Below Decks, 16
The Unsung Jobs

Pilots aboard aircraft carriers depend on the support of the thousands of other Sailors who rarely get to see the “roof” of their ship. All Hands recently visited USS Carl Vinson to explore what goes on below decks.

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A New Generation 24
for a New War

It's been more than 10 years since recruits joined the Armed Forces during a time of war and more than 60 years since America was attacked on her own soil. Today's recruits were brought up differently, think differently and do business differently, but they have the same desire to serve their country and make a difference.

[On the Front Cover]

Every year, thousands of recruits pass through the gates of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., to be transformed from civilians to squared-away Sailors. In looking at the recruit training process, All Hands found that as recruits change, the training improves too.

[Next Month]

All Hands takes you undercover, underwater and underground as we take a look at: hospital corpsmen assigned to Marine reconnaissance units; submariner training; and Sailors serving at Cheyenne Mountain, Colo. We also go into the woods to see how the Navy maintains Old Ironsides.

12 CNO Sets Course for Navy Leaders

ADM Vern Clark talks about his recently released “CNO Guidance 2002,” which applauds the Navy’s recent impressive accomplishments and provides specific goals to help win the war on terrorism and make the Navy even better.

32 Developing the Citizen and the Sailor

The overwhelming sense of “volunteerism” that brings Sailors into today’s Navy extends into communities across the country. All Hands takes a look at how Great Lakes’ Sailors volunteer their time after hours.

36 Building/Fighting 101

For 60 years, Seabees have been building, and sometimes, fighting. As they build, they defend, but where do they learn to do both at the same time? During Field Exercise (FEX), Seabees experience nine months of deployment scenarios in 10 days.
UT2(SCW) Brian T. Pratt, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 2, adjusts newly strung razor wire along one of the perimeter fences at "Camp X-Ray," Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Razor’s Edge

Photo by PH1(AW) Michael Pendergrass
A flight deck director for USS Bataan (LHD 5) gets a CH-53E Super Stallion into the air as the heavy lift helicopter deploys with U.S. Marines of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) bound for the war zone, Dec. 12, 2001. The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group was then operating in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.
Speaking with Sailors
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt

MCPON Departs with Confidence in Navy’s Future

It’s hard to believe that this is the last opportunity that I will have to speak with you. My tour as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy has been the normal four years, but what a time of great changes — and challenges — it has been! As the time draws near to transition from active duty I spend quite a bit of time reflecting on what has occurred in the past four years to the members of the Navy.

I believe the most remarkable occurrence has been a fundamental realization that what makes our military the best in the world is the people who serve in it. It is the idea that people who volunteer to serve and defend their country’s ideals are to be valued and compensated for just down the road or halfway around the world.

I have been proud and honored to be your shipmate and your point man to help obtain things for 2000-2001: John Kennedy.

Publisher’s Note: The Chief of Naval Operations has selected Master Chief (SS/AW) Terry D. Scott to take the helm as MCPON next month.

Editor

...
For Navy experts combating the ecstasy problem, the new test is a welcomed addition. “More and better testing raises awareness levels, and that’s the important thing,” said Rick Cates, program director for the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Counseling and Assistance Center. Any detection and deterrence capability is a plus, Cates added, in battling the abuse of a drug now understood to be genuinely dangerous and potentially fatal. Sailors in today’s highly complex, technological environment put themselves at risk every day. For Navy experts combating the ecstasy problem, the new test is a welcomed addition. “More and better testing raises awareness levels, and that’s the important thing,” said Rick Cates, program director for the Naval Station Pearl Harbor Counseling and Assistance Center. Any detection and deterrence capability is a plus, Cates added, in battling the abuse of a drug now understood to be genuinely dangerous and potentially fatal. Sailors in today’s highly complex, technological environment put themselves at risk every day.

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Around the Fleet

approximately 100 phone calls have been received with many giving verbal intentions of submitting a package to convert. Officials foresee a better future for both ratings even if only 50 percent of eligible Sailors do so.

Other ratings aside from DTs can also put in for conversion to the HM rating. Consult your command career counselor to see if you are eligible to convert. For additional information, contact DTM(CW) Paul Dzidzon at ISSN 225-3668 or commercial (703) 649-3668, or by e-mail ms2ds3@bupers.navy.mil; or DTM(CW)(TMT) Steve Green (703) 614-6853, or by e-mail ms2ds3@bupers.navy.mil.

Ricky’s Tour

As I thought about all the men and women in uniform defending freedom... thoughts of home, family, and friends... all I want in it... I wanna be where the action is... NAVY NAVY!

NELL, we have lots of ships and bases... round the world... GREAT put me down for "wagin"...

By J02 Mike Jones

mikejones43@hotmail.com

Reduced opportunity for advancement to second class petty officers.

“The hospital corpsman rating is only 89 percent authorized. Converting at this time is a win-win-win situation for the two ratings and the qualified DTs who wish to convert to HM,” added Green.

Another advantage to converting is that advancement opportunities to HM2 are for DTs to second class were only at a 1.9 percent rate,” said Green.

“It’s a good move. The HM rating is the largest rating in the Navy with about 22,000 HM2,” explained Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Ronald Powell, also a technical advisor for the medical and dental communities. “It will help fill the void at the HM E-4 level and upper the over-supply of DTs.

Story by Chief of Naval Personnel Affairs

Ramage Sailors Hoist ESWS Pennant: 100 Percent Qualified

Information Systems Technician and Class (SW) Roger Daniels proudly hoisted a special class flag pennant recently as his ship, USS Ramage (DDG 66), arrived in La Maddalena, Italy, for a port visit. This was the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) pennant.

The command and senior enlisted leadership aboard Ramage challenged the crew during deployment workshops to earn their individual qualifications and the ESWS pennant so it could proudly join the surface warfare officer pennant flying on the ship’s mast.

Earning the ESWS pennant is no small chore for any crew. Every petty officer who has been aboard for the minimum one-year period must be qualified to fly it from the mast.

A yearly crew turnover rate of 38 percent also makes the process more challenging, as new, unqualified Sailors continually join the Ramage team.

Daniels was the 16th Sailor to earn his qualification during the deployment, and the 45th since April to qualify on board the ship.

The Ramage ESWS program is designed to enhance the Sailor’s understanding of Ramage’s systems and mission by maximizing their exposure to all shipboard systems, spaces and equipment while providing the most conducive atmosphere in which motivated Sailors can excel.

Chief Gunnery Mate (SW) Charlie ‘Rog’ Rohr is Ramage’s ESWS program coordinator. Since taking over the ESWS program six months ago, he has set up nightly training schedules and implemented a feature known as “ESWS Sundays.”

On these days, a Sailor visits any warfare area on Ramage, and a subject matter expert stands ready to increase a Sailor’s understanding of systems and equipment.

Warthing said he is proud of both the program itself and the Sailors who qualify under it.

“It is a real joy to see how bright and motivated these young Sailors are,” said Warthing. “It amazes me every day how much smarter our young petty officers get with each new addition to the crew.”

Warthing said he tailors the program “young and motivated Ramage Sailors” like Seaman (SW) Jae Yoon.

A crewmember since November 2000, Yoon became one of four non-petty officers to earn his ESWS qualification when he put on his ESWS insignia in November.

Yoon, who works in the ship’s deck division and is striking for the personnelman rating, said he firmly supports Ramage’s ESWS program.

“For me, it was the best opportunity to learn the systems and organization of the ship — not just focusing on one particular rating or warfare area,” said Yoon.

In addition to established personnel qualification standards books, Ramage requires a space walk-through card to complete the unit-specific portion of the ESWS qualification.

Sailors must go through all main warfare spaces and demonstrate an understanding of equipment layout and operation to the space’s leading chief petty officer, who then signs the Sailor’s card upon satisfactory performance.

Once a Sailor completes these requirements, he takes a written test that is a mixture of multiple choice, fill in the blank and essay questions.

A score of 75 or better enables the Sailor to undergo a practice question and answer session. This practice session challenges all areas of a Sailor’s ESWS knowledge in preparation for the final qualification board.

Upon passing the board, the Sailor is awarded his qualification pin during a ceremony held on Ramage’s bridge. He then gets an opportunity to use the general announcing system and thank those shipmates who helped him earn his qualification and issue encouragement to those not yet qualified.

The management of the program is in good hands. The young Sailors of Ramage provide the necessary motivation, and the crew maintains that Ramage’s goal of 61 qualified ESWS’warriors by their return in April 2002 is a goal well within their reach.

For more information on USS Ramage, go to www.chiefs.navy.mil/navalships/destroyers.

Story by ENS Taylor Rampe and CMC Steven Hanniscutt, USS Ramage Public Affairs

Time Capsule

This month, we look back in the All Hands archive to see what was going on in the month of March:

49 Years Ago – 1953

In this issue of All Hands, then known as the Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin, our readers really didn’t see double. That cover photograph was of the Vaughn twins (Lee [left] and Lew). The two chief hospital corpsmen were students at the School of Hospital Administration at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md. We also ran a story about AVs, small ships that service Navy seaplanes. We posted a chart showing the profiles of all types of ships in the fleet at the time. And we cleared up some facts about what exactly a Medal of Honor recipient is entitled to.

30 Years Ago – 1972

In this issue of All Hands, our cover featured the Navy’s newest research craft, USNS Hayes (T-AAG 195). Operated by Military Sealift Command (ammiralis), the 246-foot catamaran specialized in acoustic experiments conducted by the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C. We looked at some measures the Navy took to reduce pollution from its ships and shore stations. We featured a Navy-operated pig-raising facility in the Republic of Vietnam whose mission was to teach the Vietnamese sailors how to raise pigs. We also went to a motorcycle safety course at NAS Miramar, Calif., where Sailors were taught safe operating and maintenance procedures.

Nine Years Ago – 1993

As depicted on the cover, this issue featured an article about “scams” and how to avoid the sting of con artists. We landed with the Navy/ Marine Corps team on the shores of Mogadishu, Somalia, for Operation Restore Hope. We profiled some women in the Navy and how opportunities increased to the point where women could do all kinds of jobs, from flying a fighter to running an engine room in a tug boat.
Chief of Naval Operations ADM Vern Clark recently released “CNO Guidance 2002,” which applauds the Navy’s impressive accomplishments last year and provides specific goals to help win the war on terrorism and make the Navy even better. CNO Guidance 2002 is posted on his Web page at www.chINFO.navy.mil/navpalib/cno.

“As we move into 2002, I believe, more than ever, that it is dedication to causes greater than ourselves that transforms our profession into a calling, and brings honor to the Navy we serve and the uniform we wear,” the CNO stated.

Clark expressed gratitude for the progress made on the Navy’s “Top Five” priorities (manpower, current readiness, future readiness, quality of service and organizational alignment) in 2001, and he emphasized that the new guidance is “about the future.”

“Even the most aggressive of leaders need guidance to help them focus their efforts,” he said.

CNO Guidance 2002, written for every leader in the Navy — from LPO to CPO to CO to CNO — stresses the continued importance and time-honored value of leadership in the Navy.

“We expect a great deal from our leaders, from the most senior to the most junior. I will never apologize for that. Our people promise to serve. In return, our Navy provides the opportunity to lead. Some days are victorious; some days are difficult. We do not promise an easy life. Anyone can lead when the going is easy; it takes strength and character to lead when circumstances are challenging — but the rewards are immense.”

In the first point of CNO Guidance 2002, Clark reemphasizes the importance of the fleet and its proven ability to deliver combat credible power to the far corners of the globe.

“Presence … Power … Precision. Our Navy’s response to the events of September 11 is testimony to the dedicated service of our Sailors. It also underlines the mobility, lethality and reach of naval forces. Most importantly, it shows our dedication to mission accomplishment. “Our Navy needs talented young Americans who want to serve their nation and make a difference. The key words are ‘serve’ and ‘make a difference!’ In return for their service, we offer them rich opportunities for leadership and growth.”

While Clark was pleased with last year’s recruiting efforts and record-breaking retention — it was the best retention year in his 32-year career — he challenged leaders to reach even greater goals in 2002, and he emphasized the need for a sharper focus on attrition.

“Attrition is our No. 1 manpower challenge. No one joins the Navy to fail, yet too many Sailors do not complete their first enlistment. Concerned, involved leadership is the key to minimizing attrition without sacrificing standards. Leaders must take every measure to help their people prosper and succeed.”

The CNO said the Navy will continue to keep its prime focus on current readiness, while building the Navy of the future.

“Our Navy starts with the fleet. Everything we do must keep the fleet ready and make it even better. We must accurately define and continuously validate our requirements, then move aggressively to fully fund those requirements. In
CNO Sets Specific Goals for Navy Leaders

Hief of Naval Operations ADM Vern Clark sets specific goals for Navy leaders in “CNO Guidance 2002.”

“The readiness of our fleet rests on innovative leaders focused on improving five key areas: manpower, current readiness, future readiness, quality of service and organizational alignment,” the CNO said, before providing specific rudder orders for each priority.

MANPOWER

The CNO requires all leaders to provide meaningful performance appraisals and professional development plans for every Sailor they are entrusted to lead. Additionally, Clark says the Navy needs to cut attrition by 25 percent from the FY01 level and continue last year’s record-breaking retention efforts. To aid in the war against terrorism and achieve steady-state support for active units, CNO calls for a plan to optimally employ Naval Reserve forces.

FUTURE READINESS

The CNO says the Navy needs to buy 10 ships and 210 aircraft per year by 2007 and says “exciting new capabilities will accelerate our Navy’s transformation toward a truly Network Centric Force, including the DD(X) destroyer prototype, SSGN strike submarine, Joint Strike Fighter, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Tactical Tomahawks, Advanced Gun System and Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC), among others.”

QUALITY OF SERVICE

The CNO says leaders must fully employ “covenant leadership” throughout the Navy. Clark calls for a greater investment in Navy families by increasing spouse employment and recreational opportunities by 20 percent. He wants to eliminate BAH out-of-pocket expenses by FY05 and move all single sea-going Sailors to bachelor quarters. The CNO says Task Force EXCEL will “engage the entire Navy in the training revolution process.”

CURRENT READINESS

The CNO plans on building on the best readiness budget in at least 10 years. He calls for a sustained effort in the war against terrorism as well as a continued focus on homeland security and force protection. Specifically, he proposes an increase in precision-guided munitions and spare parts production and enhanced cooperation with other federal agencies to strengthen our maritime capabilities. He also encourages the evaluation of alternative manning and deployment approaches to enhance our forward presence.

ALIGNMENT

The CNO calls for greater integration, standardization and streamlining of the fleet, as well as a zero-based review of the Navywide organization by July 2002. He wants to use the Navy Operations Group to develop innovative maritime operational concepts and establish a command to serve as the single point of contact for information technology.

Throughout “CNO Guidance 2002,” Clark stresses the need for the involvement of leaders at every level of the chain of command—from LPO to CPO to CO to CNO.

“In our institution, we value leadership as the foundation of success. Leaders make our Navy work. We count on their influence; they are the difference between winning and losing in battle,” the CNO said. “I could not be more proud of our Sailors and civilian shipmates. Today’s Navy is performing superbly in the war against terrorism and all around the world.”

“America’s Navy proves every day that we are ready. As we sail into 2002, we will do so together to fight and win!”

Chief of Naval Operations ADM Vern Clark tours spaces and visits with Marines aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). The Marines are assigned to the “Black Knights” of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VFMA) 314 embarked with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9.

Sailors aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) have a meal and conversation with ADM Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations.

“Fight & Win!”

doing so, we will ensure the fleet remains ready to fight and win.”

To ensure the Navy remains ready to triumph in future wars, the CNO calls for buying 10 ships and 210 aircraft per year by 2007.

“The FY02 procurement budget is $10 billion below the level required to sustain our Navy. We must buy greater numbers of ships and aircraft. To do so, we must balance competing demands of current readiness, procurement, innovation and experimentation to stay at the forefront of military transformation,” Clark also stressed the need for greater innovation and better business practices in the Navy.

“We believe in, and will do everything we can do, to encourage innovation in our Navy. Experimentation is vital to change, and we will embrace innovation and experimentation. We cannot have too many pilot projects underway,” the CNO said. “We must become more efficien...
If the flight deck is where movies are made, then the hangar bay is the dressing room. Hangar Deck Director AN Angelina Rodriguez is responsible for moving the planes around her section of the largest space on the ship.

The deck of an aircraft carrier is a very busy place. But what happens below decks on this steaming war platform?

If the people on the flight deck are to have the ability to do their jobs, then they are going to need a lot of support from the thousands of other Sailors who might never see the “roof” of their ship.
Each department on an aircraft carrier plays a role in supporting the overall mission of the ship, which is to protect America from her enemies.

The hangar bay is the largest single space on the ship, and it's here where the airwing personnel can service their planes and helicopters, "red shirts" can stage their ordnance before going up to the flight deck and the "blue shirts" can repair their tractors. But who controls this modern warfare playground, where aircraft sit just inches from each other, tighter than a parking lot at an NFL football game?

"I do," said Airman Angelina Rodriguez. "I'm a hangar deck director. I control where the planes move. On the flight deck, they deal with feet; down here we deal with inches. If there is a 'crunch,' then that's one less plane that can go bomb," she added.

Below the hangar is the mess deck, where the ship's crew is fed. This is the true fueling station of any vessel. Without Sailors like Seaman Guwanda Tatum, who works in the bake shop, there would be a lot of hungry folks. "Sweets make Sailors happy," said 22 year-old Tatum. "They really like the doughnuts and homemade bread."

In medical, Sailors can get the health care they need to keep the ship and themselves going. "We play a big role in the overall mission of the ship," said Hospital Corpsman Jeff /H17073. Sailors who spend much of their day down in the vast food freezers of an aircraft carrier fight a daily battle to stay warm in one of the coldest places on the ship. "If I don't do my job, no one can eat," said MS5N Troy Points.

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Ketchum. Sailors’ teeth are also cared for on the ship; in the ship’s dental clinic. “People don’t really think we are all that important until they come in here in pain, then we are very important,” said Dental Technician Traziel Jones. The dental department handles around 50 patients a day while out at sea.

The barber shop is another place where the role of the Sailor may not be as glorious as what we see in the movies, but it is vital. “People walk in, sit down and relax. It gives them a chance for some down time,” said Ship Serviceman 2nd Class Daniel Sufon. “It’s a nice light atmosphere,” he added. “The only thing we have to be careful of is Sailors falling asleep in the chair,” joked the 27 year old.

Even laundry needs are taken care of on the floating air base. SHSA Daniel Barlow has been on board his ship for about three months, doing many different SH jobs. One of those jobs is operating a steam press. “I think we do an important job,” said Barlow. “We don’t get a lot of recognition, but we play a big role. We keep the morale of the crew high. You know, no one wants to wear dirty clothes,” added Barlow.

Good morale is an important part of staying mission focused and succeeding as a team. The journalists in TV control play one of the more visible roles in the never-ending job of keeping Sailors informed and happy. The JOs have a schedule of movies, both new releases and classics, for the crew to enjoy. In addition to the flicks, they also broadcast three...
Direct to Sailor (DTS) channels. “We have four movie channels, which run 24 hours a day, and three AFN (Armed Forces Network) channels that play news, sports and regular TV shows,” said Journalist 2nd Class Galloway Looney.

Most of these jobs mentioned are pretty close to the water line, but there are also those who work deep in the bowels of the ship. Daily, they climb down ladders, past shafts and pipes, into their little corner of the ship. Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuel) 3rd Class Christopher Zacharias is one of those Sailors who work about as far away from the flight deck as possible – JP-5 Pump Room 3. “We work 12-hour shifts,” said Zacharias. “It can be very boring, but without us, they can’t operate on the flight deck, so I know we are important.”

Every Sailor on every ship is important. Even though they may not make it into the evening news, the unsung and unseen are still heroes serving and protecting our country.

With a greater risk of postal terrorism during deployment, postal clerks, like PCSN Alicia King, handled the mail with increased precautions.

When people think of naval power, they don’t think of a barber shop unless their name is SH2 Daniel Sufton. “We are just as important as everyone else on the ship,” said Sufton. “Sailors come to the barber shop for a haircut, to relax and enjoy some good conversation.”
They grew up in ways foreign to many of their leaders. They were born in the era of computers and video games, and despite the generation gap, they have much to offer today’s Navy.

After the Navy hat ceremony, which follows the completion of Battle Stations, recruits are now U.S. Navy Sailors. With a new confidence and determination, they will pass in review at graduation and move on to various “A” schools, to continue their advanced training, or directly to the fleet to begin their service.
They are the new generation.

Though they’re not quite sure what their designation is – “Generation Y,” “Generation X-Squared” or the “PlayStation 2 Generation,” – there is one thing for certain – to the older folks, they sure are different. They’ve been brought up differently, they think differently and they go about their business differently.

Is that so bad? After all, the recruits who are in boot camp face a Navy that is different than the one we joined. It’s even different than the one your most junior Sailor enlisted into just a year ago.

The recruits at Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, Ill., face their future in the Navy with an uncertainty that many of us never had. It’s been more than 10 years since recruits joined the Armed Forces during a time of war.

One of the early stages of the “Sailorization” process is the recruits’ first haircut. This infamous stage of boot camp provides better hygiene and uniformity among the recruits.

With eyes forward, and toes somewhat in a straight line, who knows what’s going through the minds of these brand new recruits? After all, they just stepped off the bus minutes prior to receiving an earful from their welcoming party. FC3(SW) Christopher Thomas is the first face these recruits see at the beginning of the “Sailorization” process that will change them from civilians into squared away U.S. Navy Sailors.

For most recruits, letters are the only way to keep in touch with what’s going on with their families and friends at home. Much of the time words of caring and curiosity grace the letters as well as words of encouragement for the recruits to continue their hard work and successfully finish training.
and more than 60 years since the United States had been attacked on its own soil. As a matter of fact, many of the budding Sailors who currently march the hallowed streets of RTC, raised their hands in oath after the tragic events of September 11. They weren’t sure what they were getting into, but for the most part, they knew they wanted to do something to make a difference.

“I was really disappointed, because I was looking forward to coming here right away,” said Seaman Recruit Jon Fritzges, an 18-year-old who was scheduled to ship to boot camp September 11. Instead, he was delayed, as the country tried to sort through what had happened. “I was just sitting in the hotel watching the news about the attacks for about a week until we shipped. I was getting more and more excited about joining the Navy and heading off to boot camp.”

Despite the many differences in the world, there has been and always will be, a constant standard at Great Lakes – the training. “Our training has stayed the same because we have a master schedule to follow, but my intensity as an RDC (Recruit Division Commander) got a little bit heavier and intense,” said Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) (SW) Shaune Thornton. “I push a lot more Honor, Courage and Commitment than in the past, to emphasize mission accomplishment.”

As a whole, today’s recruits are stepping up to the plate to face the challenges of the new Navy. “I think the events of September 11 woke a lot of people up, especially the younger generation,” added Thornton. “Prior to that, the kids were coming in for the educational benefits and other purposes, and weren’t thinking about going overseas and putting their lives on the line. They realize now that it’s up to them to step up and carry the torch into the future.”

Thornton said he sees a difference in the young recruits every day. “They’re more dedicated than I have seen in the past and much easier to train. They want to be here and are dedicated to the mission.” For the most part, that mission at Great Lakes hasn’t changed since the first recruit walked through its gates July 3, 1911. Today, more than 50,000 brand new Sailors exit this base, north of Chicago, on their way to the fleet, following in the footsteps of the millions who have gone before them.

“I joined the military to serve my country, and it makes me feel good that these kids, despite being a new generation of Sailor, are willing to step up and serve their country also,” said RDC Aviation Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class (AW) Michael Curry. “These kids come from all walks of life, and it’s a challenge to take them and mold them into today’s Sailors.” That mold may have gone through some minor changes during the vast history of our Navy, but the final product has stayed much the same. And, although the civilians who enter the gates of boot camp are continually different than those who

### Instructional Training (IT)

Exercises are one of the recruit division commander’s training tools. “The sole purpose to give instructional training to a recruit is to correct substandard performance within a division,” said GSMC(SW) Shaune Thornton. “If they’re not coming together as a division or as a team, we have this tool to use to assist in our training.”

### Additional swim lessons

Additional swim lessons are needed for some recruits to complete their 3rd-class swim qualification so they can graduate boot camp. For many recruits, the challenge of diving in the water is quite large. Part of the battle though, just as in other stages of boot camp, is to conquer fear and accomplish the mission.
have come before, the end result, after some creative motivation by those who wear the red rope, is always the same. There is, and always will be, a lot of talk about how the new generation is lazy, or disrespectful, or doesn’t really know what they want. They wear sneakers instead of boots while training, so they are obviously not as “hardened” as we were back in our day. Right? Wrong!

Just as in the past, the training at Great Lakes is intended to ensure recruits leave better people. “Boot camp has really changed me,” said 18-year-old Airman Recruit Javagaun Griffin. “I used to be lazy, but now I am motivated and looking to get things done.”

Today’s new Sailors face an enemy that comes out of nowhere and has no respect for human life. Yet, these troops raised their hands, and vowed they will “Support and defend…” which says something about the inner make up of today’s youth and the way they were brought up.

“My family is extremely proud of me for joining the Navy,” said Fritzges. “At first, they were having second thoughts, but once I got talking about it – and they realized this was something I really wanted to do and I was taking the initiative to get things done, they ended up being really proud of me.”

A vast majority of new recruits just want to make a difference – they want their service to count for something. What better time than the present, when the United States finds itself in the middle of a new war, to head to the front lines and make America proud by keeping to the highest standard of the U.S. Navy.

“There’s no doubt about it, these recruits want to get out to the fleet and serve their country,” added Thorton. “They want to do their part for the country and for the cause, and whatever it takes for them to get there, they’re doing it.”

Despite having some differences in the way many of these young Sailors were brought up, when it comes right down to it, they truly understand what’s important. “I’m part of the United States Navy,” said AA Jared Bell, Division 472’s honor grad. “And I’m proud of that.”

Leadership is instilled in recruits early on at Great Lakes. Just as in the fleet, with rank comes responsibility, and recruits are counted on to perform the added duties that come when wearing the crown or anchor.
“OK, I need a volunteer to help me with...”

Admit it. Most of the time when you hear a sentence that begins with these words, you slouch down into your chair and hope whoever asked walks right past you and doesn’t give you a second glance.

Here, just like any other school in the country, two plus two still equals four, and reading skills don’t always come easy. But on many Saturdays during the year, the students of John Milton Gregory Elementary School in South Chicago are able to enjoy the company and education of Sailors from Naval Training Center Great Lakes.
After all, doesn’t N.A.V.Y. stand for “Never Again Volunteer Yourself?” That couldn’t be further from the truth. The Navy takes great pride in its volunteerism and community service—so much so, there is a medal for outstanding volunteer service. But throw away the colorful decoration on your chest, or the flowery citation in your service record, and what do you get? Why are Sailors so willing to raise their hands and eagerly say, “I’m your person!” taking what could be a productive, self-fulfilling weekend or evening, and spending it helping others? That’s what we do as service members in the U.S. Navy; that’s why.

―Seaman Recruit Tiffany Gervin, after spending a good portion of her Saturday morning tutoring elementary-age school children in South Chicago.

On select Saturdays during the school year, Gervin, along with several of the most junior Sailors at Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill., joins the veteran staff members on a 45-minute trek to the inner city of Chicago. Helping the youngsters of John Milton Gregory Elementary School with their reading and math skills gives these Sailors a way to give back to their local community.

“The people who participate in this program not only care about their community, but more importantly, they care about making a difference in that community,” said Chief Boatswain’s Mate (SW) Wesley Dew, coordinator for Saturday Scholars. Don’t be surprised if there is a larger purpose to the time spent away from the base though. After all, it is a training command. Pretty much everything done, both inside and outside of its gates, is directed toward developing the most productive, most well-rounded Sailors in the world. It is NTC Great Lakes’ hope that through community service, squared away Sailors will also grow into productive citizens, adding yet another facet to their growth as leaders.

Programs like Saturday Scholars allow the Navy to make a vast difference in people’s lives—especially young people’s lives.

“I like the way the Sailors mentor the kids,” said school principal Stanley Griggs. “During the day, (the students) don’t get the opportunity to be mentored in the way they have with the Navy. Whether it’s the one-on-one contact or small groups of students with a Sailor, the personal connection is what makes this so valuable—and something they don’t regularly get in the everyday classroom setting.”

Although Sailors provide a valuable service to these children, they also gain valuable experience from the children as well.

“I hope the Sailors leave here able to identify with kids who are from the inner city, and can see the struggles and obstacles these children face on a daily basis and will be able to take these experiences and apply them to their community back at home.”

―Seaman Recruit Tiffany Gervin, after spending a good portion of her Saturday morning tutoring elementary-age school children in South Chicago.
The students aren't the only ones who gain something from the Saturday morning visits. Sailors, like SA Tanessa Simon, who are the only person in her family who went to college, says the visits help her family feel connected to her. “My parents are so proud, and that’s the main reason I want to be a Sailor,” she said.

Not only are Sailors helping in the community, they are also part of a community. “I learned that there are other things you can do with your life besides just going to the office and coming home,” said Griggs. “You can work with the community and make a difference.”

The Navy should continually stay involved with its surrounding communities, because we come from those communities,” said Dew. “We, as Sailors, are also part of those communities; so we are helping to build our own backyard. “I always hear Sailors say they want to give back,” added Dew. “They just joined the Navy and this is a way they can develop a bond with the community, in addition to completing their Navy duties.”

So why the Navy? After all, there are many others in the community who can volunteer their time to help. Well, besides the fact that many civilians do get involved in their community, there are some things that only service members can offer, especially to young, impressionable children.

“Seeing the Navy people in their uniforms helps enforce the discipline lessons to the students,” said Griggs. “When they see the uniform, they see these are men and women who are very disciplined, which is an acceptable and good thing.”

“The kids are benefiting from it, academically as well as socially, and I feel the Navy benefits as well,” added Griggs. “To me, it’s something that you can’t put a price on.”

No matter how you break it down, volunteering within the community is a priceless opportunity with rewards and benefits on both sides of the fence. Like that of putting on the uniform, it’s a choice that comes down to one’s commitment to service.

“As Sailors, we serve our country, and to me part of serving your country is helping everyone who needs help,” said Gervin. “It doesn’t only mean fighting wars overseas, but also fighting those battles in our own country. Helping those who are less fortunate is just as important.”

Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Who’s really getting the most out of this? For a long time, Sailors, like SR Michael Pummel (left) and SR Jorge Ponjuan from Coronopus “A” School, Great Lakes, have participated in Project White Hat, a community service program when junior troops join children of the Child Life Center at Children’s Hospital in downtown Chicago to color white hats in hopes of lifting spirits. Despite the fact they go to spend time helping patients and family members through difficult times, much of the time the Sailors leave just as inspired and uplifted as those in the hospital.

Every night of the week, junior Sailors from NTC Great Lakes volunteer their evening to the PADs program helping run the local homeless shelters, and providing food, shelter and an ear to talk to. “They could be somewhere else, but they’re here making a difference,” said Willie Foster, a 47-year-old beneficiary of the program. “I think those folks are heroes. You don’t have to have a weapon and running out of a camp to be one either, just being here and helping us out makes them heroes in my mind.”

Great Lakes Three:

Committed to Community

MARCH 2002 • ALL HANDS

A L L  H A N D S  •  w w w . n e w s . n a v y . m i l

NTC Great Lakes

Story and photos by
JO1 Preston Keres

Whether it’s cleaning up a local beach, donating blood at one of the several blood drives, boosting the morale of ill children at the Children’s Hospital, spending time at the nearby homeless shelters or myriad other community service projects, Naval Training Center (NTC) Great Lakes, Ill., takes volunteerism to another level.

Not only is NTC helping the community through its several volunteer programs, they also keep the growth of Sailors as both service members and citizens.

“Not only are we in the military when we wear the Navy uniform, but we are also citizens as well,” and Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Milton Bishop, Project White Hat coordinator, who oversees the Children’s Hospital volunteer effort. “Programs like Project White Hat allow us, as Sailors, to develop those skills as citizens by volunteering and helping everyone who needs help.”

The Navy’s Core Values – Honor, Courage and Commitment – are discussed before and after each volunteer effort to bring home the true reason and goal behind the junior troop’s efforts.

“They represent the nation, and it shows the nation cares,” said Willie Foster, a 47-year-old who benefits from the PADs program, a program that feeds and shelters the local homeless. “They’re not being ordered to come here. They volunteer out of the kindness of their hearts. That shows what America is made of.”

Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

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Building/Fighting 101

At this school, the “fight song” is the sound of deafening explosions, the school “mascot” is a Sailor decked out from head to toe in the latest Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) suit and the “classroom” is in the middle of a forest just outside Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. This institution of higher learning is a makeshift battlefield, where a group of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 will be educated on the intricacies of their mission. Welcome to Building/Fighting 101—or as the Seabees call it, Field Exercise (FEX).

Editor’s Note: As the 60th anniversary of the Navy’s Seabees approaches, once again training like that highlighted in this story has proven invaluable for our Seabees serving in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as they fight and build in the War on Terrorism.
“The goal of the FEX is to put these Seabees in a mock wartime environment— in a foreign land, and evaluate them based on how they react to various scenarios,” said Builder 1st Class (SCW) Clarke Jeffers, an instructor with the regiment. The instructors teach everything from building bridges while dealing with hostile civilians, to defending against attack. “We cram about nine months of real-time battle situations into 10 days.”

These battle scenarios come quickly, and without warning. The quiet serenity of a morning in the woods shattered by a loud voice shouting “incoming” from a nearby foxhole.

The whole camp jumps into motion, and the warrior-pupils drop whatever they are doing and run to their posts. Smoke begins to fill the air as yet another voice bellows, “Gas! Gas! Gas!” Then, like a well-orchestrated Broadway costume change, camouflaged Sailors are soon wearing rubber chemical suits and gas masks, making the entire scene look like something out of a sci-fi film.

Without warning, a platoon of aggressors emerge from the smoke-filled trees while firing in all directions, and head toward the friendly camp, now filled with loud cries for help.

Methodically, the men and women of NMCB 3 take action. Returning fire and maintaining their position, they hold their ground as the intruders approach the concertina wire encircling the perimeter. The fictitious battle soon ends with the enemy falling back and

The whole camp jumps into motion, and the warrior-pupils drop whatever they are doing and run to their posts.
He added that their ability to bring attention to even the little mistakes, allows the instructors to help the students learn and grow.

Normally, the FEX scenario begins with a battalion coming into the “country.” Instructors will dress as friendly civilians and greet them, asking for food and water. As part of the training, instructors then pose as hostile civilians who arrive and disrupt the Seabees’ efforts by pulling down fences and protesting. “We are checking to see how the battalion reacts,” said Jeffers. “Whenever a scenario goes down, we debrief the individuals and the command posts to let them know how their troops reacted and what they need to work on.”

Spending an average of 120-150 days a year in the field, these instructors combine years of talent with their extensive experience to provide constructive criticism about what they did right and what they did wrong. After all, their mission, while on FEX, is to teach the Seabees how to deal with every possible situation, and to prepare them for real-world combat. “It’s a learning experience every time,” said NMCB 3 forward gunner on mortars, Constructionman Desmond Sims. “These instructors help us out a lot.” He added that their ability to bring attention to even the little mistakes, allows the instructors to help the students learn and grow.

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Building / Fighting
101

Concertina wire (a form of razor-sharp barbed wire) is used for setting the perimeter of the base camps. Once it snags you, it becomes very difficult to get out of and can leave scrapes and cuts.

The “Can Do” Seabees have always proclaimed, “We build, we fight.” For that matter, Building/Fighting 101 graduates can proudly add, “Now we can do even more!”

How to deal with civilians and hostile attacks isn’t the only thing the Seabees learn during this special training. “We teach them how to set up strong-back tents, bridges and anything else they may need,” said Steeberker 1st Class (SCW) Gerald Wheeler, another instructor. “During wartime, we would need to build bridges to keep the roads open so the Marines can keep getting supplies. We also show them how to respond to runway attacks and how to fix [damaged runways] in good time.”

With instructors at the battlefield blackboards around the clock, typically in 12-hour shifts, they are always on the lookout for safety issues and crew welfare, as well as enhancing the students’ professional knowledge. “We want to make sure everybody is getting enough water, food and sleep,” said Jeffers. “Then we start asking more technical questions, like, ‘What’s your mission in this position?’ or ‘How many personnel are in your squad?’” Jeffers added that the questions vary from day to day, so the instructors can get a feel for how much the troops actually know.

“Everyone is drilled; from the Seabee on the front line to senior leaders at the Command Operations Center (COC),” Jeffers said. “We make sure they are getting all their intelligence, where they have their defensive boundaries, communications, fire plans, wire plans and obstacle plans. Then scenarios are adjusted according to how the instructors try to make it as real as possible. The mental anguish of the Seabees, while the instructors try to make it as real as possible.

One of the more realistic tools used during FEX is the caustic sulfate (CS) gas. “We use this because it is an irritant, and forces the units being trained to use the proper procedures as if they were in an actual chemical, biological or radiological environment,” said BUC(SCW) Emiel Martens.

Each FEX lasts 10 days. As newly-qualified Seabees pack for home, they reflect on their battle learning experience. “Now that it’s over, it wasn’t as hard as I thought it would be,” said Engineering Aide Recruit Carolina Gogoy about her first FEX. “When I came here, I didn’t know much, but the instructors helped me out a lot, especially while I was on watch. They would come out to talk to me, to make sure I was doing everything all right.”

The “Can Do” Seabees have always proclaimed, “We build, we fight.” For that matter, Building/Fighting 101 graduates can proudly add, “Now we can do even more!” because they too are on the front lines of battle, 60 years after their inception. Using their training in the war against terrorism.

Ansarov is a San Diego-based photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

On the final day of the FEX, Seabees of NMCB 3 were subjected to one last attack by aggressors. This gave the instructors the opportunity to unfold the remainder of their smoke and CS gas grenades, leaving an eerie scene throughout the camp.
Those who know what ship life is like, know that finding time for fun and fitness on a daily basis is quite a challenge. For Glen Groone and Julia Valentour, on board USS Nimitz (CVN 68), this is a challenge they are willing to "entertain" and "work out" — literally.

Commonly known by the crew as the "Fun Boss" and the "Sweat Boss", these civilians make it their goal to keep the ship in shape; promoting and creating fun and relaxing entertainment throughout those long cruises. "The lifestyle of the average Sailor on a ship isn't as active as it should be," says Valentour, the afloat fitness director.

With prior experience as a personal trainer, and holding a Master's degree in Exercise and Physical Fitness, Valentour tries to keep all her Sailors in top shape. "Before doing anything, I will interview the Sailor, asking them their eating habits, activities, etc. From that, I can write up a fitness program to help them get back on track to becoming physically fit."

"I've been in the business for the past 20 years," says Groone, the afloat recreation specialist. His job is to promote MWR events while underway and create tours and port call activities in the various countries the ship may visit.

Together, these two "bosses of R&R" help to greatly increase the morale of the ship, while benefiting the health and welfare of the individuals.

Afloat recreation specialist and afloat fitness directors are presently being assigned to aircraft carriers and some large amphibious ships.
Eye on the Fleet

Eye on the Fleet is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Chief of Information Navy Visual News Service. We are looking for high impact, quality photography from Sailors in the fleet to showcase the American Sailor in action.

Seabee Security
A Seabee attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 113 provides perimeter security for a C-17 Globemaster III aircraft from the 437th Airlift Wing at Rhino Base in Afghanistan during the first-ever strategic airlift operation by a C-17 aircraft into an undeveloped dirt landing strip in support of a combat infil of personnel and equipment.

Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez

Photo Ops
A Sailor on board USS Carl Vinson photographs USS Antietam (CG 54) as she takes her position for a multinational photo opportunity. Vinson and her battle group are part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by PH2 Andrew Meyers

Sunset Supplies
As the sun goes down, USS Bataan (LHD 5), makes her way across the Arabian Sea, followed by the fast combat support ship USS Detroit (AOE 6), while operating in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by PHC Johnny Bivera

SPECWAR Inspection
Special Warfare and Marine Corps boarding parties from USS Ingraham (FFG 61) inspect containers aboard the Motor Vessel Kota Sejarah for illegal contraband and Al Qaeda troops in the Arabian Sea in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by PH1(AW) Tim Turner

To be considered, forward your high resolution (5” x 7” at 300 dpi) images with full credit and cutline information, including full name, rank and duty station. Name all identifiable people within the photo and include important information about what is happening, where the photo was taken and the date. Commands with digital photo capability can send attached .jpg files to: navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil

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Eye on History is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Naval Historical Center. For more photos pertaining to naval history, go to www.history.navy.mil.

1945
Seabees of the 7th Seaplane and Dock Construction Battalion dredge coral for the base causeway in Okinawa.

1943
Veiled in mosquito netting to fend off insects bearing malaria germs, Seabees build a road at a South Pacific base.

1945
Navy construction battalion personnel use a crawler tractor and wheel loader to move sand during the construction of berms that will house weapons during Operation Desert Shield.

1992
Seabee driver G.L. Reil gets his assignment and a word of advice from Chief Warrant Officer A.H. Corb during training at the Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, Calif.

1960’s
Sam finds there are sidewalk engineers even in Vietnam, as more than one critical eye lines up a corner pole on the schoolhouse in Tran Hung Dao.

1992
Navy construction battalion personnel use a crawler tractor and wheel loader to move sand during the construction of berms that will house weapons during Operation Desert Shield.

Photo by Air Force Sgt. Bill Thompson.
Freedom of Cyber Speech

Story by JO1 Joseph Gunder

We’re in the midst of fighting a war on terrorism, and public support for America’s military forces has never been higher. That’s great, but how can Sailors, Marines, Airman and Soldiers benefit from that emotional support, besides watching the news? The threat of anthrax-tainted mail has forced DOD to reconsider the tradition of the general public sending mail to “any service member.” That put a serious damper on goodwill messages coming from the general public to deployed military personnel.

Still, the public voice was loud and clear and beckoned to be heard. So, the Navy came up with a high-tech answer — their “LIFEline.” Americans wishing to write messages of support have been able to surf the LIFElines web site and write a short message (up to 1,000 characters) not just to Sailors, but to any branch of service as well. There have been thousands of messages expressing support, good wishes, a joke or whatever they wanted.

Those serving in the defense of our homeland and on the frontlines of the war on terrorism need only go online to read America’s words of appreciation. Here are just a few samples:

Hang In There
Though things may seem rough now, there is always calm after the storm. United we stand with pride, I wish all the men and women in the Navy love, peace and happiness. Hurry home Guys! Love From OKC.

Terri Moore
Oklahoma City

Hello, Happy and Blessed 2002 and Thank You!
Hello to a dear member of the U.S. Navy — I wanted to personally thank you for leaving your family, especially at the holidays, to protect the United States and the rest of the world. I am so very appreciative of what you are doing! I work in downtown Detroit, and we can see the Windsor tunnel, the entrance to the U.S. from Canada, from our window. We never thought to be concerned about this until 9/11/01.

You are making a difference in my life, and in so many other lives. I am very proud of your work and sacrifice.

Mary Mitchell
Detroit

Many Thanks
Don’t give up! Everywhere you go in the United States, flags are hanging, kids are wearing red, white & blue, and people are singing the national anthem and “God Bless America.” You have truly made a difference in our lives and we are thankful. We are so proud of all of you and of your families for the support they offer you. You are fighting for the American dream — what this nation was founded on. Thank you.

Ann, Dunnellen
Fla.

Being American
Being American is not easy. We live in an open society that values freedom above all else. We live our lives in freedom here in the states because of the sacrifices you are making. Know that your efforts are much appreciated. I hope that these messages make a difference in your daily lives. You are making a difference in our daily lives.

You are fighting for the American dream — what this nation was founded on. Thank you and God bless America!

Dan & Juliet London
Atlanta

It’s expected, that a free people would desire to freely express their thoughts to the defenders of their freedom. As long as there are American Forces deployed, there will be cyber messages of support from those who are grateful back home.

You are encouraged to read these messages of support and suggest to your friends and family that they leave a note for any service members at www.lifelines2000.org, and click on “Operation Dear Abby.net,” or go to the alternate site at anyservicemember.navy.mil.

Gunder is a journalist assigned to All Hands and assistant editor of NavNews.

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