

THE GREAT Communicator

USS RONALD REAGAN'S INFORMATION PORTAL

June 3, 2009

10 Cents

USS RONALD REAGAN REMEMBERS THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

An USS Ronald Reagan crew member reads the side of the ship at the Battle of Midway. (USS Ronald Reagan)

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“

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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MC2 Joe Buliavac

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Tomorrow represents a very important day in our naval history, and as Ronald Reagan transits through this particular part of the world, it's especially noteworthy.

On June 4, 1942 the Battle of Midway was fought, hinging upon it the fate of World War II in the Pacific.

Through daring, initiative and strong intelligence, Adm. Chester Nimitz's relatively small task force was able to defeat Japan's onslaught, turning the tide in the Pacific. So we at TGC pay tribute to our forbearers with a look at what led to the decisive victory.

On the lighter side of things, some of you may have noticed by now that we're underway. And with being underway comes certain responsibilities, and certain traditions. MCSA Oliver Cole spoke with several Sailors about what they're doing, and growing, to uphold the finest traditions of the Navy.

Another deployment tradition is brought to us by the Health Services department in the form of anthrax and smallpox inoculations. MCSA Amanda Ray visited Health Services to find out about the benefits of planning ahead. Are you excited? My arm hurts.

Nothing will make your arm ache like throwing a baseball around all day, but for

some it's the best kind of pain there is. SK2 Joseph Covitch recently returned from the United States Southern Command Baseball Partnership Tour 2009, and shared with MC2 Chad Bascom all the excitement.

With deployment comes an excellent opportunity to save some money, so MC3 David Brandenburg spoke with the ship's Command Financial Specialist to find out some of the better ways to stash some



cash.

For this week's Reel Time, MC3 Aaron Stevens watched "Underworld: Rise of the Lycans." He felt it had its ups and downs, but ultimately was worth seeing, and had a nice surprise at the end. Read on to find out how computer graphics really make him feel.

As we enter our second week of deployment, we're left with a lot to think about. There are many powerful traditions in the Navy, some silly and some solemn, and USS Ronald Reagan lives up to them.

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 are girls.

MC3 Aaron Stevens

Stevens is an East Palestine, Ohio native. He was trained as a photographer's mate before merging into the MC rating. He served two years in Sasebo, Japan working at the AFN broadcasting station learning skills in radio and producing hundreds of video news stories.

MC3 (SW) David Brandenburg

Brandenburg is a native of Grand Junction, Colorado. He was trained as a photographer's mate before merging into the mass communication specialist rate. He is aboard the ship TAD from NPASE West on North Island.

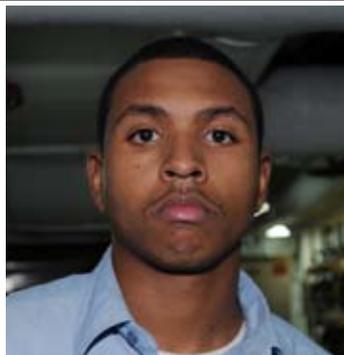
MCSA Oliver Cole

Cole is a Kentucky native. He recently completed MC "A" school and Reagan is his first duty station. Cole is finding his place aboard Reagan and in the Graphics Media Department. "I'm having the time of my life! I'm learning so much and enjoying every moment of it," said Cole.

Street Beat: What are your goals for this deployment?



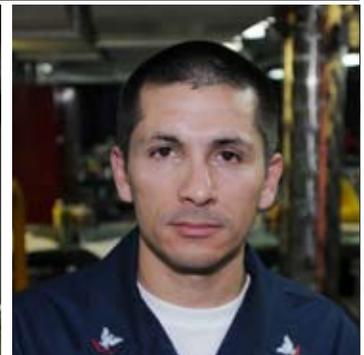
ET3 Jasmine Moran
"To get dual-qualified."



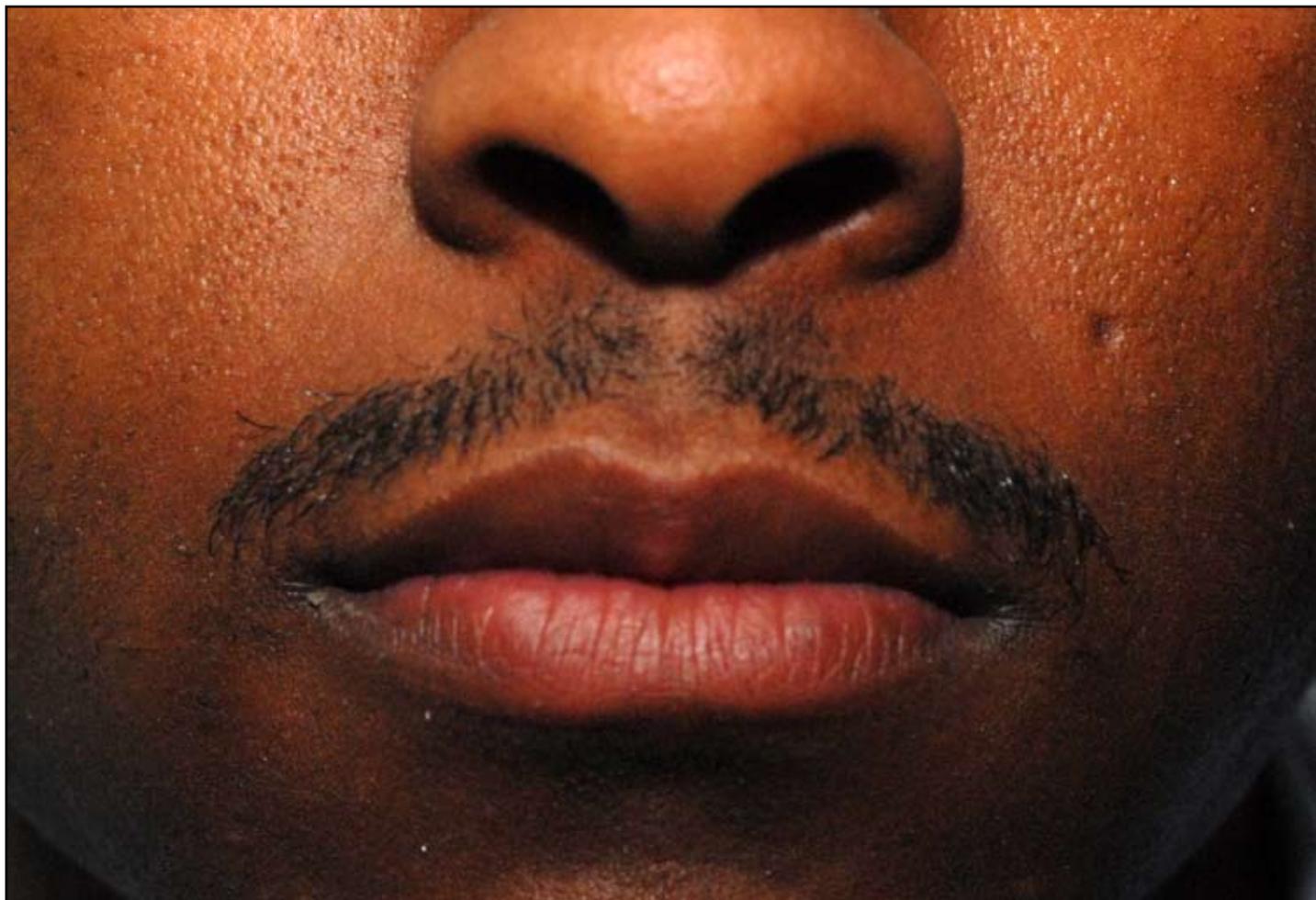
LN2 Paul Wilson
"To grow closer to God and get dual-qualified."



Lt. j.g. Nathan Clayville
"Use my training and contribute to my squadron."



PS3 Gregorio Villalba
"To put in a Legalman package and get dual-qualified."



Battle-Staches Take Hold

Story and Photo By
MCSA Oliver Cole

As the crew of USS Ronald Reagan crew gets underway for another deployment, Sailors are seen stocking up on personal items, kissing loved ones goodbye and... Shaving their heads?

In preparation for deployment, Sailors do many things to make the time spent out to sea easier, more pleasant and fun. Some buy T-shirts and socks in bulk and bring books or video games aboard. Some Sailors also take part in sea trends that are a little odd.

Sea trends are physical

changes Sailors make to their appearance while on deployment that they wouldn't usually make at home. It is possible for some guys to shave their head or grow their hair out. But the most well-known sea trend is the "battle-stache," more commonly known as a "sea-stache."

"I'm growing a sea-stache and I'm growing my hair out," said Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Rickie Darden, a 22 year-old native of Columbus, Ga. "I'm probably

going to keep with the trend all deployment."

Sailors participate in sea trends for different reasons.

"Well, I don't like shaving," said Darden. "But what really influenced me to do this is my supervisor. He did it last deployment and I thought it was pretty cool. I just have to make sure to keep my hair in regs."

Navy standards on appearance can sometimes take away from the fun of some sea trends, but Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class David

Willsey says he won't have any problems keeping his hair in regulations.

Willsey stands 6'3" with blue eyes and a bald head; a place where blonde hair used to be. He spent lots of time in the sun to acquire a good tan just before deployment. His blonde hair used to block the sun from his head. Needless to say, when he committed to his sea trend and shaved his head, it was not the same complexion as his face.

"This is my first time doing anything like this," said Willsey. "I have a wicked

SEA-STACHE cont. on Pg. 12

Just 10 to 15 Little Pricks in the Arm...

How being infected with a little smallpox is a good thing.

Story and Photo By
MCSA Amanda Ray

Of all the things running through any given Sailor's mind at the beginning of a deployment into a combat zone, it is likely that vaccinations aren't one of them. However, once they become aware, often times they find themselves stricken with panic and worry.

"Why me? Why does it have to be me?" They may wonder. Well, deal with it. The truth is servicemembers don't have much say in the matter.

The smallpox vaccine is mandatory for all Sailors entering the 5th or 7th Fleet area of operations a precautionary measure against a potential chemical or biological attack. Ironically, a small amount of the live virus is used in the vaccination to combat smallpox.

"The smallpox vaccine and the anthrax vaccine are both safe. Smallpox just has extra precautions like having to keep your sleeves down

all the time for the first three days after receiving the vaccination. You cannot go to the gym for the first three days either," said Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/FMF) Scott Thrasher.

These precautions may not seem like a big deal but the smallpox vaccine has a potentially harmful side effect that could affect everyone aboard.

"If you touch the vaccination area then touch somewhere else on your

body, you can secondarily inoculate yourself, which is where you develop a lesion somewhere on your body other than where the primary lesion is," explained Thrasher. "Do not touch the vaccination site, ever!"

Health officials stress the importance of washing your hands as much as possible to decrease the possibility of infecting yourself or someone else. Last deployment there were less than 10 cases of secondary inoculation

SMALL POX cont. on Pg. 12



News Flash!

Diamonds Can Be a Boy's Best Friend Too

Story and Photo By
MC2 (AW) Chad Bascom

While impacting hundreds and reaching out to thousands, Storekeeper 2nd Class (AW) Joseph M. Covitch, leading petty officer in the Air Transfer Office (ATO), got a taste of what he's always dreamed of.

Covitch was selected by the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) to participate in the United States Southern Command Baseball Partnership Tour 2009. There were no tryouts. Covitch's selection to be one of the twenty-five personnel chosen was purely off of past performance and experience as a 4-year starter with the U.S. Military All-Star baseball team.

Covitch, who grew up in Sacramento, Calif., played three years of varsity baseball for Valley High School and one year of ball after that. His childhood dream to play professional baseball for the San Francisco Giants didn't quite go as planned.

"Back in 1998, I needed a career that would help me better myself. At the age of 20 and after having my daughter, what better job to have other than to serve our country," said Covitch.

Having been in the Navy 11 years and



spending the last three of them aboard USS Ronald Reagan, Covitch knows all about deployments. However, this one was different.

The USSOUTHCOM Staff and partner nation U.S. military teams focused on community relations (COMREL) projects that would generate positive media interest, enhance relations and demonstrate goodwill toward partner nations while impacting many.

"Everywhere we went, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Chile and the Dominican Republic, we cleaned up schools, orphanages, hospitals and little league parks. We also did a free baseball clinic for more than 200 kids, two hours a day, every day," said Covitch.

"In return, we as a team were treated like professional baseball players in every detail."

"SK2's work ethic is by far one of the best I've seen in the Navy," said Chief Air Traffic Controller (AW/SW) Malissia Deaton. "When he had the opportunity to go over and represent the Ronald Reagan and the Navy playing baseball, there was no doubt I was going to send him.

"It was a constant COMREL. The amount of kids lives that SK2 Covitch touched, is incomparable to what I do out here as a chief petty officer every day. I couldn't be more proud of him," added Deaton.

"I think working hard anywhere has

REMEMBERING



Photo # 80-G-312018 On board USS Yorktown after she was hit by dive bombers

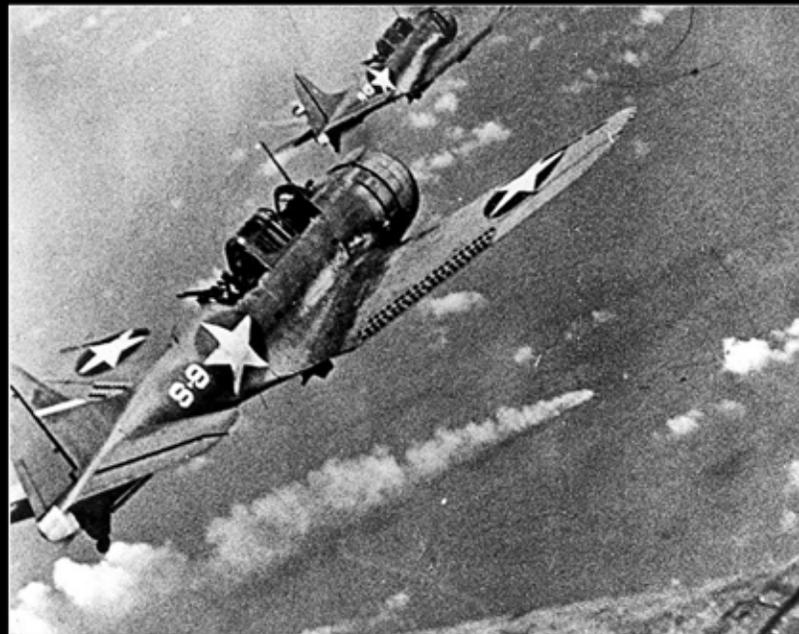


Photo # 80-G-17054 SBDs over the burning Japanese cruiser Mikuma, 6 June 1942

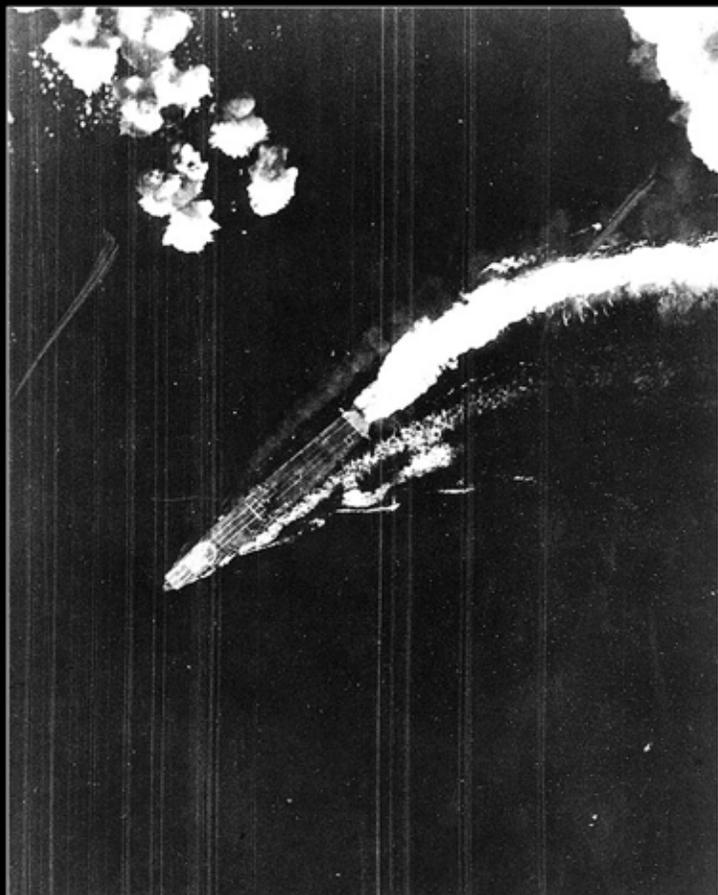


Photo # USAF 75712 AC Hiryu under B-17 attack at Midway



Photo # 80-G-17061 USS Yorktown being abandoned, 4 June 1942



Photo # NH 73065 Japanese aircraft carrier Hiryu burning, morning of 5 June 1942

MIDWAY

Story By
MCSN Alex Tidd

One little code.

Surmising a battle in a three-word sentence hardly does justice to the countless hours of work that went into cracking it, but 67-years-ago tomorrow it was one little code. When the American Pacific Fleet decoding organization known as HYPO finally broke the Japanese radio transmission code, known as JN-25B, on the eve of the Battle of Midway after two years of arduous labor, it gave American naval forces a decisive advantage.

Japan planned to send two fleets to Midway in response to the Doolittle-Halsey raid on the Japanese mainland. While not a strategic success, the Doolittle-Halsey raid was a psychological blow to the Japanese, who had believed their naval blockade to be impenetrable.

To prevent such an attack from happening again, Japan made preparations to launch an attack and subsequent invasion on the island of Midway. Some 1,300 miles from Oahu, Hawaii, the Midway Atoll was America's forward operating base at the time, providing a submarine base and a landing strip to refuel long-range bombers. Taking Midway would also give Japan a foothold for an invasion of Hawaii.

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's Combined Fleet was tasked with the mission. Yamamoto's plan called for an amphibious fleet to attack Midway from the south, forcing America to send their few surviving carriers from the attack on Pearl Harbor to confront them. Once entangled with the amphibious fleet, the American carriers would be struck and sunk by Yamamoto's carriers from the north.

But American forces were in turn laying an ambush of their own. Having broken the code, they now had determined the date and location of the attack, and laid in waiting.

Adm. Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Theater, needed every flight deck he could get his hands on. Yamamoto's fleet was expected to have four or five carriers and Nimitz hoped to answer in kind. Nimitz had already enlisted Vice Adm. William

Halsey's two-carrier task force, USS Enterprise (CV 6) and USS Hornet (CV 8), but sought further support.

USS Yorktown (CV 5) had been severely damaged at the Battle of Coral Sea and had missed comprehensive overhauls for the previous year. It was expected Yorktown would take several months of repairs in Washington state. Still, Yorktown's elevators and flight deck were largely intact, so Nimitz requisitioned her for the battle.

The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard worked 24-hours a day for three days until Yorktown was deemed battle-ready. Several available squadrons were reassigned to Yorktown and even as the first sorties took flight, work crews from repair ships were still on board, welding, patching and replacing everything they could get their hands on. But after three days of dry-dock, Yorktown joined the task force.

As the battle unfolded, the American forces held the advantage despite being outnumbered. Four Japanese carriers, Akagi, Hiryu, Kaga and Soryu, and one heavy cruiser, Mikuma, were sent to the bottom of the ocean and approximately 275 aircraft shot down. In turn, the U.S. Navy lost only one carrier, USS Yorktown, and one destroyer, USS Hammann (DD 412), and 98 aircraft.

Though Yorktown's flightdeck was largely destroyed, her aircraft continued to strike damage by using the other carriers alternatively. Yorktown was unfortunately torpedoed during salvage operations, however, most of the crew had been evacuated.

The Battle of Midway proved to be a decisive one in the Pacific campaign of World War II. Japan was permanently weakened by the exchange, particularly by the loss of four fleet carriers and their corresponding air wings.

As the anniversary of this historic battle comes to pass, there is much USS Ronald Reagan can take from the heroism and initiative of our forbearers. And as we cross the Pacific toward a fight of our own, we should be reminded of those who have gone before us to defend freedom and democracy around the world.



Photo # 80-G-11636 Damaged F4F at Midway after battle, June 1942



Photo # 80-G-414423 USS Yorktown hit by Japanese aerial torpedo, 4 June 1942



Photo # 80-G-17678 VT-8 survivor Ens. George Gay in hospital

Latest Underworld Pleasing

Story By
MC3 Aaron Stevens

One night you find yourself walking home late at night, not through San Diego, but dreary fogbound woods with dark, black trees rising into the sky. You're hearing unfamiliar sounds, the ones that make you think there's something out there. Moments later, danger is staring at you; five inches from your face is a werewolf.

From the decorated stone

chambers and dreadful pits of the dungeon in the castle, to the haunting echoes and thick white fog of the woods, UROL sets the scene for a vicious battle of the creepy on an epic scale. A prequel to the first Underworld movie. Rarely does a prequel come out worth seeing, but this one is a little different, meaning, it's actually worth watching.

Besides a duel to the death between vampire and

werewolf, this movie also contains a romantic storyline between the two main characters Lucian (Michael Sheen), a Lycan (a werewolf able to take human form), and Sonya (Rhona Mitra), a vampire. Lucian saves Sonya, out of love for her, from renegade werewolves by discarding his mandatory collar and turning into a wolf to call off a werewolf onslaught; a deal breaker to

Victor (Bill Nighy), leader of the vampires, Sonya's father and Lucian's master.

"You have stung me Lycan with your betrayal," said Victor. "You were like a son to me. I gave you life."

"You gave me chains," replied Lucian.

It's apparent that Lucian is willing to make a change in his 'slave' life and begin one of freedom with Sonya.

The cinematography in

UNDERWORLD cont. on Pg. 12

Features

More Money in Your Pocket

Reagan's Command Financial Specialists can help you manage your buck.

Story By
MC3 (SW) David Brandenburg

Planning for deployment can be stressful for both veteran and new Sailors. Everything from the daily ship preparations to making sure that personal issues back home are taken care of can weigh a ton on a Sailor's mind.

There are various ways that Sailors save their money, from using direct deposit to a savings account to having spouses and parents manage their money for them. Each has benefits depending on the person and his specific circumstances.

Aboard Reagan we have several outlets for help on a financial level. The legal office can help you with powers of attorney and wills that may or may not be needed, but are a great way of knowing you're covered just in case. Command

financial specialists can also help you if you need some basic guidance.

Reagan's Command Financial Specialist, Senior Chief Engineman (SW/AW) Deante Topps helps Sailors control their finances and said, "most people are surprised when they see what they're actually spending their money on; so track your spending using a monthly spending log.

"You can also attend one of the financial classes held on board," added Topps. "Sit down and talk with your departmental financial specialist, all it takes is 20-30 minutes of your time and you're on your way to becoming financially savvy."

For Sailors on their first deployment, there may be situations that might make it hard to save or remain financially

responsible. It is important to watch how you spend carefully and see just where your money is going. Port visits and online shopping can empty out your bank account before you know it, possibly leaving you in debt or late on a bill back home.

"The biggest part of being able to save money is creating a budget," said Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW) Justin Franklin, who recently attend a financial help class.

"You cannot know how much you can save or how much you can invest until you know exactly how much money you have coming in and where it is going," said Franklin. "Have fun and see the sites in port and enjoy yourself, but don't frivolously blow your money just because you have it."

MONEY cont. on Pg. 12



THE FLEET

Winner! Winner!

CNO Shore Activities Sailor of the Year Announced

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The chief of naval operations (CNO) announced the winners of the CNO Shore Activities Sailor of the Year (SOY) in a ceremony at the Pentagon May 29.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, announced Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW/FMF) James Nicholson, as the CNO Shore Activities SOY. Nicholson will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer and receive a Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal in an official ceremony in July.

The other three candidates were Explosive Ordnance Disposal 1st



Class (EWS/SW) Vincent Demakas, the Total Force SOY; Storekeeper 1st Class (EXW/AW) Kesha McKibben, the Vice CNO SOY; and Religious Program Specialist 1st Class (FMF) Chasity Morales, the Fleet Forces Command Shore SOY. Each of the candidates received a Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal from the CNO during the ceremony.

“There is a saying that goes, ‘The best sermon is lived, not preached.’ And that is exactly what these Sailors have done. What they do every day is they make a statement about who they are and more importantly about who we are as a Navy, and that is a terrific example for all of us to continue to pursue,” Roughead said.

Nicholson said he was grateful to his family for their support and that

he was proud to stand alongside the other SOY candidates.

“Our Sailors today are not just Sailors – they’re Soldiers, they’re Airmen, they’re Coast Guardsmen,” Nicholson said. “The Sailors that we represent right now are bar-none the best Sailors of the world and to be a part of that and to be representing that – I just thank you all.”

Each year, every ship, station and command around the world chooses its Sailor of the year based on leadership, professionalism, dedication, and superior performance. These selectees compete against recipients from other commands competing at higher and higher echelons until the Navy’s four finest are chosen and only one selected as the CNO Shore Activities SOY.



Summer Time

3 June 09

CH 2

0830-1010
Scoop

1010-1140:
Adventures of Shark Boy

1140-1315:
A History of Violence

1315-1455:
Must Love Dogs

1455-1730:
Sex and the City

1730-1935:
Hot Fuzz

1935-2235:
Serenity

2235-0730:
Sahara

CH 3

0830-1010
Slither

1010-1140:
Aeon Flux

1140-1315:
Just Like Heaven

1315-1455:
The Orphanage

1455-1730:
Gladiator

1730-1935:
Idlewild

1935-2235:
House of Flying Daggers

2235-0730:
Slap Shot

CH 4

0830-1010
Walk Hard

1010-1140:
Alex Rider: Stormbreaker

1140-1315:
Kicking and Screaming

1315-1455:
Poseidon

1455-1730:
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

1730-1935:
In the Valley of Elah

1935-2235:
Howl's Moving Castle

2235-0730:
Two for the Money

CH 5

0830-1010
Wallace and Gromit

1010-1140:
Big Daddy

1140-1315:
King's Ransom

1315-1455:
R.V.

1455-1730:
Any Given Sunday

1730-1935:
Mr. Brooks

1935-2235:
Running Scared

2235-0730:
Alien

4 June 09

CH 2

0830-1030:
Exorcism of Emily Rose

1030-1235:
Jarhead

1235-1440:
The Great Debaters

1440-1610:
The Comebacks

1610-1740:
The Love Guru

1740-1910:
Vantage Point

1910-2200:
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

2200-0730:
Die Hard with a Vengeance

CH 3

0830-1030:
Flash of Genius

1030-1235:
Last King of Scotland

1235-1440:
Indiana Jones: Crystal Skull

1440-1610:
The Hitcher

1610-1740:
Lovewrecked

1740-1910:
Meet the Spartans

1910-2200:
Pirates of the Caribbean 3

2200-0730:
Domino

CH 4

0830-1030:
Gridiron Gang

1030-1235:
Marie Antionette

1235-1440:
Jaws

1440-1610:
How to Eat Fried Worms

1610-1740:
Madagascar 2

1740-1910:
Underdog

1910-2200:
Kelly's Heroes

2200-0730:
The Interpreter

CH 5

0830-1030:
Hellboy 2

1030-1235:
Mission Impossible 2

1235-1440:
Lucky You

1440-1610:
See No Evil

1610-1740:
Unaccompanied Minors

1740-1910:
The Man

1910-2200:
Da Vinci Code

2200-0730:
The Kite Runner

5 June 09

CH 2

0830-1020:
Half Light

1020-1235:
The Producers

1235-1450:
Men of Honor

1450-1635:
Death Race

1635-1820:
The Skeleton Key

1820-1945:
Scary Movie 4

1945-1020:
Gran Torino

2200-0730:
Forgetting Sarah Marshall

CH 3

0830-1020:
The Illusionist

1020-1235:
The Guardian

1235-1450:
Mummy Returns

1450-1635:
Death Sentence

1635-1820:
Waitress

1820-1945:
Flushed Away

1945-1020:
Perfect Storm

2200-0730:
Get Smart

CH 4

0830-1020:
Into the Blue

1020-1235:
Mask of Zorro

1235-1450:
The Express

1450-1635:
Doom

1635-1820:
X-Files 2

1820-1945:
For Your Consideration

1945-1020:
The Prestige

2200-0730:
United 93

CH 5

0830-1020:
The Kingdom

1020-1235:
Hunt for Red October

1235-1450:
In Her Shoes

1450-1635:
Dreamer

1635-1820:
X-Men

1820-1945:
Red Eye

1945-1020:
Dreamgirls

2200-0730:
The Bourne Ultimatum

6 June 09

CH 2

0830-1025:
Eight Below

1025-1225:
3:10 to Yuma

1225-1425:
Eagle Eye

1425-1635:
Live Free or Die Hard

1635-1810:
Wild Hogs

1810-2025:
Midway

2025-2200:
Kung Fu Hustle

2200-0700:
The River King

CH 3

0830-1025:
High School Musical

1025-1225:
300

1225-1425:
Glory Road

1425-1635:
The Bodyguard

1635-1810:
Wing Commander

1810-2025:
Starship Troopers

2025-2200:
The Number 23

2200-0700:
The River King

CH 4

0830-1025:
The Incredible Hulk

1025-1225:
Cinderella Liberty

1225-1425:
A Good Year

1425-1635:
The Constant Gardener

1635-1810:
Be Kind, Rewind

1810-2025:
Chronicles of Narnia

2025-2200:
Over Her Dead Body

2200-0700:
Shaft

CH 5

0830-1025:
The Last Holiday

1025-1225:
Get Rich or Die Trying

1225-1425:
Why Did I Get Married?

1425-1635:
Inside Man

1635-1810:
Because I said So

1810-2025:
Enemy of the State

SEA STACHE

Continued from pg. 3

tan line which makes me second guess shaving my head, but I'm probably going to keep with it the whole deployment. I'm also growing a sea-stache."

If anyone is wondering what dedication to a sea trend looks like, Willsey can be found making moves as he positions aircraft in the hangar bay. Make sure you look out for Willsey; since his sea trend exposes his pale head, he really is a bright spot amongst the Ronald Reagan crew.

SMALLPOX

Continued from pg. 4

reported, said Thrasher. They hope to have even less this time.

"Our main goal in Health Services is not to treat the sick, it's to prevent people from getting sick and smallpox is one portion of that," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/ FMF) Brian Treas.

This year the medical division vaccinated between 1,400 and 2,000 people from both ship's company and the air wing. They meticulously scrubbed their databases to ensure they know everyone was on the list.

"The shot is absolutely mandatory for all military members or personnel and we make sure everyone who needs it comes to get it," said Thrasher. "The consequence for refusing the vaccination is administrative separation."

While the worst part for many Sailors is hearing the horror stories about the vaccination, Information Systems Technician Seaman Benjamin Aguilar thought the worst part of the shot was the side effects.

"I couldn't sleep on my left shoulder

for three nights, and on one occasion I woke up laying on it and found my shirt sleeve being stuck to the band aid," said Aguilar. "The smell of it was even worse. I can't even begin to describe it. It actually smelled like my bunkmates' sweaty feet!"

Although the side effects may seem unpleasant at first, the smallpox vaccination is imperative to our ship's mission and keeps everyone aboard healthy and operational. So even if an odd smell lingers around some shops, personal health comes first aboard USS Ronald Reagan.

ALL-STAR

Continued from pg. 5

its rewards. But having the support of Chief Deaton and the chain of command, along with my wife this close to a deployment, meant the world to me," said Covitch. "This was a once in a lifetime experience and was well worth it. I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

From March 27 to April 22, Covitch displayed great honor, courage and commitment not only to baseball, which was his childhood dream, but also to the Navy and partnering U.S. nations showing that hard work goes a long way.

UNDERWORLD

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the film was superb. Much like the others in the series, Underworld: Rise of the Lycans sets the mood with its sad, dark lighting. Decapitations at the hands of werewolves, impalement from the vampire's giant crossbows, you get the drift. The angles in which it was shot gave it an interesting perspective. The action scenes were fast, and the close-ups of the wolves' chops nipping at the vampires makes you want to scream

for mommy.

Computer Graphics (CG) in the movie are used rather well. The best part is that it isn't all CG. The director, Patrick Tatopoulos, like his predecessor Len Wiseman for the first two movies, used a mixture of CG, animatronics, and incredible costumes and make-up, giving it a lifelike feel. Remember before CG? On the downside, some of the blood didn't look so great. The color of it stood out too much against the rest of the picture, so I could tell it was CG.

What's also noticeable to me, but in a good way, is the resemblance between Sonya and Kate Beckinsale's character in the first two movies, Selene; similar in both their look and the way they act. In the previous movies Victor said Selene strongly reminds him of his daughter.

The vampires, equipped with sharp swords and body armor, against the ferocious fangs and claws of the wolves will likely have you chewing your fingernails into regulation. Will the Lycans succumb to the vampire coven or earn their freedom? Will Lucian escape with Sonya? Will Victor, her father, allow it? Do you really want me to spoil it for you?

MONEY

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Deployment offers a great opportunity for Sailors to save and take care of their finances, however, that shouldn't be the only time you pay attention to your money.

"It is always important to manage your money and plan for the future. It isn't more important on deployment, sometimes it's just easier for some people to do since they don't have access to the things they normally spend their money on," said Franklin. "Manage your finances, because what you do today will affect your financial future for a long time."

SOD

SAILOR OF THE DAY



June 2, 2009

Name: CS3 Gabriella M. De los Santos

Dept/Div: Supply/S2

Job Title: Cargo/JOD

Where are you from?

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

Why did you join the Navy?

I joined to travel and get an education.

What did you do before you joined the Navy?

I worked at good ol' KFC and attended high school.

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

I was shocked and surprised.

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

My mom and dad.

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

My favorite place was fabulous Singapore.

What piece of advice would you pass on to others?

Don't let anyone or anything stop you from trying to accomplish your goals and ambitions.

June 3, 2009

Name: MMFN Steven Serret

Dept/Div: RX/M-Div

Job Title: MM

Where are you from?

Jackson, N.J.

Why did you join the Navy?

I joined for the travel and educational opportunities.

What did you do before you joined the Navy?

I was a high school student.

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

I was honored and excited.

Who do you hold responsible for your success?

My father and coworkers.

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?

Work hard and try your best.



