



*Career progression, community management, personnel matters, and general information from the desk of the Navy Personnel Command, Force Master Chief, FORCM Jon Port*

***VOLUNTEER SEA DUTY PROGRAM CLARIFICATION***

Sailors with an EAOS prior to their PRD on their sea tour should submit NAVPERS 1306/7 **no later than seven months prior** to their EAOS (**or prior to their last PTS month of consideration**). However in all cases, a Sailor in their last month of PTS will not be considered for PTS deferment. Sailors currently on sea duty should submit their request for a back-to-back sea duty tour 9-12 months prior to their PRD (if their EAOS matches their PRD or is beyond their PRD). They'll be able to negotiate a back-to-back sea tour with their geo area of choice 8 months out. At that point they **must have selected** a set of orders or have their request returned disapproved. At this point they will have two months to negotiate for shore duty orders. If a Sailor is requesting this program and their EAOS is well inside their PRD, we will consider an extension to their PRD on a case-by-case basis for Sailors on sea duty only. We prefer them to extend their PRD at the same time, but if they are unable due to other constraints, we may still consider it if they are eligible for the extension IAW the NAVADMIN eligibility requirements. **Sailors must be able to go to sea or extend at sea to take part in any aspect of this program.** ACC 105 (LIMDU) and DNEC 0054 (pregnant Sailors from sea duty serving on a shore tour) are ineligible. When and if they become eligible to return to sea, they will be handled IAW current procedures for Sailors with an immediate availability. In no case should a losing sea duty command suffer a gap prior to the Sailor's original PRD and all efforts shall be made to minimize gaps at the prospective command. Sailors requesting an extension on sea duty should follow the same rough timeline above (9-12 months prior to PRD), and should not be allowed to extend if a relief has been ordered in behind them, unless there are other BA gaps on board the command that can be filled by the extension. Please see the attached word document for more information.

***TRICARE DENTAL CHANGES BEGIN 1 MAY 2012***

TRICARE is changing the TRICARE Dental Program from United Concordia to MetLife. The Active Duty Dental Program will continue to be administered by United Concordia. The Tricare Dental Program is a voluntary dental insurance program available to eligible Active Duty family members, Select Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members, and their eligible family members. According to TRICARE, beneficiaries transitioning to MetLife can expect to see enhanced dental coverage at a lower premium share under the new contract with a robust list of preferred provider dentists. There are some differences in the two programs, however, so users need inform themselves on what's covered and what dentists are part of the MetLife network.

For more information, visit <http://www.metlife.com/tricare/index.html#welcome>

For Frequently Asked Questions, go to: <http://www.tricare.mil/TDPcontract/>

Note: the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program coverage will remain under Delta Dental.

***ERB SAILORS USE CGC NOW***

Everyone in leadership who has ERB Sailors in their command must ensure their ERB Sailors contact, Challenger, Gray and Christmas (CGC) for one-on-one counseling by 29 Feb at 1-800-971-4288. So far, fewer than 1,000 Sailors have taken advantage of this tremendous resource to assist them with transition to civilian life. If you don't recall, CGC received the contract in December to provide enhanced transition assistance to these Sailors. Remember the last day to separate for ERB Sailors is 1 Sep 12, unless they are operationally waived (which is only a handful of Sailors). This may seem far away, but for those deploying, those with families and more complex situations, beginning right now is best. Get them to Transition Assistance Programs and in touch with Challenger, Gray and Christmas. This is a world-class service for our ERB Sailors who will be leaving and by law they cannot use the service AFTER they leave. For information about all the service that CGC are offering, view the [Outplacement Services FAQs](#) on the NPC website.

***TIMELY STATUS UPDATES***

I mentioned once before here the criticality of gaining and losing Sailors within four days in order to avoid pay, manning fill woes and other issues. This principle also applies to status updates for your IA/GSA Sailors. When commands fail to update the status, these Sailors, serving dutifully in an IA/GSA billet, could roll into the Needs of the Navy detailing window within CMS/ID and be placed into a hot-fill billet. Most Sailors on IA/GSA are shocked to learn this has happened to them. NPC cannot just fix this when it happens. Removing a Sailor from a hot-fill billet requires an immediate re-fill of that Red Zone billet. It's a chain reaction that impacts real people and adds to the stress of Sailors, detailers and commands. The problem can be avoided when Commands and NCs accomplish timely status updates. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us take care of your Sailors.

***This week in Navy History***

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1968 - Operation Coronado XI began in Mekong Delta

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 1813 - *ESSEX* becomes first U.S. warship to round Cape Horn and enter the Pacific Ocean

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1898 - U.S. Battleship *MAINE* blew up in Havana Harbor and became the spark for the Spanish-American War. (KIA 231 Sailors, 28 Marines)

Feb 16<sup>th</sup> 1815 - *USS CONSTITUTION* captures British *SUSANNAH*

Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 1942 - First Construction Battalion (SEABEES) arrive on Bora Bora

***Quote of the Week***

***"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."*** ~ Theodore M. Hesburgh