



SURFACE WARRIORS UPDATE

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FROM THE DESK OF VADM D. C. CURTIS



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Welcome to the second issue of the Surface Warrior's Update, a publication dedicated to the mentorship and development of all Surface Warfare Officers.

The Surface Warfare Community has always prided itself on its ability to develop Officers as leaders. An important quality of leadership is the ability to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of subordinates and to capitalize on the strengths while developing the weaknesses.

The benefit to a command empowered by this type of leadership, often referred to as the "Power of Inclusion," is the ability to fully leverage your people to the best of their abilities while growing new capabilities as your mentorship program bears results. Additionally, loyalty is garnered from those who are brought to a level of contribution they had never known possible.

This publication is designed to assist with mentorship by providing role models, a new way to look at leadership challenges, the ability to connect Officers within the community and also celebrating the milestone achievements of our SWO's. Let me know how we can further assist in this goal.

Keep Charging—Be Professional—Make an Impact

WARRIOR NEWS WIRE:

USS LASSEN CO VISITS NATIVE VIETNAM FOR FIRST TIME



YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — As South Vietnam crumbled under advancing North Vietnamese forces 34 years ago, 5-year-old Hung Ba Le and his family escaped and eventually found refuge on a U.S. Navy ship.

On Nov 7th, now CDR Hung Ba Le returned to the land of his birth for the first time, as the Commanding Officer of the guided-missile destroyer

USS Lassen.

Again, Le transited the same waters where he and his family sought refuge more than three decades ago.

"I feel blessed to be where I'm at today," Le, the first Vietnamese-American to command a U.S. Navy ship said, "It feels very neat to think that we left on a U.S. Navy ship, and to come back

on one is pretty awesome."

After the fall of Saigon, Le's family escaped on a fishing trawler. Le's father led the vessel and its 400 refugees out to sea on April 30, 1975. Numerous times, the younger Le said, the refugees were refused assistance from passing ships.

After days at sea, sleep-deprived and hungry, Le,

(Continued next page)



USS LASSEN CO VISITS NATIVE VIETNAM FOR FIRST TIME

three other siblings, his parents and the other refugees were taken aboard the USS Barbour County, a ship participating in Operation Frequent Wind – the evacuation of foreigners and South Vietnamese from Saigon.

The Le family eventually made their way to Camp Pendleton, Calif., where they were kept in a refugee camp for several weeks.

They soon found the spon-

sorship of an American family and made the trek to northern Virginia where they would eventually settle. In 1983 the naturalization process concluded and the family's four oldest children were permitted to join the family.

With naval service deeply rooted in his family's history, Le said that as a teenager getting accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy was his goal.

"I was never pressured over

the years from my father to do so," he said as his ship steamed toward its port call to Da Nang with USS Blue Ridge. "But I enjoyed being able to follow in his footsteps."

Graduating from the Naval Academy with merit in 1992, Le was designated as a Surface Warfare Officer. Four ships and 17 years later, he found himself leading one of the Navy's premier warships back to his native land.

"It's amazing to get an opportunity to go back, and one that I don't know if I would have had otherwise," said Le, who hopes to reconnect with relatives still in the country. "America gave my family a lot of opportunity, so I enjoy giving back by serving."



CDR H. B. Le Fast Facts:

- AUXO/1st LT - USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
- FCO - USS WASP (LHD 1)
- WEPS/CSO - USS HUE CITY (CG 66)
- XO - USS CURTIS WILBUR (DDG 54)

Post Graduate education at The Naval Post Graduate School, Touro University, The Naval War College and The Joint Forces Staff College



2ND ANNUAL SAN DIEGO SURFACE NAVY WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

SAN DIEGO - Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (SURFPAC) hosted the second annual Surface Navy Women's Symposium at the Naval Base San Diego Theater Mar. 16.

Over 350 Surface Warriors gathered to discuss current surface women's initiatives, take advantage of mentoring and networking opportunities with senior leaders, and receive guidance on career development and life/work balance.

Keynote speaker, Rear Adm. (Select) Ann Phillips, Chief of Naval Operations Staff Deputy Director of Surface Warfare, encouraged women to never stop learning and take advantage of every opportunity to challenge themselves personally and professionally. "As Surface Warriors we are always learning and improving, building upon the basics with our personal leadership styles – being a Surface Warrior is about being the best 'you' that you can be," said Phillips.

Highlights of the Symposium were panel discussions and break-out sessions where Sailors had the opportunity to ask senior officers and enlisted leaders about their personal experiences. Topics discussed in the panels included women and leadership at sea, general life skills information, Navy child and youth programs, spouse programs for male spouses, and life/work balance.

"The Symposium made me realize that I can achieve, just like these women are achieving," said Culinary Specialist First Class (SW/AW) Glenda Young, USS Makin Island (LHD 8), of the speakers and panelists.

The Surface Women's Symposium, a SURFPAC initiative now in its second year, is currently offered in San Diego, Norfolk, and Hawaii, and will expand to Mayport and the Pacific Northwest this year.



RDML(Sel) Phillips urges attendees to "be the best 'you' that you can be"



PROFILES OF A SURFACE WARRIOR:

LT KELLEY JONES, CO PATROL COASTAL CREW MIKE

The diversity of background and experience of our Surface Warfare Officers provides the community with an amazing capability to adapt and excel in the ever evolving battle-space. An example of this diversity is the varied assignment opportunities available to officers as they progress through their careers. One of the most exciting of these are the early command opportunities offered to Lieutenants as they finish their first Department Head tour—either Patrol Coastal CO or MCM XO/CO “Fleet Up.” Below we hear comments and advice from one of the most recent officers to take command of a Patrol Coastal, Lt Kelley Jones.

What made you want to become a commanding officer of a PC?

After receiving my commission as a SWO, I resolved that I would always take the most challenging jobs available. I think job satisfaction is a very important factor in a career decision. It comes when you know you have worked to the best of your ability, mentored and motivated the sailors underneath you to give their very best, and then finally knowing the mission was accomplished as a result of team effort. PC life is doing all of those things and above all, working as a team. In PC’s, everyone has three or four different hats to wear and everyone must be proficient in each job.



What has been your most exciting day as a PC CO?

My most exciting day was taking command. The day you become CO is filled with many unknowns and your nerves may get the best of you. However, the Navy has chosen you because it is confident in your ability to accomplish the mission and to take care of your sailors as well as your ship.

What advice would you offer a junior officer interested in PC command?

Ask for the toughest jobs every time, take care of your sailors at every opportunity, and never be afraid to ask for help. No one makes it into command without the guidance and mentorship of senior leadership.

How do you feel about your new responsibilities as a commanding officer?

It is by far the best job the Navy has to offer. The duties of a commanding officer should never be taken lightly, for ultimate responsibility always lies with you. PC Sailors will flex to ensure the mission will be carried out. They are looking to you for direction and leadership, failure is not an option.

I'm grateful the Navy has given me this awesome opportunity! There is no better feeling than being a part of the finest Navy in the world, taking your ship out to sea, and executing the mission on time, every time.



LT Kelley T. Jones - Career Path

Native of Alexandria, Virginia

Commissioning: NROTC—Virginia Tech
 -BS Electrical Engineering, May 2000
LT Jones was a full time member of the esteemed Corps of Cadets where she lived by the words “UT Prosim” (That I may serve).

1st Divo Tour: USS SEATTLE (AOE-3)
 -Main Propulsion and Electrical Officer
During the tour she completed numerous Logistical exercises, deployed to the Arabian Gulf, and participated in Operation Enduring Freedom.

2nd Divo Tour: USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64)
 -Training Officer
During this tour she deployed to the Arabian Gulf, and participated in the Fleet Response Plan, Summer Pulse with the ENTERPRISE Strike Group.

Shore Tour: DC INTERN
 -Navy Washington Intern Program (NWIP)
While there she received her Masters in Business Administration from the George Washington University and JPME Phase I while serving on senior Washington, DC area headquarters staffs.

1st Dept Head Tour: USS MUSTIN (DDG 89)
 -Chief Engineer
During this forward deployed tour she completed numerous exercises to include ANNU-ALEX, VALIANT SHIELD, MALABAR, and LIMA.

2nd Dept Head Tour: PC CREW MIKE
 -COMMANDING OFFICER
In October 2009, LT Jones assumed command of Patrol Coastal Crew MIKE. PC Crew MIKE is currently embarked in USS HURRICANE (PC 3).

Interested in PC or MCM Command?
Learn more at the PERS 412 Dept Head website:
http://www.npc.navy.mil/Officer/SurfaceWarfare/Detailers/412_DepartmentHeads/



SWO E-MENTOR UPDATE

It has been a year since the launch of the SWO eMentor program. Today we have over 650 users and the numbers are continuing to grow.

WHAT: SWO eMentor is an online mentor matching program for Surface Warfare Officers. It gives you access to the vast experience of the entire Surface Community by expanding mentorship opportunities outside of your normal sphere of interaction. The program allows you to search for mentors based on your specific needs. Your search will allow you to review each potential mentor's background, career achievements and expertise and choose who you think will best help you reach your personal and professional goals.



WHO: Over 650 Surface Warfare Officers are currently enrolled in the SWO eMentor program, either as mentors or mentees or both. Potential mentors range from active and retired Flag Officers to first and second tour Divos and all levels of experience in between. Over 100 Major and Commander Command Officers are standing by for your questions. Mentees who have joined the program searching for mentors range from midshipman and first tour divos seeking near-peer fleet experience or long term career guidance, to senior Officers looking to find a mentor to help them reach the next career milestone.

WHERE: To get started go to https://www.3creekmentoring.com/SWO_Mentoring and use the following group codes:

- To become a mentee: 106053
- To become a mentor: 830625
- *Remember, it is possible to sign up as both a mentor AND a mentee!

WHY: The Surface Community enjoys a great diversity of experience in its Officers. Those at your command, while key to your growth and development, offer only a snapshot of that experience. The eMentor program expands your potential mentor pool considerably and allows for an even larger perspective of experiences and background from which to choose.

Mentorship through the program can range from informational purposes to career advocacy, meaning you can find an individual for only a short term engagement in order to ask a few questions or an individual you keep in regular contact with for much longer term career guidance. The program's detailed search function allows you to search any number of professional attributes such as billet assignments, warfare specialties, and geographic experience to personal characteristics such as living overseas, exceptional family member considerations and achieving work-life balance.

WHEN: NOW!!! There is no better time to get started on improving yourself than NOW!

**GROUP MENTORING
COMING SOON!**

Later this year SWO eMentor will begin offering the ability to participate in group mentoring. We are currently compiling feedback from users to identify desired topic areas. Based on your input, we will establish groups with subject matter expert leads to moderate and direct the discussion. This will be a great opportunity to engage in conversations in your chosen areas with a wide variety of experts as well as your peers creating an empowering learning experience.

SWO eMentor Site: https://www.3creekmentoring.com/SWO_Mentoring
For more information contact: LCDR Mark Haney - mark.haney@navy.mil

Comments from Users!

"It has been incredible to have a senior person, off the ship, out of my geographic area to talk about careers, get advice and solicit for help."
O-3 SWO Mentee

"It has helped me make more informative decisions about my SWO career. My mentor has helped me to decide to stay in for another three years after my initial commitment. This program has helped me tremendously." O-3 Mentee

"I enjoy that young JO's are seeking me out to provide candid career advice and counsel on matters impacting the SWO community." O-5 Mentor

"It gave me perspective from an O-7 and especially from someone from my ethnic background. Also gave ideas on how to network within the SWO community." O-4 Mentee

"The mentee I had was genuinely concerned about career planning. He sought information for his follow on sea tours, and how competitive I thought he was for XO afloat. He wasn't looking for long term mentoring, but wanted independent information to verify things he was hearing from his fellow shipmates. I believe that aspect is very useful, and hope it continues in the e-mentoring program." O-6 Mentor

THE IMPORTANCE OF SWO SOCIAL NETWORKING

There are currently over 7800 Surface Warfare Officers and candidates in the community today - not to mention thousands more in the reserves, retired or even transferred to other communities but still proudly wearing the SWO pin. How many do you know? If this is your first tour probably not too many. Maybe just the Officers on your ship, your fellow Academy/ROTC grads and a few more.

Below are just some of the ways to increase your "Social Networking" within the community, ranging from online social media sites to local and national affinity groups. The mentorship, camaraderie and networking received through these forums, whether in person or online, will help you develop personally and professionally while also having a good time exploring what it means to be a SWO.



Local and National Resources

Surface Navy Association: <http://www.navysna.org> - A Surface Navy specific affinity group that provides its members support, programs and activities enabling professional growth, personal satisfaction and camaraderie. With 28 local chapters there is likely a group in your area (you can find your local chapter online). SNA sponsors local professional development meetings, social gatherings/events and also larger National East and West Coast Symposiums. Develop yourself professionally and get to know your fellow SWO's.



FCA SWO Join Ups: There are numerous sponsored opportunities throughout the year to get together in a social setting with other SWO's. SWO Join ups, SWO Fests, PERS 41 detailer road shows, Surface Line Week, Surface Balls and many other Surface Navy sponsored events.



Command/Community Functions: Take the time to get to know your wardroom and community members "off duty." Whether it is a small Departmental outing or an official Dining in, the JOPA's or the Dept Heads, getting to know your juniors, peers and seniors outside of the workplace is important to strengthening the bonds of friendship and camaraderie.



Online Resources



SWO Net: <https://www.swonet.navy.mil> - hosted by OPNAV N86 (Surface Warfare), open and moderated forums focused on Navy and SWO's, professional information and Official SWO updates - 8000+ users
Recent Discussions: PERS 41, JO Jungle, Best billet of a SWO's career, Newport housing, Shore tours



Sailor Bob: <http://www.sailorbob.com> - unofficial SWO website boasting the "Real SWO gouge", has a considerable following (Officer/Enlisted/Retired/Civilian) open and moderated forums - 8639 users
Recent Discussions: New SFTM, Navy Trivia, Digi Blue rollout, IA Hotline, 1MC Screw ups, SWOisms



SWO eMentor: http://www.3creekmentoring.com/SWO_Mentoring - CNSF sponsored online mentor matching program - 635 users. SWO's can locate other SWO's for one on one questions or mentorship searching by through numerous options: career path, ship class, home port, family situation, IA's, etc.



On Facebook: "PERS 41 (Detailers)" and "Surface Warriors (CNSF)", many ship sites as well.



BRAVO ZULU: FY10 CDR AND MAJOR COMMAND SELECTS

Commander Command Afloat	CO (Special Mission)	SWO Major Command – CRUDES	SWO Major Command – AMPHIB	SWO Major Command – MIW
WILLIAM H BAXTER -CAU	BRADLEY ALBERT ALANIZ -HIS	JOHN S BANIGAN -CAU	JOHN THOMAS BEAVER JR -CAU	STEVEN ANDREW MUCKLOW -CAU
DARRELL SMOOT CANADY -CAU	MITCHELL W ALBIN -CAU	CHRISTOPHER JOHN BUSHNELL -CAU	AUGUSTUS PERVIS BENNETT -AA	SWO Major Command – SHORE
WARREN E CUPPS -CAU	KEVIN DALE BORDEN -CAU	SHAN MICHAEL BYRNE -CAU	DAVID LARRY BOSSERT -CAU	
DAVID W DRY -CAU	MICHAEL J DILLENDER -CAU	JOHN ALLEN CARTER -CAU	JAMES PATRICK CODY -CAU	ERICH W DIEHL -CAU
DWAYNE DONALD DUCOMMUN -CAU	GRANT A DUNN -CAU	EDWARD BRIAN CASHMAN -CAU	JON C KREITZ -CAU	DAVID A GEISLER -CAU
JOEY LYN FRANTZEN -CAU	JOSEPH FAUTH -CAU	CHARLES BRADFORD COOPER II -CAU	SHAWN WADE LOBREE -CAU	ROBERT PHILIP GONZALES -HIS
WILLIAM CARL HERRMANN -CAU	VICTOR LAKE -AA	STEPHEN JAMES COUGHLIN -CAU	JAMES EDWARD MCGOVERN -CAU	JAMES COURTNEY HAMBLET -API
ETTA CHRISTINE JONES -CAU	DAVID DICKSON NEAL -CAU	YVETTE MARIE DAVIDS -HIS	MARTIN L POMPEO -CAU	JEFFREY W JAMES -CAU
JOHN NOAH KOCHENDORFER -CAU	CHRISTOPHER M NELSON -CAU	MICHAEL P DORAN -CAU		PATRICK MICHAEL KELLY -CAU
RICHARD MICHAEL MEYER -CAU	MICHAEL BALDWIN ODRISCOLL -CAU	RICHARD EUGENE HAIDVOGEL -CAU		CHARLES BAREND MARKS III -CAU
MICHAEL ENRIQUE MORERA -API	BRIAN MATTHEW PETERSON -CAU	ROBERT NICHOLAS HEIN JR -CAU		DAVID ALLEN OWEN -CAU
DARREN W NELSON -CAU	MATTHEW IRVINE SAVAGE -CAU	JAMES THOMAS JONES -CAU		JOHN C PETERSCHMIDT -CAU
MATTHEW SHIGERU RICK -API	BLANE T SHEARON -CAU	WALLACE GEORGE LOVELY -CAU		CHARLES WILLIAM ROCK -CAU
WILLIAM K SHAFLEY III -CAU	NATHANIEL STRANDQUIST -CAU	PAUL JOSEPH LYONS -CAU		FRED WINTON SMITH JR -CAU
STACEY WILLIAM YOPP -AA	NATHAN S YORK -CAU	WILLIAM PATRICK MCKINLEY -CAU		RICHARD EDWARD THOMAS -CAU
		RICHARD MICHAEL MILLER JR -CAU		
		KURUSH FRED MORRIS -API		
		WILLIAM JAMES PARKER III -CAU		

USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)
Commissioned: Oct 24th, 2009



USS INDEPENDENCE (LCS 2)
Commissioned: Jan 16th, 2010



USS WAYNE E. MEYER (DDG 108)
Commissioned: Oct 10th, 2009



USS NEW YORK (LPD 21)
Commissioned: Nov 7th, 2009

Race/Ethnicity
AA: African American CAU: Caucasian
API: Asian/Pacific Islander HIS: Hispanic

Congratulations on your selection to command! Our newest ships await your leadership!



COMNAVSURFOR DIVERSITY OFFICE



LCDR Mark Haney, LCDR Sonya Brown-Conner and ENS Helen Tautolo

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR WOULD LIKE TO SIGN UP?

CONTACT LCDR MARK HANEY: MARK.HANEY@NAVY.MIL

Inputs from the fleet wanted!