Roadmap for the IA Sailor

Climb Aboard TSV-1 Prevail
Since Sept. 11, 2001, there have been 67,000 Navy Individual Augmentees (IAs) and Global War on Terrorism Support Assignments (GSAs). Currently, there are 15,000 Sailors on the ground in the Central Command area of responsibility. The skills they learned as Sailors are vital to joint and coalition forces. Their experiences are unforgettable.

Photo by Ensign Christopher Weis

There are varied scenarios in TSV 1 Prevail’s playbook – each complete with role players and realistic documents such as passports and manifests. All are meant to test a boarding team’s ability to adapt to the scenarios Sailors may encounter while deployed, such as smuggling and piracy.

This time, Prevail flew the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Navy’s simulated Treasure Coast region, while posing as a merchant ship. Some aboard Prevail pretended to speak no English, and that was just one challenge among many USS Roosevelt’s (DDG 80) visit, board, search and seizure team encountered as it boarded the ship.

Photo by John Doucette
Two officers from the Center for Information Dominance (CID) Corry Station participate in a traditional “passing of the flag” ceremony during the retirement ceremony for CID Corry Station Director of Training Lt. Cmdr. Darrell Bishop at the National Museum of Naval Aviation atrium, Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

Photo by Gary Nichols
Speaking with Sailors

Adm. Patrick M. Walsh
Vice Chief of Naval Operations

Since September 11, 2001, over 67,000 Active Duty and Reserve Sailors have completed Individual Augmentation (IA) assignments, predominately in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am very proud of the exemplary performance of these young men and women. All of us should make time and find a way to express both pride and gratitude to those who have honored us by the hard jobs that they have taken and the remarkable distinction that they have earned for the United States Navy.

In the past year, I have spoken with “IA Alumni” in various commands – these conversations have proven to be nothing short of inspirational. For many Sailors, their assignments on the ground and oftentimes in a combat zone were defining moments in their lives that have brought a tremendous sense of personal satisfaction, contribution to a national mission, professional success, and intrinsic reward.

Yet, there is an aspect of this mission where I need your focus and leadership and they could benefit from your interest and assistance. Traditionally, our service culture deploys as part of a unit, such as a ship, a squadron, a Carrier Strike Group, Expeditionary Unit, or a SEAL Team. IA Sailors instead train, deploy, serve, and transfer from the combat zone without the benefit of “traditional” support, camaraderie, and the unit cohesion that comes from fellow shipmates. My specific concern is that some Sailors may face challenges in the IA experience because they feel alone, or disconnected from a parent organization that is unaware of their service or sacrifice, even when they return home.

We continue to learn how to improve support for those who serve in this non-traditional mission. In the past, individual Sailors absorbed the burden of many responsibilities that our traditional network of relationships would have readily covered during routine deployments.

Families felt caught ‘in-between’ commands, outside of the watchful eye and steady hand of oversight offered by the extended Navy family. Redeploying Sailors – those returning home – need our attention and support. Yet, programmatic solutions alone will not relieve us of the obligations that we have to those who serve, especially in combat.

The overall health of Sailors is a critical duty for all of us. We have a responsibility to maintain the physical health of the force, but also promote a climate that supports the psychological well-being of those Sailors in our trust. Continued vigilance and a caring attitude are important because, untreated, combat stress injuries and other related mental health issues – including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, domestic violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder, can have debilitating effects on Sailors, their shipmates, and their families.

We know that early treatment programs that address Combat Operational Stress can produce positive results, so we have taken several steps to address the specific needs of those who have served in the combat zone. We designed the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) to streamline the process for reintegrating IAs with their units and families. We have run a highly successful “Returning Warrior Weekend” (RWW) program that brings together Reserve Component Sailors and their families to demonstrate that they are not alone in their transition. The response has been so positive that we will expand the program to include our Active Duty IAs.

Additionally, the Department of Defense requires members to participate in Defense Health Assessments (pre-deployment and post-deployment) to address the specific needs of those who have injuries and other related mental health issues – including alcohol and drug abuse, depression, domestic violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder, can have debilitating effects on Sailors, their shipmates, and their families.

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Around the Fleet

U.S. 4th Fleet Officially Re-established

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead officially re-established U.S. 4th Fleet and named Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kerman as its commander during a recent ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, Fla.

The ceremony followed the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) change of command, during which Kerman relieved Rear Adm. James W. Stevenson Jr., who retired after 32 years of naval service.

Kerman, the dual-hatted NAVSO and 4th Fleet commander, is responsible for U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines assigned from East and West Coast fleets to operate in the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) area of focus, which encompasses the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters.

“Re-establishing the Fourth Fleet affirms our support for, and our desire to, enhance cooperative relationships with the navies and maritime services in the Caribbean and Central and South America. It recognizes the immense importance of maritime security in the region,” said Roughead.

“Our Maritime Strategy values the importance of forming global maritime partnerships by working with international partners as the basis for global maritime security,” Roughead said.

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“The new Fourth Fleet will be headquartered in Mayport and co-located with NAVSO’s, taking advantage of the existing infrastructure, communications support and personnel already in place. Fourth Fleet’s re-establishment will not involve an increase in forces assigned in Mayport, or result in any permanently assigned ships or aircraft.

U.S. 4th Fleet officially re-established

A new Service Uniform Available

As of July 31, 2008, the new E-1 to E-8 Service Uniform (SU) kit is available for purchase in Great Lakes, Ill., and California Navy Exchange (NEX), according to NAVADMIN 190/08.

The SU is for year-round wear and replaces the summer white and winter blue uniforms. It is authorized to be worn for office work, watchstanding, liberty or business ashore when prescribed as the uniform of the day.

The new uniform is the result of significant research and input from the fleet.

“More than 500 Sailors participated in a six-month wear-test, evaluating four diverse uniform concepts, designs and colors,” said Chief of Naval Personnel Adm. Mark Ferguson. Overwhelmingly, the approved SU design was selected above the other three.

Sailors will have up to 24 months to purchase the new uniform, depending on their duty station location. The mandatory wear date for all E-1 to E-8 personnel is July 31, 2010. Clothing replacement allowances for FY08 and FY09 were increased to cover the purchasing of two sets of new uniforms by July 2010.

Basic SU components include a short-sleeved khaki shirt for men and a short-sleeved khaki overshirt for women, black trousers with black belt and silver buckle for men and black beltless slacks for women.

Collar insignia consists of miniature silver anodized metal rank insignia for E-3 to E-6. Petty officers will wear large silver anodized metal rank insignia on their career caps. Men must wear a white undershirt.

Optional components include a black Eisenhower-style jacket with epaulets, black pullover v-neck sweater and black skirt, beret and handling for women. The SU will be available for purchase via NEX uniform centers as follows:

July 08, Great Lakes, Ill., and California July 09, Northeast April 09, Naval District Washington July 09, Tidewater Oct 09, Southeast Jan 10, Northeast April 10, Europe/Japan/ Guam Reserve component Sailors will receive their uniforms via their respective Navy Operational Support Centers.

For more information on uniform and uniform policy, visit the uniform matters Web site at www sortie navy.mil/commandsupport/ uniformissues.

Story courtesy of Chief of Naval Personnel, Washington.
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17 Hospital Corpsmen Care for Iraqis

Hospital corpsmen assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 17 recently conducted health outreach operations in Fallujah, Iraq.

CE3 Jason Dingle, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7, mans an M-2 machine gun at the entry control point for the Logistical Support Area, Camp Shelby, Miss., during the battalion’s unit field exercise. Corporal Dingle, a native of Keep, Ky., recently completed his military service obligation. After completing a one-year deployment in Fallujah, Iraq, he will be returning home to Tennessee.

Four-week Officer Development School in Newport, R.I. For more information, active-duty applicants should read NAVADMIN 181/08.

Story by MC2(SW) Maria Yoges, Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.

**Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 17**

To be considered for the “Around the Fleet” section, forward your cutline information, including full name, rank and duty station to:

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Mail your submissions to:

Navy Visual News Service

Personnel Command, Navy Visual News Service

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Click on the Navy’s home page, www.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.

**Mustin’s CIWS Crew Blows Away Competition, Wins Award**

USS Mustin (DDG 89) recently earned the 2007 Phalanx Close-In Weapons System (CIWS) Excellence Award. Commander, Naval Surface Forces recognized Mustin as the superior CIWS ship in the Pacific Fleet, marking the first time the ship and crew earned this honor. USS Taylors (FFG 50) received the award for the Atlantic Fleet.

The Phalanx CIWS is a 20mm, rapid-fire, Gatling gun utilized as a last defense against anti-ship cruise missiles. CIWS has its own radar, which is capable of detecting, tracking, and engaging air and surface targets at a rate of 3,000 rounds per minute.

“We run electronic and mechanical systems at the same time, so we have to deal with both problems,” said Fire Controlman
Photo by MC2 Andrew Meyers

swivel shot and detachable links during the ships Board of Inspection and Survey.

▲

10

Deck department Sailors assigned to USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) take out three shots of the starboard side anchor chain to perform maintenance on the ship.

Washington soon be replaced by USS Kitty Hawk in the western Pacific Ocean as she will have her name engraved on a trophy located at Commander, Surface Forces Command. “Their dedication has ensured that the gun remains especially effective in maintaining the readiness of the system.” Our CIWS team has worked hard to keep the mount up under challenging conditions,” said Mustin Commanding Officer Capt. James T. Jokes. “This dedication has ensured that Mustin is always mission ready.” Mustin will have her name engraved on a trophy located at Commander, Surface Forces Command headquarters. The ship will also receive a plaque with the names of all CIW maintenance members, and a $1,000 contribution will be made to the ship’s morale welfare and recreation fund.

Story by Ensign Brian Greenert, USS Mustin (DDG 89), Yokosuka, Japan.

First LCS Gun System Demonstration Held at NSWC Dahlgren, Va.

The Navy recently rolled out the first Surface Warfare Mission Package (SUW MP) for the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) at Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren, Va. One of three interchangeable modules, the SUW MP is designed to provide war-fighting capability in the SUW mission area against small boats. The modules include anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare and mine warfare.

“The capability the Surface Warfare Mission Package brings to LCS is truly unprecedented. Never before has the Navy built a ship, complemented with three modular mission packages, that is as versatile and responsive to emerging war-fighting requirements. The lessons learned for LCS mission modules need to be captured and utilized from here forward for every surface combatant and amphibious ships we design for the U.S. Navy,” said Vice Adm. Paul Sullivan, commander, Naval Sea Systems Command.

SUW MP will integrate with LCS to provide a flexible capability to rapidly detect, track and prosecute small-boat threats, giving the on-scene commanders the capability to protect local assets and move a force quickly through a strategic waterway.

Rollout included the first modularized gun system capabilities demonstration of the MK 46 30 millimeter gun. With its standardized networking interfaces, this gun saves the Navy more than $4 million per platform in re-engineering costs.

The MK 46 30 millimeter gun system is a two-axis stabilized chain gun that can fire up to 200 rounds per minute. This system uses a forward-looking infrared sensor, a low light television camera and laser rangefinder with a closed-loop tracking system to optimize accuracy against small, high-speed surface targets. The gun can be mounted forward and aft of an LCS island to support different mission requirements and can be operated locally at the gun’s weapon mount or fired remotely by a gunner in the ship’s combat information center.

Continued on page 13
Capt. Eric Kuncir (right), a surgeon assigned to USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and Dr. Do Hoai Ky, a Vietnamese surgeon, perform a laparoscopic cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal) on a Vietnamese patient during the Pacific Partnership mission in the Nha Trang, Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Photo by MC2 (SW) Joseph Seavey

MU2 Robert Taylor plays a traditional Philippine kulintang during a Pacific Partnership medical civic action program at Poblacion Elementary School, Guidulungan, Republic of the Philippines. The Pacific Fleet Band and a traditional Maguindanaon folk group shared their music throughout the day, entertaining patients while they waited for medical assistance. Photo by MC2 James Seward

Sailors gather in a hangar bay aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as the ship approaches Hong Kong for a port visit during a routine deployment in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. Photo by MCCS Spike Call

New Ship Class Begins Operations in 7th Fleet

Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4) entered the waters of the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet July 24, marking the first Lewis and Clark-class, multi-product, combat logistics support ship in service in the 52 million-square-mile region.

Byrd replaces MSC combat stores ship USNS Niagara Falls (T-AFS 3), which has been forward deployed supporting 7th Fleet since 1994. Though the entry into the fleet’s territorial waters was unceremonious, it signals a significant change for Logistics Group Western Pacific, also known as Commander Task Force 73, which will operationally control the ship while in theater.

“This ship will enable our command to provide the warfighter with a level of support that is unprecedented,” said Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, CTF 73 commander. “It brings a much more robust capability to the fight.”

The 689-foot-long underway replenishment vessel, known as a T-AKE, replaces the current capability of the Kilauea-class ammunition ships and Mars-class combat stores ships, and it also possesses the capability to refuel ships at sea.

“The combat stores ships are extremely capable and have developed a real ‘can-do’ culture for any mission in 7th Fleet. However, having the T-AKE as a one-stop logistics ship in the Navy’s largest theater will significantly improve the flexibility of our operations,” said Capt. Jim Smart, CTF 73 assistant chief of staff for logistics.

While we say a sad farewell to Niagara Falls and honor her many years of fine service and her reputation for professional excellence, we welcome and are glad to have Byrd and its crew on the Navy team in the Western Pacific.”

Byrd has a crew of 124 civil service mariners working for MSC as well as a military detachment of 11 Sailors who provide operational support and supply coordination. When needed, Byrd can also carry a supply detachment.

MSC operates approximately 110 noncombatant, merchant mariner-crewed ships that replenish U.S. Navy ships, conduct specialized missions, strategically preposition combat cargo at sea around the world and move military cargo and supplies used by deployed U.S. forces and coalition partners.

“Story courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command, Dahlgren, Va.”

“The SUW MP demonstrates the Navy’s commitment to design ships and systems that are more modular, affordable and adaptive to a future Navy with ship classes that deliver effective capability to fight in blue, green and brown water environments,” said Capt. Mike Good, program manager LCS Mission Modules.

The next phase commences with software integration from the gun to the Mission Package Computing Environment and includes land based end-to-end testing of the gun at NSWC Dahlgren.

LCS is a fast, agile, focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. It is designed to defeat asymmetric “anti-access” threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The first LCS, Freedom, is scheduled for commissioning in 2008.

Story courtesy of Naval Sea Systems Command, Dahlgren, Va.
Sailors Of The Year Advanced To Chief

Story by MCMS(SW/AW) Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Office, Washington, D.C.

The 2008 Sailors of the Year (SOY) were advanced to chief petty officers during a ceremony hosted by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SW/AW) Joe R. Campa Jr., at the Navy Memorial July 17, 2008.

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore SOY, Intelligence Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Heather Straw; Fleet Forces Command Sea SOY, Explosive Ordnance Disposal 1st Class (ESW) Tyrone Logan; Pacific Fleet Sea SOY and Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Fuels) 1st Class (AW/NA) Justin Melton each received the Navy Commendation Medal prior to receiving their chief’s anchors. The Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW) Kathleen A. Reilly, could not attend and will advance at a later date.

Prior to the pinning, Campa explained that narrowing down a field of Sailors from across the Navy was difficult. But he added that, in the end, each of the four chosen displayed specific attributes that led to their selections.

"In a maritime service that breeds leaders and patriots these Sailors have stood out because they best represent the qualities we value most in our people: first line leadership, rating expertise and, above all, a true desire to positively affect our Navy and our Sailors." Chief of Navy Reserve, Vice Adm. John Cotton, presented each Sailor Navy Commendation medals then offered remarks regarding their meritorious advancement to chief, their new roles in the Navy and he referred to the upcoming, six-week induction in which they will participate.

shortly after Cotton’s remarks, Straw, Logan and Melton stepped forward to receive their anchors and have their combination covers placed on their heads.

"As chiefs you will provide a traditional brand of leadership that our Navy has come to rely on, a brand of leadership that is grounded in 115 years of rich heritage," said Campa.

"Never again will individual accomplishments define your effectiveness. From this day forward, the number one indicator of your success will be the success of the Sailors who look to you for leadership.”

The Sailor of the Year program was initiated by then-CNO Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and MCPON Jack Whittet in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The next year, the program honored the top Shore Sailor of the Year. Houlihan is assigned to the office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Washington, D.C.

EOD1(ESW) Tyrone Logan
2008 Fleet Forces Command Sea Sailor of the Year
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
DOB: 1976
Years in Navy: 11 (Three with the U.S. Marine Corps and eight with the U.S. Navy)
Schools: University of Cincinnati; Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Bachelor of Science in Biology; Explosive Ordnance Disposal training
Duty Stations: 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Marine Corps Recruiting, Columbus, Ohio; EODMU 4, mobile detachments; EODMU 4 DQQ; EODMU 2, LPO for Det. 6, Iraq Deployment; LPO of CIF Det. 32
Off Hours: Mentoring Sailors

15s(SW/AW) Heather Straw
2008 CNO Share Sailor of the Year
Hometown: Lancaster, Calif.
DOB: 1974
Years in Navy: 10
Schools: Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.; Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station Pensacola, Fla.; Cryptologic Technician Maintenance "A" School; Fleet Cryptologic System Maintenance School; and Combat Direction Finding (DF) Maintenance "C" Schools; Navy & Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center
Duty Stations: USS Boxer (LHD 4); including Operations Iraqi (Freedom and Southern Watch); USS McCampbell (DDG 85); Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet serving as No Leading Petty Officer; Individual Augmentation at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Off Hours: Completed an Associate Arts Degree in General Studies from Columbia College.

ATS(AW/NAC) Kathleen A. Reilly
2008 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year
Hometown: Boston
DOB: 1974
Years in Navy: 20 (15 Active, seven Reserve)
Schools: Embry Riddle Aeronautical University majoring in Liberal Arts; Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Fla.; AV "A" School; Advance First-Term Avionics; Aircrew Candidate School; Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion School; AX "C" School; and ES-3A FRAMP; Bachelor of Science Degree in Liberal Arts; Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Fla.; AV "A" School; Advance First-Term Avionics; Aircrew Candidate School; Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion School; AX "C" School; and ES-3A FRAMP; Bachelor of Science Degree in Aviation Management
Duty Stations: Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 2 in Rota, Spain; VQ-5 in San Diego; VP-2 in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii; VP-64, NAS (RB Willow Grove, Pa.; VR-43, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.
Off Hours:Staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

ABFs(AW/SW) Justin H. Melton
2008 Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year
DOB: 1978
Years in Navy: 11
Schools: Basic Training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.; Airman Apprenticeship Training, Pensacola, Fla.
Duty Stations: USS Taboro (LHA 1), San Diego; Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), Charleston, S.C.; Currently VQ-4, Division Leading Petty Officer, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)
Off Hours:Board of Directors of the Aviation Boatswain’s Mates’ Association - San Diego Chapter, and volunteers with the Meals-on-Wheels program.
The skills they learned as Sailors are vital to joint and coalition forces. Their experiences are unforgettable.

“For many Sailors, these assignments were defining moments in their lives and included a tremendous sense of personal satisfaction, contribution and reward,” said Walsh.

When USS Normandy (CG 60) had to fill one of those billets, Yeoman 2nd Class Elizabeth Roberts volunteered. “I found my IA tour to be extremely fulfilling and would do it again,” said Roberts. “I worked with some really amazing people [at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad] and would not have had the opportunity to know what working in a joint-service environment is like without my IA tour. I know [the experience] changed me. I got a chance to do something different and to really grow professionally.”

Roberts said there were many benefits beyond knowing that the work she was doing was important to the Navy’s mission. “[A tour like this] may help you get promoted,” said Roberts. “You meet people out there that you might not have had the chance to ever meet except in that environment.”

The path leading to these assignments has evolved since its inception, and for some Sailors the process remains unclear, but the Navy is working hard to debunk myths and bring clarity to the overall process. Initially, all the requested fills were processed as IAs. Now, GSA detailing is in place to reduce the number of Sailors sent on short notice. Now, Sailors have the ability to accept a GSA assignment as a permanent change of station (PCS). “By the end of 2008, nearly 70 percent of all our requirements for the global war on terrorism will be filled through the normal [GSA] detailing process,” said Rear Adm. Sonny Masso, commander, Navy Personnel Command.

What is a GSA/IA and How Are They Selected?

GSAs or IAs are Sailors who support or "augment" another Navy, Marine Corps or
Army command, working with joint forces and using their Navy skills to provide essential support to a variety of operations around the world. These Sailors usually get temporary assigned duty (TAD) orders and return to their current or “parent” commands once they complete their assignments. Assignments vary in length from a few months to a year or more.

Through GSA, assignments of at least one year are now incorporated into regular sea-shore duty rotation. Sailors can negotiate with their detailers for a GSA assignment when they are within their projected rotation date (PRD) window. This means that instead of going TAD, Sailors detach from their current commands and are assigned administratively to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC). They will then transfer to their next PCS assignment once they return from GSA duty. This process makes these types of assignments more predictable for Sailors and their families.

It’s very important for leaders, from chiefs to commanders, to know where their reporting Sailors have been and to understand their experiences. This provides the leadership an opportunity to better position the Sailors, and the gaining command, for success. As in the past, there will continue to be a need for IA assignments that aren’t incorporated into the detailing process. In these situations, Sailors remain assigned to their commands and go to their IA assignments on TAD orders.

Sailors are qualified for a number of incentives as a result of their GSA or IA deployments. Benefits include advancement points for enlisted Sailors and follow-on duty station coast preference. Detailers work closely with both officers and enlisted personnel to ensure a solid career path. “We need to ensure that individuals doing an IA continue to have the upward mobility and career progression that we agree to give them when they joined our great Navy,” said Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), executive agent for the IA continuum. “We, basically, integrate the IA experience into their career. In addition, anyone with TAD orders for a year or more may use special orders to relocate their families.”

The Navy has created a new Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC), and officers will be given a special Additional Qualification Designator (AQD) that tags them as having completed a GSA or IA assignment. This will allow the Navy to track individuals and will be an automatic signal to selection boards. Sailors stationed in a designated combat zone earn tax-free pay checks for the duration of their deployments, which can provide savings of thousands of dollars.

“If you are careful with your money, it can be financially beneficial …” said Roberts. “While you are there you have no day-to-day expenses. I was able to come home debt free …”

Mobilization and Training

Sailors with GSA or IA orders are in-processed at Navy Mobilization Processing Sites (NMPS). It is imperative that Sailors bring the following to their NMPS: medical and dental records, medications (90-day supply) and copies of prescriptions, government travel credit card and enough cash for two-day’s lodging and meals (approximately $150 to $250), proof of city/state residence, a copy of the completed ECRC IA checklist and a copy of the completion certificate for each mandatory prerequisite course completed on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) e-learning. Individual orders will state if Sailors need to bring their personnel records to NMPS. Those who aren’t required to bring their personnel record should also bring the following to NMPS: orders, updated Page 2, current contract/extensions, Page 4s (qualifications, awards and ASVAB), most recent evaluation/FITREP (Fitness Report), family separation allowance form (if applicable) and an examination worksheet (if applicable).

Sailors spend about one week at NMPS to ensure all prerequisite items and the ECRC checklist are completed and that each Sailor is qualified to move forward. Next up is basic combat skills training conducted by Army drill instructors at one of several Army bases across the country. Sailors’ individual training sites are included in their orders.

“The Army drill instructors appreciate what the Navy is contributing to the mission and understand that many of the Sailors haven’t served on the ground before,” said Lt. Jason Aroyer, a former IA. “They’re taking the time to fully explain everything and ensure all prerequisite items and the ECRC checklist are completed and that each Sailor is qualified to move forward. Next up is basic combat skills training conducted by Army drill instructors at one of several Army bases across the country. Sailors’ individual training sites are included in their orders. The Army drill instructors appreciate what the Navy is contributing to the mission and understand that many of the Sailors haven’t served on the ground before,” said Lt. Jason Aroyer, a former IA. “They’re taking the time to fully explain everything and

Navy Provides Flexible Support to GSA, IA Families

Story courtesy of U.S. Fleet Forces Command

“Being left behind when a loved one goes to war has got to be one of the hardest jobs in the United States military,” President George Bush proclaimed at a recent ceremony highlighting the sacrifices of military spouses.

With thousands of Sailors deployed globally in GSA or IA assignments at any one time, providing necessary support to their families is essential to mission success according to Adm. Jonathan Greenert, commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF). USFF was recently designated as the Navy’s executive agent for the IA Continuum which encompasses all aspects of these types of missions.

Recent feedback from spouses of Sailors who have gone GSA or IA indicates the support available is finding its mark. “The surprising part is there’s probably more support available today for an IA family than for families dealing with a regular deployment,” explained Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Joanna Arocho.

Arocho, the mother of three children under 5 and another one due in November, is the wife of RP2 Josh V. Arocho. He is currently serving an IA tour in Iraq.

“The increased support is a great thing because sometimes when a spouse is deployed as an individual, families don’t know who to turn to for information or help. When your husband deploys with a ship it’s obvious [who to call for information], but when he deploys by himself, who do I call? I think it’s great Fleet and Family Support bends over backwards for IA families,” Arocho said.

The support needs of families are as varied as the missions their Sailors conduct when deployed as a GSA or an IA. Flexibility in support is what FFS&C is embracing when dealing with families.

“Finding out directly from our IA families what their needs for support are is our goal,” confirmed Colleen Charlton, chief of services for FFS&C Oceana and Dam Neck.

“We’re constantly trying to find out what they need to help make their family’s IA tour successful. The answer doesn’t have to reside in FFS&C. If an IA family needs a form of support we don’t provide, we tap into our fleet-centric area, we’ll find an organization...”
For many Sailors, their duties provided the kind of naval experience they had always longed for — an experience where they knew they made a difference.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class William Dorff served as an IA at Counter Rockets and Mortar (CRAM) Command in Iraq. "I maintained the LPWS (Land-based Phalanx Weapons System) mounts that defended the base from incoming rocket/mortar attacks. The six months that I spent in country in the CRAM-2 unit was the best six months of my naval career...", said Dorff. "The job I was doing in Camp Victory actually mattered because it saved lives..."

While there are a lot of Sailors working in Iraq and Afghanistan, many others are experiencing deployments in many other parts of the world. Navy Reserve Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Frank Gifford deployed to the Horn of Africa with U.S. Army Civil Affairs Team 402.

Gifford learned soon after his arrival that the local population did not have the skills or experience to efficiently deal with cattle. As fate would have it, Gifford was an experienced cowhand, having worked on farms for years. "They wouldn't get close to the cattle, both because of the size of the animals, and their horns."

So Gifford leaped into action to help the local Ugandans. He jumped into the corrals with the cattle and ushered them into the vaccination shoot.
"The locals were rather stunned by the crazy "Mzungo" (local slang for Caucasians) that would get in the corral with the livestock..." he said.

Gifford said his time in Uganda was unlike anything else he will ever experience. "It was an awesome experience of humanity at its finest. When it mattered most, several distinct groups of people, regardless of differences in creed, race, religion, language or nationality, came together to work effectively."

The Way Home

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The Warrior Transition Program (WTP) allows Sailors to participate in briefings and interviews designed to provide a streamlined process for preventing or managing combat operational stress. The three-day transition program has the goal of preserving mission effectiveness and combat capabilities in the theater while minimizing the potential short-term and long-term adverse effects of an individual's combat deployment. For most Sailors the best part about WTP is getting rid of the mountain of gear they collected prior to deployment. WTP personnel collect gear and weapons and arrange for follow-on travel back to the States. By locating the gear collection process at the WTP in Kuwait, Sailors are now able to return home one week earlier on average. These deployments have become a major part of naval service in the past half-decade, and the work the Sailors are doing at these posts has had an incredible impact, according to Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead. "...the individual augmentees are doing incredible work," said Roughead. "They bring perspective and they bring skills that are really unique, but, most of all, they bring an attitude that's just part of who they are as Sailors. If there's a job to be done, we're going to do it — we're going to do it to the best of our ability.""}

During the Warrior Transition Program in the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC), Navy individual augmentees have their inventory sheets verified to show that all of their combat gear has been turned in after completing their tour of duty. ECRC established the WTP to assist Sailors while they transition from their tours in a combat environment back to the United States. It gives a chance for Sailors to decompress from a high stress combat environment, turn in gear, go thru customs, receive end of tour briefs and prepare follow on travel arrangements.

Perlewitz, Director of Strategic Planning & Fleet Personnel Transformation at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, is for individual commands to take ownership of GSA and IA Sailors and their families and "do the right thing" to provide whatever support is needed throughout the deployment. "IA Sailors and their families are proudly representing the commands from which they're deploying. Although a Sailor may be serving as an augmentee assignment as an individual, we must always ensure the family is never alone," Perlewitz added.

Most importantly, according to Kate Perlewitz, Director of Strategic Planning & Fleet Personnel Transformation at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, is for individual commands to take ownership of GSA and IA Sailors and their families and "do the right thing" to provide whatever support is needed throughout the deployment. "IA Sailors and their families are proudly representing the commands from which they're deploying. Although a Sailor may be serving as an augmentee assignment as an individual, we must always ensure the family is never alone," Perlewitz added.

Just as serving as a Navy spouse has been one of the toughest jobs in the Navy for generations, serving as a GSA or an IA family will never be easy. Ensuring flexible support to these families will remain a significant focus of Navy leadership until supporting families successfully is as engrained in the Navy culture as providing homecomings.

The Way Home

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Climb Aboard

TSV-1 Prevail

Story and photos courtesy of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk.

USS Roosevelt (DDG-80) follows TSV-1 Prevail during boarding training off the coast of North Carolina. Prevail, posing as a merchant ship, shows the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Treasure Coast training scenario.
In Onslow Bay, several miles off the coast of North Carolina, a small boat carrying Sailors armed with brightly-colored training weapons recently towed away from USS Roosevelt (DDG 80) toward TSV-1 Prevail, a one-of-a-kind training support vessel.

Aboard Prevail, from the engine room on up to the bridge, the ship’s master and crew members were deep in character as they played out their current scenario. Prevail flew the flag of Garnet, a fictitious nation from the Navy’s simulated Treasure Coast region, while posing as a merchant ship. Some aboard Prevail pretended to speak no English, one challenge among many the destroyer’s visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team encountered when they boarded the ship.

The 224-foot TSV-1 Prevail began her life as a Cold War-era ocean surveillance ship in 1986. In 2003, as a Cold War-era ocean surveillance ship in the Persian Gulf, Prevail’s predecessor. “At the time, it was focused on maritime interdiction operations (MIO) training,” Prevail’s Master George W. Fleck calls, “our Super Bowl.”

“During the work-up period prior to deployment, battle group ships have developed competencies in particular warfare areas. COMPTUEX provides the opportunity for the ships to work together as a team. COMPTUEX is a prerequisite for the next major event the battle group will face, the Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFEX),” said Wayne Giddelman, the Mobile Sea Range program manager at Commander, Strike Force Training, Atlantic (CSFTL).

Since then, Prevail has trained 20 strike groups, about 500 individual ships and several thousand Sailors – particularly during Composite Training Unit Exercises (COMPTUEX), which Prevail’s Master George W. Fleck calls, “our Super Bowl.”

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Now based at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Norfolk, Prevail is crewed by 14 civilian professional mariners, and their number is augmented by Sailors during training missions. Prevail is part of the Mobile Sea Range, built around Prevail and two training support vessels, Hunter and Hugo, and is headed by CSFTL. Prevail is at sea 160 or so days a year to help other Atlantic Fleet ships train.

“Prevail supports ships, submarines and carriers,” said Fleck. “Prevail’s work includes submarine sea trials, new construction builder’s trials and research and development events.”

It provides multiple capabilities supporting invaluable training for the fleet,” said Mike Hohl, who oversees live training equipment while deployed for long periods of time. The ship and her crew have developed into a floating theater and traveling acting company, posing as a merchant vessel and crew during maritime interdiction operations training. The crew’s acting talents provide Sailors a training experience that is closer to real-world situations.

In the latter training, there are varied scenarios in Prevail’s playbook – each complete with characters for crew members to assume and realistic documents such as passports and manifests. All are meant to test a boarding team’s ability to adapt to the scenarios that Sailors may encounter while deployed, such as smuggling and piracy. In turn, the scenarios developed by the staff of Commander, Strike Force Training, Atlantic, have become a greater part of the training Prevail provides the fleet.

“We really got into it in 2001,” said Fleck, a retired Navy lieutenant commander who also commanded R/V Gosport, Prevail’s predecessor. “At the time, it was focused on sanctions. The idea was to stop smuggling in and out of the Persian Gulf.”

Forces Command, Norfolk. “It’s a national asset,” said Capt. Mark Kinnane, CSFTL training resources officer, regarding Prevail. “Everybody on the East Coast wants this ship. It does a lot more than Maritime Intercept Operation (MIO) training.”

Prevail can launch drones, engage in information warfare, block Global Positioning Systems and tow targets. She is a durable training partner that can carry advanced training equipment while deploying for long periods of time. The ship and her crew are often hosts MIO training for Atlantic Fleet ships.
"The teams would only carry a pistol," said Kevin Adams, Preveil's chief engineer and an observer during MIO training.

"One shotgun, no helmets," Fleck said.

"They'd check papers, look around. Is everybody okay? You're not smuggling oil, are you?"

Adams described the old teams as "more like a cop on the beat than SWAT."

The Navy's boarding teams have become more sophisticated, and Preveil's training constantly evolves to meet conditions Sailors encounter in real boarding operations, primarily in the Persian Gulf and near Africa.

"We continue to change based on the feedback we get from the warfighters," said Gittelman.

In the past, for example, members of Preveil's crew said teams were not required to cut into a space or use their own ladder to gain access to a ship if the targeted ship didn't comply. Feedback from the fleet indicated these were the types of real-world scenarios Sailors faced while on deployment, so these situations became part of the curriculum.

"Preveil directly supports the Maritime Strategy by providing training tailored to real-world missions that deploying battle groups will face," said Gittelman. "By presenting realistic scenarios stressing MIOs, surface and air threats and electronic threat presentations, we expand deployed Sailors' understanding of the challenges they will face in real-world operations and their ability to provide security, stability and sea power."

During training scenarios aboard Preveil, Sailors may encounter "a stow away," weapons, resistance and medical emergencies. They may have to breach their way in – actually cut a hole in a door set up in a container on Preveil's fantail. Careless teams may find a member snatched and have to deal with a missing shipmate or a situation developed by Preveil's crew.

"Simple acting," said Gil Peligro, an able seaman and Preveil's boatswain. "Sometimes we pretend we're fighting. Sometimes we say, 'No English.' One time, I pretended I broke my legs. They had to take me to the other ship. I applied for asylum."

Forrest Halley, Preveil's third mate, affected a foreign accent when he replied to a series of questions over the radio.

"We are seven-four meter long," Halley said, posing as the ship's master.

"Are you carrying any weapons aboard? Over?"

"We carry one pistol for defense of ship," Halley replied.

The boarding team came along Preveil's starboard side, and Sailors climbed from their boat to a rope ladder to reach one of the ship's upper decks. The men fanned out with their weapons. Cmdr. Scott J. Tetrick of CSFTL and Chief Hull Technician (SW) James Ulmer of Preveil's fantail. Careless teams often face this scenario in real boarding operations.

"What kind of cargo do you have?" Gunnner's Mate 2nd Class Ryan Ruch asked.

"Cornsyrup," Fleck said.

"Do you have any kind of weapons?"

"Yes," Fleck said, not elaborating.

"Where is that located?" Ruch asked.

"Here," Fleck said, motioning toward the nearby binocular case.

"Okay," Ruch said. "Can you step over here please?"

After a moment, another Sailor recovered the red handgun.

Fleck, speaking with an accent, acted both aloof and bored. The scenario called for members of the merchant crew to subtly pump Sailors for information about their ship and its capabilities.

"How many your ship?" Fleck asked.

"It's a good option to have," said Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Matthew Legere of USS Romage (DDG 61).

Some Sailors headed to the bridge. Others headed aft to keep track of the merchant vessel's crew. Two Sailors remained on the deck. After a moment, Ulmer approached the young men.

"No," he said. "Are you guys going to sit here the whole time or do you have another purpose?"

"Engineering," one of the Sailors replied.

"Good answer," Ulmer said.

The Sailors headed into the ship, and down toward the engineering spaces. On the bridge, Fleck, in character, made life interesting for a young Sailor while the boarding officer looked through the merchant ship's paperwork.

"What kind of cargo do you have?"


"Yes, I am a young man. I want to go to America. I speak to officer," Fleck said. "I am captain of the ship. I am boss. I speak to someone like me."

He didn't stay quiet for long.

"What is number eight-zero?"

"It's just paint," Ruch said.

A Roosevelt ensign, the boarding officer, reviewed the ship's paperwork while a petty officer videotaped each page. Fleck stood on the bridge with his hands behind his back.

"You like this job?" Ruch asked.

Fleck's expression did not change.

"Is okay," he said.

Several Sailors who recently trained aboard Preveil said the detailed simulation helped them train and brush up on MIO techniques.

"It's a good option to have," said Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SW) Matthew Legere of USS Romage (DDG 61).
while aboard Prevail. “It kind of gives us a better chance to train realistically. You can only run around topside of that,” he added, motioning toward Ramage, “before you know every nook and cranny.”

Engineman 3rd Class Patrick Doran, a member of the VBSS team for USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), said the team from his ship trained aboard Prevail in 2007 and applied what they had learned during their next deployment. “You kind of get an idea when you’re at school, but until you actually scale a ladder and come up the side of an actual ship and actually deal with how hot it is down in the engine room and pitching and rolling of the ship. It’s different,” he said. “It’s more of a practical environment. By establishing a ship like this, they want you to get an actual feel for what it would be like if you did it for real. It’s just a better training platform.”

His boarding team also reviewed a videotape of their work aboard Prevail, Doran said. Videos are made by Prevail so teams can see firsthand how they did. The training helped the crew when they had multiple operations off the coast of Somalia last year, including a boarding. “Boarding on the Prevail definitely helped with our real-world theater operations,” said Doran.

Lt.j.g. Andrew Evans, who served as a boarding officer for Carter Hall VBSS team. Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Mike Peterson, a Roosevelt Sailor, said Prevail provided more realistic training than Sailors often get for boarding operations. “A lot of times you board your own ship or another ship of your class,” Peterson said. “You never know what you’re going to get into in the real situation.”

Doucette is assigned to U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk.
Navy Earns Corporate Diversity Recognition

Readers of Diversity/Careers in Engineering and Information Technology magazine helped the U.S. Navy earn honors as a Best Diversity Company for 2008.

The Navy was one of nine government agencies in a group of 100 honorees selected from a field of more than 600 companies, government agencies and other organizations that employ technical professionals. These groups were selected by readers of Diversity/ Careers and visitors to its Web site: www.diversitycareers.com.

“I am committed to ensuring that we, as a Navy, are going to be one of the best places for a young person to start their career. We must all think and work as an organization to attract, recruit and retain our nation’s best and brightest now and in the future,” said Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead. Readers listed the Navy as one of the best companies due to its support of minorities and women, attention to life-work balance and commitment to supplier diversity.

“The U.S. Navy is an organization like no other in the world. We have opportunities, and we give opportunities to young people in ways that no company, no other organization will,” said Roughead. “We operate the highest levels of technology. We give our young people more authority, and we bring that together [in the Navy].”

For the CNO’s Diversity Policy, visit www.navy.mil

Zimmermann is Chief of Naval Personnel – Diversity Directorate, Washington, D.C.

French Sailors Experience Flight Operations Aboard U.S. Carrier

USS Theodore Roosevelt (TR) (CVN 71) recently conducted carrier qualifications while at sea with members of the French Navy during Operation Brimstone. Pilots from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 31 and French navy pilots learned the value of camaraderie and the true meaning of the term ‘shipmate.’

“I was called this year to participate in carrier qualifications aboard TR,” said Lt. Cdr. Yann Beaulois, the French Air Boss. “Being an air boss is the same on an American or French aircraft carrier. In the tower, I have direct contact with all the French pilots as they’re flying. Everything is pretty much the same on French and U.S. aircraft carriers. Both our navies are the only ones to operate with these catapults and arresting gear systems on the flight deck.”

During their training, French and U.S. Navy pilots trained every day to ensure that TR carrier qualifications ran smoothly. Everyone agreed this experience helped install a sense of pride and teamwork, strengthening allied relationships in training and war-time environments.

Story by LCSN John Suits, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

New Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Construction Underway

President of the United States George W. Bush and other DoD officials break ground for the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center during a recent ceremony at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

The future of military medicine recently began a new era in Bethesda, Md., as President George W. Bush helped break ground for construction of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Both the National Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center will combine to treat and care for service members and their families. The hospital will provide services for a variety of needs — from routine medical appointments to highly unique specialties.

The facility will also serve as the military’s premier facility for treating wounded service members.

Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said the future medical facility will provide service members with the care they need and deserve. Families of those injured in combat are important to the recovery process, he said, and they can now rest assured their loved ones will receive the best possible care available.

“Our warriors are our country’s most important resource, and when they return injured of all from war, we must care for them without fail.” Those who have earned our freedoms for us are guaranteed the best care and benefits.”

Bush said he was proud of the steps military medicine has taken to ensure the treatment and care of the wounded remains paramount during a time of conflict. The future center will be host to a variety of remarkable health care advancements and research.

The President said the caregivers treating those injured in combat are essential to the overall mission of the United States in the war on terrorism. Treating the wounded is not always as easy as it sounds, he said, as specialty care is also a big part of the healing process.

“Our nation is engaged in very different battle for our freedoms, yet our success still relies on these anonymous heroes, the healers who care for the troops. Giving our troops the care they deserve requires cutting edge medical facilities, and that’s what this new facility will provide.”

Story by HH Dustin Perry, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.
Boy Scouts Lead Annual Flag Raising Ceremonies in Spain

For the second consecutive year, the Boy Scouts from troop 73 at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Rota got a lesson in handling the flag of the United States from Sailors and Airmen.

"That's why we are flying 30 today, and as permission to fly the flag for five to seven days each year," said Yeoman 2nd Class Airrion Smith, of the Spanish Navy grants the U.S. Navy controlled installation, where the U.S. Navy Boy Scouts from troop 73 at Naval Station NAVSTA Rota resides on a Spanish-American flag over NAVSTA Rota got a lesson in handling the flag. So it was a learning experience for [all] of us."

"But, it was also a great opportunity to teach these kids and some of my people how to properly handle the flag and to instill pride and reverence to this symbol of our country."

Heldt instructed the Boy Scouts in how to properly handle the flag and emphasized that the handling procedures should be done with reverence and respect.

"This was an amazing experience," said Boy Scout Dakota Jones. "I knew there were rules, but I never knew that folding the flag 13 times represented the original 13 colonies. And being able to raise the flag here in Spain was special since we only can have it flying a few days a year."

The Sailors and Airmen who helped with this event set an example to the young boys.

"I remember when I was in the Boy Scouts and to me, scouting is still as much fun from what I see," said Yeoman 2nd Class Aarron Lemons from the NAVSTA Administration Department.

"Now that I am in the Navy, it feels good to be able to pass on knowledge to them even though this was the first time I've had to raise flag. So it was a learning experience for [all] of us."

Story and photo by MC1 Paul Gage, Naval Station Rota, Spain.

Mercy Biomedical Techs Save Money, Improve Lives in Southeast Asia

Biomedical engineer technicians (BMET) assigned to the naval hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) have made an impact on multiple hospital and clinic facilities in southeast Asia since the beginning of their Pacific Partnership 2008 mission, and now in Timor-Leste.

BMETs are electronics experts who repair a variety of medical and dental related electronic equipment. Mercy has a total of 12 BMET personnel from the U.S. Navy and Air Force who, since the beginning of the deployment, have provided free repairs on equipment, saving medical facilities including the ship more than $1.53 million worth of equipment.

"The host nations in these countries placed a request for us to make these repairs," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/PM) Alfredo Fontimayor, the leading chief petty officer of Mercy’s BMET personnel.

According to Fontimayor, there is a large demand for repair of medical equipment in Timor-Leste.

"Mercy recently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy currently visited the Republic of the Philippines and Vietnam, and it is operating in Timor-Leste. Mercy current"
Something to Think About

Countdown to your new Navy Job:

A Sailor’s Detailing Timeline

Courtesy of the OPNAV N12 Fleet Introduction Team

T he Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) is a Navy career tool enlisted Sailors use to plan and develop their careers. CMS/ID provides Sailors the ability to explore future job possibilities and apply for Navy billets.

As you count down the months to your planned rotation date (PRD), several very important dates require your action. These actions ensure that your detailer and career counselor have the most accurate and current data about your professional achievements and qualifications, as well as personnel information that may determine whether you obtain your desired job.

The Career Management System/Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) is a Navy career tool enlisted Sailors use to plan and develop their careers. CMS/ID provides Sailors the ability to explore future job possibilities and apply for Navy billets.

You are approaching your PRD window. Perform the following steps:

1. On the Internet, go to MILPERSMAN 1306-100, Enlisted Duty Preference. Submit no later than 13 months prior to PRD or whenever significant personal data changes.

2. Also on NKO (and NKO at Sea) you will find a Navy eLearning course called Navy Career Tools (Tutorials & Support). The course catalog code is NAVAIR – NCT-OOL.

3. At the bottom of the personnel page, click View Sailor History. This is the anonymous career information commands may view to rank and comment on your job application:

   - NEC(s)
   - Evals
   - Platform type history (past commands in which you’ve served)
   - PRMS data
   - Schools
   - Warfare designator
   - Work with your personnel officer or personnel support department to update missing or incorrect information.

Click on the Preferences tab.

- Consider your next tour assignment options and desires, then update your duty preference in formation.
- Contact your command career counselor or detailer for more information.

If you are not under orders, click on the Jobs tab:

- Review the available billets.
- Contact your command career counselor to submit your applications.

If you are under orders or have ever been ordered to a billet, you have just entered your order negotiating window.

Click on the Preferences tab:

- Review your duty preference information and ensure that it is current.
- Contact your command career counselor and/or detailer for more information.

Months to EAOS/PRD Perform to Serve (PTS) approval required for all first-term Sailors. If you are a first-term Sailor, you must have PTS approval prior to re-enlisting and applying for a job. PTS applications are submitted once a month, from 3 to 6 months prior to EAOS.

Click on the Personnel tab and scroll down to Support Information:

- Determine your PTS Status.
- Contact your command career counselor for more information.


MILPERSMAN 1306-104, Projected Rotation Date (PRD) Based on pay grade and community in which member serves: http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_upd/508/milpers/1306-104.htm

Months to PRD: Execute orders to your new Navy job!
The Medical Service Corps (MSC) was established Aug. 4, 1947, following World War II. The need for officers who were skilled medical administrators had been well documented during World War I, and the beginning of World War II demonstrated the same need for officers that were skilled in sciences allied to medicine.

As a result of this need, 900 Reserve commissions in the Hospital Corps were granted to pharmacists, optometrists and scientists.

To keep these health professionals, the Army-Navy Medical Service Corps Act of 1947, Public Law 80-337, authorized the formation of the MSC as a staff corps of the Navy.

MSC was established with four specialty sections: supply and administration, pharmacy, optometry and allied science.

Of the original 251 officers commissioned into the MSC, 56 percent were former enlisted hospital corpsmen who formed the supply and administration section of the MSC officers. The remaining 44 percent made up the other three specialty sections: optometrists (4 percent), pharmacists (15 percent) and allied scientists (25 percent). All allied scientists were comprised of 18 diverse subspecialties: bacteriology, biochemistry, biophysics, chemistry, entomology, industrial hygiene, medical statistics, parasitology, pathology, pharmacology, physics, physiology, psychology, public health, radiobiology, sanitary engineering, serology and virology.

These plank owners, with the common characteristic of having prior military service, were not required to complete a bachelor’s degree during their enlisted years, before they became MSC officers. This meant that few of the plank owners in the supply and administration section had obtained their college degrees before their commissions into the MSC. Conversely, the pharmacists, optometrists and allied scientists were required to have a bachelor’s degree prior to commissioning.

To distinguish MSC officers from the other active-duty naval officers and based on the Naval Medical Corps insignia, a new insignia was designed - a spread oak leaf embroidered in gold with a twig attached below the stem became the MSC insignia.

Medical Service Corps personnel say the “twig” holds special significance for members of the Navy MSC.

Today, the MSC has grown to have more than 2,700 active-duty members and 750 active Reserve officers. They now serve in three broad specialty categories, health care administration (45 percent), health care providers (32 percent) and health care scientists (23 percent), each with 11 subspecialty areas, but all with the goal of providing quality health care for the Sailors and their families.

Beyea is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.
PFA

ARE YOU READY?

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: HTTP://PRIMS.BOL.NAVY.MIL