Life in Bahrain

Naval Coastal Warfare's Duty in the Desert

EVEN DAY WARRIORS
14 Summer Vacation?

This summer, Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, Ill., hosted the Naval Junior ROTC’s annual Leadership Academy. More than 170 Midwestern high school students from 48 NJROTC programs traded their summer vacation mid-afternoon wake-up calls for two weeks of training, for the opportunity to be more than just well-trained cadets — they want to be leaders.

22 Everyday Warriors

You see the commercials on TV, “Join the Reserves! Just two weekends a month, and two weeks a year. Earn money for college and get an education.” But for the Reservists of Naval Coastal Warfare (NCW), it’s been one heck of a weekend. Most of these Sailors have been activated two or three times since 9/11, totaling close to two years active duty for some. We see them so often, we think they are Regular Navy.

30 Life in Bahrain

In the summer, temperatures on this island nation can be as high as 140 degrees. It’s an oppressive heat that takes away your breath and burns your skin as soon as you step out the door. There are no mountains, no rivers and no forests. Read on to discover why so many Sailors stationed in Bahrain decide to extend their one-year tour of duty.

36 Pursuing a Dream

Cryptologic Administration Technician Seaman Phillip Lewis grew up in Chicago, home of major league baseball’s Cubs and White Sox, and has always dreamed of playing professional baseball. Since the age of seven, Lewis has been in pursuit of this dream, becoming skilled in every position on the baseball field — from shortstop to center field. His hard work recently paid off when he received the opportunity to try out for the Baltimore Orioles.
SN Chris Massie, a member of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard, Washington, D.C. Massie must pay attention to detail when he shines the brass on a belt. Duty in the ceremonial guard is a never-ending cycle of practice, cleaning, grooming and performing. The ceremonial guard is the elite Navy drill team that performs on Tuesdays for the public at the U.S. Navy Memorial, and at other venues for heads of state and military dignitaries. Divisions within the guard are also responsible for military honors on burial details where they lay America’s service members to rest. The unit is made up of hand-picked Sailors reporting from Recruit Training Command. The Ceremonial Drill Team also has public performances that showcase their professional routines.
MA1 Anthony Ortiz confers with another Sailor from the security department at Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, before heading into a building where a “suspicious package” was found. The mock package was planted as part of a drill for NAF Atsugi’s Disaster Response Team. Ortiz used a military working dog to find the package and determine if it contained explosive material.
Speaking with Sailors

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

The Following Question Came from the Recent All Hands Call in Mayport, Fla.

Q: I am a single parent who is getting ready to deploy. I’ve made arrangements for my parents to care for my young children while I’m away. I am concerned about the cost of buying food for my family. I normally buy all of our groceries at the commissary, but my children are still too young to shop on their own. Will my parents be able to shop for food for my children at the commissary while I’m away?

A: Yes. Since your dependent children are still authorized commissary shopping privileges while you are deployed, your parents can take advantage of the Agent Pass Authorization Program. This program allows you to request that the individual who is caring for your children be authorized to shop in a commissary on your behalf while you are away.

Obtaining an Agent Pass Authorization prior to deployment will ensure dependents can continue to take advantage of the commissary shopping benefit. The authority can be authorized by commanding officers for up to a year when no adult dependent member is capable of shopping due to sickness or because of being stationed away from the household. You can find all of the details in DOD Directive 1330.17, paragraph 1-201.11.

Q: Why can’t we give advancement points to Sailors who choose to earn a second warfare qualification?

A: If the Navy were to award points toward advancement for Sailors who earned multiple warfare pins, we would be giving an unfair advantage to those assigned to commands where it is possible to qualify in more than one specialty. Many Sailors are assigned to commands that do not have warfare programs, while many others have the opportunity to qualify in only one specialty. It is important to realize that warfare programs are intended to give us the tools needed to accomplish our mission. They are not meant merely to serve as an individual reward. We want the very best Sailors to advance without giving preference to Sailors who were fortunate enough to be stationed at a command offering the opportunity for multiple warfare qualifications.

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You Shot It! You Got It!

We received thousands of your images and chose only the best from around the fleet.

Be sure to pick up the October 2003 All Hands magazine and see what your fellow shipmates have been doing.

ANY DAY IN THE NAVY

OCTOBER 2003

ALL HANDS • www.news.navy.mil • SEPTEMBER 2003 • ALL HANDS
The Navy has adjusted high-year tenure (HYT) limits for 3rd class petty officers from 10 to eight years, as part of its continuing effort to improve combat readiness, shape the force and maintain a healthy advancement opportunity.

The changes will be phased in through August 2004 to give Sailors and their families the opportunity to adequately prepare for their transition to a post-Navy career. “Our aggressive growth in the Top Six pay grades, combined with the historic retention we are still seeing, tells me we are on the right path to developing a more experienced workforce,” said Chief of Naval Personnel VADM Gerry Hoewing.

“Our HYT adjustment affects 3rd Class Petty Officers (3rd Class POs). This adjustment will provide that some family may be leaving us as a result of this change. As we continue to shape the size and scope of our force, we must do so with a strong commitment to providing healthy advancement opportunity and the highest possible quality of service.”

For more complete details on the revised high-year tenure policies, see NAVADMIN 160/02. For related news, visit the chief of naval personnel Navy News page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cpn.

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

ABAN William Turpin from Bakersfield, Calif., participates in the Navywide advancement examination for Petty Officer 3rd Class. The exam is offered once every six months to eligible Sailors Navywide. July 2002 E-4 HYT change from 12 years to 10 years, announced in NAVADMIN 208/02. There are some exceptions to this revised HYT policy. However, commands must notify PERS-832 in Millington, Tenn., prior to affecting HYT limits. Those reaching old E-4 HYT limits (12 years) prior to Sept. 30 must separate when they accrue 12 years of total active service. Sailors with greater than 10 years of service between now and Sept. 30 must separate no later than Sept. 30. E-4 Sailors completing 10 years of service between Oct. 1, 2003, and Aug. 31, 2004, must separate no later than Aug. 31, 2004.

Sailors completing eight years of service as an E-4 after Aug. 31, 2004, must separate when they accrue eight years of total active service. ACM Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SC) Tom Shanahan, prior to affecting reenlistment obligations for a formal training, reenlisting request who are required to obligate service for a formal school are exempt, with certain limits.

Sailors in critical pay grades, underranked ratings or holding specific Navy enlisted classification codes (NECCs) should submit a HYT waiver through their chain of command. The approval process takes into consideration a minimum of four factors: end strength, community manning (advancement opportunity and rate readiness), scope and billet priority and quality of life issues. Those reaching old E-4 HYT limits (12 years) prior to Sept. 30 must separate when they accrue 12 years of total active service. Sailors with greater than 10 years of service between now and Sept. 30 must separate no later than Sept. 30. E-4 Sailors completing 10 years of service between Oct. 1, 2003, and Aug. 31, 2004, must separate no later than Sept. 30. E-4 Sailors completing 10 years of service between Oct. 1, 2003, and Aug. 31, 2004, must separate no later than Sept. 30.

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

Sailors and their families the opportunity to adequately prepare for their transition to a post-Navy career.

“The Navy’s selection of bottlenose dolphins and California sea lions for its operational systems is based on a variety of factors, one of the most important of which is their ability to work comfortably and effectively in a wide variety of environments. ‘They’re able to adapt rapidly, and their biological sonar is very effective,’ said Naval Space and Warfare (SPAWAR) representative, Mark Yates, referring to the mammals’ special natural adaptations, such as an efficient hydrodynamic shape, and their very effective natural sonar system that can transmit and receive sound waves. ‘The adaptations make the animals valuable partners in detecting underwater mines,’ added Sonar Technician (Submarines) 1st Class Dan Cook, SPAWAR representative.

“Armed-based systems have limitations that the dolphins make up for naturally. This helps them discriminate between objects and swimmers and is particularly helpful in high noise environments, such as harbors and bays.”

With terrorist attacks like that against USS Cole (DDG 67) in October 2000 still a very real possibility, the U.S. Navy has a new ally in the global war on terrorism – the Mk 6 anti-swimmer dolphin system.

“Many more than your typical Sea World entertainers, these animals valuable partners in defending our brave men and women, and hardware lack, the swimmer defense dolphins provide a formidable defense for U.S. Navy ships and facilities. Their ability to operate in diverse environments make them easily deployable to other areas in the Arabian Gulf, providing stability in the region,” said Chief of Naval Operations (Navy) Adm. Vern Elingson, recently became heroes by saving a Korean girl who had stopped breathing while riding the subway between Incheon and Seoul. After discovering her pulse and breathing had stopped, the sailors administered rescue breathing and chest compressions. They carried the young girl from the train and treated her for shock.

“Now we need to ensure we maintain the same healthy advancement flow for our up-coming career-minded Sailors. This adjustment will help us do that.”

This HYT adjustment affects E-4s who will reach eight or more years of service between now and Aug. 31, 2004.

Currently, there are 1,685 E-4s with greater than eight years of service (1,249 E-4s in their eighth year of service and 3,094 E-4s in their seventh year of service). All affected Sailors will have the chance to compete in both the September 2003 and March 2004 exam cycles.

“This is not a decision the Navy makes lightly,” said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SC) Terry D. Scott. “We understand the impact this will have on some of their families and their lives. This revision has been carefully phased in to give Sailors adequate time to prepare for their futures and to minimize the impact on their lives.”

A transition period has been developed that will take into account the new HYT limits, as well as the final stages of the July 2002 E-4 HYT change from 12 years to 10 years, announced in NAVADMIN 208/02.

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Sailors completing eight years of service as an E-4 after Aug. 31, 2004, must separate when they accrue eight years of total active service.

“Our bottom line and our continued focus,” added Hoewing, “is to ensure the combat readiness of the fleet, by shaping the force to provide the right number of Sailors with the right training at the right time, and that those Sailors have a defined career path.”

“We value the service of all our brave men and women, and understand that some may be leaving us as a result of this change. As we continue to shape the size and scope of our force, we must do so with a strong commitment to providing healthy advancement opportunity and the highest possible quality of service.”

For more complete details on the revised high-year tenure policies, see NAVADMIN 160/02, available soon on NAVADMIN pages. For related news, visit the chief of naval personnel Navy News page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cpn.

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Story courtesy of the public affairs office, Chief of Naval Personnel
**USS Florida:** An End and a Beginning

**USS Florida (SSBN 728)** arrived at Norfolk Naval Shipyard for the start of a process that will change the submarine from a ballistic missile carrier into the Navy’s newest and most awesome conventional weapon, the guided-missile submarine (SSGN). The beginning of the shipyard process capped off a 10-month period filled with activity.

In September, Florida completed her 61st and final deterrent patrol, marking the end of an era which began with her December 2002 S8G (SSGN concept. Thus equipped, the submarine participated in some highly successful experiments, including the launching of two Trident I missiles, the first for a Trident submarine, and a combined forces exercise called Giant Shadow, which demonstrated the feasibility of the SSGN concept.

The SSGN will have the capability to support and launch up to 15 Tomahawk missiles, a significant increase in capacity as compared to other platforms. The 22 missile tubes will also provide the capability to carry other payloads, such as unmanned underwater vehicles, unmanned aerial vehicles and special forces equipment. This new platform will also have the capability to carry and support more than 66 Navy SEALs (Sea, Air and Land) and insert them clandestinely into potential conflict areas.

The overhaul itself has two parallel phases. One is the engineering refueling overhaul (ERO) and the other is the SSGN conversion. Florida’s SSGN reactor, after more than 20 years of operation, will be refueling a process that will change the submarine from a ballistic missile carrier into the Navy’s newest and most awesome conventional weapon, the guided-missile submarine (SSGN).

New Assignment Incentive Pay

**USS Florida (SSBN 728)** makes her way to her new homeport at Naval Station Norfolk. Florida is one of four Ohio-class submarines to be listed on the conversion to conventional weapon (SSGN) submarines.

**New Assignment Incentive Pay**

**Lets Sailors Name Their Price**

You can now earn extra money and improve your career opportunities just by taking orders to some overseas locations. Under a new pilot program known as Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP), Sailors being detailed to certain assignments in Misawa, Japan; Naples, Italy; and Sigonella, Sicily, may be eligible for up to $450 per month. The AIP will use the same formula for bidding as the existing incentive pay program, and the Navy has already identified a number of overseas locations where Sailors will be eligible for AIP.

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Simulation training will help ready Sailors for a variety of situations, such as those that will occur in the months ahead when they are scheduled to fill in for AIP.

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COLD New York rain pelted the lush, green outfield of "The Home of Champions" as Chief Machinist Mate (SS/SW) Dave Maldonado made his way to Monument Park at Yankee Stadium. The event marked the first annual reenlistment ceremony held in Monument Park located behind the centerfield wall. The park, with its five red granite monuments and 19 plaques dedicated to the men who have made the Yankee legend, is the only one of its kind in major league baseball.

"I had originally planned on doing it at the World War II Champions" as Chief Avionics Technician (SW) Steven Dixon, Bonhomme Richard safety officers' leading chief petty officer, â€œwe're doing a lot of things. We're innovative and thinking out of the box to keep people into safety and out of complicity." Dixon said being proactive in the safety program is the reason why Bonhomme Richard has been recognized as the safest large-deck amphibious ship in the fleet for the fourth straight year.

Bonhomme Richard safety office prints a newsletter to inform Sailors and Marines about possible hazards or unsafe practices aboard the ship. Dixon said the safety office also gets involved in regular and special shipboard evolutions. "Every evolution the ship does – safety is called attention to whether in port or at sea, whether work-related or recreational," he said.

The continued success of the ship's divisional safety petty officers are properly trained, and in U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Phoenix's experience, "it's not about winning awards. It's definitely a team effort around the fleet." Maldonado was assigned to the public affairs office prints a newsletter to updated on new safety concerns to the men who have made the Yankee legend, is the only one of its kind in major league baseball. "It just makes the Yankee Stadium, but because it will be our duty to keep jets flying and we're also there to look after one another since it is a pretty dangerous place." the teams, Dixon pointed out how "it's not about winning awards. It's about safe flying and keeping everyone safe." Dixon said being proactive in the safety program is the reason why Bonhomme Richard has been recognized as the safest large-deck amphibious ship in the fleet for the fourth straight year.

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Summer Vacation?

Midwest High School Cadets Spent Two Weeks at RTC Great Lakes

"Dear Mom and Dad,

I’m having a blast here at camp. We got up at 5:30 a.m., marched to breakfast, ran two miles, and – hey - remember that girl that I fought with all the time? Well, we’re best friends now.

Tomorrow I’m learning how to sail, but don’t worry I won’t drown because Navy Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmers taught me how to swim!

OK, I have to go because we’re having an inspection in an hour and I want to have the best made bed. This camp is the best! Love always …"

Recruit Division Commander
MS1(SW/AW) Felicia Bronson inspects cadets from Charlie Company.
Does this sound like the letter you wrote to your parents from summer camp?

It might have, if you graduated from the Naval Junior ROTC’s annual Leadership Academy held this past summer at Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, Ill.

More than 170 M idwestern high school students from 48 NJROTC programs traded in summer vacation to attend the academy because it grooms them to accept senior leadership roles – they want to be leaders. NJROTC helps kids become good citizens,” said Senior Naval Science Instructor (SNSI) Michael Robinson, a retired Navy commander, who teaches at Flint Central High School in Michigan.

“NJROTC is all about — being a good cadet. We teach them what it takes to become the leaders of the NJROTC units back at their high schools.”

The Naval Junior ROTC Leadership Academy began in 1980 in Norfolk, as a way of preparing cadets to properly assume leadership roles within their NJROTC units, such as cadet commanding and executive officers, better than anything else offered within the NJROTC community.

“Being at RTC allows the cadets to see real recruits doing things the way Sailors ought to do them,” said retired Chief Petty Officer Craig White. “Hopefully, the cadets will take what they learned here and apply it to their own NJROTC programs.”

“This is the toughest training I’ve ever gone through,” said Cadet LCDR Sangjoon Jin, from Shawnee Mission West, Kan. “Last year, I attended the U.S. Naval Academy’s leadership training seminar, and it was a lot easier there. Here, we had tough, tough inspections because of the RDCs (Recruit Division Commanders).”

Each cadet was hand selected based on demonstrated leadership potential, a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and overall military drill proficiency.

“We select cadets for the leadership academy a lot like a football coach might select a team captain.” “We want someone other cadets will respect, someone who understands what NJROTC is all about — someone who can have command presence,” said Robinson.

But, brains alone aren’t enough to qualify cadets for the academy. They must be considered physically-fit based on the Navy’s Physical Readiness Standards (OPNAVINST 6110.1D) and must be considered physically-fit based on the President’s Challenge Physical Fitness Awards program for 14-17 year-olds. One of the goals at the Leadership Academy challenges cadets to pass the Navy’s Physical Fitness Test based on the Navy’s Physical Readiness Standards (OPNAVINST 6110.1D) for 17 year-olds. The PFT for cadets includes the 1.5-mile run, curl-ups and push-ups, the same as Sailors.

Even if cadets make it through the two-week leadership academy academically and militarily, a PFT failure robs the cadet of the coveted silver cord that signifies being a leadership academy graduate and leaves them with only a certificate of completion.

“ ‘No one comes here for the certificate,” said Cadet Petty Officer 2nd Class Josiah Branson, Madisonville North High School, Hopkinsville, Ky. “We all want that silver cord.”

Fortunately, PFT failures are rare at the academy level, and NJROTC inherently motivates cadets who want to succeed both academically and physically. NJROTC provides cadets with the neces-
more than an hour, attended classes and drilled throughout the day. There were no televisions, e-mail, stashes of candy or even privacy beyond what open-bay barracks afforded the cadets. The close-quartered living conditions provided the cadets with unique leadership training opportunities beyond running, drilling and academia.

“I saw a lot of cadets come down to earth here,” said Cadet Aide CDR Jason Trotter, Taft High School, Chicago, who graduated from Leadership Academy last year and serves as a liaison between the cadets and instructors.

“All of these cadets were used to being

NJROTC changed my life forever,” said NJROTC Cadet Senior Chief Petty Officer Jenna Hoops, Flint Central High School, Flint, Mich. “I started high school with the wrong attitude and the wrong priorities. The most important skill I learned so far has been self-discipline,” she added. “It has allowed me to really listen to what teachers, my parents, and even my friends have to say.”

Hoops’ new perspective is more than just talk. Since joining NJROTC as a freshman she has raised her overall grade-point average from 2.0 to 3.0. In addition to turning her academics around, she abandoned an unhealthy lifestyle, which caused her to fail her first NJROTC PFT, and became one of the physical fitness leaders of Bravo Company at Leadership Academy. Her newfound confidence in herself led her to join her school’s NJROTC exhibition drill team, which placed first last year at the coveted Grove City Invitational in Ohio.

Some cadets, like Chief Petty Officer Claudia Samano, Wheeling High School, Ill., had to wait until Leadership Academy to face their fears. Part of the curriculum at the academy included qualifying as a third class swimmer at RTC’s Combat Training Pool.

“I walked in afraid of the water,” said Samano. “I didn’t know what to do, but I knew I needed to learn how to swim. Seeing cadets jumping off that 10-foot platform didn’t help me build up courage - but the Navy guys did.”

Those “Navy guys” Samano is referring to are the instructors at the Combat Training Pool. From basic water orientation to conquering the 10-foot plunge and passing the third class swimmer’s test, Navy instructors, mostly SAR-qualified swimmers, coach, motivate and praise cadets, recruits and each other to be the very best they can be.

“The Navy teachers were fast,” said Samano. “I walked in there petrified and the next thing I knew, I was jumping off the high dive. It was a good thing I learned how to swim,” Samano added, “because when we went sailing, I capsize my boat three times.”

Building confidence plays a significant role in preparing these cadets to become commanding officers, and the leadership academy is designed to push cadets well beyond their personal comfort levels, so that they can fully realize their potential.

“Some people say that kids today are fragile, but they’re not,” said retired Master Chief Petty Officer Richard Freitag, an instructor at the Leadership Academy. “If you set high expectations and teach kids how to reach their goals, you’ll be surprised at just how much they can achieve.”

Fragile cadets would have never survived the leadership academy at RTC. Cadets woke up every morning by 5:30 a.m., marched to breakfast, exercised for more than an hour, attended classes and drilled throughout the day.

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building life skills to overcome any obstacles in their lives.

NJROTC changed my life forever,” said Cadet Senior Chief Petty Officer Jenna Hoops, Flint Central High School, Flint, Mich. “I started high school with the wrong attitude and the wrong priorities. The most important skill I learned so far has been self-discipline,” she added. “It has allowed me to really listen to what teachers, my parents, and even my friends have to say.”

Hoops’ new perspective is more than just talk. Since joining NJROTC as a freshman she has raised her overall grade-point average from 2.0 to 3.0. In addition to turning her academics around, she abandoned an unhealthy lifestyle, which caused her to fail her first NJROTC PFT, and became one of the physical fitness leaders of Bravo Company at Leadership Academy. Her newfound confidence in herself led her to join her school’s NJROTC exhibition drill team, which placed first last year at the coveted Grove City Invitational in Ohio.

Some cadets, like Chief Petty Officer Claudia Samano, Wheeling High School, Ill., had to wait until Leadership Academy to face their fears. Part of the curriculum at the academy included qualifying as a third class swimmer at RTC’s Combat Training Pool.

“I walked in afraid of the water,” said Samano. “I didn’t know what to do, but I knew I needed to learn how to swim. Seeing cadets jumping off that 10-foot platform didn’t help me build up courage - but the Navy guys did.”

Those “Navy guys” Samano is referring to are the instructors at the Combat Training Pool. From basic water orientation to conquering the 10-foot plunge and passing the third class swimmer’s test, Navy instructors, mostly SAR-qualified swimmers, coach, motivate and praise cadets, recruits and each other to be the very best they can be.

“The Navy teachers were fast,” said Samano. “I walked in there petrified and the next thing I knew, I was jumping off the high dive. It was a good thing I learned how to swim,” Samano added, “because when we went sailing, I capsize my boat three times.”

Building confidence plays a significant role in preparing these cadets to become commanding officers, and the leadership academy is designed to push cadets well beyond their personal comfort levels, so that they can fully realize their potential.

“Some people say that kids today are fragile, but they’re not,” said retired Master Chief Petty Officer Richard Freitag, an instructor at the Leadership Academy. “If you set high expectations and teach kids how to reach their goals, you’ll be surprised at just how much they can achieve.”

Fragile cadets would have never survived the leadership academy at RTC. Cadets woke up every morning by 5:30 a.m., marched to breakfast, exercised for more than an hour, attended classes and drilled throughout the day.

There were no televisions, e-mail, stashes of candy or even privacy beyond what open-bay barracks afforded the cadets. The close-quartered living conditions provided the cadets with unique leadership training opportunities beyond running, drilling and academia.

“I saw a lot of cadets come down to earth here,” said Cadet Aide CDR Jason Trotter, Taft High School, Chicago, who graduated from Leadership Academy last year and serves as a liaison between the cadets and instructors.

“All of these cadets were used to being

building life skills to overcome any obstacles in their lives.

NJROTC changed my life forever,” said NJROTC Cadet Jenna Hoops, left nothing on the mat during a leg lift competition that pitted her company, Bravo, against the rest of the battalion. “Being a leader is about sacrificing self for the good of the unit,” said Hoops.

NJROTC Cadet Clyde Bryant pumps his troops up just prior to the Leadership Academy’s battalion-level athletic competition. Teamwork was the cornerstone of success at the Leadership Academy, and the athletic competitions helped solidify its benefits to the cadets.
On June 28, 2003, Region 9’s NJROTC graduated from Leadership Academy at Hospital Corpsman “A” School, Naval Training Center, Great Lakes. They were pushed well beyond their own perceived limitations—mentally, physically and emotionally—so that when their junior cadets back home say to them, “I can’t,” they can honestly respond, “Yes, you can because I did—and more. Follow me.”

Pinsky is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands

“I like the fact that everyone looks up to me and respects my opinion,” said Warner. “NJROTC helped me with my self-esteem, self-respect and self-discipline, which helped me grow into a command candidate for my school.”

Warner found her personal boundaries at the academy when she was challenged to march her company through the streets of RTC.

“I marching the company was the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” said Warner. “You have to be loud and assertive, and those are two of my biggest weaknesses.” Weaknesses are eradicated at Leadership Academy.

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To be a good leader, you have to be able to relate to your followers, and this course puts everyone on equal footing rank-wise so cadets can really appreciate the affects of the orders they issue.”

— Cadet Aide CDR Jason Trotter

The senior people at their high schools, but here they’re all equal, so you have to deal with a lot of egos and personali-
ties,” Trotter said.

“To be a good leader, you have to be able to relate to your followers, and this course puts everyone on equal footing rank-wise so cadets can really appreciate the affects of the orders they issue.

Leadership Academy helps give cadets a command perspective that what they do and what they say has a huge effect on people’s lives,” said Cadet Chief Petty Officer Sierra Donaldson, Elk Grove High School, Chicago. “But, that was because I didn’t get along with a few other girls in my company. Here at Leadership Academy, I learned that you have to learn to work with everybody—even people you don’t like. We eventually learned to work through our differences, and I learned a lot about what teamwork is all about,” said Donaldson.

The military structure has a way of equaling out perceived shortcomings for its up-and-coming leaders. Respect is an honor earned, regardless of age, rank, gender or even physical stature.

Cadet LT Tabitha Warner, Willard High School, St. Louis, her unit’s prospective executive officer for the 2004-2005 school year, is a prime example of the power of good order and discipline.

Warner learned how a properly-trained military leader can command authority despite the 16-year-old standing just over four feet tall, weighing a tad more than a well-packed sea bag and wearing a size 2— that’s T-W-O— shoe.

“Marching the company was the hardest thing I’ve ever done,” said Warner. “You have to be loud and assertive, and those are two of my biggest weaknesses.” Weaknesses are eradicated at Leadership Academy.

“NJROTC Leadership Academy at RTC Great Lakes is about building leaders, and nothing says success more than seeing a cadet take on real leadership roles if they join the military. Seaman Recruit Victor F. Martin is the Recruit Chief Petty Officer (RCPO) for his company, Division F304, thanks to the leadership skills he displayed during the first few days of boot camp. Martin spent four years in NJROTC and was a graduate of the Leadership Academy. Martin is joined by his current RDCs, MS2 SW/1 James F. Smith, GMC Warren E. Chenoweth, his NJROTC instructor, ret. MMC SW/1 Craig White and RDC MS5 SW Luis Melgar.

Recruit Division Commander BM2(SW/AW) Christopher Doss, RTC Great Lakes, spoils NJROTC Cadet Roberto Gonzales’ final locker inspection by finding gear adrift. Attention to detail could have easily been the motto of Leadership Academy.

One of the advantages of having the NJROTC Leadership Academy at RTC Great Lakes is having actual Navy recruit division commanders available to mentor, train and evaluate the cadets.

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YOU SEE THE COMMERCIALS ON TV. "JOIN THE RESERVES! JUST TWO WEEKENDS A MONTH, AND TWO WEEKS A YEAR. EARN MONEY FOR COLLEGE AND GET AN EDUCATION." BUT FOR THE RESERVISTS OF NAVAL COASTAL WARFARE (NCW), IT’S BEEN ONE HELL OF A WEEKEND.

Most of these Sailors have been activated two or three times since 9/11, totaling close to two years active duty for some. While most of us heard about Reserves in many fields, like master-at-arms being called to active duty, NCW has been somewhat overlooked. We see them so often, we think they are Regular Navy.

It becomes crystal clear, especially during an operation like Iraqi Freedom, why their job is so vital.

EVERY DAY WARRIORS

Naval Coastal Warfare Protects Our Mideast Assets
“Our mission is to perform coastal, harbor and port surveillance and security,” said CDR John Watts, the seaward security officer for Naval Coastal Warfare Group (NCWGRU) 1. “We have radar and sonar, plus equipment for communications. We can integrate fully with any units in the fleet, depending on the task.”

The task has been to ensure security of the ports, and the high value assets (HVA) the military has needed to conduct sustained assaults in both Afghanistan and Iraq. They not only guarded military assets, but also civilian and humanitarian assets.

“We are not here as a forward-deployed unit. We are here making sure the flow of all ammo, food supplies and fuel get through,” said Watts.

The job began well before the war and will continue well after, leaving Reserve forces in country longer than most active duty. Right now, in the Persian Gulf, NCW is defending five different locations: Kuwait Naval Base (KNB); Umm Qasar, Iraq; two offshore oil platforms; and Fujairah, an emirate of the United Arab Emirates.

Defending HVAs and ports in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom has not been just a Navy job. U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Units (PSU) have also taken on much of the task. Like the Navy units, the Coast Guard in the area are all Reservists on active duty.

One of the first missions launched during Iraq Freedom was the night before the war started. Navy SEALs took both of the Iraqi offshore oil platforms Mabot and Kafoot. After the units were secured, the Coast Guard took control of the stations to ensure that nothing could cause any harm to the environment. They were also left to care for several dozen Enemy Prisoners of War (EPW), who had been given orders to blow up both platforms if the war began. Luckily, the Iraqi commanding officers had ignored the instructions.

The Navy units working in Kuwait are deployed from Texas and Oklahoma. They proudly fly both flags and even named their watch posts “Tango, Echo, X-ray, Alpha and Sierra.”

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Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 uses its smaller boats to patrol the inner harbor at Kuwait Naval Base, while the larger Navy boats handle deep water patrols.
orders given to them and fully cooperated with U.S. troops.

“For the first four days [of the war], 12 of us were in charge of the 43 EPWs who were here. After that, our job was to provide security for the platform. We were manning gun posts 24 hours a day until the war died down,” said Coast Guard Port Security Specialist 2nd Class Scott McLaughlin. “This place was rundown and nasty when we got here. It smelled bad. There were cockroaches everywhere and it was filthy.

We spent a good two weeks spending all our time cleaning up when we weren’t on watch.”

The living conditions were bad enough that USS Duluth (LPD 6) and USS Anchorage (LSD 36) were called in to assist.

“They would take six to eight of us over at a time,” said McLaughlin. “About every five days, we would spend the night on the ship. They would do our laundry for us, give us hot food, showers and a good place to sleep. After working for a while out on the platforms, the living conditions improved and life became a bit easier for these Coast Guard Reservists.

“Now we have showers up and running and the desalinization plant is running, so we have water. We have food being prepared in the galley and most have air conditioned rooms to sleep in.”

Many Coast Guardsmen preferred the platforms to KNB. “I would rather be working out here than back at KNB. I like the people I’m working with out here, and since we are surrounded by water and have some wind most of the time, I think it stays a little bit cooler,” concluded McLaughlin.

When NCW arrived in Umm Qasar, they were surprised to find the 3,000 Marines were already heading out. NCW Sailors found themselves under fire from snipers and in a situation they had not considered.

“A small lounge area has been set up in one of the NCW tents so Sailors can catch up on the news or watch a movie between patrols.”

BM2 Benjamin Kelly watches the mouth of the new harbor in Umm Qasar, Iraq. He reports any approaching vessels to units in the water for intercept.

“Every day warriors”

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At the start of the war, about 50 EOD and NCW personnel held Umm Qasar for more than 24 hours until British units arrived to reinforce them.

“We started to use the mobile sensory platform to pick out snipers who were a few thousand yards away in an Iraqi Coast Guard building,” said one of the officers in charge of American Forces in Umm Qasar. “The unit was not designed for shoreward defense, but it worked great. Infrared picked out the snipers easily and then British forces would go out and pick them up.” After eliminating the threat of sniper fire, NCW was able to get to the job they were meant to do. Umm Qasar, at the southern tip of Iraq, is the only entry point, by water, into the country.

NCW’s job is to keep all civilian traffic out of the harbor and make sure any water traffic going up river is not going to cause harm to military personnel or civilians. In each of the locations in the Middle East where NCW has been stationed, there have been no deaths, not one bullet fired. Some of the Sailors and Coast Guardsmen have been a little disappointed, but most are fiercely proud of that. NCM Sailors agree, “It means we have done our job.” When the war is over and all Reservists are back home working nine to five, they will look back on a job well done and can be assured that without the support they provided, the war could not have been won.

“Most people don’t know what they are getting into when they are told two weekends a month, two weeks a year and then join one of these units,” said Coast Guard Boatswain’s Mate 3rd class Devon R. Tschirley. “I have to say though, if it was two years ago and I had the choice again, I would do the exact same thing.”

And no one had better call him a.
IN THE SUMMER, TEMPERATURES ON THIS ISLAND NATION CAN BE as high as 140 degrees. It's an oppressive heat that takes away your breath and burns your skin as soon as you step out the door. There are no mountains, no rivers and no forests. So, why do so many Sailors stationed in Bahrain decide to extend their one-year duty? Why would anyone continue to live in the hot Middle East any longer than they must?

For some, it’s being in one of the few locations in the world where you are completely operational.
This is where the fight is,” said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Derrick Thomas. “There is never really any exercise going on. If you’re working, it’s real.”

“We’re right in the middle of everything here,” said Operations Specialist 1st Class Noaviah Thompson. “I’ve been to two other duty stations, and neither gave me the opportunity to learn as much as I have here. I came here for a one-year tour, extended for a year, and then took another billet in the same command and extended for one additional year.”

In Bahrain, life is also good for families. The Department of Defense Dependents school (DODDS) is among the best in the world. In fact, more than 60 percent of the students are non-DoD family members from more than 30 countries, who pay to attend. Students not only receive a great education; they also get lessons in life’s diversity and learn more about other cultures than most people will learn in a lifetime.

“This school is incredibly unique, not only because of the diversity,” said John Gilbo, one of the assistant principals at Bahrain School. “It’s a DODD school, but the difference here is that there’s a smaller student-teacher ratio, so our students get a lot more individual attention from the teachers. We’ve got schools back home where you have 3,000 to 5,000 students. Here, we only have 340 students in our high school with a staff of 67 teachers.”

The smaller classes, the students’ drive and a well-developed sense of competition have paid off.

“Probably 98 percent of our students go to colleges or universities. And that’s not just the United States or universities back in Lebanon or Jordan. But, they also go to Canada, Europe and England,” said Gilbo. “Some students even attend the Ivy League schools like Princeton, Brown, Harvard and Columbia.”

While the school is great and students have a bright future, there are many other reasons Sailors stick around. One is the quality of life.

Sailors who accept orders to Bahrain, receive a number of special incentives including: a cost of living allowance, imminent danger pay, combat zone tax relief and savings deposit program eligibility.

“In San Diego, my husband and I lived in a tiny one bedroom condo,” said Thompson. “Here we have five bedrooms, three stories, a swimming pool and a yard. It’s nice, very, very nice.”

“Sometimes, it’s hard to believe that I come home, push...
my automatic garage door opener and drive my BMW into my garage,” said Thomas. “I walk through these pillars into a huge house with a big-screen TV, go upstairs and sleep in my king-size bed. It’s a little overwhelming. It’s going to be hard to go back to the United States and live in normal conditions.”

Thomas was just married, and this is his first home with his family. He is unsure about getting too comfortable in the Bahrain lifestyle, knowing that he is only going to be there a short time and will soon have to face the realities of what he can afford back home.

Though it would be easy to spend all your time at home in Bahrain, there is no need, and if you did you would miss a lot. There are hundreds of restaurants with any type of food you can imagine. The shopping is amazing, also, with several modern malls and the souks. If you don’t know what a souk is, you’re missing out. They are sprawling open-air markets with everything from material to make clothes (they will make them for you for next to nothing), to a watch or a stuffed camel.

Bahrain is also well known for Gold City, where you can get a great deal on silver and gold. When you wander through the shops in Gold City, you’ll find most have stickers from the many Navy commands that have had long-standing relationships with the vendors.

The people of Bahrain, most of whom speak very good English, are surprisingly kind to the U.S. military, many times kinder than in some places in our own country. As long as we respect the local customs and beliefs, Bahrain will continue to be one of the best places in the world for Sailors to be stationed.

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Food in Bahrain is never ending. You can eat any type, from any country you want. This flat bread is cooked in a stone oven and served warm.

The tree of life is one of the main tourist attractions on the island. This huge tree lives in the middle of the desert with no known water supply.

Tradition holds strong in most of Bahrain and women still wear the black garb, known as an abaya.

EI: Derrick Thomas lives in a house as big as any he would hope to retire in.

It’s a good thing the sun rises at 4:30 a.m., because in the heat of the summer, shopping for fresh vegetables needs to be done early in the morning.

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The people of Bahrain, most of whom speak very good English, are surprisingly kind to the U.S. military, many times kinder than in some places in our own country. As long as we respect the local customs and beliefs, Bahrain will continue to be one of the best places in the world for Sailors to be stationed.

McCoy is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.
Pursuing a Dream

CTASN Philip Lewis sits on the steps of the dugout at Camden Yards in Baltimore. He hopes to come out of that dugout and ultimately play in the majors.
Growing up in Chicago, home of major league baseball’s Cubs and White Sox, Cryptologic Administration Technician Seaman Phillip Lewis has always dreamed of playing professional baseball. Since the age of seven, Lewis has been in pursuit of this dream, becoming skilled in every position on the baseball field — from shortstop to center field. His hard work recently paid off when he received the opportunity to try out for the Baltimore Orioles.

Lewis credits his resilience and determination for landing him the opportunity. After being a standout high school athlete in baseball, as well as football, wrestling, track and basketball, Lewis was recruited by major universities but made the decision to join the Navy. After graduating from CTA “A” School, Lewis was assigned to the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. Throughout his 13 months in the Navy, Lewis continued his pursuit.

“I just kept pursuing a tryout,” Lewis said. “I looked into the All-Navy team, but I couldn’t give up on the pros. I kept getting the runaround initially, but persistence got me through the door.”

Lewis uses his speed and agility to make up for his lack of size. “The Baltimore Orioles have these training camps all over the United States, and the kids who tryout have a chance, that is why we have them,” Albany explained.

According to Dean Albany, a Baltimore Orioles’ scout, players who are invited to the tryouts have a good opportunity to make the team.

“We think this is a great opportunity for Seaman Lewis,” said Command Master Chief Cryptologic Technician Mark Lewis. “He’s a good Sailor and is very responsible. Lewis making the team would be a big loss for the command, but it would be great for the Navy.”

According to Albany, the scouts test his speed, his glove and his arm. If he excels in one of the three, they then give him a chance to bat. If he doesn’t excel in any of the three, they move on to the next player. If he excels in one of the three, they then give him a chance to bat.

“As Lewis steps out on Camden Yard’s field for the first time, he dreams of playing on this field as a professional baseball player one day.”

Boggs is a journalist and Themistocleous is a photographer’s mate assigned to All Hands.
This is the most intense training you go through in the Ceremonial Guard,” said Airman Charles Pritchard, a member of the Anacostia Naval Station Ceremonial Guard’s full honor’s drill team located in Washington, D.C. The full honor’s drill team is the highest level of the Ceremonial Guard. The precision drillers are used for Navy recruiting, performing around the country at special events like Fleet Weeks, parades, high schools and various ceremonies.

“It takes three months just to learn basic movements,” said Pritchard. “Expectations are very high for drill team members. It takes a highly motivated individual who’s not afraid of hard work.”

Drill team members are also a part of other Ceremonial Guard teams. They must carry out the basic mission on the guard – conducting funerals at Arlington National Cemetery, retirements, wreath layings, changes-of-command ceremonies and VIP arrivals throughout the Washington, D.C. area.

“Some days we perform three to four funerals each day,” Pritchard said. “Each funeral is a two-mile march. Then we practice for the drill team.”

Practice is held at 8 p.m., every day – including weekends. “We put in lots of overtime becoming drill team members,” Pritchard said. “But, we work hard because we have pride in ourselves and the Navy.”

Boggs is a journalist and Themistocleous is a photographer’s mate assigned to All Hands.
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.

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

Mail your submissions to:
Navy Visual News Service • Naval Media Center
2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819

**Tactical Test**

A Tactical Tomahawk Cruise Missile (TLM) launches from the guided-missile destroyer USS Stethem (DDG 63) during a live-warhead test. The missile traveled 760 nautical miles to successfully impact its intended target on San Clemente Island, part of the Naval Air Systems Command test range in Southern California.

*U.S. Navy photo*

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**Port Royal**

USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) anchors out of Portsmouth, England, while her Sailors and Marines enjoy liberty during their port visit.

*Photo by PH3 Class Danny Ewing Jr.*

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**Manned & Ready**

OS2 Brian Herman defends the ship with a Mark 38 .25mm machine gun supported by the phone talker, TM2 Edwin Holland during a small boat training exercise aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Ingraham (FFG 61). The exercise is being conducted with the support of the guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen (DDG 88) and the guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54). The ships are part of USS Carl Vinson’s (CVN 70) Strike Group conducting battle group operations in the Western Pacific Ocean.

*Photo by PH2 Lawrence Barnes*

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**Spike Sprint**

Recruits rush aboard to prepare USS Marlinspike to get underway. Marlinspike is a training ship at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Ill., where recruits are taught the basics of line-handling and other seamanship skills in a controlled environment.

*Photo by PH2 Chris Desmond*

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**Eye on the Fleet**

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Eye on History

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
Representatives of the Japanese government sign surrender ceremonies aboard USS Missouri (BB 63) in Tokyo Bay as Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur and representatives of Allied powers stand by.

1969
SM1 Ralph T. Morelli breaks out the sierra flag from the signal bag aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Coontz (DLG 9).

1979
Crewmen aboard the combat stores ship USS White Plains (AFS 4) provide food to 29 Vietnamese refugees the ship picked up from a 35-foot wooden boat.

1988
An instructor at Naval Air Station, Lemoore, Calif., teaches firefighting techniques to U.S. Naval Sea Cadets as a fire burns aboard a mock aircraft in the background.

1944
Unlike today’s Navy where computers keep track of everything, service members had to have a very organized procedure to keep the Navy in top fighting condition.
The Final Word

He represented many things to many people. Some knew him strictly as a funnyman, someone who stood endlessly in front of a microphone looking for the perfect one-liner. He was also a wise guy and a coward for millions who have seen his “Road to” movies from the 1940s. And for still others, he was the lovable man singing, “Silver Bells” in one of his many televised Christmas specials.

But when Bob Hope passed away July 27, America lost something more than that. It lost the single most recognizable supporter of the U.S. military ever, a spokesman leading the country in honoring our troops, no matter where they were or what they were doing. It’s no coincidence that in the days following his death, national and local media outlets focused so much of their coverage on the many performances he gave as a part of the United Services Organization (USO) both at home and abroad.

That definitely says something about Hope, whose entertainment career dates back to the vaudeville acts of the 1930s. He had 1,145 radio broadcasts, nearly 70 movies, some 500 television specials and 18 Oscar hosting gigs in his long and storied career. He is a man who has been honored, literally thousands of times over the years, most notably with four stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Despite all those accolades, the first image that most people see when thinking of Bob Hope is still something from one of his many USO shows around the world.

There’s a good reason why. Hope, it seems, never found an audience as loyal and adoring as the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines he entertained. His unwavering commitment to the morale of America’s service men and women is legendary in the entertainment and military worlds.

For nearly six decades, whether the country was at war or at peace, Hope traveled the globe to entertain our service members. For that reason, the media dubbed him “America’s No. 1 Soldier in Greasepaint.” To those for whom he performed, he was “G.J. Bob,” their clown hero.

Hope’s lifetime of entertaining the troops got started in May 1941, when he made a trip to March Air Field, Calif., to do a radio show for Airmen stationed there.

It then continued throughout World War II, with nearly all of Hope’s radio shows being performed and aired from military bases and installations throughout the United States, and theaters of war in Europe and the South Pacific. In 1943, Hope went inside a combat area for the first time, as he and a small USO troupe visited U.S. military facilities in England, Africa, Sicily and Ireland.

It was in that spirit that Hope began what eventually became a national Christmas tradition in 1948. That year, Hope and his wife Dolores, went to Germany to entertain the troops involved in the Berlin Airlift. With that one visit, Hope’s highly-regarded and now-classic Christmas shows began. The Christmas show became a staple of his, as he continued with the holiday performances for close to 50 years.

But, the performances were the easy part for Hope. Sometimes, actually making people laugh could have seemed a lot tougher.

His USO performances, with stars like Raquel Welch, Don Rickles and Anne Margaret at his side, were often done under advancing enemy fire, in front of men who didn’t know if they would be alive the next day. Then, after a successful performance, Hope would load his gang to military field hospitals, where he would visit with the wounded or dying American Soldiers.

And through it all, through looking death straight in the face, Hope never allowed his emotions to show in front of the wounded as so many of us would. He would not have it that way. Hope would always find a way, any way, to touch that nerve we all have. Not the nerve that makes a person break down and cry. He would find the nerve that would make people laugh, no matter how bad a person’s personal situation was. If you only had one more day to live, he was going to make sure you had at least one more fond memory in your life.

And above all else, beyond the awards and personal accolades, that’s what Hope meant to so many Americans through the years. He represented a chance to get away from our personal problems and issues for at least a little while and get in a good laugh.

Hope’s hard work didn’t go unrecognized by the military. In 1997, Hope was unanimously recognized by both houses of Congress as an honorary veteran. He was the first individual to be awarded such an honor in the history of the United States.

In 1994, the Navy named the lead ship and class of the large, medium-speed, roll-on/roll-off ships after Bob Hope. USNS Bob Hope (T-AKR 500) was commissioned in 1998. It’s in that fashion, I remember Bob Hope. I grew up watching him on television specials and heard many a story about him from my grandfather, who served in the Korean War. Indeed, he was a legendary performer and a comedic genius, but he was much more than that – he was one of us.

I can say that despite the age difference, I served with Bob Hope. And Bob Hope served with all of us.

Ludwig is a journalist assigned to All Hands

PH1(DSW/NAC/PJ) Chadwick Vann

Bec in 15 years.

Is reenlisting for his last 5 years and will receive an SRB of $26,000.

As one of the five members of the Navy’s Underwater Photography Team, Vann documents the Navy’s undersea world, shooting things like the recovery of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor and the World War II supply ship, USS Mississinewa (AO 59).

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