

APRIL 2010

All HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

BESS

Basic Enlisted Submarine School

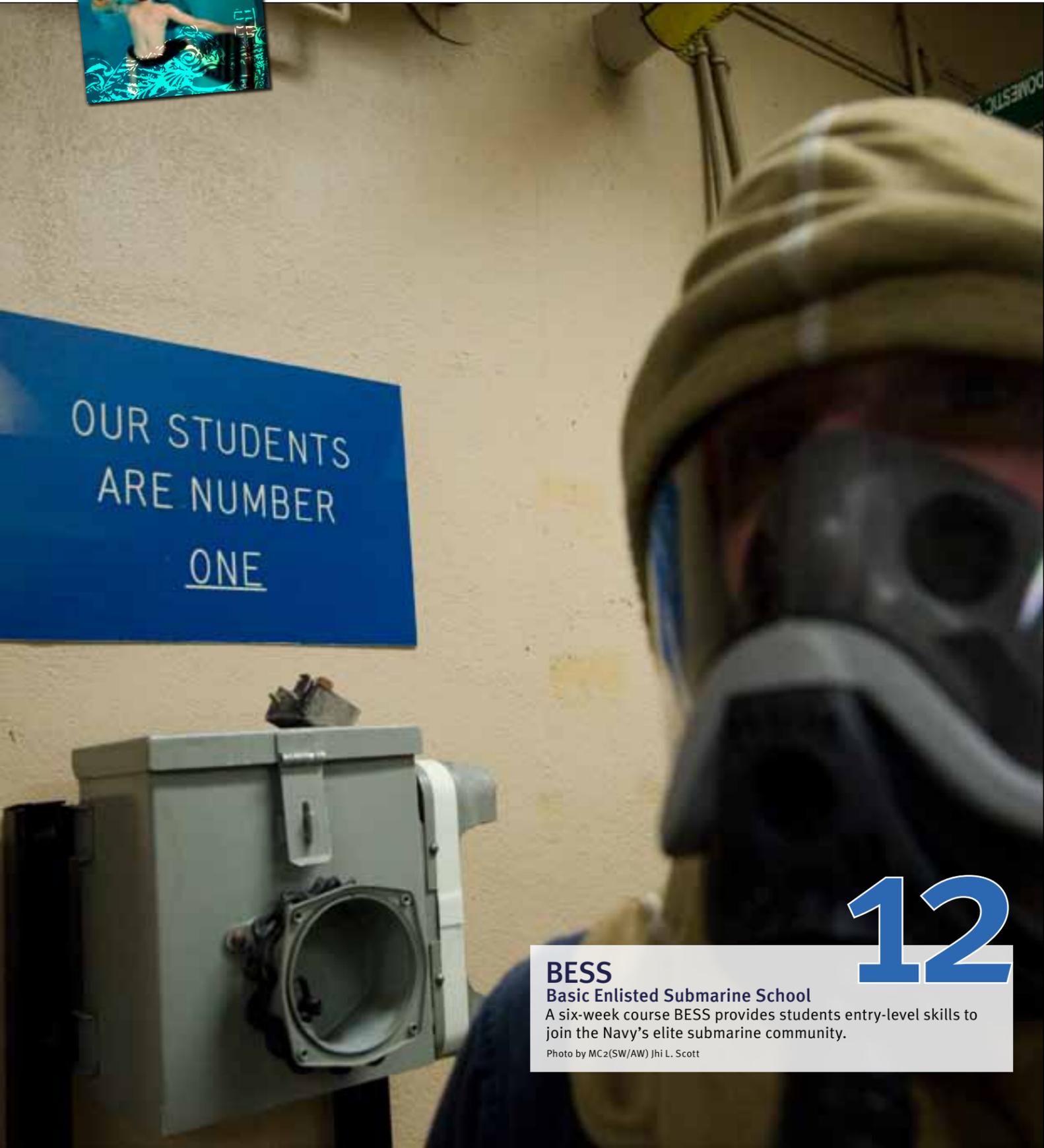




[On the Front Cover]

A student at Basic Enlisted Submarine School learns how to properly ascend from 15 feet to the surface using the tools taught by Navy divers during a two-day submarine escape training.

Photo by MC2(SW/AW) Jhi L. Scott



BESS
Basic Enlisted Submarine School
 A six-week course BESS provides students entry-level skills to join the Navy's elite submarine community.

Photo by MC2(SW/AW) Jhi L. Scott



Countering Extremism
 in the Horn of Africa

At the only military installation in Africa, Sailors work side-by-side with Soldiers, Airmen and Marines to fight violent extremists without firing one single shot.

Photo by MC2 Joshua Bruns | Illustration by Tim Mazurek



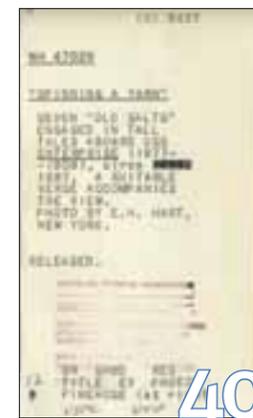
Soaring with the Eagles

Environmental specialists from Naval Support Facility, Indian Head, Md., work in a program that for the last three years has successfully restored the population of eagles in the area, saving not only the beautiful birds but also a national icon.

Photo by MC1 R. Jason Brunson

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[Next Month]

All Hands brings you an update of the training individual augmentees receive at Fort Jackson, S.C., to prepare for boots on the ground deployment.



An SH-60F *Sea Hawk* helicopter assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron 15 lands aboard USS *Bunker Hill* (CG 52) while participating in *Southern Seas 2010*.

Photo by MC2 Daniel Barker

Your Part in a Ready Navy Family



- Does your command write a family newsletter?
- Does your command have a Family Readiness Group?
- Does your command offer any programs to family members such as command indoctrination?
- Where are your nearest Fleet and Family Support Center, TRICARE and DEERS offices, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and medical treatment facility? Have you taken your spouse there?

Communication is the key. At the end of the day, you may not feel like talking about work, but it is very important that you are talking to your loved ones and giving them the access and information they need to navigate through Navy life. Navy life is a good life made better when armed with the knowledge of all the great programs we offer.

In a recent post on my Facebook page www.facebook.com/MCPON, I asked the question, "How do you remain informed about your Sailor's command and family readiness programs and opportunities?"

The majority of answers were that families don't feel like they are informed and don't know where to get the information from. Shipmates, it has to start with you!

There are many family support services and quality-of-life programs and benefits available to military families. We must continue to effectively get the word out about these programs that support our Navy through word of mouth—our ombudsman network, Family Readiness Groups, social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, and newsletters and internet sites, like the Fleet and Family Support Center and Military OneSource website.

Our Navy's family readiness programs, policies and services continue to evolve to meet the needs of our Sailors and their families. Shipmates, get your families involved and keep them involved. It's important that we realize that without our families, we could not meet the demands of today's Navy environment and increased mission requirements.

Finally, I would like to say, "Thank you," to all of our Navy spouses and families who continually support and serve our great Navy. Your role in your Sailor's life and the Navy is vitally important.

HOOYAH! 🇺🇸

Shipmates!

Iwant to discuss something that is very important to you and our Navy, and that's family readiness. Family readiness has a direct impact on your job satisfaction, performance and retention. So, I ask you, what are you doing to fully prepare your family to meet the demands of Navy life and to be a ready Navy family?

As Sailors, we train and prepare to deploy in support of our Navy's missions. Now, think about your spouse, significant other, parents and other family members who stood by you when you joined the Navy and who continue to stand by you today. Are they trained, educated and prepared for Navy life during deployments? How about day-to-day operations?

The key to prepare your family is to talk to your chain of command and ask questions about what your command is doing for family readiness. You should be able to answer the following questions:

- Who is your ombudsman and how can he/she be contacted?
- Does your ombudsman have your family's contact information?

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Photo by MC1 Latunya Howard

Steffanie Easter, assistant deputy chief of naval operations for manpower, personnel, training and education, accepts a coin from the National Naval Officers Association. Easter was the guest speaker during a Black History Month luncheon sponsored by the American Heritage and Diversity Committee at Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

Top Navy Official Says Minding Your 'Ps' Can Take Careers Far

Steffanie Easter, the assistant deputy chief of naval operations for manpower, education and training recently said preparation, positioning and a positive attitude - the three 'Ps' - can empower individuals to succeed.

"The three Ps to success are preparation, positioning and a positive attitude," said Steffanie Easter, who serves as the civilian executive advisor for the planning and programming of all manpower, personnel, training and education resources for Navy's active duty and civilian employees.

Easter said the three Ps and mentorship have guided her throughout her career. She entered civil service at general schedule (GS) 5 and in 24 years has advanced to the senior executive service ranks - the civil service equivalent of admirals and generals.

"Preparation has to do with knowing what you do, being good at what you do, being able to communicate it to others and making sure everything associated with getting you through the door, like your resume or application, is lined up and correct," said Easter.

"That means educating yourself continuously. That means reaching out for help when you need it. That means

being able to communicate your vision, your thoughts and your ideas."

According to Easter, positioning is being able and willing to accept the advice of others and step outside your comfort zone.

"It means being available to those who are trying to help you and being willing to do the tasks and take on the jobs you normally wouldn't do," she said. "It is about stepping outside of your 'comfort zone.'"

"There was a time when I actually resisted taking a new position. I was in the [comfort] zone. Life was good and that was where I wanted to stay," said Easter. "That is an example of a point in my career where I knew exactly what I wanted to do. Everybody else was telling me to do something else, but I thought I knew what was best for me."

After taking the new position and learning new skills, opportunities opened up for Easter and she was offered a promotion she truly desired.

"That was literally a life-changing event. If I had not eventually opened up to the change in jobs, I would not be standing here today. That is positioning. You have to make yourself available and be open," she said.

The third P is positive attitude.

"When you've prepared, have done everything you felt you needed to do and you still don't get the promotion or the opportunity, that is when positive attitude comes into

play. 'I've done everything that I can do. I've taken the risk. I've leaned forward. This just isn't my time right now.' That is not the time to get a negative attitude. That is when you can use the help of a mentor. That is what mentors are for - to help guide you through those tough times," said Easter who also challenged everyone without a mentor to get one.

"Find somebody you can develop a relationship with, who you are comfortable with, who can help guide you through your career," said Easter. "You need to find somebody who is willing to invest in you and give you the time, whether they look like you or not. You need somebody who will support you and give you what you need."

Easter ended her speech by reiterating her message and offering a last bit of wisdom.

"Empowerment starts with you," said Easter. "Even though somebody can empower you - they can give you the authority - you have to take on the responsibility. With that responsibility, comes a requirement to give it your best, a requirement to walk-the-walk as you talk-the-talk, and a requirement to share it with others."

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

New Program Allows Sailors to Verify Medical Readiness Online

Navy Medicine Information Systems Support Activity (NAVMISSA), based in San Antonio, recently announced the development of an online program that will support every Sailor.

NAVMISSA's new Web-based application allows Sailors to monitor their individual medical readiness (IMR) status online for the first time.

Sailors can now review IMR medical and dental data from the Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS) via BUPERS Online (BOL). IMR sta-

tus determines if a Sailor is medically eligible to deploy.

"This additional application within BOL allows Sailors to ensure that all of their IMR requirements are current and see what their current IMR status is," said Elaine A. Shorkey, a NAVMISSA external liaison and project lead.

Maintaining accurate IMR status through MRRS is a high priority within Navy Medicine and directly supports Navy Medicine's goal of a fit and healthy force.

"The ability for individuals to monitor their IMR status will help to promote a healthy naval force and ensure our warfighters are medically prepared to meet their mission," said Capt. Tina L. Ortiz, NAVMISSA commanding officer. "It's every Sailor's responsibility to maintain their individual medical readiness. This tool empowers them to keep track of their IMR status and update it as necessary."

The new application is a module that displays information in an easy-to-follow format that resembles a report card. Sailors can review their physical health assessments, laboratory results, dental readiness, and any medical conditions that may prohibit or limit deployment and post-deployment health assessments. It also shows when immunizations should be administered and when upcoming assessments should be completed. A Sailor's overall IMR status is assessed into one of four categories: fully medically ready, partially medically ready, not medically ready and medical readiness indeterminate.

A fully ready status means the Sailor is current in all medical categories and is not considered at risk to experience a dental emergency, thus deployable worldwide. A partially ready status means the Sailor lacks one or more immunization, laboratory results or medical equipment such as a gas mask insert. These limitations can be quickly resolved and allow the member to deploy once corrected.

Not medically ready means the Sailor has a chronic or prolonged



Shipmates

Volunteering Earns Sailor "Spirit of Service" Award

Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Matthew Stroup, stationed in Oceana, Va., was one of five service members to recently receive the "Spirit of Service" Award by the American Legion at their annual Spirit of Service Awards Ceremony held in Louisville, Ky. The awards ceremony gave Stroup the opportunity to present a short speech while on stage with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, Commander, U.S. Central Command Gen. David Petraeus and American Legion National Commander David Rehbein.

Stroup explained to his audience that it's important to instill volunteerism in peers to improve an organization's community involvement.

"I have gotten other people moving in the direction to volunteer. I think community involvement is very important, especially for a government organization," said Stroup.

Stroup has a bachelor's degree in business administration and was recently accepted to Officer Candidate School to become a public affairs officer. 🇺🇸

Story by MC2(AW) Jonathan W. Hutto Sr. assigned to Defense Media Activity - Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

continued on next page



AG2 Elizabeth Clements prepares to release a weather balloon from the fantail of USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) to analyze atmospheric pressure and temperature during *Southern Seas 2010*.

Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL students participate in Surf Passage at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Calif. Surf Passage is one of many physically demanding evolutions that are a part of the first phase of SEAL training.

Sailors play basketball in the hangar bay of USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower* (CVN 69) while in the Gulf of Oman. Indoor and outdoor sports are morale boosters for many service members.

Cmdr. Dennis Rivet (left) a neurosurgeon embarked aboard USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20), and HM2 Bradley Beckman perform a spinal surgery at sea. The *Comfort* surgical team has performed more than 800 surgeries while supporting Operation *Unified Response*.



Photo by MC2 Kyle D. Gahlan



Photo by MC2 Gina K. Wolman



Photo by MC3 Timothy Wilson

deployment-limiting condition and cannot deploy. This status includes Sailors who are hospitalized or convalescing from serious illness or injury, or they fall into a dental class three – considered to be at an increased risk to experience a dental emergency.

The last category, medical readiness indeterminate, applies to Sailors whose health status cannot be determined because of missing information such as lost medical records or an overdue assessment.

HM2 (SW) Amado A. Rivera is an administrative assistant at Navy Medicine Support Command (NMSC) headquarters, in Jacksonville, Fla., NAVMISSA's parent command.

"The IMR status has long been a potential problem for deploying Sailors," said Rivera, who has served aboard three ships. "IMR verification will allow Sailors simple access to helpful medical information as they prepare to deploy."

For Chief Storekeeper (SW) Sierra Elam, NAVMISSA's new Web-based application is a major breakthrough.

"I've served on four ships," said Elam, NMSC command career counselor and administrative leading chief petty officer. "Knowing who's in and who's out could turn a bad situation into a manageable one. For a leading chief, this is ground breaking."

To view medical readiness status, visit www.bol.navy.mil and select the "IMR Status" link under the BOL "Application Menu."

Story by Lt. Cmdr. James R. Hagen, Navy Medicine Information Systems Support Activity, San Antonio.

ONR Global Opens Doors in Prague

Building on a successful technology-sharing partnership with the Czech Republic that dates

back to 1999, the Office of Naval Research's (ONR) Global division recently opened a new international science and technology office in Prague.

The Prague office establishes a regional presence for the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps within Eastern Europe's international science and technology (S&T) community. Staffed by four people, it will promote collaboration at an open-source, unclassified level with scientists in the Czech Republic and Central and Eastern Europe.

Together, U.S. and Czech scientists will partner to identify and pursue technology-based defense needs and solutions. They will also enhance ONR's ability to grow the basic research capacity to deliver the S&T necessary to maintain a technological edge for the Navy and Marine Corps, as well as U.S. allies. Additionally, Prague provides a relationship-enhancing geographic base for collaboration with researchers in the Czech Republic and throughout the region.

"We believe this partnership will tap the power of the best science and scientists in the region to grow our combined research capacity," said Capt. David Maynard, ONR Global commanding officer. "It will help us to invent high-pay-off solutions to complex challenges and maintain a technological edge for the Navy and Marine Corps, and our allies."

The relationship with Prague goes back more than a decade, Maynard said.

Czech researchers have produced quality independent and university research in S&T. Dr. Antonin Svoboda, a Czech scientist and graduate of Ceske Vysoke Uce-ni Technicke, invented the world's first fault-tolerant computer and is a pioneering researcher in cybernetics. The U.S. Navy presented Svoboda the Naval Ordnance Development Award in 1948.

The Czech Republic has also recognized the accomplishments of U.S. researchers. Dr. Yvonne

Masakowski, ONR Global Associate Director, Naval Undersea Research Center, Newport, R.I., was awarded the Cross of Merit by the Czech Ministry of Defense in 2002 for her collaboration with human factors research and development.

The Czech-ONR Global relationship includes advances in technologies, including Multi-Agent Systems (MAS), with the assistance of cybernetics researchers at Czech Technical University (CTU). As a DOD/ONR Global science and technology engagement strategy with a new NATO partner, CTU researchers developed world-class MAS technology in three areas – adversarial reasoning, distributed control systems and distributed computing.

ONR Global's five other domestic and international offices are located in Washington, D.C., London, Tokyo, Singapore and Santiago, Chile. The Prague office will be the second Navy international technology office to open in Europe in 64 years.

Story courtesy of Office of Naval Research, Arlington, Va.

Information Dominance Corps Warfare Insignia Approved

The Chief of Naval Operations recently approved the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) Warfare insignia for wear by officers and enlisted who complete a rigorous personal qualification program.

The qualification requirements will be outlined in a forthcoming Navy instruction.

The warfare insignia was created to provide a common linkage among the IDC communities and institute a rigorous qualification program to identify the Navy's highly qualified and diversified information dominance professionals.

continued on next page



Photo by MCz Christopher Willson

ABAN Elliott Taylor stands on a forklift waiting for a load of stores to drop to the hangar bay of USS *Bataan* (LHD 5) during a replenishment at sea with USNS *Sacagawea* (T-AKE 2) during Operation *Unified Response* in Baie De Grand Goave, Haiti.

CWO2 Thomas Milam, from Sycamore, Ala., stands watch as a safety

observer while Sailors aboard USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) drop anchor off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during *Southern Seas 2010*.

A participant in the 16th annual *Swamp Romp* in Honolulu, wipes mud from his face after jumping in a pond. More than 300 six-person teams, including Navy and Marine Corps teams,

participated in the event hosted by Combat Logistics Battalion 3.

DC2 Michael Sisco, from San Diego, and DCFN Edward J. Morrison, from Rehoboth Beach, Del., participate in a general quarters drill aboard USS *Nassau* (LHA 4).



Photo by MCz Michael C. Harton



Photo by MCz Mark Logico



Photo by MCz Desiree Green

“The Information Dominance Corps will create a cadre of information specialists, who come with individual community identities and unite to be managed as a corps, developed as a corps, and to fight as a corps,” said Vice Adm. Jack Dorsett, deputy chief of naval operations for information dominance. “This warfare pin represents a command identity for the Information Dominance Corps.”

The IDC will consist of more than 44,000 active and Reserve Navy officers, enlisted and civilian professionals who possess extensive skills in information-intensive fields to develop and deliver dominant information capabilities in support of U.S. Navy, joint and national warfighting requirements.

These fields include information professional officers, information warfare officers, naval intelligence officers, meteorological and oceanography officers, space cadre officers, aerographer’s mates, cryptologic technicians, intelligence specialist, information systems technicians and civilian personnel.”

The new officer insignia is a gold matte metal pin, 2.75 inches by 1.125 inches, showing a background of ocean waves, a crossed naval officer’s sword and lightning bolt with a fouled anchor and globe.

The enlisted insignia is a silver oxidized metal pin, 2.75 inches by 1.125 inches, showing a background of ocean waves, a crossed naval enlisted cutlass and lightning bolt with a fouled anchor and globe. Both pins will also be available in a miniature size.

The insignias will be available for purchase at Navy Exchange Uniform Centers and Navy Exchange Uniform Support Center by August 2010. Graphics of the insignias are available on the Navy Uniform Matters Web site www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/usnavyuniforms/.

Additional information is available in NAVADMIN 058/10.

Story courtesy of Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington, D.C.

Leadership Covenant to Support Wounded Warriors

The Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert highlighted the Navy’s Wounded Warrior program and stressed leadership’s role in supporting seriously wounded, ill and injured shipmates in a recent naval administrative message (NAVADMIN).

“Our Sailors make enormous sacrifices to serve their country and to support the Navy’s mission,” stated Greenert. “It is a covenant of leadership that we should in turn give 100 percent of our support when they become wounded, ill or injured.”

Safe Harbor is the Navy’s lead organization for providing non-medical care to seriously wounded, ill and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen and their families.

Enrollment into Safe Harbor is voluntary and extended to all seriously wounded, ill, or injured active duty or Reserve Sailors and Coast Guardsmen including those wounded in Operation *Iraqi Freedom* and Operation *Enduring Freedom*; on or off-duty accidents and those with other serious physical or psychological illnesses.

“Command leadership plays a vital role in the referral process as they are often one of the first entities to know about a Sailor’s situation,” said Navy Safe Harbor Program Director Capt. Key Watkins. “Safe Harbor works collaboratively with the Sailor’s command to identify and provide non-medical support, allowing the Sailor to focus on recovery often while continuing to contribute to the Navy’s mission.”

Identifying shipmates who have become seriously ill or injured quickly and referring them for enrollment will aid commands in executing their leadership responsibility to support their ill or injured Sailor’s recovery.

A service member may also self-refer by calling Safe Harbor’s 24/7 toll free number, 877-746-8563, or by sending an e-mail tosafeharbor@navy.mil.

“As leaders we have to be aware of our Sailors’ issues and their families’ issues, being especially vigilant of deployment related problems,” said Greenert. “Work with your Sailors to get them the necessary care and support they have earned.”

Navy Safe Harbor’s goal is to return service members to duty and when not possible, to work collaboratively with federal agencies to ensure successful reintegration into their communities.

For more information on Navy Safe Harbor, visit the Safe Harbor Web site at www.safeharbor.navy.mil or follow the program on Facebook and Twitter.

Story by Zona Lewis, Navy Safe Harbor, Washington, D.C.

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

CMDCM(SS) Glen A. Kline recites the Sailor's Creed with more than 1,000 BESS students during their weekly general military training. The lessons the students are taught vary widely, from financial issues to basic Sailorization skills.

BESS

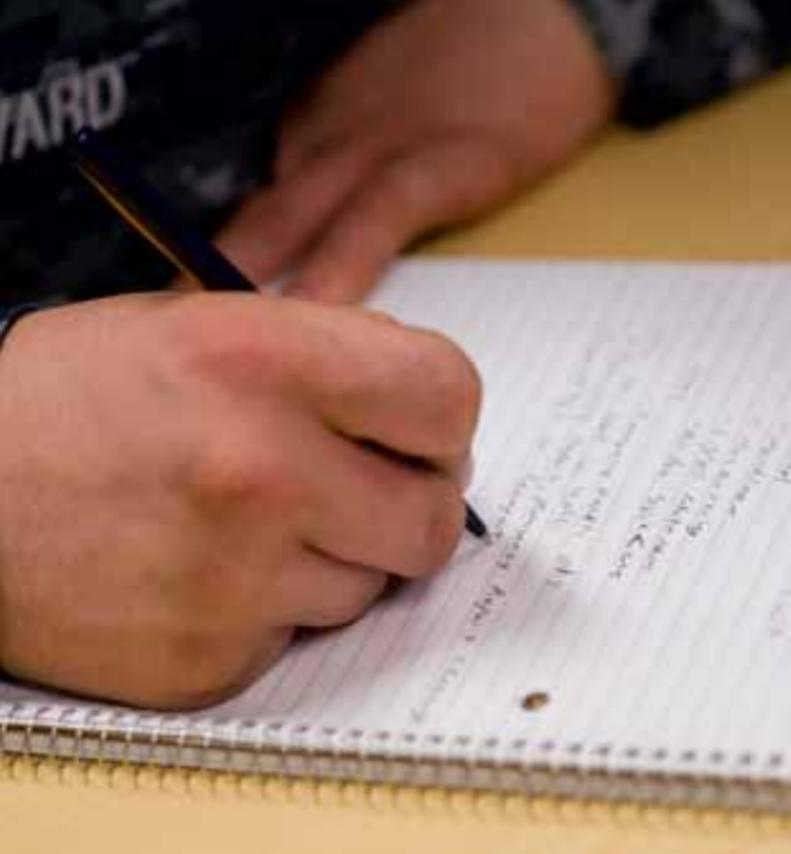
Basic Enlisted Submarine School



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

Since 1870, when Jules Verne's book *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* was first published, millions of people have read his work of science fiction and thought about what it would be like to travel around the world, under the sea. Today, what was once a dream has become a common reality.





After finishing basic training at Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, Ill., Sailors who have requested entry into the submarine service can begin their training at the Basic Enlisted Submarine School (BESS), Submarine Base New London, Groton, Conn. This is an initial requirement for Sailors who will one day operate one of the U.S. Navy's most secretive and powerful operational platforms – submarines.

BESS, a six-week introduction to the basic theory, construction and operation of submarines, includes instruction on shipboard organization, submarine safety and escape procedures. The school is a requirement for all personnel in non-nuclear based ratings. BESS represents the pinnacle of the submarine training pipeline and is designed to train prospective submariners in the basic knowledge and skills upon which operational submarine commands can build competence and proficiency in operating and maintaining submarines and all their systems.

The BESS course curriculum operates in a traditional classroom environment in addition to four hands-on trainers and is designed to familiarize students with the inner workings of a submarine. According to Sonar Technician Submarine 1st Class (SS) Darrel Malone, a BESS course supervisor, ensuring prospective submariners are adequately prepared for follow-on assignments in the sub-surface fleet extends further than making sure they understand the internal workings of the boat.

"BESS is the first step for any submariner's career because the majority of the Sailors we receive here are straight out of boot camp," said Malone. "These Sailors are pretty young and are still trying to adapt to military life so one of the first things we put them through is called 'Sailorization.' We teach them how to better interact with each other, how to work with one another and pretty much teach them how to become a team while they are here."

Teamwork is the core of any Navy operational platform, and operating one of the most advanced machines ever built requires a tremendous amount of skill, knowledge, personal discipline and unit cohesiveness. More than 100 Sailors work and live together for months at a time aboard each submarine, silently defending their country and protecting U.S. interests around the world. New undersea warriors learn about teamwork by learning about the theory, history, rich heritage and proud tradition of the sub-surface fleet.

"We are taught early to look out for our shipmates, and they pound the team concept into our heads,"

"We are taught early to look out for our shipmates, and they pound the team concept into our heads," said Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Matthew Brunson, a BESS student and class leader. "If there is someone in your class who is struggling with something, we automatically assist them. We have mandatory night study sessions that everyone has to attend no matter where you are in the class."

The BESS classroom is not rate-specific. Each submarine Sailor is expected to be cognizant of various shipboard operations, demonstrating proficiency in a variety of different areas, due mainly to the fact that submarines often operate in a self-sufficient capacity. Classroom activities include a familiarization with much of a submarine's day-to-day operations, something Malone says can prepare a student for life aboard an operational boat.

"When a student leaves the course and checks aboard their sub, they get their dolphins qualification cards so they can start on getting their warfare pin," he said. "We try to structure our program around the qualification cards so they will be more prepared when they leave here. We break the classroom portion down by the different systems on board. We have diagrams and definitions the students have to learn. We pretty much try to cover the basics of the boat so when they get there, they'll know what to expect."

Preparing prospective submariners to react to any common or adverse situation while in an operational capacity is something the school's four high-risk trainers are designed to do. Each student participates in real-time simulations in one of the four trainers.



BESS teaches initial technical proficiency training, advanced team operator and team training in electronic and combat systems employment, navigation and damage control skills. A road guard makes sure oncoming traffic stops as BESS students march to their weekly general military training.

With an average of 1,600 Sailors daily, BESS encompasses initial technical proficiency training, advanced team operator and team training in electronic and combat systems employment, navigation and damage control skills.

opposite page

MMC(SS) Christopher Frank watches Sailors learn basic submarine operations as the students train aboard the submarine trainer.

Students learn basic submarine controls while participating in the basic ships control cab.





“...if you make a mistake here, we can hit the reset button and start over,” Frank said.

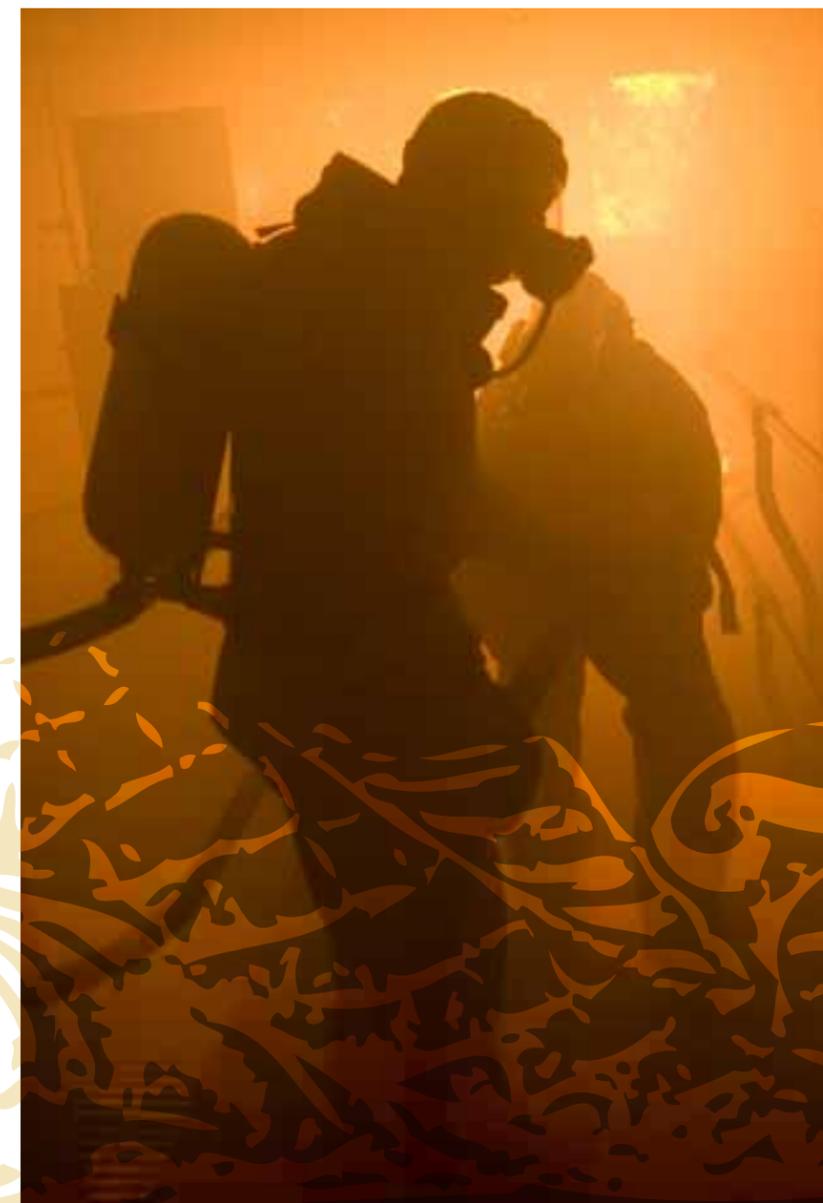
instances which could damage the ship, submarines employ the entire crew in the event of a casualty. The BESS Fire Fighting Trainer is designed to teach students the differences between submarine and surface ship firefighting, as well as the unique gear used in combating a sub-surface fire, said MM2(SS) John Vandenburg, BESS Fire Fighting Trainer safety chief.

“The Fire Fighting Trainer gives the students an idea of what kind of fires they could possibly see on a submarine,” said Vandenburg. “On the first day, the students receive instructions and watch videos on what to expect. The second day, they actually go into the trainer, split into their teams and then it’s like a free for all. We throw different scenarios at them so they learn different hose handling techniques and the different ways to combat certain fires, whether it’s using [aqueous film-forming foam], [potassium bicarbonate] or [carbon dioxide] extinguishers. So they fight the fires, we grade them and tell them where they could possibly improve.”

Despite their relative inexperience with actual submarine incidents, after training, BESS students can identify and explain what their role in a shipboard disaster might be. Their quick understanding is a testament to the training team and the hands-on approach of the fire-fighting trainer.

“The trainers are awesome; you get to fight a lot of different fires, and they are more realistic than the ones thrown at us while we’re at boot camp,” said Brunson. “When we get to our [boats], we are going to actually be the firefighting force, so we need this training. It’s very important that we go through this because if something happens when we’re out there and we don’t have this training, then the lives of our shipmates, as well as our own lives, are at risk. It’s a very long day, but it’s a very rewarding day in the end.”

Thorough training results in quick and efficient responses in any and every emergency situation and helps ensure safety throughout the fleet. The Submarine Escape Trainer is designed



Instructed by STS1 Darrel Malone, students receive a tutorial on basic functions of a submarine. The submarine trainer is one of four high-risk trainers the enlisted personnel participate in while attached to BESS.

Students learn how to properly speak through a sound powered telephone prior to fighting fires during the fire fighting high-risk trainer.

opposite page

A student learns how to properly put out a electrical fire during the damage control high-risk training.

Instructors teach students a variety of fire fighting techniques ranging from basic hose handling, how to use aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), potassium bicarbonate (PKP) and carbon dioxide (CO2) extinguishers.

According to MMC(SS) Christopher Frank, the BESS Ship Control Trainer division officer, the Ship Control Trainer (also known as the “F2 Cab” or the “Dive and Drive”) is a fundamental portion of any submariner’s immersion into the sub-surface fleet.

“They go through the F2 Cab, which gives them a basic understanding of what they will go through when they get to their ship,” said Frank. “It teaches them the basics on ships control. ‘You pull rise, this is what happens, you push dive and this is what happens,’ along with basic order and repeat backs while they’re driving.”

Frank said the multi million dollar ship control trainer provides students the opportunity to understand how a submarine will handle during a variety of scenarios. Frank, a 14-year veteran of the submarine community, noted that what he has learned helps him

prepare younger Sailors for the tasks they will encounter as U.S. Navy submariners in a safe training environment without injuring themselves or their shipmates.

“I’d rather teach you here and [have] you mess up in the trainer because if you make a mistake here, we can hit the reset button and start over,” Frank said. “When you’re on your boat and you make a mistake at sea, you’ve got the lives of 150 or so Sailors in your hands. So we train you properly; you make mistakes here, figure them out and don’t do them when you get to your boat. This is very intense training that the students go through, and I feel this prepares them for their next command.”

While surface vessels often employ teams of Sailors trained to respond to routine maintenance procedures, damage control activities including flooding and firefighting and other



Students receive a safety brief by Navy divers prior to participating in the Submarine Escape Trainer.

ETSA Kenton Mifer is checked by corpsmen after participating in the escape trainer as part of the BESS.

opposite page

MMFR Michael Komarack inflates the Submarine Escape Immersion Equipment MK-10 suite.

A BESS student learns how to properly ascend from 15 feet to the surface using the tools taught by Navy divers during a two-day course taught in Submarine Escape Training.

to build skill and confidence in submarine escape procedures.

But before students are allowed anywhere near the unique Submarine Escape Trainer, they are subjected to an extensive medical screening, during which the BESS Submarine Escape Trainer medical team reviews the students' medical history and records, focused physical exam and spirometry (a lung function test), as well as a recompression chamber pressure test.

The SEIE MK-10 is a complete-body suit which allows submariners to escape from a downed submarine. The suit provides protection against hypothermia and allows Sailors to surface from depths as deep as 600 feet.

"I believe this training is absolutely necessary," said Senior Chief Master Diver William Car-

lyle Hargaray, master diver for the Submarine Escape Trainer. "It's a two-part course where we put the students through a variety of exercises. The first day we bring them in to see who will be able to participate in the escape trainer. We'll put them through a recompression dive, [to see if] they can keep up with the pressure and ensure they are not claustrophobic. There are students who don't get to proceed to day two because of medical reasons.

"The rest of the class gets to go through a variety of exercises from surface survival training that shows them how to use the equipment. We take them down to do 15-foot ascents. The significant part of that exercise is just to make sure that they are not holding their breath or panicking underwater. This is a build up

to the 37 foot ascent that shows students how to properly ascend from 37 feet with an MK10 suit."

"The 37-foot ascent was amazing," said MMFR Adam Thompson. "This training is extremely useful because you don't want something to happen and you not know how to reach the surface. For us to do it here and prepare for the future, this will come in handy. This is by far the best training that I have received in the Navy so far. Just in case something does happen, I know that I have this training and I can survive."

With such a small and close-knit community, having the right leadership is essential to the success of any sub-surface command. For Capt. Paul F. McHale, commanding officer, Naval Submarine School, leading by example

and teaching teamwork is one of his top priorities.

"We have a lot of heritage in the submarine force, going back to World War II and what the submarine force did during that period," said McHale. "This is a brotherhood - a very tight-knit group - but each Sailor is welcomed. We want them to see what our values are, look at the rich history and learn about the heritage, because I think that gives them a real sense of value. They are joining a very unique and special community that has done a lot of great things, and we have a great future in front of us." ♣

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

Countering Extremism

in the Horn of Africa

Story by MC2 Larry Foos

Overshadowed by nearby Somali, porous borders, vast waste land and the Gulf of Aden, Camp Lemonnier seems outsized and out of place, yet U.S. military leaders are calling this small U.S. Navy expeditionary command in Djibouti, Africa, the future model in combating violent extremism. It's home to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) — the only U.S. installation on the continent intended to improve stability and reduce conflict in volatile East Africa.

A zebra walks through the African savannah in Djibouti.



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Carlotta Holley



Photo by MCz Joshua Bruns

IC1 Shawn Allwood (right) demonstrates how to use the VHF combat hand-held radio to Boh Elfirle Robleh (left), Dirie Samod Omar (second from left) and Kader Mohamed Aboloul, members of the Djiboutian military at Camp Lemonnier.

Service members assigned to CJTF-HOA assemble a field expedient antenna during a training exercise on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

CJTF-HOA is fighting violent extremism without firing a shot, and doing it with fewer than 2,500 military personnel from all branches of service, including approximately 1,000 active and Reserve Navy personnel, in an area larger than the continental United States.

“The unique thing about HOA is how we envision the future in those areas [where] we don’t already have an area of conflict,” said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, former commander CJTF-HOA. “We still have the same basic mission of countering violent extremism, and that’s why we’re here, because there is an extremist threat in HOA. But the mission has evolved into what it is today, which is countering violent extremism by indirect methods. We take an indirect approach. We work with our partner nations to fill their security capacity so that when there are security challenges, they have the capability and capacity to respond.”



Photo by MCC Robert P. Gallagher

Lt. j.g. Michael Rucker, an emergency nurse, treats the infected feet of 7-year-old Asia Wata in a children’s classroom that is used as a clinic on the weekends in the Caritas Djibouti complex in Djibouti. Rucker volunteers his medical services most weekends at the clinic and is currently assigned to CJTF-HOA, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.

Approximately 750 Sailors work here as individual augmentees (IA), including many on Global War on Terror Support Assignments (GSA). The other Navy personnel are Seabees and P-3 Orion patrol squadron members. The IA Sailors are assigned to Camp Lemonnier or as support to CJTF-HOA to work on joint missions or projects with team members across the rate, rank and service spectrum. Each person provides support to CJTF-HOA’s non-kinetic mission model that helps Africans help themselves through development, defense and diplomacy. Most of the IA Sailors in HOA for the first time are surprised at how much they can contribute.

“I am really glad I came here. The experience here has been a lot different than anything I expected it to be,” said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Richard McCalmont, assigned to CJTF-HOA’s J6 communications division. “It’s a lot different than just pulling into a port in a third-world country and getting to spend a couple days out in town. Instead of going [on liberty], you’re going out to these other countries and you’re actually living there among [the people] and helping them out. You get to see what it’s like to live there and how people survive. It’s been a very eye-opening experience.”

McCalmont noted he’s had the opportunity to perform duties beyond his normal rate, like working on “green gear” radio

equipment used by the U.S. Army and serving more as a radio operator than strictly repairing equipment.

Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Taylor, a senior nurse for the camp’s Emergency Medical Facility, had a similar experience.

“It’s more than I expected it to be. Initially, I was slated to be a perioperative nurse. I was thinking I was going to do strictly operations and things of that nature. But I have been able to do more than just that. The command supports us spearheading outreach opportunities. There’s a lot of freedom to explore things in the community to make it better.”



Photo courtesy of CJTF-HOA Public Affairs Office.

A make shift Djiboutian community just outside Camp Lemonnier next to abandoned rail tracks. Poverty rate in Djibouti is very high, thus development is one of the key components of CJTF-HOA’s mission.

Less than 10 miles from the northern border and only two miles from the city and Port of Djibouti, Somalia, Camp Lemonnier is surrounded by nomadic villages called doudas. Although the Navy installation provides some economic stimulus to Djiboutian businesses, the poverty rate is very high.

Taylor and other medical staff volunteers organized a weekly free medical care program to treat Djiboutians and began teaching medical English to local health care professionals. The program has been successful, modeling the “development and diplomacy” part of the command’s mission. She gives credit to the joint force.

“We brought in more [help] from the Air Force and Army. It’s been a great opportunity for all of us to learn [about] each other’s particular services and draw on each other’s strengths to make this even more powerful. It’s been a great opportunity for us to work together,” said Taylor.

About every third week, Sailors who just completed Navy IA Combat Training at Fort McCrady or Fort Jackson, S.C., fly 20 to 25 hours from the United States to Djibouti. Once Sailors arrive, go through orientation and get into a battle rhythm, they often find themselves not doing what they originally were billeted to do or expected. CJTF-HOA is expeditionary in nature and work routines are often fluid and change quickly. In some ways, the mission is still evolving. Lt. Cmdr. Randall Wentworth, an information warfare specialist and a mobilized Reservist, is working with Army Psychological Opera-



This busy walkway connects CJTF-HOA area of Camp Lemonnier to the expansion area, Container Living Unit area, and most of the construction that's taking place to build up the camp. The small Navy Exchange, souvenir shop, barbershop/hair stylist and gymnasium (right side) are along the pathway. In the distant horizon to the East you can see the Gulf of Aden.

HM2 Mercedes Blackshear, from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., looks at a blood smear using a BX40 Olympus Microscope in the lab of the emergency medical facility for Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.

tions personnel trying to fit his specialty with HOA's mission.

"We're still trying to figure out how to use our skill sets and how they can further the command's mission. This is my first time to really work with the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps. We're all contributing what we know and between all of us we should be able to fill in the blanks, but it's going to take everyone in the shop to do that. This is an evolving thing," said Wentworth.

Generally, Navy IAs with orders to the installation are focused on becoming familiar with the 631-acre camp; working in a Navy element as support staff to the tenant com-

mands; interacting with civilians — often Djiboutian—Pacific Architect Engineer service and maintenance employees; achieving the highly-touted Expeditionary Warfare (EXW) qualifications and taking advantage of programs such as douda village visits, community volunteering and Morale, Welfare and Recreation trips.

Those assigned to CJTF-HOA often work with joint service or coalition service members and participate in missions in one of the 10 East African countries with whom HOA is actively engaged. Some of the missions include developing a country's capacity, such as drilling wells, building schools or providing veterinarian care for livestock. U.S. forces also provide military-to-military training for African countries to help to improve their defense capabilities and increase security. There are also policy advisors, embassy diplomats and civil affairs teams that help build diplomacy. Working "down range" is the closest, and the most hands-on way, for Sailors to participate in HOA's mission.

"I've gone into Uganda to the Seabee camp," said Religious Programmer 1st Class Tameka Dingle, who has 9-month orders to CJTF-HOA and has regularly gone down range. "Title 10 ministry goes down range and provides ministry and services for the troops because a lot of times they don't get to go to church. They greatly appreciate it. It's been a great experience for me ... that experience of going out, seeing the people, learning a little bit about Africa, seeing Africa and learning about the different military branches," said Dingle.

ET1 Eric Callen, assigned to the communications shop, has a different perspective to contribute beyond Djibouti's borders.

"I talk to my [radio operators] when they come back from down range. They feel they made an impact in the community. I was a part of getting them there. That's rewarding in itself. Hopefully we [affected] the African community and the Sailors, Airman, Marines and Soldiers who have [left]," said Callen.

An argument could be made that experiences gained after six, nine or 12 months as boots-on-ground in Africa won't be of any value later in a Navy career. Such an argument will not likely come from those who have served in CJTF-HOA. Most agree that camp life is challenging – sometimes living with a heat index of up to 130 degrees and taking malaria pills. Yet, of those who were asked, there are no regrets. Hospital Corpsman 2nd



Class Mercedes Blackshear, who is on her first IA assignment, is not disappointed.

"I'm making a difference. You definitely get that sense of accomplishment. I've been here two and a half months, and already I'm about to get my EXW pin, and I'm doing community work. You definitely feel good ... it's not like you just come here and sit. You have so many opportunities to better yourself," said Blackshear.

Taylor sees broad dividends from serving in HOA.

"People who are thinking about coming to Djibouti and want to know what makes it unique - I believe it's one of the only areas you can deploy to and be able to engage in the community in a way that gives life-long deposits. While our mission may be a little bit different, our ultimate goal is the same. It's not just a checkmark in the box. It's about professional and personal growth that you

can experience in a venue that surpasses any other area that I'm aware of," said Taylor.

Kurta is keenly aware of the importance of this command and the affect it can have on a Navy member's career.

"I think it does a [lot] for the Sailors because they get to work in a very expeditionary environment. We're a combined joint task force, that by its nature is not permanent, and we're on a land-centric mission. So it's very broadening for the Sailors and it's great for their careers," added Kurta.

By outward appearance, Camp Lemonnier doesn't look like much. But it is a very busy community with a people who are making outsized contributions every day, embodying the motto "one team, one fight."

Foos is assigned to CJTF-HOA Public Affairs.

ET2 Tim Faust (left) and IT1 Jason Dant (right) prepare to test the signal strength of an antenna on a high frequency radio during a field expedient training exercise on Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.



Story and photos by MC1(AW) Jason Brunson

Soaring with the Eagles



*So the struck eagle, stretched upon the plain,
No more through rolling clouds to soar again,
Viewed his own feather on the fatal dart,
And wing'd the shaft that quivered in his heart.*

—Lord Byron



Dr. Bryan Watts, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary, gives this seven-week old juvenile bald eagle a moment to relax after lowering it from its nest. "I have worked with birds since I was 12 years old. This is all that I have ever wanted to do," Watts said. "What we do at the center is satisfying because we feel like through the research that we do we have a positive impact on species of conservation concern."



We recorded 13 bald eagle deaths from 2001 to 2005 and attributed 11 of the deaths directly to electrocutions and line-strikes,” said Berry.



Though there are sometimes as many as three per site, only one, a seven-week old juvenile bald eagle is nested approximately 55 feet high in this loblolly pine aboard Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md. The nest is built of large sticks and lined with soft grasses and tree boughs.

The bald eagle has long represented the strength, majesty and, above all else, the freedom of the American people. Much like the ideals it represents, this proud creature meets its fair share of opposing forces, yet somehow always finds a supporting breeze upon which to soar.

Unfortunately, it's often the actions of people that threaten or endanger the survival of a species. But, it's very often the efforts of man that fuel population recovery.

One shining example of such a proactive and dedicated conservation effort is underway just a few miles south of the nation's capital at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head, Md.

NSF Indian Head is not like many other Navy bases. You won't find a massive pier lined on one side with huge gray-hulled ships. You also won't find the hustle and flow of thousands of Sailors shuffling back and forth to work.

By day, the men and women assigned to Indian Head carry out its mission, ensuring operational readiness of U.S. and allied forces by providing a full spectrum of technical capability to rapidly transmit products from concept to operational deployment.

But, when the workday is done and most of the people have gone home, the base takes on nature's mission - supporting a thriving abundant wild life.

Completing the Navy's mission at Indian Head safely and with adequate security requires a significant area of land (3,314 acres), nearly half of which (1,648 acres) is

densely populated with a combination of pine and hardwood forests.

The principal facilities at Indian Head are located on Cornwallis Neck, which is bounded on the west by the Potomac River, on the east by the Mattawoman Creek and on the north by the town of Indian Head.

According to Seth Berry, Indian Head's natural resource officer (NRO), the number of bald eagles nesting, roosting and foraging at NSF Indian Head have flourished due to the lush forest, extensive shoreline and surrounding waterways.

The base is prime real estate for both migratory and resident bald eagles, and numbers have risen from as low as one nest in 1989 to 12 nests and a thriving communal roosting site in 2010.

“There are several likely reasons for the population increase,” Berry said. “First, as the population continued to rebound from the impacts of DDT (dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane) [and other pesticides], population numbers steadily increased. Also, the abundance of multiple food sources within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (fish and waterfowl) enables nesting eagles to raise larger clutch sizes.”

Another reason that Indian Head and other DoD installations have become prime habitats for eagles is the protection they offer and the loss of essential habitat from development in surrounding areas.

With population increase, the number of bald eagle mortalities also rose. It became clear that action had to be taken to balance the relationship between man and bird.



As part of the base's efforts to mitigate unnecessary bird mortalities, its electrical distribution system was retrofitted with flight diverters on the utility lines, plastic phase covers and fiberglass cross arms.

These deaths promoted the NRO to start informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss eagle deaths and mitigation efforts.

In 2005, this consultation resulted in the NRO developing the Raptor Electrocution Prevention Study, which surveyed the base electrical distribution system to determine which zones had the highest risk of having a negative impact on the eagles, said Barry.

Mitigation efforts included retrofitting the base's electrical distribution system with flight diverters on the utility lines and installing plastic phase covers and fiberglass cross arms to prevent electrocutions.

Further efforts included the base recognizing nest protection zones during the nesting season, which meant all base activities, construction, development projects, training areas, ranges and grounds maintenance had to adjust the way they conducted business within these zones.

“Most of the activities impacted are related to new construction or demolition projects that fall within the protection zone,” said Berry. “Based on the potential to have a negative impact during the nesting season, these activities would have to be delayed.”



GMFN Jack Carvell helps place Christmas trees behind the fence along the beach at Dam Neck to help prevent erosion.

Christmas Trees 'Live' Long After the Holidays

Story by Cathy Heimer, Naval Air Station Oceana Public Affairs

Douglas firs and blue spruces decorated with handmade ornaments, strands of lights and tinsel, provide enjoyment during the holidays. But what happens to these trees after the holidays?

Normally they lay discarded in landfills, left to slowly rot among tons of trash, but not at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana's Dam Neck Annex in Dam Neck, Va., where more than 450 Christmas trees, free of their holiday decorations, are returned to the earth in an environmentally-friendly restoration project which stabilizes the dunes that line a four-mile stretch of beach along the Atlantic Ocean.

While the yearly dunes restoration project began in the early 21st century, the annex's efforts became more essential recently, following November 2009's nor'easter storm that destroyed nearly one-third of the dunes with heavy winds and constant rain.

The trees were then laid side by side behind a biodegradable fence where they will collect sand from the wind and wave action. As the sand builds up, the trees will decompose and, within a few years, anyone digging into the sand will not find evidence of the former Christmas trees. After the trees decompose, which could take several years, Michael F. Wright said they will help stabilize the dunes by planting dune grasses, which is done jointly by the Natural Resources Office, the National Aquarium in Baltimore and 70-100 volunteers as part of National Public Lands Day.

While the beaches are popular during the summer months, the dunes serve as natural protection against storm damage to the military buildings along the coastline. The dunes also protect the fresh water habitat in Lake Tecumseh, Red Wing Lake and Sadlers Pond on Dam Neck, which all connect in the Back Bay watershed from being infiltrated by ocean water. Dam Neck is home to several training commands, including Training Support Center Hampton Roads, located along the water.

“In addition to all the environmental benefits, on the mission side, one of the benefits we get as a Navy is that it's our natural protection, our natural barrier against high tide and storm surge combination,” said Cmdr. Timothy Gamache, Dam Neck officer-in-charge. “The dunes provide the barrier so we can continue with the mission and protect our resources.”



A seven-week old juvenile bald eagle is carefully lowered from its nest for sampling purposes. The nest is approximately 55 feet high in this loblolly pine aboard Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md.

The purple band is an alphanumeric band that shows the bird was banded in either Virginia or Maryland, while the silver band is a federal band coordinated by the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Rivets are used to attach the bands so that the powerful birds cannot remove them.

Research Biologist, Libby Mojica and Dr. Bryan Watts of the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary take a series of measurements including wing, tail, culmen, talon and tarsus length from a seven-week-old bald eagle. Seth Berry, an environmental specialist from Naval

Support Facility, Indian Head, Md., records the data, which helps in determining gender (females are larger than males) and examining growth rates of eagles sampled.

“We don’t buy land, manage land or produce environmental policy; we generate the information that fuels these activities,” said Watts.

In 2006, the NRO began formal consultations with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which led to preparation of the Indian Head bald eagle biological assessment (BA) and to the creation of the Indian Head bald eagle management plan.

Both the BA and management plan were reviewed by the USFWS, and USFWS concluded that, in addition to the efforts already in place, the base must also conduct a three-year study ensuring that nest productivity is not impacted.

The productivity study was launched in 2007. The study partnered the NRO with the Center for Conservation in Biology at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. It consisted of data collection from all bald eagle nests, by banding eaglets and blood sampling, to determine levels of environmental contaminants.

According to Berry, the folks at William and Mary brought the expertise needed to conduct the work.

Dr. Bryan Watts, the center’s director, says the group is focused on birds with conservation concerns and conducts 30 to 40 research projects per year involving a large number of bird species and problems.

Watts said the group works with many species like bald eagles, peregrine falcons, ospreys and red-cockaded woodpeckers that most people

have heard of, as well as many species like black rails, yellow-crowned night herons or swamp sparrows that many may not be familiar with.

He said the mercury levels recorded from blood samples and feathers taken from eaglets are not high compared to threshold levels for impacts compared to other populations that have been tested. All nestlings also tested negative for encephalitis viruses, including the West Nile virus.

“This is good news for Indian Head and good news for this portion of the Chesapeake Bay,” said Watts.

As the program nears its close, all nests on the installation have been monitored for productivity. Chicks that were banded produced blood and feather samples that were collected during the program.

“The project has been completely successful,” said Watts. “We have completed the objectives of the study during the breeding seasons of 2008 and 2009 and are scheduled to complete the project in 2010.”

Berry said the initiative has not been without challenges. Bringing all of the supporting and supported commands under Naval Support Activity South Potomac up to speed on the requirements, the mitigation efforts and ensuring these efforts were met by all was no small task.

Funding and labor required in retrofitting the extensive electrical distribution system at Indian Head and balancing time-of-year restriction requirements also presented obstacles.

From Watts’ perspective the challenges lie in working with wild animals that nest 100 feet above ground.

“We have to fly over these nests twice to determine breeding activity and to age chicks after they hatch so that we know when it will be safe to enter the nests,” said Watts. “We have to climb into nests, lower chicks to the ground and process the chicks.”

Bald eagles are not simply important as symbols of freedom and patriotism. They also fill a very important ecological niche.

“Eagles exist at the top of their food chain and are good indicators of environmental health,” said Watts. “They eat the same fish from the Chesapeake Bay that [people] do, so in some ways they serve as an early warning system for us.”

Barry feels the Navy’s efforts at Indian Head often exceed those in the civilian sector due to the level of funding toward conservation efforts and the daily involvement of the natural resources staff.

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

Waste Not, Want Not – Reused Water Saves Energy

Story by Cathy Heimer, Naval Air Station Oceana Public Affairs

A partnership between the Navy, Trane Corporation and the Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD) has not only resulted in significant energy savings at Naval Air Station (NAS) Oceana Dam Neck Annex, Va., but also garnered Oceana the 2009 Presidential Energy Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management.

Through the energy savings performance contract (ESPC), established three years ago between NAS Oceana’s Department of Public Works and Trane Corporation, the Navy has surpassed savings expectations and significantly reduced the amount of pollutants generated from cooling and heating buildings on base.

The ESPC replaced the old central steam plant with a combination of distributed boilers and geothermal heat pumps. The new system at Dam Neck uses a 450-ton ground source geothermal heat pump, coupled to a 4,400-ton cooling water condenser loop.

In the original plans, the condenser water loop would have been cooled using ground source heat pumps, where the cooling would take place in water from pipes buried several feet below ground level. But Trane Corporation engineers came up with another idea when they saw the large six-foot diameter HRSD pipe that ran across Dam Neck. If they could use the treated waste water from that pipe, it would prevent the necessity of the wells.

As it turns out, HRSD was updating their nearby Atlantic Treatment Facility. HRSD maintains the plant that pumps nearly 50 million gallons of highly-treated waste water each day from the nearby cities of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, a mile and a half offshore. The pipe runs from the treatment facility through Dam Neck Annex, both above and below ground.

After Trane Corporation and HRSD discussed the feasibility and any possible environmental restrictions of using the treated waste water, it was determined to be a viable option and the Navy formally requested to “tap into” the huge concrete pipe that was running across the base.

“Twenty-one hundred wells would have been needed. But one pipeline replaces all of that,” said Shull.

By harnessing 14 million gallons of the treated waste water that runs through the HRSD system each day, the heat exchanger can use the 70 degree water for either heating or cooling buildings.

“We realized there was an environmental impact for the Navy to reduce their energy footprint and that offset the risk that we were exposed to,” Dano explained.

Dano explained how the system works. Two valves were placed on the pipeline at Dam Neck. The first valve allows treated waste water to enter the supply line to the heat exchanger plant and through the heat exchanger. It’s then

pumped back into the pipeline nearly 200 feet downstream, prior to going out to the ocean. The heat exchanger is enclosed in a large blue rectangular box and uses a series of plates. Dam Neck’s water comes in through one side, HRSD water flows in the opposite way through a separate pipe and the two loops never touch.

“We wouldn’t have had the project without some very forward-thinking people at Oceana and public works,” explained Porter.

Heimer is assigned to NAS Oceana, Norfolk.

POLLUTANT	PERCENT REDUCTION
Volatile Organic Compounds	41.4%
Nitrogen Oxides	78.4%
Sulfur Dioxide	97.6%
Particulate Matter < 10 microns (size)	77.6%
Lead	99.9%
Carbon Oxide	86.7%
Particulate Matter < 2.5 microns (size)	85.1%
Ammonia	93.0%

After closing the steam plant at Dam Neck Annex in 2007, significant reductions in air emissions of pollutants were realized. The following table shows the percent reductions in actual reported air emission from 2006, which was the last full year the steam plant operated, through 2008, the first full year the steam plant was closed.

What's Your Footprint?

Story by MC2(SW) Elizabeth Vlahos | Graphic by MC2(SW) William Blake

Put your shoes back on, shipmate – I'm not interested in how big your feet are. I'm talking about your carbon footprint.

Unless you've been living under a rock for the last two years, you are probably aware that there is an increased interest in environmental protection. According to Rear Adm. David Titley, oceanographer and navigator of the Navy and director of the U.S. Navy's Task Force Climate Change, the Navy needs to be prepared for potential affects of climate change in its mission areas.

Titley said that not only has the rate of global warming not slowed, the long-term trend is rising.

The Arctic Ocean

is among the areas seeing the greatest climate change, with sea ice coverage during summer months steadily diminishing. The ice has also been thinner when the Arctic Ocean freezes in the winter. According to Titley, the implications are significant for the Navy's fixed assets as well as current and potential operations. Navy leadership will have to decide how to respond.

What the Navy Is Doing

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Navy recently announced that leadership from the two departments have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to encourage the development of advanced biofuels and other renewable energy systems. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus emphasized how partnering with USDA supports his vision for energy reform. Mabus' overarching goal is to increase the Navy's warfighting capability.

"To secure the strategic energy future of the United States, create a more nimble and effective fighting force and protect our planet from destabilizing climate changes, I have committed the Navy and

Marine Corps to meet aggressive energy targets that go far beyond previous measures," said Mabus.

From a strategic perspective the objective is to reduce reliance on fossil fuels from volatile areas of the world. On the battlefield, the cost of transporting fuel has increased exponentially; in extreme cases, a gallon of gasoline could cost up to \$400. Even more sobering is the fact that these fuel convoys often run into the enemy, with deadly results.

Mabus set five ambitious energy targets for the Navy and Marine Corps, with biofuels being a major component of four of those goals. Those targets are summarized below:

- When awarding contracts, appropriately consider energy efficiency and the energy footprint as additional factors in acquisition decisions.
- By 2012, demonstrate a Green Strike Group composed of nuclear vessels and ships powered by biofuel. By 2016, sail the Strike Group as a Great Green Fleet composed of nuclear ships, surface combatants equipped with hybrid electric alternative power systems running on biofuel and aircraft running on biofuel.
- By 2015, cut petroleum use in half for its 50,000 non-tactical com-

For more information on energy tax credits, appliance rebates and energy efficient financing, go to www.energysavers.gov/financial/70022.

mercial fleet, by phasing in hybrid, flex fuel and electric vehicles.

- By 2020, produce at least half of shore-based installations' energy requirements from alternative sources. Also 50 percent of all shore installations will be net zero energy consumers.
- By 2020, half of DoN's total energy consumption for ships, aircraft, tanks, vehicles and shore installations will come from alternative sources.

This MOU complements USDA and the Navy and Marine Corps' existing renewable energy programs and efforts.

While the Navy does its part to conserve energy and meet its goals, there are a number of things that you can do. Saving energy isn't as difficult as it may seem; a lot of it is just plain common sense. Here's what you can do to decrease your personal footprint.

Let's talk cars, shall we?

Pump up the tires and get the junk out of the trunk! An unnecessary 100 pounds can reduce your fuel efficiency by 2 percent, whereas properly inflated tires can increase your gas mileage by 3 percent.

Find someone to carpool with and hit the

high occupancy vehicle lanes! Car pooling and ride-sharing decrease congestion and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

If you don't have a car or are ready for a trade-in, think about getting a hybrid or a clean diesel vehicle. These models can save up to \$1,500 in fuel per year. They also come in all shapes and sizes, so you don't have to drive around in the smallest car on the road.

Now, let's tackle the home front

If you live in a typical American home, your appliances and home electronics are responsible for about 20 percent of your energy bills. "ENERGY STAR" models exist for many different appliances – water heaters, air conditioners, refrigerators, washers and dryers, windows – the list is growing. The savings per year, though substantial in the pocketbook, extend beyond financial benefits – we're talking millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity, billions of gallons of water, millions of BTUs of natural gas. If you purchase an energy-efficient appliance or renewable energy system for your home, you may

be eligible for a federal tax credit; visit www.energystar.gov for more information.

If you aren't ready or currently can't afford to replace your appliances, take good care of the ones you own. Insulate your air conditioner by weather-stripping the seams around the unit. Also, insulate your water heater and your hot-water pipes, so you're not losing heat. In addition, keep your other appliances clean and in good repair; clogged air vents and busted parts mean wasted energy. Caulk your window seals and put up insulation to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

For your electronics, invest in power strips. Your electronic devices use energy even when shut off, and standby power can account for as much as 20 percent of home energy use. When you're not using your entertainment center or personal computer, shut down the power strip so your

appliances don't suck up any more energy.

These tips can help you – and the Navy as a whole – to improve the carbon footprint we are leaving. As for improving your physical footprint, you'll have to consult Dr. Scholl on that one. 🦶

Vlahos and Blake are assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.

Building Bridges

for the Navy and the World

Story by MC2(AW) Jonathan W. Hutto Sr.
Photo by MC2 Shannon Renfroe

Ensign Renekia Mewborn's connection to the military and the global community literally began at birth. Born in Germany to an Army family, Mewborn's childhood was spent growing up in Germany, England, Amsterdam, Netherlands, Belgium and Spain.

"I grew up in the military so I'm used to moving every couple of years and meeting new people," said Mewborn. "My Dad is retired Army, so military life is pretty much ingrained in me. I've adapted to new communities and embraced different cultures most of my life."

Her adaptability helped prepare Mewborn for her role as a production division officer within the Public Works department in Atsugi, Japan. With a total staff of 300, both American and Japanese, Mewborn is responsible for the 25 Seabees assigned to Atsugi.

"I always wanted to work within the government," said Mewborn. "The opportunities in the Civil Engineering Corps mirrored exactly what I wanted to do in the civilian sector. I aspired using my education and training to be engaged in construction and public works management. Being able to follow my dreams within the Navy is very gratifying."

Last year, Mewborn's dreams took her to Samoa for Pacific Partnership. As an embedded engineer, she was in charge of the engineering aspect of the mission. Mewborn traveled to Samoa to research potential projects, establish relationships and assess capabilities. She did a follow up visit to the country two months later to finalize sites, gather materials and solidify relationships with her Samoan contacts before the project began.

"Once [USNS *Richard E. Byrd* (T-AKE 4)] pulled in, we began troubleshooting making sure the job could be accomplished," said Mewborn.

Mewborn and her team accomplished several projects in Samoa to include: replacing a roof and lighting upgrade of a building at Apia National Hospital; replacing two broken sonar panels as part of their water beautification system; and installing roll-up doors at a pharmacy so it could be secured at night along with installing additional gutters to a building in Apia.

For Mewborn, the global partnership in Samoa is connected to our global fight against terrorism.

"The Navy's global partnerships allow us to strengthen our relationships with countries around the world," said Mewborn. "These partnerships give a great impression of us that we're the good guys. Our hope is these countries' be on our side if and when we need them."

Mewborn is currently working to obtain her professional engineers license with the goal of working with a Seabee battalion post her duty in Japan.

"After my [tour] in Japan, I would like to go to a Seabee battalion and obtain my warfare qualification while working directly with Seabees," said Mewborn. "A Seabee battalion would have more of an operational flow with deployments and regular building projects."

For now, Mewborn is satisfied with her duty in Japan personally and professionally. "I love it here in Japan," said Mewborn. "I love that it's a different culture from my previous experiences. The country is very beautiful and living out in town helps with the integration into the culture. There's a mountain behind my house with a beach 20 minutes away. This along with being a junior officer and having this much responsibility entrusted to me has been rewarding."

Hutto and Renfroe are assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C.



Photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien

Academy Women to Be Among First Female Submariners

Navy leaders recently told a Senate committee female Sailors will begin serving on submarines by the end of 2011, with this year's new Naval Academy graduates leading the way.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the Navy is in a good position to move forward with integrating women onto submarines.

"We think we learned a lot about integrating women in the services years ago, and those lessons are relevant today," Mabus said. Those lessons, he said, include having a "critical mass" of female candidates, having senior women to serve as mentors and having submarines that don't require modifications: the SSBN ballistic missile and SSGN guided-missile subs.

Finally, Mabus said, "We have the lesson learned to make sure any questions are answered, ... and we're very open and transparent on how we'll do this. We think this is a great idea that will enhance our war-fighting capabilities."

Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates notified Congress Feb. 19 of the intended change to Navy policy. Mabus had pushed for the

change since taking office in May 2009. Adm. Gary Roughead, chief of naval operations, endorsed the change, saying in a statement released in September 2009 that his experience commanding a mixed-gender, surface-combatant ship makes him "very comfortable" integrating women into the submarine force. The Navy changed its policy to allow women to serve on combatant ships in 1993.

"We have a great plan, and we're ready to go for the first women to come aboard in late 2011," Roughead told the Senate committee. In a prepared statement to the committee, he said the change would enable the submarine force "to leverage the tremendous talent and potential of our female officers and enlisted personnel."

Besides the incoming officers from the Naval Academy, ROTC and OCS, the first women submariners will include female supply corps officers at the department head level, Roughead said. The change will be phased in over time to include enlisted female sailors on the SSBN and SSGNs, he said. Women will be added to the Navy's SSN fast-attack submarines after necessary modifications can be determined, he said.

Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus greets U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen before the start of a college football game against the U.S. Air Force Academy at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

"This initiative has my personal attention, and I will continue to keep you informed as we integrate these highly motivated and capable officers into our submarine force," Roughead told the committee. ♣

Story by Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

New NAVSEA Components Projected to Save Navy Millions

New shipboard fluid system components developed by Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) could save the U.S. Navy more than \$50 million in energy and maintenance costs, officials recently announced.

"We constantly look at ways to make our ships more efficient, and these new components use less energy and last much longer than legacy equipment," said Vernon Parrish, Program Manager for NAVSEA's Engineering for Reduced Maintenance (ERM) Program.

The new ship components include variable speed drives (VSDs) and integral motor pumps (IMPs). They were developed, tested and installed by engineers at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division's Ships Systems Engineering Station (NSWC Carderock-SSES) in Philadelphia, a NAVSEA field activity.

The VSD and IMP projects are two of more than 30 initiatives managed by ERM, a NAVSEA's Fleet Readiness and Engineering Office program which seeks to reduce high-cost shipboard maintenance burdens in the U.S. Navy fleet.

The VSDs automatically regulate rotation speeds for motors on pumps feeding fire main piping systems, ensuring the systems maintain an optimal 150 pounds per square inch (psi) water pressure. Legacy pump motors often run at speeds generating much greater psi than the systems can handle, causing leaks and frequent breakdowns. The VSDs keep the water pressure constant, reducing system corrosion, and they cut energy costs by running the motors at lower speeds.

Four VSDs have been installed on the amphibious assault ship USS *Wasp* (LHD 1) said Parrish. Recent data compiled by NSWC Carderock-SSES revealed the VSDs improved the pumps' overall energy efficiency by more than 50 percent. Parrish added once VSDs

are installed on all LHD-class ships, they could save the Navy more than \$50 million over 20 years.

"While the cost savings are significant, our first concern was improving fire main system reliability," Parrish said. "The systems are critical to Sailors' ability to fight shipboard fires. The VSDs ensure the fire mains deliver peak performance whenever Sailors need them."

The IMPs are designed to replace bulky, two-part motor and pump combinations, combining the motor and pump into a single, compact unit. In addition to saving space, a prime commodity on Navy ships, the components last longer and require less maintenance than the two-part systems because they have fewer moving parts.

"The IMPs are permanent magnet motors that combine the pump rotor and the motor rotor into the same piece, resulting in an extremely power-dense unit," explained Jesse Schmeler an NSWC Carderock-SSES engineer. "Since the motor and pump are in one casing, it eliminates alignment issues and seal maintenance."

The IMPs are being installed on Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ships as they undergo mid-life upgrades. Schmeler said the IMPs act as circulation pumps in new

hot potable water systems being installed on the ships.

The new hot water systems, which replace the ships' legacy individual steam heaters, are more efficient and, thanks to the IMPs, require less maintenance than the steam heaters. USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD 44), USS *German-town* (LSD 42) and Whidbey Island have also received the IMPs. ♣

Story courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command, Washington, D.C.

Yokosuka's Negishi Det. Hosts Kid's Craft Day

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) Yokohama Detachment recently sponsored a Kid's Craft Day for local Japanese elementary school students at the Negishi Housing Base.

Students from Yamamoto Elementary School participated in the ongoing tradition at Negishi Housing Base, which is located near downtown Yokohama. The event is designed to show CFAY's continued support to the local community and strengthen the relationship between the U.S. Navy and its host nation.

continued on next page



CS3 George Macapagal of Aurora, Ill., takes a picture of artwork created by students from the Yamamoto Elementary School, Yokohama, Japan, during Kid's Craft Day. The event is a community program held at Fleet Activities Yokosuka.

Photo by MC3 Devon Dow

"I think this is a great event for the children - they really enjoy it," said Rieko Komatsu, a community relations specialist at the detachment. "Inviting the local community on base gives them a better understanding of what the base provides. I hope they see the good things that this base does for people."

Upon arrival, 60 third-grade students were greeted with a variety of art supplies including homemade lanyards, a hat creation station full of colored feathers and assorted decorations, a painting center, and clay and miniature block areas which provided the visiting students the opportunity to explore their artistic capabilities.

"These children are very talented artists," said Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Stanley Anyanwu, a native of Baltimore, who volunteered on his day off. "It is a great feeling when the children come over and show us the

art they have created. Events like these create a more substantial relationship between the detachment and our local community, and this definitely boosts the morale of the Sailors and volunteers here. It is a good day to come out, have fun, and let the children enjoy themselves on base."

One child's artwork left a lasting impression on Anyanwu and fellow volunteer, Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Juan Layman of New York.

"There was a young boy here today who created a U.S. flag and a Japanese flag at one of the art stations that blew my mind," Layman said. "It made me feel like the children really appreciate what we are doing over here and that we are making a difference. This is my first time volunteering at this event and if the opportunity comes up again, I will be here."

The top student-artists were recognized with a command coin from the detachment's officer in charge.

"To make an event like this work requires a lot of people to help organize," Komatsu said. "This is a great day for the students and for the volunteers who help make this possible." 🌟

Story and photo by MC3 Devon Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Japan.

Freedom Interrupts Drug Delivery in Western Caribbean

USS *Freedom* (LCS 1) recently achieved its first drug seizure when it disrupted a high-speed "go-fast" vessel and recovered more than a quarter ton of cocaine.

Freedom, with embarked Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 22, an LCS Surface Warfare Mission Package and a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET), was conducting counter-illicit trafficking (CIT) operations in 4th Fleet's Area of Responsibility when its crew located the vessel.

An MH-60S *Sea Hawk* from HSC 22 responded quickly and coordinated with *Freedom* and air assets from Joint Interagency Task Force-South (JIATF-S) to provide location data on the surface target of interest.

Following interception by the MH-60S, the vessel jettisoned its illicit cargo in the western

Caribbean Sea. The "go-fast" subsequently entered Colombian waters, where the Colombian Navy took over the tracking and pursuit mission.

A response team of Sailors and Coast Guardsmen from *Freedom* coordinated with a Colombian Navy patrol boat and Colombian patrol aircraft to retrieve seven bales and 72 kilos of cocaine from the water. The drugs were seized by the LEDET as evidence in preparation for possible criminal prosecution.

The coordinated actions of the Navy, Coast Guard and JIATF-S with Colombian surface and aviation assets were instrumental to the successful interdiction of narcotics.

"Our combined team of ship's crew, (LCS Surface Warfare) Mission Package, aviation detachment and Coast Guard LEDET showed great teamwork and resolve," said Cmdr. Randy Garner, *Freedom*'s commanding officer.

One of the unique features of the LCS is the flexibility and adaptability to configure from one warfare specialty to another - called "mission packages." *Freedom* currently is configured with its LCS Surface Warfare Mission Package, designed to combat small, fast-boat threats to the fleet.

Freedom, which will be homeported in San Diego, is currently on its maiden deployment in the Caribbean and the coasts of Central and South America under the operational control of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. *Freedom* is currently conducting CIT operations in support of JIATF-S, U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Coast Guard District 7. 🌟

Story courtesy of USS Freedom (LCS 1)

Gates Issues Terms for 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Review

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has released the guidelines and parameters of a DoD review of the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law in preparation for its potential repeal.

The 10-month review should include input from service chiefs and all levels of the force and their families, Gates said in a memo to Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, commander of U.S. Army Europe, who was chosen to head the effort along with Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer.

Gates established the review earlier this year, saying it would be critical to ensuring a smooth transition if the law that bans gays from serving openly in the military is repealed, as President Barack Obama has proposed. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have stated their support for the repeal.

The review also should engage Congress members, Gates said, as well as "key influencers of potential service members and other stakeholder groups." It should also take into account the experiences of foreign militaries, he added.

"To be successful," Gates said in the memo, "we must understand all issues and potential impacts associated with repeal of the law and how to manage implementation in a way that minimizes disruption to a force engaged in combat operations and other demanding military activities around the globe.

"Should Congress take this action," he continued, "strong, engaged and informed leadership will be required at every level to properly and effectively implement a legislative change."

Gates directed that the review should:

- Determine how repeal of the law would affect military readiness, effectiveness, cohesion, recruiting, retention and family readiness;
- Determine leadership, guidance and training on standards of conduct and new training, as well as appropriate changes to policies and regulations, including management, leadership, training and benefits;
- Recommend appropriate changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice;
- Monitor and evaluate congressional proposals related to the repeal;
- Monitor the work force climate and military effectiveness that support follow-through of a repeal; and,
- Evaluate issues raised in ongoing litigation related to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Gates said the review is necessary to "minimize disruption and polarization within the ranks, with special attention paid to those serving on the front lines." It is due back to him by Dec. 1, 2010.

The review is to include input throughout the department and across services.

"To effectively accomplish this assessment, I believe it essential that the working group systematically engage the force," Gates wrote. "The

participation of a range of age, rank and warfare communities in this study including families, in addition to active outreach across the force, is a critical aspect that will undoubtedly lead to insights and recommendations essential to the department's implementation of any change."

Noting the political nature of the law, Gates said it is "critical" that the review be conducted "in a professional, thorough and dispassionate manner."

"It is equally critical that in carrying out this review, every effort is made to shield our men and women in uniform and their families from those aspects of this debate," he added. 🌟

Story by Lisa Daniel, American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Seabees Provide Electricity to Cap-Haitien Orphanage

Construction Electrician 1st Class Phillip Brown and CE2 Andy Kauffold, Seabees assigned to Naval Special Warfare Group 2, Logistics and Support Unit, worked for five days on an electrical project to install electrical outlets and provide lighting to a new orphanage in Cap-Haitien, Haiti. The new facility is providing shelter for displaced children after the recent earthquake in the area.

"Being able to provide electricity to these kids was a rewarding experience," Kauffold said. "I will remember my time here for the rest of my life."

The Eternal Hope in Haiti Foundation runs three orphanages that help critically ill, displaced and homeless children.

CE1 Phillip Brown, assigned to Naval Special Warfare Logistical Support Unit 2, Norfolk, prepares an electrical box for wiring during an improvement project at a local orphanage in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, as part of Operation *Unified Response*.

"The support of the military, specifically the Seabees dedicated to the orphanage, has been instrumental in ensuring we can provide a loving, nurturing home for many children displaced as a result of the earthquake in Port-au-Prince," said Angie Haynes, vice president, Eternal Hope in Haiti Foundation.

Haynes is also a nurse practitioner who has volunteered her time at local clinics for the past 25 years in Cap-Haitien.

Prior to the Seabee's project, the construction site for the orphanage was not fully prepared to accept abandoned or recovering children from Port-au-Prince. Now the site includes access to water and electricity, and the orphanage has electrical outlets and lights for the children.

"It was good to see the smiles on the children's faces when the lights came on," Brown said. "We're here to help in whatever way is needed. It feels good to help."

Seabees also ran underground wire to other buildings that will be used as a medical clinic and a kitchen. As a result, the orphanage has now accepted approximately 20 children from Port-au-Prince and is awaiting another 32 children who are recovering post-operation patients at the Milot hospital.

Even more children are being identified daily and placed in the orphanage.

"We are truly grateful and humbled to have enjoyed the support of the U.S. military," Haynes said. 🌟

Story and photo by MCC Robert J. Fluegel, assigned to Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command.



Photo by Lt. Ed Eshiv

An MH-60S *Sea Hawk* helicopter assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22, embarked aboard USS *Freedom* (LCS 1), hovers over the area where illicit drugs were dumped overboard by the crew of a high-speed "go-fast" vessel. Sailors and Coast Guardsmen from *Freedom*, left, and Colombian navy sailors in a patrol boat search the area beneath the helicopter. *Freedom*'s boarding team recovered 247 kilos of cocaine from the Caribbean Sea.



Photo by MCCS Robert J. Fluegel

NH 47029

"SPINNING A YARN"

SEVEN "OLD SALTS" ENGAGED IN TALL TALES ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE (1877-1909), circa 1887. A SUITABLE VERSE ACCOMPANIES THE VIEW. PHOTO BY E.H. HART, NEW YORK.



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Senior Salts The Backbone of the Navy

Story by MCC Leif R. HerrGesell

The backbone or keel of our Navy are the men and women who make up our crews. The underpinnings or “ways” upon which that keel is laid and launched are the traditions of our service. Many of our traditions can easily be traced back to colonial times before there was a U.S. Navy and just as many more are traced to the Navy’s infancy – in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. These traditions trace their origins to ceremonies, best practices or long-held beliefs that became widely accepted over time.

Today’s chief petty officers are the deckplate leaders - guardians of ceremony and heritage, the keepers of arcane knowledge specific to their rating, the first arbiters of good order and discipline, and the keepers of tradition. But, it wasn’t always that way.

Before April 1, 1893, there were no chiefs as we know them today, but there was something every Sailor would recognize – a veteran salt. This was probably someone who had been around Cape Horn - a man who could splice a line quicker than spit, who could reef a t’gallant sail 75 feet in the air in 60 knot gusts, or who could pick up a hammer and forge weld an emergency repair that kept the main boiler on line 2,000 miles from the nearest shipyard.

This veteran salt was a first class petty officer who probably had 30 or more years on the rolling decks of a man-of-war. He crossed the Equator more times than a landsman had been to the big city. He plied arctic waters while exploring for the Northwest Passage as an able-body seaman. As a petty officer, he maintained the blockade of Charleston, S.C., during the Civil War and finally reached the pinnacle of his trade as a chief gunner’s mate, chief boatswain’s mate or chief master-at-arms.

In those days, the title of chief only applied to the senior-most petty officer in each rating and he was not entitled to superior rank, nor was he recognized by a device or badge. Nowhere was the rank officially established, but it was assigned at the discretion of the commanding officer. He was a spinner of yarns and held court in taverns from China to Panama and Marseilles to Cape Town. His sea-stories were gospel. He always had a seat by the fire and officers valued his knowledge.

As the Navy prepared to head into the 20th century, senior leadership recognized that the technical knowledge and experience of these senior salts needed to be rewarded, respected and retained. By 1893, the Navy seldom relied upon sail. Coal-fired boilers and internal combustion marine engines provided a constant source of horse power to drive the massive screws of the rapidly-evolving dreadnought battleships, new destroyers and torpedo boats. The second generation of steam Sailors, machinists, coxswains, firemen, blacksmiths and others, would advance to the new rank of chief petty officer.

General Order 409 was signed by President Benjamin Harrison, Feb. 23, 1893, officially establishing the rank of chief petty officer, effective as of April 1, 1893. The insignia used was that of a gold fouled anchor surmounted by the silver letters U S N. There was one more order to follow. General Order 431 was issued Sept. 24, 1894, establishing the arrangement of a “crow,” the chevron and rocker as we know them today. That order also established crows for the other ranks of petty officers.

Two innovations were left. In 1958, the stars of the senior chief and master chief were added to the badge worn on the left sleeve and also to the collar insignia of the fouled anchor. In January 1967, the Navy described the responsibility and established the authority of Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. Master Chief Delbert D. Black was the first master chief to add a third star to the now-legendary gold fouled anchor.

It is the responsibility and the honor of every Sailor to maintain and respect the traditions that make our Navy great. Every master chief’s career began as a seaman recruit and each of them learned and became experts in their rate, leadership and Navy heritage throughout the course of their careers. It is the task of each generation of Sailors to remember where our Navy came from, ensure our keel is strong for tomorrow and remember the lessons of the past.

Shipmates, you are the keel and the future chiefs. We charge you with remembering and maintaining all of our Navy traditions. General Orders 409 and 431 were written for you. 🇺🇸

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

LS1 (SW/AW) Junar Bulatao

Story by MC2(SCW) Brian Coverley, and Susan Lawson

When we think about ground warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan, what most likely comes to mind is combat and the use of firepower. We usually don’t think about the hidden pieces – that ensure service members are ready for such combat – supplying boots-on-ground with those pieces, weapons, munitions and all other essentials.



One Sailor currently provides the hidden pieces while serving as an individual augmentee (IA) at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq - Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Junar Bulatao.

“My job is to validate all open purchase material-requests from our unit, Base Command Group, Al Asad, and make sure that we have all the required accounting documents. [We also] use financial accounting and database-systems to perform inventory and financial management functions. Some of my duties [also] are associated with hazardous material control and management. I’m also the unit’s command career counselor, and I work directly with the command master chief,” said Bulatao, a Los Angeles-native.

Since Bulatao’s parent command is the Center for Personal and Professional Development, (CPPD) Det. West, San Diego, an organization whose mission is “... to develop the Navy’s workforce by providing education and training that builds personal, professional and leadership competencies [supporting] mission readiness...,” Bulatao was prepared to take on the collateral duty of serving as the command career counselor.

“I was already accustomed to teaching the petty officer first class and second class selectee leadership and command-delivered ‘train the trainer’ courses for CPPD, so the training transition was really seamless,” said Bulatao. “While fulfilling my collateral duty ... I discovered several junior Sailors were attached to smaller units and didn’t have a career counselor at their disposal. I have made it one of my top priorities to help these Sailors out and opened up the Base Command Group Career Counselor’s Satellite Office to provide those Sailors with easy access to their career and advancement options.”

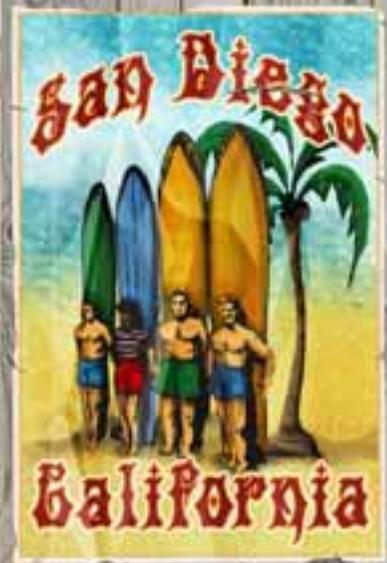
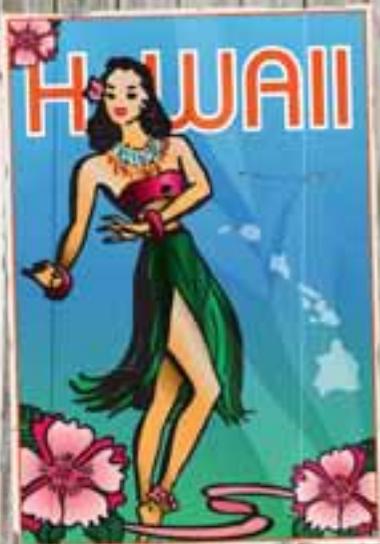
He was certain he would eventually wind up in the region, supporting either Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom. “Logistics specialists are in demand for IA billets. I got ‘tagged’ six times before I actually went to the basic training. In September 2009, I checked into the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC). Once I completed readiness training, I reported to the Base Command Group at Al Asad Airbase as the material control warfighter open purchase request route validator.”

Bulatao has at least seven months left in his current assignment with the departing Marine Expeditionary Force II and will soon join 1st Army Division, 82nd Airborne with its partner the 307th Brigade Support Battalion. When asked why he became a Sailor, Bulatao offered this:

“I was influenced by my brother, Chief Aviation Machinist’s Mate Bulatao who’s also an instructor at CPPD Det. West, San Diego, along with my relatives who are retired Navy. I was in school when he joined in 1997. He told me what the Navy had to offer me. I joined in late September 1998. [I enjoy the opportunity] to teach leadership courses and provide training and guidance to my fellow IA Sailors for their personal and professional development, and have never regretted being in [the Navy].” 🇺🇸

Coverley is assigned to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Washington, D.C. Lawson is assigned to Center for Personal and Professional Development, San Diego.

In the Zone? Be in the know



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