

Leadership Development Committee Essay Winner

“What is the most honorable thing that you have witnessed while being in the Navy?”

Essay by CTR3 Jennifer N. Stein

Supplied by IKE's Leadership Development Committee

I joined the military in 2007 for the same reason as everyone else- I had something I wanted to “milk” the Navy for.

At the time, I had no idea that the people and the things I would encounter on a day-to-day basis would forever impact my life the way it already has. Shipmate is not just a term for someone you work with, it is, to say the least, family.

April 1, 2010 rolls around, I am standing on the fantail staring at startling blue seas that not even a stroke of a paint brush can depict. As the wisps of white clouds scattered the sky, I closed my eyes and took in the day, telling myself, “I have the best job in the world.”

We had lost an aircraft the day before, and all I could do was hope that we would recover our shipmate. I sat there thinking about how hard it is to lose someone out here. It doesn't matter whom you have back home, how many boxes they send you, or how often you talk to them, at the end of the day it's your shipmate that will stand by you, hold you and say “believe me, I understand.”

You pass the same people every day and never imagine that they will be here one moment and gone the next. I walked into CVIC. Nobody said a word. The stale silence was almost enough to choke up anyone. In the back of everyone's mind sat the optimism that we would find our shipmate, even though the faces were saying otherwise.

The days passed, and the silence was broken by tears when the CO announced that Lt. Steven Zilberman was lost at sea. The commitment it took for him to be that courageous, I can not imagine anything more honorable, really bringing to light what the Navy's Core Values are about. As I stood awestruck, I tried to imagine myself in his shoes- to be so selfless.

I've sat through a funeral with a 21-gun salute, and that was hard to bear. This time it was different. The gun shots rang through the hangar bay, and the smell of gun smoke was setting in when they started to play taps. I have never been so honored or proud to hold a salute in my life as I was that day. A shipmate may not be direct family, but out here it is all you have.

Lt. Steven Zilberman left behind a wife and two children, and is a man who will never be forgotten. There is no greater gift than that of one man giving his life to save another, nor anything more honorable. The memorial was held over the location of the crash and had approximately 4,000 shipmates attending.

What tomorrow may bring is yet to be determined, but it's moments like these that remind us to take joy in the little things and appreciate what we have today.

ISAF Visits IKE Sailors

Story by MC3 (SW) Mack Jamieson
5 Star Staff Writer

Commander, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, visited the crew of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) (IKE) June 17 to observe the execution of Operation Enduring Freedom flight operations and thank Sailors aboard for all their hard work.

During his visit McChrystal, the commander of all the Coalition forces in Afghanistan, flew in an F/A-18F Super Hornet from the “Jolly Rogers” of VFA-103 for a familiarization flight. He also held a roundtable discussion with the strike group leadership and talked to the junior aviators of Carrier Air Wing 7 (CVW 7) about their support of the troops in the ground in Afghanistan. Before he left, he addressed pilots and addressed IKE's crew from the ship's navigation bridge to express his appreciation of their efforts.

“What we are doing together with 46 nations and our Afghan partners is giving the Afghan people an opportunity

for a life, an opportunity to shape their future,” said McChrystal “The Eisenhower Strike Group is a key part of this team and a key part of this mission.”

McChrystal said the Afghan people understand that the team working with them extends many hundreds of miles from Afghanistan, and he passed their thanks to IKE Sailors for the part they have played in Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Each of you [IKE Sailors] plays an absolutely indispensable part in our ability to accomplish our mission, which is critical for our nation, the Afghan nation and the rest of the world,” said McChrystal.

He noted that he felt it was important for him to visit IKE personally to thank a crew which had been asked to serve on two long deployments in a relatively short period of time.

“I know you get thanked by a lot of people, but I wanted to be sure I came and express the thanks of the Afghan people and my own personal thanks for all that you have done and sacrificed in your professionalism and courage,” said McChrystal.



U.S. Army General Stanley McChrystal, Commander International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan, is welcomed aboard Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) by a contingent of rainbow sideboys. (US Navy photo by MC3 (SW/AW) Bradley Evans/Released)

Aboard IKE



Aviation Ordnancemen transport ordnance across the flight deck of aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). (U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Chad R. Erdmann/Released)



Culinary Specialist

CSSN Bianca Bevans

“ I prepare food in the chief’s and the officer’s mess. My job helps the mission by serving the khaki leadership a hardy meal to keep them working hard. The greatest thing about my job is being creative. My job can be tough, but if you can’t handle the heat, get out the kitchen. ”

Department/Division:
Supply / S-2

Hometown:
Philadelphia, Pa.

Time in the Navy:
1 Year 8 months

Goals:
Advance to CS3, ESWS
Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing

Deployments:
Operation Enduring Freedom
2009 & 2010

UpWords

From Cmdr. Jon Brzek, Command Chaplain

Mamma Mia! Just Say No

There are some things that we do, that we have a passion for, but at the same time, we would be embarrassed or even downright ashamed if our friends found out about it.

Some looking for street cred would be downright ashamed to have their friends discover Brittany Spears or Taylor Swift on their iPod. I have a relative born and bred in Pittsburgh who for some inconceivable reason, to the horror and shame of his entire family, is an Oakland Raider fan. Even though he has been officially expelled from the family (we all tore Stiller jerseys in fine biblical style) he continues to show up at family functions.

In one of the gospels Jesus says, “Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye?” (LK 7:41)

While this is a wonderful reflection on judging others, it is also pretty powerful in judging the personal tastes of others. Every one of us is pretty quick to judge the splinters of personal tastes in others’ eyes, while they fail to notice the beam in their own eye. I am very quick to judge the clown costumes that some folks wear on liberty, failing to remember that I’ve proudly worn a leisure suit with platform shoes, wild shirt with the gold chain with the horn... I was not leisure suit Larry, I was leisure suit Jon, thank you very much. I will label all kinds of music as crapola even though I’ve been a card carrying member of the I ♥ ABBA fan club since 1977.

Probably the biggest two-by-four sticking out of my eye is my love of Broadway musicals. I have no logical explanation for this. From the time I was young and I was taken to the high school production of “My Fair

Lady,” I guess something happened. I am just as happy seeing a high school or a two-bit summer theater doing “Hello Dolly” as I was watching Carol Channing. Again, I have no explanation, only to say that I unashamedly enjoy it. So, what can you do?

Once again, a long diatribe leads to a point. There is a Broadway musical called “The Fantastiks.” It is done a lot due to the fact that there are only eight characters, hardly any scenery and you can get by with the music of only a piano. Thus, if you don’t have a lot of talent or a lot of funds, you can still provide the folks with people who unexplainably break into song at unlikely moments. “Try to Remember” is probably the only song you’ve ever heard from it, but a song I really enjoy is “Never Say No.”

Sometimes great wisdom can come from the most unlikely places, even a 60’s Broadway musical: Why did the kids put beans in their ears... why did the kids put jam on the cat... they did it ‘cause you said NO. In a way, one of the greatest marketing tools in history is to tell someone they can’t do it. The logic is to tell someone no, and then they’ll do it.

This takes place in many forms. In the olden days, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops would weekly rate movies, judging their suitability for Catholic audiences. Some movies were rated “O” for “Objectionable.” In the end, it turned out to be one great advertisement for the movie, motivating millions of testosterone addled teenage boys to try to see “the objectionable stuff.”

Of course, the Navy has been doing this for years. As soon as the list of off limits establishments comes out, it will be filled with Sailors trying to discover what makes an off-limits place off limits. Hopefully, the reason is

not that the drinks cause explosive diarrhea. The Navy has discovered that just saying no doesn’t always work. Sometimes you have to up the ante.

The SEALs and other challenging military specialties love to advertise their drop out rate... “We have an 80 percent drop out rate!” This is a subtle way of saying: “No, you can’t do it.” “How dare you tell me I can’t do it... I’ll show you!”

A new, almost diabolical way of telling you no is not by telling you no, but by having you sign a waiver. World’s hottest chicken wings, world’s hottest Mexican peppers and world’s fastest roller coaster technically doesn’t tell you no, but they imply that it is not in your best interest to eat this or to ride this or to go there, but if you insist, please sign this waiver freeing us from any liability.

Some of my greatest motivations have come from people who have told me no. A coach who told me he didn’t think I could make the team, a teacher who implied that it was probably in my best interest that I not take his class. Even Jesus got into the act: “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. (LK 13:24)

In the end, it becomes great motivation. How dare you tell me no... What do you mean I can’t do it... I’ll show you!

The Navy tells you that most of your graduation class could not even get into the military... and yet, here you are. The Navy Ethos, Core Values, “Shipmates Not Dates,” and so on are other sinister ways used to motivate all of us to accept behavior that many choose not to or are unable to grasp. Sometimes, it is not kismet that we act the way that we do, or do the things that we do. Someone has told us NO! How dare they! And the rest is history. We’ve been showing them ever since.



ANNOUNCEMENTS/MOVIES



RACK OF THE DAY

SAILOR
ICFN SHERRI-ANN STEWART

DEPT/DIVISION
AIR/V-2



SPACE OF THE DAY

SAILOR
YNSN HELENA SHUCK

SPACE
2-113-2-L

DEPT/DIVISION
ADMIN/X1

2010 Tiger Cruise

\$50 Registration Fee

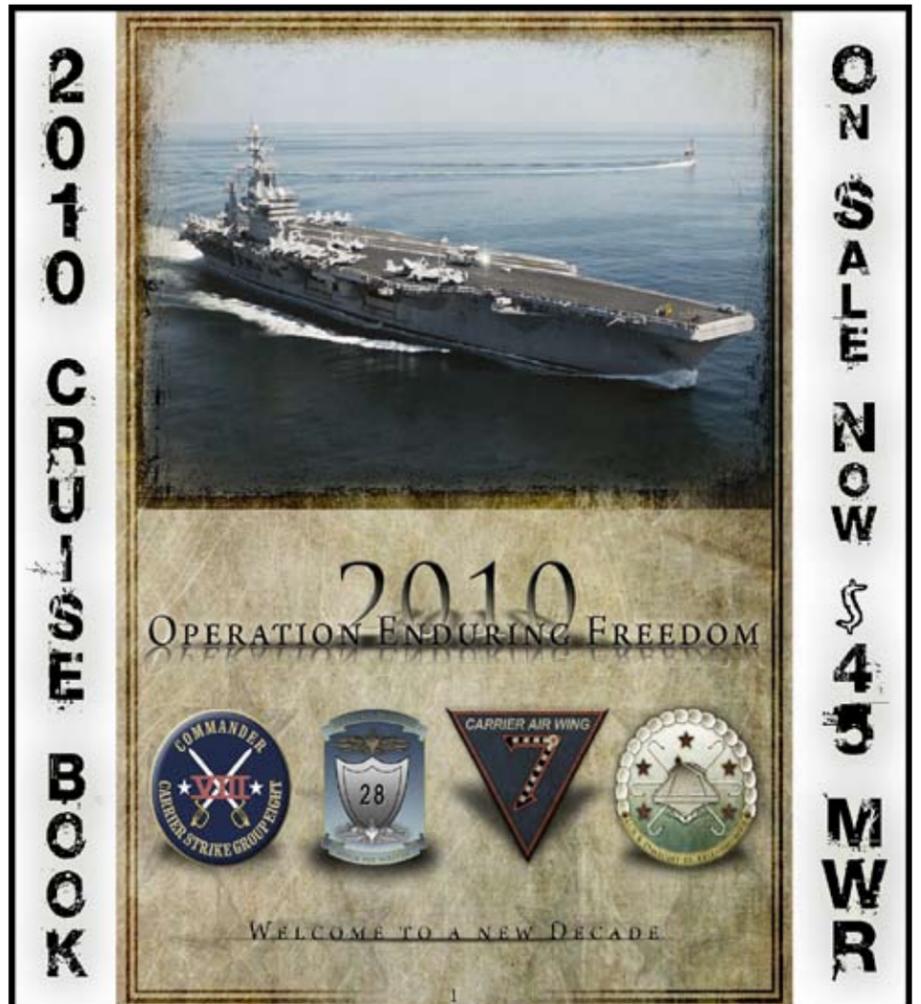
Tickets on sale Jun 21-26
on the Aft Mess Decks,
behind the Scullery

Time: 0900 - 2100

*Must Use Navy Cash Card

Correction for 5 Star, May 27 Issue

The Captain's Cup information listed in Thursday's 5 Star were the points earned for the Pull-up Competition that was recently held aboard IKE, not the overall Captain's Cup standings. We apologize for any confusion.
-5 Star Staff



FRIDAY'S IKE MOVIE SCHEDULE

Channel 5	Channel 6	Channel 7	Channel 8
8:30 a.m. Hellboy	8:30 a.m. The Craziest	8:30 a.m. Edge of Darkness	8:30 a.m. SERE Training
10:30 a.m. The Dark Night	10:30 a.m. The Happening	10:30 a.m. The Other Boleyn Girl	10:30 a.m. Tag-Out Training
12:30 p.m. Watchmen pt. 1	12:30 p.m. 28 Days Later	12:30 p.m. Legion	12:30 p.m. Heat Stress Prevention
3 p.m. Watchmen pt. 2	3 p.m. Quarantine	3 p.m. Daybreakers	3 p.m. Sexual Assault
5:30 p.m. Iron Man	5:30 p.m. Children of Men	5:30 p.m. The Hurt Locker	5:30 p.m. RSEP: Arab-Israel Conflict
7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News
8 p.m. Hellboy	8 p.m. The Craziest	8 p.m. Rack of the Day Pick	8 p.m. SERE Training
10 p.m. The Dark Night	10 p.m. The Happening	10 p.m. The Other Boleyn Girl	10 p.m. Tag-Out Training
12 a.m. Watchmen pt. 1	12 a.m. 28 Days Later	12 a.m. Legion	12 a.m. Heat Stress Prevention
2 a.m. Watchmen pt. 2	2 a.m. Quarantine	2 a.m. Daybreakers	2 a.m. Sexual Assault
4 a.m. Iron Man	4 a.m. Children of Men	4 a.m. The Hurt Locker	4 a.m. RSEP: Arab-Israel Conflict

SATURDAY'S IKE MOVIE SCHEDULE

Channel 5	Channel 6	Channel 7	Channel 8
8:30 a.m. Harry Potter: Chamber of Secrets	8:30 a.m. The Godfather pt. 1	8:30 a.m. Observe and Report	8:30 a.m. At Sea Surface
10:30 a.m. Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban	10:30 a.m. The Godfather pt. 2	10:30 a.m. Pineapple Express	10:30 a.m. At Sea Sub Surface
12:30 p.m. Harry Potter: Goblet of Fire	12:30 p.m. Ocean's Eleven	12:30 p.m. Superbad	12:30 p.m. At Sea Carriers
3 p.m. Where the Wild Things Are	3 p.m. Righteous Kill	3 p.m. Knocked Up	3 p.m. Right Spirit Right Choice
5:30 p.m. Fantastic Mr. Fox	5:30 p.m. Our Family Wedding	5:30 p.m. Funny People	5:30 p.m. Global Terrorism Financing
7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News	7:30 p.m. IKE News
8 p.m. Harry Potter: Chamber of Secrets	8 p.m. The Godfather pt. 1	8 p.m. Observe and Report	8 p.m. At Sea Surface
10 p.m. Harry Potter: Prisoner of Azkaban	10 p.m. The Godfather pt. 2	10 p.m. Pineapple Express	10 p.m. At Sea Sub Surface
12 a.m. Harry Potter: Goblet of Fire	12 a.m. Ocean's Eleven	12 a.m. Superbad	12 a.m. At Sea Carriers
2 a.m. Where the Wild Things Are	2 a.m. Righteous Kill	2 a.m. Knocked Up	2 a.m. Right Spirit Right Choice
4 a.m. Fantastic Mr. Fox	4 a.m. Our Family Wedding	4 a.m. Funny People	4 a.m. Global Terrorism Financing



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