



## FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

Issue 7

August 2010



Hello Shipmates,

Last month I talked about the Naval Operations Concept (NOC) 2010 and how it helps define our Navy's role in maintaining peace and stability around the world. This was a pretty broad topic to cover in just one letter, so I have a few more thoughts I'd like to share with you about NOC 10 and the impact it has on our daily operations.

While having an over arching plan like NOC 10 to bring the entire scope of our military operations into perspective is important, it is still up to the various commands, acting independently or as part of a group, to execute the missions that support this strategy. And, in order for them

to execute their mission successfully, the individual Sailors assigned to them must be physically, mentally and emotionally prepared to complete their tasks. We call this Mission Readiness - a term that should be familiar to every one of you.

We talk about mission readiness a lot, but do we really understand what it means and how it impacts the Navy? Some of our Shipmates mistakenly believe that mission readiness means passing INSURV, FEP, flight deck certification and similar training requirements. While this is true, it is only part of the larger picture. What we must realize is that mission readiness is at the heart of everything we do, as individuals and as part of the Navy team.

I imagine every one of you has seen a show where thousands of dominoes are set up to fall in consecutive order and perform intricate tricks. The successful execution of such a display requires a comprehensive plan that encompasses the entire design but which also relies upon each individual domino to perform its job properly. If just one or two pieces are out of place, the entire design is at risk of failing.

The same can be said of Sailors. Just one or two Sailors within a division who are not mission ready can affect the performance of the division, which in turn impacts the department and ultimately the entire command. You might think I'm stretching things a bit, but our increased operational tempo is challenging our Sailors as never before. The recently completed Rim of the Pacific 2010 exercise is a perfect example of this.

RIMPAC is the world's largest international maritime exercise. Its purpose is to enhance the tactical capabilities of participating nations and promote increased mutual cooperation in the Pacific Rim region. In other words, it increases mission readiness. Just as RIMPAC is vital to the stability of the Pacific region, every Sailor is vital to the success and smooth operation of their division, department and command.

So here is my challenge to you, ask yourself "What am I doing to make myself, my crew and my command mission ready and able to take on the challenges of our demanding operational environment?"

Until next time Shipmates, Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,  
Fleet Minyard

### For the Record

#### *Escort Entitlement for ITDY Orders*

NAVADMIN 227/10, released in July, announced changes to Joint Federal Travel Regulations which allow service members in receipt of Indeterminate Temporary Orders (ITDY) to escort dependents to and from an alternate location at the government's expense. To be eligible for the entitlement, service member's must have received their orders or modifications to their orders after March 15 of this year. Members must also comply with specific travel route guidelines, and submit a proposed travel itinerary through their local PSD and must request and receive approval from PERS-451H in order to receive the entitlement.

#### *Special Duty Assignment Pay*

Active Duty and Reserve Full Time Support Sailors receiving Special Duty Assignment Pay are advised to review NAVADMIN 230/10 for changes in current SDAP levels. In addition to outlining increases/decreases in pay levels, 233/10 provides a full list of specific billets and duty locations where SDAP is authorized. SDAP enhances our Navy's ability to size, shape and stabilize the force through monetary incentives for designated skills in challenging assignments.

#### *Non-traditional Education Testing*

NAVADMIN 231/10 provides modifications to non-traditional education testing procedures for College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education (DANTES) Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) and Excelsior College Examinations (ECE). In an effort to encourage service members to better prepare for initial exams and reduce navy costs, DANTES will only fund a Service member's initial examination fee for each CLEP, DSST, and ECE Exams. Since 20 May of this year, service members who do not pass the initial exam must pay the cost for retesting out of their own pockets.

To view these NAVADMINs in their entirety visit [www.npc.navy.mil/referencelibrary/messages](http://www.npc.navy.mil/referencelibrary/messages).

## On the Horizon

EVALS & Midterms E-5 midterm counselings are due in September and E7/8 CHIEFEVALs are due by Sept. 15.

Enrollment in the Navy Women E-Mentor Program is open until Aug. 15 for Navy women interested in becoming either a mentor or protégée. To sign up or find out more about this web-based program that facilitates one-on-one mentoring, visit [www.academywomen.org/e-mentor/navywomen](http://www.academywomen.org/e-mentor/navywomen).

A new version of NAVFIT is being deployed throughout the NMCI Enterprise. Updates in NAVFIT98A Version 28 include fixes for known issues and incorporating recent changes for reporting PFA scores and IA assignments. See NAVADMIN 233/10 for additional info and downloading instructions.

## Pacific History / Heritage

Aug. 15, 1895 - First American battleship, USS Texas, commissioned. Texas was also the first American ship named after a state, but was later renamed San Marcos in order to make way for the New York-class USS Texas (BB 35). At 308 feet in length, Texas was smaller than a modern frigate or littoral combat ship, but still packed a respectable punch with its two 12-inch guns, six 6-inch guns and four torpedo tubes.

## BRAVO ZULU



Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 147  
"Argonauts"  
2009 Marjorie Sterrett  
Battleship Fund Award



USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)  
2009 Arleigh Burke  
Fleet Trophy Award



PACIFIC OCEAN (July 24, 2010) The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) transits the Pacific Ocean with ships assigned to Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2010 combined task force. RIMPAC is a biennial, multinational exercise designed to strengthen regional partnerships and improve interoperability. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dylan McCord/Released)

## Scuttlebutt

### Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

**Issue:** Limited number of IA billets for service members interested in volunteering for IA assignment.

**Answer:** With a few exceptions, IA billets have been distributed on a "fair share" concept through the Global War On Terror Support Assignments (GSA) process. Meaning each command received its fair share based on the command's size and manning. Beginning this fall, overseas contingency operation support assignments (OSA) will replace GSA detailing for enlisted Sailors. Sailors will now have the ability to apply for OSA billets through the Special Assignments tab in the CMS/ID system, using Sailor inputs for duty preferences. OSA will allow Sailors to apply for an IA assignment 10 to 12 months prior to their PRD, and will execute those orders at the end of their normal tour. OSA assignments will be in a TAD status from the current command to ensure Sailors and their families maintain the traditional support of a parent command relationship. Check NAVADMIN 171/10 for further details.

**Issue:** About 1 in 4 requests to transfer GI Bill benefits to dependents are being rejected by NPC.

**Answer:** The majority of the applications rejected by NPC are due to service members not meeting the transferability requirements regarding obligated service. Service members must have served a minimum of six years in the Armed Forces, and agree to serve four additional years of obligated service unless they become retirement eligible before August 2012 in which case they would be required to complete 2-3 years of obligated service depending on retirement date. Your remaining obligated service can be verified by visiting the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> and clicking the LOGON button to access the ESR self-service. More information GI Bill transfers can be found in NAVADMIN 203/09 or [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

For more News and Information about U.S. Pacific Fleet visit:

<http://www.cpf.navy.mil>

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/compacflt/>

<http://www.facebook.com/USPacificFleet>

<http://www.youtube.com/USPacificFleet>

