, a municipality of Metro Manila. "I was very thankful for U.S. support. Your teams were able to successfully go to Santa Lucia High School to help deliver food. It was a big boost that your people were helping us."

Meanwhile, USS *Ingraham* made best speed to provide medical triage, hazardous material response, mass casualty care in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the U.S. territory of American Samoa.

Afloat Relief Comes Ashore

The efforts in Indonesia were just as intense. Just hours after *Denver* and USS *McCampbell* (DDG 85) arrived offshore, helicopters from both ships started flying urgently needed emergency supplies to remote areas of Western Sumatra.

One of the most critical supplies is water, and *Denver* was well-equipped to deliver. *Denver's* two distilling plants can produce a total of more than 60,000 gallons of potable water on a daily basis.

"We can produce all the potable water those 53s can carry off this ship and then a lot more," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate Bruce McDugald, *Denver's* engineering leading chief petty officer.

McDugald also pointed out how simple it is to get this valuable resource off the ship to where it needs to be.

"We have a distribution tank we can set up right on the flight deck



Photo by MC2 Joshua J. Wahl

SN Joseph B. Davis and SN Rhoda O. Fantone crane equipment from USS *Harpers Ferry* to USS *Tortuga*.





Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young

▲ A Sailor assigned to USS *Ingraham* (FFG 61) ties a rope around part of a damaged roof to clear it away during disaster recovery efforts in Pago Pago, American Samoa. The region was struck by an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter Scale that later caused a tsunami.

for filling containers and getting water off the ship. It only takes a few people to operate and really speeds up circulation.”

Water distillation and airlift capability are not the only gifts that *Denver* had to offer, as she provided other means of delivering relief supplies ashore.

“[We have] the ability to transport [supplies] using our embarked landing craft,” said Capt. Gregory Fenton, *Denver’s* commanding officer. “We can move vehicles, people, stores, supplies as needed for the relief of those suffering in Indonesia.”

When *McC Campbell* joined the efforts, she had more to offer than the capabilities of her embarked helicopter detachment, Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron Light (HSL) 51 Det. 5. Her crew was just as eager to roll up their sleeves and get their hands dirty.

“It’s not every day you get an opportunity to help someone out like this,” said Gunner’s Mate 2nd Class (SW) Bradley Bonman, of Boston. “This is one of the jobs of the Navy, to help people out when they need it.”

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (SW) Brittany Robinson of Umatilla, Fla., was just as excited to get involved.

“We’re making sure everyone is medically fit to prepare our troops to help the Indonesians,” she said. “I think it’s going to be great. It’s going to be a real contribution to our Navy.”

Cmdr. Charles Johnson, *McC Campbell’s* commanding officer, expressed his appreciation for his crew’s support of the disaster relief efforts.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young

▲ A trash fire burns in Pago Pago, American Samoa, after a tsunami struck the area Sept. 29, 2009.

▼ Residents and shopkeepers in rain-damaged areas of Manila, the Philippines, receive family food packs donated by local businesses and private organizations to aid communities affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana.



Photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Marie Matarlo



Photo by MICA Aaron Breen



Photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Marie Matarlo

▲ After Tropical Storm Ketsana, thousands of people wait to receive family food packs donated by local businesses and private organizations to aid communities. The aid was delivered by members of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

▲ Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of the Philippines deliver family food packs donated by local businesses and private organizations to aid communities affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana.



Photo by Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Marie Matarlo

▲ Military and relief personnel use their body weight to prevent supplies from being swept away by the downdraft of a CH-53 E *Super Stallion* delivering emergency provisions to remote areas in Indonesia.

“The crew’s response has been tremendous. We were anchored off the coast of Bitung less than two months ago to celebrate the 64th anniversary of Indonesia’s independence, and participated in the Indonesia International Fleet Review. Our experience there was incredibly positive. The memories and friendships we made in Indonesia are still fresh in all our minds, and we are honored to come back to provide all the assistance we can in their time of need,” said Johnson.

HM2(FMF) Jonathan Porter, a JSOTF-P medic on scene to provide direct medical care in Manila, felt the same way about his efforts.

“These people lost their houses, cars and might still be looking for family members,” said Porter. “I wanted to do anything and everything I could do to help the Filipino people. I was glad I could be a part of the rescue efforts.”

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Veronica Pierce



Vlahos is assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

▲ Patients wait to be examined by members of a U.S. Air Force Humanitarian Assistance Rapid Response Team (HARRT) in Padang, Indonesia. The team has set up a mobile hospital to provide medical care to those injured by the recent earthquakes in Indonesia.

▲ Lt. Cmdr. Benje Stinespring, plays with children from Hula Banda village near Padang, Indonesia, while delivering Shelter Boxes to earthquake victims. A helicopter assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 delivered 45 Shelter Boxes containing materials to sustain a family of 10 for several weeks.

Amphibious Force U.S. 7th Fleet coordinated U.S. military assistance at the request of the Indonesian government.

Photo by MC2 Greg Johnson



This Just In

Navy to Deploy USS *Freedom* (LCS 1) Early

The Navy recently announced the decision to deploy USS *Freedom* (LCS 1) to the Southern Command and Pacific Command areas ahead of her originally scheduled 2012 maiden deployment.

According to Navy leaders, littoral combat ships are needed now to close urgent war-fighting gaps.

Deploying LCS now is a big step forward in getting this ship where it needs to be – operating in the increasingly important littoral regions,” said Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations. “We must deliver this critical capability to the warfighter now.”

Freedom will have an immediate impact on fleet readiness and global reach as an asset with unique combat capabilities and the ability to meet littoral tasking not previously seen in the modern cruiser or destroyer fleet.

“The Navy plans to build a considerable number of littoral combat ships which will form the backbone of our future fleet,” said Adm. J.C. Harvey, Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces, charged with executing the early deployment. “The sooner we integrate them into our fleet, the sooner we can incorporate them in the order of battle. This deployment offers a golden opportunity to learn by doing. Employing USS *Freedom* in theater two years ahead of a normal timeline allows us to incorporate lessons that can only be learned in a deployment setting more quickly and effectively in the LCS fleet integration process.”

In evaluating options for deploying the



Photo by MC2 Nathan Laird

▲ USS *Freedom* (LCS 1) conducts flight deck certification with an MH-60S *Sea Hawk* helicopter assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22.

Freedom earlier than originally scheduled, the Navy took into consideration several key factors including combat systems testing, shakedown of the ship systems and overseas sustainment with a new concept of operations and crew training. To facilitate the early deployment, the Navy adjusted *Freedom*'s testing schedule, prioritized testing events needed for deployment and deferred others not required for the missions envisioned during this deployment. *Freedom* recently completed Industrial Post Delivery Availability 2, which also supported an early deployment. 

Story courtesy of DoD.

SECNAV Outlines Five Ambitious Energy Goals

Saying he was committing “the Navy and Marine Corps to meet bold, ambitious goals,” Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced five energy targets to the audience of more than 750 gathered recently at the Naval Energy Forum.

Those targets, said Mabus, include changing the way the Navy and Marine Corps award contracts during the acquisition process to consider the lifetime energy cost of the system; by 2012, creating a “Green Strike Group” composed of nuclear vessels and ships powered by bio-fuels and deploying that fleet by 2016; by 2015, reducing petroleum use in its 50,000 commercial vehicle fleet by 50 percent by phasing in hybrid fuel and electric vehicles; producing at least half the shore-based energy requirements from renewable sources, such as solar, wind and ocean generated by the base; and by 2020, ensuring at least 40 percent of the Navy's total energy consumption comes from alternative sources.

“Leading change is not new for the Department of the Navy,” said Mabus. “We are a better Navy and a better Marine Corps for innovation. We have led the world in the adoption of new energy strategies in the past. This is our legacy.”

The forum, hosted by the Office of Naval Research and the Navy's Task Force Energy, was organized to introduce the Department of Navy emerging energy strategy and initiatives, and gain insight from dialogues



▲ Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus addresses attendees at the first Naval Energy Forum.

with participants, event organizers said. It was focused around three key themes tied to energy--security, efficiency and environmental stewardship.

With multiple opportunities to exchange information and dialogue, the main event was a plenary room that featured senior keynote presenters and interactive panel discussions around the key themes. Breakout rooms showcased energy-related Navy programs, hybrid and alternative fuel technologies and opportunities for one-on-one collaborations.

In addition to Mabus, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead also shared his vision of the Navy's energy strategy with the cross-section of representatives from federal government agencies, academic institutions, small business and the defense industry.

DoD is the largest government and individual petroleum user in the United States, guzzling about 330,000 barrels of oil per day, according to military officials. The Department of the Navy is the second largest fuel user in the DoD, consuming about 100,000 barrels a day. About 75 percent of all fuel products are transported by sea, much of it passing through vulnerable points protected by U.S. naval forces, officials said.

"For all of you in here, it comes as no surprise that energy powers our way of life," Roughead said during his speech. "I also think that as we go forward, the Navy can continue to be a great steward of our environment. The initiatives that we are going to explore here,

and things that we are doing with Task Force Energy and Task Force Climate Change, allow us to be able to continue that reputation of stewardship."

Highlighting the importance of science and technology as the Navy plots its energy strategy, Roughead said, "Everything doesn't have to be game-changing technology, even though I've challenged the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to find 'the next big thing.'"

The Navy and Marine Corps' science and technology provider, the ONR invests in a wide range of energy science and technology projects. Dr. Larry Schuette, ONR's director of innovation, participated in the "Pitch a Principal" program where interested parties discussed funding opportunities with ONR. He said the forum was a great platform to exchange ideas.

"This was the perfect opportunity for industry and our warfighter partners to meet a broad range of subject matter experts one-on-one," Schuette said. ❧

Story courtesy of DoD.

Commands Directed to Maintain, Strengthen Comms with IAs

The Navy has more than 10,000 Sailors currently serving as individual augmentees (IAs) in various roles around the world, and another 1,200 in the training pipeline.

With such a significant and ever-changing audience, the Navy recognized the need to

have an essential communication link between the command, the IA Sailor and their families before, during and after an IA tour.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), the Executive Agent for the Individual Augmentee Continuum, directed all commands to designate a Command Individual Augmentee Coordinator (CIAC). The CIAC's job is to be the command's IA subject matter expert and ensure their Sailors meet all requirements for IA deployment. The CIAC also enters the Sailor's and their family members' important information into Navy Family Accountability Access System (NFAAS). The CIAC stays in contact with the member and their family throughout the entire IA process.

"We have a program where we speak to our IAs at a minimum once a month," said Chief Storekeeper (AW/SW) Henry Milton, Command Individual Augmentee Coordinator (CIAC) aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). "We contact them along with [their] departmental leading chief petty officer. So between all of us, our members are contacted often."

The CIAC position must be designated in writing by the commanding officer and may be filled by active duty or civilian employee. The CIAC guidelines require a minimum of one CIAC per command and recommended rank of E-7 or above.

"It is preferred for the CIAC to have been

▼ An Individual Augmentee kisses the top of her son's head as she is welcomed to Naval Station Norfolk, by friends and family.



Photo by MC2 John M. Stratton

on an IA whenever possible,” said Glenda Arrington, USFF head, IA Sailor and Family Health and Welfare.

“When I returned from my IA in September last year, [USS *Harry S. Truman*] did not have a [CIAC] program so we started it up from scratch,” said Milton. “We received guidance from U.S. Fleet Forces Command and from the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center and our admin officer aboard Truman.”

“It’s positive reinforcement. Before a Sailor departs we talk to them and when they return, we do the same thing,” said Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Allen R. Walker, III, command master chief of USS *Harry S. Truman*. “This is one of the reasons our IA process works so well here.”

Throughout the Navy, commands support Sailors and their families with the CIAC program, before, during, and after IA deployment.

“We are not forgetting about our 20 Sailors on IA from Assault Craft Unit 4,” said Senior Chief Boatswain’s Mate (SW) Randy Searcy, ACU- 4 operations leading chief petty officer. “The biggest thing is letting our IA Sailors know we are here to support them, and we stay in contact with their families letting them know we are here if they need us.”

A highly engaged and proactive CIAC is the key to a positive IA experience by providing consistent and comprehensive support throughout the process.

“The CIAC is important because they are the key player between the Sailor, the command and the family,” said Arrington. “The CIAC ensures the entire IA continuum is a success.”

USFF is dedicated to continually educating commands, Sailors and CIACs on the entire IA process. The goal is to standardize CIAC readiness through education and shared experiences. More information on the CIAC program is available for both IA Sailors and commands on the newly designed IA webpage, www.ia.navy.mil. You may also visit www.cffc.navy.mil to learn more about Individual Augmentees. **✍**

Story by MC1(SW/AW) Bleu Moore, U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk.

Doyle Sailors, Colombian Military Serve Community

Sailors from USS *Doyle* (FFG 39), Destroyer Squadron 40 and members of the Colombian military recently conducted a multinational community relations (COMREL) project at the Buena Aventura school in Santa Marta, Colombia.

Members of the Colombian Army and Coast Guard assisted *Doyle* Sailors with repainting the school’s nine different classrooms, as well as offloading medical supplies and toys provided by *Project Handclasp* donations.

Project Handclasp is a chief of naval operations program that allows non-governmental organizations to donate supplies for delivery by the U.S. Navy.

“We are very happy and grateful because these improvements were necessary in order to create a better learning environment for the children,” said Sarah Olibella, the school’s principal.

“The children needed some assistance,” said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Gavin Hawthorne of *Doyle*’s Operations Department. “They might not have the sufficient manpower to help improve their school, so we volunteered to work with the Colombian military to come out here and help them.”

Hawthorne said the event was his first COMREL, and he found it very rewarding. He said helping to better the lives of children

makes him feel better inside.

“It’s always a good thing to pull into a foreign port and help better someone’s life,” said Hawthorne. “We are out here to build friendships after all. I think putting the Colombian Army and Coast Guard together with the United States Navy for a major event is really rewarding.”

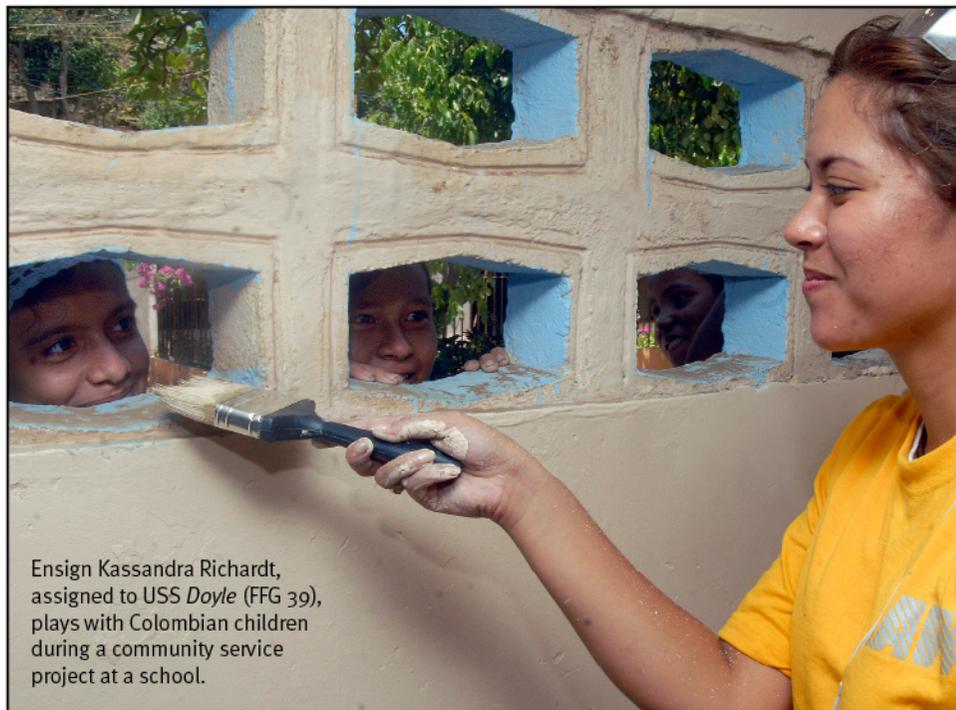
Olibella said the Sailors and Colombian service members are examples of a stronger bond between the United States and Colombia.

“I feel extremely excited and grateful because it shows a lasting relationship between our two countries,” said Olibella. “This was also very convenient to make it easier for us to strengthen these relations between Colombia and the United States.”

Olibella said the school and its staff graciously welcomed the United States to return.

Doyle is on a six-month deployment to Latin America and the Caribbean as part of *Southern Seas 2009* (SS09), in support of U.S. Southern Command’s *Partnership of the Americas* maritime strategy. SS09 focuses on working with partner nations in the region conducting exercises, military to military engagements and theater security cooperation engagements to enhance interoperability. **✍**

Story by MC3 (SW) Patrick Grieco, Destroyer Squadron 40.



Ensign Cassandra Richardt, assigned to USS *Doyle* (FFG 39), plays with Colombian children during a community service project at a school.

Photo by MC3N Desiree Green



Photo by MCSN John Wagner

▲ USS *Higgins* (DDG 76) steams into position for a replenishment at sea with USNS *Niagara Falls* (T-AFS 3). During the deployment *Higgins* has supported operations in the 3rd, 5th and 6th Fleet areas of responsibilities in a demonstration on the “One Fleet” concept.

From 3rd Fleet to 6th Fleet, USS Higgins Provides Seamless Performance

San Diego-based destroyer USS *Higgins* (DDG 76) is currently deployed in the 6th Fleet area of operations and is a real-world application of the collaborative approach by fleet commanders for supporting global mission requirements.

U.S. Fleet Forces and U.S. Pacific Fleet utilize standardized practices, certifications and Navy resources to most effectively meet combatant commander requirements and address global contingencies wherever they may arise.

“USS *Higgins*’ current operations are a perfect example of our ‘One Fleet’ approach to meeting global requirements,” said Adm. J.C. Harvey Jr., commander, U.S. Fleet Forces. “Our common training standards and common operating principles mean that we can fully integrate any ship to support our missions, regardless of homeport. We will

see more of this in our future, particularly in Navy ballistic missile defense (BMD) operations.”

Higgins reported on station in the Mediterranean Sea, Sept. 1, following completion of a normal Western transit, which included consecutive operations in the 3rd, 7th, and 5th fleets. The ship is currently participating in the multinational Exercise Jackal Stone 2009 with nine other partner nations. Jackal Stone promotes cooperation and interoperability between special operations forces.

“Having recently served on the Naval Surface Forces staff, I know how closely the Atlantic and Pacific type commander organizations in Norfolk and San Diego work to build and maintain one standard of naval capability across the entire fleet,” said Cmdr. Carl Meuser, *Higgins*’ commanding officer. “That close cooperation has translated for us into a smooth transition from 3rd Fleet to 7th Fleet, to 5th Fleet to 6th Fleet. We train to the same standard and to the same mission areas

as a ship from Norfolk.”

With this uniform approach, a Pacific Fleet ship, for example, has the ability to transit into an area of operation traditionally supported by Atlantic Fleet ships and seamlessly perform across the full range of military operations.

With a complement of more than 270 Sailors and multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities, *Higgins* is a ready force providing regional security. Throughout this deployment, the Aegis destroyer and crew will conduct various engagements to develop enduring international military partnerships while representing Navy BMD for the United States and its allies. ✍

Story by MC2 Gina Wollman, assigned to Navy Public Affairs Support Element East, Norfolk.

Network Security 101

Story by MC2 Travis Burcham, graphic by MC2 William Blake

The emergence of cyberspace as a national security frontier has thrust network security to a place of preeminent importance within DoD.

Lessons learned from past network breaches, and the recent DoD prohibition on the use of thumb drives, underscore the intensity of the current focus on network security. And, while this is a full-time mission for information systems technicians, information assurance managers (IAM) and other cyber warriors, the reality is that the security of our networks rests on the shoulders of every user. The E-1 checking his unclassified e-mail has as important a role to play in keeping Navy information technology (IT) resources secure as the senior officer or civilian manager accessing the Internet.

In a message to Navy leaders in 2008, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead reaffirmed that

protecting our networks begins with each user, as well as commanders who are actively engaged.

“Threats we face demand that we be meticulous and vigilant,” Roughead said. “Our networks are critical operational systems that require [commanders’] personal visibility and involvement.”

The following guidance is provided by the Naval Network Warfare Command Information Assurance Management team to help users understand how to operate safely and securely in the cyber realm. Every Sailor, Navy civilian and contract employee should keep these policies and procedures in mind when using a government computer.

Defense in Depth

Navy and DoD are using a layered defense strategy to protect our networks and the information carried on them. Defense in Depth requires three basic elements:

- People – Written policies, training, incident response teams
- Processes – Management oversight, commitment of resourced budget and contingency planning
- Technology – Firewalls, public key infrastructure, anti-virus protection and integrity assurances.

Information Assurance Training

All active-duty, Reserve, civil service, contractor and/or foreign national personnel who have been granted access to or who are providing services for Navy IT resources are required to comply with the Navy’s Information Assurance (IA) program. User training is a vital part of a successful Defense in Depth strategy, and the Navy has





mandated annual training in information assurance for all users. Compliance of the IA training requirement is tracked on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and by the user's command.

Consent to Monitoring

There is no right to privacy over DoD networks, and any DoD computer in use is subject to monitoring. Though perhaps unnoticed by many, the DoD user agreement banner pops up with every login.

E-Mail Access and Accounts

E-mail has turned into a primary source of communication, both classified and unclassified. Improper use of government e-mail can open a number of vulnerabilities into a system.

Access Controls and Security

The extent to which our adversaries are willing to go to gain access to Navy networks often goes unseen. But, attempts are made each day at an alarming rate, requiring reliable access procedures for authorized users.

Government employees dealing with valuable information are required to log into Navy networks using access controls such as Common Access Card (CAC) and a Personal Identification Number (PIN). In a secure environment, access controls are necessary to allow network administrators to configure user accounts based on the individual's "need-to-know."

Even though a security clearance may be in place, the individual might not require knowledge of certain information to effectively perform his or her job. Network administrators can then limit network access based on the individual's authorized access level and need-to-know.

The weakest link in

network security is the person who practices poor operational security and fails to protect their CAC and PIN that allows access to the network. Common mistakes include leaving one's CAC in the reader when stepping away from the computer, or leaving a written PIN near a workstation for easy access.

Users must also remember that some networks still require user names and passwords to gain access. Those passwords carry the same classification levels as the systems to which they allow access. For example, if the workstation being used is Secret, so is the password.

Improper Use of Information Technology Resources

If you think that classified information is being used inappropriately, report it to your supervisor. Vulnerabilities must first be known to be resolved.

The Designated Approving Authority (DAA) is responsible for issuing a written authorization for connectivity and operation of Navy IT resources. The use of privately-owned hardware and software is prohibited at all times and under all circumstances unless specifically authorized by the DAA or a delegated official. Running executable files increases the threat of viruses and other network vulnerabilities, including numerous types of malicious code. Only use approved hardware and software when working on a government workstation. When in doubt, seek guidance from your command IAM.

Viruses and Malicious Code

Millions of dollars are spent by government and private industry to undo the damage associated with viruses and malicious code.

New viruses are found every day, which is why it's extremely important that DoD systems have the most current virus scanning software available. System administrators update the virus scanning software when new viruses are discovered.

As a user, you can ensure you don't introduce malicious code or viruses into the network by scanning all documents with an anti-virus program before you open or save them to the computer. In most cases, the anti-virus software will do this automatically, but there are exceptions. When working with removable media

such as CDs or DVDs, the software may not automatically run a scan. Don't assume that the information is clean and free of malicious code or viruses; always check to make certain.

Computer Safety At Home

All of the security measures taken at work apply to personal computers at home.

The active protection of passwords and personal information diminishes the threat of identity theft.

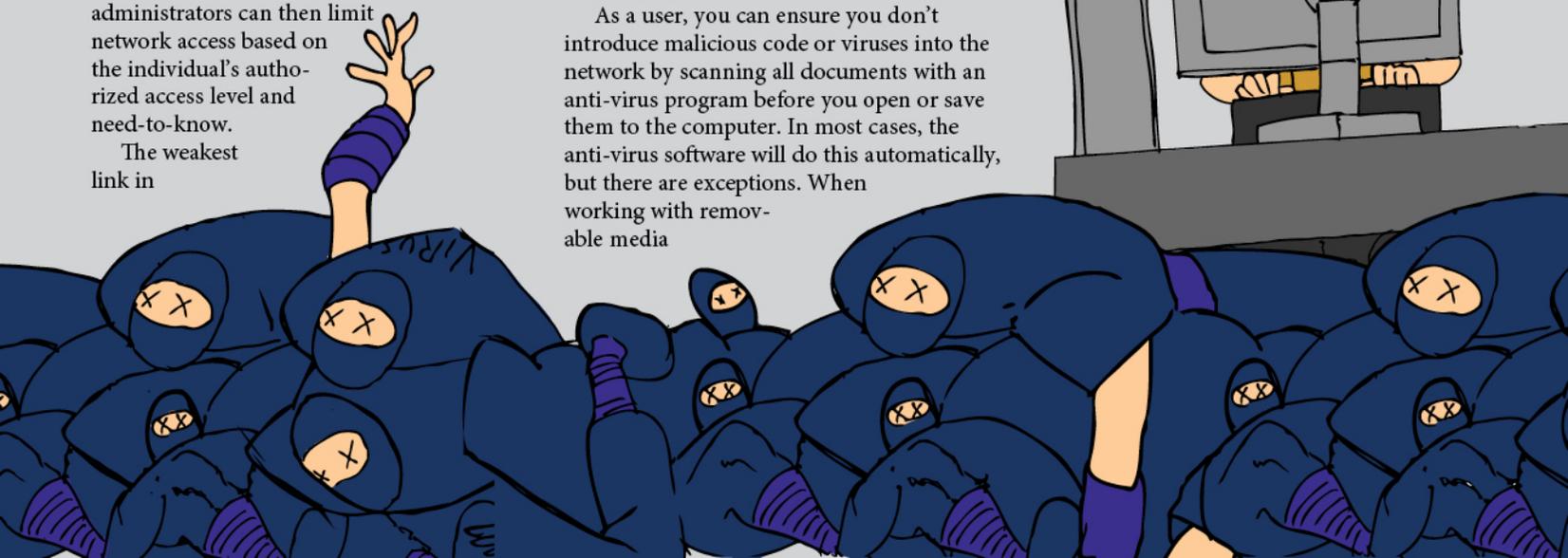
- The use of virus scanning software decreases the possibility that your computer could become infected with a virus, worm or other type of malicious code.

- Patch, patch, patch! Nearly 90 percent of network incidents in 2008 were avoidable through existing security patches, policy or other controls. The latest patches and upgrades for your system block numerous threats against your personal computer. Active-duty military and government employees are entitled to free anti-virus and firewall programs, so take advantage of them. Check with your command's IAM or information systems technicians for more information on acquiring anti-virus software.

Remember – you are a very important link in this critical chain to preserve the integrity of our information networks.

To learn more about network security in the Navy, visit the Department of the Navy Information Assurance Web site at <https://infosec.navy.mil>.

Burcham is assigned to Naval Network Warfare Command, Norfolk.



Protecting the Protectors

Story by MC2(SCW) Brian Coverly, photo by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson

Some people defend the United States by representing the Navy, its mission, interests and ethos as Sailors. Others render their love and fidelity to our country by serving as federal firefighters - an arm of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - usually the first line of defense against fires and mishaps on numerous naval installations and shore commands. And some, like Daniel Russell, are both.

Russell is a federal firefighter protecting Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head, Md.; his station is located inside the facility's Stump Neck Annex. He's also a chief utilitiesman (SCW) for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23, a Reserve unit headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Russell served America well during his 20 years in both active and Reserve capacity, but he started his career in the Army National Guard in 1987.

"I was assigned to an infantry unit as a

chaplain's assistant. After three years, I figured - working with no job satisfaction - it was time to go active duty," Russell explained. "The Navy had better education, and travel was unbeatable. After a tour, I was a 'lifer' for sure!"

But Russell didn't start his career as a Seabee. He was part of the "blue water" community as a machinist's mate.

"I cross-rated from machinist's mate to utilitiesman," he said. "I worked with detailing and said: 'Hey, the skills [involved] are very similar.'"

Assigned to several naval construction force battalions and support units during the past 18 years, the chief utilitiesman embraces the mission and its impact.

"In my opinion, the Navy, out of all the services, truly has a global reach," he said. "Not only are we out there, at sea, projecting a forward presence, but we're also taking that presence - straight from the sea and shore; straight to the people themselves. The current focus is not just beating up on the bad guys, but winning hearts and minds. We're not just warfighters, we're humanitarians."

Since 2004, Russell's unit has been continuously involved with *Operation*

Focus on
Service

Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom, especially supporting the efforts and missions of 1st and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF). He forward deployed with them from June 2008 to April 2009.

"I went as part of the air detachment for NMCB 23. An air detachment is basically a smaller unit, not at battalion-strength, but able to act like one. It can go in [a combat area] and get the job done. It can support other units or act independently. Most of our air detachment went to various operations in Afghanistan. I returned to Iraq and supported NMCB 27's 'main body' forces," he said.

"Shortly after arrival to the site, at Al Assad, I was assigned to the 1st Naval Construction Regiment (NCR), which at the time was also supporting the 2nd MEF."

Being a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve has several qualities that distinguish Reserve service from the active-duty component, but they have shared fundamentals. When asked about how he felt when he's been "tapped on the shoulder" for activation, the full-time firefighter/Reservist Seabee offered a frank response.

"There's a lot of preparation going on, when you have to deploy: There's the need to get the family ready. I'm single, but there's my 'fire department family' – my colleagues, and my immediate family: my brothers and sisters and their children. There's always the chance that you might not come back. So I had to get these guys ready for that," he said.

Russell said that above everything else in a Sailor's career – whether "blue water" community, a "boots-on-the-ground" Seabee or an individual augmentee; whether active duty or part of the Reserves – there's one characteristic that makes everything else in their career go the right way.

"Be ready," he said. "Always be ready to go. When the call [to activate or muster and mobilize] comes, that's not the time to start getting everything together," Russell warned. He further explained why this is the most important element to master, for any member in our Navy today.

"Have a plan set in motion. Think: 'One, two, three, four – what have I done, and

still have to do, as I get out the door?' When you're on that plane, or the ship, or boat, it's too late; you're focused on the mission. It's not the time to think 'Did I get that power of attorney done properly?' It's the time to think if you have enough ammunition or gear."

Russell also made it clear that he felt a distinct pride in executing the role of "protecting the protectors."

"Since 2002, when I left active-duty service, I went straight into the Reserves and came here [to NSF Indian Head]," he said. "Here, there are explosives – we don't want to see a fire here!"

"We focus on preventing them. In the past, there have been some pretty bad fires; things have gone 'boom.' It's kind of a scary feeling to know that people are running in the opposite direction, and you're going straight into it."

He also pointed out that when on a 24-hour long shift, the firefighters have to be especially alert for anything that might happen.

While some might think his daily job is quite out-of-the-ordinary, even for Sailors and Seabees, he humbly states, "We're all in it together; I just have a different piece of the pie".

Coverley and Brunson are assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.



Family Lived out Passion of Navy Core Values

Story by MC2 Geraldine A. Hawkins

Tom Sullivan was about to leave for his job with the Illinois Central Railroad the morning of Jan. 12, 1943. He was worried these days; he had not heard from any of his five sons, all serving aboard USS *Juneau* (CL 52), in a couple of months. He maintained his composure when he answered his doorbell to see a uniformed officer, a chief petty officer and a priest on his front porch.

"I have some news about your boys," the officer said. "Which one?" asked Tom. "I'm sorry," he said, and then paused. "All five."

Even before they entered the Navy, the Sullivan brothers of Waterloo, Iowa, embodied honor, courage, and commitment – commitment to each other, to their faith and to their country. George and Frank, the two oldest, had completed four-year Navy enlistments, so after the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, all the brothers immediately joined the Navy. The family's motto was "We Stick Together." The Navy discouraged the practice of brothers serving in the same command, but the Sullivans insisted, and the Navy reluctantly complied.

The youngest brother, Albert, was married with an infant son; the young men also had a sister, and the loss at Pearl Harbor of her boyfriend, William Ball, added yet another dimension to their desire to serve.

Assigned to the light cruiser *Juneau*, the Sullivans were one of eight sets of brothers aboard. The vessel was recently commissioned and was now on its way to the Pacific. The Sullivans enjoyed life aboard ship; they had always been a "unit," only this time it was as though they had more than 700 brothers.

USS *Juneau* was dispatched to Guadalcanal and ended up in the thick of a fierce battle to put Japan on the defensive. The conflagration came to be known informally as "Operation Shoestring," since at this early stage of the war, materiel and supplies were nowhere near what was needed.

All through the night of Nov. 12, 1942, *Juneau* took a beating from the Japanese and valiantly fought back. She had taken heavy fire from point blank encounters with Japanese ships. As *Juneau* listed and continued to implode, the crew struggled to plug holes and to keep the crippled vessel afloat. That morning at 11 a.m., as the ship attempted to leave the Solomon Islands, a Japanese submarine fired two torpedoes into the ammunition magazines and finished *Juneau*, along with most of her crew.

The four younger Sullivans died instantly when *Juneau* exploded. George managed to swim to a lifeboat, but died several days later.

A B-17 bomber crew reported the location of possible survivors; incredibly, the report was initially lost in the shuffle of wartime paperwork. It took several days before headquarters realized that a search had never been mounted. Eventually a PBY *Catalina* aircraft rescued 14 men, 10 of whom survived.

In keeping with wartime security, the loss of the vessels of the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal was not reported immediately, which is why the news took so long to reach Tom Sullivan.

President Roosevelt directed that the next commissioned ship be named USS *The Sullivans*, the first time a U.S. Navy ship was named for more than one person, and designated Mrs. Alleta Sullivan as her sponsor.

"We, who remain to carry on the fight, must maintain the spirit in the knowledge that such sacrifice is not in vain," he wrote to Mrs. Sullivan. "I am sure that we all take pride in the knowledge that they fought side by side. As one of your sons wrote, 'We will make a team together that can't be beat.' It is this spirit which in the end must triumph. ... Such acts of fate and fortitude in the face of tragedy convince me of the indomitable spirit and will of our people."

Two ships have been named for the brothers: USS *The Sullivans* (DD 537), now a museum ship in Buffalo, N.Y., and USS *The Sullivans* (DDG 68), commissioned in 1997. The motto for both ships: "We Stick Together. 

**Hawkins is assigned to Defense Media Activity-
Anacostia, Washington, D.C.**



The Sullivan Brothers (from left to right) Joseph, Francis, Albert, Madison and George, aboard USS *Juneau* (CL 52), Feb. 14, 1942.



A World of Opportunities

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Paul Cummings

Story by MC2 (SCW) Brian Coverley, photo by MC1 Shawn Graham

It's hard to recognize New Orleans - home of Mardi Gras, vibrant music, the Sugar Bowl, gumbo and jambalaya - as a hub of coordinated activity between the Navy Reserve and its active-duty counterparts, through the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC).

Like so many commands and groups Navywide, NOSC offers up its "best and brightest" to satisfy the Navy's current need for individual augmentees (IA). Most recently, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW) Paul Cummings answered this call and took an assignment in Iraq.

Cummings volunteered to temporarily serve with a unit inside Iraq. Often Sailors are attached to Army, Air Force or Marine Corps units, or assigned to a joint services unit, or a coalition of U.S. Armed Forces with the Iraqi Army.

Until he began his pre-deployment training, Cummings wasn't sure what unit or command he'd be attached to, or that he would ultimately introduce an evolving technology to ensure a young nation's security.

"The executive officer called me [while I was on leave] and said I got orders. Not until I got to Ft. Riley did I know what I was [tasked to be] doing," Cummings said.

Cummings introduced, instructed and mentored the Iraqi Army on biometrics and their designated use, when he was stationed at Besmaya Combat Training Center (CTC), fulfilling his IA assignment with Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq



(MNSTC-I).

Biometrics is both technology and a paradigm. Its roots go as far back as the early 1900s, with the introduction of fingerprinting into American law enforcement and prisons. Today this technology involves voice recognition, iris scans, handprints and much more.

The Iraqi Army has begun adding this technology to its security measures to best identify and deal with violent militants and al-Qaida operatives.

"They absorbed everything we taught them," he said. "The Iraqis worked long hours to learn our complex screening system."

According to Lt. Cmdr. Rick Lee, Cummings's officer in charge, Cummings also took it upon himself to practically build, from the ground up, Besmaya CTC's Morale Welfare and Recreation program. He significantly improved the amount and quality of fitness equipment and entertainment systems, including establishing Besmaya's first movie theater for the Iraqi troops and coalition forces.

"He really did a lot," said Lee. "Biometrics Data Collection instructor is a full-time occupation ... [Cummings] went above and beyond ... He did an outstanding job."

"U.S. Army Lt. Col. [Timothy] Renshaw, in charge of camp maintenance, had never worked with Navy before. The seven of us in the tiny command made a lasting impression on him. He said he would always go into battle with the Navy, if Sailors like us were with him," Cummings said.

Cummings said the assignment broadened his horizons and enhanced his leadership skills.

"I learned to be a great leader and bettered my mentoring capabilities and [realized] that we are not just ambassadors of America overseas, but [also for] the Navy when joint services are tasked." ❧

Coverley is assigned to Defense Media Activity-Anacostia, Washington D.C., Graham is assigned to Naval Air Station, JRB New Orleans



Remembering those who have gone before us ...