

In the Line of Fire

www.news.navy.mil

ALL HANDS

NOVEMBER 2004



Destination
Japan

22 Destination Japan

November

[Features]



[On the Front Cover]

Kiyoshi Watanabe, a tailor whose shop is across the street from the main gate of Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, has been sewing on patches and hemming uniforms for U.S. Sailors since the end of World War II.

Photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

Many Sailors taking orders to Japan may feel dazed and confused in such an environment. As a result, Sailors sometimes restrict themselves to the safe confines of the base, never realizing the real reason for taking orders to Japan is found off the ships and beyond the base's gates.

Photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

[Next Month]

The Navy's Exceptional Family Member Program got a boost when parents in Everett, Wash., put their heads together to improve quality of life for their exceptional family members. *All Hands* also follows CT12 Casey Tibbs as he prepares for the Paralympic competition in Athens where he will look to bring home gold in the 400-meter, 4x400-meter relay and the pentathlon track and field events.

[Departments]

Speaking with Sailors — 6

Focus on Service — 40

Eye on the Fleet — 42

Eye on History — 46

The Final Word — 48

14 In the Line of Fire

Decommissioned more than 40 years ago, ex-USS *Shadwell* (LSD 15) continues to serve the fleet as a naval research laboratory dedicated to the study of shipboard fire.



Photo by JOLISW | M. J. Darby

32 A Home for Heroes

Monthly contributions from today's enlisted service members help provide a home for yesterday's heroes.



Photo by JOLISW | M. J. Darby



USS *Ronald Reagan* (CVN 76), the Navy's newest *Nimitz*-class aircraft carrier, sails by the *Star of India* in San Diego Bay, on her way to her homeport, Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego. USS *Ronald Reagan* departed Norfolk in May and was underway for nearly two months while traveling around the tip of South America. During the transit, bilateral training and air engagement exercises were conducted with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay in support of *Summer Pulse '04*. The crew also enjoyed port visits in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Valparaiso, Chile; and Callao, Peru. The *Star of India*, a late 1800s cargo ship, is the world's oldest active ship. It is one of five historic ships belonging to the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

Photo by MM2(SW) Steven P. Smith



Nguyen Phi Hung, director of the Village of Hope Disadvantaged Youth Center in Da Nang, Vietnam, leads Sailors and children in group songs and dances. Sailors, assigned to USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) volunteered their time to visit with the children at the center and deliver Project Handclasp items. The *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer visited Da Nang during a scheduled port visit. *Curtis Wilbur* is the second U.S. Navy ship to visit Vietnam, and the first to visit Da Nang since 1973, symbolizing the continuation of normalized relations between the United States and Vietnam.

Photo by PH2 Timothy Smith

Speaking with Sailors

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

This question came from a discussion with Sailors at a recent All Hands call.

Q: I'm coming up on my EAOS, and I'm curious about this "blue to green" program, where I might be able to transfer to the Army. Can you tell me more about it?

A: Operation Blue to Green can be a great opportunity for individuals who strongly desire to stay on active duty, but are leaving the Navy. This initiative also benefits DOD in retaining manpower within DOD and also assists the Army in meeting increases in end-strength. We would prefer that separating Sailors consider the Naval Reserve, but this is a good option for those who wish to serve their country full time on active duty.

It is a completely voluntary program, offering qualified Sailors and naval officers the opportunity to transfer into the Army.

To clarify, Blue to Green is not a conversion program. Sailors with obligated service under an enlistment contract can opt to join the Army only after they have fulfilled their Navy enlistment.

In addition, we have a short period of eligibility for Sailors scheduled to leave active duty before the end of FY05 to request early release from their unit commanding officer. The CO in this instance has the final approval authority, because he or she is in the best position to determine whether that unit's manning can afford the gapped assignment.

Under current policy, an enlisted Sailor interested in applying for the program must first be honorably

discharged from the Navy before reentering active service in the Army. Officers will be able to transition without broken service under existing rules for inter-service transfer. Navy personnel will be required to take a modified, four-week Army basic-training course.

Applicants in pay grades E-1 through E-4 will retain the same rank, as will officers. Pay grade eligibility for second class petty officers will be determined by the Army's Human Resources Command.

Other requirements of the program include:

- Must be physically fit
- Must meet Army height and weight standards
- Eight-year service obligation still applies
- Minimum term of service is three years
- Must have approved DD Form 368.

Sailors who don't initially qualify but are interested should sustain their superior performance in the Navy, take advantage of the educational opportunities the Navy offers and be in the best position possible to transfer when they do become eligible.

The Army is especially interested in Sailors with skills that translate easily to Army jobs, including cryptology, fire control, air traffic control and mechanics. A complete list of Navy ratings and Navy Enlisted Classification codes of interest to the Army is available on the Operation Blue to Green Web site at www.goarmy.com/btg/index.htm#benefits.

I think Operation Blue to Green shows great promise, and Navy leadership is working hard to support it. That means making sure both the Army and our separating Sailors have enough information about each other to make good decisions. As with any major career move, I want Sailors to be as well informed as possible before making any decision. 

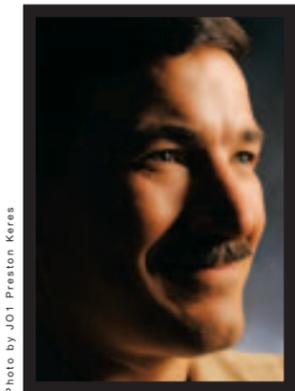


Photo by J01 Preston Keres

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

All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) Number 1051 is published monthly by the Naval Media Center, Publishing Department, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call 202/512-1800. Subscription prices are: \$36 (domestic) / \$45 (foreign); \$6 (single copy domestic) / \$7.50 (single copy foreign). **Postmaster:** Send address changes to All Hands, Naval Media Center, Publishing Department 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. **Editorial Offices:** Send submissions and correspondence to Naval Media Center Publishing Department, ATTN: Editor, 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 Tel: DSN 288-4171 or 202/433-4171 Fax: DSN 288-4747 or 202/433-4747 E-Mail: allhands@mediacen.navy.mil Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32/ **Authorization:** The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.

AllHANDS

Number 1051 • November 2004
www.news.navy.mil

Secretary of the Navy
**The Honorable
Gordon R. England**

Chief of Naval Operations
ADM Vern Clark

Chief of Information
RADM T. L. McCreary

Commander, Naval Media Center
CAPT Joseph F. Gradisher

Chief of Publishing
CDR Jeff Breslau

Deputy Chief of Publishing
+ Print Media Coordinator
LT Bill Couch

EDITORIAL

Editor
Marie G. Johnston

Managing Editor
JOCs James Slater

Assistant Editor
Stephanie N. Collins

Photo Editors
PH1 Shane T. McCoy
PH3 Antoine Themistocleous
PH3 Todd Frantom

Editorial Staff
J01 (SW) Monica Darby
J01 (SW) Hendrick Dickson
J01 (SCW/SS) James Pinsky
J02 Charles L. Ludwig
J02 Kimberly Rodgers

DISTRIBUTION

Hank Lloyd

PUBLICATION & WEB DESIGN

R + B Design Firm
Graphic Designers
Frederik Hviid
Laura Muncy
Kevin Richards

Digital Prepress Specialist
Lisa J. Smith

PRINTING

Universal Printing Company
GPO Printing Specialist
John Kennedy

AllHANDS

Recipient of the following
Awards of Magazine Excellence
for 2000-2003:



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: **All Hands**

2. Issue Date: **November 2004**

3. Issue Frequency: **Monthly**

4. Issue Month and Year: **November 2004**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **12**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$36 (domestic) / \$45 (foreign)**

7. Annual Circulation: **843,000**

8. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

9. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

10. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

11. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

12. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

13. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

14. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

15. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

16. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

17. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

18. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

19. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

20. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: **All Hands**

2. Issue Date: **November 2004**

3. Issue Frequency: **Monthly**

4. Issue Month and Year: **November 2004**

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **12**

6. Annual Subscription Price: **\$36 (domestic) / \$45 (foreign)**

7. Annual Circulation: **843,000**

8. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

9. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

10. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

11. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

12. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

13. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

14. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

15. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

16. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

17. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

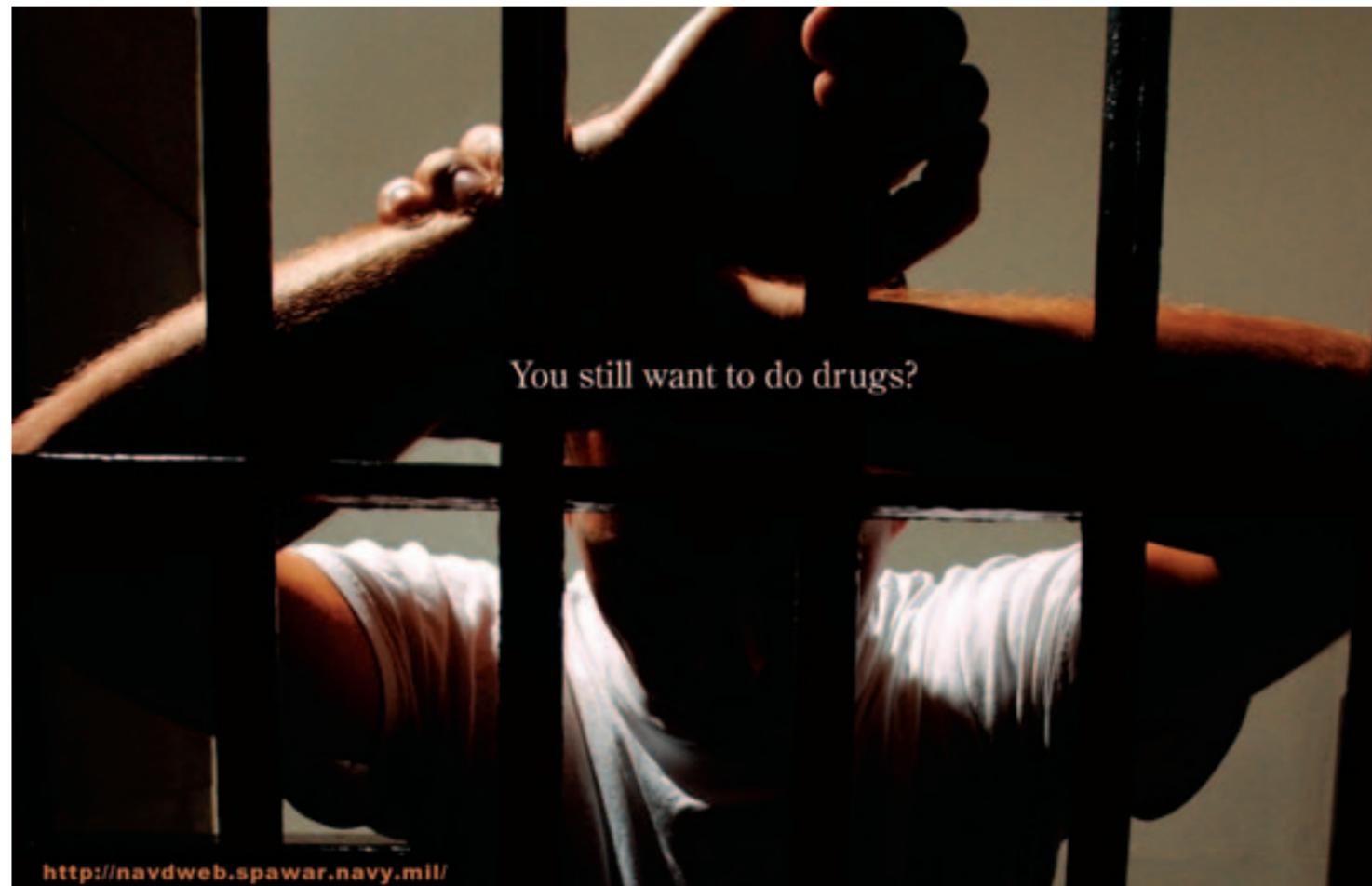
18. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

19. Total Number of Copies (Gross Press Run): **843,000**

20. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run): **843,000**

Statement of Ownership, Management & Circulation

In accordance with Section E216.3.0 Domestic Mail manual, all publishers of publications having periodical mailing privileges must file PS Form 3526 at the post office where original entry is made and publish the same in the magazine.



<http://navdweb.spawar.navy.mil/>

Task Force Uniform Announces Changes in Uniform Regulations

Significant changes to the Navy Uniform Regulations were recently approved by Chief of Naval Operations ADM Vern Clark.

These changes are among the first initiatives being rolled out as a result of Task Force Uniform. The uniform regulation changes were made based on fleet input from interviews with Sailors, command site visits, comprehensive research and data collected from a Navywide uniform survey. The survey collected feedback from more than 40,000 Sailors throughout the fleet.

The approved changes include women's skirts, identification badges, civilian bags, women's handbags, communication devices and breast insignia.

One of the changes effective immediately will be the authorized wear of civilian bags while in uniform. This includes briefcases, gym bags, backpacks, suitcases and garment bags. The specific guidance on wear and appearance for each is outlined in NAVADMIN 209/04.

Another revision that is effective immediately is the wear of a wireless communication device, such as a cell phone, PDA or pager for official business, while in uniform. The device cannot

be visible from the front, and must be worn on the belt, aft of the right or left elbow. Specific guidance and further details on the proper wearing and use of these devices is contained in NAVADMIN 209/04.

Women may now wear civilian handbags while in uniform, but must meet the specific criteria and be worn in the manner prescribed in NAVADMIN 209/04. Women's uniform handbags are now an optional uniform item, and will no longer be a prescribed seabag item or issued at recruit training as of Oct. 1, 2004.

In addition to the handbag, women's skirts will also be an optional uniform component as of Oct. 1, 2004. This applies to both service and dress uniforms, and may no longer be prescribed. Women who desire to wear a skirt will still be able to purchase them through the Navy Uniform Shop.

There is also new guidance regarding silver breast insignia and identification badges. Specifications are outlined in the NAVADMIN.

"In the fleetwide survey, we



Photo by JO2 Brandon Schulte

Task Force Uniform has announced that women Sailors may now wear civilian handbags while in uniform, but must meet specific criteria and be worn in the manner prescribed in NAVADMIN 209/04. Women's uniform handbags are now an optional uniform item, and will no longer be a prescribed seabag item or issued at recruit training as of Oct. 1, 2004. Other approved changes include women's skirts, identification badges, civilian bags, communication devices and breast insignia.

asked a lot of detailed questions and received some very detailed responses in return," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott, who oversaw the massive effort. "We were very pleased with the level of participation in the survey and the focus groups."

These changes to the uniform regulations are just the first in a number of initiatives being produced by TFU. In addition to streamlining and simplifying the uniform regs, TFU is developing concept uniforms for a working uniform for E-1 through O-10, as well as a year-round service uniform for E-6 and below. TFU plans to announce the uniform concepts in the coming weeks, and an announcement about specifics of the wear testing dates and areas to follow.

NAVADMIN 209/04 serves as the interim change to the Navy Uniform Regulations.

For related news, visit the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/mcpon.

Story courtesy of the public affairs office, Task Force Uniform.

myPay Email PINs Now Available to Navy Members

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service and the U.S. Navy recently announced that service members are able to receive Personal Identification Numbers for myPay at their official Navy e-mail account.

Within minutes of requesting a new or updated PIN on the myPay Web site, members can expect to receive the PIN at their official Navy e-mail address, if it was provided when they received

their Common Access Card myPay, an Internet/Web-based and Interactive Voice Response system, allows customers to access and control their pay information. myPay is available to all military members, military retirees and annuitants, and DOD and Department of Energy civilian employees.

The e-mail PIN delivery process is a simpler, faster alternative to direct mail and in-person request methods previously available. This capability is especially timely as more commanders, members and employees are realizing the benefits of accessing myPay from remote and deployed sites.

Customers can view, print and save leave and earnings statements, make adjustments to federal and state tax withholdings, update bank account and electronic transfers and change address information, all online by accessing myPay at <http://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Story courtesy of Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Sailors Who Converted Ratings Promoted Well to Chief Petty Officer

Sailors who have converted to new ratings as part of the signalman (SM) rating disestablishment have promoted well to chief petty officer.

Of the 88 E-6 SMs who converted to other rates in advance of the rating disestablishment, 44.3 percent made chief petty officer in their new rating, including 16 each in the quartermaster and master-at-arms ratings. Overall advancement opportunity to E-7 was 21.9 percent.

"The leadership skills a Sailor

learns in any rating translate across the fleet," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/AW) Terry Scott. "These advancement rates show those affected by rating changes remain competitive. Leadership and superior performance, in whatever job you do, are what we're looking for in our senior enlisted leaders."

"This is great news for our Sailors and the Navy," said VADM Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel. "What this board proves about selection is clear, skills may be rating specific but leadership is essential."

"These rating changes are part of a larger effort to ensure we provide the fleet with the right skill mix," said Hoewing. "Ratings should reflect Sailors' skill sets and duties performed; aligning our ratings to the changing technology and growing skills is the purpose behind these rating changes."

Future rating mergers are being studied, including the disbursing clerk (DK) and personnelman (PN) ratings, now in the approval process. Merging DK/PN will provide the fleet specialists needed to provide the best possible service in terms of

Shipmates



Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW) Michael Dowens was recently named "Honor Man" while attending Surface Rescue Swimmer School, Jacksonville, Fla. Dowens distinguished himself by finishing first in his class in both academics and physical training. He said the many hours spent every week training both mentally and physically were all worthwhile. Dowens is currently attached to USS *Carter Hall* (LSD 50) homeported at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base, Virginia Beach, Va.

personnel records.

Another proposed merger is that of the hospital corpsman and dental technician into a single medical service personnel rating.

Also under study is the feasibility of making one mass communication rating by merging journalist, draftsman, photographer's mate and lithographer ratings into one, as well as rolling the yeoman, legalman, religious programs specialist and cryptologic technician (administration) into one administrative rate.

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

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp.

Around the Fleet

Navy Announces First Members of New Cryptologic Technician (Networks) Rating

The Navy announced the first members of the new Cryptologic Technician Networks (CTN) rating this summer and more than 240 cryptologic technicians were approved for conversion on the FY04 selection board.

"The competition was fierce," said LCDR Bill Kramer, Cryptologic Technician community manager, "but we expected that it would be. The talent throughout the CT community is just incredible."

The CTN rating, which became effective Feb. 6, is the first new rating of the 21st century. It was created to develop a skilled work force to meet naval information warfare requirements in computer network operations.

Selectees came from a cross-section of all six existing CT ratings and represent pay grades E-1 to E-8. Three senior chiefs and nine chief petty officers were selected, as were 77 first class petty officers; 76 second class

petty officers; and 54 third class petty officers. More than 20 E-3s round out the picks.

The community will eventually grow to more than 600 people, but officials are being careful in how they populate the billet base.

"We are taking a very deliberate approach," said Kramer. "We want the community to have enough people at all experience and skill levels, so that it can start to function right away, but we also want to allow for healthy growth and advancement opportunity in the future."

The rating change for selected Sailors took effect Oct. 1, 2004. Conversion is still limited to personnel already designated as cryptologic technicians. Those not selected this year may re-apply for the FY05 board, which



Photo by PHAN Jason D. London

IT1 Jamie J. Andrews checks connections on Local Area Network (LAN) cables aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63). A Navy ship's LAN provides everything from e-mail and Internet access, to supply and operational support.

Ricky's Tour

By J02 Mike Jones

www.rickystour.com



Time Capsule

This month we look back in the *All Hands* archive to see what was going on in the month of November. To view these issues in more detail on the Web, go to www.news.navy.mil/allhands.asp?x=search

1954 – 50 Years Ago



This issue's cover reminded our readership that the Navy's Intramural Football season was in full swing. Navy ships got their first taste of television when the Atlantic and Pacific Fleets installed televisions for the crews' entertainment. The battleship USS *Missouri* (BB 63) joined the Fleet Reserve after 10 years of continuous active service. Also spotlighted, was the submarine rescue vessel USS *Pigeon* (ASR 6), which earned two Presidential Unit Citations during World War II.

1964 – 40 Years Ago



The "Safety and Survival at Sea" issue was a complete "how to" guide on maneuvering techniques during emergency situations such as swimming through fires, rescuing others and administering first-aid. We reported the exclusive story on USS *Franklin* (CV 13), which was preparing for air strikes in Japan when two Japanese bombs hit the ship. In spite of heavy casualties, the ship's crew fought until the fires were checked, steerageway was regained and the ship triumphantly pulled in to port without sinking.

1974 – 30 Years Ago



This issue took a look into the lives of courageous and adventurous Sailors who spent time on and off duty ocean racing, mountain climbing, parachute jumping, island hopping and boat building. The causes, characteristics and treatment of alcoholism were also a part of the month's focus.

will convene in April 2005. A third CTN selection board will be held sometime in FY06. After that, the community will be manned through accessions and the normal lateral conversion process.

For a complete list of selectees, refer to NAVADMIN 163/04 available on the Web at www.bupers.navy.mil/navadmin/navo4/navo4163.txt.

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

NKO Transitions, Updates to Phase II

The Navy's centralized portal for information, Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), is currently transitioning to its second phase.

Along with adding new features to the existing communication and professional development tools, the update will restore the NKO library, leaving only valid files for Sailors and administrators to use.

Chief of Naval Reserve VADM John Cotton said NKO is the central location for exchanging the best ideas and practices, which can perpetuate positive changes in the Navy.

"This is the first place to go for Navy resources. We want Sailors to contribute; we want them to take ownership of their own Navy. We want them to have the ability to make suggestions to help improve the Navy," said Cotton. "The active component and the Reserve component have had different Web pages. We're putting them in a central repository, so it's one Web site you can visit to find out anything about the Navy."

With more than 300,000 registered users, and instant access

to the knowledge and experience of their peers across the globe, NKO has quickly become the Navy's premiere tool to accelerate learning and growth, as it becomes more of a learning organization. Through virtual communities, Sailors are able to prepare for advancement, obtain a wealth of career information, network and utilize an array of helpful options using NKO.

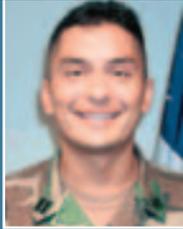
"Connecting people to people and knowledge to knowledge creates a learning environment," Cotton said. "People begin to trust their counterparts no matter if they are active or Reserve. We are all Sailors serving in one Navy, learning from each other."

The NKO Library migrated valid file content from Personal and Teams areas through Aug. 31, 2004. Personal and Teams file content that is no longer valid or relevant was deleted from NKO Phase II.

"Going to Navy Knowledge Online is so important for the future," Cotton said. "For the first time, we're gathering all of these resources together – a place for Sailors 'to go.' ... We want their input. We want them to have the ability to make suggestions. Through NKO, this is how we can bring our knowledge together, which can be better than any single idea."

Story by J02 Kimberly Rodgers who is assigned to Navy News Service

Shipmates



LT Jorge Cuadros, officer in charge of Air Detachment, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 recently received the 2004 National Image, Inc., Meritorious Service Award. The award

recognizes outstanding equal opportunity (EO) and civil rights accomplishments within and outside the Hispanic community. As resident officer in charge of construction, Mayport, Fla., at Naval Facilities Engineering Field Activity Southeast, Cuadros served as the command managed EO officer increasing command awareness regarding cultural diversity, fairness and EO. He also volunteered as a grade school classroom-reader and used books that focus on diversity.

Sailors, Marines Participate in DOD Smokeless Tobacco Cessation Program

Naval Dental Center and 1st Dental Battalion at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., began enrolling Marines and Sailors this summer to test the effectiveness of a new smokeless tobacco cessation program.

The pilot program is part of a DOD-funded, four-year study on smokeless tobacco cessation being conducted by the U.S. Air Force's Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, and Oregon Research Institute, Eugene, Ore. Enrollments are also being conducted at Naval Dental Center Southwest, San Diego. This study will evaluate the effectiveness of a minimal-contact smokeless tobacco cessation program for active-duty personnel across the four services.

Experts cite that as it becomes increasingly difficult to smoke in many settings, some individuals are switching to chewing tobacco or snuff with the false impres-

sion that smokeless tobacco is a safe alternative, putting aside the fact that long-term use of smokeless tobacco can result in heart disease, as well as cancers of the throat and stomach.

"Smokeless tobacco use among military personnel is of significant concern because of the health risks, which can seriously compromise the performance and readiness of members of the armed forces," said CAPT Paul Lindauer, commanding officer, 1st Dental Battalion. "There is a need for tobacco cessation programs developed specifically for smokeless tobacco users in the military."

According to Lindauer, while smoking rates have been steadily declining during the past 20 years, not enough has been done to reduce smokeless tobacco use. "While 7.7 percent of adult men in the United States report regular use of smokeless tobacco, current usage among male military personnel is 14.5 percent," said Lindauer.

Many users report they want to quit, but have difficulty staying off smokeless tobacco because they are "physically and

psychologically addicted," said Lindauer. Many programs are also very time-intensive, and not conducive to busy military work and deployment schedules. That is why Lindauer said this program is different.

Advocates actually boast about the program's convenience. Marines or Sailors enrolled in the program receive a free guidebook, videotape and counseling phone calls, but will not be required to attend classes or medical appointments.

"They can participate in the privacy of their own home," added Lindauer.

For more information on the tobacco cessation efforts, contact the U.S. Air Force Wilford Hall Medical Center at (210) 292-6297.

For related news, visit the Naval Medicine Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/mednews.

Story by Ellen Maurer, who is assigned to the public affairs office, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

New Program Aims to Help Military Spouses Interested in Teaching

Spouses to Teachers (STT), DOD's latest endeavor to assist military spouses interested in teaching, is serving a similar purpose as the popular Troops to Teachers (TTT) program, an official said.

DOD established TTT in 1994, and responsibility for the program was recently transferred to the U.S. Department of Education. TTT was created to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, according to the TTT Web site.

Michael Melo, director of

Virginia's TTT program and a Virginia STT pilot program, explained that TTT laid the groundwork for STT in providing individual state information. STT currently has a pilot program in five other states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and Texas.

According to Gary Woods, acting director of DOD educational opportunities, the STT program was prompted by military spouses who were already teachers or interested in teaching, but were facing difficulties finding certification requirements and job information when they moved.

Melo and Woods said the program would offer information, counseling and guidance to eligible, interested individuals. Initially, eligibility is limited to those with a bachelor's degree who are spouses of active-duty service members and members of the Selected Reserve or Individual Ready Reserve on extended duty.

It will also offer limited financial assistance to help defray the costs of meeting state certification requirements in the pilot states.

On the future STT Web site and in offices that will be handling the program, the goal is to provide information on teacher-certification requirements within a state, what kinds of jobs are available, and what kind of reciprocity exists between the system they're currently teaching in and systems they may potentially be transferring into, Woods said.

These sources also aim to make spouses aware of additional course requirements for certification or credentialing within the new state, and make sure spouses know where they can turn for potential financial assistance to pursue those courses.

Due to that established network, the Virginia STT office is able to

help transferring spouses become aware of how they may need to augment their certification, as certifications are not always accepted in a different school system, Melo said.

"Because of the network we have from Troops to Teachers with the Department of Education, with the school districts and with the colleges, we're able to provide the information the spouses need for certification in a particular state," Melo said. "If it has reciprocity, there are always intricate little details that it doesn't necessarily transfer over completely."

The response has been positive, Melo said. "We're actually surprised at the number of phone calls we've already received."

Already, four spouses are in the Virginia pilot program, and one has entered an academic program that will lead to licensure.

While the program serves spouses interested in teaching, it also helps ease the burden of a national teacher shortage. The benefits, however, are not limited to the schools that stand to get quality teachers out of the program. The students reap rewards, as well.

"The military spouse has a variety of life experiences that they've gained as a military spouse," Melo said. "So when they come into the classroom, they bring those same experiences so they can impart those life experiences in the learning process of the students."

Military families can come out ahead, too. Woods said this provides an opportunity for a spouse to pursue a degree and a career that will provide the family a better income over time. "One of the things that we're primarily interested in right now is providing access to careers for spouses that will enhance the family bottom line," he said.

Melo and Woods agree that

the national TTT Web site is the best source of information right now. An STT Web page is expected to be established shortly and will link from the national TTT site.

For more news from DOD, go to www.defenselink.mil.

Story by Samantha L. Quigley, who is assigned to the American Forces Press Service, Alexandria, Va.

Senior Enlisted Academy Expands, Includes Non-Residents Course

A Distance Learning program at the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy is now allowing senior chiefs and master chiefs to learn away from the classroom, enabling them to continue their routine jobs and save the Navy money.

The Senior Enlisted Academy offers two courses, resident and non-resident courses, which mirror each other. Each course is intended to enrich each student and build upon what they already know.

"The students gain some self-awareness," Command Master Chief Ralph Rao, Navy Senior Enlisted Academy director, said. "They find out where their strengths are and their weaknesses. Hopefully, they get stronger in strong areas and improve in areas where they have shortcomings."

"Additionally, we let them know that their way of doing business is not wrong," he said. "They've been successful, but wouldn't it be great to learn other ways of doing things, when their way doesn't work."

The non-resident course is open to active-duty and Reserve Sailors, and is only offered twice a year with plans to increase its



U.S. Naval Academy MIDN1/C Aaron Polanco runs for a touchdown against the Northeastern Huskies. Polanco scored three touchdowns and rushed for 143 yards to lead Navy to a 28-24 win over Northeastern.

Photo by Damon J. Moritz

frequency. Each non-resident student will attend a 'kick-off weekend' to meet their instructors, get their laptops and disks with course material, and learn what is expected of them for the next 15 weeks. For those 15 weeks, students can expect to spend one to four hours a night working on course material.

"It's all about keeping up," Rao said. "Additionally, some of the students may be drilling Reservists who have a full-time job, which doesn't allow them the time to be devoted to the course work. Time management, organization, and the balance between family and their life play a big part in completing this course."

After those 15 weeks, all the students will then meet in Newport for two weeks to give oral presentations, go on a naval heritage trip, listen to guest speakers and have a few writing assignments.

The Senior Enlisted Academy said there will always be resident and non-resident courses, and that the average course will grow to 65 by next year. Additionally, the resident course will be reduced from eight weeks to six weeks in the beginning of January 2005.

For more information on the Senior Enlisted Academy, visit the Center for Naval Leadership page on Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil.

For related news, visit the Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/redcome.

Story by JO1(SW/AW) Steve Bansbach, who is assigned to the public affairs office Naval Reserve Readiness Command Northeast.

In the Line of Fire

Decommissioned more than 40 years ago, ex-USS *Shadwell* continues to serve the fleet as a naval research laboratory dedicated to the study of shipboard fire.

Story and photos by JO1(SW) M.J. Darby

When fire breaks out at sea, there's nowhere to run. Far from land, far from help, a fire at sea is like no other fire on earth.

But the firefighters of ex-USS *Shadwell* (LSD 15) are learning from the maritime fires of the past to save Sailors' lives in the future. From the latest in innovative technologies to new doctrines and techniques for those who go into the flames, the scien-

tific studies conducted on the former warship keep the U.S. Navy at the forefront of shipboard firefighting.

Once a World War II amphibious assault ship, *Shadwell* now sits aground on a small sandbar off the coast of Mobile Bay, Ala., as a working laboratory for Naval Research Laboratories (NRL), where fire is always the plan of the day.

▼ ABH1(AW) James Jenkins fills the oxygen tanks prior to the next test in the passageway next to the ship's old brig.





▼ **Perspiration steams** off the flash gear of on-scene fire test engineers, John Farley and Chelbi Cole. From the deck, Farley and Cole observe diesel fuel being added to the fire before the firefighting party is sent in to combat the flames.

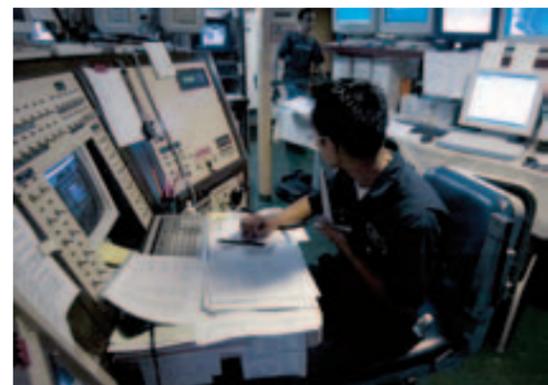
Far from the salty dogs who once roamed *Shadwell's* passageways, a small, specialized team of doctors, engineers, student interns, contractors, Naval Reservists and temporary additional duty (TAD) active-duty Sailors now make up *Shadwell's* crew. They come to study the latest technologies, techniques and doctrines in maritime firefighting.

Only a shadow of her former self, *Shadwell*, rusted from bow to stern, now “sits” at an exaggerated two-degree list to starboard. The ship is now a platform that hosts numerous tests to determine exactly how fire behaves at sea and how best to combat the demon. The results of the testing are sent to Navy ships and also shared with civilian ships and firefighting agencies around the world.

“Of course, there are several safety measures in place, but once the match is put to the fuel, it’s on the fire fighting team to extinguish the flames,” said fire test engineer Chelbi Cole, one of two engineers assigned to ignite test fires and observe efforts at the scene. “On *Shadwell* there is no cut-off valve.”

Sailors training aboard *Shadwell* quickly find out that the main source of fire isn’t their only problem. As they blindly make their way through smoke-filled spaces searching for flames, they find that secondary fires can flare up because of heat convection.

▼ **From the control room** located centerline in *Shadwell*, every part of the ship is monitored, and all vital information (such as temperatures, air flow and personnel movement) are documented by chemical engineers and science coordinators such as Hung Van Pham (foreground).



In less than five minutes time, a metal hull, super-heated from nearby fire, may cause flammable materials, such as chairs, books, clothes or toiletries, in nearby rooms to ignite. During this particular training evolution, it takes most fire parties about seven minutes just to report to the repair lockers and get dressed out. By the time the damage control team reports to the scene, 10 minutes have gone by—more than double the time needed to ignite secondary fires.

Additionally, Sailors aboard *Shadwell* quickly learn about personal physical limitations. The simple act of making their way toward the staging area of a fire drenches each Sailor in sweat before they even enter the scene. Once inside, the intense heat build-up within the compartments turns the moisture held inside the protective suits to steam. Once AFFF or water vapor systems are activated, the steam intensifies and any part of the skin not properly covered can be burned.

“Heat is one thing. I can take the heat and fire any day,” said Culinary Specialist

▲ ***Shadwell's* fire test** engineers and contractors finish bolting down the overhead water system in the scaled-down well deck prior to their test series that will help establish a well deck fire fighting doctrine for Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *San Antonio* (LPD 17).

► **A firefighting party from pre-Commissioning Unit *San Antonio*** (LPD 17) prepares to enter the catwalk area of the scaled-down well deck to fight the blaze.

2nd Class Jerrail Ramsey, a Reservist aboard *Shadwell* “But steam. I just won’t mess around with steam—it hurts.”

As the engineers and Sailors walk into the flames, safety observers on the scene and test engineers in the main control room closely monitor everything throughout the ship, from rooms that have long sat undisturbed to the rooms currently ablaze. Additionally, sensors and airflow monitors report the temperature throughout the trainer. Even the blazing pyres are tracked, often reaching temperatures close to 1,000 degrees.





If you play with fire, you'll get burned. And *Shadwell* is no exception. Remarkably, though, injuries are minimal on this ship. On the latest test series, the *Shadwell* crew, supplemented by TAD Sailors from Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *San Antonio* (LPD 17), sought to establish a well deck fire fighting doctrine for the latest class of amphibious assault ships. As usual for *Shadwell*, things got hot fast.

As the fire party waited to enter the enclosed space of *Shadwell's* well deck from the catwalk, smoke poured from every gap. The crew disappeared into the wall of black for no more than three minutes before they raced out, smoke and steam rolling from their personal protective equipment. Helmet face shields melted like candy. Self-contained Breathing Apparatus face shields warped and cracked. Voice amplifiers

were inoperable. A radio that had dropped to the catwalk deck melted to the glove that picked it up. Even the nozzle and Y-gate of the hose – situated along the catwalk well above the flames below – had melted to the walkway grate.

The only thing that could have been more realistic was an actual shipboard fire. This type of training provides a sobering reminder of why Sailors must be well-trained on what to expect and how to react to fire at sea.

At the post-fire brief, the group discussed lessons learned.

"If I could have charged the hose, I think we would have been able to fight the fire," said Engineman 1st Class (SW) Theodore Trevino glancing at his burnt fingers. "I've been on fire teams for a long time now, and I've never seen a protective glove

◀ **After the fire had been extinguished** and the space cleared, the catwalk hose — intended for fire fighting — was found melted to the deck.



◀ **Only moments after entering** the space to battle the blaze, the fire team was forced to retreat due to the heat. Sweat-soaked personal protective equipment exposed to the 754-degree temperatures within the space began to "boil" the men's skin. Once outside, safety observers quickly peeled away the steaming gear.

▶ **Once a World War II** amphibious assault ship, the ex-USS *Shadwell* (LSD 15) now sits aground in Mobile Bay, Ala. During the latest test series to establish a well deck fire-fighting doctrine for the Pre-Commissioning Unit *San Antonio* (LPD 17), smoke pours from the compartment closest to the stern gate.

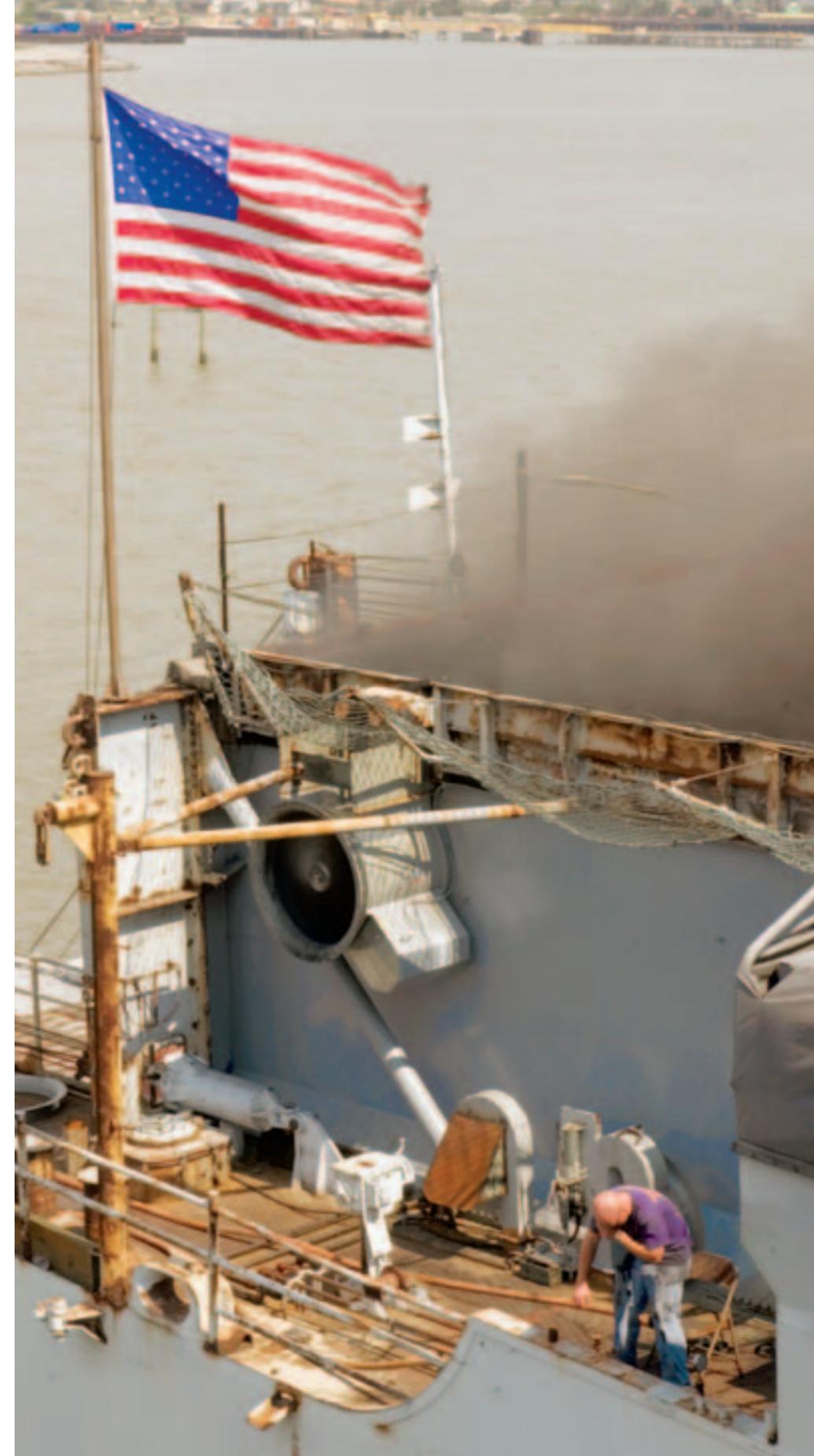
smoke like that before!"

Some *San Antonio* Sailors were so shaken by the reality of the experience that they couldn't continue participating in the tests. "Everyone has their breaking point," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (AW) James Jenkins, whose steaming gear was peeled off of him to reveal first-degree burns down both arms and hands. "Turns out mine is 754 degrees."

"It got intense in there quick," continued Jenkins's shipmate, Damage Controlman 1st Class Michael Schweikert. "I've taken almost every fire-fighting training available in the fleet, and this is the most realistic situation I've ever been in — bar none. It really made me think about what would happen if well deck vehicles caught on fire during a deployment. Every Sailor should experience training like this."

Fire test engineer John Farley, also at the scene of every *Shadwell* fire as an igniter/observer, recognized the Sailors' anxieties, but reminded them that fire often changes the rules of engagement. "Things obviously got hotter than we had expected, but that is the nature of fire," said Farley. "Under current doctrines, if this had been an actual shipboard fire, you probably would have faced similar problems. But that's why we're here, to look at current procedures and address what changes should be made."

Although varied in their roles aboard the former warship, everyone who boards *Shadwell*, whether TAD personnel, Navy Reservist or civilian contractor, doggedly shares a common goal: saving Sailors' lives





◀ **John Farley**, a former naval line officer, continues to have an impact today as a Navy Research Laboratory fire test engineer.



▲ **Although they've been coming to *Shadwell*** for several years for drills, BMSN Erik Rye, HM2 John Dalton and CS2 Jerrail Ramsey have only recently become part of *Shadwell's* Reserve Unit, ONR/NRL SNT 117.

▼ **Nursing minor steam burns** from the latest test fire, the Sailors of Pre-Commissioning Unit *San Antonio* (LPD 17) discuss lessons learned with the engineers on *Shadwell's* mess decks.



by improving naval fire fighting fleetwide. "As Reservists, we volunteered to serve our drill time aboard *Shadwell*," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class John Dalton. "Most of us lose money – and sometimes a little skin – by traveling here, but what we do aboard *Shadwell* has an important impact on today's fleet."

With one series almost behind them, *Shadwell's* crew cleaned up the mess from the day's fire and began to install new configurations. Everything had to be replaced: water systems, sensors, camera protective binding, fuel lines and bulkheads. Building and welding the new test sections was grueling work under a sun that felt

almost as fierce as *Shadwell's* fires. Yet taxing as their tasks are, *Shadwell's* crew tackles each project with steadfast tenacity.

"My body is telling me it's time to go," said Carl Krueger, a retired Coast Guard Sailor turned *Shadwell* contractor as he pauses from welding sheet metal to mop the sweat from his leathery brow in sticky,

90+ degree heat. After nearly 17 years aboard *Shadwell*, Krueger can't help but glance longingly at the fisherman relaxing in a small, shaded boat just off *Shadwell's* stern. "But what we do here is important, and if we can save Sailors' lives, it's worth a few aches and pains."

Along the bulkheads of the area once

reserved for officer berthing, hang small plates engraved with the names of ships that have had shipboard fires – from World War I to the present. The number of casualties are also listed. But those small, symbolic plates may well become a thing of the past, thanks to the hard work and dedication of *Shadwell's* crew.

Nothing would make them happier ☞

Darby is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200411/feature_1/



にかとかかはは
Destination Japan

▲ **Western influence** is reflected throughout the streets in Tokyo. The crowds in Tokyo's *Akihabara* rival the crowds in New York City's Times Square.

Story and photos by PH3 Todd Frantom

Visiting Japan for the first time can be somewhat overwhelming. At first glance, the streets are ablaze with colors strewn across an endless canvas of neon signs with undecipherable writing. People are everywhere—thousands of them flow effortlessly through the city streets in seemingly splendid harmony with one another.

Many Sailors taking orders to Japan may feel dazed and confused in such an environment. As a result, many Sailors restrict themselves to the safe confines of their base, never realizing the real reason for taking orders to Japan is found off the ships and beyond the base's gates.

“Even though I was skeptical at first on how to use the trains, I quickly realized that the people actually know enough English and are willing to help out; all you have to do is ask,” said Aviation Boatsman's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Isaac Paddock, assigned to USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

After reassuring himself that he wasn't intimidated by being in a foreign country, Paddock discovered Japan offers a variety of recreational options, especially during the warm weather months.

“Summer is incredible in Japan. I never realized that Japan had so many great beaches. I've done everything from surfing to riding jet skis,” said Paddock. “At night the Japanese shoot off fireworks and have bonfires on the beach. Japan is such an awesome experience, I feel like I am on vacation living here.”

There are also plenty of locations throughout Japan for Sailors to relax. The Japanese gardens - better known in America as parks—exude a feeling of serenity. These gardens are one of the country's most distinctive features, and they add a special dimension to a visitor's enjoyment of Japan.

“The parks are a great place to relax and just get away,” said Airman Sean Whitt, also assigned to *Kitty Hawk*. “I think it's good to feel like I'm on vacation so that my job on the ship is less stressful.”

In stark contrast to the peaceful atmos-



▲ CTR1 Joseph Barnes (right) helps CTRSN Jeremy Smith through the streets of Yokosuka toward his new duty station on Yokosuka Naval Base.

phere in the Japanese Gardens are the crowded streets of the *Akihabara* district in Tokyo. Japan is one of the world's leaders in innovative gadgets and technological advances, and Sailors can find almost any gizmo they need in the *Akihabara*.

“I'm amazed by the technology,” said Paddock. “I have yet to understand everything my phone does. Everywhere you go there seems to be something different, new or high tech staring you in the face. It's all over.”

Whether a Sailor wants to experience the quiet of the Japanese gardens or dive into the technological maelstrom in the streets of Tokyo, the experience is there. Sailors just have to know how to take advantage of it. And according to Paddock, they need to begin is right on base.

“If you want to really get out and see Japan, the best thing to do to get started is go to the MWR [Morale, Welfare and Recreation] and ITT [Information, Tours

► Sailors assigned to USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) enjoy a relaxing afternoon at one of Japan's many beautiful beaches.



▼ ABH3 Isaac Paddock waits for a train at Yokosuka's Chuo Station. “It took me a couple of days to get up the courage, but I didn't come all this way to stay on the Navy base,” he said.



Atsugi Fast Facts



NAF Atsugi is home of the only complete co-located, forward; deployed air wing, Carrier Air Wing 5, embarked aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

Location: In Ayase city, 10 miles due west of Yokohama and 23 miles southwest of Tokyo, Atsugi is within walking distance of trains.

Major commands: COMFAIRWESPAC; U.S. Naval Air Facility Atsugi; FASOTRAGRUPAC; Naval Pacific Meteorology & Oceanography Det. Naval Air Pacific Repair Activity; Carrier Air Wing 5.

Population: 10,000.

Housing: All military members, civilian employees in the grade of GS-12 (pay equivalent) or higher with command-sponsored family members, are eligible for government family housing. All members, including single personnel with command endorsement, are eligible for off-base housing.

Facilities: Nations Bank, medical facility, DODD schools, commissary, exchange, MWR, gym, bowling, movie theater, golf, swimming pool, restaurants, clubs, pool hall, baseball and football fields.

Special Interest: Tokyo Disneyland, Yokohama, Mt. Fuji, Nagano (snow skiing), Kamakura Beach.

“The best part about having duty overseas is the opportunity is available to finish my school online or on campus, and let's not forget the shopping!”

Ms. Nicole Carr, Family Member NAS Atsugi.

Internet: Naval Air Facility Atsugi

(<https://www.atsugi.navy.mil>)

and Travel] offices on base,” said Paddock. “They have tours all the time. They also have bus and train schedules, even maps that show you where to go. After you do a couple of tours, you get your confidence up and you’ll be ready to go out on your own.”

Stephen Brown, a former Sailor aboard *Kitty Hawk*, suggests trying it all to get the most out of a tour in Japan. He spent four years in Japan before getting out of the Navy. Later, he came back as a civilian. “Japan will grow on you,” said Brown.

“The people, the food and everything about this land has an addictive quality about it. After four years of being here, I didn’t feel like I had fully experienced what Japan had to offer, and now I’m back doing what I can to soak it up. I would advise anyone who

▼ **Some Japanese temples** can be found nestled among the trees and hydrangea bushes on the outskirts of the city. The temples reflect the history and culture of Japan.



▲ **Buddha is a significant** figure in Japan. Buddhism, the most practiced religion in Japan, teaches and encourages treating everyone with the utmost respect and kindness.

comes to Japan to get off the base and see as much as possible.”

But Japan is more than just crowded cities, busy streets and fancy gizmos. Ancient temples secluded among bold trees and colorful flowers rest on the outskirts of these busy streets and hold the secrets to Japan’s ancient history.

“When I first visited the temples, it was completely different from being in the city,” said LT Kimberly Musa, assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka. “There was something peaceful about being out there that you can’t get in the city.”

In time, Sailors become accustomed to the foreign atmosphere and find themselves at ease with everything around them, having lost their initial fear. The country’s low crime rate and kind nature of its people are key to this.

According to the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2000*, Japan has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. The kind treatment of visitors to Japan is in part due to the teachings of Buddhism, which most Japanese people practice as their religion. All travelers are to be treated with the utmost respect and kindness. Under these precepts, the Japanese have been schooled in the “Good Samaritan” concept for more than a thousand years.

“I’m amazed at how comfortable I feel traveling around the country alone,” said Musa. “Everyone is so friendly and always willing to help out. There always seems to be some sort of celebration—it is like Mardi Gras every weekend in Japan.”

Sailors stationed in Japan have an opportunity to experience these celebrations. There are many local festivals throughout the year, usually centered around neighborhood shrines and Buddhist temples. These festivals (*0-matsuri*) are celebrations of the changing seasons, planting and harvesting.

The festivals may also offer prayers for family health, good fortune and prosperity, and they often include folk dancing

(continued on page 31)

に
に
か
か
と
と
か
か
は
は

Yokosuka

Fast Facts



Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) is the largest overseas U.S. naval installation in the world. The 55 tenant commands that make up this installation support WESTPAC operating forces, including principal afloat elements of the U.S. 7th Fleet and Commander Destroyer Squadron 15, including the only permanent, forward-deployed aircraft carrier—USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

Location: This 560-acre installation lies at the entrance of Tokyo Bay, just 40 miles from the capital city of Tokyo.

Population: 24,000.

Housing: More than 2,500 homes and apartments; 10 nine-story towers with 48 two-bedroom apartments for junior enlisted. More than 1,200 single-family houses and apartments located on the Negishi and Ikego Navy establishments for officer, enlisted and civilian families.

Facilities: Nations Bank, Navy Federal Credit Union, U.S. Naval Hospital/dental, undergraduate and graduate opportunities, DODD schools (elementary and high school), commissary, exchange, MWR, gym, bowling, two movie theaters, swimming pool, clubs, baseball and football fields, batting cages, driving range, ocean side park, marina. Restaurants include McDonalds, Taco Bell, Popeye's, China Garden and Baskin Robbins.

Special Interest: Paint ball course hosted by MWR. Sailing lessons offered at the Green Bay Marina. Ikego West Valley campground, open seven days a week. Workout facility with organized sporting events including football, baseball, tennis and rugby.

"Thanks to playing on the Navy rugby team on base, I was given the opportunity to play in the Women's National Rugby game held in Las Vegas this year."

FC2 Teresa Calhoun
USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 62).

Internet: Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY)

(<http://www.cfay.navy.mil>)



▲ The combination of traditional Japanese culture and today's modern influences make Japan one of the most intriguing countries in Asia.

Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200411/feature_2/

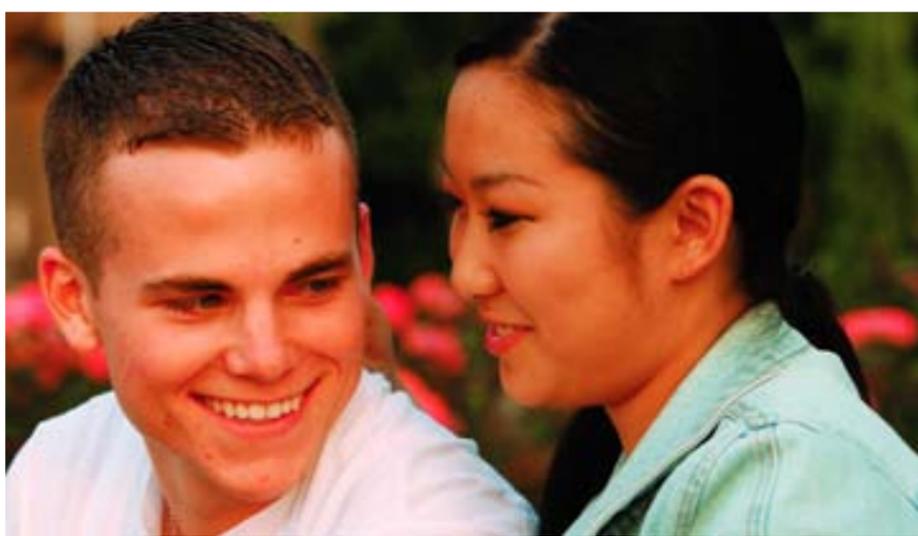


◀ USS *Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54) and USS *John S. McCain* (DDG 56) are moored with a U.S. submarine at the Yokosuka Naval base.

▼ A roller coaster frames the cityscape of ultra-modern, Yokohama, Japan. Yokohama is a favorite shopping destination for the Japanese.



に
に
か
か
と
と
か
か
は
は



▲ **A curious Japanese boy** peers into the crowd looking for a friend. The youth of Japan are trained at a young age to deal with the traffic and crowds in metropolitan areas.

◀ **(Far left) USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63)** Sailor AN Shaun Witt, and his girlfriend Motoka Fumiya enjoy one of Japan's many parks. "The parks are a great place to sit and reflect on where I am and what's going on in my life," said Witt.

◀ **It is common to see Tokyo** street vendors selling cooked meat on skewers to passers-by.

Sasebo

Fast Facts



Sasebo's facilities support forward-deployed units and visiting operating forces of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and designated tenant activities.

Location: Sasebo Bay, on the northwest corner of the island of Kyushu; 30 miles northwest of Nagasaki.

Major commands: Commander Amphibious Squadron 11; USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3); Commander, U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo; Fleet Industrial Supply Center; U.S. Naval Pacific Meteorology & Oceanography Det.

Population: 5,000.

Housing: High-rise apartments, duplexes and town houses; Standard waiting list is 12 to 24 months.

Facilities: Bowling alley, restaurants, gas station, all hands club, gyms, medical/dental clinics, commissary, Exchange, chapel, post office, banks, DODD school.

Special Interest: Sailing and Outdoor Adventure Center offers everything from Sea Kayaking to Basic Sailing classes. Hiking, fishing and scuba trips, are also available.

"COLA is very important, especially when you are not dealing with the U.S. dollar as the primary currency. If you live off base, COLA gives you that peace of mind that your rent and bills are going to be paid without problem."

HN Neely F. Nelson
Branch Medical Clinic Sasebo

Internet: Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo

(<http://www.cfas.navy.mil>)

(continued from page 27)

(*odori*), carnival-like games, food booths, archery and martial arts demonstrations. Costumed participants carry shrines through the streets while chanting. Most festivals are free to watch.

"I will never forget the first Japanese festival I saw," said Musa. "It was held at the base of Mt. Fuji, signifying the beginning of the climbing season. Hundreds of spectators gathered along the streets that were laced with scorching bonfires taller than a man. Bright red embers fell from the night sky as a shrine carried by a dozen men passed me. It was a sight to behold, unlike anything I have ever seen in the United States."

Appreciation of Japanese culture is one of the most unique things a Sailor can take from a tour in Japan. The cultural lessons of the Japanese way of life may be far more rewarding than all the cars, cameras, video games and other products the country exports.

"I've done all I can to experience the culture of Japan, such as taking trips with MWR, visiting temples, and I even saw the famous 'Big Buddha' in Kamakura—all of which has helped me understand the Japanese people more and gain a respect for their heritage," said Musa. "I am so happy that I have gotten out and learned something about their history. I believe it has made me a better person, and I definitely am making the best of my duty in Japan." ☞

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.



◀ Unlike the typical church stain-glass windows, the windows of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Chapel, Gulfport, Miss., depict various naval emblems, vessels and battles.

A Home for Heroes

Story and photos by JO1(SW) M.J. Darby

Monthly contributions from today's enlisted service members help provide a home for yesterday's heroes

► **As a volunteer resident driver** at the Gulfport, Miss., home, Fred Thurmond typically finds himself behind the steering wheel – missing most of the scenery. But, during the MWR-sponsored swamp tour down the West Pearl River, Thurmond enjoys the luxury of simply observing for a change.



John Tuggle is a little tired today. Long ago he fought as part of a small guerrilla unit against the Japanese invasion during World War II in the jungles of the Philippine Island of Mindanao. But this afternoon he settles back comfortably in a well-worn recliner, visibly winded from a few hours of ballroom dancing earlier, to tell a young Sailor about days gone by.

Tuggle's stories of his military service are incredible and almost unbelievable – stories of fierce battles against insurmountable odds. Yet Tuggle isn't the only one with a story to tell here, because he resides at the Washington, D.C., Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) – a home for heroes.

The first veterans' retirement facility was originally established in 1834 as the United States Naval Home in Philadelphia. The Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C., followed in 1851. In

1976, when maintenance and refurbishing costs for the Philadelphia home grew too exorbitant, the Naval Home was relocated to newer facilities in Gulfport, Miss.

In 1990, the two homes were combined by an act of Congress and designated as the Armed Forces Retirement Homes, allowing veterans of all services to reside at either location.

A majority of today's Sailors are not aware of these special homes, yet

▼ **For those residents** who fail to stay engaged in the homes' many activities (or for those whose health doesn't permit much activity), the simple act of waiting – or watching the fish get fed – or waiting for the dining hall to open, becomes an important agenda item. Even with lunch more than an hour away, residents fill the lobby of the Gulfport home as they queue up to be first in line for chow.

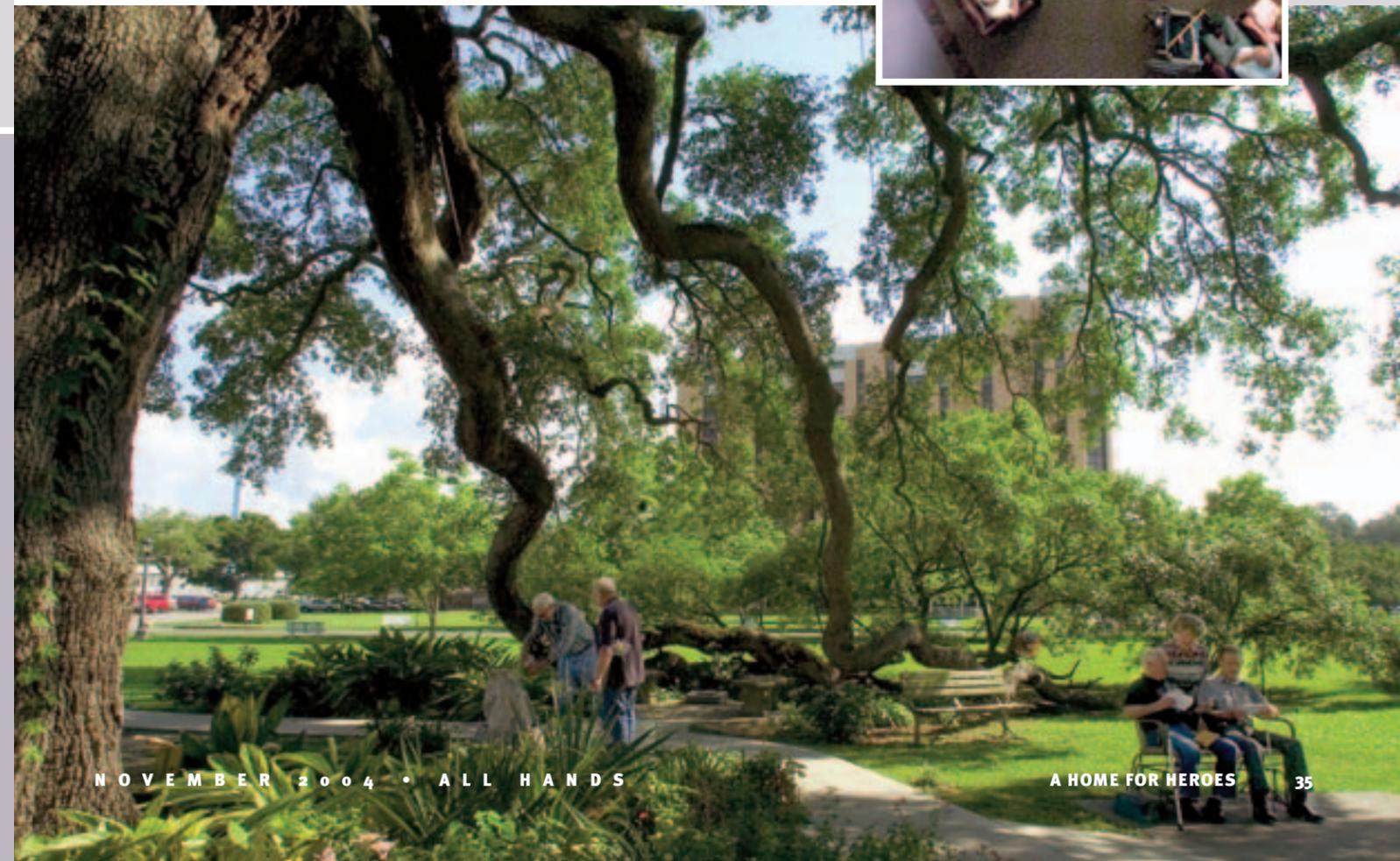


► **Resident newlywed** Buron Noel still finds time for the daily pinnocle game.



▲ **Washington, D. C., resident John Tuggle's** room is filled with family photos and memorabilia of his naval service. Tuggle, who met his wife in the jungles of Mindanao, Republic of the Philippines, while fighting as a guerrilla during World War II, proudly shares photos of their children and grandchildren.

► **Massive, ancient oaks** that sprawl across the grounds provide shady comfort from the fierce Mississippi sun to the residents of the Gulfport home. Richard Craigue, Marion Powers and Pete Lee sit in the shade sharing photographs and stories from skydives each took recently.





the two retirement complexes are largely supported by 50-cent contributions deducted monthly from each enlisted service member's base pay.

Two quarters might seem inconsequential individually, but collectively, they add up. And, when added to the fines and forfeitures garnished for military infractions the homes also receive, these funds provide an operational budget that keeps residents' fees substantially lower than alternative civilian retirement communities.

◀ **Former World War II WAVE**, Marion Wolke is one of the Gulfport home's more active residents. On top of an early morning exercise regime, Wolke is a volunteer driver for fellow residents, belongs to the local "Red Hat Society," and never fails to attend the Friday afternoon dances.

In 2003 alone, AFRH received a total of \$46 million from the enlisted community (\$7 million from monthly deductions and a staggering \$39 million from fines).

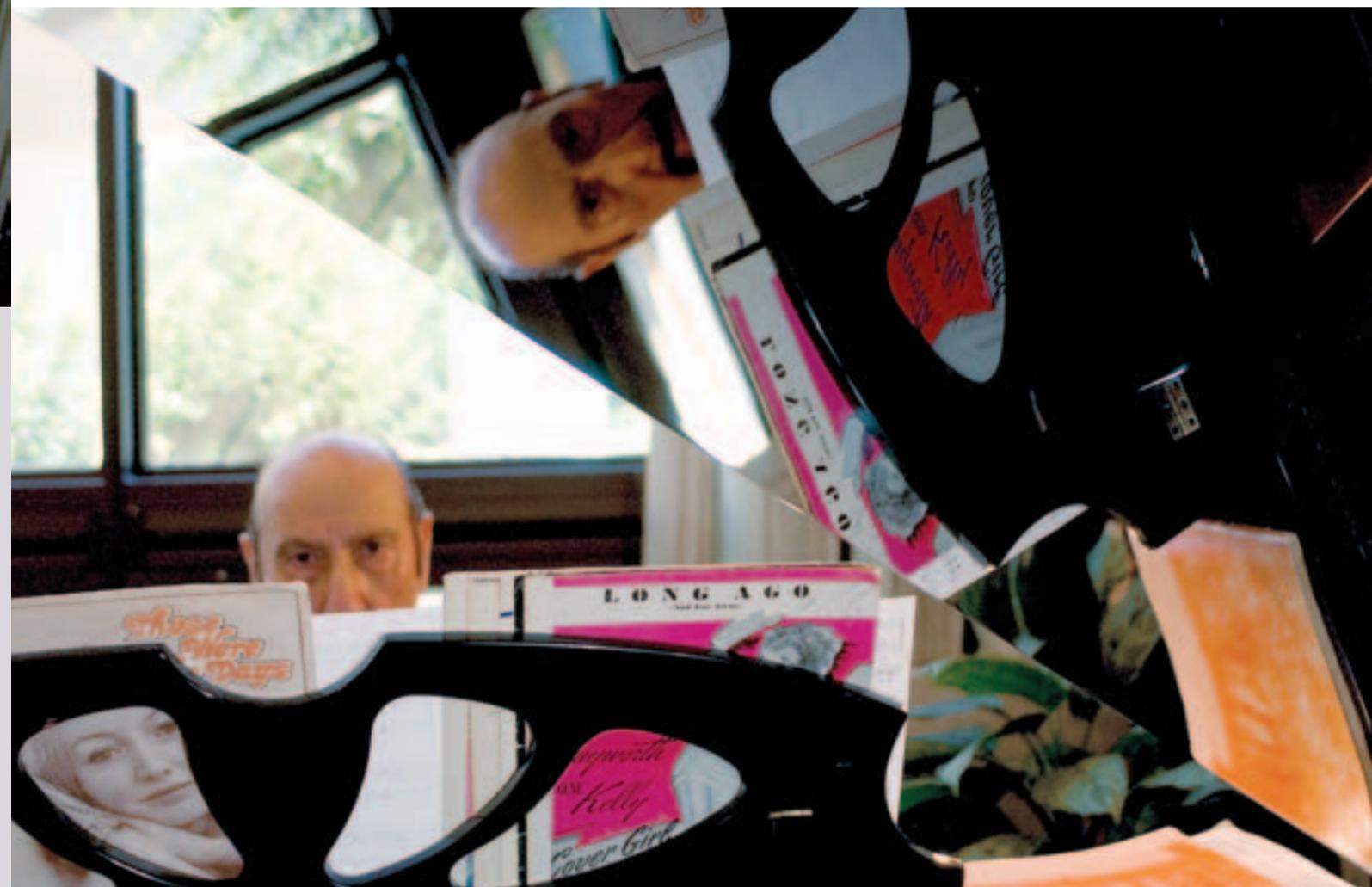
Armed Forces Retirement Homes provide residents with much more than just a place to hang their hat. Medical care is available 24-hours-a-day from on-site medical personnel. Enlisted contributions also support a multitude of programs, services and amenities to keep residents active and engaged within the community.

While the grounds, services and quality of care provided at these homes are

impressive; the most amazing feature of these facilities is their residents.

The active residents enjoy social clubs, bowling, swimming, golfing, dancing, gardening, sculpting, painting, woodworking, biking, bingo, athletic competitions and card tournaments—all conveniently located on the grounds. Other activities include various Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored tours and outings. Additionally, each home has its own gym, theater, post office, library, auto-body hobby shop, bank, pub, beauty- and barbershop, and small Exchange shops, essentially offering the

▼ **Syd Lant, resident since 1991**, spends hours playing the grand piano he donated to the home in November 2001. "I had to put it (the piano) somewhere so I could practice, and it obviously wasn't going to fit in my room," Lant joked.



▲ **Every Friday afternoon** at the Gulfport home residents and guests glide across the dance floor cheek-to-cheek to the tunes of yesteryear performed by a live band.



▲ **Harry Casino**, a resident of the Gulfport home, grabs 40 winks from a comfortable armchair in the lobby. Between naps, Casino crafts delicate and intricate origami ornaments for the home's staff and guests.

services veterans are accustomed to receiving on military bases.

Gulfport resident Dorothy “Gigi” Martin served two years in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Although she was forced to leave at the end of the war, as women were not permitted to serve full-time, she fondly recalls her time in service.

“It’s funny now, but I still remember the day high-heeled shoes were first issued as part of the uniform. Supply told me my flats weren’t worn down enough to qualify for a new pair of shoes. But I’ve always been a high-heel kook, so I spent every evening for a week rubbing my flats on the cement sidewalk outside of my dorm until I could get my heels. They were lovely,” said Malone.

Ask D.C. resident Harris Bircher about his military experience, and he will share a copy of his hometown newspaper detailing his funeral service after he “died” in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Thumbing through the crinkled, yellowed pages of his photo album, he lands on the full-page obituary and casually relates how he swam to nearby land when his ship was bombed.

“Everything was so chaotic after the bombing that it took the Navy two weeks to realize that I hadn’t actually died,” he said.

In the meantime, his family had already conducted his funeral service with the Navy’s assurance that his remains would be sent home if ever recovered and identified.

While the enlisted communities’ monetary contributions help provide for AFRH

residents’ physical needs, visits are equally appreciated and important.

In Gulfport or D.C., behind every resident door, fox trotting across the dance floors, tinkling the ivories of a grand piano in the reception hall or quietly snoozing in lobby armchairs you’ll find another amazing piece of history waiting to be shared. All one has to do is ask. **SS**

Darby is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

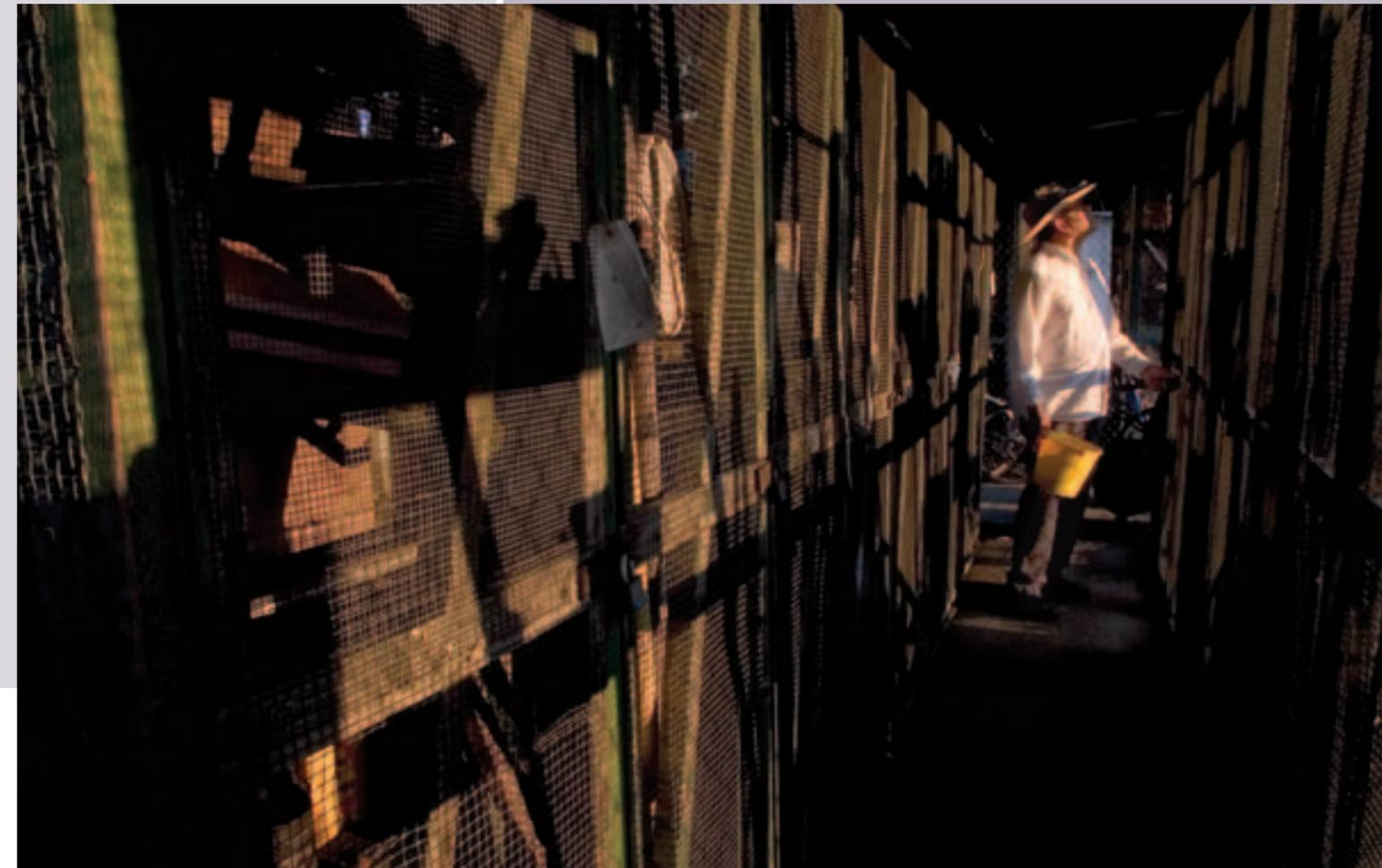
Website Exclusive

Find more photos online at www.news.navy.mil/media/allhands/flash/ah200411/feature_3/



▲ **There are larger accommodations** for residing couples at the Gulfport retirement home, but they are limited. While resident newlyweds, Buron and Helen Noel, wait patiently for combined quarters, they use her room on the eighth floor for sleeping and his room (pictured) for a TV sitting room.

▼ **As the sun quickly retreats** on the day, Jesse James returns his gardening tools to the shed.



► **A first-year resident** of the Gulfport home, Dorothy “Gigi” Malone entertains fellow residents on the home’s organ in the reception hall by playing old melodies and holding sing-alongs.



► **Ever the gentleman**, John Tuggle assists a lady with her luggage cart by taking it ahead of her to the bus stop in front of Scott Hall at the Washington, D.C., home.



AFRH Residency Admissions Criteria

Considering residency at one of the Armed Forces Retirement Homes? If so, applicants must be:

- (1) Veterans who – (A) are 60 years of age or over; and (B) were discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions after 20 or more years of active service.
- (2) Veterans who are determined under rules prescribed by the chief operating officer to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty in the armed forces.
- (3) Veterans who – (A) served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay under U.S.C. Title 37, section 310; (B) were discharged or released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions; and (C) are determined under rules prescribed by the chief operating officer to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability.
- (4) Female veterans who – (A) served in the women’s component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948; and (B) are determined under rules prescribed by the chief operating officer to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances.

***Please note: Couples are always welcome to reside together at either location, but both persons MUST qualify for admission individually.*

For more information or if you are interested in residing at the Gulfport, Miss., home, contact their admissions office at (228) 897-4021, toll-free (800) 332-3527 or by e-mail at ADMISSIONS@AFRH.GOV. Those interested in Washington, D.C., area should call (202) 730-3337, toll-free (800) 422-9988, or e-mail ADMISSIONS@AFRH.GOV.

Focus on Service

These days, Aviation Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (AW) Luciana Erdmann could be considered a rarity.

In an era where college graduates increasingly leave school without deciding on a career, Erdmann, a mechanic for Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 15 out of Naval Air Station Oceana, Va., knew from an early age where her career was bringing her.

"The Navy was something that came later, but I was always into working as a mechanic," Erdmann said. "I worked on a bunch of cars in high school. I always enjoyed doing it. It's been a very gratifying job."

For Erdmann and her fellow Sailors with VFA-15, that gratification comes from the upkeep of their fleet of 12 jets. With a staff of only seven mechanics, it can be a very stressful endeavor.

Getting Jets in the Air

"We do all the troubleshooting on the jets and any other jobs they may need," she said. "That could mean performing an engine removal or removing any other parts that we need to bring into our shop to fix. We fix whatever is needed."

It is an important job that requires more than just mechanical ability, Erdmann noted. "We have to have a good relationship with the pilots," she said, "to make sure we're able to do everything required of us. We talk to them before and after every flight to make sure there are no problems."

The mechanics take the feedback from the pilots and then go into action, making sure everything is repaired and ready to go for the plane's next scheduled flight.

The job will not change much when Erdmann eventually deploys with USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71). "On the ship, things are just more intense," Erdmann said. "Equipment breaks more often, but it's nothing we can't handle. The way I see it, no one else can do this."

And that's what she says makes her job in the Navy important.

"Jets won't fly around here without us," she said. "We better do our job, and do our job right." ❧

Ludwig is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

Story by JO2 Charles Ludwig,
photo by PH3 Antoine Themistocleous



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**.

► During *PANAMAX '04* the guided-missile frigate USS *John L. Hall* (FFG 32) approaches the Bridge of the Americas at the entrance to the Pacific Ocean side of the Panama Canal. The bridge is the only permanent structure joining North and South America.

Photo by PH2 Kevin R. Tidwell



▼ Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC) unload from a fleet of buses upon their return to USS *Wasp* (LHD 1), after a four-month mission in Afghanistan.

Photo by PH3 Theresa J. Ellison

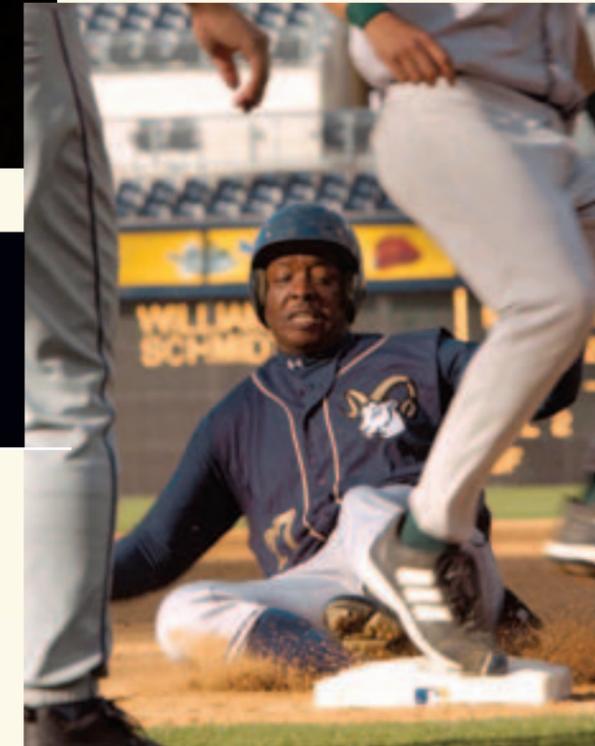


◀ A naval aviator assigned to Sea Control Squadron (VS) 30, conducts a flyby over USS *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67).

Photo by PH3 Joshua Karsten

► OS3 Jamek Long, an outfielder for the U.S. Navy Baseball Team, slides into third base during the 15th Annual Navy/Marine Corps All-Star Baseball Game held at Petco Park, San Diego.

Photo by PH2 Tiffini M. Jones



◀ Marines of the Chemical, Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) from Naval Support Activity, Indian Head, Md., use a Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) to validate various ingress and egress water routes along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers around Washington, D.C.

Photo by PH2 Corey Lewis

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: navyvisualnews@navy.mil

Mail your submissions to:
Navy Visual News Service

1200 Navy Pentagon, Rm. 4B 514, Washington, D.C. 20350-1200

For a new **Eye on the Fleet** every day, click on the **Navy NewsStand's** home page, www.news.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.

Eye on the Fleet

▶ BU2 Patrick King, a range coach from the 31st Seabee Readiness Group, demonstrates the M136 AT-4 rocket launcher to the Seabees Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40.

Photo by PHAN John P. Curtis



▲ Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23, familiarize themselves with Humvee operations as part of their mobilization training in Port Hueneme, Calif., prior to driving the vehicle.

Photo by JO2 Leslie A. Shively

▶ AN Jose Tello smooths out the paint on the rudder of an F/A-18E *Super Hornet* assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 115 aboard the aircraft carrier *USS John C. Stennis* (CVN 74).

Photo by PHAN Ron Reeves

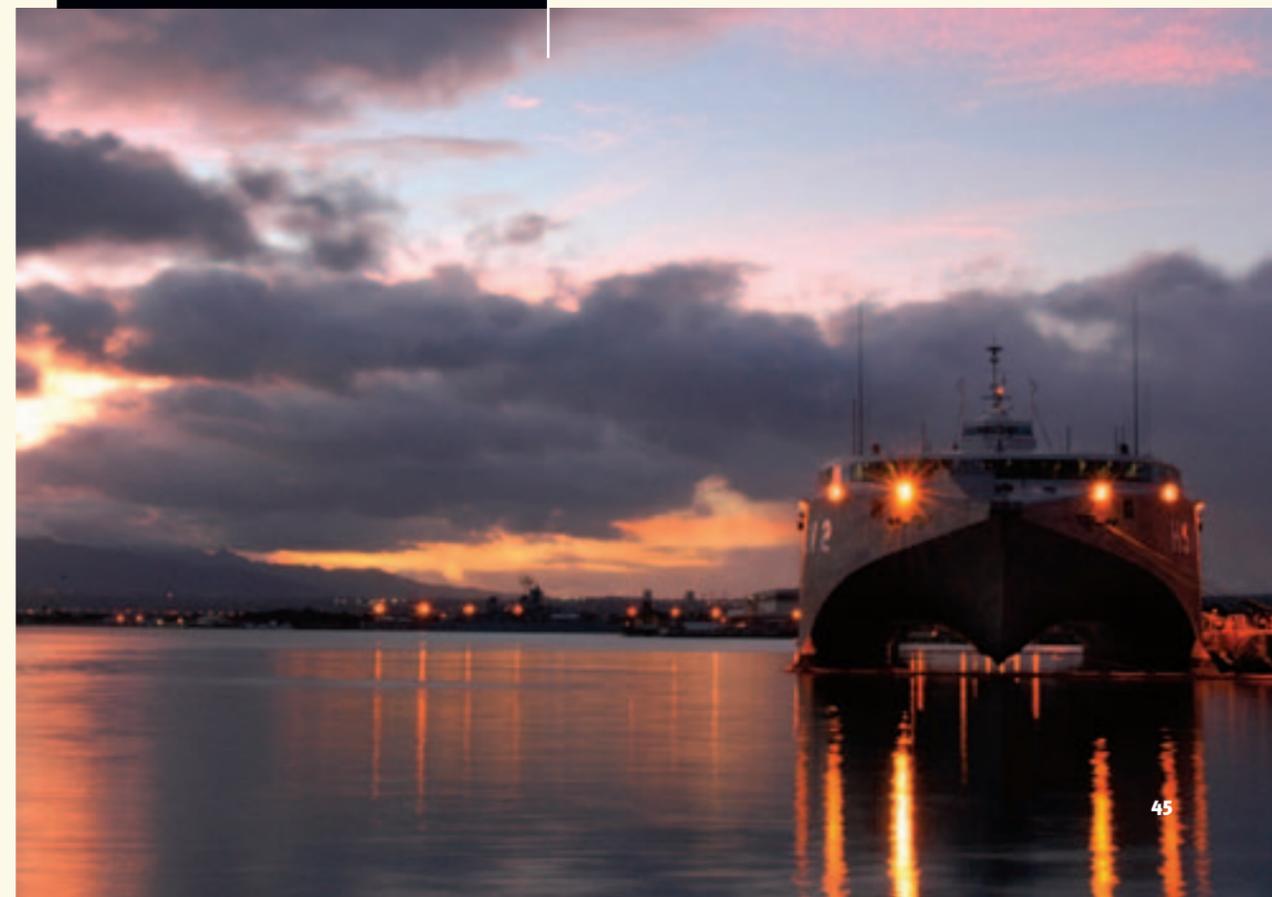


▲ A young boy is fitted into an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) suit by a member of EOD Mobile Unit (EODMU) 8 at the 21st Annual National Night Out event held at the Marinai Housing Community Center, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy.

Photo by JO2 Allison Pittam

▼ High Speed Vessel (HSV) *Swift* (HSV 2) moors in Pearl Harbor after participating in *Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2004*. RIMPAC is the largest international maritime exercise in the waters around the Hawaiian Islands.

Photo by JOSN Ryan C. McGinley



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.



▲ **1952**
Survivors from the fleet tug USS *Sarsi* (ATF 111) are brought in to Sasebo, Japan, after *Sarsi* struck a mine and sank off of the east coast of Korea.



▶ **1948**
In the British sector of Berlin, a petty officer takes a picture of a Russian soldier standing guard at a monument erected in honor of Soviets killed during World War II.



◀ **1965**
Recruits at Naval Training Center, San Diego learn safety procedures for firing rifles.

▶ **1943**
A Sailor and his family visit the bond booth at U.S. Naval Air Station, Seattle.



U.S. Navy Photos Courtesy of the Naval Historical Center

Old Man and Me

Story and photo by PH3 Todd Frantom

When I'm 96 years old, I plan on just trying to get by from day to day. I really can't see myself working. I will more than likely be sitting in a retirement home, enjoying a peaceful game of scrabble, fishing with my great-grandson or writing stories about my life. Work would be the last thing on my mind.

That wasn't the case with my tailor while I was stationed in Japan. With an obvious disregard for retirement, at 96 he continues to take care of Sailors' sewing needs, as he once did for me. The "old man's" shop isn't hard to find. I found him while I was stationed on Yokosuka Naval Base four years ago.

On my first visit, it was easy to tell his shop had been there for a very long time. He was sitting on an old wooden stool, meticulously laboring away on a rusted, antique 1950 Singer sewing machine in a work area the size of a large closet. His shop was decorated with many Japanese and American items, but the walls were dominated by the petty officer patches and rockers on the walls representing all the ships of the U.S. 7th Fleet, and even some ships that no longer exist. There were also many Japanese manuscripts written in *Kanji* (Japanese writing) adorning the walls.

Although I was skeptical about his skills and his knowledge of where to put the patches, I entrusted him with my uniforms. To my surprise, when I returned to the shop a day later to pick up my uniforms, my order was placed and sewn perfectly. The old man had recruited a faithful customer for the rest of my stay in Yokosuka, Japan.

I never realized how interesting the old man was until I went back to visit him while working on assignment for *All Hands*

magazine. During the visit, the old man warmed up to me as he never did when I was a customer. This time he stopped his work and moved a pile of Navy uniforms out of the way to reveal an old dusty box of photographs under the workbench.

I realized then that there was much more to this man than I originally thought. He had a story to tell. Some of the photos dated prior to World War II. Because he couldn't speak English, he gave me a smile of pride. Even with that simple gesture you could tell he was pleased with his life's work.

The photographs represented the quilted history of his life. He had numerous pictures of family members and his father working in the same trade. As he shared more of his photographs with me it became apparent that he had several generations of tailors in his family. Japanese traditions and family expectations are strong, and Kiyoshi Watanabi had spent his lifetime fine-tuning his profession to pass it down to Takao, his son and assistant at the shop.

This man is older than most of our grandfathers. Heck, he's older than many of our great-grandfathers! Yet, day after day he continues to toil away on his 1950 Singer sewing machine, in the same location for 67 years. His passion for tailoring must sustain his happiness. He's an inspiration to us all.

Kiyoshi Watanabi, better known to me as the "Old Man," gives me hope. Hope that I can find a trade I feel passionately enough about to work at until I am 96. But, more than likely, you'll find me at a fishing pond or on a couch. **✍**

Frantom is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.

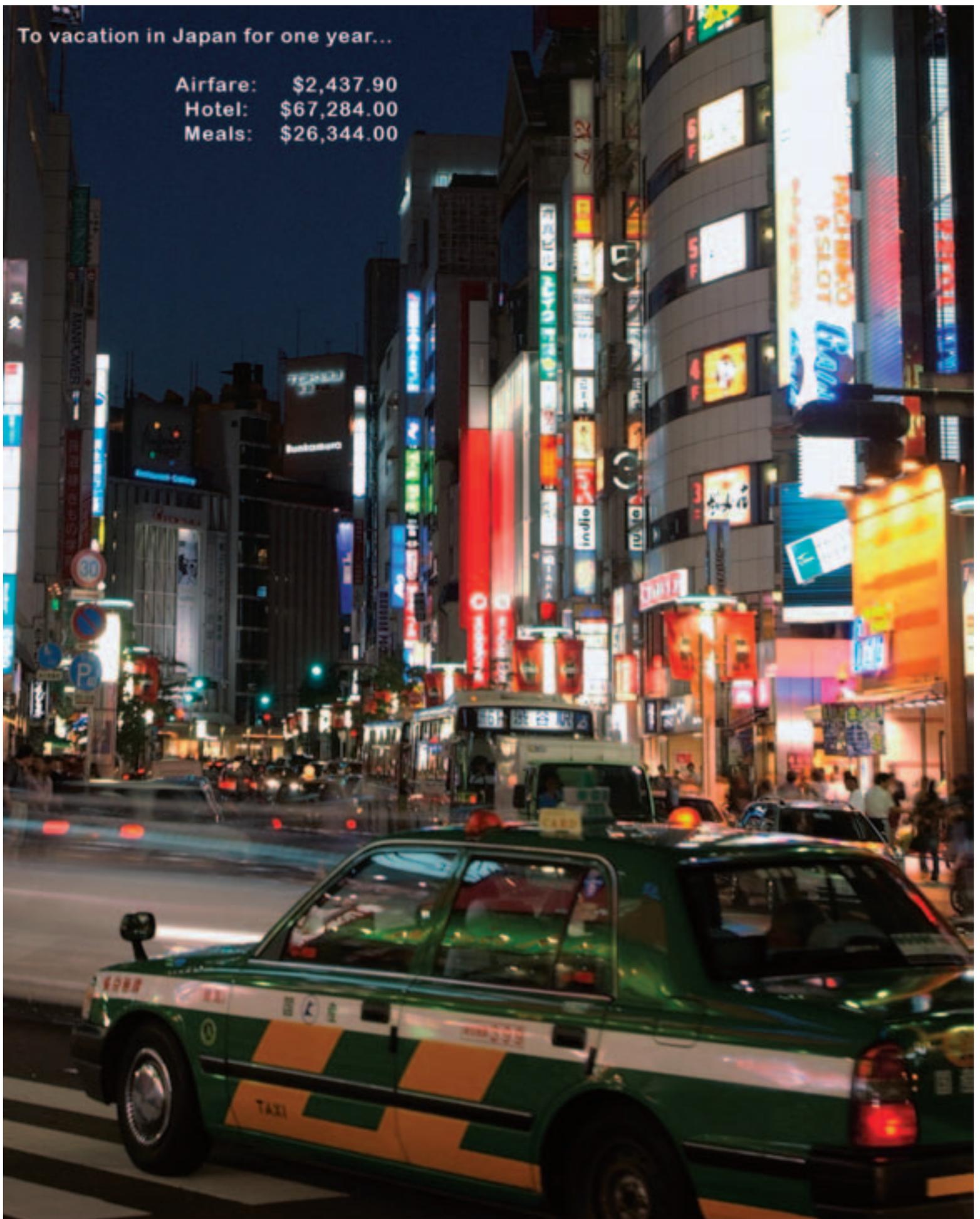


Navy Mentorship
Be one. Have one.

www.staynavy.navy.mil

To vacation in Japan for one year...

Airfare: \$2,437.90
Hotel: \$67,284.00
Meals: \$26,344.00



One year Navy tour : **All-Inclusive**