



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2011



Hello again Shipmates!

There are so many important things happening in our Navy right now, I spent more than a little time deciding what subject to address this month. Should I talk about force restructuring, continuing resolution, the implementation of DADT or any other of a dozen challenges we currently face?

In the end, I decided to talk about distractions. Obviously, the topics I mentioned are of great importance and will impact all of our lives in one way or another, but these matters will be decided by our military and civilian leaders, just as they have been in the past, and will be in the future. That being the case, are we really accomplishing anything by feeding the rumor mill and guessing about what might happen and when, or are we allowing ourselves to be distracted by speculation and wasting valuable time that would be better spent making sure we are trained, focused and prepared to fight, regardless of the circumstances?

I believe speculation on any of the topics I mentioned at the beginning takes away from our ability to do this effectively. So here is my challenge to you - rise above the distractions and focus on the things you can control like job performance, rating knowledge, qualifications and personal conduct. Concentrate on becoming a model Sailor who is ready and able to contribute to the mission at hand, and who enjoys the full support of family and friends. Their understanding and strength will help keep us focused through difficult times.

It is human nature to ponder what the future holds and to worry about how changes will affect us, but there is a fine line between wondering and spending so much time worrying that it becomes an impediment to our every day responsibilities. Stay the course Shipmates, and keep in mind that distractions come in many different forms and from multiple directions, and they aren't always easy to recognize.

Take for example the recent change to Permanent Change of Station orders outlined in NAVADMIN 049/11. On the surface it doesn't seem like a distraction, but many Sailors were concerned when they found out they wouldn't receive their orders until two months before their rotation date. PCSing is never easy - between filling out transfer paperwork, setting up household goods shipments, completing necessary screenings and reenlisting, you've got a lot to get done. It's even more challenging if you have a spouse who works, children enrolled in school and you're a homeowner who needs to sell or rent the place out. It's a lot to accomplish in so little time.

When you look at it that way, it's easy to see how that situation could result a great deal of worry and easily become a distraction. The bad news is that you can't control when you'll get your orders, but the good news is you do know they are coming and can help minimize the disruption by focusing on the things you can control. Make sure your family members know and understand the situation. Begin making preparations now by talking to schools and realtors, take a walk through your house and start thinking about what you'll be shipping or storing. Bottom line is any actions you take now are less likely to become distractions in the future.

Now I know this is just one example of the many challenges we face, but you can apply the same principles to almost any situation. Just keep focused on the important things and rise above the distractions, or they will surely control you.

Thanks for your time Shipmates, and Thanks For All You Do!

Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

Women's History Month

National Women's History Month is observed during the month of March. The national and Department of Defense theme for this year's observance is "Our History Is Our Strength."

Women's History Month originated in 1978, when the Sonoma County (Calif.) Commission on the status of women initiated a women's history week to coincide with International Women's Day. Congress passed a joint resolution in 1981 proclaiming a Women's History Week. In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to include the entire month of March.

Today, more than 53,000 active-duty women and 10,000 female Reservists are serving in the Navy. They make up 16.3 percent of the force and provide indispensable contributions to our mission and operations. Thirty-one active and reserve female flag officers and more than 50 female command master chiefs are leading from the front. Nearly 50,000 women serve in a wide range of specialties as Navy civilians. Today, 95 percent of Navy billets are open to women, and women are assigned to ships, afloat staffs, naval construction force units and aviation squadrons.

Since becoming an official part of the Navy in 1908 with the establishment of the Nurse Corps, women have exhibited an ever-increasing influence and impact. With the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on 12 June 1948, women gained permanent status in the armed services. The first six enlisted women were sworn into the regular Navy on 7 July 1948 and, on 15 October 1948, the first eight female officers were commissioned. Women were first assigned to selected non-combatant ships in 1978, and opportunities were later broadened in 1994 to include service on combatant ships following the repeal of the Combat Exclusion Law. Most recently, in April 2010, the Navy announced a policy change that allows women to serve on submarines, opening the aperture to a key talent pool.

The spirited and courageous efforts of women in the United States Navy have shaped our legacy. A veteran of two world wars and director of the Women Accepted For Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) from 1946 to 1953, Capt. Joy Bright Hancock played a critical role in the passage of the Women's Armed Service Integration Act. More information on the contributions of Capt. Hancock and women in the Navy can be found at <http://www.history.navy.mil/special%20highlights/women/women-index.htm>.

On the Horizon

The Navy Flight Demonstration Team (The Blue Angels) is soliciting enlisted applications for available E5/E6 billets in the AZ, AD, AE, AT, AME, AM, AO, AS, PR, MC, LS and YN ratings. There are also CPO billets in the AZ and AM rating with 8342 experience. Applications must be post marked before May 1 with selection results available by June. See NAVADMIN 036/11 for full details.

Enlisted applications are being sought for the United States Navy Ceremonial Guard. The men and women assigned to the guard provide support to the President, SECDEF, SECNAV, Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant, Naval District Washington and represent the Navy in presidential, joint armed services, Navy and public ceremonies across the country and around the world. Applications must be post marked no later than April 4. See NAVADMIN 039/11 for billet information and applications procedures.

Anchor Scholarship Foundation eligibility applications must be submitted by March 15. The foundation offers scholarships to qualified dependent spouses and children of active duty or retired service members who serve a minimum of six years in units under the administrative control of Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Atlantic or Pacific Fleets. Visit www.anchorscholarship.com for details.



YOKOSUKA, Japan (Feb. 10, 2011) - Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard talks with Operations Specialist 3rd Class Aaron N'Diaye while touring USS George Washington (CVN 73) to talk with Sailors about their concerns and issues. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Alysia R. Hernandez)

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year Finalists

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet is pleased to announce the finalists for the FY-2010 Pacific Fleet SOY competition. The following personnel have been selected as finalists in this year's competition:

Sea Duty SOY Nominees

HM1(FMF/SW/AW) Andrew Jenkins	1st Battalion, 3rd Marines
AG1(SW/AW) Chi Maxey	COMSEVENTHFLT
HM1(FMF/DV/FPJ) John Morey	1st MSOB
YN1(SS) David Tejada	USS Asheville (SSN 758)
ET1(SW) Jason Williams	USS Tortuga (LSD 46)

Shore Duty SOY Nominees

AZ1(AW) Kimberly Mckinney	COMFAIRFWD
LN1(SW/AW) Stacey Mincey	CSG7/CTF-54/CTF-74
CS1(SW/AW) Shenan Pacheco	COMPACFLT
OS1(SW/AW) Kristi Pashkevich	TACTRAGRUPAC

Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: I saw several articles in Navy Times that talked about changes to the PRT. Is the Navy actually going to take any of these on board?

Answer: Every program in the Navy undergoes regular review and evaluation to make sure it is still relevant and achieving its intended goal and the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) is no exception. Keep in mind that Navy Times is not an official publication; it is a civilian owned newspaper that specializes in military news. Like any business the company's goal is to make a profit, in this case by selling newspapers. Attention grabbing headlines help make this possible. Now, that's not to say what they print isn't always true. In fact, many of their stories help inform Sailors about new policies and events taking place in the Navy, and bring needed attention to potential problems so they can be properly addressed by our leadership. As for the PFA, there have already been several changes to the program in the past few years and it's reasonable to expect there will be more in the future as the program is evolved to meet our needs. I cannot say whether any of the recommendations published in Navy Times will be used, but they along with other ideas and suggestions will be taken into consideration when those decisions are being made.

Issue: There have been several COs, XO's and CMCs relieved of duty recently, and even a chaplain, what is going on?

Answer: The simple fact is that we hold ourselves, officer and enlisted, to a very high standard of conduct, especially those serving in leadership positions. Sometimes people make mistakes or do not perform up to expectations, when this happens it is our obligation to hold them accountable for their actions or remove them. We do this publicly so we can demonstrate to our fellow service members and the American people that we take this responsibility seriously and will not tolerate sub-standard, illegal, unethical or immoral behavior. Because we do it publicly, you often hear about it in the news, but when you stop and consider the number of individual commands the Navy has the percentage of leaders being relieved is actually pretty small.

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>

