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Sea Warrior Program (PMW 240) Public Affairs, Cmdr. Erik Wells

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy launched an “eLeave” self-service tool capability within MyNavy Portal (MNP) Jan. 17, which allows CONUS-based Sailors to manage their ordinary leave using MNP.

“Allowing Sailors to easily manage their ordinary leave through MyNavy Portal’s eLeave self-service tool is the latest example of transforming how we deliver human resources – personnel, pay and training – services to Sailors,” said Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of naval personnel (CNP).

The new MNP eLeave feature does not replace the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) leave function, but provides Sailors another option to manage their ordinary leave. All other forms of leave must still be completed in NSIPS. Future updates of the eLeave self-service tool will incorporate OCONUS Sailors and provide additional leave options.

“When it comes to managing their careers, Sailors are asking for more control and more simplicity,” said David Driegert, program manager for the Navy’s Sea Warrior Program (PMW 240). “The eLeave self-service tool does this by letting CONUS based Sailors route their ordinary leave through their chain of command, request an extension or cancel their leave through an interactive dashboard.”

Sailors will also be able to check-in and check-out of leave, and view their leave balance.

“We are keeping our promise to Sailors to continuously deliver more options within MyNavy Portal that are interactive and user-friendly,” said Burke. “When fully developed, MyNavy Portal will be the single point of entry for Sailors to manage their career using accurate data from a single, reliable source within an intuitive, self-service environment.”


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2.) DoD Announces Post-9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits Transfer Exception / 24 JAN 19
Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Department of Defense (DoD) has granted a temporary exception to policy to allow select service members to transfer their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to dependents until July 12, 2019.

NAVADMIN 020/19, released Jan. 24, announces that for a limited time, Sailors with at least 10 years of service who are unable to serve four additional years, due to statute or standard policy, may transfer their education benefits to dependents if they agree to serve the maximum time authorized. For example, enlisted Sailors within four years of high year tenure or officers within four years of their statutory limit of service are eligible.

The policy exception is retroactive to July 12, 2018 and ends July 11, 2019, after which Sailors will need to commit to the full four years of service to transfer their benefits.
Sailors with at least 10 years of service whose transfer of education benefits applications were rejected due to the policy changes announced in NAVADMIN 170/18, and who are still serving on active duty or in the selected reserve (SELRES), must reapply for transfer of education benefits by following guidance in NAVADMIN 236/18, including completion of the new statement of understanding at https://myeducation.netc.navy.mil/webta/home.html#nbb.

For complete information on this temporary exception to policy, read NAVADMIN 020/19 at www.npc.navy.mil.

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3.) First Steps to Making Design 2.0 Reality in Afloat Networks / 23 JAN 19
Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The organization responsible for acquiring, deploying and sustaining the U.S. Navy's afloat network technologies conducted a review to guarantee alignment with the Chief of Naval Operations’ (CNO’s) recently released A Design for Maintaining Maritime Superiority Version 2.0. Completed in late January 2019, the examination revealed positive past results, meaningful plans for the future and a solidification of efforts to build a better, networked, agile and ready fleet.

Items specifically relevant to the Tactical Networks Program Office (PMW 160) in the Design include moving Navy labs to cloud environments, increasing collaboration with industry and academia, and leveraging cloud for Agile development. PMW 160’s Consolidated Afloat Network and Enterprise Services (CANES), a major system, and its accompanying subsystem Agile Core Services (ACS), provide enabling technologies for these tasks. They pull in the commercial information technology (IT) sector for development and deployment of mission applications, including Platform as a Service (PaaS), a data analytics framework and application transport to afloat platforms.

This work supports Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence’s (PEO C4I’s) Information Warfare Platform Digital Execution Plan (IWDEP) 2.0, which includes accelerated delivery to the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) and subsequent force level ships starting in 2020. PMW 160 is one of 10 program offices within PEO C4I. The new Information Warfare Platform deploys new versions of ACS as well as systems that integrate with ACS, including systems from other program offices at the PEO.

Another collaborative effort, this time with Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Systems Center Pacific (SSC Pacific), deploys CANES in the SSC Pacific Naval Research and Development Establishment (NRD&E) commercial cloud. In that cloud, SPAWAR created the Collaborative Staging Environment (CSE), a part of the overall PEO C4I cloud strategy for hosting shore-based development, testing, application integration, training and operational environments. The CSE serves as a virtual lab for application integration and runs in a commercial cloud.

The CSE includes all basic CANES services, including the full suite of ACS capabilities. Although the CSE does not fully virtualize all of the CANES hardware, it does include the relevant security configurations, software and core services in support of application-level Secure DevOps.
What this means for the Navy is faster deployment of affordable systems that keep afloat Sailors connected to all the resources they need to complete their missions. It also gives many technical experts who have to work on a system the ability to corroborate earlier, making resolving problems easier.

Emily Nguyen, PMW 160 assistant program manager for ACS and DevOps, said “Using the CSE, applications are now able to access CANES services early in their development cycle, and can do integration testing without the limitation of scheduling hardware availability. To date, seven early adopter applications have entered the environment. Overall, we have had great success, as well as identified some challenges and lessons learned to improve how we make the CSE available to all stakeholders in FY19.”

Additionally, the recent release of NAVADMIN 315-18 Transforming Our End-To-End Information Environment— “Compile To Combat in 24 Hours” Implementation Framework promulgates CANES/ACS as the baseline development target for all afloat applications. ACS has released an extensive ACS Developer’s Guide, which is available for download to the development community. To help all developers keep the project on track, semi-annual recurring sessions of ACS Developer’s Working Group workshops are scheduled. PMW 160 led two of these workshops in 2018, which included a live demonstration of artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML) using the ACS data analytics infrastructure and included industry, academia and government partners.

Capt. Kurt Rothenhaus, program manager, PMW 160, explained, “Data analytics, such as AI/ML and decision support tools, is arguably the most important area where the Navy can develop tactical advantages over our increasingly sophisticated adversaries.”

Industry is a huge part of the success in PMW 160’s plans to deliver on the CNO’s LOEs. In September last year, the program office co-sponsored and also participated in HACKtheMACHINE to allow hands-on experience in developing applications using the ACS platform in a humanitarian scenario. This public event engaged industry, academia, and government in demonstrating the ability for new developers to learn about the ACS baseline by building new and innovative applications leveraging ACS services. Within two days, many of the software development teams successfully used various ACS services such as geospatial, PaaS, publish/subscribe messaging, data mediation, data storage, data analytics, and application and web services, demonstrating that the development community could easily understand the services provided by ACS.

In October 2018, PMW 160 held an Industry Day to communicate its strategic objectives and specific technology gaps to industry partners. In conjunction with Industry Day, the program office published several requests for information (RFIs) to solicit industry white papers on improving automation, configuration management, cloud edge computing, software defined networking and approaches to improving sustainable warfighting capability. Future contract efforts are expected on some of the responses that lead to fulfillment of Design 2.0 tasks.

Regarding near-term impacts, PMW 160 has accelerated the second operational afloat baseline release of ACS, which will be fielded on the Abraham Lincoln, USS Bataan (LHD-5) and subsequent force level platforms. This advanced rollout will provide early ML/AI capabilities to the tactical edge and enhance the warfighting capability with on-ship data analytics infrastructure. In addition, ACS 3.2, through its Application Arsenal, enables application stakeholders to field capability on the afloat environment faster, with a robust feedback cycle to learn quicker from fleet feedback. The results will help enable an afloat force that is combat ready at any time.

More information about CANES and other PMW 160 efforts will be available during WEST 2019, February 13-15, in San Diego, at the Navy’s Information Warfare Pavilion.

Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I) provides integrated communication and information technology systems that enable information warfare and command and control of maritime forces. PEO C4I acquires, fields and supports C4I systems which extend across Navy,
joint and coalition platforms. More information can be found at http://www.public.navy.mil/spawar/PEOC4I/Pages/default.aspx

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PEAL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) -- Nearly 1,200 Sailors attended the MyNavy Career Development Symposium (CDS), hosted by Navy Personnel Command, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH) Jan. 16-17.

MyNavy CDS brings senior leadership to the Fleet to explain, discuss and answer questions about new and upcoming Sailor 2025 personnel system modernization initiatives. Pacific Fleet Sailors who attended the CDS learned firsthand how these changes will impact their professional and personal lives.

“Choice, flexibility and transparency — that’s what we’re aiming for with Sailor 2025,” said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Robert Burke. “All these transformation processes are being designed around you and your families. We are eliminating administrative distractions to allow for a better work/life balance while allowing you to focus on the mission.”

Sailors saw demonstrations of the new Performance Evaluation system’s coaching tool and a prototype of the Detailing Marketplace and learned about upcoming changes to enlisted advancements. Sailors were encouraged to speak up and ask questions throughout the event, either by using their cellphones to ask questions anonymously or by participating in a senior leadership panel discussion conducted toward the end of each session.

“I’m glad of the changes they’re making,” said Information Systems Technician 1st Class Malcolm Johnson, divisional leading petty officer assigned to Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Pacific. “They’re getting rid of some redundancies and inefficiencies we’ve been dealing with.”

CDS has made career management information more accessible by visiting the region and presenting information that can be hard to come by for Sailors new to the Navy and don’t know where to look for it, Johnson added.

Chief Culinary Specialist Robert Tindal, assistant food service officer assigned to JBPHH, said, “We need to change to keep pace with the new technology and expectations of the new Sailors coming in. These updates and new incentives are very much in line with what we will need in the future.”

Detailers and community managers were also available to explain detailing specifics to Sailors, provide advice for future planning and even to provide rating designations to Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) Sailors.

“It’s amazing to be able to talk and get things done on the spot,” said Navy Counselor 1st Class Iris Valdesmendez, assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 37 (HSM-37).
“I brought Airman Reyes with me to talk to our enlisted community manager (ECM) to see if we could get him a rate, and we were able to negotiate him into becoming an Aviation Structural Mechanic (AM). Normally we have to discuss it over the phone or send paperwork and wait — but he was able to get a job in just one day.”

Airman Matthew Reyes, the newly rated AM assigned to HSM-37, said that he was happy he was able to get the job he had been working toward so quickly since he was able to see his detailer in person.

For videos, stories and information about MyNavy CDS visit: https://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/career/talentmanagement/Pages/CDS.aspx

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