

WITH OPEN ARMS

EL SALVADOR »



MAY 2006

ALL HANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY



THE SWEET SCIENCE:

★ A STUDY ★

IN CONFIDENCE



[On the Front Cover]

IT2 Triva Pino made her USS *Port Royal* (CG 49) shipmates proud by bringing home the gold medal at the 2006 Armed Forces boxing championships. Pino is the Navy's first female boxer.

Photo by JO1(SCW/SS) James Pinsky

[Next Month]

All Hands meets the dogs of war and their masters on the front lines of the War on Terrorism.

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14 YP Boat Enlisted: Training Future Leaders

It's up to the enlisted crew of the YP boats at the U.S. Naval Academy to make sure midshipmen receive the right training and experience early on in their careers. The YP boats and their crews will provide the training and practical experience that midshipmen can't get from days in a classroom and nights studying.

Photo by JO2(SW) David G. Beyea



[Number 1069]

ALL HANDS

May

20 Feigning Terrorism in the Mid Pacific

Chief Operations Specialist (SW) William Clements is one of the few Sailors in the Navy who would take being mistaken for a terrorist as a compliment. He's part of Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Afloat Training Group Mid Pacific's (ATGMP) Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Group (ATFPG). From standard security alerts to small-boat attacks, they do command assessments to ensure commands are able to defend themselves in port anywhere in the world.

Photo by JO1(SCW/SS) James Pinsky



24 With Open Arms

USS *Hurricane* (PC 3) and USS *Squall* (PC 7) recently took part in *Project Handclasp* during a port visit to El Salvador. In scorching 100-degree temperatures the Sailors gave box upon box of elementary school books, bandages, clothing, medicine and soccer balls to the underprivileged community.

30 The Sweet Science: A Study in Confidence

There aren't many places in the military today where physically beating up on the other services is encouraged, but the annual Armed Forces Boxing Tournament, held this year at Naval Base Ventura County's Warfield Gymnasium, is just such a brawler's paradise. And for the four rookie members of the All-Navy Boxing Team it's all about – confidence.





LT Douglas Thornton (right) and ABE2 Kristopher Cabuhat man the bow bubble aboard USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). From their position, Thornton and Cabuhat control the power, tension and launch of each of the bow steam-powered catapults. *Ronald Reagan* and embarked Carrier Air Wing 14 are currently on deployment conducting maritime security operations in support of the global war on terrorism.

Photo by PH3 Aaron Burden



Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott

Supporting the mission in the Middle East

After returning from a recent visit with our Sailors serving on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, I was very pleased. As with all of our Sailors, their dedication and work toward mission accomplishment was not only impressive, but humbling as well. As I had the opportunity to shake their hands and speak with them individually, I could see they were both professionally and personally ready to take on some of our most important missions in an area with some of the most difficult conditions.

A number of our Sailors stationed in this AOR are assigned as individual augmentees, Sailors who have taken on the immense responsibility of supporting the mission in the Middle East. As most commands today are tasked to support these new, joint-mission areas, it is important to understand what these jobs are and the importance behind the job you would be asked to do.

Our Sailors are performing critical, important work in both traditional and non-traditional roles. Those roles range from jobs our Sailors have done for years to detainee operations; force protection and driving in convoys; manning reconstruction teams; and working in training teams assisting the Afghan and Iraqi armies.

Speaking with Sailors is a monthly column initiated by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy as a way of reaching out to the men and women of the fleet, whether they are stationed just down the road or halfway around the world.

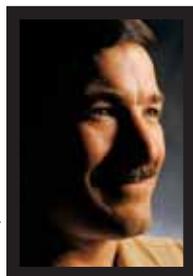


Photo by JO1 Preston Keres

Although each command determines its own criteria in selecting the right Sailor to fill the individual augmentee requirement, a foundation of personal readiness is essential.

Personal readiness means having Sailors who are physically fit, who have finances and their personal and professional lives in

order and are ready to serve in any capacity the mission may require. Additionally, family readiness is of utmost importance.

Keeping records at home up to date and maintaining a line of communication between home and your command is vital, because success is difficult to achieve without the support of families back home. Military One Source (www.militaryonesource.com) is an excellent source of information for Sailors and their families. The site is abundant with resources involving money matters, parenting, legal issues and handling other topics that may come up before, during or after a deployment.

Leadership training requirements should also be up-to-date, and you should continuously be training those around you as well as knowing the jobs of others in your division in the event you or someone in your workspace takes on such a position.

It may sound as though we are asking a great deal from Sailors serving in some of these non-traditional missions, but I can assure you our best Sailors will find great personal satisfaction within these assignments.

The Sailors on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, like those serving at sea, represent the fighting spirit of the American Sailor. I am personally very proud of every one who has stood the ground between our family and friends back home and those who would do them harm. 

AllHANDS

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See it ... Shoot it ... Send it!

October 2006

ALL HANDS

ANY DAY

Your Photo Could Be This Year's Cover!

Images must be shot between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.
Instructions for submission can be found at: www.mediacen.navy.mil/still/AnyDay.htm
All images already posted to Navy.mil will be considered automatically.

Sailors Invited to Give Opinion on the Navy Life

The Chief of Naval Personnel is sending letters to 16,000 randomly selected Sailors inviting them to participate in the 2006 Quality of Life (QOL) Survey.

The survey is used to collect data on personal issues that matter most to Sailors – ship-board life, housing, standards of living, community support, health care, and Sailor preparedness concerns.

“The Quality of Life Survey plays an integral role in our efforts to ensure that we have the right programs and policies in place to support our Sailors and their families,” said VADM J. C. Harvey Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel.

The survey is 30 percent shorter than the 2002 QOL survey, and for the first time it’s being conducted on the Internet.

Sailors should request assistance from their chain of command to gain Web access if necessary. The entire survey should take about 20 to 30 minutes. Participation is entirely voluntary and confidential.

“Despite the many demands on our schedules, I ask each Sailor to take the time to respond to this survey,” added Harvey.

Results of the 2002 survey are posted on the Navy Knowledge Online Web site, www.nko.navy.mil. (Using an NKO account, go to “organizations”, click on “Chief of Naval Personnel.” On the left side, click “Strategic Planning and Analysis,” then in the center of the page, under “Surveys,” scroll to the bottom and click “View Surveys.” Under “Surveys” click on “Navy Quality of Life Survey.”) The 2006 results will be posted after analysis is completed. ☞

Story by Sharon Anderson, public affairs office, Chief of Naval Personnel.

Voting Assistance Officers Help Sailors With Absentee Voting Process

The Navy is encouraging Sailors and their families to take part in the 2006 election season with help from the Navy Voting Assistance Program.

“The Navy Voting Assistance Program is here to assist every Sailor who is eligible to vote,” said LT Dave Truman, Navy Voting Assistance Program manager, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Millington Detachment. “Sailors can still vote in their state primary through the process of absentee voting, even though they may not physically be in the state.”

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in

any election for federal office. In addition, all members of the uniformed services and their family members who are U.S. citizens may vote absentee in federal, state and local elections.

Once filled out and mailed to the applicant’s local voting official in their state of residence, the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) acts as a request for absentee ballots for any elections to be held that year. The FPCA is available to all U.S. citizens from local voting assistance officers and the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, at www.fvap.gov.

Dates for the 2006 state primaries are scheduled throughout the year. Visit www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html or consult your local Voting Assistance Officer for a particular state election date or for more information. ☞

Story by JOC(SW/AW) Sherri Onorati, Navy Voting Assistance Program Marketing.

Ricky’s Tour

By J01 Mike Jones



Navy to Delay Some PCS Moves

A combination of current year budget reductions and out-of-cycle BAH (basic allowance for housing) increases has caused a deficit in the military manpower account that will delay permanent change of station (PCS) orders this fiscal year for approximately 3,800 Navy personnel until October 2006, the Navy recently announced. The Navy normally conducts approximately 75,000 PCS moves each year.

The impact will only be to Priority 4 moves, which are mainly shore-to-shore and some sea-to-shore moves.

Both officer and enlisted personnel who do not have written PCS orders in hand within the FY06 PCS transfer window may be impacted.

Orders for Sailors who fall into high-priority billets, such as those to forward deployed naval forces, currently deployed units, recruiting duty, joint combatant command support, and senior leadership (CO/XO/DH/CMC/COB/RTC), will rotate as scheduled.

Once Sailors have been issued PCS orders, even if the move is not taking place until FY07, they may make arrangements to move household goods and their families in advance of their actual departure from their current command. Families who need to relocate in the summer for school or other issues may still move before Oct. 1.

Detailers at Millington will call each of the Sailors impacted by the PCS delay and ensure that any issues with families, schools and careers are fully addressed. ☞

Story courtesy of the public affairs office, Chief of Naval Personnel.

Force Reduction in Iceland Reflects Focus on New Global Threats

The U.S. government has announced plans to remove its forces from Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, this fall, but reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to the island nation's security.

U.S. Ambassador Carol van Voorst and U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns notified Icelandic Prime Minister Halldor Asgrimsson and Foreign Minister Geir H. Haarde of the decision according to Terry Davidson, a State Department spokesman.

The United States established the force in 1951 at NATO's request to defend Iceland and the North Atlantic during the Cold War. The air station served as a base for U.S. fighter and patrol aircraft.

"The decision is expected to take effect within the next few months, with no significant military presence in Iceland after September," said LCDR Joe Carpenter, a Pentagon spokesman. "Affected service members will receive new assignments that reflect current requirements."

About 1,200 U.S. service members, 100 DOD civilians and about 600 Icelandic civilians are based in Iceland in support of the Iceland Defense Force. The United States spends about \$260 million each year to maintain its military presence in Iceland.

According to Carpenter, "The United States remains fully committed to the U.S.-Iceland defense relationship, the 1951 defense agreement and the North Atlantic Treaty. We look forward to discussing with the Icelandic

Religious Program

Specialist 2nd Class Michael Tolbert, assigned to USS *Monterey* (CG 61), was recently named the Navy's Junior Religious Program Specialist of the Year for 2005. In addition to his assigned duties as a member of Monterey's command religious team, Tolbert became a member of the ship's Visit, Board, Search and Seizure team. Tolbert also volunteered to join the Joint Forces Chaplain Team that participated in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.



government how best to ensure continued close cooperation on defense and security. ☞

Story by Donna Miles, American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Navy Featured in Panoramic Photo Exhibit

An exhibit of panoramic photographs of Navy subjects is now on display at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in Norfolk. Titled "Picture Perfect," the exhibit is on display at the Forecastle Gallery adjacent to the museum and features panoramic photography work done between 1918 and 1920. Wide vista shots of parade grounds filled with Sailors and full-view shots of large battleships such as *Wisconsin* (BB 60) are just a few images in the collection.

"I've always wanted to do a show with them," said Joe Judge,

museum curator. "Some of the pictures were in very poor condition. They have been stored in basements and attics. Most were rolled up and had been that way for some time. Many were too brittle to work with."

A Norfolk company, G.L. Hall, was active in producing panoramic images during the 1918 to 1920 time period. Though no longer in business, the company provided an important historical reference of the changes that have occurred to naval facilities in the Norfolk area.

The collection of panoramic photographs has been accumulating at the museum over the years. Most of the pictures were donated from individuals. Judge says the images are now the property of the Naval Historical Center.

"For now the exhibit will stay here at the museum. We're not sure if there is interest elsewhere but if there is, that's fine with us." ☞

Story by JO1 Jim Bane, Fleet Public Affairs Center Atlantic

Around the Fleet

▼ IS1 Jeffery Dexter takes a quick look up from his low crawl as part of Warrior Skills Training. Dexter, a recently activated Reservist, is one of more than 200 U.S. Navy Sailors being trained by Army personnel at the McCrady Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C. The course provides weapons, convoy and urban assault tactics, field medicine and local cultural basics training before deployment.

Photo by PH2 Roger S. Duncan



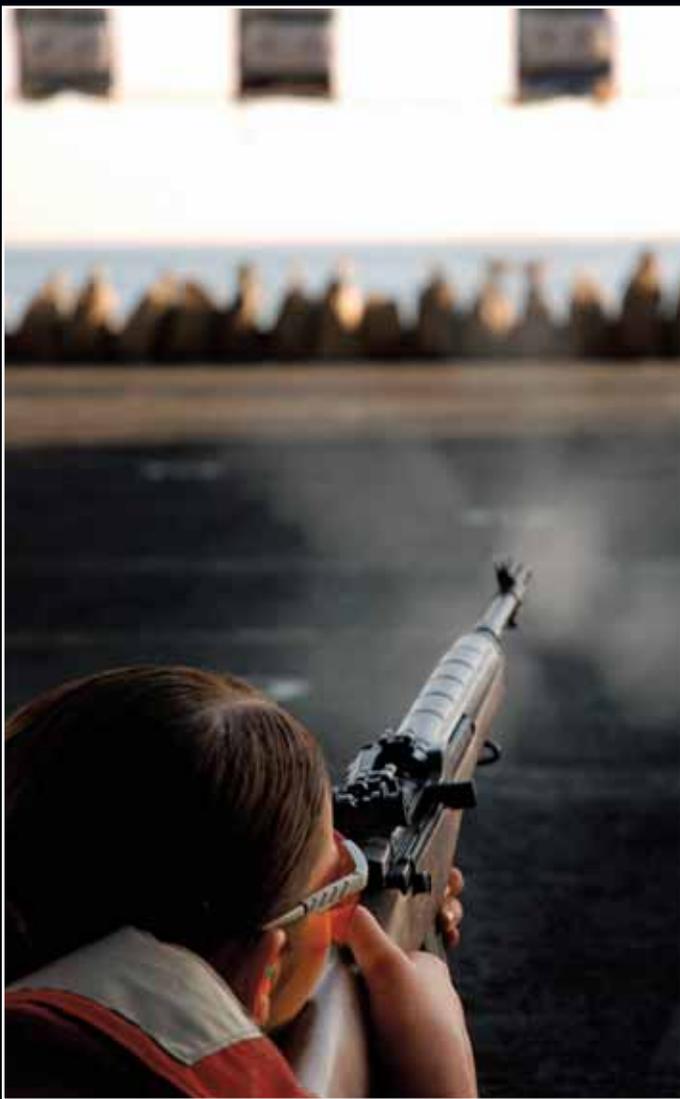
► **Students at** Farrier Firefighting School, Naval Station Norfolk, follow one another into the training simulator, where they will apply their learned skill sets to combat shipboard fires. The school prepares all Sailors to become an asset in the event of shipboard fires.

Photo by JOSN
Matthew D.
Leistikow



▲ **HTFN Stefan Gingerich, assigned to** Naval Special Clearance Team 1, works with a dolphin named Ten, during a demonstration on board Naval Base Point Loma. Submarine, Surface and Air Forces Pacific Sailors of the Year (SOY), along with their families were the special guests for the exhibition.

Photo by JO1 Kristina Brockman



▲ **AN Melissa Watson** fires off a round from an M-14 during a small arms training exercise aboard USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76). The carrier, and embarked Carrier Air Wing 14, is currently on her maiden deployment conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) while participating in the global war on terrorism.

Photo by PHAN Christine Singh

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

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

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

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

CNIC's Web Address Changes

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) launched a new Web address in February to reflect their new command name.

Pointing one's browser to www.cnic.navy.mil opens up a world of information on CNIC programs and is a resource for Navy professionals.

"The old CNI Web address will still be accessible," CNIC Webmaster Linda Betts said. "Users will be seamlessly routed to the new CNIC Web address."

CNIC's new commander, VADM Robert T. Conway Jr., fueled the name change to add 'command' to the organization's title to focus on CNIC's customer – fleet, fighter and family. ✉

Story by Zona Lewis, public affairs office, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, D.C.

food, fuel, ammunition and supplies to the U.S. Navy fleet at-sea.

Under transformation, SEALOGEUR has streamlined its structure and operation, transferring a number of functions to MSC headquarters and the newly formed Ship Support Unit Naples, or SSU Naples. As a result, non-core billets have been eliminated from SEALOGEUR, trimming a nearly 60 person staff to a third of its size.

"Our primary mission – husbanding strategic sealift in support of U.S. Transportation Command – is unchanged," said CAPT David K. Wright, commander, SEALOGEUR and Commander, Task Force 63.

In 2005 alone, MSC Europe oversaw the loading and discharging of more than 2 million square feet of combat cargo in 16 ports throughout Europe. As for fuel, MSC tankers and combat logistics ships moved more than 330 million gallons within the European theatre last year.

SEALOGEUR will continue this tradition of service established by its predecessors. ✉

Story courtesy of the public affairs office, Sealift Logistics Command Europe.

MSC Europe Gets New Name

Military Sealift Command (MSC) Europe, the European theater's chief ocean transportation and combat logistics provider, was officially disestablished and renamed Sealift Logistics Command Europe (SEALOGEUR) during a recent ceremony at the command's headquarters in Naples, Italy.

This new name reflects the changes SEALOGEUR has undergone in the past 18 months as a part of MSC's global transformation efforts. MSC is SEALOGEUR's parent command and is responsible for moving 95 percent of all U.S. military cargo used around the globe as well as providing

CNIC Signs Memorandum With VFW

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in March with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) to provide assistance to Sailors and their families on military installations.

CNIC Chief of Staff CAPT John Cohoon and VFW

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Around the Fleet



▲ Crew members man the bridge as **USS Annapolis (SSN 760)** departs Souda Bay, Crete, Greece, following a routine port visit. *Annapolis*, homeported in Groton, Conn., is currently on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.

Photo by Paul Farley

▼ A member of **Beachmaster Unit (BMU) 1, Det. Western Pacific**, guides an Air Cushion Landing Craft onto the beach to load U.S. service members and equipment participating in *Balikatan 2006*, an annual bilateral combined Republic of the Philippines and U.S. military exercise.

Photo by JO2 Brian P. Biller





▲ EO3 Daniel Bordeson searches for Improvised

Explosive Devices (IED), while BU1 Stephen Bailey works on a Humvee during a training evolution aboard Hunter-Liggett, Calif. Bordeson and Bailey are assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 and are part of the Convoy Security Team training for deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.

Photo by PH1 Kim McLendon



▲ U.S. Marine Corps armored amphibious vehicles

from the 2nd BN/5th Reg., Battalion Landing Team leave the beach on the island of Iwo Jima to return to USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) after commemorating the 61st anniversary of the World War II battle for the island in 1945.

Photo by JO2 Brian P. Biller

◀ Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1

Seabees practice carrying litters before a simulated mass casualty drill during a field medicine exercise at Camp Shelby, Miss. NMCB-1, NMCB-26 and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 were participating in a graded exercise to evaluate their ability to successfully meet mission-oriented goals in a contingency environment.

Photo by PH3 Ja'lon A. Rhinehart

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Commander In Chief James Mueller signed the agreement that formalizes relationships targeted toward enhancing quality family support services to military personnel through the organization's Military Assistance Program.

"Organizations like VFW fill the voids for the Sailors and make sure that we don't let them drop through the cracks," Cohoon said. "What you do is extremely important to what we do."

Under the program, the VFW will offer assistance in keeping military personnel in touch through Operation Uplink, a program that distributes pre-paid phone cards to troops and hospitalized veterans.

Emergency financial relief funds are also made available to qualifying military families needing assistance. The organization offers employment assistance to military spouses and personnel preparing for transition from military service to civilian-sector careers, too.

"You provide assistance to those Sailors who return from overseas or to their families while the Sailor is deployed," Cohoon said. "I applaud you for what you do for us and hope that we can continue to work together as we move down the road."

For more information on the VFW, visit www.vfw.org.

Story by Ed Wright, public affairs office, Commander, Navy Installations Command, Washington, D.C.

'Phishing' Scam Targets Thrift Savings Plan Participants

Participants, as well as some non-participants, in the Thrift Savings Plan are targets of a "phishing" scam," according to Tom Trabucco, director of external affairs for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. "The phishing is an attempt to get recipients of the unsolicited e-mail to compromise themselves by giving up their personal financial information."

Thrift Savings Plan administrators would never request personal or financial information via e-mail, Trabucco said. "Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail, and never give out information of a personal nature (through) unsolicited e-mails," he said.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board alerted Thrift Savings Plan coordinators to the scam in a March 17 memo, the day after the scam was discovered. The memo described it as an unsolicited e-mail with a link to a bogus Web site appearing to be the thrift plan's account-access site.

The bogus site asks for a recipient's social security and Thrift Savings Plan personal identification numbers. Entering this information takes the user to another screen where they are asked for financial information, including a credit card number, he said, adding that this information can be used to steal an individual's identity.

As long as participants have not responded to this scam e-mail, their accounts have not been compromised, investment board officials said in the memo. Those who did respond should contact their financial institutions

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Around the Fleet



▲ **Sailors and Marines aboard USS *Blue Ridge* (LCC 19)** are welcomed to Malaysia for a four-day port visit by festive dancers. *Blue Ridge* is forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Photo by JOSN Marc Rockwell-Pate

► **Students assigned to Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC), Pensacola, Fla.,** prepare to switch out the nozzle man during a hose-handling drill. Every 15 to 30 seconds the nozzle man is replaced by another team member to help perfect their teamwork and fire-fighting skills. The state-of-the-art firefighting and salvage facility is capable of training more than 10,000 personnel in basic and advanced firefighting techniques annually.

Photo by Gary Nichols





▲ **Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmers assigned to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 2, prepare to jump from a Utility Landing Craft (LCU), during training operations in San Diego Bay. The training enhances pilots' and aircrew members' operational readiness and effectiveness.**

Photo by JOSN Mike Leporati

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immediately for guidance. They should also call the Thrift Savings Plan at (877) 968-3778 and ask to have their account access blocked, according to the memo.

Phishing e-mails generally appear to be from a business or organization the recipient may deal with, according to a Federal Trade Commission Consumer Alert issued in June 2005. It may request that the recipient update, validate or confirm account information, the alert said.

Participants are encouraged not to attempt to access their accounts by clicking links offered in any e-mail, according to the memo. Only by opening a new Internet browser and typing the Thrift Savings Plan's Web site into the address field can a participant be sure of accessing the authentic thrift plan Web site.

The thrift plan is a retirement savings plan for 3.6 million federal civilians service members, Trabucco said. Officials don't know how many plan participants the scam has affected, but the FBI is investigating, he added. ❧

*Story by Samantha L. Quigley,
American Forces Press Service,
Alexandria, Va. Service.*

Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign Launched

DOD launched a national program recently to increase awareness among service members and their families about domestic violence.

Partnering with the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the campaign, "Take a stand against domestic violence," is designed as an intervention message to educate service members and their families about domestic violence

and connect them to the 24-hour-a-day hotline, said Gail McGinn, who is performing the duties of the principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We want to make sure that people have the opportunity to stop and think about domestic violence and highlight that as an issue in society, as well as in the military," said McGinn.

Educational materials about domestic violence will be distributed at military installations and in key public places in surrounding civilian communities. The campaign also will include public service announcements in military media outlets.

"DOD already has an active program to address the problem, including support and counseling services, she said, and a task force has studied the issue and made recommendations about how to improve that program. As a result of those recommendations, DOD has revised some of its policies and put new training programs in place," she said.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers access to domestic violence programs in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The hotline provides crisis intervention, information and referral to victims of domestic violence and their friends and families 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in more than 140 languages, with a teletypewriter line available for the disabled. The hotline's phone number is (800) 799-SAFE (7233), and the TTY line is (800) 787-3224. ❧

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



» Story and photos by JO2(SW) David G. Beyea

YP Boat Enlisted:

»»» *Training Future Leaders*



Photo by PH1(AW) Shane T. McCoy



Even before the sun creeps over the horizon at the United States Naval Academy, a line of midshipmen lug their seabags out to the Dewey Sea Wall along the Severn River. It's 4:06 a.m., and a chilled wind blasts the hands and faces of the gathering midshipmen.

As they peer across the river, the midshipmen catch sight of what will be their homes for the next three days. Six of the 21 Yard Patrol (YP) boats from Naval Station Annapolis, chug up to the sea wall and begin to toss out mooring lines. Midshipmen step up to catch lines, and help the YP boats.

The early grey light almost camouflages the wooden boats' grey hulls, but the midshipmen find the hull numbers of their assigned boat, shuffle aboard and are greeted by their YP's four-man crew.

They immediately head below deck and quickly stow the clothes and supplies they brought with them, knowing that they only have a few minutes to get on station before the YPs cast off. >>>>



▲ The YP boats are docked at Naval Station Annapolis, across the Severn River from the Naval Academy.

► The wooden hull of a YP boat receives many scrapes and bruises while training midshipmen.



▲ **BM1 Daniel Dunham** shows **Midn 4/C Kyle Fleetwood** the quick-and-easy way to raise pennants.

◀ **Midshipmen are up early, charting** and steering a course toward Philadelphia. The experience gained while underway can't be duplicated in any classroom.

As 5 a.m. approaches, and the boats are manned up, the mids are only going out for a weekend, but they're ready to prove themselves to the seamen and petty officers who run the YPs.

The YPs give the midshipmen the training and practical experience that they can't get from days in a classroom and nights studying. And to make sure they get the right training and experience, the Academy relies on the enlisted crew of the YPs.

Photo by PH1(AW) Shane T. McCoy

“We put theory into practice,” explained Chief Boatswain’s Mate (SW/AW) Kenneth Mills, craftmaster of YP 677. “We give them the raw picture of what’s really going on.”

A craftmaster, essentially the commanding officer of the boat, is in charge of a YP and her crew. This position is usually a chief or first class petty officer, while the craftmaster’s crew consists of an engineman and two seamen.

Being part of such a small crew provides a different experience than the ships of the fleet. “Instead of 100 people, there’s four of us on this boat,” explained Seaman Brian Marvin Lynn, a crewmember of YP 681. “I understand them, and they understand me. If there were more of us on the boat, you wouldn’t get that.”

Junior Sailors not only have more one-on-one time with their chiefs, but also have more responsibility and trust placed at their feet.

“There are no divisions here. Stem to stern, bilges to mast, that’s the division,” explained Mills. “If you train your crew right, you don’t have to baby-sit them. Like [my engineer], he knows what I like, he knows what our goals are. I leave it up to him to get them done. I don’t tell him when to knock off. I don’t tell him when to come in. He knows what he’s got to do.”

What these crews have to do isn’t run the YP boat, that’s the job of the midshipmen that are aboard. The job for these four-man crews is to train, supervise and instruct those midshipmen.

“If I’m smart, I’ll let the chief or I’ll let the first class teach me what’s going on,” said Midshipman 1st Class Jeffery A. Milota, a former Fire Controlman 3rd Class. “I’m not going to just jump, thinking that because I read it in a book I know what I’m doing. It’s like street smarts and book smarts. I can understand all the commands, but if I don’t understand how the ship’s going to actually run, or how things are going to affect the ship, then I’m sunk already.”

The YP crews aren’t just instructors,



▲ SN Brian Lynn waits for the craftmaster’s order to cast-off lines, so YP 681 can head to the Academy to pick up the midshipmen.

though. Seamen to chief, these Sailors don’t simply teach midshipmen, they become their lifeline, ensuring that the midshipmen don’t get in too deep when their 108-foot long YP boat hits open water.

“It’s not quite an instructor billet,” explained Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel Dunham, craftmaster of YP 691. “It’s more like a ‘you’re-in-charge’ billet. All the midshipmen look to you because they want to know how to use something correctly. ‘Does this work right?’ ‘BM1 we broke this, can you fix it?’ There’s no one else but you.”

“It’s very crazy, because I’ll be seeing them two or three years from now, and they’ll be lieutenants,” said Lynn. “So I’ll be calling them ‘sir’ instead of ‘Hey, midshipman.’ And they’ll have the opportunity to boss me around, instead of me bossing them around.”

The midshipmen spend time on the YPs throughout their four years at the academy. A few hours every few days on the water and an occasional weekend trip during the academic year, prepare them to

receive the bulk of their experience during their summer cruises.

During summer cruise, the YP crews take groups of midshipmen out to sea for three-week training cruises. While on these blocks, the crews of several YP boats work together as a squadron, to give the midshipmen a small taste of what the fleet is really like. Midshipmen become helmsmen, lookouts, cooks and navigators. They stand watch in the engine room and attend daily training sessions, all under the watchful eyes of the enlisted crew.

The craftmasters even ensure that the midshipmen know how to maneuver in formation. Simulating how a fleet of ships arrange themselves at sea, the YPs sail in formation, with one boat in the center, as the “aircraft carrier,” while the rest take up position surrounding it. As low-key as the training may be, it’s still noticed.

“We were off the coast of New Jersey one time,” said Dunham. “Some fisherman was calling the Coast Guard asking, ‘Are we going to war? There’s a bunch of little boats out here in formation.’”



▲ **Craftmaster BM₁ (SW/AW)**

Daniel Dunham debriefs the midshipmen of his boat on their weekend performance. This provides valuable training in leadership and general seamanship.

◀ **SN Malcom Kelly** takes a moment to relax and watch the passing scenery, as the midshipmen of YP 691 prepare to dock in Philadelphia, during a three-day training cruise.



After four years of training from the craftmasters and crews of the YPs, midshipmen can go to the fleet with some of the practical experience they'll need ... and a few grains of salt.

"I've learned so much from so many people," said Milota. "Each craftmaster has his own pet peeve that he always hits on, so by getting so many craftmasters to train me, I've gotten to be well-rounded."

When not underway and training midshipmen, the YP crews spend their time taking care of their boat.

Although they're much smaller, YPs still require all the care and work as their larger sisters in the fleet. "Other than having an all-enlisted crew, YPs are the same as ships in the fleet," said Mills. "We have alarm systems, we run drills and we have maintenance programs. "It's just a smaller crew."

As their weekend comes to an end, and the crews of the YP boats return the midshipmen to the Naval Academy, they return their boats to the pier, knowing the value of their work.

"You sit back and it makes you smile," said Mills, "and you think, 'Well, when I get to the fleet, they might be my division officer, and I know that they'll make the right decision when push comes to shove.'"

At least in part thanks to their enlisted instructors. **ES**

Beyea is a photojournalist for All Hands.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200605/feature_1/

FEIGNING TERRORISM

IN THE MID PACIFIC

Story and photos
by JO1(SCW/SS)
James Pinsky

▶ **ATGMP-ATFPG uses realistic tactics** and weapons to give fleet Sailors a realistic taste of what an authentic terrorism threat might be.

▼ **OSC(SW) William Clements,** ATGMP-ATFPG, uses modern communications equipment that can be bought on the internet and used by anyone.



If Chief Operations Specialist (SW) William Clements ever tries to come aboard your ship, shoot him. He's there to kill you.

And he'll thank you if you do.

Clements, one of the few Sailors in the Navy who would take being mistaken for a terrorist as a compliment, is part of



► **LT John Tobin, ATGMP-ATFPG,**

slithers back to the small boat he used in the simulated attack.

Naval Station Pearl Harbor's Afloat Training Group Mid Pacific's (ATGMP) Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Group (ATFPG).

"We currently train sea commands on how to defeat numerous different attacks," said Chief Gunner's Mate (SW) Horst Pipher, ATGMP-ATFPG. "From standard security alerts to more robust small-boat attacks, we also do assessments to ensure commands are able to defend themselves in port anywhere in the world."

Clements, along with other members of his team, trains nonstop to walk, talk, look and act just like the terrorists America fights every day. The only difference is, when the Navy's "terrorists" knock you down, they'll help you back up, dust you off and teach you how to keep the real terrorists from being just as successful against you.

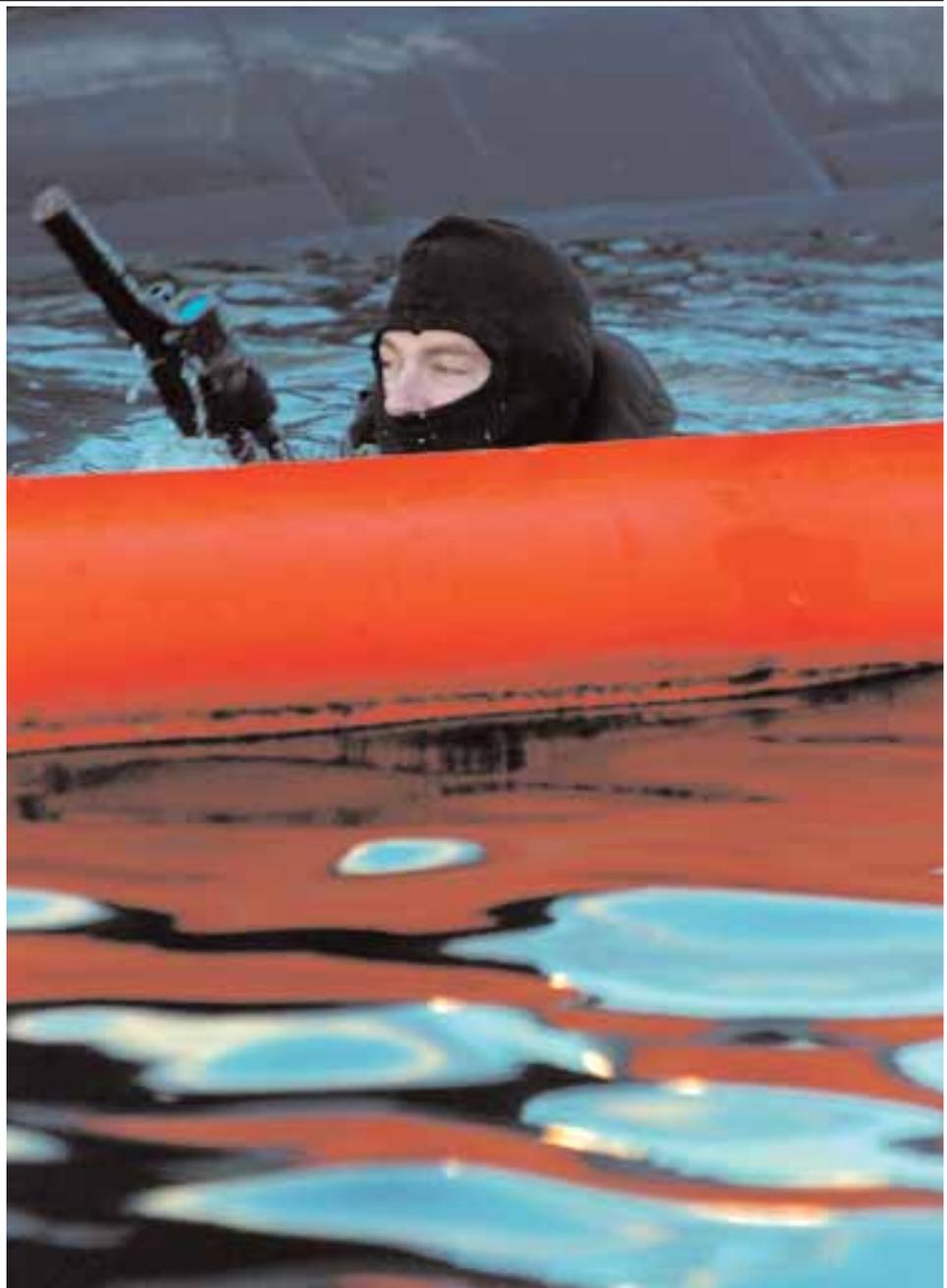
The group's mission is to evaluate and educate ships' personnel about anti-terrorism/force protection procedures. They routinely test surface ship and submarine assets in an effort to maximize fleet readiness against possible terrorism attacks worldwide.

Aside from getting to play the villain, sneaking up on shipmates and living in Hawaii, Sailors who work at ATGMP-ATFPG gain a remarkable amount of insight into making everyone around them better Sailors, especially when they report to a new command.

"Duty at ATG allows a Sailor to become a true subject-matter expert within their warfare specialties," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ronald Appling, ATGMP-ATFPG. "Because ATG Sailors provide focused warfare training to multiple ships, they are continually exposed to practically every possible fleetwide training issue. More importantly, ATG trainers see how these various issues are resolved and immediately

► **OSC(SW) William Clements,**

LT John Tobin and GMC(SW) Horst Pipher train constantly to ensure they are physically and technically proficient in enemy tactics.





▲ **The whole point of ATGMP-ATFPG** is to test and educate the fleet's anti-terrorism response.

pass those lessons learned on to the next ship they train."

While playing the bad – OK, very bad – guy might seem like a lot of fun, what ATGMP-ATFPG does for the fleet is taken very seriously. All applicants are carefully screened.

"Not everyone can be an ATG instructor," said Appling. "You have to have a desire to teach, to continue to learn, and a dedication to training the fleet in the war on terror. You also have to be physically and mentally fit and willing to work hard in your area of expertise," he added.

So watchstanders beware. The next terrorist incident might not come from ATG. ⚡

Pinsky is a photojournalist for All Hands.

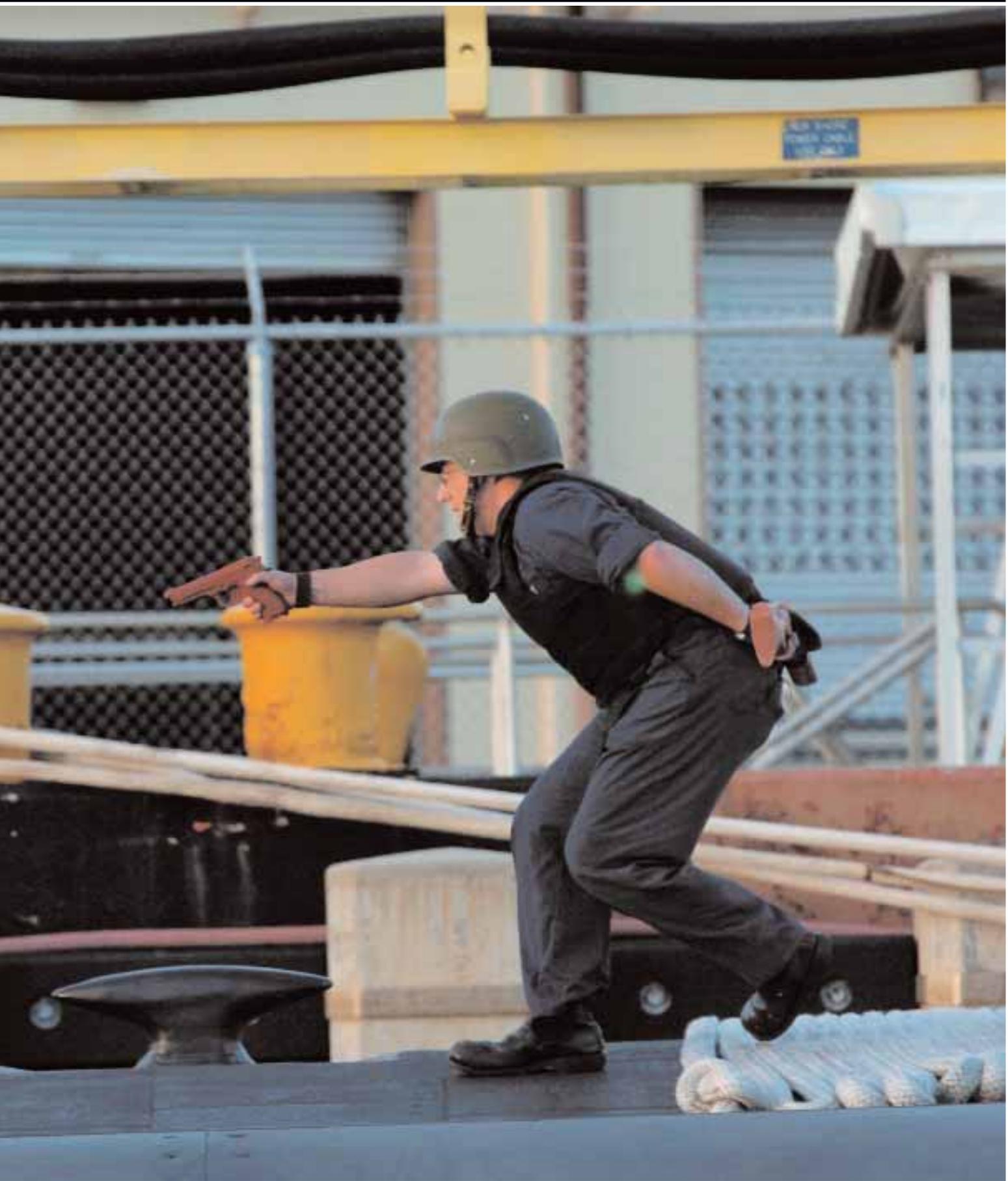
Editor's note: For more information on ATGMP-ATFPG go to <http://www.atg.surfor.navy.mil/midpac>

► **Website Exclusive**

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200605/feature_2/



► **Every action, reaction and response is monitored, evaluated and recorded** to give naval assets a clear picture of how well they respond to the threat, and how to improve their anti-terrorism posture. Here, a watchstander responds to an ATG drill.

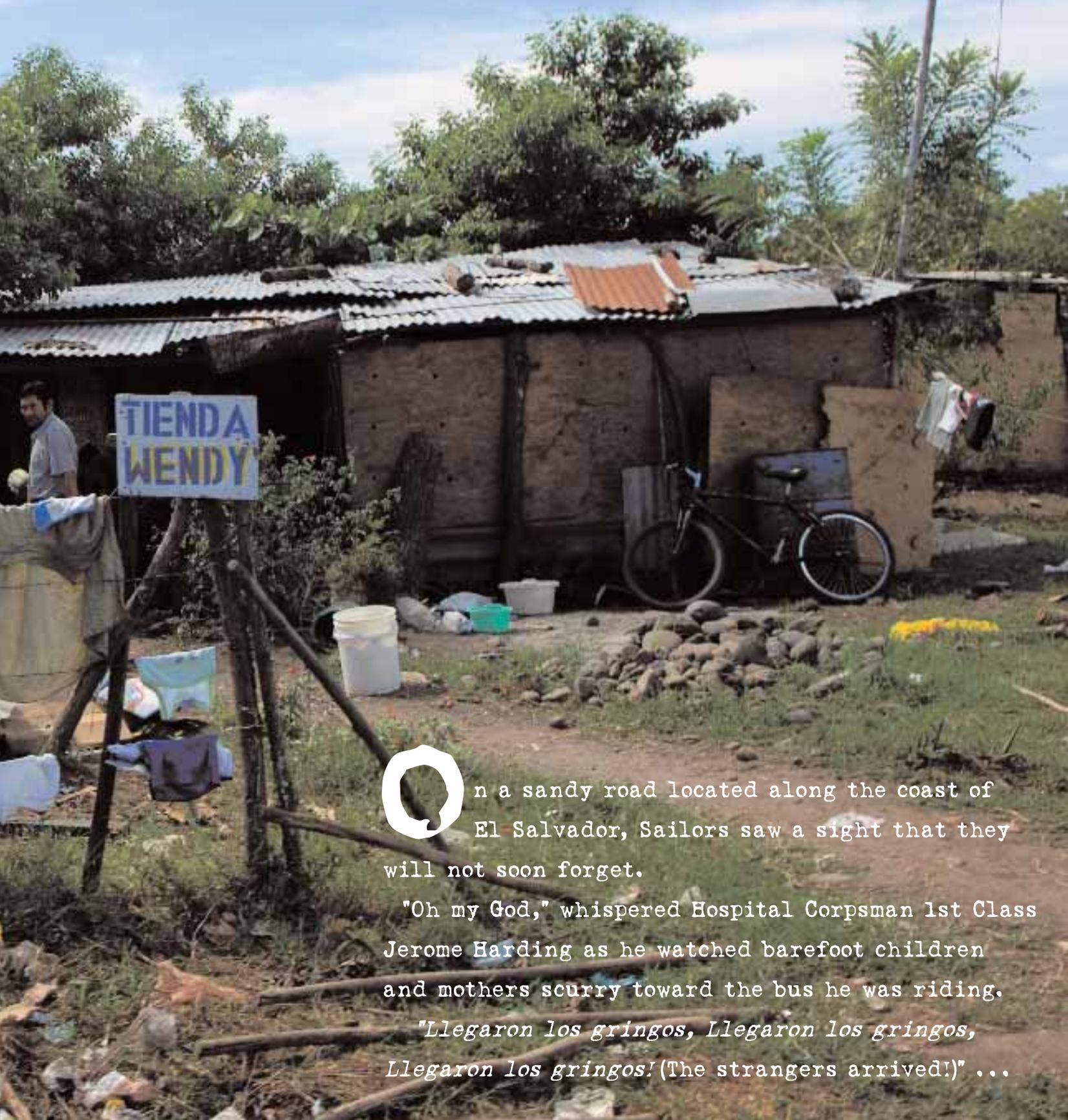




▲ An impoverished community along El Salvador's coastline is home for hundreds of people in need. The crews of USS *Squall* (PC 7) and USS *Hurricane* (PC 3) participated in *Project Handclasp* during a port call in El Salvador.

WITH OPEN ARMS

Story and photos by
PH2 Todd Frantom



Quon a sandy road located along the coast of El Salvador, Sailors saw a sight that they will not soon forget.

"Oh my God," whispered Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jerome Harding as he watched barefoot children and mothers scurry toward the bus he was riding.

"Llegaron los gringos, Llegaron los gringos, Llegaron los gringos! (The strangers arrived!)" ...



◀ Village children quickly gathered around to see what the strangers brought with them.



Harding, along with a dozen other Sailors were witnessing poverty firsthand during their visit to a small shanty village here. But the Sailors had brought gifts for those in need.

“It’s the greatest thing I have ever done as a Sailor,” said Culinary Specialist 1st Class John “Cookie” Thomas, assigned to Coastal Patrol Craft USS *Hurricane* (PC 3).

Hurricane and USS *Squall* (PC 7) took part in *Project Handclasp* during a port visit to El Salvador. In scorching 100-degree temperatures the Sailors gave box upon box of elementary books, bandages, mixed clothing, medicine and soccer balls to the underprivileged community.

Project Handclasp was established in 1962 as part of an effective and highly visible way in which Americans, represented by U.S. service men and women, extend the hand of friendship to disadvantaged citizens of other nations throughout the world.

“I wish we could do more,” said LCDR

Brian Diebold, commanding officer of *Hurricane*. “My heart goes out to these people.”

Handclasp is a unique humanitarian effort, combining as it does the generosity and compassion of the American people and the U.S. military. Not only are those in need assured to receive the materials, but Sailors participating in the distribution gain a keen insight into, and a greater appreciation for living conditions and lifestyles of people in other countries.

“I never realized just how good I have it back home,” said Thomas. “I have also gained a greater respect for the little things that I all too often take for granted, such as being able to get in my car and simply drive to the store when I’m thirsty or want a pack of smokes.”

For the smiling children, it was like Christmas as they kicked newly-inflated soccer balls around with the generous strangers. On the other hand, concerned

mothers gathered around the boxes of goods, protecting the treasure of education for their children. They seemed concerned about how the material would be divided among the community. It was a scene of conflicted emotions.

I really didn’t know what to feel,” said Thomas. “I was more in shock at what I was witnessing.

“How could people live this way? Like a photo in *National Geographic*, more than half the children had no shoes on their feet or clothes on their back, yet they smiled and jumped around with excitement upon our arrival. There were also pregnant children standing around that could not have been a day over 15 years old. I also noticed that there were very few men in the area. I guess they were out working in the fields or something.”

Sailors take part in the volunteer effort out of sheer good will. What a Sailor can take away from the experience could very



▲ **HM1 Jerome Harding** laughs with the village children in El Salvador.

▶ **“More than half the children had no shoes on their feet or clothes on their backs, yet they smiled and jumped around with excitement upon our arrival,”** said CS1 John Thomas.





well be a life changing experience.

“I wanted to do something that might be meaningful while I was visiting the port, not just sit around,” said Thomas.

“I am so glad I chose to join in the project and what I have seen. I will not forget this any time soon. How these people live shocked me, and to see them happy with so little was astonishing. I really couldn’t understand what the children were saying, but if I could, I am sure they are telling me ‘thank you.’ The smiles on their faces said it all.”

According to Search and Rescue Swimmer Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Pepe Montoya, a Spanish-speaking Peruvian native, the civilians expressed their gratitude for the Sailors’ visit.

“Many of the peoples’ views of Americans changed because the Sailors

stopped in their village,” said Montoya.

“The people here [perceive] the United States in an [exaggerated way], because they have no phones, Internet or TV. They said we seemed like a giant that didn’t really care about their small community. But now is the beginning of a change in that perception.”

Though the donations the Sailors gave may be small in scale, the effect was symbolically large. The gifts represented American hospitality and showed that Americans care about people regardless of where they are or what the situation.

“When people approached me, the kids were saying they had never had a soccer ball before. They couldn’t wait to kick it around,” said Montoya.

“*Gracias Dios mio por estas ofrendas,*

one lady shouted in our direction, as we walked through the crowd, which means ‘Thank God for the gifts,’” Montoya said. “This was my first time to be part of a COMREL project. I speak their language and I understood just how much they really appreciated us.”

Throughout the visit smiles and tears were shared between the strangers from two different worlds.

“I am torn by what I see here and feel for the men,” said Electronics Technician 1st Class Nathaniel Rocha, an American of Mexican descent from Tijuana, Mexico, attached to *Squall*. “I have three children of my own, and I thank God I am able to provide for my family. They don’t have to go live in poverty.

“I believe all Sailors should volunteer at

◀ **LCDR Brian Diebold pumps**

up soccer balls for children as part of *Project Handclasp* during a port visit to EL Salvador.

▶ **Many of the children in the**

El Salvadoran village have been given donations from charitable American organizations.

least once in their career for such projects when they have an opportunity to do so. It's an incredibly humbling experience," Rocha added.

Back when the crates of goods were loaded aboard the two ships in San Diego prior to the long voyage to Little Creek, Va., little did the Sailors know that the materials on board might change how they viewed the Navy and their service.

"After taking part in *Project Handclasp*, I feel better about being in the Navy and even prouder to serve," said Montoya.

As the Sailors loaded up into their vans to leave the children of the small, poor village, a palpable silence filled the air; they realized they had taken part in something good. There were no words to commemorate the open arms they offered – only a communal memory of the faces that won't soon be forgotten. ☞

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

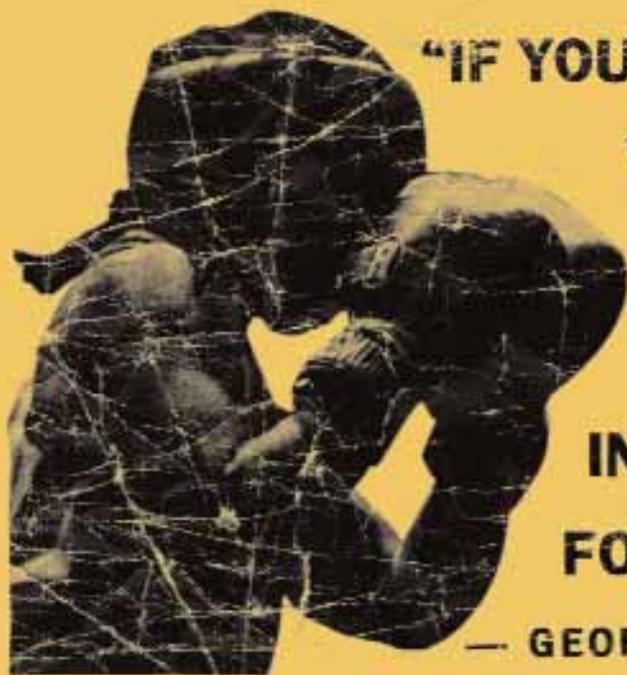
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THE SWEET SCIENCE:

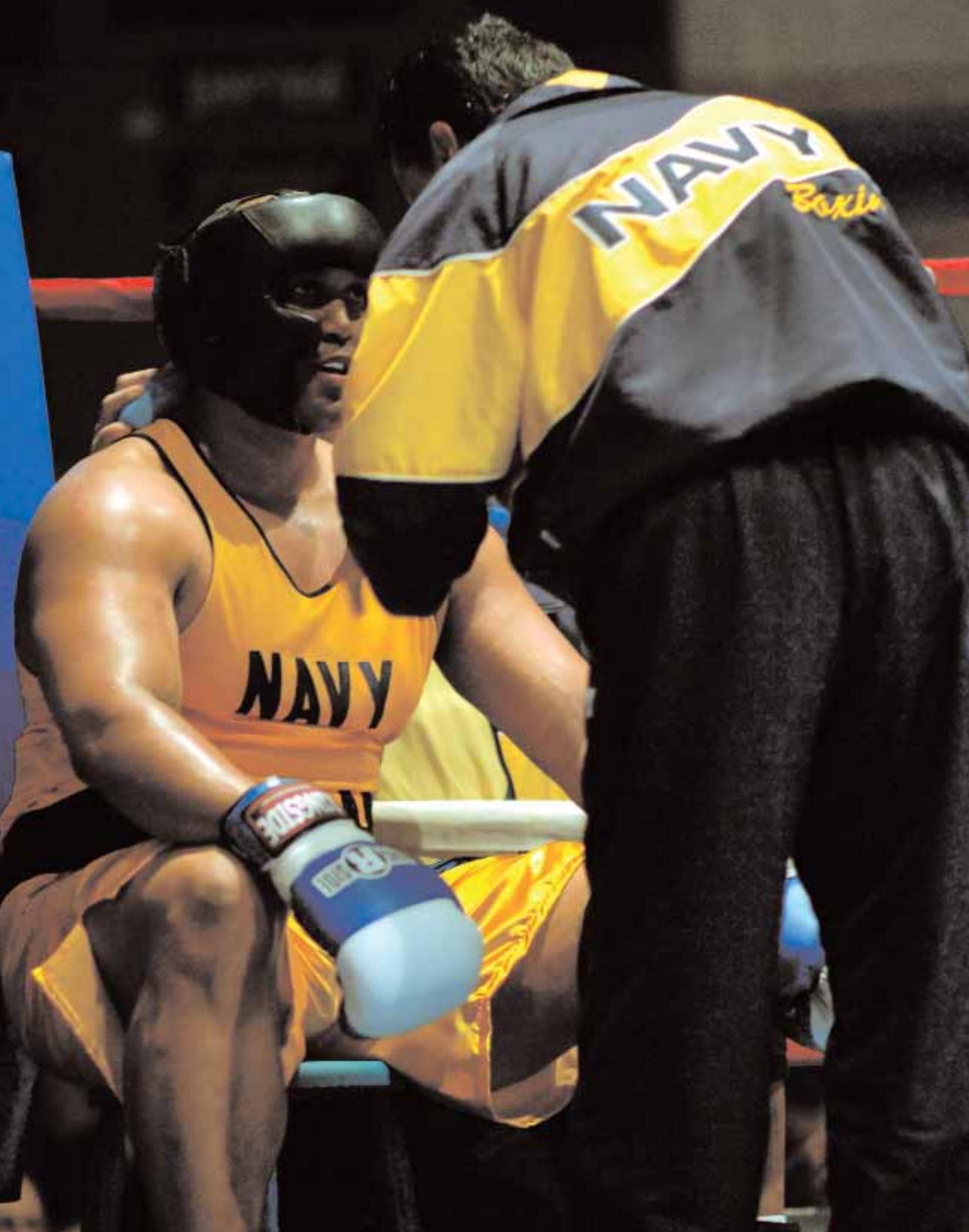
★ A STUDY ★ IN CONFIDENCE



**"IF YOU'RE HESITANT IN LIFE,
YOU'LL HESITATE IN
THE RING. IF YOU
AREN'T FOCUSED
IN LIFE, YOU WON'T BE
FOCUSED IN THE RING."**

— GEORGE SYLVA | Boxing Coach

★ Story and photos by JO1 (SCW/55) James G. Finley ★





T RIVA PINO STORMED UP TO

LeJoyce Garrett, looked her square in the eyes and punched her right in the mouth. And hundreds of spectators, including the commanding officer of Naval Base Ventura County, Calif., roared with delight.

Pino and Garrett exchanged blows for a full eight minutes before anyone thought about stopping the Sailor and Airman from destroying each other, and then only the resonating sound of the final ringside bell halted their fury.

There aren't many places in the military where it's perfectly legal, and encouraged, to physically beat up on the other services, but the annual Armed Forces Boxing Tournament, held this year at Naval Base Ventura County's Warfield Gymnasium, is just such a brawler's paradise.

Exhausted from their punch-laden argument over who was the best military boxer this year, both women finally dropped their fists to await the judges' decision.

"I knew I would win the moment I stepped into the ring," said Pino.

The prophetic Information Systems Technician 2nd Class from USS *Port Royal* (CG 73) was right. And the Navy had their first-ever female boxing champion, after her first fight for the Navy!

She knew she'd win because that's exactly what her coach, 10-year, prior-Navy veteran and 2004 Ringside World Champion boxer, George Sylva, told her she'd do. And everything he taught her – and four other fellow rookie members of the All-Navy Boxing Team – centered around one word – confidence.

"They won before they even stepped into the ring," said Sylva. "It was just a matter of time.

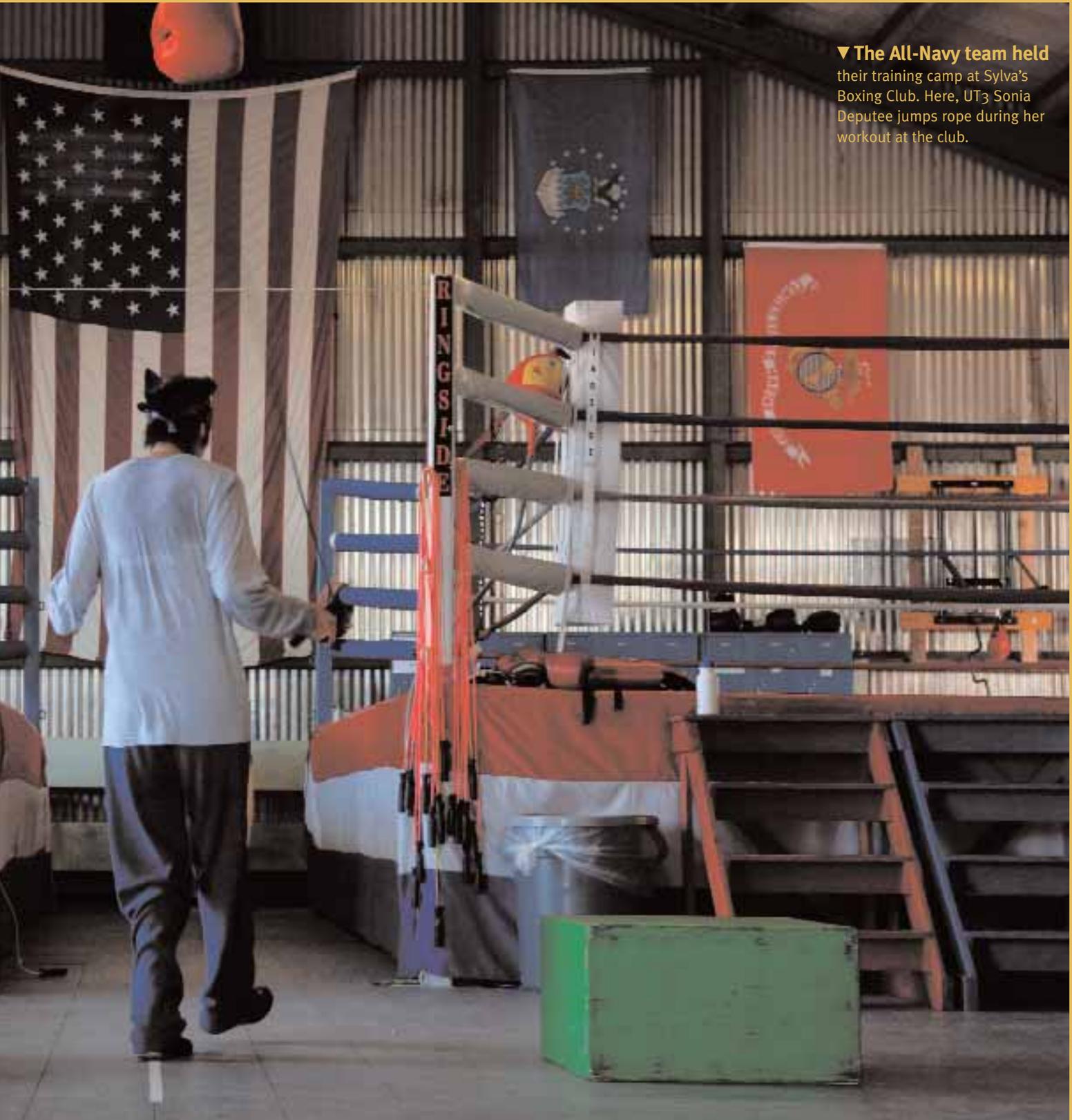
"With this Navy team," continued Sylva, "I was focused on conditioning and mental attitude all through camp. Everyone comes here in shape, so whoever has the greater mental capacity for stress normally wins. I spent a lot of



time with them on meditation, where they took a boxing stance with their eyes wide open and they can't move. They have to visualize themselves winning, visualize themselves fighting. And that, in my mind, makes you mentally prepared,

because if you see yourself win in a fight it's not a surprise when you get there in real life."

Sylva stressed that in boxing who you are is ultimately decided in the ring so you have to be mentally tough.

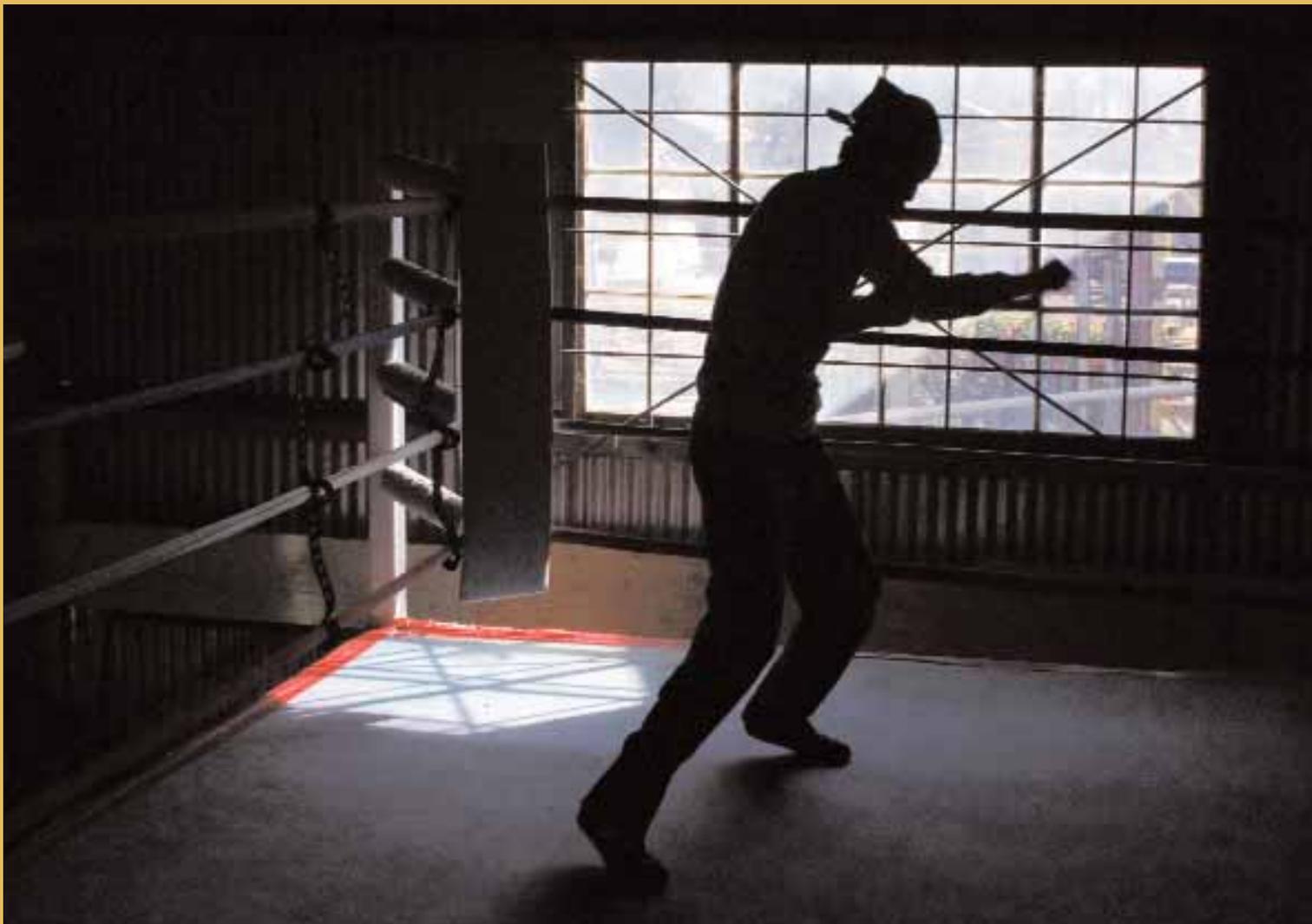


▼ The All-Navy team held their training camp at Sylva's Boxing Club. Here, UT3 Sonia Deputee jumps rope during her workout at the club.

“Boxing reveals who you really are, because it’s a direct conflict resolution kind of confrontation,” said Sylva. “You don’t have anywhere to hide, and everything you are will show in that ring. If you’re hesitant in life, you’ll hesitate in the

ring. If you aren’t focused in life, you won’t be focused in the ring. You have to make instantaneous decisions about everything you do, or you’ll get the hell beat out of you until you either quit or rise to the challenge.”

Pino understands the learning curve in boxing and spent time in training camp teaching it to fellow rookie, Navy boxer Utilitiesman 3rd Class Sonia Deputee, the Navy’s second female boxer ever, and a hometown Seabee from Naval Mobile





▲ **AW2(NAC) Adam Fusinato, said** getting in shape for boxing is more demanding than making it through aircrew school.

◀ **UT3 Sonia Deputee shadow boxes** on her pre-fight day warm-up. Deputee is the Navy's second female boxer.

Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5.

"Triva and I are usually sparring partners," said Deputee. "She teaches me not to lower my hands, because every time I do it, she clocks me."

Now that's tough love.

Deputee, like all successful boxers, steps into the ring in peak physical condition. Because taking a physical beating, or giving someone else one for more than a few seconds, takes a lot more stamina than most people realize.

"It's not as easy as everyone thinks," said Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class (NAC) Adam Fusinato. "The main thing is the training. It's hard. People think it's easy to go into a ring and punch someone for four two-minute rounds, but it's not. They find this out when they try doing it for 20 seconds and they're tired. It's harder than it looks."

The boxers know this, and they're typically standout athletes at their commands.

"I was the only one in NMCB 5 to get 'outstanding high' in battalion," bragged Deputee. "My goal was to break into the nine-minute mark on the PFT. Now [that] I'm doing that, I want to break into the eights. I will."

"If you have the confidence to do something," said Sylva, "you'll go out and do it. Winning is no different. We rehearse that stuff. We rehearse the end of fights, not just the beginning. I talk them through it. I talk them through entering the ring, what the crowd sounds like, what the judges look for, and the referee. It makes my boxers less concerned with everything else during the fight and concentrate solely on their opponent."

The results speak for themselves.

"They stayed focused and they won," said Sylva. "Judges are very well aware of a boxer's composure. When my boxers fight and the match is over, their hands go up because they are the winners for that bout, they're just waiting for the judges' decision."

While the allure of fighting draws out the military's most hardened fist-wielding fighters, it takes more than a hard right hook to bring home the gold medal. After all, boxing is known as the sweet science.

Like any student, a successful boxer

must be a quick study in more than physical prowess. Aside from the countless hours spent sparring in the ring, jumping rope and punching the bags, boxers like Pino must adopt a philosophy to keep an open mind to partner with their closed fists if they ever hope to become a champion.

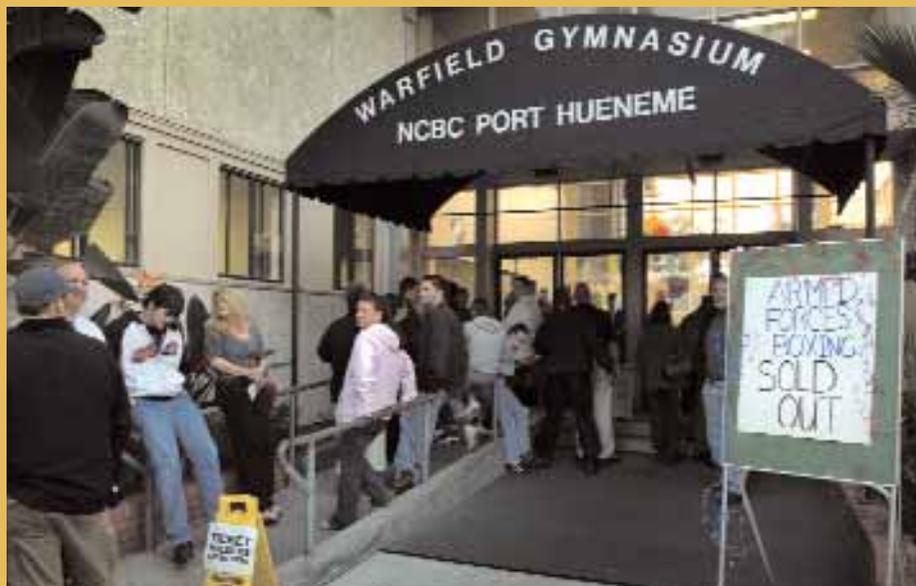
Pino's dedication paid off.

"I believed in Coach when I came down here for Seabee Days," said Pino. "If you get in the corner and just shut up and listen to him, you'll win. He said that just before this fight. Just do what I tell you, and you'll win."

Pino isn't the only Sailor to buy into Coach Sylva's methods. The entire team did. Fusinato was sold a year before he ever met Sylva.

"Boxing is the main reason I joined the Navy," admitted Fusinato. "I knew there was a team, and it was my ultimate goal to join the boxing team. I called people and did all the work that was needed to get on the team. I had my application into the team a year early."

▼ **Naval Base Ventura County sold** out Port Hueneme's Warfield Gymnasium for the final round of boxing. Two days earlier, USS *Port Royal's* IT2 Triva Pino won the Navy's first-ever female boxing Armed Forces championship.

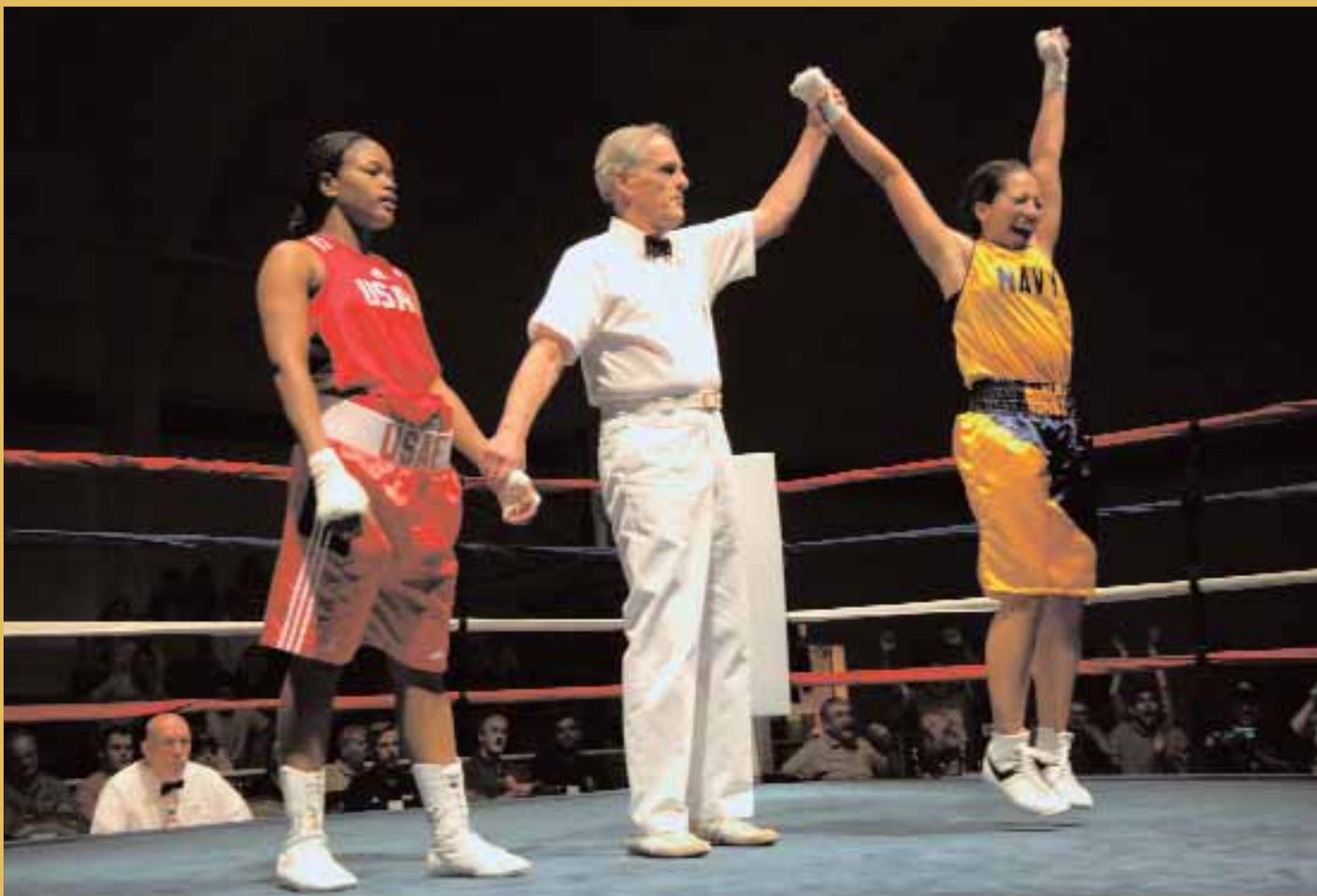




► **IT2 Triva Pino won** her first match ever as a Navy boxer against Air Force Senior Airman LaJoyce Grossett. That first match was also the championship match and crowned Pino the 2006 U.S. Armed Forces champion.

▼ **Filling the seats** for the interservice boxing matches was easy as the Ventura-Oxnard area of California around Naval Base Ventura County is a hotbed of boxing talent.





But having a dream and living that dream are two different things, and Fusinato had to do more than impress his command with his fancy footwork to earn the privilege to come to Port Hueneme.

"It's a blessing to be able to be aircrew, be a boxer and be part of this team," said Fusinato. "At first I didn't know if the command was going to let me go, but when I talked to my chief, he said as long as I got the training done that I needed before I went, he'd keep his word and let me go. And that's what he did."

Once in California, Fusinato quickly established himself as the leader of the team through diligent workouts, relentless dedication to the science of boxing and clearly being the most vocal supporter of his teammates and Navy boxing.

"Hopefully we're successful enough that maybe the Navy will see how talented we are," said Fusinato. "In the

past the Navy has had boxers who had the wrong kinds of attitudes, but we're all new here on the team this year and we really want to change the way the Navy thinks about boxing."

While Navy bringing home two gold medals from Naval Base Ventura County may surprise some, it never occurred to Pino and Fusinato that their story would end any other way. After all, Coach Sylva said so.

"I can't wait to tell my ship about the fight," said Pino. "My captain is going to be excited."

After all, where else can you brag to your CO about beating up another service member? **EH**

Pinsky is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200605/feature_4/

▲ Warfield

Gymnasium erupted into cheers when the judges announced Pino champion.

► First-year

Navy boxer AW2(NAC) Adam Fusinato won the 2006 Armed Forces Boxing Championship, and the gold medal, for the 152-lb weight class.







Focus on Service

THEY DROP 'EM, WE STOP 'EM

Story and photo by PH1(AW) Shane T. McCoy

From the time *USS Langley* (CV 1) was commissioned as the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier in 1920, it was clear that a new type of boatswain's mate was necessary.

The Navy needed a Sailor who could work on a flight deck and perform some of the new jobs needed to land aircraft at sea. Twenty-four years later the rating of aviation boatswain's mate (AB) was created specifically to run the arresting gear, barriers, catapults and the refueling of aircraft and aircraft handling.

Now, 62 years after the creation of his rating, ABE3 Jeraun Thompkins is one of the arresting gear operators aboard *USS Enterprise* (CVN 65).

"I wake up every morning knowing I have a purpose," said Thompkins. "If we weren't doing our job, the aircraft would keep going straight into the water."

Working on the flight deck as a deck edge operator, he controls

the retraction of the arresting wires after an aircraft lands on the flight deck. When he's below deck he is an engine operator and maintains the arresting gear engine ensuring the arresting wires are in proper working order.

"We really have to mind our Ps and Qs," he explained. "If a cable were to snap, lives would be taken on the flight deck."

While underway a carrier's flight quarters are almost constant – keeping everyone on the flight deck busy and tired – but for Thompkins it's the best part of the job.

"We work really hard, but I love it. I would never do anything else," Thompkins says proudly. "I came into the Navy as an ABE and I'll leave as one." ❏

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Battle of the Coral Sea: The First Carrier-to-Carrier Attack

The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought in the waters southwest of the Solomon Islands and eastward from New Guinea, was the first of the Pacific War's six fights between opposing aircraft carrier forces. Though the Japanese could rightly claim a tactical victory on "points," it was an operational and strategic defeat for them, the first major check on the great offensive they had begun five months earlier at Pearl Harbor. The diversion of Japanese resources represented by the Coral Sea battle would also have immense consequences a month later, at the Battle of Midway.

The first day of the carrier battle of Coral Sea, May 7, 1942, saw the Americans searching for carriers they knew were present and the Japanese looking for ones they feared might be in the area. The opposing commanders, U.S. Rear Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher and Japanese Vice Admiral Takeo Takagi and Rear Admiral Tadaichi Hara, endeavored to "get in the first blow."

Japanese scout planes spotted the U.S. oiler *Neosho* (AO 23) and her escort, the destroyer USS *Sims* (DD 409), before 8 a.m., in a southerly position well away from Admiral Fletcher's carriers. Reported as a "carrier and a cruiser," these two ships received two high-level bombing attacks during the morning that missed. About noon, a large force of dive bombers appeared. As was normal for that type of attack, these did not miss. *Sims* sank with very heavy casualties and *Neosho* was reduced to a drifting wreck whose survivors were not rescued for days.

Meanwhile, a scout plane from USS *Yorktown* (CV 5) found the Japanese Covering Group, the light carrier *Shoho* and four heavy cruisers, which faulty message coding transformed into "two carriers and four heavy cruisers."

Yorktown and USS *Lexington* (CV 2) sent out a huge strike: 53 scout-bombers, 22 torpedo planes and 18 fighters. In well-delivered attacks before noon, these simply overwhelmed *Shoho*, which received so many bomb and torpedo hits that she sank in minutes.

Adding to the confusion, if not to the score, Japanese land-based torpedo planes and bombers struck an advance force of Australian and U.S. Navy cruisers, far to the west of Fletcher's carriers. Skillful ship-handling prevented any damage. Australia-based, U.S. Army B-17s also arrived and dropped their bombs.

All this had one beneficial effect: the Japanese ordered their Port Moresby, New Guinea, invasion force to turn back to await developments.

Before dawn on May 8th, both the Japanese and the American carriers sent out

scouts to locate their opponents. These made contact a few hours later, by which time the Japanese already had their strike planes in the air. The U.S. carriers launched their strikes soon after 9 a.m., and task force commander, Admiral Fletcher, turned over tactical command to Rear Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch, who had more carrier experience. Each side's planes attacked the other's ships at about 11 a.m.

Planes from *Yorktown* hit *Shokaku*, followed somewhat later by hits from part of *Lexington's* air group. These attacks left *Shokaku* unable to launch planes, and she left the area soon after to return to Japan for repairs. Her sister ship, *Zuikaku*, was steaming nearby under low clouds and was not touched.

The Japanese struck the American carriers and, in a fast and violent action, scored with torpedoes on *Lexington* and with bombs on both carriers. For about an hour, *Lexington* seemed to have shrugged off her damages, but the situation then deteriorated as fires spread through the ship. She was abandoned later in the day and scuttled. *Yorktown* was also badly damaged by a bomb and several near misses, but remained in operational condition.

By the end of the day, both sides had retired from the immediate battle area. The Japanese sent *Zuikaku* back for a few days, but withdrew the carrier on May 11th. At about the same time *Yorktown* was recalled to Pearl Harbor. After receiving quick repairs, she would play a vital role in the Battle of Midway in early June. 

U.S. Navy photo



USS *Lexington* (CV 2) rapidly burned and later sank after being hit by Japanese torpedoes.

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