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1) CNO Explains Navy's Compensation Reform at Congressional Hearing / 6 MAY 14 [\[LINK\]](#)

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2) Quality of Service an Issue for Sailors, Greenert Says / 6 MAY 14 [\[LINK\]](#)

By Claudette Roulo, American Forces Press Service

"Let me be clear: I don't believe our sailors are overpaid, nor do they believe that," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert said. "Our sailors and families are not enthusiastic about our compensation reform. But they were clear to us that their quality of service, their work environment, needs to improve."

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"Many commands in this area are in a joint environment, we must ensure that we're aware of each service's support programs, in order to guarantee that our families receive the proper care and support," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens.

Another spouse spoke about her concerns with military spouse employment compared to civilian employment. "I recognize that it can be very difficult to pursue your dream careers because of the frequent moves and adjustments that military spouses have," said MCPON. "I want to encourage you all to look at employment resources that our Fleet and Family Support Centers offer military spouses."

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or find it online at www.navy.mil/cnp

1) CNO Explains Navy's Compensation Reform at Congressional Hearing / 6 MAY 14 [LINK](#)

By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Julianne Metzger

Chief of Naval Operations testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) encouraging Congress to accept and implement the Department of Defense budget proposal recommendation to slow growth of service members' pay and compensation.

"We cannot sustain our current personnel cost trajectory," said Greenert. "We need to address this problem sooner rather than later."

Greenert stated both he and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens heard in their travels around the fleet, a vast majority of Sailors and families believe that their compensation matches well with their civilian counterparts.

Since 2001, Navy manpower has shrunk significantly due to the elimination of 25 ships from the fleet. Meanwhile rising personnel costs have spiked which have been a burden on the Navy's ability to balance investments, said Greenert.

"Our Sailors and families are not enthusiastic about compensation reform," said Greenert. However, he added, "they were clear that their quality of service - their work environment - needs to improve."

The DOD proposed compensation reforms are estimated to generate a savings to the Navy of \$123 million in fiscal year 2015 and \$3.1 billion over the Future Years Defense Plan (FYDP).

"I intend to reinvest any and all of these savings into Sailor Quality of Service enhancements," Greenert said. Greenert said quality of service enhancements resulting from proposed budget savings include: increasing sea pay, critical skills incentive pays; improving and constructing barracks, training buildings, MWR and fitness centers; providing school and trainings; purchasing tactical trainers and simulators; purchasing spare parts, tools and providing more maintenance opportunities.

"All of these reinvestments address 'dissatisfiers' in our Sailors' quality of service," said Greenert. "These enhancements help Sailors get their jobs done effectively and safely, while addressing our critical manning, training and equipping challenges."

If Congress denies authority for the DOD compensation savings proposals, the Navy would be unable to enact Sailor quality of service improvements.

There would also be an additional bill of \$4 billion resulting from pay raises. Greenert said that would compel the Navy to reduce readiness, shipbuilding and aircraft procurement even further.

"Our Navy would be less ready, less modern and less able to execute the missions outlined in the Defense Strategic Guidance," said Greenert.

During the hearing it was evident these budget decisions are tough but necessary, Greenert explained. Under the current budget these choices are necessary to better balance Sailors' needs to ensure the Navy remains forward and ready, he said.

For more information on the Chief of Naval Operations please visit:

For more news from Chief of Naval Operations, visit www.navy.mil/local/cno/.

2) Quality of Service an Issue for Sailors, Greenert Says / 6 MAY 14 [\[LINK\]](#)

By Claudette Roulo, American Forces Press Service

The Navy made some difficult choices while crafting its portion of the 2015 presidential budget proposal, the chief of naval operations told the Senate Armed Services Committee today.

Ninety percent of the reductions in that proposal were focused on procurement, force structure, infrastructure, acquisition and modernization, Navy Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert said. "The area of last choice that we addressed in the budget was cost-growth of our pay and compensation," he added.

The admiral was joined in his testimony by his fellow members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including the Joint Chiefs chairman, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, and the vice chairman, Navy Adm. James A. "Sandy" Winnefeld Jr.

After spending a year traveling around the fleet, Greenert said, the vast majority of sailors and families told him they believe their total compensation packages are comparable with their civilian counterparts.

"Let me be clear: I don't believe our sailors are overpaid, nor do they believe that," the admiral said. "Our sailors and families are not enthusiastic about our compensation reform. But they were clear to us that their quality of service, their work environment, needs to improve."

Service members understand that in the current fiscal situation, the military services face difficult choices, Greenert told the Senate panel. "We can't have it all," he said. "The reality within this given budget is that ... we can't sustain our current personnel cost trajectory, and we need to address this problem sooner than later."

Total force personnel costs consume about 40 percent of the Navy's budget -- up from 32 percent in 2000 -- and that share continues to increase, the admiral said. "In fact, since 2001, we reduced Navy's end-strength 60,000 sailors," he added. "But the growth in personnel costs alone consumes 60 percent of those savings. ... And that's been a burden on our ability to balance our investments."

The Defense Department's compensation reform proposals would save the Navy \$123 million in 2015 and \$3.1 billion over five years, Greenert said. The savings would be reinvested into sailor quality-of-service enhancements, the admiral noted.

"And that includes increasing sea pay and critical-skills incentive pays to assure retention; improving 30 barracks, training buildings, morale, welfare and recreation and fitness centers; constructing barracks fitness centers and trainers; providing schools and travel for about 7,500 sailors; purchasing tactical trainers and simulators; purchasing spare parts, improved tools; and providing more maintenance opportunities," the chief of naval operations said.

If Congress doesn't approve all of the recommended compensation reforms, he said, the Navy would face an additional \$4 billion in costs resulting from military pay raises reverting to the employment cost index. This would oblige the service to reduce readiness, shipbuilding and aircraft procurement even further, Greenert noted.

"We cannot afford the equivalent of another basically \$7 billion bill," the admiral said. "Our Navy would be less ready, less modern and less able to execute the missions outlined in our defense strategic guidance and the Quadrennial Defense Review."

Congress has reached the time for tough decisions, Greenert said, but it also is a time for opportunity.

“Not seizing the initiative now means billions of dollars of additional costs on other programs that we can ill afford,” he said. “And given our current situation, I think it's necessary to better balance our sailors' needs to ensure our Navy remains forward and, more importantly, ready where it matters, when it matters.”

3) MCPON Speaks at Military.com Spouse Summit / 9 MAY 14 [\[LINK\]](#)

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey, Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens spoke with Navy spouses at the Military.com 2014 Spouse Summit: "Live Your Best Military Life."

Before MCPON talked with spouses, the Honorable Juan Garcia, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, opened the conversation by talking about the Optimized Fleet Response Plan, and the Career Intermission Program.

"We're determined to make sure Sailors and spouses are aware of the Career Intermission Program," Garcia said. "As you and your family consider your personal retention efforts, I ask you all to consider this program as well."

After Garcia finished, Stevens began his conversation by talking about his smart device pilot program. His goal is to have recruits issued a smart device tablet at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes. The device will have access to course materials, wireless Internet, and a variety of other resources.

"Our goal is to keep Sailors up-to-date with the latest technology and equipment," he said. "This type of device also allows us to teach Sailors proper operational security habits, and the importance of using social media sights properly and safely, in order to protect vital information," said Stevens.

After talking about a few of his upcoming initiatives, he listened to feedback and answered questions from the audience.

A spouse asked about the lack of support for spouses and families at joint commands in the Washington D.C. area.

"Many commands in this area are in a joint environment, we must ensure that we're aware of each service's support programs, in order to guarantee that our families receive the proper care and support," said Stevens.

Another spouse spoke about her concerns with military spouse employment compared to civilian employment.

"I recognize that it can be very difficult to pursue your dream careers because of the frequent moves and adjustments that military spouses have," said MCPON. "I want to encourage you all to look at employment resources that our Fleet and Family Support Centers offer military spouses."

MCPON concluded his visit by thanking the spouses for their selfless support and dedication, and encouraged them to visit the Navy Ombudsman At Large page for additional useful information.

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From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

With many semi-annual Physical Fitness Assessments (PFA) coming to an end, Navy officials remind Sailors to verify their results in the Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS).

All commands are required to report their PFA data via PRIMS no later than 30 days after conducting the PFA in accordance with guidelines established in the Navy's Physical Readiness Program instruction, OPNAVINST 6110.1J. Each Sailor must have a record for both PFA cycles in the year, even if the record reflects non-participation status due to deployment, individual augmentee, medical waiver, etc.

Sailors need to verify their data within 60 days so that any corrections can be made by the Command Fitness Leader at the command level. After six months of a PFA completion, record changes can only be made by PRIMS administrators at Navy Personnel Command, which requires a letter of correction from the individual's commanding officer, on letter head, that grants authorization to make the change.

For more information in PRIMS and physical readiness visit the Navy' Physical Readiness website:
www.npc.navy.mil/support/21st_Century_Sailor/physical/Pages/default2.aspx

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