



THE GREAT Communicator

USS RONALD REAGAN'S INFORMATION PORTAL

July 26, 2009

**Keeping
Our Birds
Soaring**

Leadership



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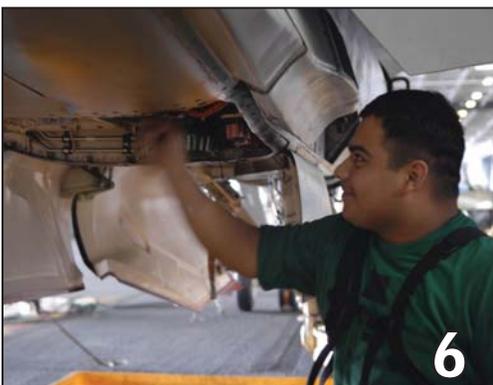
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MCSN Alex Tidd**

“ 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

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What's up Ronald Reagan! I'm writing this on our day of rest, which is weird. A few issues ago, I wrote how odd it was to have holiday routine the day before I finish the newspaper, as opposed to having it the day the paper comes out. Well now I'm writing my column during holiday routine. But, like everyone, I'll roll with the punches.

I don't do much advertising normally, but, you know what? The Fit Boss is an awesome guy and he's put together some awesome and innovative fitness programs for us. Turnout has been good so far, but the Fit Boss would like to see even more Sailors sweat.

The biannual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) is never far away, and who doesn't want to surprise their significant others back on the beach with a hard new physique? But if the gym isn't for you, check out the core class, a spin class or even the new Pilates class. Workout schedules are available on the Gippernet.

Whether we're prepping for the PFA or for an upcoming inspection, Ronald Reagan Sailors get the job done and done well. And yes, we do have an upcoming inspection, or rather, in this case, a self-assessment. MC3 Kyle

Carlstrom went around the ship to find out how Sailors are getting ready for this fall's 3M self-assessment.

Sailors are often being assessed. In fact, that seems to be the only way to get promoted around here. For those Sailors who found their Professional Military Knowledge (PMK) scores to be lacking this past exam cycle, MC2 Jim Verton tells us about the new PMK



classes being held by the First Class Association.

We here at TGC think associations are just swell, so for this issue we sought an interview with AO2 Amanda Beaver. MCSN Lex Wenberg spoke with her about what it's like to be second in command of the 3 & 2 Association.

It's a sweet Sunday indeed, and for anyone looking for something to do tonight, check out the talent show in hangar bay 2! I'll be there performing with my buddy Jim, so come out and support us and all our shipmates.

Contributors

MC2 (AW) Benjamin Lewis

Lewis is a Tarkio, Mont., native who has produced over five independent feature films. He can be found in SITE TV where he continues his work as a videographer, producing commercials, Daily News Updates and is a member of the Captain's Call team.

MC2 Jim Verton

Verton is from Rochester, N.Y. At his last command, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan, he used his illustrative, photographic and writing ability to be a positive link between the U.S. Navy and the country of Japan. Verton is a life-long fan of the Buffalo Bills football team and guitar enthusiast.

MC3 Briana Brotzman

Brotzman is a Pennsylvania native. She was the top graduate of her MC "A" school class, and is currently working in the Photo Lab. "I don't think I know as much as I thought I did," said Brotzman upon arrival.

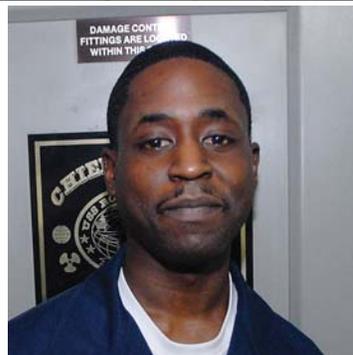
MCSN Ronnie Barr

Barr is a Boulder City, Nev., native who joined the Navy as one of the first MCs. Barr, a member of the Ronald Reagan hockey team, can be found hard at work in the Print Shop and is also in charge of the Ronald Reagan and Public Affairs Web sites.

Street Beat: How are you preparing to advance?



CSC (SW/AW) Francisco Apiado
"I concentrate on doing my job well, take courses and do lots of collateral duties and watches."



EMFN Terence Bonds
"I found a partner and started studying the BIBs and PMK references for my rate."



ABFAN Robert Seligman
"Studying and working on QA and Surface Warfare."



HM3 (AW) Patricia Shelton
"I've been studying since the first week of June. It's good to start early."



Warming Up for the Big Game:

3M Assessment Preparation

Story & Photo By
MC3 Kyle Carlstrom

Ronald Reagan is getting ready to give itself a self-assessment to determine how well we operate on a large scale. Maintenance Material Management (3M) is the Navy's overall how-to guide on making sure everything aboard operates as it should.

And in order for all equipment aboard to run correctly, it takes the efforts of everyone on the ship.

"The 3M Self-Assessment is a major aspect of the ship's ability to assess itself on the performance of 3M across all 125 work centers," said Lt. Cmdr. Vincent Stanley, 3M Officer.

"It's actually a very good time that we're doing the self-assessment right now

because we just entered a new force revision," continued Stanley. "We're in a brand new quarter and as we self-assess now and find mistakes, we're able to go back and fix the mistakes early in the game so that by the end of the quarter, we don't have mistakes we can't go back and correct."

The self-assessment is twice a year. Inspectors from Commander, Naval Air Forces come aboard to perform the inspection.

"The 3M self-assessment is a way for us to take a thorough look at how we are running the 3M program and make any changes that we need to before the actual assessment," said Mass Communication Specialist

(SW/AW) 1st Class Phillip James, one of Stanley's top D3MAs. "The actual assessment is when CNAF comes aboard to look at how we are running the program. This is important to the command because our purple 'E' for the battle 'E' relies on it. If we fail the assessment, we fail to receive the purple 'E' and as a result we fail to receive the battle 'E'."

Stanley added there's really no preparation for the self-assessment, other than just doing the maintenance correctly the first time.

"The assessment can happen at any time; it doesn't necessarily coincide with a force revision installation," said Stanley.

"Finding mistakes are not bad, because the idea is if someone is doing processing incorrectly, we go back and identify it ourselves and fix it. That way, the next time the person does the PMS [Preventive Maintenance System], work or scheduling, they get it right the second time around. Safe maintenance, prolonged equipment operation and combat effectiveness are what we're looking for in the end."

In past assessments, Ronald Reagan has scored well with keeping up maintenance and being mission ready while staying safe at the same time.

"On the past assessments we've done pretty good.

3M cont. on Pg. 12

Educate Me!

First Class PMK Study Sessions

Story & Photo By
MC2 James Verton

What is the exact size of the insignia on the cover of a chief petty officer? Are Sailors authorized to wear wigs? If you come into direct contact with human trafficking, what should you do? The answer to these and many other questions related to professional military knowledge (PMK) are available in training sessions conducted by the Ronald Reagan First Class Association (FCA).

The FCA holds professional military knowledge training three times a week in the First

Class Mess for the purpose of helping Sailors improve their advancement exam scores, said Command Master Chief (AW/SW/SS) Mark Rudes.

"I'm a big fan of Sailors setting goals and advancing with every opportunity," said Rudes. "We want to set them up for success," he added. Rudes said he charged the FCA with instituting a program where Sailors can get the answers to some of those tough advancement exam questions.

After reviewing the scores from recent advancement exam cycles, Rudes said he

noticed the scores for the PMK sections could have been a little better. "A lot of those Sailors were very close to advancing," he said. He said the extra points from answering those missed questions correctly would have advanced some deserving Sailors.

The sessions offers the information in several different mediums, offering a variety of ways in which Sailors can absorb information at their own pace.

Sailors attending the sessions are given printed

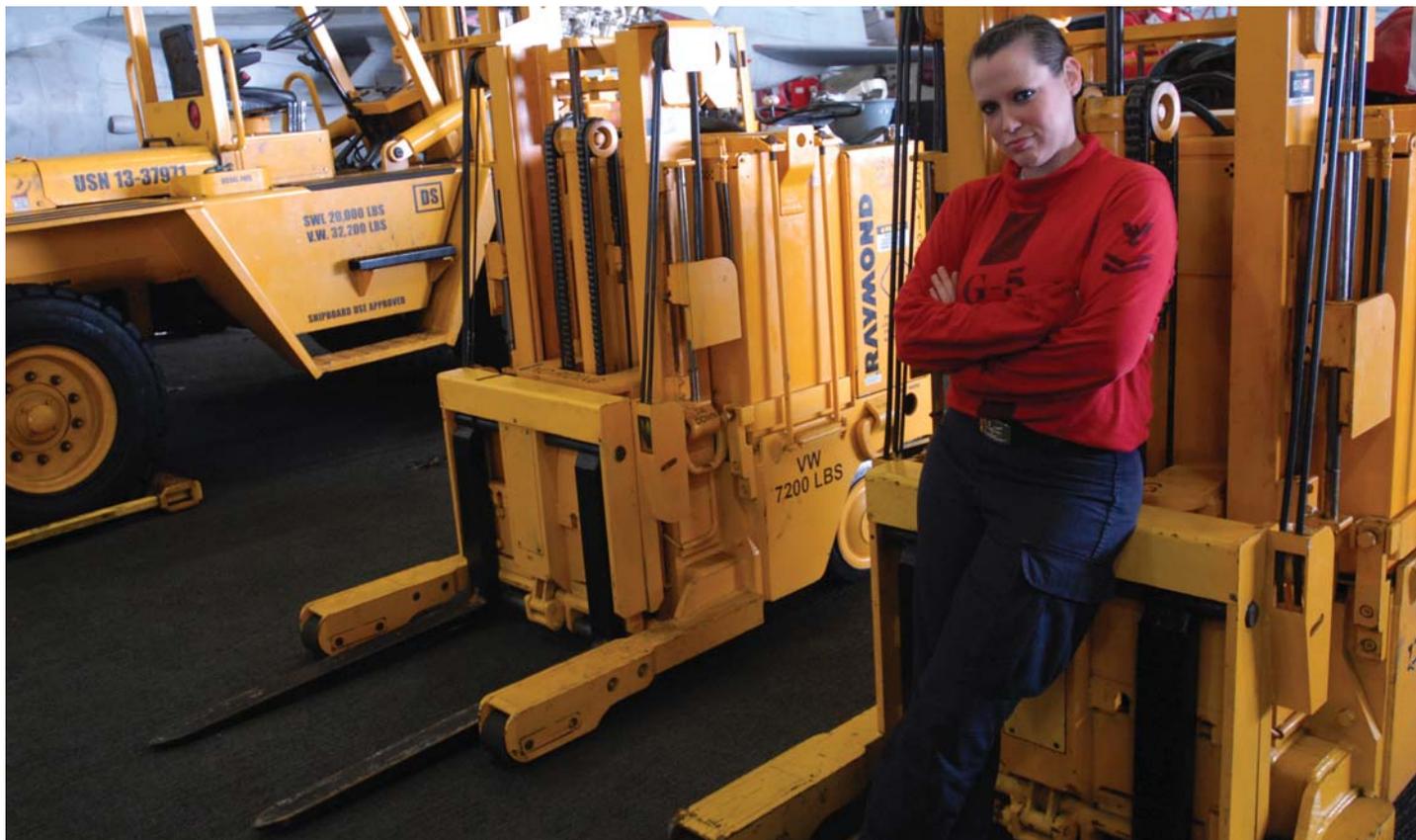
versions of the topics taught and can also request everything from compact discs, official instructions, updates to current naval regulations and additional handouts, explained Program Coordinator, Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SCW/FMF) Kimberly Chavez.

Attendees also get the chance to take mock exams, participate in a Jeopardy style study game, and receive information from subject matter experts, Chavez said.

Chavez organizes the sessions so the FCA can provide the best training it

PMK cont. on Pg. 12





A seamless transition:

Ascending from UPS to USN

Story & Photo By
MCSN Lex Wenberg

Once in a while, a Sailor comes along who knows that however hard everyone around her works, she's going to work that much harder.

Aviation Ordnanceman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Amanda Beaver grew up in St. Peters, Mo., a town of under 60,000 people where, after high school, she worked for and managed a United Parcel Service branch. Life had been good up to that point, she said, but she needed more.

"I wanted to leave Missouri, see other places and be able to grow," said Beaver.

With the help of a friend who'd joined the Navy Reserve as an operations specialist, Beaver joined the Navy Reserve in 2004 as a storekeeper, as

it seemed to pull from and add to her experience at UPS. Beaver received the rank of storekeeper seaman from her management experience before even going to bootcamp.

After two years, Beaver realized that maybe the Navy Reserve was not a significant enough of a life-change for her. With the help of a friend and mentor who was a boatswain's mate 1st class in the Navy Reserve, she decided to cross over to active duty. After she put in her transfer package, she was called to the base commander's office, where she was asked why she was quitting the Reserves.

"I told him that I wasn't quitting, and that I actually wanted to do more to serve my country," said Beaver.

With only that explanation, the base commander signed her paper and she began the process.

Beaver researched the different rates, and chose the aviation ordnanceman rate for her conversion.

"How many people can say they've worked on a bomb worth over \$1 million, or fired a .50 caliber machine gun?" said Beaver.

But it's not just the cool things she gets to do that make Beaver's job so important to her.

"My job is important because I help protect troops on the ground," said Beaver. "It's not direct, but I know that what I'm doing is making a difference."

Beaver is the Weapons Department administration's resident expert on

Flying High Reo Work Down

Story By
MC2 (AW) Benjamin Lewis

The phrase, “the sound of freedom” might mean something a little different to each person. It might mean the sound of the wind blowing through the stars and stripes or the sound of a family barbecuing in the backyard.

Ask a Soldier who just called in for air support, they might tell you the sound of freedom is the powerful roar put out by jet engines over-head.

Ask one of the dozens of Aviation Machinist Mates aboard USS Ronald Reagan and they might tell you the sound of freedom is that same powerful roar – the battle cry of the jet engines they are charged with maintaining.

Without these incredible machines attached to every aircraft aboard, there would be no way to carry the greatly needed weapons to fight the war on terror and support troops on the ground.

“Without mechs, you wouldn’t have any [aircraft] to fly,” said Aviation Machinist Mate 1st Class (AW) Owen Tudela, leading petty officer of Fighter Fixed Wing (VFA) 25 Power Plants. “We do the upkeep and maintenance of the aircraft, make sure the integrity of the aircraft for the engine side is up and ready. The aircraft can’t fly without engines.”

Tudela said AD’s also work on the auxiliary power unit, which is considered a secondary power system that supplies pneumatic power (or compressed air) for environmental control system and starting engines and all externally mounted components attached to the engines. As if that’s not enough to keep somebody busy, they maintain the fuel cells as well.

Pilots don’t just hop in their aircraft, turn the key and pull out of the garage. The aircraft engines have to be tested, or “turned,” to make sure they run correctly before it’s takes to the sky. Starting an aircraft requires a maintenance turn

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said Tudela. “M
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MC3 Torrey Lee



MC3 Briana Brotzman



MC2 Benjamin Lewis



MC3 Torrey Lee

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Sailors Can Be Their Own Detailer

New CMD/IS program allows Sailors to take charge of their career.

Story By
MCSN Ronnie Barr

Sailors now have the opportunity to take more control of their careers by submitting themselves for their own permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

They can use the CMS/ID program starting this month over the Internet by going to the Navy Knowledge Online website, www.nko.navy.mil and clicking on the CMS/ID link or by going directly to the CMS/ID website, www.cmsid.navy.mil.

"I think the program is outstanding," said Senior

Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Robert Calloway Ronald Reagan's command career counselor. "We're allowing Sailors to control their own careers."

With this new control Sailors still have to meet perform to serve (PTS) requirements, be approved, and be in their negotiation window to submit their applications.

"Sailors need to pay attention to their negotiation period, which is nine months prior to their PRD (projected

rotation date) to six months before," said Navy Counselor Chief (AW/SW) Fonda Wilson.

Wilson said Sailors need to submit their applications inside of the window to take full advantage of their opportunity to choose where they will go.

"If a Sailor is having problems with the program or deciding what they should do, they can still talk to their career counselor for assistance," said Wilson.

The career counselors

can show everything the Navy has to offer that might be good for a Sailor's career. Using the CMS/ID program shows Sailors all the billets in their rate and can even be sorted by various topics.

"It shows what matches you," said Operation Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Robert Bell, a Sailor who recently used the program. "You can even search by NEC [Navy Enlisted Classification Code], sea or shore duty and you can actually see the job description all right there."

FUTURE cont. on Pg. 12

Reel Time

Sci-Fi Thriller Lives Up to Hype

"Deja Vu" well-written, succeeds in presenting believable future to audience.

Story By
MC3 Briana Brotzman

Like many science fiction-esque movies of late, "Déjà vu" could have been a huge disappointment. Too often lately I've seen some legendary actors make some really terrible films that had great potential and ended up being badly written and not making any sense.

Luckily for everyone who viewed "Déjà vu," Denzel Washington must have actually read a well-written script. The movie raised some compelling philosophical questions about time and was action-packed enough to keep me glued to my seat. The character development was there, but not overpowering, and added to the flow of the movie rather than distracted from it. Perhaps the most telling difference between "Déjà vu" and other movies introduced in the slightly science-fiction drama genre

lately is that it was very believable.

With the help of a well thought-out concept, a great cast and a compelling story, "Déjà vu" stepped apart from the "2001: A Space Odyssey" and became something that could have happened yesterday.

One of the most important things that make the movie something worth watching is the well-thought out premise. It's not a glaring one that stares you in the face in the first fifteen minutes and proceeds to only develop in more outrageous ways. It's not the summer movie designed to give you the unbelievable. Denzel Washington portrays Doug Carlin, a man trying to solve the mystery behind a terrorist attack. His detective talent draws the attention of the head of another team, played by Val Kilmer, trying to solve the same mystery.

This government-funded team is using a machine that they tell Carlin is a very advanced surveillance system that is so sophisticated that they can view virtually any conversation or sequence of events. The catch is that it can't be rewound or fast-forwarded, and the footage is of four days prior to the event. Carlin ends up using his mad-reasoning skills to determine that the machine is, in fact, not a surveillance system. It is a window into the past.

So here comes the million-dollar question the movie presents. Can you really change the past? Or will time flow in the same direction with the same results no matter what you do?

Washington does a very good job portraying the ordinary man in the extraordinary situation, not that it's surprising. When you can create a

DEJA VU cont. on Pg. 12



RRSG Sailors Awarded Medal

Ronald Reagan Sailors who participated in the Typhoon Fengshen humanitarian assistance operation are now eligible to wear the Navy Humanitarian Service Medal, The Great Communicator (TGC) has learned.

Official confirmation should be out next week, but expect Commanding Officer K.J. Norton to pass out more details in the next day or two.

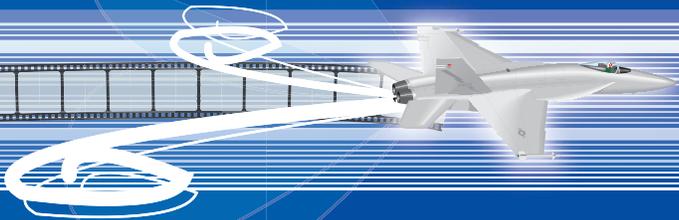
Sailors who served aboard USS Ronald Reagan or any other ship in the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group

(RRSG) between June 25, 2008 and July 2, 2008 will be eligible to wear the ribbon. Further details will be out soon.

Sources also tell TGC that a unit commendation package could also be awarded to RRSG.

After earning the Battle "E," Ramage Award, providing superlative support of Operation Enduring Freedom and also the humanitarian assistance rendered in the Phillipines, RRSG has more than proven their worth. Stay tuned, shipmates!





Schedule

26 July 2009

CH 2

0830-1200: Rush Hour 3 Shaft

1200-1530: Waist Deep
2300-0730: The Departed

1530-1930: Jet Li's Fearless

CH 3

0830-1200: Friday the 13th (2009)

1200-1530: The Eye
2300-0730: Exorcism of Emily Rose

1530-1930: Wing Comannder

CH 4

0830-1200: Hustle and Flow

1200-1530: Nights in Rodanthe

1530-1930: The Gospel

CH 5

0830-1200: Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny

1200-1530: Clerks 2

1530-1930: Kiss Kiss Bang Bang

1930-2300: Old School
2300-0730: He's Just Not That Into You

27 July 2009

CH 2

0830-1200: Guadalcanal Diary
1930-2300: Lions for Lambs

1200-1530: The Bourne Identity
2300-0730: Ocean's 13

1530-1930: Mission Impossible

CH 3

0830-1200: Friday the 13th
1930-2300: Land of the Dead

1200-1530: The Lost Boys
2300-0730: The Incredible Hulk

1530-1930: The Day the Earth Stood Still

CH 4

0830-1200: Cadillac Records
1930-2300: Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

1200-1530: Music & Lyrics
2300-0730: Remember the Titans

1530-1930: The Pursuit of Happiness

CH 5

0830-1200: Good Luck Chuck
1930-2300: Meet Dave

1200-1530: Evan Almighty
2300-0730: Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins

1530-1930: The Longshots

28 July 2009

CH 2

0830-1330: Enemy of the State
1950-2300: Pathfinder

1330-1640: Fly Me to the Moon
2300-0730: Zodiac

1640-1950: Slow Burn

CH 3

0830-1330: Pirates of the Carribean
1950-2300: The Unborn

2300-0730: Superman Returns
1330-1640: The Uninvited

1640-1950: Night Listener

CH 4

0830-1330: The Guardian
1950-2300: Yours, Mine and Ours

1330-1640: Everyone's Hero
2300-0730: Miracle at St. Anna

1640-1950: I Think I Love My Wife

CH 5

0830-1330: Chronicles of Narnia
1950-2300: Zoom
2300-0730: Mr. Bean's Holiday

1330-1640: Meet the Spartans

1640-1950: Fired Up

Sudoku

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P R E V I O U S

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

Pulling your own weight

YN3 Ryan Church pulls a line to secure a connection between Ronald Reagan and USNS Rainier for a (RAS). Ronald Reagan regularly holds RAS in order to take on food, fuel and supplies. Photo by MCSN Lex Wenberg



3M

Continued from pg. 3

We've found some problems, but again, we put processes in place to correct them," said Stanley. "It's a continuous challenge. Getting the ship to focus on 3M, which is 24/7, 365 days a year, except for Christmas and New Year's, which are of course standdown periods, but it's a continuous challenge to make 3M a part of everyone's day. If you don't do it right, people get hurt, equipment breaks and we're not combat effective, and that's not why we're here."

PMK

Continued from pg. 4

possibly can. "We encourage everyone who comes to take the information back to their departments with them for the people who wanted to come, but maybe couldn't." said Chavez.

"I charged the First Class Association with this because most of the questions for the chief's test are PMK type questions," said Rudes. He added that he wants the FCA to feel empowered and begin to assume the role of authority on matters such as PMK.

Rudes said the sessions are held at night purposely. "The hour that we have the training in place seems to be the best time that the most Sailors get a chance to attend. We deliberately scheduled them for evenings so we can get max participation," he said.

Professional military knowledge training sessions are held in the First Class Mess on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

VICE PRESIDENT

Continued from pg. 5

ammunition accounting, said Gun Boss Cmdr. Thomas Karney.

"AO2 Beaver is responsible for the ordering, issuing, and receipt of all ammunition on board Ronald Reagan, which amounts to over 4 million pounds," said Karney.

But it's not just her regular work that sets her apart, Karney said. She's extremely motivated, and a good influence on everyone around.

"She always has a positive attitude and a smile on her face, and both are

contagious," said Karney.

But doing a great job at her normal duties was still not enough of a challenge for her. Beaver is the command program administrator for CPR aboard the ship. Her students include ship's company and air wing personnel.

Beaver is definitely humble about her extra duty, shrugging as she explained.

"The door opened right in front of me," she said. "I had no choice but to walk through."

Beaver has trained over 1,200 personnel since starting as administrator, and the effects for her are very real.

"It's a hugely gratifying thought to know that people I've trained can save lives," said Beaver. "I've had people tell me that they helped people using the knowledge they got from my class."

But even this much responsibility is can't satisfy a Sailor like Beaver. She was recently re-elected to the office of vice president for the ship's 3&2 Association, which works to improve the crew's morale and refine the careers of junior Sailors.

"She brings hard work and determination to the association and also the focus," said 3&2's president, Operations Specialist 2nd Class (AW/SW) Dion Johnson.

"To me she has the hardest job in the world; keeping me, the president, in line," said Johnson.

Beaver brings her work ethic to the 3&2 Association, and keeps everyone else up to her standards.

"Working around AO2 Beaver, you will always be on point," said Johnson. "If she catches you falling off, she will correct anything she sees wrong very fast! But it's great working around her because she will push you to the limit."

Beaver's attitude and work ethic come directly from her philosophy on life in the Navy.

"We're out here to do a job; we're committed," said Beaver.

FUTURE

Continued from pg. 8

The system goes as far as not allowing Sailors to apply for a billet if they choose a billet that he or she does not qualify for. It can also give Sailors contact information for each billet.

"You can take the contact information for the billets you're interested in and give them a call or send them an e-mail

to get more information about that command," said Bell.

The program can make things a little easier by going straight to the source but that doesn't mean Sailors can't utilize their career counselors.

"There is a lot of information they can get from their career counselor, but now you can also do your own research," said Store Keeper 3rd Class (SW/AW) Corey Evans, another Sailor who has used the program. "It's nice to know you don't have to depend on other people if you want to do it yourself."

Sailors can use the CMS/ID program online, do their own research and still have their career counselors to go to for help. The new program gives Sailors more options to take control of their careers.

DEJA VU

Continued from pg. 8

believable character in movies as abnormal as "Virtuosity," you can pretty much do anything.

He plays well off of the rest of the cast too. The screenwriting is pretty brilliant in comparison with most of the movies I've seen lately. Chemistry is created between Washington and our leading lady, Paula Patton, which is impressive given the infrequent high-tension scenes they really share. Val Kilmer plays a very good disapproving supervisory role. Even the techies on the mad scientist future machine team provide dramatic but realistic portrayals of real people.

The well-timed lines and reactions of the cast really help move the story along, but add enough to it that I didn't feel like I had just been rushed through something that could easily have been better with more detail. The moments that Washington spends watching Patton intently, clearly entranced, balance out the speed and urgency of the race to solve the mystery. The very emotional reaction of the supporting cast adds an emotional depth to the horrible crimes perpetrated by the terrorist.

The story is engaging. The cast is talented. The science makes sense, and the action is worthy of a good gasp now and then. I applaud all involved for finally creating for me a summer movie worth watching. I was beginning to lose hope. Well played Tony Scott. Well played.

SOD

SAILOR OF THE DAY



July 22, 2009

Name: ABH3 Michael Kirton
Dept/Div: Air/V5
Job Title: Air Dept. Damage Control
Where are you from?
Long Island, N.Y.
Why did you join the Navy?
I joined to see the world and better my education.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
I was quite astonished.
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
My family, my chain of command and ABH1 Matthews.
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?
My favorite place was Sasebo.
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?
1) Never give up.
2) Never, never give up.
3) Never, never, never give up.

July 23, 2009
Name: AD3 Franklin Abril
Dept/Div: AIMD/Aircraft
Job Title: Aviation Machinist's Mate
Where are you from?
Baguio City, Phillipines
Why did you join the Navy?
For personal development and professional growth.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
I was surprised.
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
My parents.
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?
My favorite place was Singapore.
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?
Do your best every time.



July 24, 2009

Name: CS3 Jessica Valenzuela
Dept/Div: Supply/S5
Job Title: Cash Collection Agent
Where are you from?
Oxnard, Calif.
Why did you join the Navy?
For education.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
I was shocked!
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
My daughter and family.
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?
Move out of my way or I'll run you over as I climb Mt. Success!

2009 USS Ronald Reagan Fantasy Football Tournament

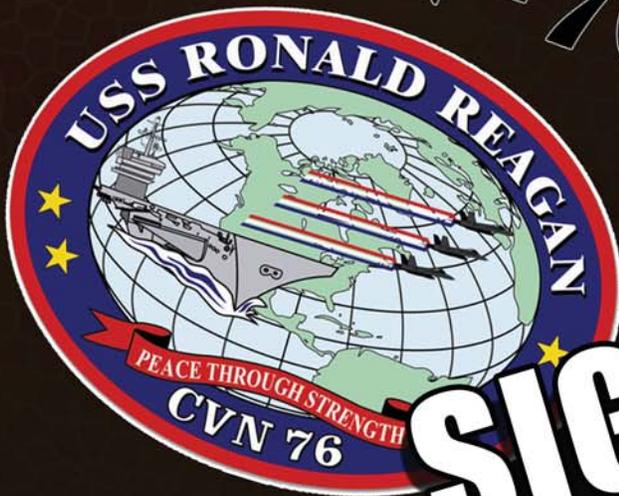
"Start 'Em Once" tournament format.

The cost is \$10.00 per team

Register as many teams as you like!

**See the MWR office
for details.**

CVN-76



SIGN UP NOW!