

# THE GREAT Communicator

USS RONALD REAGAN'S INFORMATION PORTAL

July 8, 2008



**Fighting for  
Freedom  
Once More**

# Leadership



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**EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
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CMDCM (AW/SW/SS) MARK RODES**

## **STAFF** FOR THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
LCDR Ron Flanders**

**PHOTO OFFICER  
ENS Miranda Williams**

**GRAPHICS MEDIA LCPO  
MCCM Wayne Edwards**

**GRAPHICS MEDIA DIVISION LCPO  
MCC Kristen Loeding**

**ASST PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
MC1 Frank Neely**

**GRAPHICS MEDIA LPO  
MC1 Adrian Melendez**

**MANAGING EDITOR  
MC2 Brandie Wills**

**PHOTO EDITOR  
MC2 Joseph Buliavac**

**ASST. EDITOR  
MCSN Alex Tidd**

“

Information is the oxygen of the modern age. It seeps through the walls topped by barbed wire, it wafts across the electrified borders.

”

**-Ronald Reagan**

### **CONTACT**

MC2 (AW) Brandie Wills  
J-6505  
willsbrandie@cvn76.navy.mil  
or  
#\_THEGREATCOMMUNICATOR

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Cover Photo By  
MCSN Lex Wenberg

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Hi, everyone. Forgive me if I sound a little bit tired, there's nothing like preparing for the CBR scenario during general quarters tonight to wear a guy out. I don't really know how I might come across as tired through my writing, but I thought I would warn you anyway. Maybe there will be some crazy inflections or something. I don't know, I'm not a doctor.

What I do know is if we're practicing CBR procedures, then we must have arrived in 5th Fleet. And if we're in 5th Fleet, the Taliban can be sure our birds are soaring over their heads to help our brethren on the ground the best way we know how. In the words of former president Harry S. Truman, we're here to, "Give 'em hell."

Yes, we've launched our first sorties over Afghanistan and so far everything has gone well. But for those who are wondering what exactly we're up to, MC2 Chad Bascom has the story about all the happenings during our stint supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Our aircraft fly their sorties in all weather conditions and round the clock, so there is always something going on in the Carrier Air Traffic Control Center.

MC3 Ben Brossard visited with CATCC's night check to find out what happens when the daylight fades to black.

Internally, the news going round the ship is the appointment of the Sailors and so forth of the Quarter. Yes, with the new quarter of this fiscal year we have a new Sailor, Petty Officer, Junior Sailor and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, and MC3 Lawrence Davis spoke with them to find



out their goals for their new leadership roles.

Today's issue features a look into the noble and sometimes hectic lives of our ship's damage controlmen. While their drills can sometimes seem never-ending, it is they who will lead us in our darkest hour. MC3 Sean Lenahan has the story.

But hopefully it never comes to that. While training for the worst is very important, I think we'd all prefer to stay high and dry. I'll talk to you on Sunday, Ronald Reagan.

## Contributors

### MC2 (AW) Chad Bascom

Bascom is from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Originally a photographer's mate, Bascom now works in the photo lab and is the Graphics Media Department training petty officer. He has been married for seven years and has four children, all of them girls.

### MC3 (SW/AW) Sean Lenahan

Born and raised in the United States. Lenahan is a bon-a-fide American patriot. Favorite food: apple pie, favorite cheese: American cheese, favorite character of all time: Captain America. This is Lenahan's fourth deployment and is disappointed that it is under five months long. He has never told a lie.

### MC3 (SW) David Brandenburg

Brandenburg is a native of Grand Junction, Colo. This is his 2nd deployment since joining the Navy, his previous ship was the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1). He spends most of his time studying to become a personal trainer and photographer.

### MC3 (AW) Lawrence Davis

Davis is a San Antonio, Texas, native who originally joined the Navy as a photographer's mate. Davis is now a videographer and can be found in SITE TV producing commercials and Daily News Updates. He is also part of the Captain's Call production team.

## Street Beat: What ship policy would you change or improve?



AT2 (AW) Michael Lewis  
"The policy on silverware on the messdecks. Sailors need to police each other more. Don't take spoons!"



HM2 (AW) Nichole Pettis  
"To be able to wear turtle-neck shirts every day."



Lt. Teddy Kribbs  
"I would like to grow a beard during deployment. I would pay \$100 for a no-shave chit if it went to MWR."



ABFAN Cora Hill  
"I wish Spirit was only 30 minutes long."



# RRSG Jumps Back in the Fight

*CVW 14 aircraft resume their role in the skies over Afghanistan.*

Story By  
MC2 (AW) Chad Bascom

Photo By  
MC3 (SW/AW) Torrey Lee

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group entered the 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR) for the third time in four years ready to carry out our role in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"I'm excited to get this started, because in essence, what we're doing is saving American and coalition lives," said Capt. K.J. Norton. "The Eisenhower Strike Group did a fantastic job in theater, and we're ready to continue that level of support. We have a lot of experience on board Ronald Reagan and with

the air wing. Our crew knows how to execute this mission effectively."

For many Sailors this too is their second straight summer in the 5th Fleet AOR. They bring much-needed experience with them, which will help immensely in the training and operations of the sometimes grueling daily plan.

"Our Sailors are focused and serious minded about what is ahead; they know the Navy and our country is counting on them," said Rear Adm. Scott Hebner. "They are ready

to demonstrate their impressive capabilities across the spectrum of our maritime strategy."

"We'll be there as long as needed," said Capt. Thomas Lalor, the air wing commander. "In some ways this is almost exactly the same as we did last year but in other ways it's different."

"Our primary mission will be to support troops in contact in Afghanistan, providing close air support," said Lalor. "Sometimes it's a show of force, sometimes they'll be strafing; actually shooting at the

target."

The strike group is going to separate once in the 5th Fleet area and go on several different missions. One of the strike group destroyers is heading toward the horn of Africa. While there, it will join the efforts there to counter piracy and maintain security of the sea lines of communication. Another ship will work in the Persian Gulf and Ronald Reagan will remain off the coast of Pakistan and in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Features

*Don't Give Up the Ship!*

# Damage Controlmen Keep Cool

Story By  
MC3 (SW/AW) Sean Lenahan

Photo By  
MCSN Lex Wenberg

The damage controlmen aboard Ronald Reagan are the duct tape that keeps the ship afloat at all times. Maintaining structural integrity, being prepared for all catastrophes and wearing really cool red hats is all just another day in the life for a damage controlman. They completely emulate their rating name “damage controlman” and have done so successfully for decades.

A damage controlman’s (DC) world is one filled with mystery and wonder.

Senior Chief Damage Controlman (SW/AW) Danielle Saunders tells how her Sailors are great Americans by exuding the excellence of being fantastic damage controlmen.

“We have a unique camaraderie between the guys in our division and we are all dedicated to protecting the ship and all assets,” said Saunders.

“We are responsible for everyone’s damage control readiness,” said Saunders. “The most important part of this job is making sure that my guys are getting all the training and know the fundamentals of damage control, inside out.

They are also teachers to the rest of the crew, bringing the DC spirit to the rest of Ronald Reagan and letting every Sailor aboard help assist in the great fight to save

our ship from all disasters. Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Patrick J. Donaher, who teaches the Basic DC and Advanced DC classes, tells how he inspires the importance of saving the ship.

“I think being a damage controlman is important to the crew because we are the ‘911’ of the Navy.” said Donaher. “Where there is a problem of structural integrity in the ship, we are always ready to save it. I believe in the

DAMAGE CONTROL cont. on Pg. 12





## Reagan Names its Top Sailors

Story By  
MC3 (AW) Lawrence Davis

Photos By  
MC3 (SW/AW) Torrey Lee

Out of a crew of over 3,000 Ronald Reagan Sailors, four hard-charging, highly motivated individuals were selected this month as the command's Sailor of the Quarter (SOQ), Petty Officer of the Quarter (POOQ), Junior Sailor of the Quarter (JSOQ), and Blue Jacket of the Quarter (BJOQ).

Through hard work and outstanding dedication these four Sailors set an example for their peers and give their shipmates an idea of what's expected to be successful in today's Navy.

"You have to be a 360 degree Sailor," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW/FMF) Nikki Craig, SOQ from Health Services Department.

"Sometimes you may fall short, but continue to move forward on your goals and you will see results," encouraged Yeoman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Donald Johnson, Ronald Reagan's POOQ from Administration Department.

"Remember the Navy Core Values and what they are based on," said Machinist Mate 3rd Class (SW) Herbert Moore, Ronald Reagan's JSOQ from Reactor Department.

"Always maintain a good attitude and make the best out of any situation," advised Ship's Serviceman Seaman (SW) Ashley Rice, Ronald Reagan's BJOQ from Supply Department.

Without a doubt, these four individuals are model Sailors for

the command. When each found out they were selected for such prestigious and reputable titles, all four were more along the lines of modest.

"I was honored," said Craig, Moore, and Rice.

"I was just happy to be considered one of the best amongst highly qualified competitors," added Johnson.

These Sailors, who have all been aboard Ronald Reagan for over a year, said that their experience aboard has been memorable. An experience that has helped them to become the Sailors they are today, and one they will remember for the rest of their lives.

"It's been amazing," said Moore.

SOQ cont. on Pg. 12



# Operation Endure 2009,

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Battle Group (CVBG) 7, including the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76) and the USS Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 50 July 6, and in support of Operation Endure. Aircraft from Carrier Air Wing 11 (CVW-11) on the deck of Ronald Reagan in support Coalition



# uring Freedom Day 1

r Strike Group relieved the  
Group as Commander, Task  
launched it's first sorties in  
ing Freedom in Afghanistan.  
Wing 14 departed the flight  
ound for Afghanistan to  
n ground forces.



# CATCC: Plenty of Action After Dark

Story By  
MC3 (AW) Benjamin Brossard

“Taps, taps lights out. Maintain silence about the deck, are familiar words Sailors hear every night. For most Sailors it’s time to go to bed or a warning that it’s getting late and it would probably be a good idea to rack out.

But being a Sailor means being mission ready seven days a week and 24 hours a day. An aircraft carrier is no different. It needs to be operational as much

as possible, that’s why there’s a crew working at all times even when almost everyone else is sleeping.

An aircraft carrier’s main mission is to launch and recover aircraft. Controlling these aircraft is the mission of the air traffic controllers. They too have a night check even if there are no aircraft in the sky.

One of the main reasons the Carrier Air Traffic

Control Center (CATCC) has a night check is to make preparations for the next day and make sure things will run smoothly.

CATCC night check personnel are responsible for distributing the air plan, which shows which aircraft are flying and when they are scheduled to launch and depart and other vital information.

“We pick up over 200 air plans and green sheets from the printshop

and pass them out to over 50 locations around the ship,” said Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class (AW) Christopher Bell, one of the air operations work center supervisors.

“One thing we do is load the air plan into the Integrated Ships Information System (ISIS),” added Bell

Along with the air plan, the Sailors of CATCC get information from the ship’s intelligence specialist which

CATCC cont. on Pg. 12

## Reel Time

# A New Breed of Horror Movies

*Lliadis’ “Last House on the Left” isn’t your typical slasher flick.*

Story By  
MC3 (SW) David Brandenburg

Dark woods, somber music and dim lighting set the mood early for this thriller directed by Dennis Lliadis. The movie holds up to the expectations of the late 1972 hit, “The Last House on the Left,” directed by Wes Craven.

The movie begins with a short car ride between two police officers and Krug (Garret Dillahunt), which results in a gruesome takeover from Krug’s posse. It’s a great way to get the audience on the edge of their seats, along with giving everyone a glimpse of the personalities of a few of the characters.

However, the scene quickly shifts to a calmer, safer environment of

a suburban family living their lives and traveling to a getaway home for what seems like a summer vacation. The Collingwood family resembles a typical American family who has frequently visited a family-owned lake house to get away from the congestion of everyday life in the big city.

Mari’s (Sarah Paxton), night quickly turns into a nightmare after meeting with her friend Paige (Martha Maclisacc). The link to this equation is a young boy named Justin (Spencer Treat Clark), the son of the vicious convict Krug.

Eerily composed music as well as shaky hand-held camera shots help create tension as the

story continues to unfold. When the two girls have to fight to stay alive after taken hostage by the psychopathic group, Mari finds herself using what life she has left to make it back to her house, where the killers have coincidentally found rest for the night.

The Collingwood family finds themselves on the offensive after discovering their daughter has been attacked, but the tables have turned when the convicts are no longer the predators but now hunted by a family with nothing to lose.

Lliadis had no problem creating the most disturbing and brutally violent scenes for viewers,

LAST HOUSE cont. on Pg. 12



# THE FLEET

## Senior Enlisted Sailor Aims to Make Warfare Programs Mandatory for All Ranks

By Mass Communication Specialist Senior Chief Bill Houlihan, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, DC (NNS) – The master chief petty officer of the Navy shared one message with Sailors who make up the Forward Deployed Naval Forces (FDFN) in Japan – warfare programs are critical, and every Sailor should work toward qualifications, regardless of rank.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West says if a program is available, it should be mandatory for every Sailor.

In both the surface and aviation forces, program regulations state any Sailor, E-5 or above, must be actively working toward attaining his or her primary warfare device. West sees value in expanding that to all ranks and has asked the force and fleet master chiefs to review the programs for expansion.

"I've had lengthy discussions with both [Fleet Master Chief] Tom Howard (Atlantic/Fleet Forces Command) and [Fleet Master Chief] John Minyard (Pacific), and they are working a proposal to move ahead."

"I see no reason why a seaman or airman apprentice, once they've completed their basic shipboard qualifications, can't start moving toward getting their pin. Many commands and Sailors do this already, and you can certainly see a difference."

West, speaking after pinning the enlisted surface warfare device and the submarine warfare device, known in the community as "Dolphins" on Sailors aboard USS John S. McCain (DDG 57) and USS Michigan (SSGN



727) July 2 in Yokosuka, Japan, said that a ship that is working toward an entire crew of warfare qualified Sailors is one that will be more ready for any situation when called upon at sea.

"The phrase 'Ship, Shipmate, Self' truly defines who we are as Sailors, and that phrase is also very much relevant and clarifies the importance of our warfare qualification programs. I know that when I see a Sailor wearing a pin, I'm looking at a warrior who has more than the basic shipboard knowledge it takes to fight their ship in a time of need."

West said he anticipates receiving recommendations regarding improving the EAWS and ESWS processes by the end of the summer. Strengthening enlisted warfare programs has been a public goal of his since taking office last December, and West said he feels the time is right to act.

"Simply put, it will make us better individually, as a team and as a Navy."

"I've had the opportunity to see some really great programs as I travel about the fleet. I've also seen some that could be stronger. Our goal is to find the balance and ensure our Sailors are getting what they need to become more professional warfighters."

West said the key to a warfare program's success is the oversight from chief petty officer (CPO) leadership throughout the fleet.

"The command master chiefs should

oversee the programs, but I look at the CPO mess and those with the warfare devices - whether you are a newly qualified E-4 or E-6 - to execute the program."

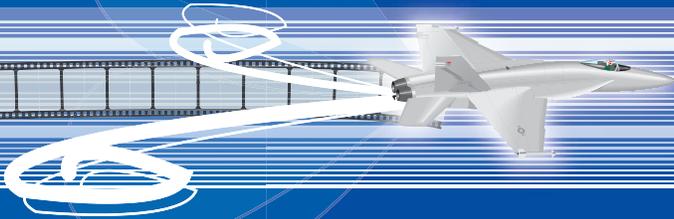
Some have expressed concern about making quals mandatory for all ranks, but West feels strongly about the initiative.

"I've received some feedback that if it's mandatory people will just sign off the requirements. I don't see that happening. Our Sailors who wear the warfare devices will hold the line to ensure our programs 'meet the mark,' and our CPO messes will ensure that happens. The warfare programs should be strong but not impossible."

West said the ESWS/EAWS programs should be less about flying a pennant signifying a qualified crew, which commands are authorized to do once all eligible Sailors have earned their primary devices, and more about every Sailor possessing the right skills and knowledge to extinguish a fire, fight an enemy or save their shipmate.

"Show me a crew of Sailors where every one of them earned their pins through a tough, comprehensive warfare program and I'll show you a group of warriors who can fight together and accomplish any mission. "That," said West, "is what the goal should be."

MCPON is in the middle of his first trip to Japan as the Navy's senior enlisted Sailor, spending 10 days at Navy installations to meet and talk with Sailors.



# Set Time

## 8 July 2009

### CH 2

0830-1150: The Ruins  
1530-1910: Disturbia

1150-1530: Analyze This  
1910-0730: The Big Red One

### CH 3

0830-1150: Silent Hill  
1530-1910: X-Men: The Last Stand

1150-1530: X-Men  
1910-0730: The Mist

### CH 4

0830-1150: Notes on a Scandal  
1530-1910: The Nanny Diaries

1150-1530: Doubt  
1910-0730: Memoirs of a Geisha

### CH 5

0830-1150: Semi-Pro  
1530-1910: Mars Attacks!

1150-1530: American Pie 2  
1910-0730: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

## 9 July 2009

### CH 2

0830-1150: Sleepwalkers  
1550-1920: Untraceable

1150-1550: Freedomland  
1920-0730: Clear and Present Danger

### CH 3

0830-1150: Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning  
1550-1920: 28 Weeks Later

1920-0730: Close Encounters of the Third Kind  
1150-1550: 28 Days Later

### CH 4

0830-1150: Thank You for Smoking  
1550-1920: Shadows of the Sun

1150-1550: August Rush  
1920-0730: The Kite Runner

### CH 5

0830-1150: Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium  
1550-1920: Kit Kittredge

1150-1550: Cars  
1920-0730: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

## 10 July 2009

### CH 2

0830-1210: Unleashed  
1610-2120: Casino Royale

1210-1610: Children of Men  
2120-0730: Any Given Sunday

### CH 3

0830-1210: Fantastic 4  
1610-2120: Batman Begins

1210-1610: Halloween 2007  
2120-0730: The Dark Knight

### CH 4

0830-1210: Crash  
1610-2120: Walk the Line

1210-1610: You, Me and Dupree  
2120-0730: There Will Be Blood

### CH 5

0830-1210: Stripes  
1610-2120: Who's Your Caddy

1210-1610: The Game Plan  
2120-0730: Duplicity

## 11 July 2009

### CH 2

0830-1320: True Lies  
1720-2120: Top Gun

1320-1720: The Illusionist  
2120-0730: Tora! Tora! Tora!

### CH 3

0830-1320: The Matrix Reloaded  
1720-2120: Wanted

1320-1720: Ghost Rider  
2120-0730: Iron Man

### CH 4

0830-1320: Babel  
1720-2120: Away From Her

1320-1720: Breach  
2120-0730: Hollywoodland

### CH 5

0830-1320: Spiderman 3  
1720-2120: The Bad News Bears

1320-1720: Ratatouille  
2120-0730: Twins

# Sudoku

	9				3	8		6
3	7		8			4		
8				5	6			
	6	8	7				3	
				6				
		1			2	7	6	
			3	9				1
		7			1		3	9
1		9	6				8	

## SEA DOGS



## PREVIOUS ANSWERS

1	5	2	8	3	7	4	9	6
3	8	9	2	6	4	7	5	1
6	4	7	5	1	9	3	8	2
5	1	6	9	4	3	2	7	8
9	7	4	6	2	8	1	3	5
8	2	3	1	7	5	6	4	9
7	6	8	3	5	2	9	1	4
4	9	1	7	8	6	5	2	3
2	3	5	4	9	1	8	6	7

## Givin it all you got

PR3 John Mahood pushes out the last few pushups in a contest held in hangar bay one. Mahood did a total of 150 pushups, earning him first place and an iPod nano. Photo by MC2 Rosalie Garcia



## OEF

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Continued from pg. 3

“What we’re going to be primarily concerned with doing is maintaining the local picture in the North Arabian Sea, but mostly sending aircraft to provide support for the troops in Afghanistan,” said Lalor.

Lalor said Ronald Reagan’s standards in the 5th Fleet AOR in the past have been impressive. Business is about pick up and the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group is here to promote stability and global prosperity.

## DAMAGE CONTROL

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Continued from pg. 4

motto: ‘Don’t give up the ship.’ We fight as we train and we train as we fight.”

Ronald Reagan recently received a new Divisional Officer for Damage Control Division, Ens. Kevin Justice, who is also a prior enlisted DC Chief. He explains the outstanding difference between our damage controlmen aboard compared to the rest of the Navy.

“In this rate, all DC personnel from ranking firemen on up are all immediate leaders in their profession. They need that to have things run smoothly in things like repair lockers,” said Justice. “The thing that separates our guys from the rest of the Navy is the endurance and the physical training aspect. They train every day as a team to keep up with the physical demands of their jobs. I’ve never seen that much commitment from a DC team aboard a ship.”

When it comes to saving the ship, the job is going to lie in all hands. With the DC division around we have informed professionals and creative leaders who will help us get out of any deterrent when the worst happens aboard. They are a testament to safety and protection.

They have saved hundreds of lives over the history of the Navy in times like the attack on USS Cole. Without damage controlmen we may not last long during a disaster. They help get us from point A to point B in a time of crisis.

## SOQ

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Continued from pg. 5

“Four deployments in four years, I never would have thought I would be part of so many missions that ensure America stays safe.”

“It’s been filled with many lessons that I continue to put forth in my personal life,” said Johnson.

Craig said that his experience has given him the tools necessary to succeed and to help his fellow shipmates excel through training and mentoring.

“I’m going to take what I know and pass it on to my fellow first classes,” said Craig.

There’s no slowing down for these four. Craig, Johnson, Moore and Rice all continue to strive for excellence in their Navy careers as well as their own personal growth and development. Johnson said that he’s already focusing on his next step.

“My next goal is Sailor of the Year,” said Johnson.

Craig plans to lead others to success.

“I plan to continue on the same path; leading, training and mentoring Sailors from the deck plates.”

Moore is continually leading by example.

“I’m going to take what I’ve already achieved and just improve on those things. I’m going to lead from the front.”

For Rice, BJOQ is just one of several goals she has for herself.

“I’m continuing to accomplish the many goals in my life,” said Rice.

The ambition, aspiration, dedication and the several other t-i-o-n words that

these Sailors possess is proof that their selections as the command SOQ, POOQ, JSOQ, and BJOQ were all very well deserved. Congratulations Shipmates!

## CATCC

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Continued from pg. 8

is also added to ISIS.

“We get communications cards and card of the days. They have all the frequencies that we use to talk to our aircraft and the ship’s TACANS that we use to talk to all the ships in our strike group. We put that information into ISIS,” said Bell.

CATCC has lots of different stations and positions that all need to be kept up to date.

“I put out all the position logs and the hot area sheets,” said Air traffic Controller (AW) 2nd Class Ashley Drage, also a night check air operations supervisor. “It also allows me some time to review records and training jackets.”

CATCC operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of whether the planes are flying. It can be grueling at times, but like Drage says, it’s just part of the job.

## LAST HOUSE

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Continued from pg. 8

consisting of a graphic rape scene as well as many other scenes that leave your stomach in knots. A focus on suspense with an equal level of gore raises the bar in today’s slasher genre.

In the end the directing and superb cast performance create a whole new type of thriller/horror that keeps even the most seasoned watchers on the edge of their seats. Through Lliadis’ direction, Craven’s vision continues once again to frighten viewers at a level that really makes you wonder “If bad people hurt someone you loved, how far would you go to hurt them back?”

# SOD

## SAILOR OF THE DAY



July 6, 2009

Name: *MR3 Dayna Droher*  
Dept/Div: *Eng/R*  
Job Title: *Work Center Supervisor*  
Where are you from?

*Pearland, Texas*

Why did you join the Navy?

*To travel.*

How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?

*I was proud of myself.*

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

*My chain of command.*

Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?

*My favorite place was Guam.*

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

*Don't let your hard work go unnoticed.*

July 7, 2009

Name: *AOAN Johnathan White*

Dept/Div: *WEPS/G4*

Job Title: *Weapons Elevator Operator*

Where are you from?

*Bloomsburg, Penn.*

Why did you join the Navy?

*For college and to travel.*

How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?

*Wow! I was astonished.*

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

*EM1 Davidson and myself.*

Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?

*My favorite place was Malaysia.*

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

*Be clutch in pressure situations.*



*The waves outside  
aren't the only ones that  
can be dangerous.*



*Use proper  
hearing protection.*