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Navy Live

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Navy Times, Meghann Myers

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1.) 3 Things Sailors Need to Know about the New Maritime Strategy/ 17MAR 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

Navy Live

The sea services released a new maritime strategy, a plan that describes how the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard will design, organize, and employ naval forces in support of national security interests and homeland security objectives.

Here are three things you need to know about the new maritime strategy, A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower: Forward, Engaged, and Ready:

1. The new strategy was updated to account for changes in global security, new strategic guidance, and the fiscal environment. Since the last strategy was released in 2007, many geopolitical and military changes have also developed that demand cooperative relationships with our global partners. We will continue operating in NATO maritime groups, participating in a number of international training exercises, and conducting goodwill engagements.
2. A new function called “all domain access” was introduced with the updated strategy. All domain access focuses on gaining access to areas – whether it is land, air, sea, space, cyberspace, or the electromagnetic spectrum – and operating freely in those areas to complete our mission. Today’s strategy also emphasizes operating forward and engaging partners across the globe, especially in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.
3. The strategy calls for increasing the Navy’s forward presence to 120 ships by 2020, up from about 97 ships today. This includes forward-basing four ballistic-missile-defense destroyers in Spain and stationing another attack submarine in Guam by the end of 2015. Sailors can expect to see an increase in forward-basing of forces abroad, which reduces costly rotations and deployments.

Implementing a new strategy would be impossible without you, the Sailor. The Navy’s personnel are its greatest asset and understanding your role in the new strategy will help in completing the mission.

2.) MCPON's take: Uniforms, chief training, sailor tablets/ 17 MAR 15 [\[LINK\]](#)

Navy Times, Meghann Myers

In a wide-ranging interview with Navy Times reporters and editors March 10, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (AW/NAC) Mike Stevens talked about uniform standardization, possible changes to the military retirement system, the plan to put tablets in the hands of Navy recruits and their instructors, and more. Here are excerpts from that editorial board in Springfield, Va., edited for brevity and clarity.

Q. Uniforms are moving toward a standard look for men and women. What will that change for female uniforms?

A. Well, so we talk about standardization and, obviously, we want sailors to look like sailors, right? And to a large extent you want to provide a uniform that, by and large, looks the same. I'm not opposed to the overblouse. Women want the overblouse, they like it. I can remember when they asked for it at a women's symposium a few years back, when we designed it. So if you're wearing a khaki top overblouse or you're wearing a shirt that you tuck in there's some nuances, some differences, but they're not extreme, right?

When you take a dress blues jacket versus a dress blues jumper, there's significant differences in that. And the uniforms that we are going to manufacture for our women sailors will look, for the most part, like a men's

uniform but it will be designed, cut and fit [for] women. So they won't — there won't be a unisex dress blue top; there will be a women's dress blue top and there will be a man's dress blue top.

Q. Have you heard any feedback from sailors on proposals to change 20-year retirements?

A. No, the only thing that's really come up is their concern. So we have the current forces concern: "Is my retirement that I'm under right now going to change"? And we tell them no. It's been shared with us from the most senior leaders that it's going to be grandfathered in. So the people that are currently wearing a uniform are thinking about it, but typically people are most concerned about what affects them and their families. So what does it mean for the force coming in?

Well, I don't know because I haven't talked to someone who is thinking about joining the Navy that could potentially fall under this new retirement program. So if you went out now to someone who was a junior in high school and said, "Hey this is a new retirement model, what do you think?" They'd probably say "Okay," right? Because they only know what they know.

Q. How do you respond to those who say chief's initiation, which you ended two years ago, was a vital part of their development?

A. This is to me — this is more than about a good experience, a bad experience, a better, a less better. This is about progress. So the United States Navy went from sail to coal fire steam, to fuel oil steam, to nuclear powered steam. We went from bi-planes to single-wing planes, from props to jets. We started using muskets; we went to cartridge-fired rifles, single shot, to lever action, to automatic weapons. We went from diesel electric submarines to nuclear powered submarines. We have gone from CPO initiation to CPO transition to CPO induction to CPO 365. It's called progress.

And just like, you know, a sailor that shot a musket during the Civil War or a Marine that shot a musket, right? That was the best darn weapon that we had and it did a wonderful job, right? If that same sailor was alive today and had Facebook they'd be adamantly opposed to automatic weapons, right?

Q. Where are you in the roll out of eSailor tablets for recruits?

A. So the first pilot is relatively small. It consists of two divisions of recruits and the training staff. The staff will have devices as well as the recruits. Recruit Training Command Great Lakes training division and their IT division is finishing up loading the final material on the devices, training material. So a lot of the stuff that they typically would get hard copies of is now loaded on the devices. [There are] two devices. I can't remember the one off-the-shelf device off the top of my head. And then there's one, there's 50 of them that are being made to mil spec so that we can assess the different performance of the devices. Somewhere in the first week of April we're going to go to RTC Great Lakes and we're going to do a ribbon cutting and roll out the devices.

Q. Would the future of this be that everyone gets one?

A. Oh yeah. So this is a [crawl, walk, run] process. It won't happen on my watch. I'm just hoping to get RTC going on my watch. But this isn't a matter of if we want to do this. This is a matter we must do this. To be relevant in the world that we live in today, to be a Navy of the 21st century, we must embrace this technology and we can't let things like security and cost and all that kind of stuff drive the decision. We've got to learn to lead and manage through that. I'm not saying they're not challenges, but to say we're not going to do this is unacceptable. We have to figure it out.

Q. You have a chief serving as a fellow on Capitol Hill. Where do you see that program going?

A. [Chief Legalman Ronald Ratliff] will on the Hill for a year. And it's too early to tell really what we want to do, specifically, because we've got to get the feedback from his experience, both from him and from the office that he worked from. If the feedback is favorable and everybody liked the idea, I'd like to see between four and six chiefs, senior chief petty officers, up on the Hill as fellows. What ratings they come from, qualifications, will be something we have to work out. We haven't got that far yet. He happens to be a legalman and we wanted to do it with someone who was local so we could keep the cost down. He competed with two other people and was selected.

3.) Post-9/11 GI Bill Instruction Updated, Gives Easy Steps to Transfer Benefits/ 20MAR15 [LINK]

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy leaders announced March 20 an update to the instruction governing the Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Assistance Program which outlines specific steps for Sailors to follow to properly transfer their benefits to family members.

OPNAV Instruction 1780.4 was updated March 2 and consolidates policy detailed in NAVADMINs 187/09, 203/09, 354/09, and 235/11. A naval message is planned announcing the instruction update and cancelling those NAVADMINs.

Qualified active duty and Reserve Sailors may elect to transfer benefits to a spouse or children, with some or all benefits allocated to those named.

The instruction includes the Transfer of Benefits (TEB) steps in order to create a simple checklist that Sailors can follow to ensure they successfully complete the process.

It outlines everything from verifying their family members are enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) to eligibility requirements, service obligations and what to do if a request is rejected.

The instruction can be found at this link,
<http://doni.documentservices.dla.mil/Directives/01000%20Military%20Personnel%20Support/01-700%20Morale,%20Community%20and%20Religious%20Services/1780.4.pdf>

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

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4.) Navy Announces April SAAPM 2015 Theme/ 16MAR 15 [LINK]

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Navy leaders announced March 16 the Department of Defense 2015 Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) theme of "Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know your part. Do your part." The effort will focus on raising awareness and highlighting prevention of sexual violence with an emphasis on bystander intervention.

April is an opportunity to build on existing momentum to eliminate the crime of sexual assault and ensure all service members are committed to creating command climates of professionalism, dignity and respect.

"As we focus on this year's theme of 'Eliminate Sexual Assault: Know your part. Do your part', it's critical that everyone takes time to focus on the areas where they can help, through attention and intervention," said Rear Adm. Rick Snyder, director, 21st Century Sailor Office. "Sailors at every level of leadership are the ones that make this not just a successful month, but a sustained and positive campaign to identify situations that pose a

risk for sexual harassment, sexual assault, and other criminal behaviors and have the social courage to safely correct harmful behavior."

In addition to making Sailors aware of SAAPM and this year's theme, commands are encouraged to organize events to highlight the awareness and prevention of sexual assault. Some of the suggested events include hanging ribbons on trees around base, hosting "Meet your SARC and victim advocate" events, organizing skits at the local base theater, and other activities to raise awareness during the month of April. Events can be coordinated with local SAPR professionals to ensure maximum visibility and participation.

"We see Sailors stepping up and helping, and we want to encourage that to continue," said Snyder. "Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is a great opportunity for commands to show their support and focus on eliminating sexual assault."

Sailors and commands can find additional information, references and resources at www.sapr.navy.mil. The website contains turn-key information on organizing and executing SAAPM events. The website also includes resources for victims of sexual assault who want to reach out for information and support.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response is an important effort in the 21st Century Sailor Office which consolidates programs and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor personal and family readiness and build resilience, enhancing the asymmetric advantage Sailors bring to the force.

For more information, go to www.Navy.mil/sapr.

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