



FLEET MASTER CHIEF JOHN MINYARD

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Aloha Shipmates, and welcome back to another edition of Fleet's Quarters!

If it seems like a long time since we've had a chance to chat, that's because it has been. I apologize for that, but April was a pretty busy month for us here in the Pacific, and I decided to forego last month's newsletter in order to focus on the important tasks at hand.

I don't mean to imply that our discussions here in Fleet's Quarters aren't important, quite the opposite, but sometimes events happen that demand our immediate and full attention. In this case I'm referring to the humanitarian assistance and

disaster relief (HADR) efforts we undertook in support of our friends and allies in Japan following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

I have been proud to call myself a Sailor for many years now, but perhaps never more so than during the months of March and April when I witnessed the monumental effort you put forth to help the Japanese people in their time of need. Many of you were directly involved in the recovery and assistance operations, and I'm sure the rest of you know at least some of the details of what these Shipmates accomplished, but let me summarize it for you.

During Operation Tomodachi, U.S. forces delivered HADR aid from March 13 through April 7 to survivors of the tsunami and earthquake in support of Japan Self Defense Force efforts. A total of 22 ships, 140 aircraft and nearly 20,000 personnel participated in Operation Tomodachi. U.S. 7th Fleet forces delivered more than 260 tons of relief supplies and flew more than 160 aerial reconnaissance and search sorties. This was one of the largest humanitarian assistance efforts ever undertaken by the U.S. and you all performed superbly.

Although this was a tragic and terrible event, it gave us an opportunity to review and improve our processes for contingency situations and will help us be better prepared for future events. It also provided a powerful reminder as to why sustained combat readiness is critical to mission accomplishment, regardless of what that mission is. In this case, the location and readiness of our forward-deployed forces allowed them to respond quickly and effectively when the call for assistance was received.

It is this "warrior mentality" that has enabled us to become the professional service that we are today - an ethos that demands the strongest level of commitment, the strictest level of discipline and the highest ideals. Our Navy motto declares us to be a Global Force for Good and you certainly proved that in this case. Job well done Shipmates!

Speaking of commitment and high ideals, I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to congratulate the outstanding petty officers who were here last month to compete in the FY-2010 Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year competition. We interviewed nine outstanding candidates this year and I must tell you the caliber and motivation of these Sailors is truly inspirational. Our Navy has a bright future ahead with Shipmates like this and I want to thank all of you for contributing to their success.

What do I mean by that? I mean these candidates didn't get here all on their own; they had the benefit of some excellent mentorship from our senior enlisted community, the support of their family and friends, and the opportunity to lead the finest Sailors in the Fleet.

Please join me in congratulating our Sea Sailor of the Year, HM1 Andrew Jenkins, and our Shore Sailor of the Year, OS1 Kristi Pashkevich. Outstanding job, best wishes to both of you!

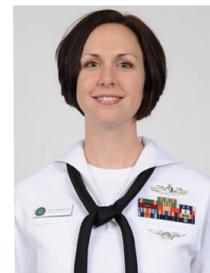
Thanks for your time Shipmates and Thanks for All You Do!
Very Respectfully,
Fleet Minyard

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sailors of the Year



**FY-2010 Sea Sailor
of the Year
HM1(FMF/SW/AW)
Andrew Jenkins**

Petty Officer Andrew Jenkins was born in Wayne County, Mich. on June 16, 1984, and graduated from Newaygo County High School in 2002. He enlisted in the Navy in February 2004 and reported to Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., followed by Seaman ADT School. Petty Officer Jenkins' first duty assignment was onboard USS Nassau (LHA 4), in Norfolk, Va. where he served as a deck Seaman. He was selected for Hospital Corpsman "A" School in 2007 and is currently assigned to 1st Battalion 3rd Marines.



**FY-2010 Shore Sailor
of the Year
OS1(SW/AW)
Kristi Pashkevich**

Petty Officer Kristi Pashkevich was born in Pendleton, Ore. on May 15, 1979. She enlisted in the Navy in 1999 and attended Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill., followed by Operations Specialist "A" School. Petty Officer Pashkevich's first duty assignment was at Fleet Area Command and Support Facility (FACSFAC) in February 2000 where she served as Surface Watch Floor Supervisor. She reported to her current duty station at Tactical Training Group, Pacific in December 2008 where she serves as the Leading Petty Officer for the Wargaming/Curriculum Support Division.

On the Horizon

This month we celebrate Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month. This observation originally began as Asian/Pacific Heritage “week” May 1-10, 1978, to celebrate the contributions of Americans of Asian or Pacific Islander descent – a group of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian Pacific American history: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States (May 7, 1843) and the significant contributions Chinese workers made in constructing the transcontinental railroad, (completed on May 10, 1869). In 1992, Congress expanded this observance to a month long celebration. The national theme for this year’s observance is “Diversity, Leadership, Empowerment and Beyond.”

Two hundred disabled active-duty service members and veterans will travel to Colorado Springs, Colo. this month to compete in the 2nd annual Warrior Games, scheduled to be held May 16 to 21. The Warrior Games, hosted by U.S. Olympic Committee at the Olympic Training Center, will include events for shooting, swimming, archery, track and field, cycling, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

May 30 will mark the 143rd observance of Memorial Day. Now a national holiday, Memorial Day was first observed on 30 May 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery where flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Although it began as a ritual to remember the soldiers who died during the Civil War and bring reconciliation and unification to our war ravaged country, this holiday has evolved into a time for family get-togethers, fireworks and recreational events such as the Indianapolis 500. As you celebrate this Memorial Day and the upcoming Summer, remember that we still have service members deployed across the globe fighting for same freedom and human rights that our ancestors embraced so many years ago.



ESPIRITU SANTO, Vanuatu (Apr. 30, 2011) Children watch as Musician 3rd Class Antone Du Preez, the lead singer of The Pacific Partnership 2011 Band, sings for the crowd during a community service project at Unity Park in Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. Pacific Partnership is a five-month humanitarian assistance initiative that has already made port visits to Tonga, is in Vanuatu, and is scheduled to visit Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and the Federated States of Micronesia. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Russell)

Scuttlebutt

Issues and Answers from the Fleet.

Issue: *What are the rules governing early separation and who is eligible?*

Answer: *Shipmate, I think you're talking about the Navy's Enlisted Early Transition Program that is currently available to Sailors in selected rates. Keep in mind that not everyone is eligible for this program, but the Navy is allowing qualified Sailors to separate as early 24 months prior to their end of active obligated service (EAOS). Since retention levels are still well above normal, this program helps serve as a force shaping tool to keep the critical skills we need and still meet federal limits on the size of our total force. Remember there are a lot of eligibility restrictions for this program, so don't go making too many plans until you've talked to your departmental or command career counselor to see if you qualify; and don't forget that our Navy Reserve is always on the lookout for talented Sailors who want to continue serving their country.*

Issue: *FLTCM Minyard, you often talk about family readiness and keeping our spouses informed about Navy issues, but I don't always know the answers or where to go for help, especially when I'm deployed. What do I do?*

Answer: *Good question, Shipmate. The answer will vary a little depending on the unit you're assigned to, but there are several venues for help that are the same for every command. The first and most obvious is your chain of command. Talk to your LPO or Chief and they can provide answers or put you in touch with resources within your own command such as the Command Ombudsman. Many commands also have Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) that host informational and social activities to enhance family preparedness and command mission readiness. FRGs are a fundamental part of the military support network and can provide a wealth of information. There have been several changes to FRG policy recently, so be sure to check NAVADMIN 116/11 for the latest information; your chain of command can help you with that also.*

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

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

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