Contents

Magazine of the U.S. Navy  September 1995, Number 941

Features

4
Best of the best
Meet the Navy’s Sailors of the Year for 1995.

6
The great rescue
USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) Sailors and embarked Marines bring Air Force Capt. Scott O’Grady home.

14
PCU Gonzalez (DDG 66)
Arleigh Burke-class destroyer named for Vietnam War Medal of Honor winner.

16
Growing Navy leaders
The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is more than just something to do after school.

18
Getting out alive
Water survival training teaches pilots, flight officers and aircrew members how to survive.

23
Pull out
The new evaluation forms and answers to your questions are provided in a pull-out format.

On the Cover
From left to right: BMC(SW/AW) Roberto Ventura, from Santo Domingo; YN1 Sally Perez, from Newark, N.J.; PH3 Ephraim Rodriguez and SN Irene Rivera, both from New York City. Photo by PH1 Dolores L. Anglin. Studio technician PH3 Ephraim Rodriguez.

27
Learning to fly
After five weeks of exercise, NAS Pensacola, Fla., turns out aircrewmen who are ready to fly.

31
Challenge Athena
High tech on the high seas brings today’s Sailors a little closer to home.

34
It’s not remote any more
Digital Satellite System TV is closer than you think. Get the lowdown and see if it’s coming to your living room.

36
Welcome home
Family Service Centers now have Welcome Aboard Videos available through their Relocation Assistance program.

38
Starbase Atlantis
The Fleet Training Center, Atlantic, Norfolk, provides a forum for students to learn math and science.

40
It’s your life
Cancer screening and early detection of common cancers may prolong your life. Find out the telltale signs and how to deal with them.

Departments

2  Charthouse
9  Models of Success
43  Bearings
48  Shipmates
Charthouse

IRS data base causes problems for some military taxpayers

Under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA), military income is deemed to be earned in the service member's state of record and can only be taxed by that state. While the SSCRA prevents a state from taxing every service member who is stationed in the state, the Office of the Judge Advocate General has received numerous reports from service members who have received collection notices for state taxes for which they are not liable.

State tax authorities are increasingly using data from the IRS to obtain the names and addresses of taxpayers residing in the state who filed federal tax returns. The state authorities typically assume that the taxpayers were also required to pay state income taxes, until the taxpayers advise differently. The state usually will send a form letter to the taxpayer noting the failure to file a state return and asking the taxpayers to provide proof that they were not required to file a state tax return. Some states, including California, will actually compute and demand payment of a precise amount of state income tax, penalties and interest.

Service members receiving a demand to pay income tax from a state other than their home state should assert their rights under the SSCRA and provide the state with proof that they are active-duty military and domiciled in another state. Such proof might consist of copies of their orders, income tax return for their home state and DD Form 2058, "State of Legal Residence Certificate" from their disbursing record. If the state still refuses to cease collection activities, service members may request help from the Navy Legal Service Office or other military attorneys.

Fleet's structure reorganized

The Atlantic Fleet's surface combatant ships have been reorganized into six core battle groups, nine destroyer squadrons and a new Western Hemisphere Group. The reorganization took effect Aug. 31, with homeport shifts occurring through 1998.

The plan focuses on developing squadron integrity, increasing Sailors' time in homeport, economizing training, and providing a more efficient organization to meet Western Hemisphere requirements.

The ships in the Western Hemisphere Group will be homeported in Mayport, Fla., and Pascagoula, Miss. These ships will be tasked with supporting operations in the Caribbean and South America. USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) and USS Yorktown (CG 48) will move to Pascagoula in 1996. USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) will join them in FY98.

Four ships will move to Mayport; USS Robert G. Bradley (FFG 49) (FY97), USS Conolly (DD 979) (1996-97), USS Scott (DDG 995) (1997) and USS DDG 993 (1998), to join USS Moosbrugger (DD 980), USS Dewert (FFG 45), USS Mclnerney (FFG 8), USS Boone (FFG 28), USS Doyle (FFG 39), USS Aubrey Fitch (FFG 34) and USS Stark (FFG 31).

When the transition period is complete, the following ship assignments will apply:

- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 2/USS John C. Cennis (CVN 74) Joint Task Group: USS San Jacinto (CG 56) and USS Monterey (CG 61).

- Commander Carrier Group 6/USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67)/USS America (CV 66) Joint Task Group: USS Vicksburg (CG 69), USS Hue City (CG 66) and USS Thomas S. Gates until Gates transfers to the Western Hemisphere Group in June 1998.

- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 8/USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) Joint Task Group: USS Anzio (CG 68) and USS Cape St. George (CG 71).

- Commander Carrier Group 8/USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Joint Task Group: USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) and USS Mississippi (CGN 40). Mississippi is scheduled for decommissioning during FY98.

- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12/USS Enterprise (CVN 65)
Eligible Sailors can apply for conversion to Master-at-Arms (MA) and Navy Counselor (NC) ratings. Non-designated seamen, firemen, and airmen who are eligible for advancement to 3rd class petty officer can laterally convert to the MA rating. Second and 3rd class petty officers are also eligible to convert. Second class petty officers eligible for advancement objectives category (CREO 1), which means they are undermanned. Advancement opportunity for both ratings, for all pay grades, has been above fleet average for the past three advancement cycles. More information is available in NAVADMIN 147/95.

The Pacific Fleet’s surface ships are being reorganized into six core battle groups and eight destroyer squadrons. The reorganization is scheduled to be completed by Oct. 1, 1995, with homeport changes completed within the next year. Permanent core battle groups will include a battle group commander, aircraft carrier, carrier air wing and at least two cruisers.

While most of the reorganization will be accomplished by realigning existing shore commands and the staffs of operational commanders, the following changes will apply:

- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 7/USS Abraham Lincoln (CV 72) Battle Group: USS Princeton (CG 59) and USS Chancellorsville (CG 62).
- Commander Carrier Group 5/USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Battle Group: USS Port Royal (CG 73) and USS Lake Champlain (CG 57).
- Commander Carrier Group 3/USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group: USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and USS Chosin (CG 65).
- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 5/USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Battle Group: USS Cowpens (CG 63) and USS Antietam (CG 54).
- Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group 3/USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) Battle Group: USS Shiloh (CG 57), USS California (CGN 36) and USS Arkansas (CGN 41).
- Commander Carrier Group 1/USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group: USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) and USS Mobile Bay (CG 53).
The four 1995 Sailors of the Year came to Washington, D.C., like rock stars making a stop on a whirlwind tour. It was eight days of sightseeing; visits with Navy leaders; luncheons; dinners; boat rides; and barbecues. The highlight of the week was when they were promoted to chief petty officer and presented a Navy Commendation Medal. *All Hands* salutes the 1995 Sailors of the Year.
Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year

Name: Chief Quartermaster (SW) Daniel J. Nicholson
Hometown: Reading, Mass.
Born: June 6, 1963
Enlisted: July 1982
Former command: USS Clifton Sprague (FFG 16)
Present command: CINCLANTFLT Norfolk
Duty stations: USS John King (DDG 3), USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58), Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center, Panama City, Fla., USS Sunbird (ASR 15)
Key to success: “Start early. Work on major qualifications when you are an E-1 to E-3. Take care of your people and take pride in your work!”

Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year

Name: Chief Hospital Corpsman (DV) John D. Correa
Hometown: New York City
Born: Feb. 24, 1963
Enlisted: May 1982
Former command: Fleet Marine Forces, Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Present command: CINCPACFLT, Pearl Harbor
Schools: 2nd Class Diver Training, Coronado, Calif.; Airborne Training, Fort Benning, Ga.; Jungle Survival Training, Fort Sherman, Panama; Special Forces Medical Sergeant’s Course, Fort Bragg, N.C.
Duty stations: Naval Hospital, Groton, Conn.; 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C.; Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Va.; Naval Shipyard Branch Medical Clinic, Norfolk; and Naval School of Health and Sciences, Norfolk
Key to success: “Lead by example, not exemption. Be persistent and learn from past and present experiences. Always give every job 200 percent.”

Shore Sailor of the Year

Name: Chief Aviation Storekeeper (AW) Maureen E. Sims
Hometown: Port Huron, Mich.
Born: Aug. 9, 1966
Enlisted: February 1986
Present command: Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
Former command: NAS Keflavik, Iceland
Schools: Aviation Supply Support Specialist, Norfolk
Duty stations: NAS Cubi Point, Philippines; NAS Norfolk; Fleet Composite Squadron 6, Norfolk
Key to success: “Persistence, hard work and a lot of prayer.”

Naval Reserve Sailor of the Year

Name: Chief Hull Technician Frank N. Zupan
Hometown: Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Born: Sept. 7, 1958
Enlisted: October 1976 (active duty) and April 1983 (reserve duty)
Present command: Naval Reserve Readiness Center, Phoenix
Schools: Instructor Training School, New Orleans; Command Managed Equal Opportunity, Phoenix
Duty stations: USS Mars (AFS 1)
Key to success: “Be meticulous with details. Know your responsibilities and where you fit in the overall structure of the Navy. Take charge of your career with proactive planning and an unending commitment to excellence. Give 110 percent toward your goals and lead by example.”


Atlantic Fleet Sailor of the Year QMC(SW) Daniel J. Nicholson speaks to Chief of Naval Operations ADM Mike Boorda during an office visit. The SOYs met with other Navy leaders during their visit to the nation’s capital.
Americans worldwide released a collective sigh of relief recently as Sailors and Marines combined forces to rescue Air Force pilot, Capt Scott F. O’Grady, whose F-16C jet fighter was shot down over Bosnia while on an Operation Deny Flight mission.

USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) Sailors and embarked Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable, patrolling in the Adriatic Sea, received word that O’Grady was alive and they would be part of a complex operation to rescue the

A Air Force Capt. Scott O’Grady gives the salute of his old squadron in Korea while President Clinton waves to the crowd after a Pentagon ceremony to welcome O’Grady home. O’Grady was rescued by Marines embarked in USS Kearsarge after his F-16C jet fighter was shot down over Bosnia while on an Operation Deny Flight mission.

The Great R
Sailors, Marines use teamwork to rescue downed Air Force pilot

Code of Conduct

I. I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

II. I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

III. If I am captured I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

IV. If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

V. When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give my name, rank, service number and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

VI. I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.
TheSevenEnemies
ofSurvival
BePreparedToFace
TheseHostileFactors
One of the first places Air Force Capt. Scott O'Grady visited after his White House visit was Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School where he talked to his former instructors and current class members on the value of SERE training and how it helped him survive. These tips helped him through his ordeal.

1. Boredom and loneliness from isolation lead to loss of self-esteem — keep busy.

2. Pain from illness or injury creates frustration — must be dealt with immediately unless in danger of capture.

3. Temperature, extremes of heat and cold, cause physical and mental depression — find shelter.

4. Fatigue from over-exertion and sleep deprivation causes loss of self-determination — rest when possible.

5. Thirst and dehydration lead to mental confusion and death — find water.

6. Hunger from starvation leads to feelings of dependency — find food.

7. Fear, insecurity in an alien environment and anxiety over fate lead to blind panic — confront fear and use heightened senses.

downed pilot six days after he ejected from his aircraft over the hostile Balkan territory.

"I've pretty much got mixed emotions," said Cpl. Timothy O'Berst of 8th Marines, 3rd Battalion. "I'm excited to go in, but kind of scared also," he said before the operation began.

The Marines launched from Kearsage during the early morning of June 8. "[O'Grady] came running up from about 20 meters. I got out of the plane and escorted him back," said Sgt. Scott Pheister of the 8th Marines. "He looked exhausted and scared — just like anyone else would be."

"To see him running through the brush covered in sweat and water, with his pistol in his hand, making his way to the aircraft — it's not a
The Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) school at NAS Brunswick, Maine, trains Sailors how to survive in the wilderness. Students are taught to use their survival kit sponges to secure water during adverse conditions.

scene that I'll soon forget," said Col. Martin Berndt, commanding officer of the 24th MEU.

The rescue team was only on the ground approximately 10 minutes O'Grady spent a few days on Kearsage before going on to Aviano Air Base, Italy, and returning to the United States.

"They say they were just doing their job," O'Grady said of his Navy/Marine Corps rescuers. "But they came in there, risking their lives, and got me out. They are the biggest heroes in the world if you ask me."

Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Mike Boorda emphasized the importance of the Navy/Marine Corps presence in the Adriatic Sea and how that presence is helping the people of Bosnia. "I can tell you for sure there are hundreds of thousands of people alive there who would not be alive if not for Sailors like you."

"I'm just glad we were able to rescue another American," said Sgt. Robert Brooks of the 8th Marines. "Americans stick together. If there was any way possible to get him out, we were going to give it our best shot."

Compiled from news releases by JO2(AW) Michael R. Hart, a photojournalist for All Hands.
Personnelman 3rd Class Jamie Luevanos, of Green Bay, Wis., didn’t join the Navy because his father, Francisco Luevanos, served on a carrier. He didn’t join because his brother is a Navy Seabee. He joined the Navy because he wanted an education and job experience.

“The Navy is known for its technical training and good educational programs. These are the main reasons I joined. I needed experience in a career field, and the Navy had the best opportunities for me,” said the 21-year-old Sailor. “I knew the Navy would help me become better disciplined, and I’d acquire leadership skills needed in today’s job market.”

Luevanos, who joined the Navy in 1994, said he’s received all he has looked for in the Navy. “The Navy teaches you how to work as a team player as opposed to a one-man show,” said Luevanos.

Teamwork is important on Luevanos’ ship, USS Laboon (DDG 58), the Navy’s newest Aegis destroyer. Everyone plays a part, he said.

“Any job on board a ship is important. Every job a person does helps keep the ship running smoothly.”

As a personnelman, Luevanos said his role is taking care of the crew. He handles and maintains everything from personnel files to pay records. On board a ship of approximately 350 people, Luevanos said perhaps the most exciting part of his naval career is making new friends. He enjoys meeting and working with people from a variety of backgrounds.

He wants to take this experience with him when he leaves the Navy; he plans to return to school and get his degree.

Riding subs and ‘getting an edge in life’

Pursued on by a thesis paper he’d written in college in the mid-80s, Radioman 1st Class (SS) Celso Pena wanted to be involved with the computer and satellite communication business. He graduated from Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y., with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, but there was a problem.

“After graduation, finding a job was hard. Most places wanted someone with experience,” said Pena.

This situation lead Pena to look at the military.

“I knew there was something missing inside me, and I thought the military would help me find it and give me an edge in life,” Pena said.

Pena enlisted in the Navy as a radioman in 1985 and was accepted into the Navy’s submarine program. He uses high-tech electronic equipment on the submarine to receive and transmit messages via satellite communications.

Pena is proud of the contributions he’s already made to his latest ship, Cheyenne.

“I’m on the cutting edge of communications technology. I’m doing the thing I wrote my thesis about — global communications.”

Story by JO2 Brian Ellis, photo by PH1 Alexander C. Hicks.

SEPTEMBER 1995
Models of Success  Models of Success

Sailor stays busy, excels in assault craft unit

EM1 Edwin Velazquez, of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, is assigned to Assault Craft Unit 2, Little Creek, Va.

When a crisis erupts, Sailors and Marines like Electricians Mate 1st Class Edwin Velazquez are often the first to arrive. Velazquez, of San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, is attached to Assault Craft Unit (ACU) 2 in Little Creek, Va. His command operates landing craft, which deploy on amphibious assault ships.

“Our primary mission is transporting cargo and personnel with our landing craft. We can carry 200 fully combat-ready personnel and 200 tons of cargo, including two tanks,” said Velazquez.

It’s a job that keeps Velazquez, 39, busy. “I have been on three eight-month deployments to the Persian Gulf, six Mediterranean cruises and three Caribbean cruises,” he said.

When Velazquez and his shipmates aren’t offloading commandos on the shores of the world’s trouble spots, they train and maintain their knowledge to the highest level possible and passing my knowledge to the young men and women who are coming up in the Navy.”

Story and by Henry Rice, photo by PH1 Alexander C. Hicks.

Keeping lines of communication open

When Nick Cardenas received orders to USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) while attending Navy electronics school, he didn’t realize those orders would make him the envy of students and faculty alike.

“I didn’t know much about the ship, but everyone at school was envious of me for getting this assignment. For my first duty station, it’s been great for my career,” said Cardenas, a native of San Antonio.

Cardenas is responsible for maintaining the ship’s radar systems and also serves as the navigational systems supervisor. His job carries a great deal of responsibility that can involve making life and death decisions.

Additionally, the 23-year-old Sailor is responsible for the internal and external communications systems on board.

He maintains six navigational systems which keep the ship in line to link with satellites, giving it cellular phone capabilities and allowing Arleigh Burke to communicate with other ships in the battle group.

“My schooling was very intense, especially the basic electronics portion,” said Cardenas, who was the distinguished military graduate, finishing at the top of his class. He hopes to become an officer through the Navy’s enlisted commissioning program.

Story by JO2 Lisa Novak, photo by PH1 Alexander C. Hicks.

ET2(SW) Nick Cardenas, a 1989 graduate of Highlands High School in San Antonio, is assigned to the Norfolk-based Aegis destroyer USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51).
Teamwork key aboard Seawolf

While there are many tangible benefits to a military career, such as education and training, sometimes the intangible benefits are what make the service a worthwhile experience. This was certainly the case for Machinist's Mate 1st Class Jesus Garza Jr.

"The best thing the Navy has done for me is open my eyes and make me grow up," said Garza, of Houston.

"The Navy teaches people to work together and trust one another. Our lives may sometimes depend on each other. We must learn to work as a team so we can overcome and conquer any obstacle that's thrown our way." Teamwork is a must for Garza at his current duty station. He is one of 114 hand-picked Sailors and officers helping build Seawolf, the first in a revolutionary new class of attack submarines designed to be exceptionally fast, quiet and well armed.

Garza works with equipment that deals with the sub's driving and steering systems, as well as hydraulics, refrigeration and sanitation.

While he would like to put his experiences to work in his hometown after retirement, Garza said he intends to stay in the Navy for at least 20 more years.†

Story by JO2 Lisa Novak, photo by Gerard Johnson.

Love of travel draws Sailor to the Navy

At the turn of the millennium, Ship's Service man 1st Class Paul Munoz will end two decades of service to his country. Munoz, of Beeville, Texas, came into military service at a turbulent time in American history. He enlisted in the Marines in 1966 and did a 13-month tour in Vietnam. He left the Marines soon after his Vietnam tour when his father became sick.

"I got out to help take care of the family," said the 49-year-old Sailor. Munoz grew up in a large family, with three brothers and eight sisters. He said his parents always stressed family unity and were very loving.

His family values carried over into his own family. In fact, being able to maintain family stability was one of the reasons Munoz reentered the military, this time with the Navy in 1982. Munoz said he also joined the Navy because, "I have always loved to travel, and the military offered me job security."

In his job, Munoz manages barber shops, tailor shops, ships' uniform stores, laundries, dry-cleaning plants and shoe shops. He has also served in exchanges, maintained stores and worked in food shops.

Munoz is currently stationed aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48), homeported in Norfolk. The ship supports amphibious operations using hovercraft called Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCACs), conventional landing craft and helicopters to transport Marines ashore. Munoz said this is his last ship and he'll retire from the Navy traditionally, while at sea. †

Story by JO2 Brian Ellis, photo by JO1 Annabelle St. Germain.
Not many people, including those in the Navy, know much about ocean systems technicians. For many years it was a rate shrouded in Cold War secrecy. The only thing Ocean Systems Technician 2nd Class David Vazquez knew about the job when he enlisted in 1988 was that it involved oceanography and computers.

"I chose the ocean systems technician rate because I felt it would provide me with the technical training I desired to keep me on the cutting edge, whether I decided to make the Navy a career or not," said Vazquez.

Vazquez is assigned to Commander Undersea Surveillance (CUS), the worldwide authority for the Navy's Integrated Undersea Surveillance (I USS). Under their guidance, hundreds of Sailors at naval facilities around the world monitor and relay data obtained from ocean sensors to the Naval Ocean Processing Facility (NOPF) Virginia Beach, Va. The data is analyzed to detect, classify and track submarines, surface ships and aircraft, and to alert tactical forces. The command also manages the Navy's training program for ocean systems technicians.

"The program we are developing will help pass the knowledge to ocean system technicians and other anti-submarine warfare analysts (i.e., sonar technicians)," said Vazquez, 25. "What I like most about the job is knowing the work I'm doing now is going to be used to teach the future analysts how to do our job effectively."

Vazquez has given a lot to the Navy in terms of hard work and technical input, but he said he has gotten much more from the Navy in return.

"I have developed self-discipline, self-confidence, independence and leadership skills from my experiences in the Navy," said Vazquez, who traveled around Europe while stationed in Wales.

Finding a future on the high seas

Chief Hospital Corpsman Luis Rodriguez says he was looking for a job that offered him a future. He found that job in the Navy.

Rodriguez has taken the Navy's educational opportunities and turned them into a college education and a commission.

He was recently selected for the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program.

As a hospital corpsman at Submarine Group 2 in Norfolk, Rodriguez helps health professionals provide top quality medical care to Navy people and their families. He says he's learned some important skills in dealing with people.

"As a leader, you are only as good as your troops. Take care of them and they will take care of you."

Story by JO2 Matthew Gowan.

OS2 David Vazquez is assigned to Commander, Undersea Surveillance in Virginia Beach, Va.

"The Navy also offered me an excellent way to attain my goals. There are many options, such as educational programs, job training and work experience," he added.

The decision to stay in the Navy until retirement is one Vazquez has yet to make. "My goal is one day to own a business that deals with computers," he said. In the meantime, he plans to attend college and take computer and computer network courses. ±

Story by Henry Rice, photo by PH1 Alexander C. Hicks.
New skipper takes helm of surveillance vessel

CAPT Emigdia "Amy" Esqueda, a Military Sealift Command ship master, stood a little taller recently when she took the reins as relief master of the ocean surveillance vessel, USNS Effective (T-AGOS 21), becoming MSC’s first-ever woman skipper.

Esqueda, a native of San Antonio, has been a civil service mariner for more than 13 years, sailing aboard almost everything Military Sealift Command, Pacific operates, from fleet oilers to a special mission ship. "I'm aware of the historical significance of my new assignment, but I feel more proud of the way I've worked myself up to finally become captain," Esqueda said. "They don't just hand you this job. You have to pay your dues, and I think I have."

After entering Texas A&M University at Galveston, Texas, as a marine biology student, she became fascinated with sailing. After seeing Texas Maritime Academy cadets crossing campus in their khaki uniforms, she enrolled in a few courses, and eventually went on a summer cruise.

"I promised myself if I didn't get seasick and if I actually enjoyed it, then I'd keep going," she said. She worked as an ordinary seaman aboard several commercial vessels while still in school.

Graduating in 1981 from the Texas Maritime Academy, Esqueda went on to join MSC in 1982 as a third mate aboard the former fleet oiler USNS Ponchatouca (T-AO 148). "I thought I might panic a little, but I didn't. I found I was able to handle things better than I thought. There's always an uncertainty about uncharted waters."

She earned her master's license in 1990, but purposely continued to seek chief mate or chief cargo officer assignments in order to gain additional experience aboard other ships. "The people who have worked for me in the past understand I'm firm, but fair," she explains. "I tell people outright what I expect of them, and judge them on performance, not personality."

CAPT Emigdia Esqueda admires the view from the signal bridge of USNS Effective (T-AGOS 21).

Building character in the Navy

As a child, Seaman Apprentice Anthony Sanchez learned the importance of having a productive job, being a contributing member of society and helping other people. But Sanchez wanted more. "I thought the Navy would give me a sense of purpose and discipline. I now have both." Sanchez is currently stationed on board the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48), homeported in Norfolk.

As a deck seaman, Sanchez is tasked with keeping the ship in good condition. "My job is important, because my ship is always receiving visitors and if it's not squared away, it reflects poorly on my command and the Navy." Sanchez plans on leaving the Navy to pursue a degree after his enlistment.

Story by JO2 Brian Ellis, photo by David Schmidt

SA Anthony Sanchez on board the dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48).
At the beginning of the bloody Tet Offensive in early 1968, a young Hispanic Marine from Texas gave his life to save his fellow Marines, and to take the fight to the enemy. His name was Sgt. Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, and he died on Feb. 4, 1968, at the age of 22, near Thua Tien Vietnam while participating in the initial phase of Operation Hue City.

According to a Marine Corps account: "While moving into the beleaguered city Jan. 31, his unit ... came under intensive enemy fire. Serving as platoon commander, Sgt. Gonzalez skillfully maneuvered his platoon and cleared the area. Later, as the unit again came under heavy enemy fire, Sgt. Gonzalez ran through a fire-swept area to rescue a wounded Marine who was lying in an exposed position. He received fragmentation wounds during the rescue but was able to carry the Marine to a covered area.

“When the company was halted for the third time by heavy fire, he ignored his wounds and led his platoon across exposed terrain to attack an enemy-reinforced machine gun bunker. Sgt. Gonzalez then moved across a fire-swept area and destroyed the enemy position with grenades.

"On Feb. 3, he was again wounded but steadfastly refused medical treatment and continued to supervise his men in engagements with the enemy. The following day, the enemy again pinned his company down, inflicting heavy casualties with automatic weapons and rocket fire.

"Sgt. Gonzalez ... fearlessly moved from position to position firing numerous rounds at the heavily fortified enemy emplacements. He successfully knocked out a rocket position and suppressed much of the enemy fire before falling mortally wounded."

For his extraordinary bravery in the face of overwhelming danger, Sgt. Gonzalez was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 1969 by then-Vice President Spiro T. Agnew. When Gonzalez became one of 37 Hispanic soldiers, Sailors, Marines and airmen to have received the nation's highest award for valor, he also became part of a centuries-old tradition of superior military service by Hispanic men and women. That tradition dates back to the conquistadors of the 16th and 17th centu-
ries, who did much of the exploration and settlement of North and South America.

Today, that young Marine who died 27 years ago is being honored yet again — this time by having an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer named for him.

Former Navy Secretary H. Lawrence Garrett III, selected Gonzalez to be honored in 1991 during the commissioning of USS Hue City (CG 66) when he promised Hue City veterans he would name a ship after one of their fallen comrades to recognize their contributions, sacrifices and bravery.

Gonzalez (DDG 66), under construction at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, will be commissioned next summer. CDR Frederick D. Allard Jr. from Newville, Pa., is the ship's first commanding officer.

---

**Living up to a legend**

*Story and photo by JO1 Ron Schafer*

Following in the footsteps of a local legend is quite a challenge for anyone. But for Personnelman Seaman Jesus Mendez of Edinburg, Texas, it's all a matter of pride.

Mendez was stationed aboard USS Estocin (FFG 15) when he volunteered to extend for an additional 36-month sea duty tour aboard Gonzalez (DDG 66), the sixteenth ship in the Arleigh Burke-class of Navy destroyers. Sgt. Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez, USMC, the ship's namesake was also an Edinburg native.

Gonzalez died in combat at Hue City, Vietnam at the age of 22 and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for saving more than a dozen lives at the outset of the bloody Tet offensive in 1968. Wounded three times in as many days, he refused treatment and continued to lead his platoon and rescue Marines until he was killed by a North Vietnamese rocket.

"The thing that motivated me," explained Mendez, "is this special Hispanic service member. For me and my family and my spouse, it's a great honor to serve on a naval vessel being named after a Hispanic member. I told myself 'here's my chance to serve after somebody who served our country.'"

Mendez was familiar with Sgt. Gonzalez from the street and elementary school in Edinburg which bear his name, but only learned of his heroic efforts when, as a high-school student, he attended a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans. After talking with relatives who knew members of Gonzalez' family, he made the decision to serve aboard the new destroyer.

Having participated in Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti while aboard USS Estocin, Mendez said he sometimes finds himself able to identify with his hometown hero.

"He did what he had to do to do his mission," said Mendez. "I just picture him in war and whenever there's action on the ship, I just put myself in his place, take the stress on, perform the mission and do my best.

"I have a proud feeling, not only for Sgt. Alfredo Gonzalez, but for myself and my hometown and my parents who got me to this point."

Gonzalez is currently scheduled to be commissioned in September 1996 and is tentatively homeported in Norfolk.

*Schafer is a Norfolk-based staff writer for All Hands.*
The Navy has deep roots — roots which extend our maritime traditions of courage, honor and commitment deep into the heartland of America and into the hearts and minds of America's youth. Right now, more than 5,000 13- to 17-year-old youth are actively learning Navy history, military courtesy and seamanship through the Navy League of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) program.

The Navy League founded the NSCC in 1962 at the request of the Secretary of Defense as a non-profit youth training organization with a mission to interest and train youth for future military service — particularly the Navy. Each year, hundreds of Sea Cadets become active-duty Sailors or enter a commissioning program.

Ronald R. Martin Jr., the Navy League's 1995 Sea Cadet of the Year, followed the commissioning program route and became a freshman at the U.S. Naval Academy this June. Martin spent more than four years as a sea cadet.

He worked his way up to chief petty officer in the NSCC by completing virtually the same courses and examinations as his active-duty enlisted counterparts. Martin is grateful to his volunteer adult officer instructors and the many active and reserve Navy members who helped direct and hone his naval skills.

"The Sea Cadet program has given me invaluable hands-on training experience," Martin said. "Whether it was on Navy ships, working at the recruiter's office or attending SEABEE training at Port Hueneme, Calif., I was always challenged and encouraged to excel.

"Above all, the program prepared me for Annapolis by showing me what it means to serve. I understand what it means to wear the uniform, to stand watch and to salute the flag. The training I receive at Annapolis will complement the foundation I received as a Sea Cadet, to make me the best officer I can be."

As inspiring as Martin's story is, it's more the rule than the exception for capable and motivated sea cadets. Half of those who complete the four-year program enter active-duty service. Many, like CAPT James E. Dolle, who recently assumed command of the Navy Recruiting Orientation Unit in Pensacola, Fla., got their sea legs in the NSCC. "During the course of my 26 years of naval service, including five tours in command, I have served with countless shipmates whose first association with the Navy was through the Sea Cadet Program," Dolle said. "The skills, values and ideals of trust, loyalty, camaraderie and teamwork nurtured in the Sea Cadets are really lessons for life."

LCDR Henry E. Mooberry, NSCC, a World War II Navy Veteran and commanding officer of the Sea Cadet Dahlgren Division located in the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., has dedicated much of his life to instilling these values in the next generation. "I first became affiliated with the NSCC Dahlgren
Division in January 1976 when I visited my son’s Sea Cadet division. To my total surprise, I walked out of a long evening meeting with an armful of uniforms and all my paperwork completed for a Sea Cadet officer commission as an ensign.

“We are providing youngsters with a chance to see and do things that most of their peers will never get,” said Mooberry. They get to work alongside regular and reserve naval personnel and learn the importance of working together for a common purpose. They get to visit Navy and Coast Guard ships and stations, participate in many Navy-related ceremonies and functions and learn about the traditions of our Navy and nation.

“But in my mind, they are learning about responsibility and leadership while at the same time maturing toward adulthood and good citizenship,” Mooberry added.

Good citizens are generally made, not born, but experienced Sea Cadet officers like LCDR Thomas O. Klomps, NSCC South Atlantic Regional Director, have found sea cadets to be an exceptionally good investment. “Sea Cadets are motivated youth with an interest in the military service,” said Klomps. “They make the time and incur the expense to be in the program. The cadets pay an annual fee and also pay for their meals, berthing and travel during their monthly weekend drills and annual two-week training periods. The cadets have made a commitment to the program and rely upon volunteers like myself and direct support from the sea services for training and administrative requirements.”

Navy Recruiting Command (COMNAVCRUITCOM) manages the NSCC program and coordinates support of the Sea Cadets. Navy commands can adopt Sea Cadet units to support recruiting and community relations objectives and Naval Reservists can earn retirement points through service to the NSCC.

“This is a good place to start,” said CDR J. Javier Carrizales, commanding officer of Navy Recruiting District Albuquerque and a 1967 Sea Cadet alumnus. “The Navy can best benefit the Sea Cadets and itself by sponsoring Sea Cadet units and providing them with viable shore or sea-based training opportunities as often as possible,” Carrizales said.

“I remember how much I enjoyed working alongside ‘real’ Navy personnel. Their enthusiasm and encouragement were tremendously helpful when I applied to the Naval Academy. We have some wonderful people who could be very influential as role models for the young Sea Cadets. We need our Sailors to motivate and direct these young people toward positive goals for their lives, whether in or out of the Navy.”

For information on the Sea Cadet program, call CAPT Al Kreiser, NSCC executive director, at (703) 243-6910, or LCDR Robert Lawson, COMNAVCRUITCOM’s Youth Program’s Manager at DSN 226-4889 or (703) 696-4889. 

Hollis is the editor of Navy Recruiter Magazine, Arlington, Va.
Getting out alive

Story and photos by
JO1 Kevin Stephens
This is the worst day of your life.

Why? Your aircraft has crashed into the ocean, flipped upside down and now it’s sinking. Your options are:

1. **drown.**
2. **panic** — see option (1).
3. **survive.**

Remember the water survival training you received before being designated a pilot, flight officer or air crewman?

**It can save your life.**

Initial water survival training for Navy, Marine and Coast Guard fliers takes place at the Naval Aerospace and Operational Medical Institute (NAMI) at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

“We teach what we call the [crash simulation] devices,” said Engineman 1st Class (SW/DV) Ronald L. Hensley of Chicago. “The students here
already have a proficient swimming background. We run them through all of the devices that simulate different scenarios that could happen to them while they’re flying.”

Many of the students are apprehensive about this portion of their training. “It’s not uncommon to get some panicky people through this building because the training is new to them,” said Hensley. “But with the skilled instructors we have, people come here and see that it’s really not that bad.”

“Being strapped underwater and unable to get out in time was my biggest fear,” said
Underwater and strapped to their seats, future pilots, flight officers and aircrewmen learn to survive a crash at sea by practicing escape techniques in a pool surrounded by safety observers.

Kevin M. Brodeur of Palm Bay, Fla., a naval aircrewman candidate, gets flipped upside down while strapped into his seat. He must free himself and safely move away from the aircraft.

While nozzles simulate a helicopter's rotor wash, a pilot practices being hoisted to safety.

Aircrew candidate Airman Apprentice Kevin M. Brodeur of Palm Bay, Fla. “But you've got plenty of time. The equipment is safe. Just follow the procedures and everything will go your way.”

The instructors stress that remembering the step-by-step
procedures and staying calm are the keys to surviving an aircraft mishap at sea.

"We don't have a lot of failures here. Most of the time it's just getting the students to be comfortable with what they're doing," said ENCS(SW/DV) Richard A. Wrenn, an instructor originally from Havre, Mont.

"If something happens, it's going to be dark. You're not going to be able to see. Your aircraft is going to be in a million pieces around you. You're going to need to fall back on this training to get yourself out and survive," said Wrenn.

The crash simulation devices give students a small taste of what an actual survival situation might be like. "I think it's very realistic," said Coast Guard Ens. Andrea B. Cumberbatch of Miami.

Behind it all, the instructors at NAMI have a very personal reason driving their special commitment to teaching these survival skills. "The majority of the instructors are Navy divers," said Hensley.

"We're the guys who come to get them if they don't successfully get out of a sinking helicopter. Most of us have seen the end result of that. We like to see their faces now and never again — unless it's above water."

Stephens is a photojournalist for All Hands.
The following are common questions and answers concerning new evaluation and fitness report counseling:

Q. What is the purpose of performance counseling under the new Fitness Report/Evaluation Report and Counseling Record system?

A. Performance counseling is a major focus of the Fitness and Evaluation System. Mid-term counseling enhances professional growth; encourages personal development; and improves communication; both personally and professionally, among all members of a command.

Q. How will my mid-term counseling be documented?

A. The new forms will document both counseling and your final fitrep/eval report. Copies of the separate forms will be used to document counseling and to submit the final report. For counseling, the forms are to be used as in-house worksheets. At a minimum, Blocks 1 and Blocks 29-32 should be completed at the time of counseling. Supervisors should discuss performance elements as they relate to the seven performance traits and subcategories on the form. At the end of the counseling session, your supervisor should complete blocks 30-32 and give you a copy of the worksheet.

Q. Who is responsible for performing the counseling?

A. For E-1 to E-6 personnel the counselor conducting the session and who signs the worksheet will be the rater. Normally, this is the division, department or work center chief petty officer. For E-7 to O-6, the immediate supervisor or the reporting senior should do the counseling.

Q. How will my counseling records be maintained/filed?

A. Original signed counseling worksheets will be maintained in a counseling folder until you detach your command. Worksheets might be filed in a group folder and held by your supervisor.

Q. What should I expect during the counseling session?

A. There are five major objectives during a counseling session:
1. Your strengths and shortcomings will be identified.
2. Specific performance problems and ways to develop growth in these areas will be discussed.
3. A performance growth plan will be developed, if appropriate.
4. The goal here is for you to have a clear understanding of your strengths and weaknesses. You will be asked to acknowledge your performance during the review period.
5. What your supervisor expects of you before the next counseling session or evaluation report will be reviewed. Your supervisor will ensure you understand all expectations and will follow up and monitor your performance.

Q. What preparation is needed to conduct the counseling session?

A. You and your supervisor should ensure a productive session. Preparation for you is as follows:
1. Complete a personal self-appraisal, if you wish to do so, or if requested by the supervisor.
2. Gather information related to your performance for the period. It is important to include specific data on military activities and accomplishments and your community service.
### EVALUATION REPORT & COUNSELING RECORD (E1 - E6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Name (Last, First, MI, Suffix)</th>
<th>2. Rate</th>
<th>3. Warfare Quals</th>
<th>4. SSN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. ACT</th>
<th>AT/ADW</th>
<th>TAR</th>
<th>BACT</th>
<th>6. UIC</th>
<th>7. Ship/Station</th>
<th>8. Date of Rate</th>
<th>9. Date Reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Occasion for Report
- Detachment
- Promotion
- Period of Report
- From:
- To:

#### Not Observed Report
- Type of Report
- Concurrent
- Special

#### Reporting Senior (Last, FI MD)
- Grade
- Design
- Title
- UIC
- SSN

### Command employment and command achievements.

#### Performance Traits
- **1.0** - Below standards not progressing or unsatisfactory
- **2.0** - Does not yet meet all 3.0 standards
- **3.0** - Meets all 3.0 standards
- **4.0** - Exceeds most 3.0 standards
- **5.0** - Meets all criteria and most of the specific standards for 5.0

#### Performance Traits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERFORMANCE TRAITS</th>
<th>1.0* Below Standards</th>
<th>2.0 Progressing</th>
<th>3.0 Meets Standards</th>
<th>4.0 Above Standards</th>
<th>5.0* Greatly Exceeds Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33. PROFessional KNOWLEDGE: Technical knowledge and practical application.</td>
<td>- Marginal knowledge of rating, specialty or job.</td>
<td>- Strong working knowledge of rating, specialty or job.</td>
<td>- Meets advancement/PQS requirements on time.</td>
<td>- Recognized expert, sought out by all for technical knowledge.</td>
<td>- Fails advancement/PQS requirements early with distinction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. QUALITY OF WORK: Standard of work; value of end product.</td>
<td>- Needs excessive supervision.</td>
<td>- Needs little supervision.</td>
<td>- Uses resources efficiently.</td>
<td>- Needs no supervision.</td>
<td>- Always produces exceptional work. No rework required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Fairness, respect for human worth.</td>
<td>- Displays personal bias or engages in harassment.</td>
<td>- Always treats others with fairness and respect.</td>
<td>- Admired for fairness and human respect.</td>
<td>- Admired for fairness and human respect.</td>
<td>- Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. MILITARY BEARING/CHARACTER: Appearance, conduct, physical fitness adherence to Navy Core Values.</td>
<td>- Consistently unsatisfactory appearance.</td>
<td>- Excellent personal appearance.</td>
<td>- Exemplary personal appearance.</td>
<td>- Exemplary personal appearance.</td>
<td>- Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. PERSONAL JOB ACCOMPLISHMENT/INITIATIVE: Responsibility, quality of work.</td>
<td>- Needs prodigious stamina to sustain qualifications or finish job.</td>
<td>- Productive and motivated. Completes tasks and qualifications fully and on time.</td>
<td>- Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected.</td>
<td>- Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected.</td>
<td>- Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### For Mid-term Counseling Use.
- When completing EVAL, enter 30 and 31 from counseling record, sign 32.

#### Performance Traits

- **1.0** - Below standards not progressing or unsatisfactory
- **2.0** - Does not yet meet all 3.0 standards
- **3.0** - Meets all 3.0 standards
- **4.0** - Exceeds most 3.0 standards

**Note:** Standards are not all inclusive.
1. Name (Last, First M. Suffix)

2. Rate

3. Warfane Quals

4. SSN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>1.0* Below Standards</th>
<th>2.0 Progressing</th>
<th>3.0 Meets Standards</th>
<th>4.0 Above Standards</th>
<th>5.0* Greatly Exceeds Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEAMWORK:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to team building and team results.</td>
<td>NOB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Optional for E1-E3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing, motivating and developing others to accomplish goals.</td>
<td>NOB</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

38. 

39. 

NOB

40. Individual Test Avg.
Total of unit scores divided by number of graded units.

41. I recommend this individual for (maximum of two) assignment(s) in rating.
Sea Special Programs, Shore Special Programs, Commissioning Programs, Special Warfare Programs, Rating Instructor Duty, Other (be specific.)

42. Signature of Rate (Typed Name & Rate): I have evaluated this member against the above performance standards and have forwarded written explanation of marks of 1.0 and 5.0.

Date:

43. COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE. *All 5.0 and 1.0 marks must be specifically substantiated in comments. No numerical ranking permitted. Comments must be verifiable. Bold, underlined, italic, or other highlighted type is prohibited. Font must be 10 or 12 pitch (10 to 12 point) only. Use upper and lower case.

44. QUALIFICATIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS - Education, awards, community involvement, etc., during this period.

45. INDIVIDUAL

46. SUMMARY

47. Retention: Not Recommended | Recommended
48. Reporting Senior Address

49. Signature of Senior Rate (Typed Name & Grade/Rate): I have reviewed the evaluation of this member against these performance standards and have provided written explanation to support marks of 1.0 and 5.0.

Date:

50. Signature of Reporting Senior

Date:

51. Signature of Individual Evaluated. "I have seen this report, been apprised of my performance, and understand my right to submit a statement."

I want to submit a statement: [ ] I do not want to submit a statement: [ ]

Date:

52. Typed name, grade, commd., USC, and signature of Regular Reporting Senior on Concurrent Report

Date:
Q. When will I receive counseling?
A. At a minimum, members are to be counseled at the mid-term point of the evaluation period and at the time of receiving the evaluation report. A six-month introductory period, July through December 1995 is designed to give everyone a chance to use the new counseling system. During this period, if counseling is scheduled for a month in which you normally receive a periodic report, your report will be done under the old system. Next, you will be provided introductory counseling using the new forms. Use the following schedule is for required counseling until the new instruction is published (A=Active, R=Reserve, and T=TAR):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 1995</th>
<th>October 1995</th>
<th>December 1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O-5</td>
<td>O-4</td>
<td>O-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[R]</td>
<td>[R]</td>
<td>[R/T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-4</td>
<td>O-3</td>
<td>O-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[R/T]</td>
<td>[R/T]</td>
<td>[R/T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-2</td>
<td>E-9</td>
<td>CWO-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[R/T]</td>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-1</td>
<td>E-1 to E-3</td>
<td>E-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[R/T]</td>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWO-2/3/4</td>
<td>November 1995</td>
<td>Note: Training commands should integrate counseling for students within their established academic counseling programs. Separate counseling can be used as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-7 to E-8</td>
<td>O-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
<td>(A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-5</td>
<td>O-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[A/R/T]</td>
<td>(A)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(A/R/T)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The supervisor's counseling session checklist

It is important that supervisors develop interpersonal skills to help them communicate more effectively. Such skills include tact, experience in relating to various types of people, ability to listen, and genuine concern. Supervisors may want to consider using a checklist to ensure consistency throughout the counseling process. The following checklist may be helpful for conducting the counseling session. The list is not all inclusive and supervisors may modify it to meet their needs. Ask yourself these questions to see if you are providing systematic and objective counseling to all those individuals you counsel. After the counseling session, supervisors should consider evaluating their own performance to see if they achieved desired results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Pre-preparation</th>
<th>Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the member's strengths and weaknesses.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did member submit a self-appraisal?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Were strengths identified?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I discuss performance contributions to the command?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Were shortcomings identified?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I review all performance traits with member?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address specific performance problems, concentrating on how to improve in these areas, if appropriate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I give specific details for each problem?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I discuss the causes of the problems?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I discuss the impact of the problems on the organization?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— What could have been done to prevent the problems?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— What suggestions does the member have to improve performance?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— What recommendations do I have to improve performance?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a performance growth plan, if appropriate.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I discuss what traits the member needs to work on for improvement?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Were specific action steps/time-line given to get member back on track?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I review the plan and give a copy to the member?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did the member understand the assessment?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did I discuss further areas of improvement that the member did not understand/disagree with?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Did the member and I sign the counseling sheet?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Does the member know what he/she must do after conclusion of the session?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Do I have follow-up actions?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— When will my follow-up actions be completed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Does the member have follow-up actions?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— When will follow-up actions be completed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— Have I reviewed the overall success/problems of the session and discussed with other supervisors, if needed?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26 ALL HANDS
TM3 Jesse T. Nalley of Schenectady, N.Y., stretches out during a dawn physical fitness session at Naval Aircrewman Candidate School at NAS Pensacola, Fla.

Learning to fly

Story and photos by JO1 Kevin Stephens
A typical day begins on the grinder at 6 a.m. with a complete physical readiness test (PRT), a mile swim and a heavy dose of calisthenics. Then it’s time for a quick lunch followed by some classroom instruction. Next, it’s outside for a run on an obstacle course and then back in the pool for more swimming. As the day winds down, maybe a cross-country run is thrown in for good measure.

It takes a lot of exercise to teach a Sailor to fly.

Naval Aircrewman Candidate School at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., is the first hurdle for Sailors hoping to earn their living flying aboard Navy aircraft. The school is the entry point in the pipeline for several enlisted aviation ratings that require Sailors to serve as crew members aboard Navy aircraft. Aircrew duties cover a variety of career fields in both tactical and non-tactical operations.

About two-thirds of the students come straight from boot camp. These graduates of aircrew school go on to “A” school for training in their specific rating before heading for the fleet.

Most assignments for aircrewmen are in the non-tactical arena. These range from serving aboard logistics aircraft, such as the C-2, to the photographer’s mate who needs flight skills to shoot aerial battle group pictures safely.

Tactical aircrew duties include assignments as Aviation Systems Warfare Operators flying in submarine-stalking S-3 Viking jets and SH-60 and SH-3 helicopters.

The five-week aircrewman course is structured to instill discipline, build team spirit and motivate
A BMC(SW/DV) Rene P. Merced of San Juan, P.R., and ENCS(SW/DV) Richard A. Wrenn from Havre, Mont., demonstrate water survival techniques to a group of aircrew candidates.

AA Jeffrey J. Dowling of St. James, N.Y., moves over the wall on the obstacle course at NAS Pensacola, Fla.
Classes at Naval Aircrewman Candidate School are highly structured similar to boot camp companies. Students to meet the challenge of duty in the air.

"It's a whole lot harder than I expected," said Aviation Electronics Technician 3rd Class Ricardo L. Baez, from Norfolk. "The physical challenge is harder than I anticipated. [You've got to] be in shape before you get here. It's really intensive training and it doesn't slow down for you. So if you're not in shape, it's not going to wait for you to catch up."

Self-motivation is the trait common to all successful aircrewmens, according to Aviation Structural Mechanic (Structures) 1st Class Keith V. Kinnamont, an instructor from Milpitas, Calif. "We're looking for highly motivated individuals who want to do the job. Our most successful graduates are those who have the highest motivation," said Kinnamont.

Aircrew school instructors are prepared to go a long way for students who may have trouble meeting the standards but don't give up. "There are some who don't make the swims or the PT, but we'll put in extra time with them," said Kinnamont.

"Sometimes we do have our work cut out for us," said Aviation Structural Mechanic (Structures) 2nd Class Michelle M. Nols, an instructor from Jonesboro, Ga. "I feel like I'm making a difference for my students in helping them along and to achieve the goals that they have set for themselves."

The training, both physical and mental, forces aircrew candidates to confront and overcome their weaknesses. "It's kind of scary for me actually," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Doris E. Trogdon, originally from Pasadena, Md. "I get really nervous every day before we do an evolution, but I know it's good for me and it's going to help me, so I don't mind it.

"I feel like each day they push us to the point where we have to see how far we can go. We have to test ourselves and find our limits," she said.

Classes are highly structured, similar to boot camp, because so many of the students are still new to the Navy. The regimented atmosphere is designed to build unit cohesion and reinforce team building.

"Most of [the students] are just coming out of boot camp and they're completely clueless about the Navy way of doing things," said Nols. "They're pretty scared about meeting new people and coming together.

"They come here as individuals and gradually they become a team. That's the biggest thing, getting everyone to act as a team," she said.

It's not just the instructors who notice the transformation. "It's nice to see the group bonding," said recent graduate Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Amanda L. Nesbitt of Grand Rapids, Mich. "When we first 'classed up' everyone was an individual, but when we reached graduation it was all team spirit and unity."

*Stephens is a photojournalist for All Hands.*
What will less than $1 get you these days? A first-class stamp, a soda in some places, a cup of coffee in others; or a minute of phone conversation on one of the most sophisticated, worldwide satellite communications networks. Soon, Sailors can talk to Mom, spouse or friend, from any ocean to any United States phone number thanks to a new Chief of Naval Operations-sponsored program called Challenge Athena.
Challenge Athena, a three-phase, innovative communication project just completing its second stage, uses high-tech, off-the-shelf components to bring a multitude of new telecommunication capabilities to Navy ships. Simply put, Challenge Athena is a complex setup of computer systems, satellite relays, and unprecedented cooperation between several military and private organizations.

The biggest payoff for Sailors is telephone calls home (to the United States) at a rate of only 50 cents per minute, no matter where the ship is under way.

USS George Washington (CVN 73), was the first ship to have the system installed during its maiden deployment to the Mediterranean last year. Besides phone service, the system also provided the ship and crew with enhanced intel imagery; improved patient care through medical imagery and telemedicine service between the ship’s sick bay and Bethesda National Naval Medical Center; video teleconferencing service between the ship and various shore and afloat commanders which allowed operational commanders instantaneous voice and video links; and public affairs digital imagery transmission to help tell the Navy story to news media back home.

According to USS George Washington’s commanding officer, CAPT Robert Sprigg, the crew telephones were, “the most significant boost to morale in my 25 years of naval service.” The ship’s MWR division sold more than 28,000 crew member phone cards.

“I was able to call my wife when she was pregnant,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuels) 1st Class Stewart Ham. “I wanted to make sure she was OK. It’s far better than having to wait a couple of weeks for a letter to arrive.”

A young seaman said it helped his work go smoother. “It was my first time on an extended deployment,” said Seaman Paul Pierce. “Long work days were easier having the phone system in place. Some nights at the
end of my watch I'd head to the phones and make my calls. No matter how far away I was from family and friends, they were close.

ENS Todd Pitts had nothing but praise for the system. "The immediacy of systems such as Challenge Athena should be a standard on every deployed Navy vessel. The peace of mind you get from contacting loved ones, family and friends, is immeasurable. When I was arranging to move my wife up to the Norfolk area, I communicated with her on a regular basis and she gave me updates on the status of the move."

A quick peek at the architecture of the project shows that it is on the fringe of the "final frontier." Challenge Athena is based on satellite relays, a 2.4-meter shipboard dish antenna, and an extremely high data transfer rate of 1,544,000 bits per second (bps). By comparison, the modem in most desktop computers operates anywhere between 9,600 to 28,000 bps. Electronic files that used to take six hours to send, now take about four minutes.

"During exercises or wars, one of the things that happens is the traffic gets backed up," said VADM Walter J. Davis Jr., director of space and electronic warfare. "Everybody is talking to everybody else. So when we hit on this, we expect to be able to get the information as fast as we want without any backlogs."

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide high data rate telecommunications to all Navy ships. The first step is to provide high data rate service to all Joint Task Force Command-capable ships such as CVs, CVNs, LHDs, LCCs, LPHs and LPDs prior to deployment. A concurrent effort is under way to extend high data rate connectivity to other battle group ships — CGs, DDGs, FFGs and other support ships via a battle group hub and spoke network with existing antenna technology.

Phases one and two of Challenge Athena were completed on board USS George Washington (CVN 73). Phase three, which begins in the spring of 1996, will involve USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and USS Belleau Wood (LHA 3).
They tantalize the viewer with visions of unlimited television programming with perfect picture and sound. You can view anything you want, whenever you want – for just a small up-front equipment charge and a nominal monthly fee. They all but scream the words, “You can have total control!”

The commercials for the digital satellite system (DSS) portray it as an oasis on the desert of home entertainment. An 18-inch satellite dish and a little black box are all you need to move your home entertainment system into the 21st century. True, there are many strong points to the small-dish satellite receiver systems, but it is also prudent to understand the limitations before making a purchase.

First, a little background is in order. DSS and DBS (direct broadcast satellite) are nearly synonymous terms for stationary, small-satellite dish systems. In the late 1980s a consortium of companies banded together to launch a constellation of satellites capable of covering the United States with a digital signal. The signal was of such high power that 18-inch dishes on Earth received it clearly. Two programming companies in the consortium, DirecTV and USSB, assembled their channel lineups and prepared for the late-1994 introduction of DSS for the home.

Both companies carved their programming niche, with USSB concentrating on providing movie channels and DirecTV emphasizing traditional cable channels. With the first two satellites (DBS1 and DBS2) in orbit and functioning, the programmers began their advertising blitz touting the availability of 150 channels.

The service includes 150 channels, but that does not necessarily mean you will receive 150 channels of 24-hour entertainment. Currently, DirecTV offers 38 basic channels (including CNN, Headline News, ESPN and Discovery), 28 audio-only music channels, eight “a la carte” individual subscription channels and up to 50 pay-per-view slots.

USSB offers seven basic channels (including MTV, VH1 and Comedy
Central), five channels from HBO, three from Showtime, three from Cinemax and two each from The Movie Channel and FLIX. Both USSB and DirecTV offer various packages that include varying numbers and combinations of channels.

If you want your MTV (on USSB), but just cannot live without hearing James Earl Jones intone, “This ... is CNN” on DirecTV, you will have to subscribe to the basic packages of both USSB and DirecTV. This will cost you about $38 per month. If you want the best package from both programmers, getting all the movies and channels, you can expect to pay about $65 per month.

Then there are your a la carte choices, channels like Starz! and the Golf Channel, which start at $5.00 per month. Pay-per-view events are typically one-time-only programs such as boxing matches or special movies. The cost for those programs varies greatly.

Finally, sports fans can purchase packages of games in their favorite sports at costs ranging from $60 to $140 per sport.

One of the limitations of DSS is local broadcast stations - the ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX stations in your town. These are not available through DSS in urban areas. If you want them, you will either have to subscribe to a local cable service, hook up an outside antenna or dust off the old rabbit ears. People living where broadcast stations cannot be received on an antenna can subscribe to a package containing one of each network’s stations on DSS for an additional $4 per month.

FCC rules state that you cannot receive that service if you can view broadcast stations over an antenna. Most Navy facilities are in areas with viewable broadcast stations. Any way you slice it, the high quality of DSS will cost you money. Before making the move to DSS, it will benefit you to consider the other costs of doing so. The picture and sound quality delivered by the DSS digital signal is certainly superior to that of cable TV. However, the clarity and luster of that signal will only look as good as the TV on which it is viewed.

The initial cost of a basic DSS hardware kit for one TV is about $700. That kit includes the small antenna, the receiver and the little black box that changes digital signal into a picture your TV can display. To receive the DSS service on two TVs, you must purchase a deluxe receiver kit for $900 and an additional basic receiver for $650. After you purchase your hardware, you may either set it up with a required $70 install-it-yourself kit, or pay about $200 for professional installation.

The bottom line is that although DSS offers superior quality and great channel selection, it comes at a price, and with some limitations. A current competitor to DirecTV and USSB is PrimeStar, a satellite service offering about 60 video and audio channels without the requirement to purchase a dish and receiver. EchoStar and AlphaStar, two services beginning operation later this year, are similar.

One of the limitations of DSS is local broadcast stations - the ABC, CBS, NBC and FOX stations in your town. These are not available through DSS in urban areas. If you want them, you will either have to subscribe to a local cable service, hook up an outside antenna or dust off the old rabbit ears. People living where broadcast stations cannot be received on an antenna can subscribe to a package containing one of each network’s stations on DSS for an additional $4 per month.

FCC rules state that you cannot receive that service if you can view broadcast stations over an antenna. Most Navy facilities are in areas with viewable broadcast stations. Any way you slice it, the high quality of DSS will cost you money. Before making the move to DSS, it will benefit you to consider the other costs of doing so. The picture and sound quality delivered by the DSS digital signal is certainly superior to that of cable TV. However, the clarity and luster of that signal will only look as good as the TV on which it is viewed.

The initial cost of a basic DSS hardware kit for one TV is about $700. That kit includes the small antenna, the receiver and the little black box that changes digital signal into a picture your TV can display. To receive the DSS service on two TVs, you must purchase a deluxe receiver kit for $900 and an additional basic receiver for $650. After you purchase your hardware, you may either set it up with a required $70 install-it-yourself kit, or pay about $200 for professional installation.

The bottom line is that although DSS offers superior quality and great channel selection, it comes at a price, and with some limitations. A current competitor to DirecTV and USSB is PrimeStar, a satellite service offering about 60 video and audio channels without the requirement to purchase a dish and receiver. EchoStar and AlphaStar, two services beginning operation later this year, are similar to DirecTV and USSB.

The DirecTV commercials featuring Joe Regalbuto (from Murphy Brown) do a great job of describing what you get with DSS equipment and programming subscriptions. However, it’s in your best interest to balance your needs and wants with the hardware and services available. If you’re armed with an understanding of possibilities and limitations of DSS, you will have total control.

Smith is the cable and satellite TV policy manager at Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.
If you have ever been curious about your next duty station you might be glad to know you can now tour your new base even before you know who your sponsor is!

Local Family Service Centers provide “Welcome Aboard Videos” through the Relocation Assistance Program. These videos offer a firsthand look at what lies ahead for you and your family.

“Welcome Aboard” videos are not just travel logs highlighting the tourist spots for the new location. The videos address important aspects of a Permanent Change of Station move such as:

- exchange rates;
- how to get to the base;
- where to check in once you’ve arrived;
- what to expect on your first day;
- Temporary Housing Allowance (TLA) requirements;
- employment options for spouses;
- suggestions for powers of attorney and other pre-transfer advice.

Also, the videos give guided tours of local schools and child care centers, as well as offering advice on medical and dental procedures to take care of prior to your arrival. There are visual tours of commissaries, exchanges, clubs, restaurants and public transportation. Requirements for shipping pets and vehicles are also provided.

“Welcome Aboard” videos answer questions about local customs, traditions, festivals, history and culture, as well as social and recreational options and MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) programs.

The video “Welcome Aboard” program is sponsored by BUPERS (Bureau of Naval Personnel). The Television Production Division of the Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C. already has produced videos of Hawaii; Atsugi, Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan. Videos for La Maddalena, Sigonella, Naples and Gaeta, Italy; London, Guam; and Rota, Spain are in production. Plans are to produce 85 videos to cover most locations Sailors may be assigned.

“It’s a great idea – it shows sailors visually what the area is really like,” said Mary Luber, one of the producers at Naval Media Center. “Anybody can deal with different surroundings as long as he or she is prepared for it. Take, for example, Japan. People arrive at the airport and see Japanese writing. They tend to panic if they haven’t experienced it before. Sailors and their families actually see what to do and where to go before they arrive. That makes it easier on everyone,” she said.

One customer at the Naval Station Anacostia FSC in Washington, D.C. thinks her move is going to much easier, thanks to the Welcome Aboard video tapes. Cecilia Franklin is packing out to join her husband, LT Derik Franklin of USS Germantown [LSD 41], in Sasebo, Japan.

“(The tape) gave an overview of what Sasebo is like and what you have to go through,” Franklin said. “Every person will get something out of the video.”

One thing the Franklins learned helped them make an important decision about their family pets – because there is limited support for animals, the families cats are staying stateside.

Except for that, Franklin’s daughter, Leslie, looks forward to the move. “It looks real pretty,” she said of Sasebo. “I like the activities that you can do in school.”

The idea for the videos came to BUPERS from a Sailor through the Beneficial Suggestion Program, according to Shontelle Rivers, National Program Manager for the Navy’s Relocation Program at BUPERS. Rivers says BUPERS took up the suggestion for the videos to help transferring sailors and their families and cut down on the need for early returns or hardship transfers.

For all the assistance you’ll need for a smooth transition, visit your nearest Family Service Center. Oh, by the way, welcome aboard! 

Toler is a staff writer at All Hands.
Production crews from Naval Media Center are working with the Bureau of Naval Personnel to produce video tape tours on over 85 locations worldwide such as this overview of Guam.

Viewing a Welcome Aboard video at Naval Station Anacostia gives Cecilia and Leslie Franklin a first hand look at their new duty station, Sasebo, Japan. The videos provide information on a wide range of topics such as schools, transportation, housing, medical facilities, and spousal employment.
Recognizing that the future of America lies in the hands of its children, Fleet Training Center, Atlantic, has launched Starbase Atlantis, a program which provides Norfolk area students the opportunity to experience real-world applications of math and science. Using hands-on exercises and experiments, the program also helps students develop self-esteem and motivates them to set challenging but reachable goals.

Based on Starbase, an Air National Guard program created in 1989, Starbase Atlantis was founded by former Chief of Naval Education and Training retired VADM Robert Kihune who began the Navy's initial version of the program last fall in Pensacola, Fla.

"It's [designed] to add value to our community by trying to get kids interested in math and science," explained Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Timothy Nichols, Special Projects Officer at FTC. "We have this concept called D+A=R — Dreams + Action = Reality. If they have a dream and they apply themselves, that can become their reality. They can be anything. They can be the astronauts of tomorrow. They can be lawyers, doctors, whatever."

Fifth-graders spend five full school days during a five-week period in classes conducted at FTC. During the classes, students cover material including basic astronomy, rocketry, the physics of flight and aircraft components and instrumentation. Also included are activities at the Airborne Mine Countermeasures Weapon Systems Training School, Submarine Training Facility, Amphibious Craft Unit 4, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Center and the NASA Langley Research Center.

According to Nichols, combining the classroom lessons with the hands-on tours of base facilities gives students a realistic demonstration of the math and science used daily in the fleet.

"To make a submarine move through the water, you use those four forces of flight," said Nichols, a Muskegon, Mich., native. "To get the landing craft on or off the beach, you use the four forces of flight. To get a helicopter or airplane in the air, you use the four forces of flight. That's just one example of how they can apply what they learn in the classroom, by going through the simulators."

Approximately 90 students were enrolled in Norfolk’s inaugural class with plans to send more than 1,000 students through the program in the first year. Additionally, plans are in the making to expand the program to other Navy sites in the Southeast and, eventually, throughout the country.

One of the reasons for the program's immediate success is the assistance provided by active-duty
Participating in a nuclear reactor containment field exercise builds teamwork skills at Starbase Atlantis.

Starbase Atlantis students at Fleet Training Center, Atlantic, secure and cushion eggs that will be used for Eggbert, an exercise designed to test and demonstrate the properties of inertia.

Sailors. Acting as mentors, Sailors assist with instruction and serve as positive role models for the students. This interaction is positive reinforcement for the students and for the Sailors.

"It’s gratifying to give something back to the community," said LT Stan Kapp, community services officer at FTC. "We want to generate a cadre of volunteers who are experienced with the program and who can add value to the program by assisting the children with instruction. Sailors make learning more exciting by relating events from their own personal experiences in the Navy — how math and science have affected their careers.

"It’s a good feeling just to be able to be a positive role model for many of these kids," he said. "In a time when there is so much negativity, it feels good to give something back to the local community. These fifth-graders are our future. One day they'll be in the Navy and it’s important to show them the importance of education at an early age."

“If they have a dream and ... apply themselves, that can become their reality. They can be anything.”

— FC1(SW) Timothy Nichols

Schafer is a Norfolk-based staff writer for All Hands.

SEPTEMBER 1995
Early detection = protection

Story by Teal Ferguson and J03 Roy DeCoster

Cancer. Whether you hear it, speak it, or read it, the feeling is the same — apprehension.

An estimated 1.2 million people were diagnosed with cancer in the United States in 1994, and 538,000 will die from it, according to Dr. Chris Takimoto, senior clinical investigator at the National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), Bethesda, Md., detachment. Perhaps even more tragic is the fact that up to 35 percent of these deaths could have been prevented by proper screening.

What exactly is cancer? “Cancer” is the name given to more than 100 different diseases. Although each type is different from the others, all forms of cancer are diseases of the body’s cells. They grow too rapidly and without order. Too much tissue is produced and tumors are formed. These tumors are either benign or malignant.

Benign tumors are not cancerous. They do not spread to other parts of the body and are seldom a threat to life. Benign tumors can often be removed by surgery and they are not likely to return.

Malignant tumors are cancerous. They can invade and destroy nearby healthy tissues and organs. Also, cancer cells can spread, or metastasize to other parts of the body and form new tumors.

“Cancer of the lung, prostate gland and colon or rectum are the...
most common forms found in men, accounting for approximately 60 percent of all male deaths from cancer," said Takimoto. “Skin and testicular cancer also attack men frequently,” he added.

On the other hand, the most common cancer found in women is breast cancer. The second most common in women is lung cancer, and colo-rectal is third.

NNMC oncologist CDR Don Bridges said, “There are a lot of ads on TV about breast cancer, but the scary thing is that more women are going to die this year from lung cancer than from breast cancer [because many forms of breast cancer are treatable]. Smoking is the big issue. Lung cancer in women has increased four-fold in the past 30 years. There are 72,000 cases diagnosed each year, and this is preventable.

“We can’t say yet how to prevent breast cancer, but the trick is to keep an eye on yourself and be aware of the risks and symptoms of cancer. Get the recommended screening so that if you do develop cancer, you can catch it early and increase your chances of surviving.”

Ferguson and DeCoster are staff writers at the Journal, NNMC, Bethesda, Md.
Skin Cancer: It can be avoided
Story by Teal Ferguson

According to a brochure distributed by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. If current estimates are true, close to half of all Americans who live to age 65 will develop skin cancer at least once. Although most skin cancers can be cured, melanoma, a serious form of skin cancer, kills more than 4,000 men each year.

See a doctor if a birthmark, mole or other spot on your skin starts to change color, size or shape.

"The only recommendation that can be made to everybody is avoid excess sun exposure and use sun block," said Dr. Chris Takimoto, senior clinical investigator at National Naval Medical Center's detachment NCI. "Your risk of contracting melanoma is related to the amount of the ultraviolet radiation in sunlight to which you are exposed.

"It is fair-skinned people who are really at risk," said Takimoto. The NCI brochure notes, "often those with red or blonde hair and blue or light colored eyes face the most risk."

"People with more pigment in their skin usually have a decreased risk of developing melanoma from sun exposure," Takimoto said.

Avoiding overexposure to the sun will help fend off melanoma, but it may be difficult to remember all the individual things that will help protect against cancer, especially when you're talking about 100 different diseases. "Everything gives you cancer," some people say, "so why worry about it?"

You should know the risks and symptoms associated with cancer. Your physician can answer any question you may have about cancer and arrange any tests you may need. Get checked on a regular basis. Protect yourself.

Ferguson is a staff writer at the Journal.

The ABCs of skin cancer

Self-examination can lead to early detection and treatment of cancer. Detecting skin cancer can be as simple as ABC.

Get in the habit of doing self-exams monthly. Examine you skin with a full-length mirror in a well lit room, using a hand mirror to check your back and other hard to see areas.

The ABC's are:

A – Asymmetry. A mole with one one half that does not match the other half.

B – Border. The border of the mole is irregular or ragged, not smooth.

C – Color. The pigmentation is not uniform. There are shades of dark brown, black, or red in the mole.

D – Diameter. A mole is larger than six millimeters (a little larger than a pencil eraser).

Courtesy of U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka, Japan.
He works on what some call "a floating city"—the USS George Washington (CVN 73). Surrounded by the sights and sounds of supersonic jet planes and the latest high-tech weaponry on the planet, it's a totally different world than what his grandfather knew.

ENFN Michael Valdez came from a Spanish-speaking household in Losoya, Texas, a tiny town 20 miles south of San Antonio. His heritage was of the migrant workers—typical of many Hispanics close to the Mexican border. "When my grandparents were young they crossed the border into Texas each spring," said Valdez. "They would work in the fields through the summer, picking strawberries, okra, pecans and peaches."

"My paternal grandfather earned enough money in five years to cross the border, and stay for good. He bought 15 acres of land and raised cattle—and okra."

Okra, a staple in cajun cook pots, found buyers in Louisiana. Any other goods produced on the fertile soil wouldn't command as much of a price because of saturation of the market. For Jose Valdez, okra remained the money draw.

And so life was hard living on a small tract of land, but it was his land. Cattle were sold off for extra income to support seven children, including Santiago, Michael Valdez' father.

"My father was born during the Depression," said Valdez, "and grew up during World War II. At 17 he was drafted and went to Korea for two tours of duty—one with the infantry, and then with supply, unloading fuel and cargo."

His mother, Maria Louise, worked at a bakery to help support and raise their two sons.

When Santiago got back home with his high school diploma and a technical trade learned in the Army, he worked for the San Antonio parks and recreation centers. He repaired ENFN Michael Valdez works on USS George Washington's starboard motor whale boat engine, his station in the event of Man Overboard.

and installed water fountains, sinks and commodes, and performed maintenance on the sprinkler systems for golf courses dotting the Texas countryside. Many of Michael's early memories are working with his father and tending the land of his grandfather.

Maria Louise moved on from work at the bakery to a department store. Then, she became a bank teller, and got the position she holds today, as a mortgage company manager.

"My Mom and Dad are a big inspiration, and influence the decisions I make today," said Valdez. "We (their children) had it so easy—they had it so hard and never quit on each other or on us."

Valdez, after only two years in the Navy, realizes where he came from, knows where he's going and is aware of the opportunities available in the Navy. He works in the Boat Shop, maintaining motor whale boat engines and the Captain's gig. Married for two years, and with his son Junior, Valdez wants to follow in his parent's and grandparent's footsteps.

"I want to raise my children with the traditions and sensibilities my parents used in raising me and my brothers and sister."

Valdez and many other Hispanic-Ss aboard George Washington are proud of their roots, as Sailors; proud of their Navy; and as Americans, proud of the bond linking them to the past, the present, and their future. ✽

Story by SN Curt Melzer assigned to USS George Washington (CVN 73).
Bearings

Miniature race car has Sailor all revved up

Spinning slightly out of control, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Sean Moss' remote-controlled 1993 European Ford Escort Rally Sport Cosworth careens past a group of neighborhood children. Excited, they move toward the speeding car, which suddenly turns and heads back toward the group.

Just before the two sides meet, Moss brings his car to a screeching halt. He spins it in a dizzying series of donut maneuvers and speeds off, leaving the children wide-eyed.

"I fell in love with this watching European rally races in Italy," Moss said, recalling his tour at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, before coming to USS George Washington (CVN 73). "I grew up driving a Ford pickup and I've always loved the Fords. I just wish that my Escort was life-size."

From the front fender to its rear license plate, the custom-painted red, white and blue body measures 17 inches.

"During the season, I race about once a week," he said. "Usually the races take place in a parking lot."

"This is the cheapest way to get into car racing," Moss said. "You can buy a stock car off the shelf and race it for about $250 ... whereas it would cost you about $100,000 to buy a NASCAR vehicle."

"You don't need to a special license to drive it," he said. The children in the neighborhood know that already. 

Story by JO2 Thomas Gelsenlitter, photo by PH3 Todd Summerlin, both assigned to USS George Washington (CVN 73)

Chief AK volunteers at annual veterans fair

From volunteering her help with the Special Olympics to escorting disabled military veterans to a fair, Chief Aviation Storekeeper (AW) Wanda Keenan believes community service is important.

"Being a chief petty officer, I take on the responsibility of being a role model," said Keenan, stationed at Naval Air Force, Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk. "I've shown people that by hard work and dedication they can excel and achieve their goals."

Recently, Keenan and other chiefs from her command volunteered to support veterans for the 47th Annual Patient Country Fair at the Department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Hampton, Va.

Each year, military installations provide escorts for many of the hospital's patients.

"I really didn't know what to expect, because I'd never been to a veteran's event before," explained Keenan. "I would volunteer again."

More than 500 patients participated in the fair. The volunteers escorted veterans to and assisted them in participating in activity booths. The booths, which included the basketball toss, ring toss and roulette, were geared to provide fun and therapeutic recreation.

"The veterans really enjoyed the fresh air. You could see their response to the outdoors. Their faces just lit up," said Keenan.

The 33-year old believes no matter what type of program you involve yourself in, volunteering is a no-lose situation.

"There is a lot of satisfaction," said Keenan. "I'm committed to providing assistance any way I can. Who knows, someday I may find myself in a situation where I need someone to help me."

AKC(AW) Wanda Keenan volunteers to help military veterans at the 47th annual Patient Country Fair at the department of Veteran's Affairs Medical Center in Hampton, Va.

Story by Henry W. Rice, photo by Alexander Hicks, both assigned to Navy Public Affairs Center, Norfolk, Va.
Air Expo '95 flies high at NAS South Weymouth, Mass.

The towns of Weymouth, Rockland, Hingham and Abington, Mass., all intersect with Naval Air Station, South Weymouth. The community is used to hearing the sounds of propellers from P-3 Orion and C-130T Hercules aircraft flying overhead.

But when the sound of an F/A-18 Hornet mixed with the propeller of the old A-75 Stearman biplane, they knew something was unusual.

Air Expo '95 combined the jets of today with aircraft of yesterday as the air station commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II with the air show entitled, "Wings of Honor."

During the two days, approximately 80,000 people fought rain and overcast skies to see feats of aerobatics by veteran stunt pilots inside the cockpit of an F/A-18 Hornet as the Marine pilot points out the numerous capabilities of his aircraft.

Military aircraft showed the current capabilities of today's military aviation. Virtually any aircraft found on the deck of a Navy carrier, from an F-14 Tomcat to the A-6 Intruder, could be seen at the air show. Massachusetts Air National Guard 104th Fighter Group A-10 Thunderbolts demonstrated the power and versatility of the aircraft. A C-5 Galaxy transport plane, capable of carrying the equivalent of six Greyhound buses, took to the skies and displayed its awesome size.

Though bad weather kept some people away from the air show, the ones who did attend were thrilled and educated on the marvel of aviation, past and present.

Story by JOC(SW) Mark Piggot, photo by PH1 Darryl Herring. Both are assigned to the public affairs office, NAS South Weymouth, Mass.

Midshipmen get training aboard GW

As college students around the country completed final ex-ams, midshipmen from the Naval Academy and Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) cadets headed to the fleet for some hands-on training.

Some of the future officers went aboard USS George Washington (CVN 73), where they tasted shipboard life and learned the roles of junior and senior enlisted Sailors, division officers and department heads.

Midshipman 1st Class Gena Chung, who worked in engineering, said she was amazed at the level of professionalism and the amount of work accomplished each day.

"On the flight deck I saw what I expected," said Chung. "All levels of the chain of command working together, getting the job done from the first plane launched to the last."

Midshipman 2nd Class Shana Gritsavage was assigned to GW's Deck Department. From heaving the mooring lines to anchoring the ship, she lived the life of a boatswain's mate.

Under the careful guidance of BM3 Efrain Rivera, Gritsavage learned how information is passed over the 1-MC, the importance of exactness and accountability and pilot house etiquette – and how demanding a job ship driving is.

"It amazes me that there are so many people doing so many different things," Gritsavage said.

Midshipman 2nd Class Shana Gritsavage listens to advice from BM3 Efrain Rivera of GW's Deck Department.

Story by SN Curt Melzer, photo by PHAN Kris White, both assigned to the public affairs office, USS George Washington (CVN 73).
The famous battle cry against drugs "just say no," is a standard the world over and Sailors at Naval Air Reserve Santa Clara, Calif., are taking it to heart. Sailors from NAVAL RESERVE Santa Clara spent time with local elementary school students to teach and spread the words "Say no to drugs."

Personnelman 2nd Class Michele Osborne, her husband, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Kevin Osborne, Yeoman 2nd Class Rodney Perry and PN2 Carol Vain and CDR John Murphy use Campaign Drug Free materials, which consist of a short cartoon, pens and stickers and personal experiences, to impress upon the students not to use drugs.

The use of role playing is important in their presentations because it allows the children to interact with the Sailors. Murphy emphasized that using drugs could only lead to a dead end and people who use them jeopardize their future and those around them.

Reviews from the fifth graders and their teacher, Judy Putre, were outstanding. "I like the role playing, with CDR Murphy explaining how drug use affects one's career. I think the children need to know why they're in school, why they shouldn't do drugs and why they shouldn't smoke. They need a real reason and I think the Sailors point that out," said Putre.

Story and photo by JO2 James D. Berry, assigned to Naval Air Reserve, Moffett Field, Calif.
Learning international lessons in friendship

Navy pilots joined other U.S. service members who visited a high school in Korat, Thailand, recently to swap a lesson in English for an opportunity to learn about the Thai culture.

Although Surathamphitak High School offers English courses, taught by 26 of its 162 teachers, English-speaking tourists are few.

“They don’t have the opportunity to meet foreigners,” said CDR Mark Miller of Commander Amphibious Readiness Group 0589, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wash., a reserve unit supporting CARGRU 5. “I think the time we spent here is good for building relationships and opening doors, getting them to understand — and getting us to understand — that we’re not so different.”

The students, many of them children of Thai service members, gave a warm welcome to the Americans who were in Thailand participating in the joint/combined Exercise Cobra Gold ’95.

“The students were very excited about finally having the opportunity to speak English,” said Busaba Pongpitak, an English teacher at Surathamphitak.

The students interviewed their American visitors and took notes. The “tutors” signed their papers upon completion.

This was the program’s fourth year. “In the future, the people-to-people aspect of this exercise is what’s going to pay the dividends,” Miller said. “We’re here under military auspices. But even in the military, when you work at the personal level, you’re less likely to have misunderstanding and conflict.”

Sailors help clothe the needy in San Francisco

USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

Sailors recently cleaned out their lockers and closets for clothes which no longer fit or they didn’t need. The discards weren’t headed for the trash however, they went to some needy folks in San Francisco.

The clothing drive was part of the continuing community relations the chaplain’s department has organized between the ship and St Anthony’s Foundation of San Francisco. “We had a pretty good turn out — about 30 large garbage bags full of clothes,” said LT Phil Clark (CHC).

“St Anthony’s takes up about a three-to-four-square-mile area in the ‘Tenderloin District’ of downtown San Francisco,” said Clark. “There, among the church and the ware-HM2 Donald Spears sorts clothes donated by his shipmates during a clothing drive to help St. Anthony’s Foundation in San Francisco. The donations went to those needy in the city.

houses, they have a clothing pantry — destination of the clothes donated by our Sailors. Needy families or individuals can come in twice a month and choose whatever clothing items they need,” said Clark.

“The foundation also has a soup kitchen where they serve nearly 2,000 meals a day,” he added.

Not only does St. Anthony’s serve meals to and help clothe the needy, but they also try to help them learn to help themselves.

“That’s what I like about them,” Clark said. “They want to make those who may be down, but not out, get up and running again.”

Story and photo by JO2 J.P. Baldwin, assigned to the public affairs office, USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70).
Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Margaret J. Lowing was named Junior Sailor of the Quarter for first quarter FY95. Lowing was selected for her commendable performance as Senior Field Training Officer. A native of Hernando, Fla., Lowing is stationed at Administrative Support Unit, Southwest Asia Security Detachment.

Midshipman 2nd Class Jonathan F. Brown of Natick, Mass., was selected as a recipient of the 1995 Equity and Excellence Awards for Ethnic Plurality at the University of Colorado. The award is based on individual efforts to generate a greater level of ethnic understanding and interaction on campus and in the community. Brown is a member of the University of Colorado's NROTC unit.

Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 1st Class (SW) Sean G. Lemons set a precedent by becoming the first member of the Navy to receive a college degree through the Community College of the Air Force. The Fairfax, Okla., native is currently serving as an instructor with the Naval Technical Training Center Detachment, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.

Personnelman 1st Class Diane M. Pressley was named the 1995 Serviceperson of the Year for Columbus, Ohio. She was one of eight military members recognized by ADM Mike Boorda, Chief of Naval Operations for their contributions to their respective service and community. Pressley, a native of Le Center, Minn., is stationed at the Cleveland Military Entrance Processing Station.

Master Chief Radioman (SW) Joseph M. Wetherall was presented the Joint Service Commendation Medal for meritorious service as Staff Assistant to the Chief Terminal Equipment Section, Central Region Signal Group, Headquarters Allied Forces Central Europe. Wetherall, a native of Parkersburg, W.Va., is attached to Headquarters, AFCENT, Brunssum, Netherlands.

Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class [AW] Patrick Quinn was named Naval Air Station South Weymouth, Mass., 1995 Sailor of the Year. “Working with the people in the Navy has made me thankful to be a part of Navy life,” Quinn said. Quinn, a native of Downingtown, Pa., is the magazine supervisor for NAS South Weymouth Weapons Division.
Sailors raise both the American and Canadian flags at Naval Ocean Processing Facility Whidbey Island in honor of both nations represented at the command. Photo by PH2 Kimberly E. McDonald, Fleet Imaging Center Pacific, Oak Harbor, Wash.
NAME: AO3 Daniel G. Luevano
ASSIGNED TO: USS Peleliu (LHA 5)
HOMETOWN: Lavilla, Texas
JOB DESCRIPTION: Responsible for handling ordnance for helicopters and Harrier jets assigned to the ship.
PLACES VISITED WHILE IN THE NAVY: Singapore; Mombasa, Kenya; Perth, Australia; and Hawaii.
HOBBIES: Playing basketball, running, music and dancing.
BEST PART OF THE JOB: “The teamwork between me and my shipmates. We all have to do our jobs safely to get our objective accomplished, and working with ordnance makes it a little bit dangerous and exciting.”