



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

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Fleet Master Chief Minyard gets serious about safety

When we talk about potential threats to the safety of our Sailors, we typically think about injuries on the flight deck, wounds received on the battle fields in Iraq and Afghanistan, or even motorcycle/automobile accidents; but there are other events that can hurt our Sailors just as easily, and leave physical and emotional scars that continue long after the event occurs.

Incidents involving sexual assault and suicide attempts continue to take a heavy toll on our Sailors, and are drawing increased attention at the highest levels of leadership. Sexual Assault Awareness Month begins in April, and the Navy is using this opportunity to increase awareness and promote the prevention of sexual violence by educating our work force.

For many years the Navy put tremendous resources into maintaining an effective Sexual Assault Victim Intervention program, but last year the Department of Defense replaced SAVI with the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) program.

Notice how SAPR places emphasis on the prevention phase of sexual assault awareness, not just reacting to an incident after it has occurred. SAPR also focuses on instilling a cultural attitude that recognizes sexual discrimination and harassment as unacceptable behavior.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, "The Department of Defense has a no-tolerance policy toward sexual assault. This type of act not only does unconscionable harm to the victim; it destabilizes the work place and threatens national security."

Those are pretty strong words, but SECDEF's remarks are right on target. We must be proactive in preventing this type of activity before it occurs, and we should be treating sexual crimes and misconduct the same we treat any enemy that threatens the safety of our Sailors.

Do we sit idly by and wait for terrorist attacks to happen? No, we seek out the enemies that would harm us and do everything in our power to prevent these attacks from occurring. Similarly, everyone has a role in preventing sexual assault, and it is incumbent upon each of us to promote this mentality and to stop sexual discrimination and assault in our Navy.

The second item I want to talk about is suicide awareness and prevention. In February, the CNO released NAVADMIN 054/10, a quarterly update addressing suicide prevention. The topic alone was enough to draw my attention, but there was one sentence in particular which truly drove home the seriousness of this issue. Paragraph 2, titled CY 2009 Suicide Statics, stated preliminary reports from 2009 indicate we lost 48 active duty sailors and six selective reserve sailors (not in a duty status) to suicide. These numbers reflect the Navy's highest suicide rate in the past decade.

Shipmates, we can do better. It is hard enough when we lose Sailors on the battlefield, or in an unforeseeable accident, but losses due to suicide are preventable in most cases. I do not know what se-

ries of events led up to these decisions, but I do know there are plenty of resources available to help our Sailors through these tough times, and it starts with us.

The single most effective tool we have for suicide prevention occurs at the individual level through person to person contact. We can be reasonably certain in the 54 cases mentioned that someone, a colleague, friend, loved one or supervisor, noticed something wrong with these individuals but failed to give it the proper attention. Suicide awareness and prevention training at the deckplate level saves lives if used properly. When it involves the safety and well-being of our Shipmates, we cannot be too careful. I would rather err on the side of caution and take a few minutes to find out what's really happening, than to let questionable behavior or statements pass and regret it later.

There is no shame in admitting that you need help; we all do from time to time. Not seeking that help for yourself, or a friend in need, is where the trouble and the danger begins.

It doesn't have to be this way. The Navy offers many resources to help Sailors who are struggling to cope with stress, emotional problems, or considering actions that may result in harm to themselves. We all receive annual training on both suicide prevention and sexual assault, but the fight doesn't stop once that GMT is complete. We must be constantly vigilant against the threats presented by Sexual Assault and Suicide because the loss or injury of even one Sailor is too much, especially when it could have been prevented.

Until next time; take care Shipmates, and Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,

Fleet Minyard

On the Horizon

E-6 Midterms. E-6 midterm counseling's are due in May. Each command will provide specific deadlines, but if you haven't started working on yours already, it's a good time to get cracking.

US Decennial Census is one of the most important duties you can have as a U.S. citizen. Data Collected by the Census not only calculates the number residents in the U.S., it is used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year. The census helps plan funding for school construction, highways, police and fire precincts, public housing and utilities, sites for new businesses, and child and nursing care. Take this responsibility seriously and help make our country a better place.

Pacific History / Heritage

April 1, 1893 - CPO Birthday "Happy Birthday Chiefs."

April 6, 1942 - First U.S. troops arrive in Australia.

April 9, 1942 - U.S. forces on Bataan surrender unconditionally to the Japanese.

April 10, 1942 - Bataan Death March begins as 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans are forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water toward a new POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.



100319-N-5538K-130 PACIFIC OCEAN (March 19, 2010) Sailors and Marines assigned to the forward-deployed amphibious transport dock ship USS Denver (LPD 9) hold a line to secure a span wire during a connected replenishment with the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe (T-AO-199). Denver is part of the forward-deployed Essex Amphibious Ready Group and is conducting spring patrol. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Casey H. Kyhl/Released)

For the Record

NAVADMIN 098/10 establishes new policy and procedures for the execution of General Military Training for FY10 and FY11.

In support of OPTEMPO and readiness, the GMT schedule has been restructured to align training topics with CNO's top priorities and will focus on six core GMT principles. Responsible Use of Alcohol (Use, Prevention and Control), Responsible Personal Behavior (Sexual Assault Prevention and Response and Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedures) will be required training for Third Quarter of FY10. Ask-Care-Treat (Suicide Awareness and Prevention), Improving Personal Financial Management, and Operational Stress Control will be delivered in the Fourth Quarter.

Due to their critical nature, these courses will be instructor-led training provided at the command level vice e-Learning courses through NKO.

Also, the requirement for Hazing Policy and Prevention, Fraternalization Awareness and Prevention, and Homosexual Policy training was removed from the annual GMT list, but is still required for re-enlistments in FY10.

Off-Duty Education and Tuition Assistance

While the Navy remains committed to providing educational opportunities to Sailors, NAVADMIN 105/10 outlines a number of changes that need to be taken into account before enrolling in any college course.

A well-developed education plan with achievable goals and a proper balance between work, family, and education is key to a successful education. Sailors will be required to submit an Individual Education Plan with the Navy College Office prior to enrolling in college courses funded through Tuition Assistance or the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

Sailors will also be required to have at least one year onboard their first permanent duty station to become familiar with command operations and work on warfare qualifications before TA or NCPACE funds will be authorized.

Individuals enrolled in education programs as of 23 March of this year are exempt from this requirement, and may continue receiving benefits.

Finalist



HM1(FMF/AW/SW/NAC) Lawrence Comdeco - CG 1ST MAW
OS1(SW) Samira McBride - USS LASSEN
IS1(SW/AW) Shauntel Renton - USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
ND1(DSW/SW) Christopher Timothy - SDVT ONE
ND1(DSW/SW) James Bogenhagen - SRF-JRMC YOKOSUKA
DET SASEBO, JAPAN
LN1(SW/AW) Jessica Byard - COMTHIRDFLT
ABF1(AW/SW) Kemp Dreher - MCAS IWAKUNI
CS1(SW/AW) Shenan Pacheco - COMPACFLT

Runner-ups

LN1(SW/AW) Lucia Abreu - COMLOG WESTPAC
MM1(SS) Brian Gaebler - USS MAINE
FC1(SW/AW) Alejandro Garcia - APSPAC
MA1(EXW/SW/AW) Llewellyn Giles - COMSTRATCOMM WING ONE
YN1(SW/AW) Brad Johnson - COMSTRKFORTRAPAC
YN1(SS) Christopher Miller - USS MARYLAND
OS1(SW) Richard Vangorder - LCS SQUADRON
IT1(SW/AW) Fahressa Veasy - COMSEVENTHFLT

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