



Bottom Line: Up Front

03-09

This document is for information purposes and is designed to ensure that all personnel are aware of the many issues/changes that occur in our Navy. Although not inclusive, it is a great venue to share our best practices. If you have information, programs or best practices that you would like to share Navy-wide, send them via your applicable ISIC or Force Master Chief for inclusion. Thanks for your support and feedback.

MCPON RECOMMENDS:

CNP Top 50 Newsgram:

[http://www.navy.mil/features/July%20Newsgram%20\(28%20July%201645\).pdf](http://www.navy.mil/features/July%20Newsgram%20(28%20July%201645).pdf)

See page 7 for more links of interest

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Welcome to this edition of "Bottom Line: Up Front." It's been a busy month. Over the last few weeks we've made significant headway on two policies of great importance to every Sailor in our Navy. On June 29th we announced that the CNO had opened up the NWU's occasion for wear.

This is a huge win for our Sailors as they're now able to make brief stops out in town (to include lunch at an off-base establishment) in our newest working uniform.

But do not slip. Maintain the highest standards and enforce the same. Our Sailors are proud of this uniform, as they should be. It will now be representative of who we are to the American public and it's critical that when we show it to them, our Sailors are squared away.

Another development I'm proud to discuss is the recent announcement to make warfare qualifications mandatory for all hands. Here is my reasoning: it's what is best for our Navy. Bottom line. It's not about pennants or fitness reports. It's about building warriors and Sailors who are ready to fight their ships. It's about Ship, Shipmate, Self.

CPO Induction has begun. Make it something our Selectees will remember and make sure that they are ready to join our Mess on September 16th.

HOOYAH Shipmates and Anchor Up!!!

Rick

What's Hot

--Met with all our Fleet Master Chiefs in DC during our Sailor of the Year week. Look for significant momentum generated by this group and don't be surprised to be seeing and hearing from them on a number of important topics.

--CPO Induction is underway and I'm certain our entire Mess has been involved in the planning. Now all that hard work pays off as we train our newest Chief Petty Officers. As I said in the guidance, this process was not meant to be easy. I don't expect that it will be.

--By the end of this summer we're going to have a roadmap in place for making warfare pins mandatory. It's coming Shipmates. Get your Sailors ready now. Also look for the CMC/COB/Command Senior Chief Charge Book. Haven't heard of that yet? You will. It's going to be a great document to help prepare our best leaders for even more responsibility and to ensure we're all well-versed in programs that affect our Sailors and their families on a daily basis.

Post 9-11 GI Bill, REAP and MGIB-SR Transferability Policy and Interim Provisions for Retirement Eligible Members

BLUF: *Details of the POST 9-11 GI Bill have been released and it's great news for everyone in uniform, and our families. Eligible Sailors can now transfer those benefits to a spouse or child enrolled in Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) and eligible for benefits.*

NAVADMIN 203/09 explains transferability policies and the application process. This process is somewhat complicated and service members must consult with their Career Counselors to fully understand it. This NAVADMIN is broken into four parts: Eligibility, Process, Service Obligation Policy and Reference Information.

Frequently asked questions and a service member transferability process checklist are available on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and Bupers website. <http://www.npc.navy.mil/careerinfo/education/gibill/>

We've also placed a link on our website that takes you to a great document produced by CNP, the [Top 50 Newsgram](#). This one is dedicated to the Post 9-11 GI Bill. A must read!

GI Bill, Cont...

For those who have completed your transferability request at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>. You will have to go back into the same website to check the status (Upper left-hand corner under your name). Approved applications are sent electronically to the VA. If approved, and your family member is starting school this fall, you should go to the VA website www.gibill.va.gov and complete the VA form 22-1990E. Log in to VONAPP to find the form. Once complete, you will have to wait on the certificate of eligibility from the VA. They will mail it to your family member. Take this form to the college where the remaining forms will be completed.

We were recently informed by OSD that members should check with the school VA counselor. Some schools will certify enrollment without a certificate of eligibility. If you do not have the certificate of eligibility yet, and your family member is starting school soon, please see if the school will process without the certificate of eligibility. There is no guarantee that this process will work but we still encourage you to try.

Solicit feedback regarding GI Bill Transferability from your Sailors and their families and continue to push it through your Force and Fleet Master Chiefs. Like any new program, there are issues that need to be ironed out. We can only do that if we hear from the people who are affected by those issues.

Fleet Ride

BLUF: *What is Fleet Ride? A process that channels qualified Sailors into available rates that can potentially meet demand signals from the fleet.*

Fleet RIDE is a Web-based program which electronically matches Sailors' career interests and qualifications with the jobs for which they are best suited. Additionally, the new Rating Entry for General Apprentices (REGA) process improves Sailor fit, reduces paperwork, and supports our commitment to place Professional Apprentice Career Track (PACT) and General Detail (GENDET) Sailors into ratings within 24 months of reporting to their first permanent duty station. Work with your NC's to ensure our Sailors are up to speed on this program.

DoD Takes Steps to Protect Your Privacy

BLUF: Read below for what DoD is doing to prevent identity theft, and then talk to your Sailors to ensure they are cautious with how they safeguard their personal information.

In response to the growing need to protect the safety of service members' and their families' identity information, DoD has begun to eliminate the Social Security Numbers (SSN) from DoD ID cards. Utilizing a three- phased approach over the next several years, full SSNs will no longer be visible on the cards. This action will affect everyone entitled to a CAC or ID card, including active and reserve military, family members, retirees and contractors.

The removal of SSNs will occur in three phases:

Phase One, now underway, will remove the printed dependent SSN from Dependent Identification and Privilege cards (DD Forms 1173 and 1173-1) and replace it with "XXX-XX-XXXX." At this point, the sponsor's SSN will remain visible on the cards.

Phase Two will remove printed SSNs from all DoD ID cards, with the exception of Geneva Conventions identification cards, which will retain the last four digits of the SSN for Geneva Conventions purposes. This phase is scheduled to begin by the end of calendar year 2009.

Phase Three will remove SSNs from barcodes on all cards and is scheduled to begin during calendar year 2012.

Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Scholarships Available

BLUF: Hundreds of scholarships can potentially go to waste if we don't make our Sailors aware of them. Stay up to speed on what is out there and available to not only those of us in uniform, but our family members as well.

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is offering scholarships to U.S. service members or their spouses who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees. Each award is in the amount of \$500 and may be used for tuition, fees, books and other expenses encountered by the student pursuing goals.

All applicants must submit their application and an essay. The deadline for applications is 1 September 2009. Interested applicants can find the information at: <http://www.ccmeonline.org/nashville10.aspx?session=scholarships>

2009 Diversity Events Calendar Update

BLUF: *Improving Navy diversity is a strategic imperative and the Navy is committed to developing, implementing and improving programs to promote a diverse workforce in which all Sailors fulfill their maximum potential.*

NAVADMIN 198/09 updates the 2009 diversity events calendar. Commands are encouraged to take time to acknowledge and celebrate the following heritage celebrations and national observances:

Woman's Equality Day: 26 AUG 09

National Hispanic Heritage Month: 15 SEP - 15 OCT 09

National Disability Employment Awareness Month: 1-31 OCT 09

American Indian/Alaska Native American Month: 1-30 NOV 09

Updated information on heritage months, awards, conferences and symposiums will be posted on the Navy Diversity Directorate website at:
www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/diversity

Career Management System / Interactive Detailing

BLUF: *NAVADMIN 200/09 announces the release of the optional capability for active duty Sailors to submit their own permanent change of station (PCS) job application in the Career Management System/Interactive Detailing via the internet.*

Sailors must meet Perform to Serve (PTS) requirements as outlined in NAVADMINS 017/09 and 161/09 and be within their orders negotiation window in order to submit applications.

Career counselors and detailers will retain the ability to submit PCS job applications on behalf of Sailors.

Personnel with questions concerning this policy update and implementation procedures can call the Navy Personnel Command's customer service center in Millington, Tenn. at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC or 866-827-5672 Monday through Friday , 0700-1900 Central Standard Time or email at: cscmailbox@navy.mil

Career counselor or command access to CMS/ID can be requested via the template at: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/enlisted/cms/>
Access CMS/ID online via the Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) portal at: <https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil> or directly at: <https://www.cmsid.navy.mil>
A command access card and card reader are required for access.

CNIC Fleet and Family Readiness Marketing Team Launches Social Networking Initiatives

BLUF: *In an effort to expand communications with Sailors and their families, Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) launched its own Facebook and YouTube pages.*

By doing so, FFR hopes to use the popularity of social media as another communication tool to promote its programs and services to Sailors and their families.

The FFR Facebook page allows for two-way communication in an informal setting and functions as another convenient news source for Sailors and their families. It is not intended to replace FFR's official Web pages on CNIC's Web site.

To sign up as a "fan," users must have a Facebook account and can find the FFR page at: <http://www.facebook.com/navyffr>

To view FFR's videos on YouTube, visit: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NavyFFR>

"Who Is That Guy?" Don't Let Him Be You. Don't Let Him Be One of Our Sailors

BLUF: *We're in the middle of summer, traditionally the most dangerous time of year where off-duty incidents are concerned. Be creative in your approach to educating Sailors on the dangers of alcohol abuse.*

"Who is That Guy?" That Guy is anyone who, after drinking excessive amounts of alcohol, loses control of self or situation with humiliating results.

We need your help in getting the "Don't Be That Guy" message out there!

Click the link below to view The Buzz on That Guy, a newsletter with important updates about the campaign, including what's new, success stories from the field, tips on how to get involved and details on where to order FREE promotional materials for your installation.

<http://m1e.net/c?108415012-EYFTmG4jCO7b2%404464109-rLRUFQshUhWG%2e>

Questions from the Fleet

"The NPC Website used to have a link on the right hand side in the NEOCS section that provided an updated status on pending and proposed rating mergers. How do we keep the Fleet informed? What mergers are currently being considered? Which mergers have recently been halted? Etc."

Answer:

-The link below takes you to a Power Point presentation that provides the latest rating merger/establishment/disestablishment status. BUPERS 3 provides this update, and it is available on the NPC website. This update is provided at the following link on the right side of the page under 'NEOCS ISSUES -- RATING MERGER UPDATE':

<http://www.npc.navy.mil/Enlisted/CommunityManagers/>

Useful Links

Earlier we mentioned the NPC Call Center phone number: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC. Push this to your Sailors. It's a great resource.

By now you've probably read the conversations regarding social networking sites and whether they'll be banned on government networks. I know discussions are ongoing but no decision has been pushed to us yet. Even if the ban takes place, we're going to maintain our presence on Facebook (www.facebook.com/mcpon) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/mcponpao) because they've proven to be very effective in getting our message to the Fleet. Other websites of interest:

Safe Harbor: <http://www.safeharbor.navy.mil/>

Senior Enlisted Academy: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/centers/cnl/sea/>

Military Homefront: <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

Navy for Moms: <http://www.navyformoms.com/>

Fleet Reserve Association: <http://www.fra.org/>

Naval Safety Center on Twitter: http://twitter.com/NSC_Updates

Tricare Online: <https://www.tricareonline.com/>

Fleet Forces Command IA Website: <http://www.ia.navy.mil/>