

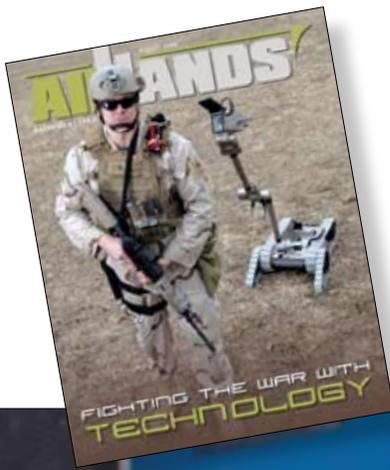
August 2009

# ATLANDS

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. ARMY



FIGHTING THE WAR WITH  
TECHNOLOGY



### [On the Front Cover]

Today's EOD technicians are leading the charge against some of the most deadly unseen enemies, with "a little help from their friends." For every robot that may be blown up, that equates to one person saved.

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

### [Next Month]

*All Hands* takes a look at the Navy's future force.

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# August

## 18 Fighting The War with Technology

In 2008, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) took the lives of 172 coalition forces. Today's explosive ordnance disposal techs are leading the charge against some of the most deadly of unseen enemies. On a tiny peninsula along Chicamuxen Creek in Southern Maryland, sits Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md. Known as the Naval EOD Technology Division, a specially trained group of civilians and military members make finding IEDs a top priority for coalition forces.

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

## 10 Innovative Training for Emergent Missions

Sailors confront countless threats that are not always easy to identify. Aboard USS *Porter* (DDG 78) Sailors have been ensuring they are ready to recognize those threats whether operating in the Red, Caribbean or Mediterranean Seas; training off the Bahamas; or developing interoperability with partner nations off the coast of Scotland.

U.S. Navy photo



## 26 Protecting Those Who Serve

Naval Criminal Investigative Service is the Navy's primary law enforcement and counterintelligence force. The agency works in tandem with local, state, federal and foreign agencies to counter and investigate the most serious crimes ranging from terrorism and espionage to common felonies involving DON personnel. NCIS exists for one reason - to prevent and solve crimes that threaten the warfighting capability of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

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



Members of a visit, board, search and seizure team from USS *Gettysburg* (CG 64) and U.S. Coast Tactical Law Enforcement Team South, Det. 409 capture suspected pirates in the Gulf of Aden, after responding to a merchant vessel distress signal while operating in the Combined Maritime Forces Area of Responsibility as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 151. CTF 151 is a multinational task force established to conduct counterpiracy operations.

Photo by MC1 Eric L. Beauregard





ISHAK

# Speaking with Sailors

FORCM(EWS/EXW) Farris Foresman, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, Norfolk

**N**avy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) Sailors are a professional, well-trained and highly-motivated group with varying backgrounds and diverse experiences who conduct a huge variety of missions all around the world. As these expeditionary Sailors deploy, they execute missions ranging from combat operations and irregular warfare to humanitarian assistance and disaster response.



Some NECC Sailors come from long-standing assets, like naval construction and explosive ordnance disposal; others have broken ground by conducting missions not normally associated with the Navy. Capabilities like maritime civil affairs (MCA) and expeditionary intelligence bridge the gap between blue-water Sailors, who ride the waves aboard a U.S. vessel, and the brown-water Navy, where expeditionary Sailors are taking the fight to our enemies or building relationships in partner nations.

NECC forces use traditional fleet skills to expand the missions we perform into green [harbor] and brown water. For example, the Maritime Expeditionary Security Force (MESF) provides security in a variety of environments. MESF missions include harbor and homeland defense, coastal surveillance and high-value asset escort and protection.

Because our capabilities are only as strong as our Sailors, we are “people-centric” vice platform-centric. MCA forces participate in planning and conducting civil-military operations focusing on a variety of areas such as maritime security operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and refugee operations.

While it may seem NECC is focused just on Iraq and Afghanistan, our Sailors are hard at work engaging on a personal level, executing missions and building partnerships worldwide. Expeditionary Training Command (ETC) Sailors regularly participate in *Southern* and *Africa Partnership Station* missions and conduct mobile training teams in every area of operation.

During the past two years, ETC has trained more than 2,000 students in countries such as

Belize, Guatemala, Cameroon, Gabon, Tunisia, the Philippines and Ukraine. Paired with humanitarian and disaster relief missions such as *Pacific Partnership* and *Continuing Promise*, these efforts are furthering U.S. efforts to build and sustain maritime partnerships.

Completing these missions would be impossible without our Reserve component (RC), which makes up 51 percent of NECC. Our RC Sailors are “operational reserves,” meaning they conduct missions like our active-duty component. They do not backfill us when we deploy – they deploy with us, with active and Reserve units often relieving each other in theater.

The global climate has provided NECC with the enduring mission of supporting our naval strategy and U.S. national interests. We bring to the table a robust warfare capability by providing the right assets to conduct everything from traditional combat missions with riverine squadrons to partnership building missions by 1st Naval Construction Seabees. These partnerships are critical. It’s about people interacting with people – one person, one group, one region at a time.

I’m proud of the Sailors assigned to our NECC forces. I know they enable access and maneuver joint forces on the battlefield, protect high-value assets, ensure supplies and equipment get from the ships to ground forces or promote peace by building relationships with our partner nations. This is the very substance that makes NECC Sailors powerful, dynamic and successful. **S**

## ALL HANDS

Number 1109 • August 2009  
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Design + Project Management

**Richard Rabil, Julie Dorman,  
Diana Flores, Tory Hobson**

Printing

**Universal Printing Company**

GPO Printing Specialist

**Robert Coates**

**All Hands** (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) Number 1109 is published monthly by the Defense Media Activity – Anacostia, Production Department, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call 202/512-1800. Subscription prices \$45 (domestic)/\$54 (foreign); \$7.50 (single copy domestic)/\$9 (single copy foreign). **Postmaster:** Send address changes to All Hands, Defense Media Activity - Anacostia Production Department, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 **Editorial Offices:** Send submissions and correspondence to Defense Media Activity – Anacostia Production Department, ATTN: Editor, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 Tel: DSN 288-4171 or 202/433-4171 Fax: DSN 288-4747 or 202/433-4747 E-Mail: allhandsmag@dma.mil Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32// **Authorization:** The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.



Design by MC2 (SW) Joshua J. Wahl

# Congratulations FY2010 CHIEF SELECTS

# Around the Fleet



Photo by MC1 Todd A. Schaeffer

## Navy Working Uniform Now Authorized Off Base

**T**he Navy working uniform (NWU) is now authorized for wear off-base, during routine stops and at eating establishments during the prescribed workday, according to NAVADMIN 188/09.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead, recently expanded the occasion for wear policy, which has been in place for about eight months.

According to Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick West, "Communication from the force and fleet master chiefs has been unanimously positive. Our Sailors are ready to introduce this uniform to the American public," said West. "That's what CNO was waiting for, and this decision is a direct result of chief petty officer (CPO) feedback. It's been sincerely

gratifying to be able to watch this process work as well as it has."

The policy differs from the language in NAVADMIN 343/08 in that, up to now, routine stops were not allowed. That meant Sailors were prohibited from visits to child care centers, gas stations, brief stops at convenience stores or banks. Now those stops are authorized.

"Our Sailors are proud of this uniform," said West. "It was the No. 1 feedback item from the fleet since I took office (Dec. 12, 2008), and they have not been shy about their wishes to

wear this uniform in town. Our Sailors have been trained to wear it and will wear it proudly."

West underscored the importance of waiting for the right time to open up the occasion for wear policy. He said that while many wondered why the original wear policy was put in place, it was important to ensure every Sailor knew how to wear the uniform before allowing it outside the lifelines of ships and bases. He also said he kept a close eye on various regions to see how aggressive leadership was in training the fleet to wear the NWU.

The revision includes aligning the NWU and camouflage utility uniforms (CUUs) occasion for wear policies and offers more flexibility than the rules governing the wear of other working uniforms.

The transition to the NWU will continue as stipulated in NAVADMIN 343/08. Multiple regions across the United States and overseas are still not wearing

◀ **Cmdr. Wesley R. Guinn**, commanding officer of USS *Scranton* (SSN 756), and Chief of the Boat MMCM Steven Nordman inspect the crew in the new Navy working uniform.

the NWU due to distribution constraints, so West pointed out that the manner of wear policy is even more critical now as Sailors transfer to those areas. Leadership has been authorized to wear the NWU since December and should already be wearing it in the areas where Sailors will soon be showing up.

"We have people rolling from one region to another and coming from boot camp wearing the NWU. I'm looking to them as the Sailors who are going to meet the standards as set forth in the NAVADMIN and the Uniform Regulations, but more importantly, I expect the CPO mess to maintain the standards expected of our high-caliber Sailors," said West.

The NAVADMIN also states that wear of the NWU/CUU will be restricted inside the National Capital Region (NCR). Navy personnel on staffs located in or visiting the NCR will not be able to wear the NWU or CUU as their uniform of the day. Commanders, according to the message, may prescribe the NWU/CUU for those Sailors in the NCR requiring the uniform for work that would soil the uniform of the day.

"I look forward to seeing the public's reaction to our new uniform," said West. "And I know our Sailors are eager to get out there and show it off." ❧

*Story by MCCS(SW/AW) Bill Houlihan who is assigned to the office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.*

## DoD Announces Transferability Options for 'Post 9/11 GI Bill'

DoD recently announced the policy for transferring educational benefits to the spouses and children of service members under the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," took effect Aug. 1.

"This is as it should be in a volunteer force where families also serve," said Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy Bill Carr. "Transferability of GI Bill benefits is the most requested initiative we receive from our service members, and we believe it will assist us in retaining highly-qualified military personnel."

Career service members on active duty or in the selected Reserve Aug. 1, and those who are eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill," may be entitled to transfer all or a portion of their education entitlement to one or more family members. To be eligible, service members must have served in the Armed Forces for at least six years and must agree to serve four additional years from the date of election to transfer.

Service members with at least 10 years of service, who by DoD or service policy are prevented from committing to four additional years, may transfer their benefits provided they commit for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute.

Additionally, to maintain proper force structure and promotion opportunities, temporary rules have been developed for service members eligible to retire between Aug. 1, 2009, and Aug. 1, 2012. Depending on their retirement eligibility date, these service members will commit to one to

three additional years, from the date of election to transfer.

The services will provide further implementation guidance. Eligible service members may make transfer designations by visiting [www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/). The full transferability policy is available here.

Service members may be eligible for the "Post 9/11 GI Bill" if they served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, and were honorably discharged. Based on the length of active-duty service, members are entitled to a percentage of the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher learning. Members not on active duty may also receive a monthly living stipend equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents and an annual \$1,000 stipend for books and supplies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers the "Post 9/11 GI Bill" and determines eligibility for education benefits. Further information on eligibility, benefit levels and application procedures can be found at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). 

*Story courtesy of DoD, Washington, D.C.*

## USS Enterprise Establishes Command IA Program Early

Before the Navy's Command Individual Augmentee Coordinator (CIAC) program was implemented, USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) created its own program to better support its individual augmentee (IA) Sailors and their families before, during

and after their deployments.

Sailors who go on an IA tour leave their families and parent commands to provide key and critical skills to the overall warfighting effort. The CIAC provides a valuable direct line keeping a connection to the IA Sailor, their parent command and the Sailor's family.

"The major issue IA Sailors have is getting in contact with the command or their families, so having this program made life for me and my family ten times easier than if we didn't have the support from the CIAC program," said Storekeeper 1st Class Richard Block.

The Navy mandates that every command designate at least one CIAC to assist Sailors

with IA tours. The CIAC must be a member of the command from which the IA Sailor deploys. *Enterprise's* crew realized this type of grassroots effort was necessary to take care of their Sailors on IA.

"*Enterprise* actually came up with the program [when] we found out that our personnel officer was having a hard time keeping up with all the IA personnel," said *Enterprise's* Executive Officer Capt. John R. Dixon. "Lt. Elliott-Carrico is doing an exceptional job coordinating this program. She has set the bar high and given this ship a model program."

The process of going IA is one that Sailors may find challenging without guidance. For instance,

# Shipmates

## Chatman Wins Civic Award in Pensacola, Fla.

**Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kelvin J. Chatman**, assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla., is the winner of the 2009 Pensacola Council Navy League's Margaret Flowers Civic Award.

The award is named for career civil service employee Margaret Flowers. Nominees for the award must have a high caliber of professionalism and a high level of civic achievements.

In nominating Chatman for the award, Capt. M. Morro, commanding officer of Naval Hospital Pensacola, described him as having "superior intrusive deck-plate leadership." He is the leading petty officer for the Women and Children's Nursing Department at Naval Hospital Pensacola where more than 3,600 patients are cared for and 600 babies are delivered annually.

As a first class petty officer, Chatman supervised, trained, mentored, led and developed the careers of 34 junior Sailors.

"He is a true motivator and mentor to his Sailors and to others throughout the command," Morro said.

"HM1 Chatman's character is a model of the finest quality exemplifying Navy Core Values," said Morro. "His strong character contributes to his success as a leader, team player and supporter of the command and the community."

*Story by MC2(AW/SW) Jonathan Hutto Sr., assigned to Defense Media Activity, Washington, D.C.*



# Around the Fleet



Photo by Sire Jopek

▲ MRC Miguel Parayno, from Pangasinan, Philippines, leads Navy recruits in hose handling training during a simulated engine room fire at Great Lakes Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Parayno and the rest of the firefighting staff train approximately 1,200 recruits each week.



Photo by MC2 Daniel Barker



Photo by Jan Hammond

▼ Lt. Katherine Scholz, the air operations officer for Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 45, Det. 4, assists Somali migrants aboard USS *Lake Champlain* (CG 57) after their rescue from a disabled skiff in the Gulf of Aden. The skiff, originally ferrying 52 passengers, was spotted in distress by *Lake Champlain* helicopter pilots while patrolling the area.



◀ A Sailor aboard USS *Nashville* (LPD 13) prepares to toss a mooring line as the ship pulls into Naval Station Rota, Spain, after supporting *Africa Partnership Station*, a multinational initiative allowing U.S. and international partners to enhance maritime safety and security in Western and Central Africa.

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*Continued from page 7*

the process begins with a seven-page checklist.

"For anyone, senior or junior, this process can be very confusing," said Elliott-Carrico. "So, I sit down with the Sailor and go through the entire check sheet with them, and I help make appointments, manage personal finances and any other situation that might occur while they're IA."

Not only do CIACs help Sailors get ready for an IA assignment but they also help the families cope with the stress of being separated from a loved one for several months in a foreign country with sometimes little communication.

"We try to keep the family knowledgeable with everything going on with the command and their Sailor," said Elliott-Carrico. "We contact the families at least once a week and reach out to them as much as possible."

Before a Sailor returns home from an IA tour, Elliott-Carrico ensures they will be greeted by a smiling, familiar face.

"When a Sailor comes back, Elliott-Carrico meets them at the airport or coordinates it so someone from their department is there to welcome them back," said Dixon.

After the completion of this tough assignment, most Sailors have to re-adapt to family life. The CIAC offers information about returning warrior workshops, which help Sailors and families bond after the extensive time apart.

For more information about the CIAC program, visit [www.ia.navy.mil](http://www.ia.navy.mil). ☞

**Story by MC3 Travis Alston, USS Enterprise (CVN 65)**

## Families Authorized to Return to Bahrain

U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT), in cooperation with the American Embassy in Bahrain, recently announced that all family members of DoD personnel will be allowed to return to Bahrain, effective immediately.

"We are extremely pleased with the policy change," said Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander, NAVCENT. "The return of family members of all ages is an extremely important sign of the security and stability in the region. It will also greatly improve the quality of life for our service members and DoD civilians."

"The Embassy and NAVCENT have put a lot of work into ensuring the return of DoD children to Bahrain," said U.S. Ambassador J. Adam Erel. "Their presence here helps strengthen relations between our two countries. We are very pleased about their return and look forward to their positive contributions to the society and economy of Bahrain."

In July 2004, families were required to relocate following security concerns. The return of adult family members, announced late last year, was the first step in a phased process to bring back DoD family members of all ages to Bahrain.

Most NAVCENT personnel currently serve a 12-month unaccompanied tour in Bahrain, with some billets designated as 18-month tours. This latest decision will authorize military members to be stationed in Bahrain for accompanied tours with their families for up to two years. ☞

**Story courtesy of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet, Manama, Bahrain.**



## USS *Porter*

# INNOVATIVE

Story courtesy of Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet

In the vast maritime domain, Sailors confront countless threats that are not always easy to identify. There are myriad disparate, ever-changing threats with great potential to disrupt safe and secure operations at sea.

BM2 Anthony Henderson watches as a rigid hull inflatable boat departs USS *Porter* (DDG 78) loaded with members of the ship's visit, board, search and seizure team during a training exercise.

Merchants or  
weapons smugglers?  
Fishermen or pirates?  
Pleasure boaters or  
drug traffickers?

How can you tell?

# TRAINING

## for Emergent Missions





Photo by MC3 Candice Villarreal

▲ DCFN Shaun Cox, assigned to *USS Philippine Sea's* (CG 58) the visit, board, search and seizure team leads the boarding of *USS Porter* (DDG 78) during a training exercise.

*USS Porter* (DDG 78) Sailors have been ensuring they are ready to make that call whether operating in the Red, Caribbean or Mediterranean seas; training off the Bahamas; or developing interoperability with allied nations off the coast of Scotland.

Earlier this year, *Porter* conducted tailored training near the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTECE) in the Bahamas which focused on skill sets needed when deployed to Irregular Warfare environments, as compared to training for conventional missions such as anti-submarine warfare and anti-air warfare.

"This training tested the ability of crews to respond to complex situations they

may see in the real world," said Capt. John Kersh, commander of Destroyer Squadron 24, Mayport, Fla. The squadron conducted the training for Commander, Strike Force Training, Atlantic, in support of U.S. 2nd Fleet. The exercise also included the participation of the guided-missile cruisers *USS Anzio* (CG 68) and *USS Philippine Sea* (CG 58).

"The initiatives come from Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet, to make ships as ready as possible to deploy to U.S. 5th Fleet and U.S. 6th Fleet," Kersh said. "We're getting commanding officers ready to operate at very high levels while reporting to a different chain of command. ... When they get over there, they're prepared."

Missions, which are assigned to units operating in irregular warfare environments, have been emerging throughout the fleet and around the globe. They have been seen in the medical assistance and community outreach

activities in South America and humanitarian aid rendered in response to homeland disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Skills such as visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) may apply in different ways to different operating areas.

For example, a ship assigned to U.S. 4th Fleet might use VBSS to counter narcotics trafficking, while a ship operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area may seek arms smuggled by terrorists or other contraband.

"The maritime environment is constantly changing," said Mark Morrison, the assistant branch head for Fleet Training Policy and Standards at U.S. Fleet Forces Command. "We have to be able to adapt our training to that changing environment so our forces have the training and skills necessary to successfully execute their assigned missions."

Scenarios like piracy, hostage situations and drug trafficking usually require means



other than traditional engagement. Boarding exercises prepare Sailors for executing those roles while deployed. The training at AUTEK was designed not just to exercise one area, such as VBSS, but several areas to simultaneously push the ship's limits.

"We've always rehearsed traditional warfare techniques, but we have new emergent threats," said Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Ben Hostetler, mechanical breacher and security team leader for *Porter's* VBSS team. "Every chance we get to rehearse the execution and fundamentals for these asymmetric tasks is a big benefit in making our teams [into] dynamic assets for any real-life occurrences."

Furthering readiness for emerging missions in irregular warfare environments, *Porter* joined allied forces for highly

◀ **Members of the visit, board, search and seizure team aboard USS *Porter* (DDG 78) are briefed prior to conducting an exercise in the Indian Ocean.**

▼ **A Sailor assigned to the visit, board, search and seizure team of USS *Philippine Sea* (CG 58) participates in a training exercise aboard USS *Porter*.**



**USS New Hampshire (SSN 778)** is escorted by a rigid hull inflatable boat while participating in *Joint Warrior*, a two-week NATO exercise off the coast of Scotland.

Photo by Lt. Cmdr. Julie Ripley



innovative and advanced training during Exercise *Joint Warrior*.

The exercise encompassed both conventional warfare exercises and Fleet Irregular Warfare Training (FIWT), focusing heavily on areas such as counterpiracy and theater security cooperation. The innovative FIWT is an operational opportunity for our 21st century Sailors to address and overcome new, violent and asymmetric threats.

FIWT focuses on nine areas: the employment of new technologies (unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), unmanned underwater vehicles (UUV), etc.) by conventional maritime forces; combining conventional maritime forces with expeditionary and special operations forces (SOF); maritime security operations; time sensitive planning; collection and exploitation of tactical intelligence; time-sensitive strike; counter narcotics and terrorism; information operations; and strategic communications. It will also include building partner capacity, humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

“A significant portion of FIWT is focused

on preparing commanding officers and crews to conduct forward-deployed operations, in challenging environments, without the assistance of a strike group staff,” said Rear Adm. Garry R. White, commander, Strike Force Training Atlantic (CSFTL). “This is very important training for the U.S. Navy; it provides an opportunity to train in a dynamic coalition environment using our allies’ tactics, techniques and procedures.”

According to Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Vice Adm. Mel Williams Jr., the United States will continue to train and certify carrier strike groups, amphibious ready groups and maritime expeditionary units for high-end military and major combat operations.

“We will additionally ensure individual units have repeatable but adaptive Fleet training that they will need to operate independently in complex Irregular Warfare environments.”

“This is rare, focused, unit-level type training that is very realistic and similar to what they’re going to see in the different fleets and theaters while deployed,” said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Violette, operations officer

for Commander, Destroyer Squadron (COMDESRON) 24. “Traditional warfare training is very good, and our Navy is skilled at it, so 2nd Fleet has taken the initiative to tailor the training to what independent deployers are going to experience.”

“It seems like this training was based on exactly what happened to us on our last deployment,” added Sonar Technician 1st Class (SW/IUSS) Gary Newsom Jr., security team leader on *Porter’s* boarding team.

During *Porter’s* 2007 deployment, the destroyer was detached from USS *Kearsarge’s* Expeditionary Strike Group and steamed toward Africa to help counterpiracy. After rogues hijacked a Panamanian-flagged ship, *Golden Nori*, near the Horn of Africa, *Porter* fired upon and sank pirate skiffs. *Golden Nori* had been pirated in an area that is now, as *All Hands* reported in February, the focus of a maritime security patrol area established by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

During the FIWT event, VBSS teams from both *Porter* and *Philippine Sea* practiced positioning, approach, apprehension and

protocol. Personnel boarded the opposing team's vessel and conducted fast-paced, hands-on training, while leadership observed the drills to note their performance and efficiency. *Porter* also trained against a simulated pirated vessel.

"It flexed the whole ship, specifically the bridge watch teams and the boarding teams," said Lt.j.g. Justin Neff, *Porter's* navigator. "It kept us on our toes. It was really great training. We completed a deployment in that region of the world, and this set us up for a lot of the stuff that we'll see over there. ... It's good to get as much exposure to the different scenarios as you can. If, and when, it does happen in real life, you've got some experience [upon which] to base your reaction and just to know what to do."

Within a 24-hour battle problem, Sailors tackled a piracy event from start to finish. Training affected virtually everyone in the crew. Piracy and boarding operations can

Sailors plot the location of USS *Porter* (DDG 78) during a *Joint Warrior* 2009 anti-air warfare exercise.



**“This is very important training for the U.S. Navy; it provides an opportunity to train in a dynamic coalition environment using our allies’ tactics, techniques and procedures.”**



Photo by MC3(SW) Candice Villarreal

▲ Sailors stand watch on the bridge wing aboard USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) during a *Joint Warrior* exercise. The exercise, a multinational training evolution incorporating five U.S. Navy units and a host of allied forces, focused heavily on scenario-driven, strategic training evolutions and strengthening partnerships between members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

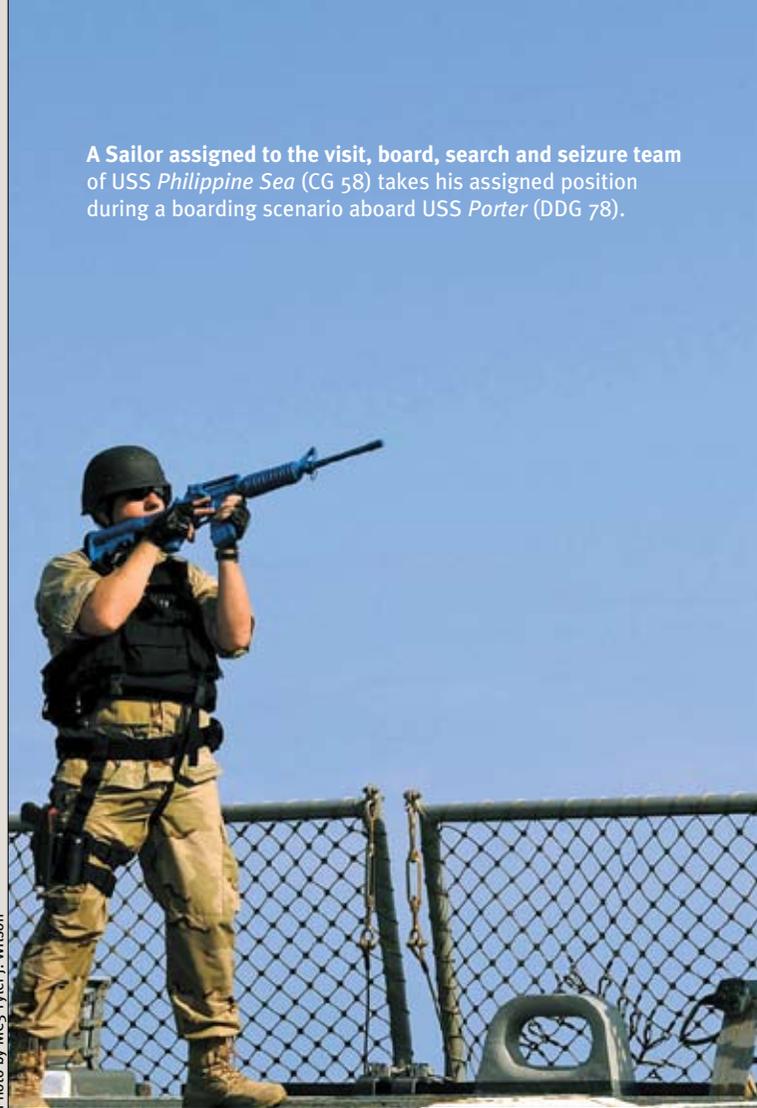


Photo by MC3 Tyler J. Wilson

▼ FC2 Kenneth Haynie, assigned to USS *Porter's* visit, board, search and seizure team conducts a security sweep during an exercise aboard USNS *Arctic* (T-AOE 8).

mean Sailors, who may be handling collateral duties in those scenarios, are not involved in their normal duties. That affects watch bills.

In the scenarios, ships are often very close to shore, which Kersh called a “huge stressor” because it involves various elements of the crew, including watchstanders, navigators as well as anti-terrorism security forces.

Every element of the ship must maintain a constant, high level of readiness and attention.

“It’s such a steep learning curve,” Kersh said. “You get over there, and we didn’t have a chance to flex you in that area, very near-shore operations. You’ve got anti-small boat watches around the clock and continuous activity for potential *Tomahawk* operations. It’s everything at the same time for the commander and the watchstanders.”

Newsom said the training presented the crew with a counterpiracy scenario that included a boarding following the departure



Photo by MC3 Tyler J. Wilson



Those ships might pose a threat to the U.S. Navy ship should one change course or attack.

Another important aspect of this training is the communication between commanding officers and the various task forces with whom they will work for when deployed. Kersh said it is key to include this element in training because ships may operate outside a strike group or amphibious ready group.

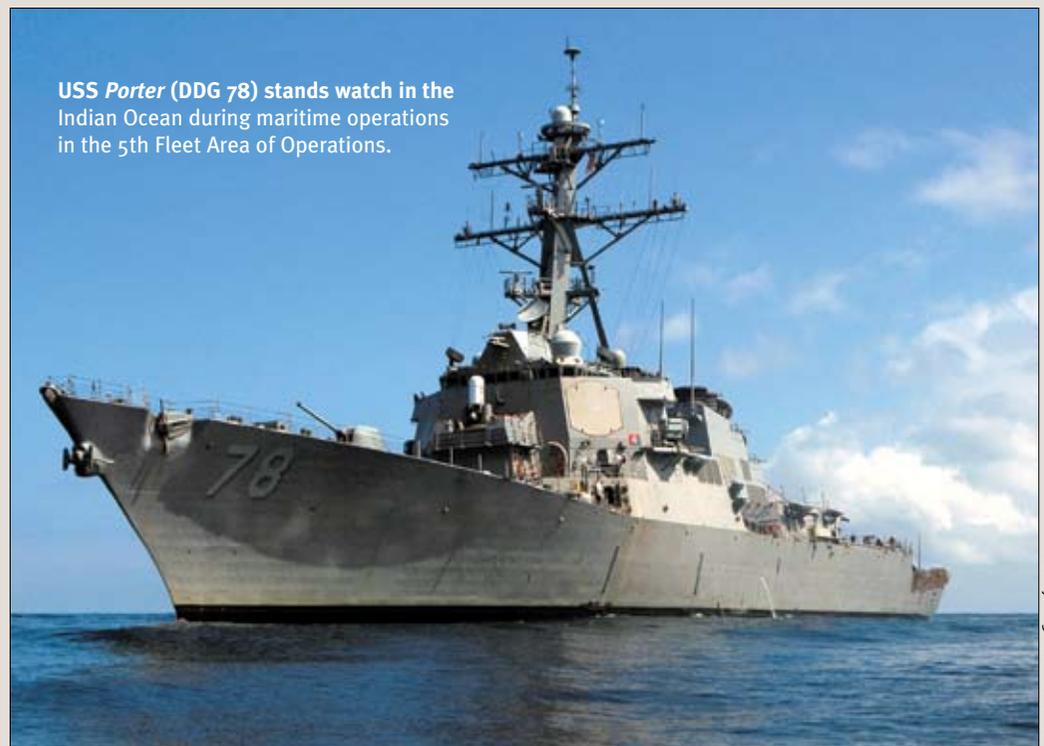
“All of the exercises employed during the group sail allow us to get away from the normal, core-fighting tactics,” said Lt. j.g. Samuel Robinson, a *Porter* VBSS boarding officer. “Right now, we’re completely focused on the more detailed functional aspects of irregular warfare.”

Today’s surface combatants, operating independently and flexing their multimission capabilities, are at the core of the U.S. Navy’s maritime strategy. By incorporating specialized training to develop irregular warfare competencies, the Sailors aboard surface combatants ensure they prepare for today challenges and for what the future may hold. **S**

of the pirates – at least, the apparent departure of pirates. Newsom noted that boarding teams must ensure an entire vessel is safe themselves.

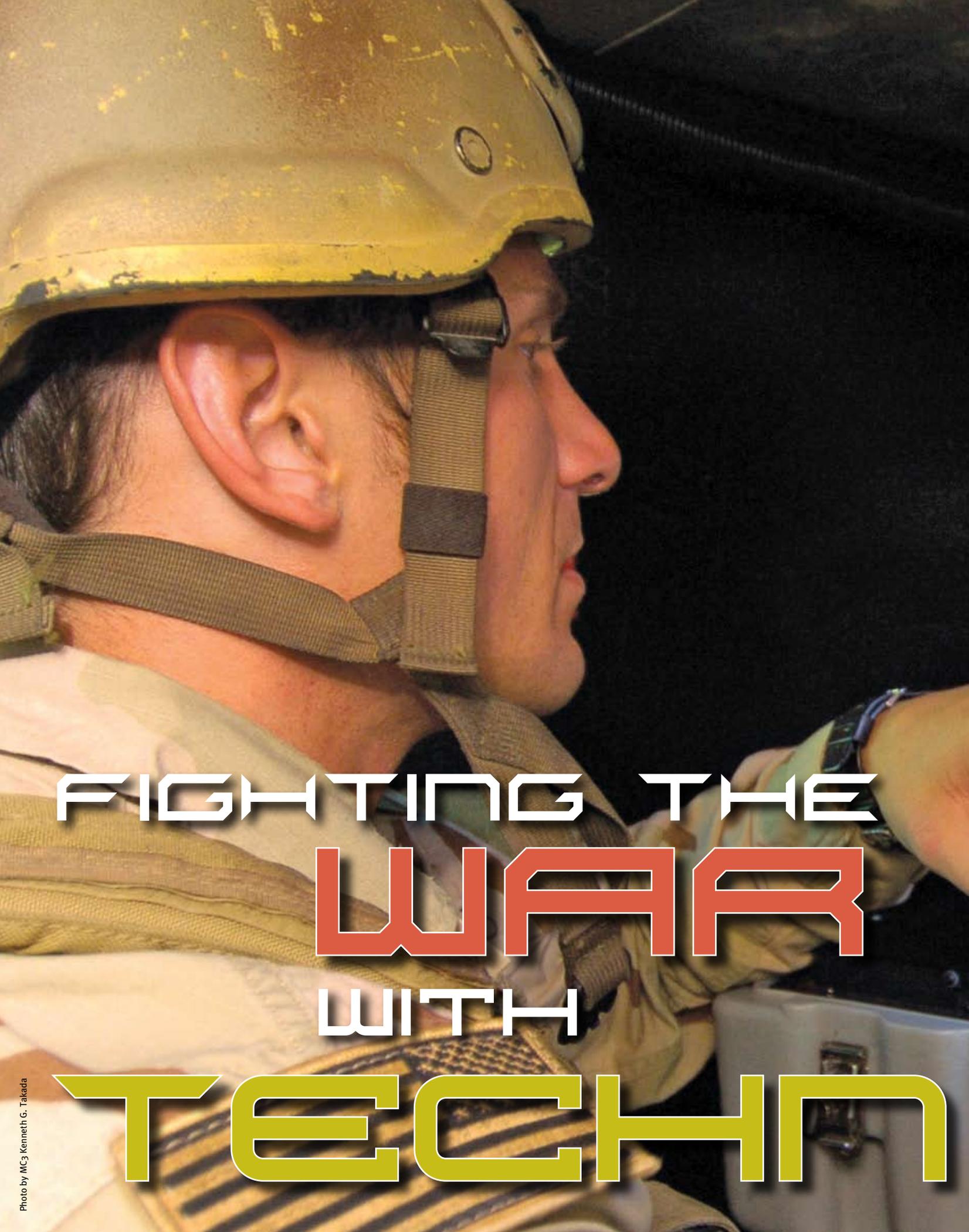
“When we go on a boarding, even if the crew says the pirates are gone, we’re going to treat it like a real boarding,” he said. “We don’t know that. They don’t know that, honestly. They may just be topside going, ‘Hey, the pirates are gone.’ Once we establish that everyone on there is who they’re supposed to be, we render aid.”

Sailors train to secure the vessel, and must be mindful of little things, such as bringing aboard food and medical aid for rescued members of a merchant crew. They also may be called upon to detain captured pirates. When an event unfolds, there is other boat traffic in the area to consider, including small craft that may attempt to resupply pirates aboard a seized vessel.



**USS Porter (DDG 78) stands watch in the Indian Ocean during maritime operations in the 5th Fleet Area of Operations.**

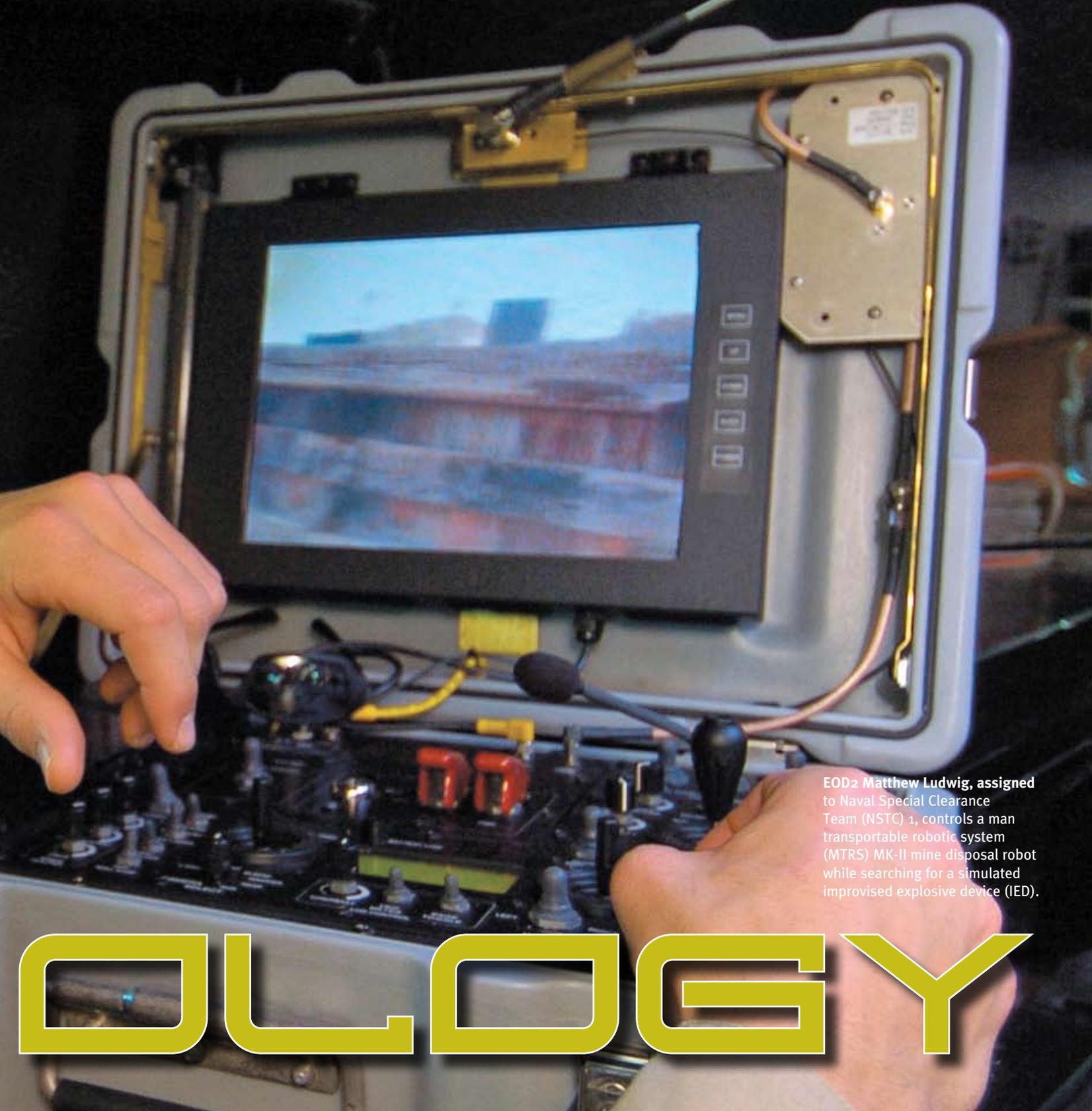
Photo by MC3 Patrick Geahriser



FIGHTING THE  
WAR  
WITH  
TECH

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

**H**idden underneath dirt, or disguised by leaves or junked cars, an unseen enemy lies in silence, waiting for passing U.S. forces. This unseen enemy has been the cause of numerous casualties since the beginning of Operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) took the lives of 172 coalition forces in 2008 alone.



EOD2 Matthew Ludwig, assigned to Naval Special Clearance Team (NSTC) 1, controls a man transportable robotic system (MTRS) MK-II mine disposal robot while searching for a simulated improvised explosive device (IED).

# TECHNOLOGY



Photo by MC3 Kenneth G. Takada

In the years that U.S. forces have been engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan, the IED has gone from an obscure acronym known only to a select group of explosives specialists to one widely recognized by even the most casual observer of the news.

Just like the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) techs who kept U.S. Allied Forces safe from unexploded ordnance in World War II, today's EOD techs are leading the charge against some of the most deadly of unseen enemies.

On a tiny peninsula dipping into Chicamuxen Creek in Southern Maryland, sits Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md. Here, where large tobacco plantations once ruled and locals now harvest the waters for blue crabs and oysters, the Navy boasts the largest concentration of EOD knowledge in the world. The organization is now known as the Naval EOD Technology Division (NAVEODTECHDIV), a field activity under Naval Sea Systems Command Surface Warfare Center. By any name, they are a specially trained group of civilians and military members who make arming joint service operators with the tools and information they need to combat explosive devices of any type a top priority for coalition forces.

NAVEODTECHDIV traces its origin back to World War II when the U.S. Navy recognized the need for countering the more complex and advanced weapons systems being deployed by the Axis nations. To satisfy this new requirement, the Navy established the Naval Mine School at the Naval Gun Factory in May 1941. Later that year, the Naval Mine Disposal School was also established.

Graduates of these schools proved the capability to be highly effective in neutralizing of these weapons. EOD then established itself as a viable program within the Navy, and in 1945 the Naval Mine and Bomb Disposal Schools were combined into the Naval

◀ An MTR MK-II searches the immediate area while a Micro Air Vehicle (MAV) provides a 360-degree view as the two work in conjunction in search for a simulated IED.

► **The MTRS MK-II ordnance disposal robot prepares to unearth a simulated IED during an exercise with Naval Special Clearance Team (NSCT) 1.**

Ordnance Disposal Unit. In 1946, this new unit was moved to the Naval Powder Factory, Indian Head. Today's EOD technicians receive training at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

EOD Sailors make up the majority of the service members who are stationed on Indian Head. Understanding IEDs and knowing how they work, what frequencies they operate on and how to recognize and safely disarm them are some of the primary focuses of these Sailors.

"It's difficult to put a firm number on how many lives [EOD] technology has saved, but tactics, techniques and procedures that EOD techs use today that they didn't 10 years ago have certainly saved lives," said Capt. Brett Reissener, commanding officer for NAVEODTECHDIV. "You have to think about it. For every robot that has blown up, that is one person you have saved, and I believe we are around 150 or so robots that have been blown up, so they are saving lives. The other way is the counter radio controlled IED electronic warfare systems, which are electronic jammers."

The war against IEDs is an ever-changing, ever-evolving one. The enemy is always changing tactics, trying to figure out a new way of causing harm to U.S. and coalition forces as well as targeting civilians. The EOD techs' job is to try to find the IED and disarm it before it causes harm.

"IEDs are the primary casualty causing enemy tactic in both the war in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Reissener. "Are they the only one? No, but they cause the most casualties, and they are the reason why we're coming up with so many different countermeasure actions here."

NAVEODTECHDIV comes up with ideas to distribute technology for joint service EOD. The core functions of NAVEODTECHDIV include developing procedures to counter munitions

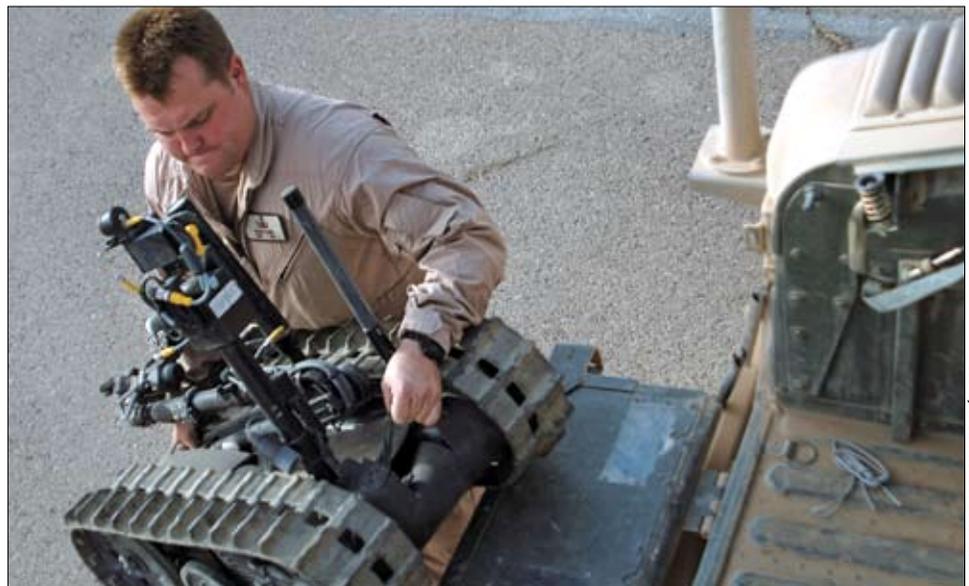


Photo by MC2 Michael Zeltakinos

threats; developing tools and equipment to meet EOD operational needs; and performing in-service engineering and depot level maintenance for EOD tools and equipment.

"We have a wide variety of different tools here, but robotics is a large part of our development," said Byron Brezina, a robotics technologist. "There are approximately 2,000 of the smaller robots [MTRS MK-I, MTRS MK-II] fielded in Iraq and Afghanistan and approximately 350 of the remote ordnance and neutralization system robots fielded around the world."

Since the early '90s, EOD techs have been

▲ **EOD1 Brian Franke of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 11 Company 3/15 lifts a robot from the trunk of a Humvee in preparation for a mission near Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. EOD technicians accompany Soldiers and Marines aboard nightly helicopter missions to disrupt insurgent activities in Iraq.**

working with robots, but up until the overseas contingencies operation, the robots were not widely accepted in the community.

"When we first started using these robots, they were not accepted 100 percent, but when the enemy started using IEDs like



▲ **Lt. Andrew Scott performs a post-blast analysis following the detonation of an IED.** Scott will attempt to gather all the exploded parts of the IED, then he and his team will reassemble the IED for analysis.

they did, the EOD techs were clammering for robots,” said Brezina. “The buy-in went to 100 percent almost immediately. The [technology] division, along with other organizations in DoD, pulled together and got small robots over there quickly and on an urgent basis. It has evolved from there.”

An IED’s design is limited to the bomber’s skill set, the EOD tech’s ability to render it safe is constrained only by available tool sets, knowledge and time. The training of EOD

technicians prepare them to look at things seemingly insignificant, to examine every detail. In the field, this attitude will allow techs to quickly discern the bomb-maker’s design and apply methods to disarm or render safe.

“With [IEDs], we can send our CEXC (combined explosive exploitation cell) members, and they’ll exploit it by taking it apart, seeing how it works, how it was put together, what category it falls under and even find the point of signal intelligence, meaning what frequency did they use to set off the device,” said Explosive Ordnance Disposal 2nd Class Mark Brazzwell, master EOD technician who has been stationed at Indian Head since April 2006.

“We also perform post-blast analysis, after it has blown up, because it went off before we could get there. We’ll collect all of the little bits of evidence from the blast site and recreate the IED back to what it originally was. Believe it or not, we can get about 85 or 90 percent of all the components even after they have been detonated, and we can have a good working knowledge as to how it was functioning. We can even find latent prints, biometric evidence and hair follicles from the ordnance which will help us [identify] makers.”

CEXC mission focuses in collecting and analyzing this information from multiple disciplines engineering, ordnance and forensic disciplines. This analysis not only aids EOD technicians in rendering safe the

next IED but also provides leads to find and defeat terrorist cells. Keeping an open line of communication with the technology division is essential to the mission.

“We are really involved in the day-to-day support of the techs in the field. Keeping them up and running is vital, so we’re always receiving feedback and recommended upgrades for the robots,” said Kurt Hacker, project manager for NAVEODTECHDIV. “At first, reliability was horrible and just like

everything else, during the past 20 years, [robots] have gotten better and better.”

Durability, effectiveness and convenience are issues that are kept in mind when developing the robots. Once in the field, techs have to be mobile, so having a smaller robot in the field that could perform all of the objectives that a larger one could is exceptional.

“The smaller robots [MTRS MK-I, MTRS MK-II] are both man portable systems. They are small enough to fit in the back of the vehicles

that are currently being used in the war,” said Brezina. “In the RONS (Remote Ordnance and Neutralization System), although technically a more capable system can lift more and pull large objects, it’s not portable enough to enable the tempo of operations that they have. They need a robot that’s portable, that they can get on scene and quickly deploy, do the mission and get back out of harm’s way as quickly as possible, so the smaller robots have definitely shown the most use by far.”

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



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



▲ An IED is detonated during a live-fire demonstration at Indian Head, Md. IEDs are one of the primary causes of casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan and Indian Head technicians develop ways to combat IEDs.

◀ Lt. Andrew Scott and other members of his EOD team perform post blast analysis following the detonation of an IED. Finding the ordnance and recreating the IED gives U.S. forces a working knowledge as to how the enemy is making the IEDs as well as what types of frequencies they are using to explode them.



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

▲ **Warren Tibbs, an engineering technician for NAVEODTECHDIV, shows the many different robots that are developed on the base and used by military and civilian EOD technicians.**

► **Personnel at NAVEODTECHDIV, demonstrate how radios and walkie-talkies send out frequencies that could detonate IEDs.**

The number of attacks has made the technology and information that EOD techs receive at Indian Head a critical need to save lives.

When EOD techs go through training, one of their first qualifications is as a basic EOD tech after graduation from the school. Upon completing studies at that level, they begin their senior EOD training upon arrival to their next command, and it takes approximately three years to complete. The final step is the master EOD specialist when a

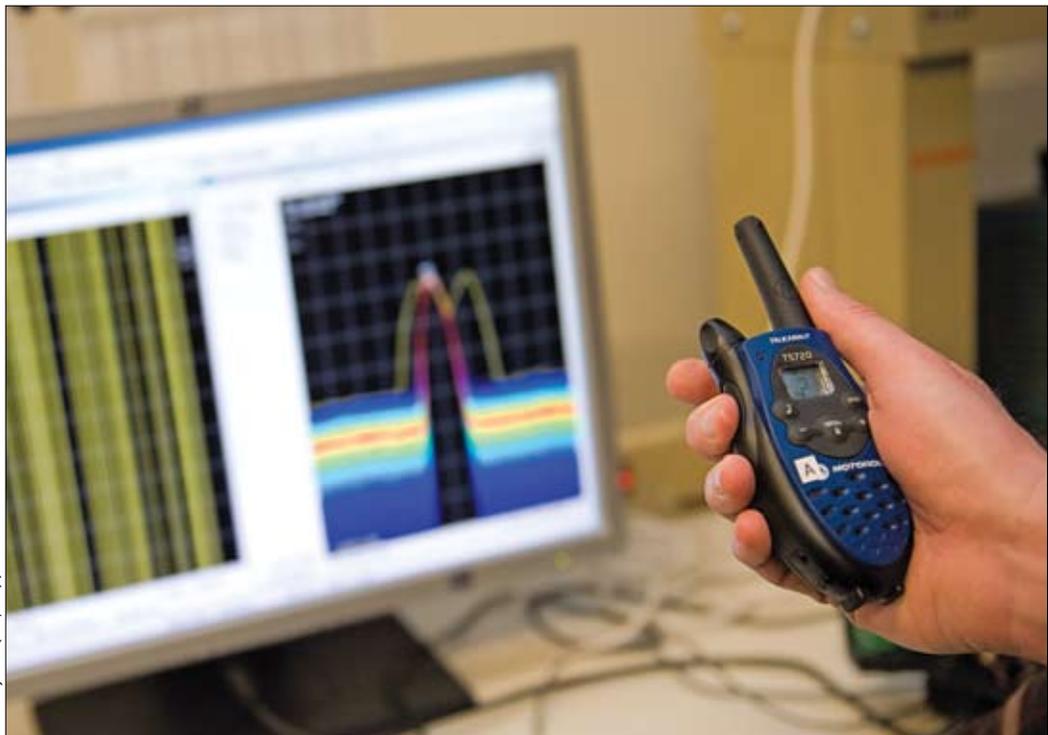


Photo by MC2(AW/SW) Jhi L. Scott

tech learns how to run an entire team. After all of that training, EOD techs still feel like it is vital in the evolution of the rate for these Sailors to be stationed at Indian Head at least once in their careers.

“I think this will enhance any EOD tech out there in the field,” said Brazwell. “What

Hacker. “The next generation of robots is the Advance EOD Robotics System. That’s going to incorporate much more technological innovation. So in terms of sensing, autonomy and intelligence, it will be more compatible and a better user experience. NAVEOD is the pinnacle of the technology required to

learn and exploit IED’s. They come up with a concept and deploy it.”

Having a family member deploy could be a sobering experience, but what’s even harder is the possibility of their service member not returning after a deployment. Making sure they go through all the training and pay attention to the information that the instructors put out could possibly bring the service member back to their loved ones safely.

“You need to [understand] IED recognition and know what you’re looking for while you’re out there. Pay attention to the training that you’re going through prior to leaving, and don’t just sit there like its another box that I have to check off,” said Brazwell. “When they start talking IED, vehicle convoys and what to do in certain situations, pay close attention. It could possibly save your life or others around you.”

“Call the Navy EOD hotline at 1-877-EOD-INFO and get a copy of the IED identification guide for the theater in which you’re operating,” said Brazwell. **SS**

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



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

▲ **Joseph Rothenberger demonstrates how IEDs are triggered while showing some of the defensive measures that are being developed at NAVEODTECHDIV.**

► **A weapons cache comprised of hundreds of munitions and many large weapons systems lies in a holding area in Bani Said, Iraq.**

it does, is allow you to get more into the electronic components and breakdown of the IED as well as shows the tech how to effectively recreate the IED. Post-blast analysis, [is] generally something we don’t learn in training.”

So where will the technology take the military in the future?

“There’s a lot of work being done in the development of sensors for explosives, chemicals and nuclear threats. There has been quite a bit of work done on the integration of those systems onto the robots,” said



Photo by MC1 Sean Mulligan

NCIS

# PROTECTING

Story by MC2(SW) Elizabeth Vlahos, photo illustrations by MC1(AW) R. Jason Brunson

# THOSE WHO SERVE

## Picture the following, if you can:

A ship's weapons officer has discovered that the topside weapons aren't being properly maintained. His LPO doesn't even notice the coating of rust on the 50-cal guns because she recently found out her identity was stolen.

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A Top Secret document is left exposed in an unsecured area. The intelligence specialist who had custody of the document is too distraught to pay attention to proper information security procedures because he has discovered signs of abuse on his child.



U.S.

SPECIAL AGENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVAL  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

The Navy depends on its Sailors to rise to the challenge of being the world's preeminent force in 21st century sea power. These men and women are charged with the responsibility of protecting their homeland and the maritime freedom that is the basis for global prosperity. They are responsible for protecting the peace from any threats that may emerge.

But who protects the Sailors?

The Sailors need someone to safeguard them from, and educate them about, the crimes that may potentially befall them. The Navy needs a "security blanket" of its own to keep the peace for Sailors and their families, so they may keep the peace – and be at peace – both at home and abroad.

The men and women of Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) are up to the task.

## NCIS 101

NCIS is the Department of the Navy's (DON) primary law enforcement and counterintelligence force. The agency works in tandem with local, state, federal and foreign agencies to counter and investigate the most serious crimes. These crimes range from terrorism and espionage to common felonies involving DON personnel which include – but are not limited to – homicide, domestic violence including child abuse, identity theft, child predators and sexual assault and arson.

NCIS exists for one reason – to prevent and solve crimes that threaten the warfighting capability of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

NCIS is comprised of roughly 2,400 special agents, investigators, forensic experts, security specialists, intelligence analysts and support personnel who come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Roughly 25 percent of employees are either prior military or serve in the Reserve component. In addition to those with prior military service, many come to NCIS with experience gained from the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Marshals office or local or metropolitan hometown law enforcement.

**"We [want] to be proactive  
and help our Sailors and  
Marines prevent crime rather  
than react to a crime that's  
already occurred."**

*—Special Agent Carrie Nelson*

Many agents with local law enforcement backgrounds had worked with NCIS in the past and were impressed. On-the-job experience is not required to join the ranks, and a number of agents have backgrounds as lawyers or teachers.

No law enforcement agency relies solely on brute force to keep the peace; intellectual strength and knowledge is essential to the success of any unit. NCIS is no exception. The varied educational backgrounds of the agents and other employees are possibly the greatest asset to the force. Though a baccalaureate degree is the minimum educational requirement to join NCIS, many employees possess a master's degree in their respective fields, to include criminal justice, chemistry, forensics, law and international studies.

Many agents have studied a variety of foreign languages. The average NCIS agent is not your archetypal Eliot Ness-type gangbuster, but more of a walking library of knowledge with a sidearm and a badge. The experience varies with each individual.

## The Crime Reduction Program

The television program "NCIS" provides the impression most people have of NCIS. The agency takes a less aggressive, but highly assertive approach to fighting the crimes that threaten the mission of the Navy and the Marine Corps. Education has proven to be just as effective a weapon as a loaded firearm or a police baton; in that line, NCIS aims to

arm Sailors and Marines with the knowledge they need to cut the odds of falling victim to certain crimes through an initiative known as the Crime Reduction program (CRP).

In the CRP, NCIS works with the judge advocate general, its own public affairs office, the Family Advocacy program, the Chaplain Corps and other Navy commands to proactively fight crime within the military community. NCIS spearheads this partnership from its headquarters in Washington, D.C., working with the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Navy Family Ombudsman Program and other Navy and Marine Corps support systems.

"NCIS has primarily been a reactive agency," said Special Agent Carrie Nelson, coordinator for the CRP. "We react to crimes that happen, and we decided that that's not always enough. We [want] to be proactive and help our Sailors and Marines prevent crime rather than react to a crime that's already occurred."

NCIS does not work solely within the ranks of DON, though; the insight of other organizations, whether law-enforcement oriented or non-profit groups, is actively sought. Counsel is especially sought from organizations that target the topic du jour for the CRP. These resources can provide invaluable information to disseminate to those who fall under DON jurisdiction to reduce their risk of falling victim to the same crimes that NCIS wishes to tackle.

"We want to make sure our Sailors and Marines can focus their lives on their duties at hand rather than worry about how to recover from [these crimes]," said Nelson. "We want to get the message out before the incident occurs.

"Awareness is the biggest prevention step. That's the goal [of] these campaigns, to educate our Sailors and Marines."

## Domestic Violence

When NCIS formally kicked off the CRP in October 2008, domestic violence was the first topic in the playbook.

The facts are clear: domestic violence is a serious problem including within the Navy and the Marine Corps. It can destroy families, shatter relationships within and transform the sanctuary of home into a suffocating, nightmarish prison.

“Domestic violence is an overriding problem not only in the military but in the civilian community,” said Special Agent Jocelyn Dillard, stationed at NCIS headquarters, Naval District Washington (NDW). “When there are children within the family, they are often witnesses and victims themselves. A lot of times, children intercede in an incident that they see occurring and subsequently get injured. [Children] can be vastly impacted not only by actual physical violence, but also by the [emotional and] psychological ramifications of domestic violence.”

The destruction wrought at home can send shockwaves into the work environment as well. A Sailor or Marine facing a domestic violence charge can have an adverse effect on unit morale and operational readiness. That person might lose sight of operational responsibilities during the lengthy investigative and legal process.

The consequences of domestic violence can be professionally devastating. A Sailor or Marine can face criminal adjudication in both a military and a civilian court for the same offense, particularly if local law enforcement is called to the home. A service member can expect consequences ranging from a reduction in pay grade to the loss of his career and benefits. The latter can be especially damaging to the family.

“Military families are somewhat different from civilian families,” said Dillard. “[They] get housing, medical benefits through the military member, [and] commissary privileges. Everything goes away, and here you now have an unemployed spouse. Maybe the spouse is employed, or [is a stay-at-home mom] with two or three kids. Now you have two unemployed adults out in the world with no form of support whatsoever.”

A criminal domestic violence conviction, whether at the felony or misdemeanor level, is



often catastrophic for a career. The Lautenberg Amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968, enacted in 1996, makes it a felony for those convicted of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence to ship, transport, possess or receive firearms or ammunition. DoD expanded this to include those with a felony domestic violence conviction as well. Not only

are military personnel not exempt from the Lautenberg Amendment, they are required to fill out a DD Form 2760, Qualification to Possess Firearms or Ammunition, asking whether that service member was ever convicted of a crime of domestic violence.

“If you have a Sailor out in town [who] pushed his wife, was arrested by the [local]

**“Domestic violence is not allowed in the Department of the Navy. It is an unacceptable behavior, and there will be dire consequences.”**

— Special Agent Jocelyn Dillard

police department and was convicted of that offense,” Dillard explained, “that Sailor can never, ever handle a weapon or ammunition. Is that going to impact his or her job? Obviously.”

The amendment also makes it a felony to transfer a firearm or ammunition to an individual known, or reasonably believed, to have such a conviction. A Sailor or Marine whose authority to carry, operate or transport a firearm is permanently revoked is non-deployable. Many billets in the military require the use of a firearm, so those barred from carrying a firearm under the Lautenberg Amendment can be subjected to administrative separation, losing pay and benefits.

NCIS works with FFSC, the Marine Corps Community Services and other community aid organizations to reach as wide an audience as possible on this topic. A video titled “The War At Home,” put together by NCIS, illustrates the consequences of domestic violence for the offenders and the victims. NCIS also works with local law enforcement, with special agents personally meeting with commands and briefing them on the effects of domestic violence.

NCIS seeks to not only educate Sailors and Marines about the consequences of domestic violence, but also about how they can prevent it from happening in the first place. The importance of having a structured social network is emphasized in preventing a Sailor from becoming an offender, especially considering the isolating nature of constant transfers and permanent change of station moves.

“There are people [who Sailors] can reach out and talk to, [and] there are doctors that they can speak with,” said Nelson. “If you are at risk of becoming an offender, get help. Talk to your friends, talk to your family members. [DON] offers a number of services [and] counseling sessions [so you] can seek that help before it becomes an issue.”

“If you see, or suspect, that you’re escalating and you’re feeling the stressors – whether it’s work stress, family life stress or financial stress – seek help,” said Dillard.

If nothing else, Nelson wants to get the following point across to the Navy and the Marine Corps.

“Domestic violence is not allowed in DON. It is an unacceptable behavior, and there will be dire consequences,” added Dillard.

## Identity Theft

Identity theft is one of the most pernicious crimes affecting the Navy today. Once a Sailor’s identity is stolen, the thief can use his victim’s identity – name, credit card number, etc. – to obtain lines of credit and numerous accounts in the Sailor’s name for himself, redirect where the victim’s mail is delivered, commit a crime in the victim’s name or sell the stolen identity to other unsavory characters so they can open other lines of credit, creating a snowballing effect. The severity of the damage that identity theft can do to a Sailor’s life increases with the time and the number of people who have his identity.

NCIS works the identity theft cases they receive with local law enforcement, who usually have jurisdiction over the case at hand. The two agencies try to isolate the victim and the suspect, looking for what the suspect has used the victim’s identity to obtain. NCIS partners with identity theft task forces involving members of the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. NCIS also works with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which retains a database of identity theft victims and suspects that is accessible to law enforcement agents.

Sailors who commit identity theft are committing a serious breach of trust. Many Sailors work in positions that give them access to sensitive personal information, to include information systems technicians, postal clerks, personnel specialists and hospital corpsmen, to name a few. The information that these Sailors have access to – names, social security numbers and dates of birth – can prove catastrophic if it falls into an untrustworthy pair of hands.

“Anytime a Sailor has access to PII, or personally identifiable information, they can, if they were dishonest, take that information and sell it to other people to use for financial gain, or they could try to use it for their own financial gain,” said Special Agent Sean Devinney, who works at the NCIS satellite office in Dahlgren, Va. “Those Sailors who are in those positions who have access to that information would be most likely the suspects.”

In the rare event that a Sailor is the perpetrator of identity theft, the charges would go under identification fraud and identity theft. Depending on the dollar amount lost and the number of accounts that have been

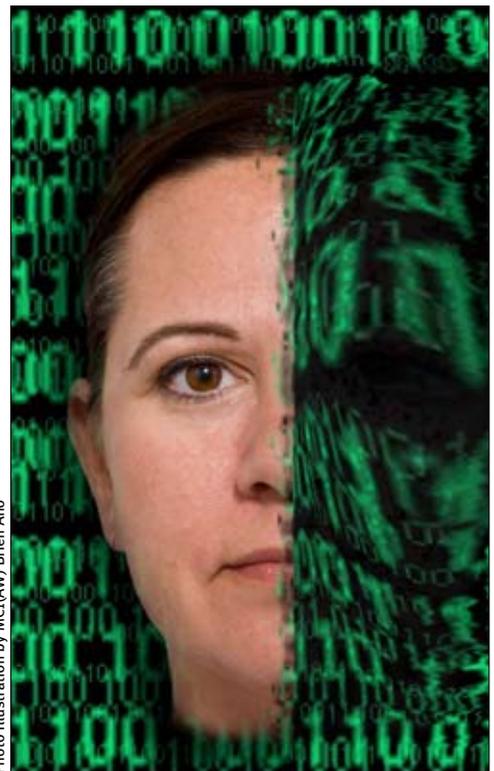


Photo illustration by MCI(AW) Brien Aho

compromised, the Sailor could be looking at five to 10 years in prison for identity fraud, with two years minimum mandatory incarceration for each victim.

“The reason [for this],” Devinney explained, “is that it is so disruptive to victims to have to go through this ordeal of trying to rectify their credit.”

“Identity theft is larceny,” said Nelson. “It’s a crime. A suspect can certainly face jail time [and] lose his career. If [he] can no longer have a security clearance, he can no longer do certain jobs in the Navy, and he’ll be separated.”

When identity theft hits a Sailor, it can feel like a kick in the stomach; it can knock the wind out of one’s sails and take a Sailor’s mind off the mission at hand. The consequences of identity theft can hit a Sailor worse in the long term as well. A victim of identity theft can expect to spend hours of time on the phone trying to straighten things out with his banks, the credit bureaus and the companies with whom the fraudulent lines of credit were opened.

“On average, it takes about 100 hours of the Sailor’s time to get his credit back to where it was before,” said Devinney. “That’s work by the Sailor talking with the creditors and filling out paperwork to justify that they are not the ones who spent the funds, as well as nearly \$2,000 in out-of-pocket expenses on average to a Sailor [who] is the victim of identity theft.”

The financial fallout of identity theft can also place the victim’s security clearance in grave jeopardy.

“One of the criteria in a security clearance is your financial stability and your financial situation,” said Devinney. “As a victim of identity theft, you could have creditors [who] are out money, and that could lower your credit rating, and ultimately negatively impact your security clearance. Undetected, it could cause a lot of problems if your security clearance was being investigated with you not knowing you were the victim. That could take some time to repair, and it may delay your clearance or it could result in your clearance being suspended while the investigation is ongoing.



“It has a huge professional impact to the Sailor and to the Navy. The Sailor can’t [do] their job if their access to classified material is suspended.”

It is for these reasons that quick action is a must in the event that one’s identity has been

stolen. Prevention, however, is also paramount. A Sailor can reduce the risk of falling victim to identity theft.

“Always shred documents with financial account information and PII,” Devinney pointed out. “If you can afford it, purchase a

## Fraud Alert

The first thing to do upon discovering the theft is to call one of the three major credit reporting bureaus – TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax – and place a fraud alert on that credit report. This will enable you to get free credit reports from those agencies. Look through those credit reports and find out which accounts are fraudulent. A Sailor should then fill out an identity theft affidavit, available from the Federal Trade Commission, which states that you are not responsible for any of the fraudulent accounts. Contact the creditors of these accounts, close each account and talk to their security departments, explain the situation and fill out the required paperwork. Report it to NCIS and local law enforcement. Next, get in touch with your financial institutions and cancel your credit cards.

TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax have established a vital tool called an active-duty fraud alert. If a Sailor requests this alert, any business who wishes to extend a new line of credit or establish an account must take a certain number of steps to verify his identity, to make sure that it is really that Sailor opening the account rather than an impostor.

cross-cutting shredder. Also, don't carry your social security card in your wallet; keep it in a safe place. Don't use obvious passwords; the Navy is very good at ensuring the passwords that we use are very complicated, and you should follow suit with that. [Using] passwords that are associated with your date of birth, your maiden name or your mother's maiden name, those are easy passwords. If an identity thief would have that information already available, it would take them only a couple of attempts to figure out what your password is."

"You must monitor your accounts," Nelson added. "Monitor your billing statements at each month, recognize those charges. Every year you are entitled to a free credit report, [so] take advantage of that and look for accounts and charges that you don't recognize. A good rule of thumb is never to release personal information to somebody you don't know. Keep that information to yourself."

## Every Parent's Worst Nightmare

The Navy is the last thing on the mind of a Sailor or Marine who has just found out that his or her child has fallen victim to the horror of abuse at the hands of someone else. Yet, too many Navy and Marine families per year are subjected to unconscionable situations that the writers for Law & Order: Special Victims Unit couldn't conjure up in their worst nightmares. The consequences of child sexual abuse and exploitation can devastate a family.

Children are often unaware of the dangers that can lurk behind every corner, and the danger usually doesn't take the form of the prototypical stranger hanging around the corner liquor store. The predator could be hiding behind an Internet alias depicting him as someone of the child's age, the friendly new neighbor who keeps to himself, or – every parent's worst nightmare – a trusted authority figure that the child knows, such as a teacher, coach or family member.

"There's just no stereotype for any of these crimes," said Special Agent Tess Berg, also

stationed at NCIS headquarters at NDW. "[The perpetrator] can be someone who's a 4.0 or 5.0 Sailor. It [runs] across all ranks – [it can be] an E-1 [or] an officer."

A Sailor or Marine suspected of child abuse or sexual exploitation can lose his unit's trust with alarming speed. People who once held him in high regard start questioning not only him but themselves, wondering how they could have trusted someone who allegedly committed such unspeakable acts against an innocent child. This betrayal of trust can ricochet across a unit, creating a scorched-earth effect on the morale and cohesion within.

A Sailor convicted of such predatory actions can lose everything. In addition to losing trust in his unit and within his family, the professional consequences are staggering. A Sailor or Marine convicted of child abuse, whether sexual or not, faces many of the consequences that a domestic violence conviction brings – but for those convicted of child sexual abuse, a rather stiff legal consequence awaits, as well.

"If you are convicted of child sexual abuse, that conviction will follow you for the rest of your life – there's no getting away from it," said Berg. "Per federal law, that individual must register as a sex offender in the jurisdiction in which they live."

This requirement is also placed in the offender's record of trial as a mandate, since the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has a database designed to track the whereabouts of sex offenders nationwide. In addition, DOD is currently developing a new policy concerning sex offenders within the military, and it is expected to be very stringent.

NCIS works with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to educate the fleet about the grim reality about child abuse and child predators.

"We actually have a representative, an NCIS agent [who works] over at the NCMEC center," said Berg. "It's an agreement with all the [military criminal investigative organizations] that we're going to have a representative [there]."

All military criminal investigative organizations – NCIS, Army Criminal Investigative Command, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, and the Coast Guard Investigative Service – have an agreement with NCMEC that one agent from any organization will serve as a representative for all four agencies and liaison between them and other federal agencies who have representatives at NCMEC. The baton passes every two years to the next agency. Any suspected pornographic images involving children are sent to this liaison, who runs them through the NCMEC database to determine whether or not the child portrayed has been previously identified as a victim of sexual exploitation.

“Our liaison also assists with the Cyber Tip Line, which is the national clearinghouse for tips for anything that has to do with child pornography, child enticements, trafficking, prostitution [and anything else] of that sort,” said Berg. “NCIS works closely with those types of operations and investigations.”

Due to the especially disturbing and traumatic nature of child sexual abuse, parental involvement cannot be stressed enough.

“Since the Internet is a huge avenue for children to be exploited – whether or not they’re enticed or solicited – it would be a good practice for families to keep [computers accessible to children] in a common living area, so that they can watch what sites their children are going to,” said Berg. “It could perhaps deter some exploration on the Internet that could lead them into some trouble or lead them down a path that they didn’t expect to go down.”

Parents should learn as much as they can about their computers as well and take advantage of the parental controls to block access to any venues through which a sexual predator can reach their children; they should also invest in web filter software that has these controls. They should keep track of what social networking sites their kids participate in and get involved themselves. Parents should also keep track of the people with whom their children spend their time. They should check whether

these friends are the children’s own ages or if they’re considerably older, the latter of which should be a red flag. Parents should also learn to effectively communicate with their children. If a parent suspects that an authority figure – a teacher, a coach or other adult in a position of authority over a child – is perpetrating the abuse, he or she should immediately report it.

“Report it to local law enforcement,” Berg stressed. “If it’s an individual in the military, report it to NCIS. If you don’t know who to go to with local law enforcement, still report it to NCIS. We’ll ensure it goes to the proper jurisdiction.”

## It’s All About the Sailors

The CRP is not so much a movement as it is a progression. Even after the initial topics – domestic violence, identity theft, and child abuse – have been discussed and disseminated, the CRP still has places to go.

“Our goal with the Crime Reduction Program is education and awareness, so any crime that threatens Sailors and Marines, we want to get it out into the public eye,” said Nelson.

Future topics that NCIS plans to cover are substance abuse, sexual assault and any crimes that may pop out of the woodwork and tear a Sailor or Marine’s focus off his or her job. The program covers crimes of interest or concern as identified by current trends, crime report statistics and the needs of the DON. The numerous everyday threats to homeland security ensure that NCIS will suffer no shortage of material to cover.

When it comes down to the nuts and bolts of the matter, it’s all about ensuring the safety of those who serve. Whether its agents are equipped with a sidearm or a treasure trove of knowledge, NCIS is all about one thing: protecting those who put on the Navy or Marine Corps uniform every day.

“These people are protecting our nation, and our borders,” said Nelson. “I am privileged to know that I am helping to protect them.”

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



## This Just In

# Philippine, American Sailors Train Together During CARAT

U.S. and Filipino Sailors and Marines worked side-by-side on medical, dental and engineering civic action programs and community relations projects during exercise *Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2009*.

At Looc National High School, U.S. Navy Seabees and their Philippine counterparts constructed a new classroom and stage area as part of an engineering civic action program (ENCAP). Meanwhile, Sailors and Marines from Philippine Naval Forces Central Command, landing ship *USS Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) and Task Group 73.5 painted the school and delivered four pallets of textbooks.

*CARAT 2009* also included a series of medical and dental civic action programs in Argao where Philippine and U.S. medical personnel provided medical, dental and optometry care to more than 800 local citizens.

Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Muhammad Matthews of the *Harpers Ferry* engineering department volunteered the day before to deliver supplies and play basketball with students at Bangbang Elementary School.

"We had a blast there yesterday," Matthews said. "There were a lot of kids out there that were glad to see us."

During the visit to the school, Matthews and other Sailors delivered frisbees, soccer balls and spent time playing with the children.

Arturo Go, principal, Looc National High School, plans to make sure other schools in Lapu-Lapu also reap the benefit of the hundreds of language, history, social studies, physical, earth and life science textbooks donated by *Project Handclasp*.

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 have been working with Philippine Seabees from the 1st Naval Construction Brigade since April 30 to construct a new single-room schoolhouse at Looc as well as rebuilding the roof of an

outdoor stage which had been damaged during a recent storm.

The new schoolhouse would reduce the amount of children per class at a school where class sizes exceed 50 per room, resulting in more personalized attention for each of the school's 544 students.

"I feel so blessed, and I'm very grateful to the U.S. Navy and the Philippine Navy," Go said. "Not all schools receive such kind donations."

Philippine Sailors brought "banana-que," skewered bananas fried in caramel, along with bottles of cold sodas for the U.S. Sailors and Marines in appreciation for their work and dedication.

"I love seeing our Sailors out here, a lot of them on their own time, working together with the Philippine Navy and making it a better place for the children when they come back to school in a few days," said Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific.

*CARAT* is a series of bilateral exercises held annually in Southeast Asia to strengthen relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces. *Harpers Ferry* is serving as flagship for a U.S. Navy task group. **S**

**Story and photo by MCC Brian Brannon, Commander, Task Group 73.5., Lapu-Lapu City, Philippines.**



▲ Philippine and U.S. Navy medical personnel treat a patient at a medical civic action program during exercise *Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2009*.

## Teamwork South 2009 Gets Underway

More than a dozen ships from Chile, Brazil, France, the United Kingdom and the United States recently participated in *Teamwork South (TWS) 2009*, a multinational naval exercise conducted off the coast of Chile.

Three U.S. guided-missile frigates, *USS Ford* (FFG 54), *USS Doyle* (FFG 39) and *USS Kauffman* (FFG 59) took part in *TWS 2009* under the command of Capt. Rudy Laco, commander, Task Group 40.0 and commander, Destroyer Squadron 40.

During the two-week joint exercise, the ships performed combined naval operations with their partner nations and conducted distinguished visitor and community relations events. According to Cmdr. John D. Wilshusen, *Ford's* commanding officer, the relentless schedule of *TWS 2009* challenged every participant.

“These joint exercises are intentionally designed to push each crew member to the limit,” said Wilshusen. “In a time of true crisis, the benefits of this kind of training would be realized in the smooth integration of many nations into one single and cohesive fighting force. In a world where interdependence is the norm, it is essential that we, as leading nations with similar goals, learn to work as one.”

The first phase of the exercise involved numerous anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercises, coordinated defense against surface littoral threats, surface gunnery exercises and other training events to develop at-sea proficiency and the ability to operate together.

Participating frigates from each nation were similarly equipped to conduct successful ASW operations. Among the tools available to the participating ships were five helicopters, each embarked upon a different nation’s ship.

The operational integration of San Diego-based Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 43, Det 4’s SH-60B, two Chilean SH-32 *Cougars*, a British *Lynx*, a Brazilian *Super Lynx* and a French *Alouette III* was one of the significant accomplishments of the week.

Lt. j.g. Colin Galle, *Ford*’s anti-submarine warfare officer, was particularly appreciative of the key role the helicopters played in successfully tracking participating submarines.

“It is obvious that our partner navies are very competent and professional, and it’s good to be working with them,” said Galle. “We are learning a great deal from each other.”

▼ **FC2 Eric Brown stands safety watch aboard USS *Kauffman* (FFG 59) during live-fire exercises off the coast of Chile as part of the Chilean-hosted naval exercise *Teamwork South 2009*.**



Photo by MC2 Brandon Shelander

Following a short period at anchor near Mejillones, Chile, for tactical briefings and operational planning, the ships set sail for a final exercise scenario phase, during which they took opposite sides in a fictitious maritime operation simulating real-world coalition operations at sea.

*Story by Ensign Julien Geiser, USS Ford (FFG 54).*

## MCPON Aims to Make Warfare Programs Mandatory for All Ranks

The master chief petty officer of the Navy (MCPON) recently shared one message with Sailors who make up the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDNF) in Japan – warfare programs are critical, and every Sailor should work toward qualifications, regardless of rank.

MCPON (SS/SW) Rick D. West says if a program is available, it should be mandatory for every Sailor.

In both the surface and aviation forces, program regulations state any Sailor, E-5 or above, must be actively working toward attaining his or her primary warfare device. West sees value in expanding that to all ranks and has asked the force and fleet master chiefs to review the programs for expansion.

“I’ve had lengthy discussions with both [Fleet Master Chief] Tom Howard (Atlantic/Fleet Forces Command) and [Fleet Master

Chief] John Minyard (Pacific), and they are working a proposal to move ahead.

“I see no reason why a seaman or airman apprentice, once they’ve completed their basic shipboard qualifications, can’t start moving toward getting their pin. Many commands and Sailors do this already, and you can certainly see a difference.”

West added he anticipates receiving recommendations regarding improving the EAWS and ESWs processes by the end of the summer. Strengthening enlisted warfare programs has been a public goal of his since taking office in December 2008, and West said he feels the time is right to act.



▲ **Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West (left), presents his own enlisted surface warfare specialist pin to BMSN Brett Kish during an awards ceremony aboard USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56).**

“The phrase ‘Ship, Shipmate, Self’ truly defines who we are as Sailors, and that phrase is also very much relevant and clarifies the importance of our warfare qualification programs,” said West. “I know when I see a Sailor wearing a pin, I’m looking at a warrior who has more than the basic shipboard knowledge it takes to fight their ship in a time of need.”

The warfare programs should be strong but not impossible.

“Show me a crew of Sailors where every one of them earned their pins through a tough, comprehensive warfare program, and I’ll show you a group of warriors who can fight together and accomplish any mission.

“That,” said West, “is what the goal should be.”

*Story by MCCS Bill Houlihan, photo by MC1 Jennifer Villalovos, Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Washington, D.C.*

Something to Think About

# Buddy-up for Safety

Story by Ensign Ann Wilkins Jefferson, illustration by MC2(SW) William Blake



received sad news about a high school classmate who recently drowned in a kayaking accident. He was a doctor, manager, athlete, husband, father – generally a responsible person. Although an experienced kayaker, he was kayaking alone on a lake, somehow separated from his craft, struggled to get back in but went under (per a passerby’s eyewitness from a bridge).

The key word here is “alone.” The No. 1 rule when you’re in or near water is to always be with another person who can help in an emergency.

Maybe you’re thinking, “But I’m a really good swimmer,” or “I avoid water anyway,” or worse, “What are the chances I’ll have an accident? I’ll be fine.”

That’s like believing you’re a good driver, so why wear a seat belt? Because accidents happen, that’s why. You never know when or where, so be prepared. If you don’t, think how your actions (or lack of) and consequences could affect friends, family, rescue teams, fellow Sailors and the public.

Drowning claims the lives of nearly 3,000 people every year, per the National Safety Council. And the U.S. Navy’s Naval Safety Center states that drowning is one of the leading killer of Sailors in recreational mishaps. As in my classmate’s case, his is an example of why safety experts recommend people canoeing or kayaking be in a minimum group of three persons or two craft. We all hear stats and stories like this, but do we truly apply water safety rules when we head out for pleasure or exercise?

The following water safety tips from the Naval Safety Center and the American Red Cross cover major precautions.

## Learn how to swim

If you can’t swim, learn! In aquatic emergencies, every second counts. With children, constantly supervise them whenever they’re around water and make swimming lessons a priority over other sports. Swimming is a life-saving skill – not soccer, dance or baseball. Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for kids 1 to 14 years of age.

## Practice water safety

Swim with a buddy in a designated area supervised by lifeguards. Otherwise, assume that any natural body of water is too dangerous for swimming.

Heed water/beach warnings, special instructions and flags or signs. Even at guarded beaches, wave activity can be dangerous. More than 100 people die annually due to rip currents on America’s beaches.

Watch out for the dangerous “toos:” too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun and too much strenuous activity.

Walk carefully into open waters; do not dive.

Know how to tell if a swimmer is in distress or is drowning; don’t assume they’re joking or playing around.

## Understand the risks

Know the water hazards in your community including drainage ditches, garden ponds, creeks and streams, wells and cisterns and canals. Once, two Marines went swimming in a rain-swollen drainage ditch. They were swept away into a pipeline and drowned.

Always check the weather before heading out to any aquatic environment and stay away if inclement weather is expected.

Have cell phones or portable phones nearby so you can quickly call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

Have a well-stocked first aid kit on hand.

## Avoid alcohol use

Alcohol and water do not mix. Alcohol affects every organ in the body; it impairs judgment, balance and coordination; affects swimming and diving skills; and reduces the body’s ability to stay warm. The U.S. Coast Guard states that the use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities.

## Boating and other water recreation

Make sure the boat is in top operating condition, no tripping or fire hazards exist, and required safety equipment is on board and maintained.

Always use approved personal floatation devices (life jackets). The U.S. Coast Guard estimates nearly nine out of 10 drowning victims were not wearing one.

Know your position, where you are going and file a float plan with a relative or friend.

Maintain a safe speed at all times to avoid collision. Most boating collisions are caused by inattention.

Keep an eye out for changing weather conditions and act accordingly.

Practice the rules of the road (navigation rules) and obey federal and state regulations and waterway markers.

Safety Resource.org lists one-paragraph quick-tips on the above water activities as well as water sports like canoeing, water skiing, jet skiing, and even fishing accidents.

Finally, be sure to remind your fellow Sailors and family members of water safety, too. Check out the sites below for more details, checklists and articles. E-mail or text yourself a reminder to visit the sites and scan over the info. It’s worth the few minutes to read and soak it all in.

## You can find more water safety tips at:

- Naval Safety Center Resources – <http://safetycenter.navy.mil>
- U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety – <http://www.uscgboating.org/safety>
- American Red Cross Boating/Water Safety Tips – [www.redcross.org under “Summer Safety”](http://www.redcross.org/under/SummerSafety)
- National Safety Council – [www.nsc.org/resources/Factsheets/hl/water\\_safety.aspx](http://www.nsc.org/resources/Factsheets/hl/water_safety.aspx)

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

# Lifelong Commitment to Service

Story by MC2(AW) Jonathan W. Hutto Sr., photo by MCSN Eric Tretter

**T**he U.S. Navy teaches young men and women to be professional, dedicated and to exemplify the highest standards of service to the nation. Many service members continue their patriotic commitment as public servants after leaving the uniformed service. Felipe Gonzalez, a retired Navy master chief, is a financial educator at the Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) in Kings Bay, Ga. Gonzalez has embodied the spirit of service for a lifetime after serving 22 years in the Navy.

The FFSC also represents this spirit of service as they celebrate 30 years of helping service members and their families in all aspects of life, including childcare, educational services and financial counseling. For Gonzalez, it's an excellent match.

"I have been with the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) for more than 10 years," said Gonzalez. "My job entails supervising relocation assistance, transition assistance, family employment readiness, personal financial management, deployment support and ombudsman support to Sailors and families of Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay."

Gonzalez, who was stationed at Kings Bay while on active duty from 1994 to 1997, knows from his own experience the needs of Sailors and their families.

"As a Sailor I saw my shipmates experience some of the things I see our Sailors going through now," said Gonzalez. "As a Sailor, I was able to refer some of my shipmates to FFSC for services, and I also used some of their financial classes as well. As a chief petty

officer, I learned early on to take care of my Sailors and their families, and I feel privileged that I can still carry on that tradition even now as an FFSC staff member."

Gonzalez believes educating service members on all of the benefits FFSC has to offer leads to the empowerment of these service members and their families.

"Many times our Sailors and families are not aware of the services available to them," said Gonzalez. "We educate them so they take advantage of all our services and improve their quality of life. One family that stands out to me is a young couple that came in to see me because they were new to the area and the Navy. They were having trouble making ends meet, and they were expecting their first child.

"I was able to make a direct referral to our New Parent Support program manager to assist them in preparing for their first child. The spouse was put in touch with the ombudsman of the command to be engaged with the Family Readiness Group while her husband would be out to sea. The husband and wife signed up for parenting classes and completed a budget for their finances."

Gonzalez witnessed, firsthand, the impact FFSC can have on a Navy family.

"A few months later, after helping that young couple, the young spouse approached me at the commissary," said Gonzalez. "She introduced me to their newborn and told me her husband was out to sea, but she was able to take care of their home thanks to the help of the ombudsman. She told me of another spouse she informed of FFSC's programs. This experience stands out to me as an example of a family that took advantage of the free services available to them and now advocates the programs to other Navy families."

Gonzalez believes being genuine with Sailors and their families is the most essential quality for FFSC's success.

"Our Sailors and families can see when someone is genuine and cares about them and when someone is not," said Gonzalez. "Being genuine is listening to their problems, really understanding what they are going through and helping them find solutions." ❧

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

## Focus on Service



## The Path to Women's Equality – Navy Style

Story by MC2 Geraldine Hawkins

**A**ugust marks a number of significant anniversaries for women in U.S. history: Women's Equality Day, celebrated Aug. 26, commemorates the day in 1920 when the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing voting rights for women in America. In the Navy this date was preceded, and has been followed, by significant milestones that have ensured this principle is advanced in letter and spirit.

In 1908 Congress authorized the establishment of a female Nurse Corps within the United States. These nurses became known as the "The Sacred Twenty" and were the first women to formally serve as members of the Navy. By Aug. 18, 1911, Esther Voorhes Hasson was appointed the first Navy Nurse Corps superintendent, a reflection upon the important role of the nurses.

By the time of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, more than 1,550 nurses had served in naval hospitals and other facilities at home and abroad, including wartime hospitals in the United Kingdom and France. Shortly after the fighting ended, a few Navy nurses were assigned to duty aboard transports bringing troops home from Europe.

A few months earlier, before the war ended, the secretary of the Navy approved the creation of "Yeoman F" (the F for female) rating Aug. 12, 1918. Women were just beginning to make inroads.

During the ensuing years, legislation prohibited women to be part of combat units, but that did not mean that women were out of harms' way. In 1942, Lt. Dorothy Still Danner was among the service members, men and women, captured by the Japanese in Manila and imprisoned at Santo Thomas and Los Banos in the Philippines.

From her own account, Danner recalled, "On 2 January, the Japanese came into Manila but didn't come to Santa Scholastica until a few days later. At first the Japanese were not hostile and mostly left us alone. But then they started taking quinine from us. Then they took our beds and mattresses. They also began to slap around and beat up the men. But they ignored us - the nurses."

Under Japanese rule, living conditions in the camp worsened to the point that people feared death by starvation. Despite the conditions, she managed to survive and was rescued three years later.

"The rescue plan was complicated because it was out of the ordinary," Danner said. "Thus far, the Americans had only liberated

prisoners in their line of advance. But a Los Banos rescue meant going far behind enemy lines."

Women showed their mettle during World War II and continued their contributions in the years after the war. WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) provided invaluable support during World War II, but in 1948, after the "emergency" was passed, President Harry S. Truman signed a law ending the auxiliary status of women, integrating them fully into the Navy.

In 1967, 19 years later, numerical limits on the number of women in the services were removed, and a new law ended promotion restrictions on women officers.

By 1972 there were 24 ratings open to women, but that year marked a watershed as Alene Duerk, director of the Navy Nurse Corps since 1968,

became the first woman to be promoted to flag rank, and Cmdr. Elizabeth M. Barrett was distinguished by being the first woman senior officer assigned to duty in Vietnam. She served as director on the Combined Staff of U.S. Naval Forces Vietnam/U.S. Naval Advisory Group Vietnam.

To further this transformation, in Aug. 8, 1972, women were authorized for sea duty. Lt. Ann Girouard, one of five women JAG officers in 1972, articulated the "just do it" spirit that has always characterized Navy women.

"Miss Girouard says she doesn't think of herself as part of any liberation movement," reported *All Hands* in July 1972. "She claims that she has not

encountered sex bias in the Navy. She said, 'I think clients will accept you as a competent attorney if you fulfill your duties with competence.'"

But it wasn't until October 1978, that the implementation of sea duty for women truly affected the careers of women in the Navy. The Navy drafted and sponsored an amendment to assign women to sea duty aboard noncombatant ships because of the national goal to ensure equal opportunity for women throughout the force. The impact of this decision was far reaching: Five additional ratings were opened to enlisted women and the number of seats at "A" school and Surface Warfare Officer School were increased. This change in the law also meant women became eligible to command ships.

In January 1994, then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin authorized the exposure of women in support units to the same risk of capture as men in close combat units.

That was all that was needed for women to step out of the shadows and make their mark in the Navy's daily operations. **NS**

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



▲ Lt. Dorothy Still Danner is interviewed in 1945 after her release from a World War II prison camp in the Philippines.



# A World of Opportunities

Everett Sailor advanced for life-saving efforts in

## Afghanistan

### Individual Augmentee

Story by MCC Brian Naranjo, U.S. Forces Afghanistan Public Affairs

**A**dministrative Sailors in the U.S. Navy are sometimes referred to with such terms of endearment as “staff puke,” “desk jockey” or “paper pusher.”

But, in the face of real, spine-tingling, life-threatening danger, the true character of a Sailor is revealed.

Such is the case for Personnel Specialist 2nd Class (Surface Warfare) Glenn Kalae Paoa, who was faced with imminent threats – including three near misses with improvised explosive device (IED) attacks.

Paoa is normally assigned to the Personnel Support Detachment, Naval Station Everett, Wash. For the past year, he’s been serving as an individual augmentee (IA) with Headquarters International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), Kabul, Afghanistan.

The 31-year-old Sailor, originally from Oahu, Hawaii, was recently promoted through the Navy’s Combat Meritorious Advancement program.

Paoa was nominated for the honor by his Officer-In-Charge, Air Force Lt. Col. L. Patrice Moore.

“PS3 Paoa’s competence and performance of the mission proves his strong work ethic and his dedication to Navy core values. A Sailor with great potential, I highly recommend him for a meritorious promotion to second class petty officer.”

Paoa’s office job is as an administrative jack-of-all-trades, but, a large part of his work involves planning and executing logistics and personnel transport missions on the dangerous roads of Afghanistan.

Since he arrived at ISAF, Paoa’s been on more than 300 of these. Each time he leaves the relative safety of the base compound, Paoa follows a basic rule.

“I keep my mind set on my mission,” he said. “Regardless of my specific job, the mission is the priority. Every passenger is a VIP, and their safety depends on my situational awareness.”

That awareness has served Paoa and his team well, according to Moore. On one trip through the city of Kabul, Paoa “sighted a small metal object with brown wires attached to it. He immediately relayed this information to the drivers as well as the rest of the convoy.”

“That mission in particular was very different,” recalled Paoa. “At the time we pushed out ... things didn’t really add up. On most days, the streets of Kabul are crowded with pedestrians, vehicles and bicycles. But there were no people outside.”

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called to the scene and disposed of the IED.

A few months later, on Sept. 14, Paoa helped stop an even bigger threat. While on a convoy run, he spotted and skillfully avoided an insurgent driving a car packed with explosives, known as a vehicle-borne IED. The car matched the description and license plate on a locally published list of vehicles to watch out for.

“His quick thinking prevented a fatal outcome and ensured the safety of eight personnel,” said Moore.

Anyone who’s driven or ridden on missions in Afghanistan, will attest that at night, the roads are unlit and unmarked, and it can be difficult to navigate.



Paoa was assigned as a guard, for a three-vehicle convoy, when the second truck got a flat tire. Personnel established a secure perimeter and Paoa manned the forward end, about 50 yards in front of the lead vehicle.

“He noticed that a large truck was speeding up and warned the driver to stop,” wrote Moore. “The driver disregarded the warning, and picked up speed.”

Following established rules of engagement, Paoa raised his M4 rifle, took careful aim and “fired a warning shot, stopping the large truck in its path,” according to Moore.

When a person praises Paoa, he’s quick to deliver a long list of names of people who’ve helped him during his six-year Navy career.

As Paoa’s time in Afghanistan nears its close, he feels the people he’s worked with at ISAF have built on what his senior chief taught him, and he will head back to Everett with a new perspective.

“They taught me the routes and how to drive on these roads in each and every condition,” he said. “But most importantly, they reiterated that even individuals like me – a ‘paper pusher’ – can contribute to the mission.”

*Naranjo is assigned to U.S. Forces Afghanistan.*

**It's never too soon. Start studying now for the September exam.**

