



@USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

1.) MCPON Stevens Delivers Congressional Testimony/ 26 FEB 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

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2.) Leave-Use It or Lose It/ 23 FEB 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

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3.) Officer Women Leadership Symposium Scheduled for March/ 23 FEB 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

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4.) Navy's Voluntary Education (VOLED) Program Realigning / 23 FEB 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

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- Nutrition Blog [\[LINK\]](#)
- Legal Services for Crime Victims [\[LINK\]](#)
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To sign up for the @USNPeople Weekly Wire, email usnpeople@gmail.com,
or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp

1.) MCPON Stevens Delivers Congressional Testimony/ 26 FEB 15 [LINK](#)

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stuart B. Phillips, Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(AW/NAC) Michael Stevens testified before Congress Feb. 25.

Stevens appeared before the House and Armed Services Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies.

Stevens, along with the senior enlisted leaders from the Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force, discussed the current status of their respective military branches, focusing specifically on quality-of-life programs and issues that are cause of concern for today's service members.

Stevens discussed the Navy's current operational tempo and told the subcommittee there are currently nearly 100 Navy ships underway with thousands of Sailors standing the watch. He went on to talk about quality of life for Sailors, and the uncertainty that sequestration has created.

"My regular interface with our Sailors and their families over the past year has shown an overall satisfactory quality of life; however, the ongoing discussion regarding possible changes to future pay and compensation has created an air of uncertainty," said Stevens.

He explained that Sailors are concerned there will be reductions in medical benefits, pay and compensation, and family programs. While they understand there will always be some degree of uncertainty in the geopolitical and operational world, ambiguity relating to military benefits is not as easily understood. Stevens zeroed in on a specific area of compensation during his testimony.

"If you were to ask me today to pick one [concern] with regard to pay and compensation, my greatest and immediate concern for our people is the future of health care," said Stevens. Health care is a quality of life issue that constantly resurfaces during my fleet interactions. It is extremely important to our Sailors and their families, and is very influential in recruiting and retention decisions."

Beyond military pay and compensation, MCPON expressed concern about the deteriorating condition of single Sailor barracks - a deterioration that has been amplified by sequestration cuts. Ultimately, the Navy has had to prioritize warfighting requirements at the expense of investing in the maintenance of barracks infrastructure.

"This risk has resulted in the overall condition of our barracks falling to approximately 50% adequacy," said Stevens. Should sequestration resurface, I am concerned the condition of our barracks will decline further. This standard of living directly impacts our Sailors' quality of life."

Stevens also spoke about the importance of Family Support Programs such as: Navy Fleet and Family Support Centers; Navy Child and Youth Programs; Navy Ombudsman Programs; and Family Readiness Groups. He emphasized the positive impact of these programs and thanked the subcommittee for their continued support before delivering his final remarks on quality of life.

"As I have stated in prior testimonies, one of the most important and effective weapon systems we can provide our nation and Navy is a combination of individual and unit morale," said Stevens. And it is my firm belief that the support this subcommittee provides to the Navy greatly impacts our ability to sustain this weapon system."

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy regularly testifies before Congress along with the senior enlisted leaders of the other services. This was his third appearance before this congressional subcommittee.

For more information on MCPON's activities, visit <https://www.facebook.com/13MCPON>, www.twitter.com/mcpon13 and www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/.

2.) Leave-Use It or Lose It/ 23 FEB 15 [LINK]

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Military service members' February leave and earning statement (LES) will carry a reminder that as of Oct. 1, any accrued leave more than 60 days will be lost.

Since 2008 Sailors have been allowed to carryover up to 75 days of leave each fiscal year as authorized by Congress. That authorization will end at the end of fiscal year 2015 after which leave carryover will revert to 60 days. In general, any leave balance in excess of 60 days on Sept. 30, 2015 will be lost.

Service members' LES may have an incorrect use/lose leave balance. Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) is reprogramming pay systems to account for the return to the 60 day leave carryover by the June 2015 LES.

Sailors should check their LES and talk with their Command Pass Coordinator (CPC) for help understanding their correct use/lose balance.

There are some specific exceptions. Sailors with more leave days than the authorized carryover limit, who are also assigned to hostile fire or imminent danger pay areas or deployed on a ship or mobile unit for at least 60 continuous days, may apply for special leave accrual (SLA) to retain any excess leave days. This request is typically done at the command level. Instructions on how to apply for and administer SLA are outlined in MILPERSMAN 1050-070.

Sailors are encouraged to work with their commands to manage their leave balances throughout FY15.

Commands with questions on leave policies should contact their local Personnel Support Detachment (PSD) or call the NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672).

3.) Officer Women Leadership Symposium Scheduled for March/ 23 FEB 15 [LINK]

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The annual AcademyWomen Officer Women Leadership Symposium (OWLS) will be held March 6-7 at the Women In Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial, Arlington, Virginia.

Held annually, OWLS includes educational and professional development workshops, seminars and exhibits designed to enhance the professional knowledge of attendees while increasing overall awareness of issues affecting women in the military. The symposium offers an invaluable opportunity for female officers, midshipmen and senior enlisted to benefit from the open dialogue, career enhancing information, and mentoring opportunities.

While all service members are eligible, ideal candidates for the symposium include outstanding officers, midshipmen, and senior enlisted, who are at a career decision point. All 66 available Navy-funded registrations will be coordinated through the Navy Office of Diversity and Inclusion - Women's Policy. To obtain a conference registration reservation, contact Lt. Tawney Nakamura at (703) 604-5077 or tawney.nakamura@navy.mil. Registrants must be from the local National Capital Region. Uniform for Navy personnel will be service khaki for

E-7 and above and service uniform for E-6 and below.

Individual commands are not authorized to expend travel funds, including lodging, transportation, and meals and incidental expenses (M&IE). Travel funding for those who are attending in an official capacity has already been coordinated and approved; all other travel is not authorized. Lunch will be provided on March 6 and 7 for those attending. All other meals will be purchased by the attendee.

More information can be found on the AcademyWomen website at <http://academywomen.org/events/home.php/#>.

For more news from Chief of Naval Personnel, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnp/.

4.) Navy's Voluntary Education (VOLED) Program Realigning / 23 FEB 15 [LINK]

From Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) will administratively realign the Navy's Voluntary Education (VOLED) program under Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) in Pensacola, Florida, Feb 23.

According to Rear Adm. Mike White, commander of the Naval Education and Training Command, the move will be administrative and will have zero impact on the purpose, mission or abilities of VOLED.

"For the Sailor using VOLED, the change will be seamless and transparent," said White. "In fact, each of the 33 Navy College Offices worldwide and the Virtual Education Center (VEC) will remain unchanged; they will retain the same physical locations, the same telephone numbers, the same email addresses, and the same commitment to serving service members."

VOLED will continue to support Sailors with dedicated, committed assistance and counseling to help them develop tailored plans to meet their educational and credentialing goals.

VOLED is currently celebrating 40 years of Sailors' educational successes through diverse programs including tuition assistance, numerous testing programs, the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) - where Sailors can complete courses while on type 2 and 4 sea duty, and the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) - which provides Sailors with the opportunity to earn a certificate of apprenticeship from the U.S. Department of Labor by documenting tasks of their Navy rating while on the job.

Regardless of the educational goal, Navy College Offices and the Virtual Education Center are available to assist Sailors in accelerating their future.

For more information on Navy Voluntary Education, visit the Navy College Program website: <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil>.

For more news from Naval Education and Training Command, visit www.navy.mil/local/cnet/.

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