



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



August 29, 2008

Supporting our GWOT Support Assignment (GSA) Individual Augmentees (IA)

"ECRC is providing normalized parent command support for GSA Sailors. Knowing they have a robust traditional support system for them and their families during their expeditionary IA tour provides the GSA IA Sailor the critical peace of mind to then singularly focus on the mission."

– Capt. Jeffrey McKenzie, Commanding Officer, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center

Historically, IA billets were manned via two methods: Reserve Component mobilizations and Active Component rip-to-fill temporary duty assignments from parent commands. This past year, Navy Personnel Command added GSA as a third method, normalizing the process by using existing detailing systems to advertise and fill support requirements.

Filling the void...Advocates for our IA Sailors and their families

Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) serves as the advocate for IA Sailors and their families, ensuring a full range of care from pre-deployment to redeployment of combat trained Navy IAs and provisional units deploying for non-traditional expeditionary missions. Although the training and deployment process is identical for all three types of IAs, the GSA Sailors are PCS'd to ECRC as their parent command. In response to the GSA process, ECRC has implemented additional measures to continue providing support to this newest type of IA.

Pre-Deployment Support

- Action Officers provide assistance and tracking for GSA and IA Sailors from the day they receive their orders. Information, briefs and support for parent commands are provided so they can fully prepare Sailors for a GSA assignment.
- Support continues at Navy Mobilization Processing Station (NMPS), providing GSA Sailors with a Career Development Board, advice and information.
- Liaison Officers are co-located at CONUS Army bases where IAs complete pre-deployment training.
- Proactive family support for GSA families, provided by ECRC and Fleet and Family Support Centers, includes referral services, pre-deployment information packages, monthly email or phone contacts, and opportunities to meet with other families in the same geographic locations.

Deployment Support

- Individualized GSA/IA Country Desks for Sailors serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and elsewhere maintain contact with these Sailors and track and resolve any issues affecting them.
- Sailors are contacted monthly, providing the opportunity to identify any difficulties they are facing. ECRC coordinates with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and their forward detachments in theater to assist Sailors with pay, travel and administrative matters while deployed, including support in the event of personal emergencies.
- Task Force IA has been established to provide dedicated support to our Sailors to optimize readiness and monitor mission employment. It establishes an in-theater, recognizable and stable chain of command.

Re-Deployment Support

- The GSA/IA Warrior Transition Program (WTP) in Kuwait assists returning Sailors in a safe, streamlined and expedient transition home and to their follow-on command. WTP is the initial step of a larger Combat Operational Stress Control program and helps Sailors reintegrate and decompress prior to returning home.

Key Messages

- ECRC is normalizing command support for GSA Sailors.
- Sailors are supported throughout the entire GSA/IA process by ECRC, with worldwide access to their parent command.
- ECRC provides GSA/IA Sailors and their families with 24-hour support.

Facts & Figures

- As of August 2008, ECRC supported more than 2,800 GSA Sailors.
- More than 6,000 GSA billets are projected in FY09
- GSA/IA Help Desk: ecrc.hq.fct@navy.mil
- GSA/IA Family Help Desk: ecrc.fs.fct@navy.mil or 1-877-364-4302
- ECRC Website: www.ecrc.navy.mil