

NAVAL MEDIA AWARD WINNER

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# ROLE MODEL

EM1 Jones  
Sets the  
Standard

REAGAN  
RECEIVES THANKS  
Helping Hands for Tohoku

# BLOOD SWEAT & TEARS

Reagan Sailors GORUCK!



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# EM1 JONES

## First Impressions

### How One Leader Impacts Every Reagan Sailor

Story and photos by MC2 Richard Gourley

Upon crossing the brow for the very first time a new Sailor can expect to look directly in the face of many new and exciting challenges. Some of those challenges are common to most ship going Sailors including a mountain of qualifications, long days underway and uncertain deployments.

But the sheer enormity of an aircraft carrier only increases those challenges exponentially and adds unique experiences only encountered by carrier Sailors. Luckily for Sailors new to USS Ronald Reagan, they have a 13-year veteran dedicated to helping with the difficult and busy transition in their first weeks: Electrician's Mate 1st Class Marcus Jones.

Jones is the Command Indoctrination (Indoc) Coordinator. He builds and administers the course schedule for every class. He ensures that the most important of the ship's programs and departments have a representative to give information to these new Sailors.

Earning the coveted position of Indoc Coordinator is a milestone in a storied history for Jones, who encountered heavy responsibility at a young age. He was born in the rural area of Camden, S.C., where he was raised by his grandmother and aunt in a Southern home. He spent most of his time outside, playing baseball and basketball until his grandmother passed away; then he took over raising his little sister.

"My grandma set the foundation that all my morals

and disciplines are built on," said Jones. "Even to this day, my grandmother is one of my biggest influences."

Immediately after graduating high school, Jones joined the Navy and soon found himself stationed in Japan on the amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43).

"Fort McHenry was and still is my favorite ship in the Navy," said Jones. "I had a difficult time adjusting in that first year on the ship. Luckily I had a lot of great chiefs and master chiefs who were very patient and didn't let me fail. As a younger Sailor I thought they were unfair to me, but now I see that they just wanted me to learn and succeed."

After finishing his tour on Fort McHenry, Jones began his second sea tour on USNS Sourbourn (T-ARS 52). As a 2nd Class Petty Officer, Jones took over as the Leading Petty Officer of a division of Interior Communication Electricians and earned his stripes as an Engineering Officer of the Watch—one of the highest and most important watch stations an Engineering Sailor can hold, normally reserved for first classes and chiefs.

Leaving the Sourbourn, Jones arrived at his first special duty billet at Naval Health Clinic Hawaii as a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program Counselor. While making a daily impact in the lives of struggling service members, Jones also began working on improving himself as a person.



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“Naval Health Clinic Hawaii was a great command” said Jones. “The command had the mentality that you went home when your work was completed. It gave me a lot of time to become reacquainted with my family and the chance to earn my bachelor’s degree in psychology.”

Now at his fourth command, Jones is not only the Command Indoc Coordinator for the ship, but also one of its Equal Opportunity Advisors and a member of the Damage Control Training Team. Even with a collection of hefty titles, Jones admits that his success aboard Reagan didn’t come without a learning curve.

“My time on the Reagan has been an eye-opener,” said Jones. “At my last two commands, I knew exactly what I had to do to succeed. But here I needed a little help. My mentor (Master Chief Navy Counselor Jake Brady) has really helped to put me back on track.”

On a daily basis, Jones is charged with not only presenting programs and key personnel to new Reagan Sailors, but also giving the best of first impressions. In many cases, Jones is the first official command representative that these Sailors will come into contact with.

“EM1 is a great leader,” said Seaman Bianca Bertucci, one of Jones’ recent students. “He had no problems answering everyone’s questions, he always came off as a professional and even helped our class leader to improve his own leadership.”

Indoc is the official command orientation course for new Sailors to the ship. During the five-day class, Sailors are introduced to huge amounts of information in the form of slide shows and instruction by various command representatives. It gives new Sailors the chance to listen to the chain of command’s expectations of them from the simplest programs all the way up to the Command Master Chief, Executive Officer and Commanding Officer.

“Even after being on the ship for four months, I learned a bunch,” said Bertucci. “As a striker I was most interested in the briefs directly involving my career and earning my future rate.”

In more subtle ways, Jones uses Indoc to offer new Sailors the opportunity to utilize a skill that is not frequently flexed especially among lower ranking Sailors – networking.

“Nowadays the Navy wants more from their people than just good EMs and YNs,” said Jones. “The Navy wants great Sailors and that means being well rounded. Networking is the key to becoming well rounded on the ship.”

It’s that forward thinking, Sailor-first mentality that has earned Jones his varied positions in addition to praise from his chain of command.

“Jones’ work with the Indoc program has taken it to a completely new level,” said Chief Operations Specialist James Casteen, one of Jones’ supervisors. “He brings an invaluable leadership style and completely represents all of the core values that the command and the First Class Petty Officer’s mess run by.”



**“ I joined the Navy to see the world, to get out of South Carolina, and to get an education. But I have stayed because I love it ”**

Like many great leaders, Jones is not only concerned with his own advancement, but is dedicated to helping and advising new crew members in becoming great leaders themselves.

“Identifying a mentor is the first step in becoming a successful Ronald Reagan Sailor,” said Jones. “Coming to the ship can be frightening and a good mentor can help to eliminate a lot of those fears. A mentor should be an experienced Sailor that has experienced most of what a new Sailor is feeling and can act like a roadmap helping to guide you to where you want to be. You should find a mentor who can help you work through your flaws and make you better.”

Jones is one of few select leaders to have the chance to impact every single Sailor who serves aboard Reagan. Thanks to his direct influence and mentorship over such a large amount of Sailors in their most critical times aboard the ship, Jones is successfully helping to build the next generation of leaders and building the foundation for a strong, battle-ready crew. It’s that commitment to excellence coupled with a passion for his craft that has Jones coming back for more each day.

“I’ve always worked hard,” said Jones. “I joined the Navy to see the world, to get out of South Carolina, and to get an education. But I have stayed because I love it.”



# WARRIOR ETHOS

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH  
CVN 76



“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader”

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS  
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT, 1825-1829



USS RONALD REAGAN

SAILORS HELPING SAILORS. ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.