



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

Issue 2

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From Fleet Master Chief Minyard



Hello shipmates,

In this edition of Fleet's Quarters, I'd like to address a couple of issues which directly impact our readiness and our ability to successfully complete the mission at hand.

We all have the good fortune and honor of serving in the most highly trained and capable Navy this world has ever known. Many would attribute this to the advanced equipment and resources we have at our disposal, but I know from personal experience that our success is based on the commitment and professionalism of our Sailors. Your individual accomplishments

are due in part to the technical and military training you received, but they can just as truthfully be attributed to the support you receive through your chain of command, fellow Sailors, and most importantly your family.

Whether it's a spouse packing up and shipping the household goods and making sure the bills get paid, a package of cookies and geedunk from mom and dad, or the welcome home hug of a child; all these things contribute to the readiness and welfare of our Sailors. I can tell you without a moment's hesitation that I could never have achieved the things I have without the support of my family. Never take these actions for granted, and never forget your own responsibility in looking out for your loved ones as they look out for you.

As an institution, the Navy recognizes the continued success of our force relies upon the continued support of our families and has launched a new initiative dedicated to enhancing Family Readiness. Your command and the Navy provide programs and representatives dedicated to assisting your family with legal matters, financial counseling, medical issues, child care and a host of other services, but they only work if the family members know how to use them.

NAVADMIN 045/2010 outlines the future of Family Readiness, and how it will bring even more command involvement into this process, but it is still up to you to make sure your family is aware of these resources. Knowing your loved ones are being taken care of allows you to more effectively carry out your duties and accomplish great things without having to worry about whether or not your family is receiving the support it needs.

The second issue I want to discuss also directly affects readiness and can have just as great an impact on our ability to successfully carry out the mission at hand. I'm talking about drug abuse, and specifically about a new drug called Spice.

Before I go on, let me say that I thoroughly dislike focusing my time and attention

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For the Record

Information Dominance Warfare Pin

NAVADMIN 058/10 announced CNOs approval of the Information Dominance Corps warfare insignia for personnel in the information dominance corps who complete the qualification requirements.

The Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS) insignia, featuring ocean waves, a crossed naval enlisted cutlass and lightning bolt, a fouled anchor and a globe, will be available at Navy Exchange uniform centers and online via the Navy Exchange Uniform Support Center by August 2010.

Enlisted Supervisor Retention Pay

NAVADMIN 051/10 announced changes to the Enlisted Supervisor Retention Pay (ESRP) program take effect in March.

ESRP is similar to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) program and provides retention incentives for specific critical Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes. ESRP eligible Sailors and career counselors can find more information on the Nuclear Enlisted Community Manager's website at www.npc.navy.mil/enlisted/communitymanagers/nuclear/.

Elimination of the Enlisted Field Service Record

NAVADMIN 040/10 outlined the plan to eliminate the Field Service Record (FSR) for Active and Reserve enlisted personnel by 30 September 2010.

Once the paper FSR is closed, service record information can be accessed through the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) Electronic Service Record (ESR) at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> or the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) through Web Enabled Record Review (WERR) through BUPERS Online at <https://www.bol.navy.mil>.

On the Horizon

Thousands of our shipmates have cause to be nervous, or excited, this month as they sit down to take the spring enlisted advancement examination. Promotions are getting tougher in many ratings, so make sure your Sailors are investing the appropriate amount of study time, and are receiving periodic Career Development Boards to track their progress and plot their roadmap to success.

E5 Evaluations are due this month, as well as mid-term counseling for all E7s and E8s. As we move toward an electronic service record, it becomes more important than ever before to ensure we are conducting administrative duties in a timely and accurate manner.

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on the small percentage of Sailors who fail to live up to our core values, when I would rather be praising the 99 percent who are following the rules and doing things right. We have so many good Sailors in our Navy; it saddens me when the disreputable actions of a few overshadow the accomplishments of the many. With that in mind, the increasing number of incidents involving the use of Spice cannot be overlooked or ignored, but must be met head on. It is incumbent upon all of us to recognize and put a stop to this destructive behavior before it inflicts further harm on our Sailors and our Navy.

Spice or Spice-like products are a synthetic marijuana-like compound. They are available from certain unethical retailers and are being marketed to our service members as herbal incense and a “legal high.” This is not the case. The use of Spice or any similar product is a clear violation of Navy and DoD policy.

Spice use has been kept relatively quiet among the offending users, but has expanded to include both fleet and shore commands in the U.S. and overseas. To date, more than 40 Sailors from both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters have been to Captain’s Mast for offenses involving Spice and several more are awaiting Court Martial. Cases of Spice use are also being reported in other branches of the armed forces and are being actively investigated by NCIS and other DoD agencies.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of getting on top of this problem now and stopping it before it spreads any further. Together we can meet, and beat, this challenge and focus on the continued success of our Navy and our Sailors who proudly represent this great country. Thanks for all you do!

Very Respectfully,

Fleet Minyard



SOUTH CHINA SEA (Feb. 22, 2010) Aviation Machinist’s Mate 2nd Class Raynard Eugenio, assigned to the Warhawks of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 97, performs maintenance on the engine of an F/A-18C Hornet aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class James Mitchell (Released)

Scuttlebutt

Questions and Answers from the fleet.

Q: With such a strong emphasis being placed on education for enlisted personnel, why does the Navy limit Tuition Assistance?

A: Tuition Assistance (TA) is benefit offered by the Department of Defense which provides active duty personnel funding for tuition costs for courses taken in an off-duty status at a college, university or vocational/technical institution, whose regional or national accreditation is recognized by the Department of Education. While the Navy is responsible for managing its own TA program, DoD limits tuition assistance to \$4500 dollars per fiscal year for individual service members. Navy TA pays 100% of tuition costs for courses applicable to the completion of a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. For other education levels, there is a fiscal year credit limit of 16 Semester Hours, or 24 Quarter Hours per individual.

Q: Why did the Navy stop offering Tuition Assistance for spouses?

A: The Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program is a Department of Defense program that provides up to \$6,000 of Financial Assistance for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in portable career fields. DoD, not the Navy, has temporarily halted the MyCAA program to conduct a review of software applications, financial assistance documents and the overall program. This pause will not affect currently approved Financial Assistance documents. Spouses can contact MilitaryOneSource for education counseling and help finding alternative funding sources by calling 1-800-342-9647.

Q: Why does the Navy still use tape measurements for Sailors who are considered over weight by Physical Fitness Assessment when there are more accurate ways?

A: While we recognize there are more accurate means available for calculating body fat percentages, they are generally more expensive, and often require special equipment and training that are not readily available in all locations where we have Sailors stationed. Tape measurement provides a simple, accurate and easy to use means of calculating body fat percentages. Medical facilities and personnel can assist in making a final body fat determination.

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

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

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

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

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