

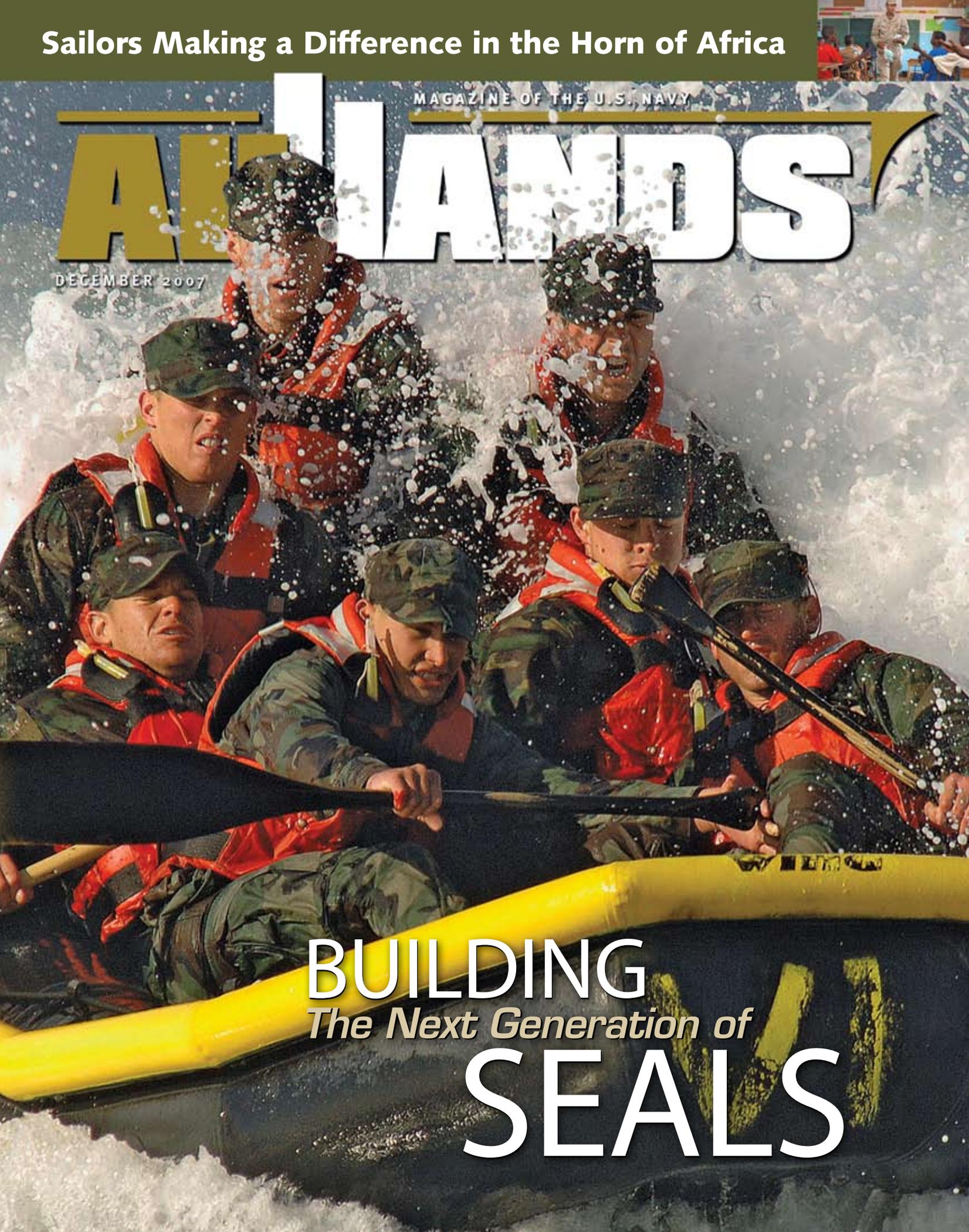
Sailors Making a Difference in the Horn of Africa



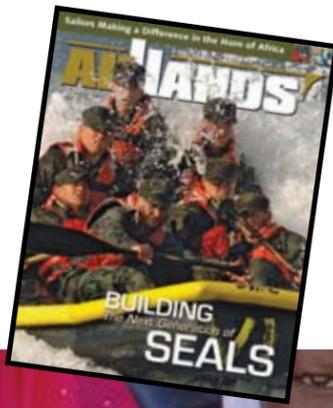
MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

ALLIANCE

DECEMBER 2007



BUILDING
The Next Generation of
SEALS



[On the Front Cover]

Once out of Basic Training at Great Lakes, Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) students head to San Diego to continue their training. Surf passage exercises foster teamwork among boat crew members. For a more in-depth look into the SEAL community, watch the January edition of All Hands Television and log onto navy.mil.

Photo by MC2 Marcos T. Hernandez

[Next Month]

Look for the annual Owners' and Operators' manual as well as a 13th issue in which we focus on stories from Iraq and Afghanistan.

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December

18 Training for the Front Line

They dive into the chaos not knowing what to expect, but they know they have to get the wounded out. This mass casualty drill is the climax of an annual four-day field training exercise otherwise known as Operation *Bushmaster*, a part of the joint service Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' medical school curriculum.

Photo by MC2 Rebekah Blowers



12 CJTF-HOA Fosters Teamwork

Most people will never feel the triple-digit heat of Djibouti, Africa, but for the military personnel of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, who assist partner nations combat extremism, establish secure environments and enable regional stability, the heat is the last thing on their minds.

Photo by MCC Eric A. Clement



24 Recruiting SPECOPS

The Navy is now recruiting candidates for the new special operations ratings with the goal of developing a more cohesive special operations team. According to the officer-in-charge of the Naval Special Warfare Center Preparatory Course at Great Lakes, it's imperative the special operation candidates stay together to learn to work as a team that depends on and trusts each other.

30 OCS Bids Farewell to Pensacola

Officer Training Command Pensacola closed at the end of September in Pensacola, Fla., and relocated to Newport, R.I., as part of the 2005 BRAC requirement. With the relocation, OCS is being retooled to take advantage of the co-location with other institutions of training and education in Newport to leverage technology and bring officer accessions training into the 21st century.

Photo by MC1(AW) Brien Aho



Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7, Okinawa, Japan, transport a simulated casualty up a hill during a jungle warfare training evolution hosted by Marines with the Jungle Warfare Training Command (JWTC). The JWTC endurance course tests the Seabees' will, stamina and the ability to work together as a team.

Photo by MC2 Paul D. Williams



Speaking with Sailors

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa

For more than two centuries, we have built and sustained our relevance and credibility through service at sea.

Our missions have changed the last few years. We have Sailors on the ground providing capabilities never before asked of a maritime service. Our Seabees, corpsmen, explosive ordnance disposal technicians and SEALs are having a dramatic impact on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere.

The success we've had in environments new to us stems from training, initiative and our Sailors' abilities to adapt. All of those factors have been critical to the difference we're making around the world. At the heart of that success is a strong commitment to our culture and the attitude of the American Sailor.

That attitude and culture was born at sea and it's there where it will continue to thrive. As we continue to focus on improving the IA process and supporting those Sailors and their families, about 6,000 Sailors are serving in IA positions. This number is not expected to change in the near future. What will change is the detailing process for IA assignments.

The Global war on terrorism Support Assignment (GSA) detailing system will provide Sailors and their families greater predictability in IA assignments as Sailors will negotiate the assignments as part of Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders.

The GSA system launched phase 1 this summer, with 27 percent of the total GSA validated and uploaded. Phase 2, which will bring 73 percent of all GWOT support assignments under the new process, beginning in January 2008.

The new detailing process is a logical move. We have been in the IA business for a while now and there is predictability in many of the assignments. Detailing IAs as part of the PCS process will allow Sailors to make career decisions about serving as an IA and also create more consistent manpower for shore-based commands, which have been tasked with filling the IA requirements.

Currently there are two pillars of support for Sailors serving in an IA capacity; their parent command and the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, whose mission is to support Sailors deploying for non-traditional expeditionary missions in support of GWOT.

Under the GSA detailing process, a Sailor's detailing command will remain his parent command for support purposes.

We must not forget the men and women continuing to perform our traditional missions at sea. Our Navy Core Values were developed through facing the challenges common only to those who serve our nation from the blue waters of the world's oceans. No organization in the world requires more teamwork and trust than a ship's crew. There is a sense of pride and responsibility in taking a ship to sea, and those same values are having an impact even in places far away from the nearest ship.

We as Americans are inherently good people and we've shown that when the need is there, we are compelled to do the right thing. The aid and support your shipmates have provided in humanitarian missions around the world is a reflection of who we are as a service — and as a nation.

As you visit foreign countries and ports of call you continue to serve as ambassadors of goodwill. You serve as the face of America.

Our Navy's mission continues to evolve and it's critical that we maintain those strong ties to our heritage, our traditions and the foundation upon which maritime service is built.

I'm proud to serve alongside you and for the sacrifices made by you and your families. I know you join me in the pride I feel for the culture and traditions that have made our Navy the strongest maritime service in the world. 



AllHANDS

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CNO's Guidance – Executing Maritime Strategy

The recently released Chief of Naval Operations Guidance for 2007-2008 emphasizes Adm. Gary Roughead's priority to implement the Maritime Strategy by "balancing our efforts to build the future force and maintain our war-fighting readiness while developing and supporting our Sailors and Navy civilians."

Roughead's vision for the Navy centers on the service remaining the preeminent maritime power, committed to global security and prosperity.

"We will prevent war, dominate any threat and decisively defeat any adversary," he wrote. And to do this, "we will remain a superbly trained and led team of diverse Sailors and civilians, who are grounded in our warrior ethos, Core Values, and commitment to mission readiness and accomplishment."

In the document, the CNO defines his Guiding Principles of "Who We Are," and "What We Believe."

"We are the United States Navy. The Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment are the very fabric of our Navy military and civilian team," the CNO wrote concerning how the Navy defines itself. "We are the face of the nation, and we measure ourselves against the highest standards of duty, integrity and accountability."

Explaining his second Guiding Principle, Roughead wrote that the Navy operates as a joint and combined force.

"We share a common responsibility with



the Marine Corps and Coast Guard to set the standard for joint operations."

The services' capabilities must reflect interdependencies and achieve integration with joint and combined forces, "while guaranteeing that we can deliver the unique effects expected of naval forces."

Roughead wrote that, in accordance with his principles, we will build a Navy with appropriate force structure and develop the strategic lay down necessary to implement the Maritime Strategy; continue to be the

dominant and most influential naval force, globally and across all maritime missions; and instill in our military and civilian force a focus on mission and individual readiness that is underpinned by a warrior ethos.

The CNO closed with what he refers to as, "our legacy – the privilege to serve."

"We are the world's finest Navy. Take pride that we provide for the safety, security and prosperity of our nation," the admiral wrote. "We are headed in the right direction, and I am counting on your leadership, intellect, commitment and drive to keep us moving forward. I am honored to lead you. We are indeed the fortunate few who have the privilege to serve in the United States Navy."

The CNO's Guidance and the maritime strategy are available online at www.navy.mil.

Story by Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs.

Contest Underway to Redefine 'Shipmate'

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (SW/AW) Tom Howard invites all Sailors throughout the Navy to enter a writing contest to redefine the term "shipmate" in today's fleet.

Howard will announce the winner in early 2008. The Sailor whose definition is selected will be presented a rendition of the winning

entry by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Robert F. Willard.

The winning entry will also be published in *All Hands* magazine, on the Navy homepage (www.navy.mil), and on the Pacific Fleet Web site (www.cpf.navy.mil).

The theme of the special event is, "What Being a Shipmate Means to Me" as written through the eyes of today's Sailors.

The contest carries on the rich traditions of the Navy as it will tell the story of today's shipmate and at the same time, honor those who have served in the Navy the past 232 years and those who have yet to serve.

"Sailors will be forever identified by their courage in the face of danger and the moral conviction to stand up for what's right," wrote Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr. in his birthday message to the fleet. "The term 'ship, shipmate, self' was created at sea. To a United States Sailor, there is no better description of our culture and our character."

Howard joins the U.S. Pacific Fleet chiefs mess and the Navy League of Hawaii in sponsoring the writing contest to honor Sailors past and present. In early October, Howard sponsored a Senior Enlisted Leadership of the Pacific Symposium in Hawaii, which included discussions about what being a shipmate means.

"It is our responsibility to our commanders and to our Navy to listen to our Sailors and to provide advice to Navy leadership," Howard said. "So, we thought, who better to define 'what being a Shipmate means' than our Sailors – our Sailors who are willing to sacrifice everything. In an all-volunteer force, it's the personal sacrifices of today's Sailors who make the decision every day to fight for the freedoms of not only our own country, but also those countries that

might not be able to fight for themselves."

In 75 words or less, Sailors are encouraged to explain their personal definition of shipmate and what it means to be a shipmate in today's Navy. The contest is open to all Sailors, from E-1 to O-10. All work must be original and unpublished. The word "shipmate" must be capitalized in all entries.

Please send e-mail entries to cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil. Subject line should read "What Being a Shipmate Means to Me." Mail-in submissions should be sent to:

What Being a Shipmate Means to Me

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
c/o FLTCM (SW/AW) Tom Howard
250 Makalapa Drive
Pearl Harbor HI 96860-3131

All entries must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 16. Entries not received by Dec. 31 will not be judged. Questions about the contest should be sent to cpf.fleetfeedback@navy.mil.

Story by MCCS(SW/AW) Melissa F. Weatherspoon, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor.

NETC Seeks Applicants for Advanced Education Voucher Program

The Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) is seeking applicants for the 2008 Advanced Education Voucher (AEV) program, designed to provide advanced education opportunities for senior enlisted personnel.

AEV provides financial assistance to selected senior enlisted personnel (E-7 to E-9) to complete post-secondary, Navy-

relevant degrees.

Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Tom Smith, enlisted education coordinator at NETC, said the program is one of the most generous in the military because the Navy truly wants to invest in the future of enlisted leadership.

"We want those accepted to this program to lead our Navy in the future," he said. "That's why we're giving people the opportunity to get a degree from a university they never thought they'd be able to attend."

One of the changes from last year's program extends the time in service cutoff eligibility requirement. Eligible applicants include chiefs with no more than 18 years of time in service, senior chiefs with no more than 20 years of time in service and master chiefs with no more than 24 years of time in service. Time in service for all pay grades is computed to Oct. 1, 2008. Proven superior

Shipmates

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Joshua Chiarini, assigned to Naval Health Clinic, Newport, R.I., was awarded the Silver Star for his gallantry in action against the enemy in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, during a recent ceremony in the House of Representatives Chambers of the Rhode Island State House, Providence, R.I.



As an individual augmentee assigned to 1st Platoon, Battery G, Battalion Landing Team 1/2, 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, Special Operations Capable, 2nd Marine Division II Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a platoon corpsman, Chiarini abandoned his own safety after witnessing an improvised explosive device attack on another squad while conducting a combat patrol.

Using one arm to carry each of the five wounded Marines and interpreter in turn to safety and using the other arm to ward off small arms attack with his rifle, he used his body to protect the wounded. Chiarini then stabilized and quickly loaded the wounded into his vehicle for evacuation.

performers for continued upward mobility are encouraged to apply.

Another major change to this year's baccalaureate and masters offering includes a Sailor's ability to select a Navy Relevant Degree. This change was facilitated due to the overwhelming response from the fleet to open up the degree options. In the past, a Sailor was limited to 15 degree choices.

A few of the options offered include: strategic foreign languages; construction management; emergency and disaster management; human resources; human system integration; human performance improvement; paralegal; leadership and management; engineering; information technology; nursing, business administration; and electrical/electronic technology. Navy Relevant Degrees must be approved by Smith.

The last change included in this year's program is the streamlining of the application.

Ricky's Tour

By MC1 Mike Jones



Around the Fleet



▲ A father and son wait to board an MH-60S *Seahawk* helicopter, inside the hanger bay of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 23, on board Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado, Calif. The six year-old fulfilled his wish to fly aboard a military helicopter with the help of HSC23 and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which works with terminally ill children.

Photo by MC3 Class Dustin Kelling

◀ Sailors aboard USS *Lassen* (DDG 82) help guide a *Tomahawk* cruise missile into place during ammunition onload while underway. Low winds and a calm sea state are two necessary elements for a safe onloading evolution.

Photo by MC2 Chantel M. Clayton



▲ A Sailor heaves a mooring line as USS *Mitscher* (DDG 57) prepares to moor pierside at Naval Station Norfolk after a six-month deployment in support of Partnership of the Americas.

Photo by MC3 David Danals

▲ U.S. Marine Corps MV-22 *Ospreys*, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, Marine Aircraft Group 29, prepare for flight on the deck of USS *Wasp* (LHD 1). *Wasp* is carrying the *Osprey* to its first combat deployment.

Photo by MC2 Zachary L. Borden



▲ A member of the U.S. Navy Parachute Demonstration Team, the Leap Frogs, prepares for a patriotic landing during the Blues on the Bay Air Show at Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. The air show included performances by the Blue Angels, Leap Frogs and the Army's Golden Knights.

Photo by MC2 Michael Hight

To be considered for the "Around the Fleet" section, forward your high resolution (5" x 7" at 300 dpi) images with full credit and cutline information, including full name, rank and duty station to: navyvisualnews@navy.mil

Directions on how to properly submit photos can be found at www.navy.mil/photo_submit.html

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Washington, D.C. 20350-1200

Click on the Navy's home page, www.navy.mil, for fresh images of your shipmates in action.

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A Sailor is no longer required to submit their last five years of evaluation or physical fitness assessment (PFA) data. According to Smith, "evaluation and PFA information were already available to the selection board so why require our busy Sailors to perform a step that was not necessary?"

AEV will support baccalaureate degree completion in designated areas of study through off-duty education, capped at \$6,700 per year for a maximum of 36 months from the date of enrollment and covers 100 percent of tuition, books, and related fees. Total program cost per student is limited to \$20,000. Qualified candidates must have an associate's degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent amount of college credit applicable to the degree being sought.

The AEV master's degree program covers 100 percent of tuition, books, and related fees up to a maximum of \$20,000 per year for up to 24 months of enrollment, with the total program cost per individual capped at \$40,000. Candidates must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution recognized by the Department of Education.

Applicants should be transferring to (or currently on) shore duty with sufficient time ashore to complete a baccalaureate or masters degree program. Applicants on sea duty may apply provided they submit an education plan, with commanding officer endorsement, which demonstrates the ability to complete the degree program.

Senior enlisted members who have already invested in their professional development by pursuing college education and those who are currently enrolled in a qualifying post-secondary degree program using

tuition assistance (TA) or other financial assistance programs are eligible to apply for the AEV program. Reimbursement for any education expenses incurred prior to participation in AEV is not authorized. AEV and TA benefits may not be combined.

Deadline for applying for FY08 programs is Feb. 22, 2008. Applications should be sent to Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) (N725), 250 Dallas Street, Pensacola, FL, 32508-5220.

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy will convene the AEV program selection board in March 2008 and program selectees will be expected to enroll in studies in the summer or fall 2008 terms.

See NAVADMIN 237/07 for specific requirements and application guidelines. Packages must be endorsed by the Sailor's commanding officer and command master chief. For more information on the AEV or to seek approval for degree programs not listed above, call (850) 452-7271 (DSN 922) or e-mail thomas.a.smith4@navy.mil.

Additional information about the AEV program can be viewed on the Navy Knowledge Online Web site (www.nko.navy.mil). Click on the Learning Tab then go to the quick link on AEV located on the left hand side of the learning page. 

Story by Lt.j.g. Ellen Cutrer, Naval Education and Training Center, Pensacola, Fla.

Africa Partnership Station Arrives in Dakar, Senegal

The Africa Partnership Station (APS) recently arrived Nov. 5 in Dakar, the first port of its seven-month deployment, aboard USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43).

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Around the Fleet



▲ The Navy Ceremonial Guard marches during Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead's assumption of office ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. Roughead relieved Adm. Mike Mullen as CNO.

Photo by MC2 Kevin S. O'Brien



▲ A U.S. Special Forces Soldier conducts rehearsal, training and pre-operation conformation on the MK-12 sniper rifle at sunset in Rawah, Iraq.

Photo by MC2 Eli J. Medellin



▲ CS3 Gao Xiong, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7, negotiates a rope bridge during a jungle warfare training evolution hosted by Marines with the Jungle Warfare Training Command (JWTC) in Okinawa, Japan. The JWTC endurance course tests the Seabees' will, stamina and the ability to work together as a team.

Photo by MC2 Paul D. Williams



▲ Sonar Technician 2nd Class Joel Sharp, right, and Ensign Frederick Nelson both stationed aboard the guided-missile frigate USS *Jarrett* (FFG 33), conduct a search and rescue training drill.

Photo by Ensign Eric D. Shuey



▲ MAC Gabriel Martinez, assigned to operations department aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), waits his turn to load and fire a mounted .50-caliber machine gun during a training evolution.

Photo by MC3 Ricardo J. Reyes

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APS is an international effort that aims to enhance regional and maritime safety and security in West and Central Africa. The APS staff includes African, European and American Sailors working toward a common goal - partnership in maritime safety and security. The staff brings together an international team of expert trainers in a variety of military capacities, and includes a handful of civilian fields such as fisheries management.

While the Navy has conducted training during routine deployments in West Africa for years, the size and focus of the APS mission is new and different.

"[APS] is much more than you have ever brought here before," said Jean Baptiste Faye, Chief of Operations for the Senegalese Navy, during meetings with Capt. John Nowell, commodore for APS. "Before, it was always a few members of one visiting ship, offering a little training. This time, you're coming with ship riders, with more training and it is much more elaborate."

With APS, training is conducted as requested by the partner countries.

In Senegal, that means traditional military training, such as engineering and small boat handling, plus a handful of specialty areas.

"APS is deployed in Dakar to carry out military training, and civilian events in the field of the environment, [including] National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)," said Lt. Cmdr. Bertrand Daniel, a French Navy officer and member of the APS planning team. "We also have organized a meeting with Africa Center of Strategy Securities. This is not only military, but this mission has a larger view about the continent."

In addition to his planning duties, Daniel has also served as a translator between English and French-speaking partners.

"As a French-speaking officer aboard, I helped the relations between the harbor pilot and the captain. I also know the area because I was the commanding officer of the French hydrographic survey ship *Laplace* (A 791), when we had a port visit to Dakar," said Daniel.

But APS is more than training, and will conduct large community relations projects in each of the countries visited.

"We have a couple of community relation projects set up, one with an elementary school in town where we are taking 25 Sailors to finish painting the interior," said Lt. Paul Wigginton, chaplain for Fort McHenry and the APS community relations coordinator.

"Second, is an orphanage that needs some concrete construction about two hours away, where a crew of 20 Sailors, Seabees and beach master personnel will be working."

APS 2007 is a U.S. Naval Forces Europe-led initiative, executed by a multi-national staff aboard *Fort McHenry* and High Speed Vessel 2 *Swift*.

Commander Task Group 60.4 and training teams from various U.S. and European military commands, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations are embarked aboard *Fort McHenry* to enhance cooperative partnerships with regional maritime services in West and Central Africa and the Gulf of Guinea during the seven-month deployment. ■

Story by MC3(AW/SW) R.J. Stratchko, public affairs, Africa Partnership Station.



Photo by MCC Eric A. Clement

Story by
MC1 Mary Popejoy

CJTF-HOA

Fosters Teamwork

Marine Corps Sgt. Jeremy Gutierrez directs students from the special brigade of the Djiboutian national police, during a three-day training exercise on a range of topics from basic weapons procedures to room clearing, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.



Photo by MC2 Regina L. Brown

▲ Dr. (Lt. Cmdr.) Randy Baldwin treats a patient's head wound during a Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) held in the village of Alailli Dadda, Djibouti. Service members deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa offered medical care to remote villages throughout Djibouti during the MEDCAP.



Photo by MCC Eric A. Clement

▲ Marine Lance Cpl. Phillip Bessemer, CMCS David Duncan and other service members from CJTF-HOA and Camp Lemonier clear rubble around an orphanage in Djibouti City, Djibouti.

Most people in the United States will never experience the triple-digit heat of Djibouti, Africa, but for military personnel deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), it's a quick reminder they're deployed to one of the hottest places in the world. East Africa is 2.1 million square miles (approximately 68 percent of the size of the lower 48 States), and half of its populace lives in extreme poverty with 3.3 million refugees, more than 10 million displaced persons and at least 26 million people living with HIV.

CJTF-HOA, a unit of U.S. Central Command, conducts operations and training to assist partner nations to combat extremism to establish a secure environment and enable regional stability. About 1,800 people from each military branch of the U.S. armed forces, civilian employees and representatives of coalition and partner (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Yemen, Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, and Madagascar) countries make up CJTF-HOA.

DOD stood up CJTF-HOA in 2002, which gave U.S. Marines aboard USS *Mount Whitney* (LCC 20) the authorization to take charge of CJTF-HOA. The Marines led CJTF-HOA from November 2002 to April 2003. In May 2003, the Marines came ashore to take charge of Camp Lemonier, a former French Foreign Legion base. After three years of successful HOA and Camp Lemonier missions, the Marines turned over both operations to the U.S. Navy in April 2006.

To successfully execute the CJTF-HOA mission, Rear Adm. James Hart, commander CJTF-HOA, operates under the four "P"s: prevent conflict, promote regional stability, protect coalition interests and prevail against extremism in East Africa and Yemen. This is apparent through humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, consequence management, military-to-military training, civic action programs including medical and veterinary

care, school and medical clinic construction and water development projects.

"When you look at the overall objectives of the four 'P's and our strategy for implementing them, they focus on how no one military can do this by themselves," said Army Brig. Gen. Sanford Holman, deputy commander, CJTF-HOA. "Within our resources we've tried to capture our strategy with the three 'D's: diplomacy, development and defense because this effects-based approach shows that we can't do everything ourselves, but we can make the most out of what we do. It helps us decide, prioritize and be inclusive and transparent with the host nation about what we're trying to accomplish and how we're trying to help."

Some of the ways the Navy is providing assistance to Africa is with the projects the Seabees and the civil affairs teams are doing such as building schools, digging wells, creating libraries, training medical and veterinarian personnel and sanitizing slaughterhouses in cooperation with host nations, U.S. embassies and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40 has personnel located in Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia to renovate schools and drill wells.

According to Navy Lt. Jeremy Gates, officer-in-charge of NMCB-40, Det. HOA, "Our mission is to build relationships with



Photo by MC1 Mary Popeloy

▲ BUCN Christopher Lynch, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 40, Det. Horn of Africa (HOA), hammers nails into the roof of the Charichcho Primary School, Charichcho, Ethiopia. NMCB 40 Det. HOA is in the middle of a deployment supporting the Combined Joint Task Force-HOA mission.

the communities through humanitarian construction efforts and training communities and government organizations new methods in construction and water well drilling so that they in turn can help improve their quality of life.

"More importantly," Gates continued, "is that we have American service members working in and with the various communities to show them that the U.S. military is about more than what they may see on TV or hear on the radio. We're here to help and improve international relations with the African community for generations to come."

Another valuable part of the CJTF-HOA mission is the civil affairs aspect. Civil affairs teams include members who have formal medical training such as Army medics, nurses, emergency medical technicians and firefighters.

"Civil affairs personnel work to prevent

future conflict by mitigating many of the conditions that our opponents would use to justify attacking our coalition partners and U.S. targets," said Army Maj. John Ling, executive officer of Bravo Company, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion. "The projects we complete are important to the overall mission and we are careful to coordinate with non-governmental organizations, international organizations, USAID and local governments to prevent duplication of effort. Likewise, we are very careful to consider ethnic and religious sensitivities when we begin projects."

CJTF-HOA is here to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect the interests of U.S. and coalition partners in order to prevail against extremism, and civil affairs teams are trained specifically in all three of the commander's lines of operation: defense, diplomacy and development.

"Toward the goal of development, we focus on developing host nation capacity for water supply, health care and education at the local level. Often this means we are involved in renovating wells, and sometimes installing new ones," said Ling. "Other times, it can be as simple as replacing damaged faucets at a community water point. It's this kind of immediate impact that we try to focus on providing here."

Ling went on to say that most of the locations they visit are too remote for the people to just make a quick trip to the nearest hardware store, so they have a powerful affect on a town whose citizens have to walk or hitchhike 50 km to get to the closest city.

"We show up in our SUVs with plumbing supplies and tools and by the end of our visit, we leave behind working water points where water was once scarce and routinely lost to



▲ Sailors going through chief petty officer transition and other chief petty officers enjoy a game of soccer at a boys orphanage.

► Lt. Cmdr. Wendy Halsey, assigned to (CJTF-HOA) hands out soccer balls to students in Balbala, Djibouti. Halsey's family and friends collected more than 300 soccer balls to donate to schools and orphanages through out the Horn of Africa. More than 1,500 people from each branch of the U.S. military, civilian employees, coalition forces and partner nations make up CJTF-HOA.



MCC Eric A. Clement



▲ CT3 Megan Morgan and other service members volunteered to help cleanup and paint a boys orphanage in Djibouti City.



Photo by MCC Eric A. Clement

▲ A young student from Balbala School, Balbala, Djibouti, holds a soccer ball given to her by service members from Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. The soccer balls were donated from organizations, clubs and churches in the United States.

leaky plumbing,” said Ling. “More important than that is the fact that by the time we finish our visit, we have established friendships with the people that we helped and that’s how we really support HOA.”

An integral part of the CJTF-HOA mission is military-to-military (mil-to-mil) training with partner nations enhancing their capability to combat extremism and improve their security capacity.

Marines of 6th Provisional Security Company (PSC) have assisted the Djiboutian army, navy and police forces by enhancing their knowledge in small-boat tactics, pier-side security, teaching them less-lethal techniques, introducing the M-16 rifle and improving patrol procedures.

“Training with our partner nations allows them to become more comfortable with us since a lot of the things we do operationally we do with them anyway,” said Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Mike Dunham, 1st Platoon Sgt.

Working side-by-side with host nation counterparts allows service members to be a good neighbor in a different capacity.

“Working with our host nation counterparts gives them a better viewpoint of us than if we didn’t interact with them at all,” said Dunham. “It helps build the mentality and increases the likelihood that they’ll help us in the future.”

In addition to 6th PSC, soldiers from Guam National Guard’s Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry (light) have also conducted (mil-to-mil) training since they deployed to HOA in 2004.

Since then, the unit has trained approximately 300 soldiers from the Ethiopian National Defense Force, 100 soldiers from the Djiboutian National Defense Force, the Ugandan Peoples Defense Force and the Kenyan Department of Defense.

The training is focused on anti-terrorism, counter-terrorism, light infantry tactics and a non-commissioned officer academy.

“CJTF-HOA conducts mil-to-mil training to build and enhance the partner nation’s ability to defend its borders and expand that capacity and transfer it to other areas of defending itself against any form of extremism,” said Army Capt. Joseph Cruz, commander, Delta Co., 1st BN, 294th Inf. (light).

This year they’ve conducted two iterations of mil-to-mil training, which last approximately six to eight weeks. This training was conducted with the Djiboutian Rapid Action Regiment in Arta, Djibouti.

“Mil-to-mil training benefits our partner nations because it allows them to help themselves,” said Cruz. “We use the ‘train the trainer’ model, that enhances their ability to defend themselves rather than to rely on other nations for national defense. The analogy that is commonly used is, ‘Give a man a fish, feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.’ The same can also be said about mil-to-mil training, and that’s why we do it because we want them to be able to defend their country.”

As the leader of such a diverse mission, the admiral is very proud of each group’s efforts and the positive impact they have on the mission.

“We are here to help Africans solve Africa’s problems. Our interagency approach – through diplomacy, development, and defense – has been extended to our international partners and the East African countries,” said Hart. “We have a goal to assist our international partners with the development of a stable and secure region ... which promotes economical development for all Africans.”

Popejoy is assigned to the public affairs office, CJTF-HOA.



Training for the FRONT LINE

Story and photos by MC2 Rebekah Blowers

▼ Medics arrive at the scene of a casualty scenario during Operation *Bushmaster*. Each fourth-year medical student has to assess their casualties, radio them in and make sure they get evacuated to the nearest battalion aid station.



It's pitch black,
and an improvised explosive device (IED) just exploded
nearby, leaving service members sprawled out all over the
field. All they hear are voices in the darkness screaming,

**“Help me!
Awww...Medic!”**

They dive into the chaos not knowing what to expect, but they know they have to get the wounded out. Some only have minor cuts and bruises, some are burn victims, others may need amputations. But, this particular scenario is only training for real-life situations.

This mass casualty drill is the climax of an annual four-day field training exercise otherwise known as Operation *Bushmaster*. The exercise is part of the joint service Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' (USUHS) medical school curriculum.

Approximately 25 percent of active-duty physicians go through USUHS and this joint training exercise better prepares them for what they will see once they graduate.

Bushmaster, a two-week operation at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., rotates two groups of fourth-year medical students through actual field training with first-year medical students supporting them and acting as 'patients.'

Behind the scenes are enlisted personnel from all branches of service – including corpsmen – who support the training as moulage or make-up artists, advisors, safety officers and more.

During *Bushmaster*, which is set in the fictitious country of Pandakar, the students learn more than just field medical care: They learn field leadership. They rotate through positions such as commanding officer (CO), executive officer, surgeon and ambulance team leader (ATL).

“[Operation *Bushmaster*] is the climax of the military contingency medicine course that our third-year medical students take here at the university,” said Lt. Cmdr. Greg Cook, a leadership evaluator at *Bushmaster*. “For the past year, they’ve had many presentations, briefs and classes on how to do contingency medicine. We have about 90 students out here so about a third of those students are Navy medical students who are going to be out in the fleet with us one day.”

There are 27 corpsmen stationed at USUHS, 12 of whom supported *Bushmaster*. Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Ebenezer Atekwana, non-



▲ Patti Taylor, a moulage artist at Operation *Bushmaster*, works on making an RPG in Army 2nd Lt. James Weightman's shoulder look as realistic as she can. Meanwhile other moulage artists prepare first-year students for their roles as casualties.



▲ Fourth-year medical students at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences work together to evacuate a simulated casualty during Operation *Bushmaster*. Students get first-hand experience of what it's like in a combat environment.

commissioned officer in charge at the Marine Corps Battalion Aid Station (MBAS), said one of their jobs is to act as advisors.

"I've been working with these students for approximately a year before I came out here. I really feel that I have the opportunity to help mold them because *Bushmaster* is the final exercise that really puts everything together – all the train ups, all the field medicine classes they've had, tactical combat casualty care classes that they've had, all the ATL classes they've had – this actually gives me the opportunity to be able to guide them in practicing those things in a field environment," said Atekwana.

Atekwana has had a lot of field experience himself having deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in Afghanistan and 1st Battalion, 6th Marines in Fallujah, Iraq.

"At some point in my career, I have been exposed to the real life scenarios that are here [at *Bushmaster*]" he said. "Although the medical

students out here have in-depth medical knowledge and are able to clinically treat patients, they are not very exposed to treating patients in field conditions. So the corpsmen act as advisors to guide those medical officers in treating patients in a field situation.

"Now it's not only treating them as far as providing medical care, but it's also being able to organize the MBAS in such a manner that the patient flow is smooth. It's making sure the MBAS is properly set up to receive casualties, that the vehicles are properly arranged, so that if we receive a call to go [evacuate] some casualties, they can move quickly."

HM3 Tinsae Tekleab was one of the advisors and safety officers at *Bushmaster* this year.

"Out here I'm doing my primary job, which is as a corpsman. [I'm] mentoring and showing the doctors what an actual corpsman would be doing out there. It gives them an idea how corpsmen who operate under them would perform their jobs out there," said

"I definitely feel that the training is extremely valuable, especially for me in a leadership position, which as a medical student you don't really get to do."

– Ensign Chai Wu



Tekleab. He added that the job isn't easy, but it is worth it to him.

"We're doing 16-hour days throughout the two weeks. It's hard work, and there's a lot that goes into it. But we look to the outcome and these are the doctors who eventually will be helping my family or myself, my



▲ Army 2nd Lt. James Weightman, a first-year student at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, acts out his role as an injured Marine in a casualty scenario during Operation *Bushmaster*.

◀ Lt. William Young (right) reads off his patient's condition to another medic at the simulated Marine Battalion Aid Station during Operation *Bushmaster*.



▲ Bags of “blood” hang from a tree outside the moulage tent of Operation *Bushmaster*. Some of the wounds squirted out blood to make the student’s injuries look as real as possible.



▲ Air Force 2nd Lt. Andy Skabelund (left) listens to a debrief at Operation *Bushmaster*’s simulated Army Battalion Aid Station after finishing one of several realistic training evolutions.

battle buddies, Marines, Soldiers or Airman out there in the battle zone,” he said. “The motto of the university is ‘learning to care for those in harms way,’ and if we can show them [what it’s like] being out there in the battle zone, they can give better directions as commanding officers or as medical officers to get the wounded treated properly.”

A typical *Bushmaster* scenario begins with first-year students getting ready to be “patients.” This happens at the moulage tent where four moulage professionals create realistic looking injuries.

“We develop all the injuries, apply them all to the [first-year students] and send them out to the fourth-year medical students,” said Patti Taylor, senior research coordinator at USUHS and moulage artist. “There is a matrix that we go off of that has all the injuries explained on it. We then receive cards with details on what to expect for each patient and where the injury is located. With that information we use all the moulage and develop whatever kind of injury we need. The fourth-year [students] have the knowledge already and now they need to physically see what the injuries look like.”

Once moulaged, the mock casualties are moved to a location where the scenario is to be played out. For example, on day two, an improvised explosive device detonated while a group of non-combatant personnel was passing by in a vehicle.

The first-year students act out the panic that ensues on the scene. Each fourth-year student in this scenario is responsible for four patients – two with life threatening injuries and two with minor wounds. The senior students have to assess and manage all the patients, obtain the required transportation to get them out of the scene, load the patients and exit the area. One fourth-year student, Ensign Benjamin Nelson, was assigned as the evacuation officer of the MBAS and explained what happens next.

“The patients come in here through the triage area, offloaded from the ambulance. [They] get sorted out – either immediate, delayed or minimal – depending on how quickly they need to be seen. The docs see the life-threatening injury patients first. They are brought into the tents and worked on. Because this is just a level one area of care, as soon as the patients are stabilized, we take them over to the evacuation area and [put out] a radio report to get them evacuated out,” Nelson said.

Sailors, such as Ens. Chai Wu, were operating at other stations besides the MBAS. She was part of the Army Battalion Aid Station for 5th platoon, Squad 2.

“I definitely feel that the training is extremely valuable, especially for me in a leadership position, which as a medical student you don’t really get to do. You haven’t had experience commanding a unit,

expeditionary medical squadron (EMEDS) or BAS. So it’s very valuable to go through the scenarios and think about how you’re going to defend your position, how you’re going to treat your casualties and how you’re going to set up your equipment,” she said.

“Here you get hands-on training,” Wu added. “The situation is completely different than the classroom. The type of care is completely different. You’re basically doing medicine in bad places. You’re trying to keep the Soldier, Marine, Sailor or Airman alive until you can get them to a higher level of care and that’s what we’re learning out here.”

Wu and most of her counterparts agree that working in a joint service operation will help them when they get to the fleet, especially to do their part in the global war on terrorism.

“I think because we run through Army BAS, MBAS and Air Force EMEDS, we’ve had a taste of each to go anywhere and we would have a good idea of what’s available, what type of support we’d have and what our command structure is,” Wu said.

And it’s not just the fourth-year students that are learning from *Bushmaster*. The first-year students said they are getting a glimpse of what’s to come.

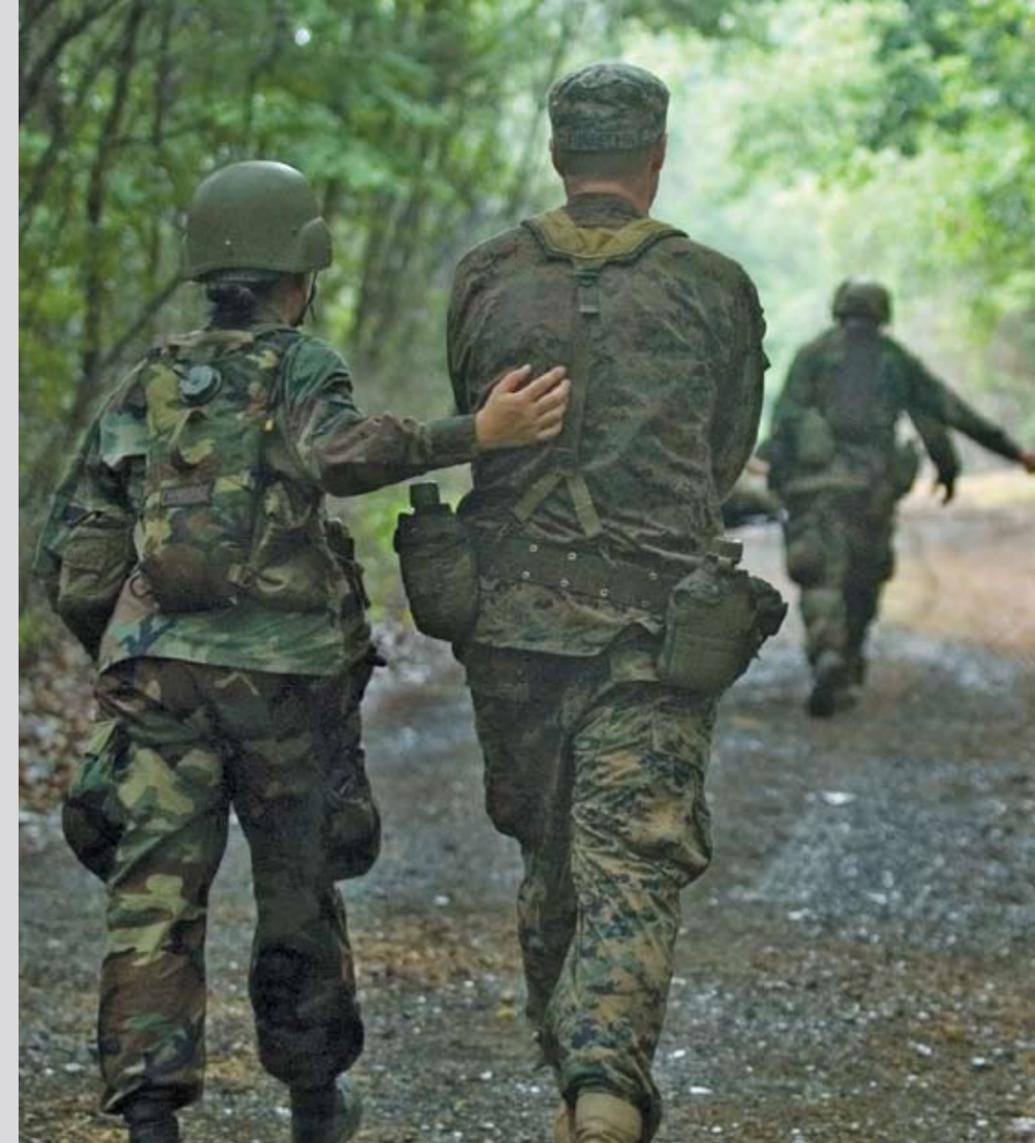
“As a first-year student it’s been nice to go out and get a clear idea of how the medical operations are set up in a situation like this,” said Air Force 2nd Lt. Rebecca Slogic. “And we also get to learn a lot about treatment because we’re there and hear the doctors telling the fourth-year students lots of information.”

Army 2nd Lt. James Weightman, a first-year student at the exercise said he likes working in a joint environment because we get to learn about each other’s services.

“I don’t know anything about ships but my friend went to the Naval Academy so he tells me about what’s going on there. In the future I’m guessing we’re going to have a lot of operations together so I think it’s really important to learn how to work with each other and have the connections later on,” Weightman said.

Retired Navy Capt. Charles Rice, president of USUHS said that joint service is one of the principles the university was built on.

“Students from all three of the military



▲ A fourth-year Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences student walks one of her “patients” back to the Marine Corps Battalion Aid Station for further treatment after a casualty scenario of Operation *Bushmaster*. The day is still young for these students as they have a mass casualty drill coming up later in the evening.

services, plus the public health service, learn from the very beginning how each service works,” he said. “For example I was a Navy officer. I could never tell the difference between a battalion and a brigade but our students learn that. Another factor I think is very important is that they establish relationships with each other that they carry well out into their careers. We see that in combat operations. Say an Army doc at Baghdad needs some capability that the Navy has in Bahrain. Rather than having to go through the usual laborious process, he just picks up the phone, calls his classmate who happens to be down in Bahrain and says, ‘Can you send me this and such?’ and magically it happens.”

Rice also feels training gets the soon-to-be graduating class more prepared for what they will see when they get out to the field.

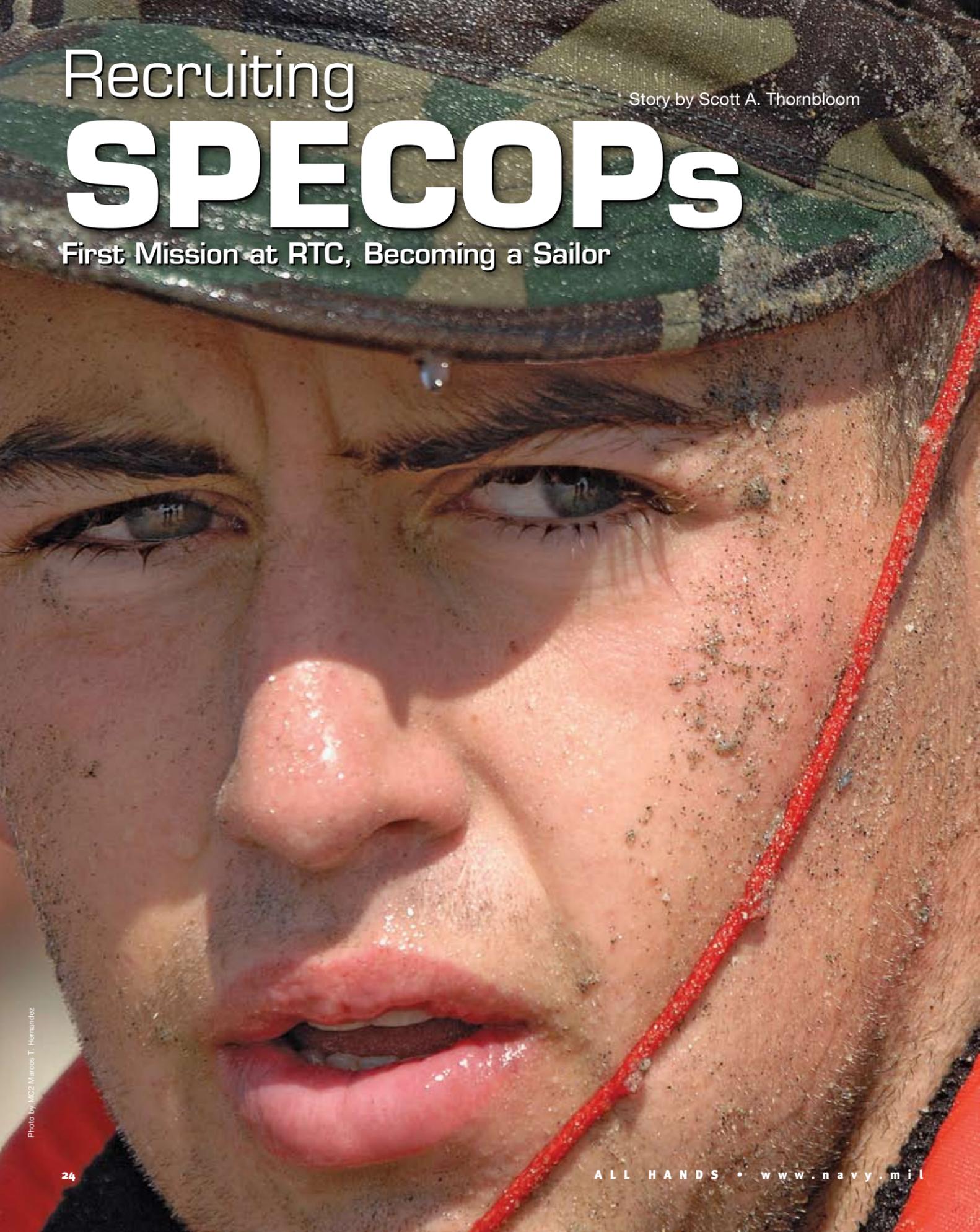
“The Navy is playing an increasingly important role, particularly in support of ground operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan not just in support of the Marine Corps but increasingly in support of the Army,” said Rice. “When injured troops are brought into a BAS or an EMEDS unit, they don’t really care whether the people taking care of them are Army, Navy or Air Force. They just want to be taken care of. And that’s what this training serves to do.”

Blowers is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.

Recruiting SPECOPs

First Mission at RTC, Becoming a Sailor

Story by Scott A. Thornbloom



When liberty call was announced in the USS *Midway* Drill and Graduation Hall at Recruit Training Command (RTC), Great Lakes, last August, the former recruits, now Sailors, of Division 253 had the same reactions as the more than 800 other new Sailors from the eight graduating divisions. First, was a sigh of relief upon completing recruit training, followed by high fives and congratulatory hand shakes among the members of each division. Then came the race to embrace loved ones and family members attending the graduation ceremony.

But there was also a quiet air of confidence from the 77 graduating Sailors of Div. 253. It was a determined attitude of having completed the first step in their goal of becoming a part of Navy special operations (SPECOPs).

"They were all amazingly confident from day one," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class (AW) Richard Fenters, one of Div. 253's recruit division commanders.

"When they first started they were far ahead of the other recruits," said Fenters, "especially in their physical training. They knew what they wanted and they all have a strong desire to accomplish their goals."

Recruit divisions, like 253, are part of a Navywide plan to recruit and grow naval special warfare (NSW) and Navy special operations (NSO) ratings. Div. 253 was the third all-NSW/NSO division to graduate from RTC. Since April 2007, more than 18 NSW/NSO divisions have graduated. There are five divisions currently attending recruit



▲ Commodore, Naval Special Warfare Group 4, Capt. Evin Thompson, (left) talks with SR Kohl Curran, during breakfast prior to his graduation from boot camp at Great Lakes, Ill. Curran trained with Division 149, the first all-SEAL candidate division to train together in boot camp. Thompson served as Reviewing Officer for the Recruit Graduation ceremony. The division also attended Naval Military Training Classes at Training Support Center Great Lakes prior to reporting together for Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training.

training. That's more than 1,400 NSW/NSO candidates in less than a year who are now in the training pipelines, to include recruit training preparatory courses and "A" schools for their ratings.

Navy Creates New Ratings

In October 2006, the Navy created four new ratings that the Navy categorizes as naval

special operations: special warfare operator (SO), special warfare boat operator (SB), Navy diver (ND) and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). The new ratings replaced previous source ratings, that had been used to distinguish SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) and special warfare combatant-craft crewmen (SWCC), Navy divers and Sailors in EOD detachments by job classifications. Before the new ratings



▲ Recruits from Division 253 stand at attention during graduation ceremonies.



▲ Recruits from Division 253 run in formation on an outdoor track at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Division 253 was the third all-Special Warfare Operations division to go through recruit training. The division was made up of rating candidates for Special Warfare Operator (SO), Special Warfare Boat Operator, Navy Diver and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). It is part of a new Navy and Special Warfare Command initiative to grow the ranks of SEALs, littoral and riverboat squadrons, dive units and EOD Detachments.

“Our goal is to make sure each candidate is ready to go to boot camp and ready to start their journey to reach their special operations goal.”

– Mark Negle, Mentor

were formed, all naval special warfare (SEALs and SWCC) and special operations (ND and EOD) Sailors maintained a source rating, although their training and focus was to maintain special warfare qualifications.

The Navy is now actively recruiting for candidates for the new ratings with the goal of developing a more cohesive special operations team.

“Special operators are dependant on each other, knowing each other’s mission or task and working as a team,” said Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Paul Tharp, officer-in-charge of the new Naval Special Warfare Center Preparatory Course (NSWCPC) at Great Lakes. The NSWCPC prepares SEAL candidates for Basic Underwater Demolition/

SEAL (BUD/S) training at the Naval Special Warfare Center.

“From day one in the Navy, SPECOP candidates are learning how to work as a unit,” said Tharp. “In the NSWCPC and BUD/S training it’s imperative the division stays together, learns to work as a team and depend on and trust each other.”

“Special operations was very well recognized in the last Quadrennial Defense Review,” said Capt. Evin Thompson, commanding officer, Special Warfare Group 4. “Throughout SOCOM, we are growing in Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy special operations. The SEALs are growing from 1,800 enlisted SEALs up to 2,500 this year. Special boat operators will grow from 525 to 825.”

Former Special Warfare Operators Become Mentors

To recruit the right candidates, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command has contracted retired and former operators to assist Navy recruiters find and mentor the right candidates to be SEALs, special warfare boat operators, Navy divers and EOD specialists. These former operators are assigned to all 26 Navy recruiting districts in the country and travel to different high school and college athletic events, triathlons and even extreme sporting events, like the X Games, looking for potential candidates.

“Just as the Navy recruits for the submarine community, nuclear programs, aviation and medical communities, it is now recruiting for the special operations community,” said Mark Negle, a retired senior chief hull technician Navy diver. “But we need a more physically fit candidate than the normal recruit. We look for a candidate we think will be able to handle the physical and mental rigors of being a special operator.”

Negle was one of the first mentors who worked with Navy recruiting to help find candidates for the special operation ratings. He now is continuing that mentoring with the dive motivators at RTC. The dive motivators are present and former senior enlisted members of the SPECOPS community who are responsible for screening special operations candidates after they arrive at RTC. They also are in charge of providing the extra physical training each candidate is required to participate in during recruit training including periodic physical screening tests and swim qualifications.

“We’re there to not only write the contracts for the candidates who have been recruited but also to set both the recruiters and the candidates up for success,” Negle said. “Our goal is to make sure each candidate is ready to go to boot camp and ready to start their journey to reach their special operations goal.”

Becoming a Sailor First

Div. 253 graduated 47 SEAL (SO) candidates, 23 SB candidates, six ND candidates and one EOD candidate. Of the original 83 candidates who arrived at RTC, these 77 successfully completed training, drilling and learning how to be Sailors first.

“Special Warfare Command (SPECWARCOM)



▲ The Coronado Bridge and San Diego skyline frame Basic Underwater Demolition/ SEAL (BUD/S) students as they run with their inflatable boats back to BUD/S compound at the Naval Special Warfare Center.



▲ SOC Darek Laviolette talks about the Special Operations Program to Trident Challenge attendees at the University of Minnesota. The Trident Challenge allows interested people to find out how they measure up against SEALs and gives the general public an opportunity to meet and learn more about the SEALs.

► Recruits from Division 253 run during Basic Training at Recruit Training Command, Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.

insists that all recruits become Sailors first,” said Capt. Annie B. Andrews, commanding officer of RTC. “If they don’t learn the Core Values of the Navy, the teamwork and how to be a Sailor first they could never learn how to be part of the SPECWARCOM team. The special operator candidates go through the same ‘Sailorization’ process, including curriculum and regimen, as every other recruit who begins a Navy career here at RTC.”

Andrews added that except for the additional physical training handled by the dive motivators at the pool.

“Every recruit participates in the same basic military training requirements. Every minute of recruit training has been consciously designed to provide the fleet with basically trained, highly-motivated and dedicated Sailors ready to operate in the Navy.”

For the recruit candidates who have already graduated or are still attending boot camp, becoming a Sailor and serving their country is

the first thing on their minds.

“I’ve wanted to serve my country for a long time and I can’t think of any better way of doing that than by being a Sailor and special warfare operator,” said Seaman Travis Carter, the recruit chief petty officer from the now-graduated Div. 253.

Carter, whose father is a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, said it was exciting getting through the training at RTC. “It was really fun being part of a special operator division. We all came together and helped each other get through the training. Becoming a Sailor first was really important to all of us and I think it will help us all move on in the communities we were recruited for.”

Carter, who transferred to BUD/S training after graduating from RTC, said he has always wanted to be a SEAL. “... It started with the diving I did in Okinawa, where my Dad was stationed, but grew after 9/11. I just wanted to come in and serve and protect my country.”





Photo by Scott A. Thornblom

▲ Recruits from Division 253 work out around the pool during their “down time” with the dive motivators while at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

The next step: Preparatory Courses

Following graduation, Div. 253, and the other divisions, spent four days at the Training Support Center (TSC), Naval Station Great Lakes, for the Chief of Naval Operations-mandated courses in personal financial management and Navy military training. ND and EOD candidates then received orders to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Dive Preparatory Course also at Naval Station Great Lakes.

This month, SO SEAL candidates began staying at Great Lakes to attend the new Naval Special Warfare Center Preparatory Course (NSWCPC) before advancing to their BUD/S “A” school. Before NSWCPC stood up, SO candidates went straight to BUD/S at the Naval Special Warfare Center, Coronado, Calif. SB operators are the only special operations personnel who do not attend a prep course. After completing the CNO-mandated courses, SB candidates travel straight to Coronado and the Naval Special Warfare Center to attend basic crewman training.



Photo by Scott A. Thornblom

▲ Recruits are trained on the proper donning and use of the gas mask.

NSWCPC is under the direction and guidance of Naval Special Warfare Command, through the Naval Special Warfare Center and must be completed before an SO SEAL candidate moves on to BUD/S training. The course and students are supported in Great Lakes by the TSC and Naval Service Training Command. The course staff and course curriculum were developed and provided by the Naval Special Warfare Center.

According to a SPECWARCOM mission statement, NSWCPC was established to implement a progressive physical and mental training program to prepare SO SEAL candidates toward successful completion of their perspective training objectives in a military training environment.

“NSWCPC is a prep course for BUD/S. It is not an “A” or “C” School, but a course to prepare SEAL candidates for BUD/S, which can be considered the SEAL “A” School,” Tharp explained.” In other words it is designed to physically prepare the candidates for the rigors of BUD/S. The course will train the candidates in the proper ways of running and swimming.”

Tharp added the prep course is all about an opportunity for success. Every BUD/S candidate – to include fleet accessions – will cycle through this prep course prior to going to BUD/S. There will be physical exit standards beyond the historic PST that each candidate must pass. The program’s progressive nature will build the candidates up over time – average length of the course will be eight weeks.”

So far, thanks to the CNO-initiative and the work at RTC, TSC and NSTC, the numbers and percentages of the naval special warfare and special operations ratings are increasing.

“Having the Naval Special Warfare Center Preparatory Course here will enhance the training pipeline that started the day a special warfare operator candidate was recruited,” said Rear Adm. Arnold O. Lotring, Commander, Naval Service Training Command. “NSWCPC will also ensure that we will be sending a better prepared and highly motivated candidate to BUD/S.”

Thornblom is assigned to the public affairs office, NSTC, Naval Station Great Lakes

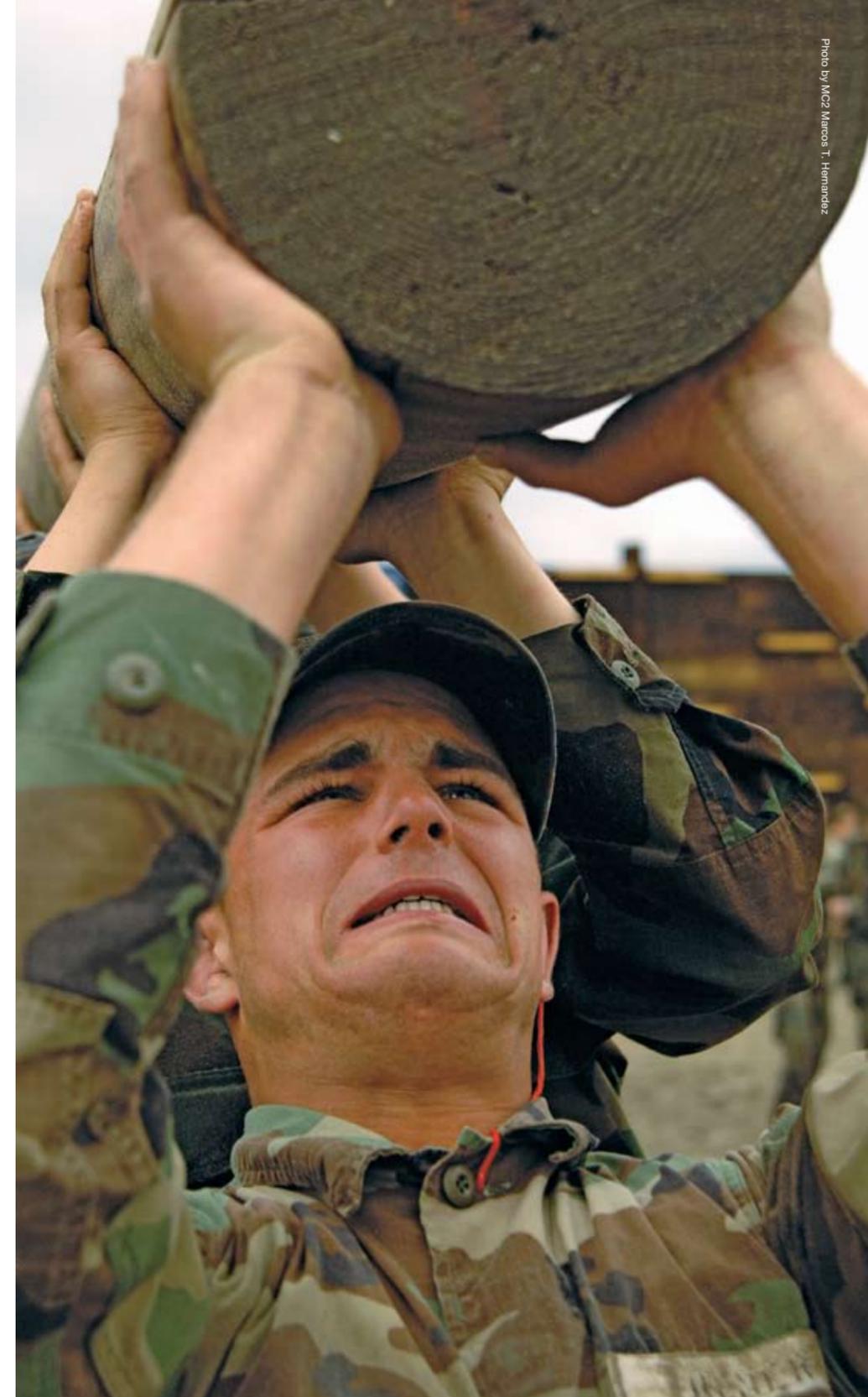


Photo by MCG2 Marcos T. Hernandez

▲ A Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) student struggles to lift his portion of a heavy log over his head during Log PT at the Naval Special Warfare Center. Log PT fosters teamwork among the students and provides strength training. BUD/S students must endure 27 weeks of intense training in order to graduate from the program, followed by six months of SEAL Qualification Training before they can wear the trident of a U.S. Navy SEAL.

OCS Bids Farewell to Pensacola

Story by Lt. Jennifer Cragg,
photos by MC1(AW) Brien Aho

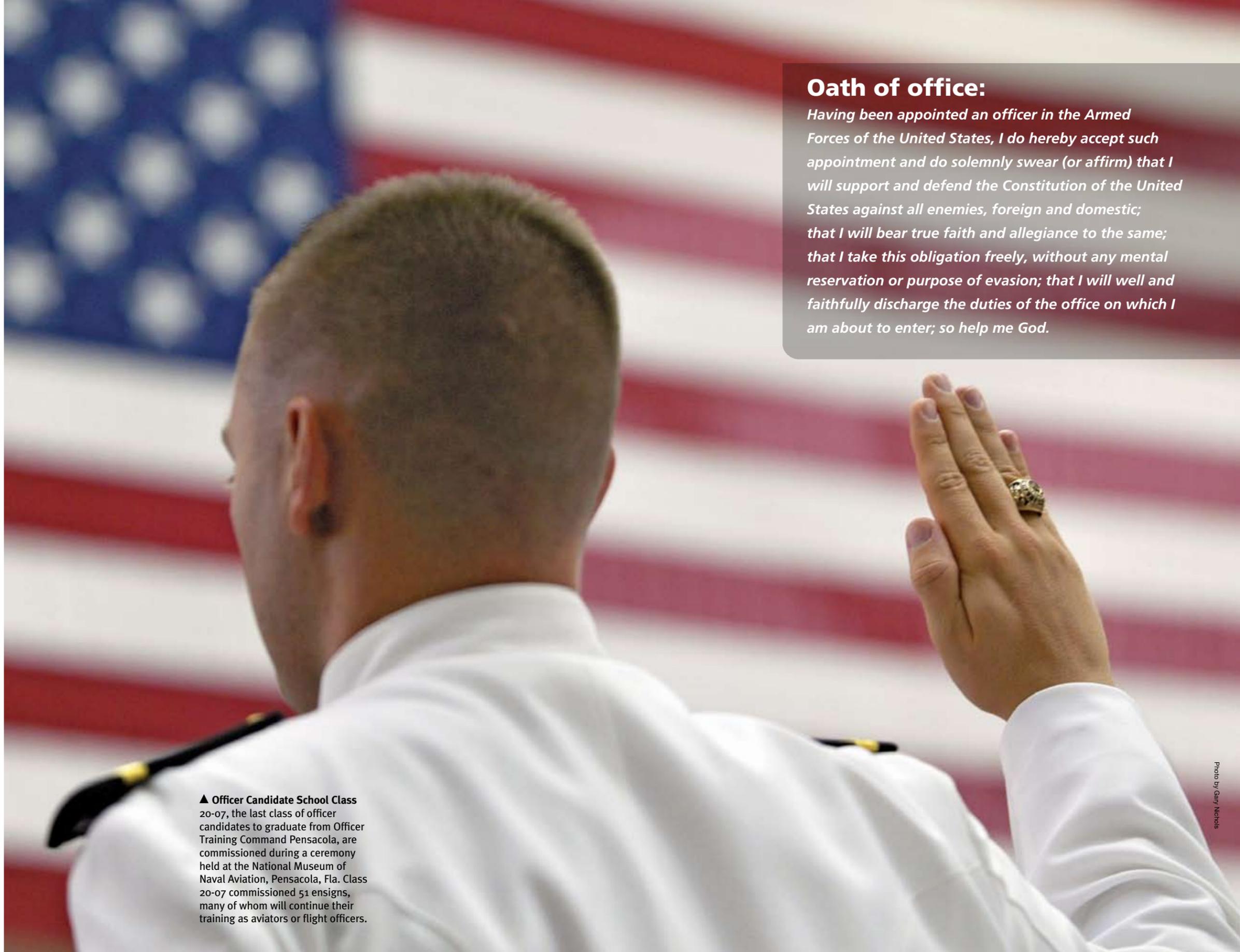
The road to a naval officer commissioning isn't lined in gold, but rather sweat and old-fashioned determination, dedication and fortitude. While the path to commissioning might vary for some – U.S. Naval Academy, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC), Officer Candidate School (OCS), Direct Commission Officer (DCO) School, Limited Duty Officer (LDO)/Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) – all officers share that common bond – a naval commission.

Recently, one of the commissioning programs underwent a sea of change. Officer Training Command Pensacola (OTCP) closed at the end of September and relocated to Newport, R.I., as part of the 2005 BRAC requirement. The final class, OCS 20-07, graduated in early September ending a military tradition in Pensacola spanning nearly seven decades.

With relocation to Newport, OCS is being retooled to take full advantage of the co-location with the other institutions of training and education in Newport including the Naval War College, Surface Warfare Officers School Command, Naval Academy Preparatory



▲ Class 20-07 lines up their water canteens on the sidewalk before lining up for morning chow.



▲ Officer Candidate School Class 20-07, the last class of officer candidates to graduate from Officer Training Command Pensacola, are commissioned during a ceremony held at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla. Class 20-07 commissioned 51 ensigns, many of whom will continue their training as aviators or flight officers.

Oath of office:

Having been appointed an officer in the Armed Forces of the United States, I do hereby accept such appointment and do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter; so help me God.

Photo by Gary Nichols



▲ OCS students work together during the two-week long leadership confidence course.



▲ OCS students participated in a leadership confidence course during their last two weeks of training aboard NAS Pensacola.

School, Naval Chaplains School, Naval Justice School and eventually the Navy Supply Corps School and Center for Service Support. Curricula, instructors, and facilities may now be leveraged to provide access and sharing of these learning resources.

In addition to OCS moving to Newport, other officer commissioning programs that were once located in Pensacola like DCO School and the LDO/CWO Schools all moved to Newport with Officer Training Command Newport (OTCN) in FY06. Since this merger of officer commissioning resources, OTCN has assumed the title as the largest developer/producer of officers in the U.S. Navy with over 2,800 annually. The move has provided an opportunity to leverage technology to bring

officer accessions training into the 21st century.

The strategy behind bringing OCS to Newport was to bind all officer commissioning sources in a common pipeline. By doing so, the more experienced (LDO/CWO candidates) will share their rich and diverse backgrounds with those less experienced (OCS, OIS, DCO). This means placing officer candidates in common classes, and sharing developmental activities such as physical fitness, leadership training and other instructional venues.

With these commissioning sources co-located in Newport, all officer commissioning programs except for the U.S. Naval Academy and NROTC, were aligned, gaining efficiencies and best practices, while

improving education and performance outcome for all newly commissioned officers.

On July 1, 2007, prior to the convergence of commissioning resources, the final pages of the training chapter in naval history began as the last classes of officer candidates were trained aboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. They checked aboard, like so many before them, for their 12-week indoctrination in such subjects as damage control, shipboard engineering, military law, navigation, seamanship, naval history, personnel administration and naval warfare. Officer candidates also conducted physical fitness training and were schooled in other subjects such as naval leadership, military training,

professional development and water survival.

“Being in the last class is an honor for me. Just to think about some of the great officers who have gone through [before me]. We’re the last class to come through and there are definitely some big shoes to fill,” said Ensign Philip Torem, of OCS 20-07.

OTCP was responsible for the initial accession training of approximately 1,400 officers per year, and trained more than 15,000 officers for the fleet. Approximately 2,500 officers are commissioned annually through OTC as follows:

- OCS – 644
- LDO/CWO – 515
- Direct Commission Officer School – 450

OCS Class 20-07, which started with 55 candidates was comprised of recent college graduates and some prior enlisted personnel. Like the previous classes before them, the officer candidates, leery of what to expect, received their first Navy haircuts, were issued uniforms and met their Marine drill instructor to formally kick off their training.

“The very first time we met the drill instructor – they call it ‘Wake up Monday’ – and it was a wake-up. It was just intensity, intensity, intensity and I was scared,” said Ensign Matthew Hertz, of OCS Class 20-07. “It was an eye-opening experience. And there was a little time where I didn’t think I was going to make it through. But you get to a point they ease off, and [take on] a more teacher/mentor role instead of just being in your face all of the time. But, they can still get into your face real quick.”

The last drill instructor (DI) for OCS Class 20-07 was Gunnery Sgt. Jason Jones, a veteran of two combat tours in Iraq.

“I think most everyone can recall the very name of their drill instructor, the introduction to their DI is an unforgettable experience. It is meant to be memorable,” said Hill Goodspeed, historian of the National Museum of Naval Aviation. “When an officer candidate meets their DI for the first time they are all business, and the candidate realizes that the DI expects nothing less than his best.

“They bring pride, professionalism and an element of toughness. When you graduate from OCS you know you have gone through

the crucible of a Marine DI. All the way [from] the ‘Smoky Bear’ cover that DIs wear to the aura of their position, the officer candidates can’t help but have a sense of accomplishment when they are willing to endure everything that the DIs throw at them.”

Goodspeed added that despite the commissioning source, no matter if it’s four years at the Naval Academy, or 12 weeks of OCS, the length of the instruction leading up to their commissions, all officers are taught the same concepts. The curriculum exposes men and women to extreme pressures to see how they act under that pressure while teaching teamwork and esprit de corps. They are, of course, teaching the academic and physical training and most importantly they are teaching leadership. And, leadership is one of the top focuses of OCS class officers.

“The No. 1 thing is leadership,” said Lt. Scott Krykendall, OCS Class Officer, OCS 20-07. “I want [the officer candidates] to be able to go out to the fleet as an ensign in the Navy and have [their] leadership tools to know when [and how] to work with their chief petty officer – who will groom them – and in addition be that mentor and role model to the junior Sailors in the Navy [who] need that from their officers.”

Speaking nostalgically of OCS, Goodspeed said that it is the tradition that will be missed most by the Pensacola community, its citizens accustomed to seeing uniformed candidates around town on weekends. The red brick and white-columned buildings that housed officer candidates for decades are part of one of the Navy’s most historic bases where Chiefs of Naval Operations, and astronauts like Neil Armstrong and Jim Lovell trained to become aviators.

As the days and weeks passed, drawing to a close the historical Pensacola chapter, a portion of the staff had transferred to Rhode Island to prepare for the first class of officer candidates to be taught in Newport and to begin writing a new chapter in officer commissioning history.

The significance of the officer candidates role in closing that chapter wasn’t lost on the members of that last class.

“It’s an honor and a distinction that I’m

really proud of, really glad I got to do,” said Hertz. “There’s kind of a give and take about it though – we miss out on some of the training – we have no classes below us, so there’s an applied leadership aspect of it that we don’t get to do. But, we’re the last class. We get to have that distinction that we were

the ones who ended OCS in Pensacola and we can be part of that ‘old school’ as we get new officers coming through Newport.”

As of October, the second class of OCS officer candidates are marching their way through Newport and learning the lessons of good order and discipline and, while some

of their training will be the same as taught in Pensacola, a new training focus has emerged.

“As for looking to the future, OTCN is committed to finding new approaches to education and training for the Navy’s 21st century leaders,” said Rear Adm. Arnold Lotring, Commander Naval Service Training Command.

The ‘revolution in training (RIT)’ initiatives have resulted in the most dynamic period of change and transformation in training ever seen in the history of the Navy. Besides the RIT, the global war on terrorism (GWOT) has also provided the Navy with a variety of lessons learned as a benchmark for measuring the development of Sailors,” Lotring added.

Facilities in Newport are being upgraded to properly accommodate this new center of officer accessions training. A major renovation of Callaghan Hall will provide a state-of-the-art integrated learning environment facility. A new combat training pool facility is being built as well. In the future, improvements in billeting to update existing and outdated berthing facilities.

“Recognizing the need for improvement and alignment of resources, the RIT and GWOT concepts are now being applied to our accession training programs,” said Lotring. “From the complete re-capitalization of Recruit Training Command Great Lakes to our most advanced technical enlisted and advanced officer training, we have boldly embraced change in every facet of learning strategy and delivery to ensure our Sailors are fully prepared for the changing face of warfighting in the 21st century.”

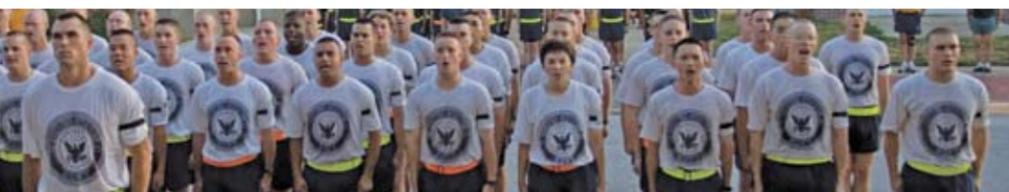
OTCN will create an environment built on learning excellence, specifically to educate and train Navy officers well into the future. This includes a campus-style atmosphere optimizing technology as one catalyst for positive Sailor outcome.

“The ‘Fleet of the Future’ is more than equipment,” said Lotring. “Sailors must have the knowledge and skills required to deliver critical warfighting capability to a joint force.”

Cragg and Aho are assigned to the Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.



▲ OCS 20-07 marches to morning chow under the watchful eye of a Marine Corps drill instructor.



▲ After completing a 5-mile run, OCS Class 20-07, stand in formation outside of OCS school.



▲ OCS Class 20-07, runs in their final formation.



▲ Members of the last OCS class to graduate from Officer Training Command Pensacola, Fla., are seated during their commissioning ceremony.



▲ OCS Class 20-07, takes their commissioning oaths during a ceremony held at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, Fla.



▲ The candidates of Class 01-08 in Newport, R.I. have many hours of dedicated drill practice with their class drill instructor (DI) which culminates in their Drill Competition. Here, the chief DI and his instructors grade the evolution that involving sharp rifle movements, column movements and precise platoon formation movements.



Co\$tly Ca\$h

"I just need enough cash to tide me over until payday."

**"GET CASH UNTIL PAYDAY!
– \$100 OR MORE –
FAST, FAST, FAST!!!"**

The ads are on the radio, television, the Internet, even in the mail. They refer to payday loans – that come at a very high price. Check cashers, finance companies and others are making small, short-term, high-rate loans that go by a variety of names: payday loans, cash advance loans, check advance loans, post-dated check loans or deferred deposit check loans. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, says service members may want to avoid using payday loans, a very expensive form of credit.

Usually, to get a payday loan, a borrower writes a personal check payable to the lender for the amount they want to borrow, plus a fee. The lender gives the borrower

the amount of the check, less the fee. Fees charged for payday loans are usually a percentage of the face value of the check or a fee charged per amount borrowed – say, for every \$50 or \$100 loaned. And, if you extend or "roll-over" the loan – say for another two weeks – you will be charged fees for each extension.

Under the Truth in Lending Act, the cost of payday loans – like other types of credit – must be disclosed. You must receive, in writing, the finance charge (a dollar amount) and the annual percentage rate or APR (the cost of credit on a yearly basis).

A cash advance loan secured by a personal check – like a payday loan – is very expensive credit. Let's say you write a

personal check for \$115 to borrow \$100 for up to 14 days. The check casher or payday lender agrees to hold the check until your next payday. At that time, depending on the particular plan, the lender deposits the check, you redeem the check by paying the \$115 in cash, or you roll-over the check by paying a fee to extend the loan for another two weeks. In this case, the cost of the initial loan is a \$15 finance charge and a whopping 391 percent APR. If you roll-over the loan three times, the finance charge would climb to \$60 to borrow \$100.

If you find yourself deep in debt, don't let your financial situation go from bad to worse. The FTC encourages you to consider alternatives to payday loans:



- When you need credit, shop carefully. Compare offers. Look for the credit offer with the lowest APR. Consider a small loan from your military credit union, bank, small loan company, or the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS); an advance on your pay; or a loan from a family member or friend. A cash advance on a credit card also may be a possibility, but it may have a higher interest rate than other sources of funds: find out the terms before you decide.

- Compare the APR and the finance charge (which includes loan fees, interest, and other types of credit costs) of credit offers to find the lowest cost loan.

- Don't pay for a promise. Beware of companies that take your money for the promise of a loan, credit card, or other extension of credit. Ignore any ad – or hang up on any caller – that guarantees a loan in exchange for a fee in advance. They tell you that they guarantee the loan, but to take advantage of the offer, you need to pay a fee first. That's the

catch: You pay the fee, the scam artist takes off with the money, and your loan never materializes. Legitimate lenders don't require payments up front. They may require application, appraisal, or credit report fees but not before the application is completed. Although legitimate lenders may make firm offers of credit to credit-worthy consumers, they don't guarantee you'll receive a loan before you apply, especially if you have poor credit or no credit record.

- Ask your creditors for more time to pay your bills. Find out what they will charge to accommodate your situation – as a late charge, an additional finance charge, or a higher interest rate.

- Make a realistic budget, and figure your monthly and daily expenditures. Avoid unnecessary purchases – even small daily items. These costs add up. Try to build up some savings – even small deposits can help – to avoid borrowing for emergencies, unexpected expenses, or other items. For example, by putting

the fee that you would typically pay on a \$300 payday loan in a savings account for six months, you would have extra dollars available, for a buffer against financial emergencies.

- Find out if you have, or can get, overdraft protection on your checking account. If you are regularly using most or all the funds in your account, and if you make a mistake in your checking (or savings) account ledger or records, overdraft protection can help protect you from additional credit problems. Find out the terms of overdraft protection.
- If you need help working out a debt repayment plan with creditors or developing a budget, contact a financial specialist at your local Fleet and Family Support Center. Military assistance groups, like the NMCRS, can help with budgeting or credit counseling.

For more information, visit www.ftc.gov/credit.

Story courtesy of the Federal Trade Commission.

American Idol

touched by the Navy

Story and photo by
MC1 Margaret Tyler

Focus on Service

The thunderous roar of screaming fans, matched the intensity of the strobe lights strategically placed around the stage that seemed to reach the heart of a lone Sailor - a Sailor who wears his uniform proudly - a man most of America knows as Phil Stacey.

Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Phil Stacey, flanked by the talented women from American Idol Season 6, calmly looks over the crowd as the American Flag fills the background. In that moment, it is apparent that not only does Stacey enjoy the fame and stardom that seemed destined for him, he holds the U.S. Navy in the highest regard.

"It's been an honor to serve," said Stacey. "I wanted to do my part in the [Navy]. My dad served in the military ... and all my life, I have been proud of him for having served. So, I wanted to do it."

Stacey, who has served on active duty for four years, became an instant American Idol favorite, securing a spot in the final 10. Before American Idol and pre-Navy, Stacey had ambitions of being a country singer and held numerous conversations with record label companies. But it was the horrific terrorist acts that took place Sept. 11, 2001, that drew Stacey to the military.

"Initially, my reason for joining was September 11th," said Stacey. "I felt anyone who could and wanted to support our efforts against terrorism should do their part."

Being a music leader at a Colorado church with a vocal music degree from Lee University, Cleveland, Tenn., Stacey did his part, boosting morale for crews and fellow shipmates throughout the fleet. But, the fun didn't stop there.

"I do plan on going into the reserves. I've already got a couple of things I'm supposed to be doing with the Navy," said Stacey, noting that he is still a Sailor and that his job is not done.

Navy bands, established in the early 1800s, have a rich history from sea chanteys on the decks of USS *Constitution* in 1825 to entertaining the crowds at present-day presidential inaugurations. They have secured a tradition of inspiring patriotism and upholding esprit de corps throughout the fleet. Those same elements are present throughout the ranks of musicians.

"I couldn't be more grateful for the support that my shipmates have given me," said Stacey. "They were just proud of me." ✍

Tyler is a photojournalist assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.

History

The Great White Fleet

Story compiled by Lt.j.g. Marie Tillery

In response to tenuous relations with Japan, President Theodore Roosevelt envisioned a nautical journey around the world showcasing American might, superior sea power and goodwill. Therefore, on Dec. 16, 1907, 16 battleships, six destroyers, several auxiliary ships and 14,000 Sailors and Marines embarked on a 14-month cruise around the globe. This group of ships would later be referred to as the "Great White Fleet," so named because the hull of each ship was painted white.

The fleet, initially commanded by Rear Adm. Robley D. Evans from the flagship USS *Connecticut* (BB 18), included USS *Kearsarge* (BB 5), USS *Kentucky* (BB 6) USS *Illinois* (BB 7), USS *Alabama* (BB 8), USS *Maine* (BB 10), USS *Missouri* (BB 11), USS *Ohio* (BB 12), USS *Virginia* (BB 13), USS *Georgia* (BB 15), USS *New Jersey* (BB 16), USS *Rhode Island* (BB 17), USS *Louisiana* (BB 19), USS *Vermont* (BB 20) USS *Kansas* (BB 21) and USS *Minnesota* (BB 22).

The first leg of the voyage was a journey from the East to West Coast taking the crew from Virginia to the British West Indies, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Mexico and then to San Francisco.

In San Francisco, USS *Nebraska* (BB 14) and USS *Wisconsin* (BB 64) took the place of *Maine*, *Alabama* and Rear Adm. Charles S. Perry assumed command. They continued to Honolulu, Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, the Republic of the Philippines, Japan and Egypt.

At each port call, the fleet was met with cheering crowds numbering in the thousands. Sailors enjoyed luaus in Pearl Harbor, attended tribal ceremonies in New Zealand, received keys to the city in Melbourne, Australia, and most remarkably, thousands of Japanese schoolchildren sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" when Sailors arrived in port.

Roosevelt's notable desire to extend the hand of friendship across the globe and at the same time showcase American naval might was an immediate success in Japan. Strained relations were nowhere in evidence as Adm. Togo from the Imperial Japanese Navy hosted a party and American Sailors were feted throughout the weeklong port call. Celebrations including a ball and a parade greeted the fleet and the American presence was a resounding success.

One of the most successful displays of America's peaceful intentions occurred after an earthquake in Sicily. The Great White Fleet responded immediately to assist in recovery efforts. This display of goodwill was perhaps one of the earliest humanitarian missions – now a constant presence in today's fleet.

The voyage would also introduce some of America's future naval heroes – only junior officers when they embarked – that would later rise to the rank of admiral and become household names during World War II. Ens. Raymond A. Spruance, Ens. Harold R. Stark and Midshipman William F. Halsey served on ships of the Great White Fleet.

Roosevelt's grand vision of the U.S. Navy provided the world with one of the greatest campaigns of friendship and goodwill ever imagined. One hundred years later, the U.S. Navy remains at the forefront of international maritime assistance – whether it's USNS *Comfort's* (T-AH 20) four-month long humanitarian mission in Latin America and the Caribbean or USNS *Mercy's* (T-AH 19) relief efforts in Indonesia after a devastating earthquake in May 2006. 

Tillery is assigned to Naval Media Center, Washington, D.C.



U.S. Naval Historical Center photo

In December 1907, U.S. Atlantic Fleet battleships steamed out of Hampton Roads, Va., to begin their cruise around the world. Leading the line are USS *Kansas* (BB 21) and USS *Vermont* (BB 22). (NH 92091)

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