



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

Volume 2, Issue 5

June 2011



Hello again Shipmates!

I have a brand new topic to talk about this month. Before I get started I wanted to say I hope you all had a great Memorial Day weekend and were able to spend some quality time with your friends and families. This weekend should have been a time to reflect on those who went before us and gave the ultimate sacrifice to our nation. It's been a busy year in the Pacific, and we've all earned the right to a little fun and relaxation. Isn't that what summer's all about; a chance to kick back, soak up some sun, and have a good time with your friends?

That's right Shipmates, you've earned the right to enjoy yourself and unwind a little when the opportunity presents itself. Right up to the point where you forget who you are and what you are doing. To the point where you quit making sound decisions and do something that you just might regret later.

Sound decision-making. Let's talk about that for a minute. Every day we are faced with choices, some of them are simple like what to have for lunch. Others are more serious and can have long-term impact on our

lives. In a perfect world the decisions that could harm us or change the course of our life would be easy to spot, but not all of life's decisions are as easy as avoiding a dark alley in a bad part of town. All too often the decisions that end up hurting us are the ones that appear harmless, or that we've made before without anything bad happening.

So what are these hard to spot decisions I'm talking about? Well, they can be as simple as deciding what to do on a Friday night. Let's say you plan on going out to dinner and then clubbing with a group of people from your command. Your best friend has to work late and won't be able to join you but, no problem; you've gone out with the group before and always had a good time. Besides, you're not planning to stay out past midnight and you can hang out with your friend tomorrow. About half way through the night a couple people from your group ask if you want to go outside and smoke some Spice. You have heard that some of them smoked Spice before, but that wasn't your business. Even though you've had a few drinks, you decide there's no way you're going to risk your career and decline. A couple hours later you realize you've drunk more than you intended and the room is starting to spin a little. When the bar finally closes, one of the guys that's been talking to you and buying you drinks all night offers to let you crash at his place so you don't have to stumble your way across the quarterdeck, and you accept... Bad Decision?

This scenario may not apply to some of you, but situations like it happen regularly in our Navy. Many of them end with no serious consequences, many, but not all. Our Shipmate in this scenario started out making sound decisions, including having a liberty buddy and a plan, but didn't take all of the events into account as the evening wore on. Although she dodged one bullet to her career, she ended up putting herself in a situation that could potentially be worse. Could this situation have been avoided with better planning and decision making? I believe so.

Associate yourself with men of good quality if you esteem your own reputation; for 'tis better to be alone than in bad company.

George Washington

Now, most of us didn't get to adulthood without making a few decisions along the way. From the time we're old enough to understand, we are taught right from wrong. It begins with simple lessons like looking both ways before crossing the street, learning not to take something that doesn't belong to you or borrow it without asking permission. When we're young most of our decisions are made for us, but as we grow older we begin to make decisions for ourselves. As teenagers, we face choices about whether to stay out past curfew or take our first drink of alcohol, and the decisions are more complicated as we get older. In the end though, it always comes down to deciding what's right and wrong; weighing the gains against the risks.

Now, we are all human, and as a result we are prone to making mistakes, but there is a clear difference between making a mistake and making a conscious decision to ignore what you know is right. Anyone can misread the instructions on how to perform maintenance on a water tight door, but it takes a conscious decision to gun-deck the check and sign off on the log as complete. Anyone can misinterpret signals from a member of the opposite sex, but it requires a choice to ignore the rules on fraternization or engage in a sexual assault.

It's the decisions we make that define us, not just who we are, but who we want to be. So before you make one, even one that appears relatively simple, consider all the options and consequences before making a sound decision, you'll be glad you did.

Until next time Shipmates, Thanks for All You Do!

Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard



BMC (Ret.) Harold B. Estes
 A World War II veteran and retired Navy chief boatswain's mate, Estes died May 17 at age 96. After 21 years of Navy service, he went on to become a founding member of the Hawaii Chapter of the Navy League, the USS Missouri Memorial Association and the CPO Legacy Center. Estes was also instrumental in bringing USS Missouri and USS Bowfin to Pearl Harbor, and he was enshrined in the Navy League Hall of Fame. Memorial services will be held July 9 on board USS Missouri.

BRAVO ZULU

CNO Nominees for the 2011 SECDEF Maintenance Awards

Pacific Fleet Field Level (Phoenix) Awards

Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron Seven Seven
 Fleet Readiness Center Southwest
 Southwest Regional Maintenance Center

Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Level Award

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility
 Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility

2010 Project Good Neighbor Community Service Flag Awards

USS Cowpens (CG 63)
 USS Blue Ridge (CC 19)
 Logistics Group Western Pacific, Singapore



*“Do not stand at my grave and weep,
 I am not there... I do not sleep.
 I am the thousand winds that blow...
 I am the diamond glints on snow...
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain...
 I am the gentle autumn rain.
 When you waken in the morning's hush,
 I am the swift uplifting rush
 Of gentle birds in circling flight...
 I am the soft star that shines at night.
 Do not stand at my grave and cry-
 I am not there... I did not die...”*

Mary E. Frye

On the Horizon

June 3 Battle of Midway Celebration. This year marks the 69th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Considered to be the most important battle of the Pacific Campaign during World War II, the Battle of Midway ran from June 4-7, 1942. Referred to as the “Turning Point in the Pacific,” the battle cost the Japanese Imperial Navy four of its aircraft carriers. May we never forget our shipmates of “The Greatest Generation” who fought in this important naval battle.

June 14 Flag Day. Though not an official federal holiday, Flag Day is celebrated each year on June 14 to commemorate the Second Continental Congress’ passed the Flag Resolution to adopt the national flag of the United States in 1777. Since then, our flag has been altered 26 times to reflect the number of states.

E4 periodic evaluations close out June 15.

July 4 Independence Day

E1-3 periodic evaluations close out July 15.

Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: *I just got my PCS orders to transfer this fall, and this is the first time I’ll be moving with a family instead of just packing a seabag. Where can I find information to make this move easier on my wife and family?*

Answer: *Congratulations on your new family, Shipmate. The summer months are the busiest time for PCS moves and finding housing, employment and childcare can be a challenge while living out of a suitcase (or seabag). Your local Fleet and Family Support Center can help make the transition a lot easier by taking advantage of their Relocation Assistance Program. Most FFSC locations offer classes to help prepare you for the move, but there are also online resources for finding employment, researching schools and cost of living, there’s even a military installation guide that provides information on more than 250 bases worldwide. Visit www.ffsp.navy.mil to find out more, and while you online, you’ll also want to check out the services available through Military Homefront and Military Onesource at www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/tf/movingandrelocation and www.militaryonesource.com. Good luck with your move, Shipmate.*

Issue: *When the ERB reviews my service record, how far back are they looking?*

Answer: *Unfortunately, I don’t have a good answer on that right now. Enlisted Retention Boards have a direct impact on Sailors lives and careers, as well as the future of our Navy, and we want to make sure we get them right. That’s why we’re continually evaluating and refining ERB procedures to make them better and more accurate. You can expect to see change to the ERB program, so keep an eye out for new NAVADMINS and information from your command career counselor.*

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

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

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

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

<http://twitter.com/PacificFleet>

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

