

THE GREAT Communicator

USS RONALD REAGAN'S INFORMATION PORTAL

June 14, 2009

**USS RONALD REAGAN
SECURITY**

**Training the
Security
Force**

Leadership



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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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Cover Photo By
MC3 (AW) Chelsea Kennedy



Good morning, or hopefully for you, good afternoon Ronald Reagan. I hope everyone slept well after last night's General Quarters, which definitely can take a lot out of a Sailor. It's in our best interest to maximize our rest to make sure we're alert and ready for our mission, plus, everyone could always use more sleep.

Even though we're only through the better part of a month of deployment, our first port visit is still nearly two weeks away. Luckily our shipmates are doing their best to provide fun activities and events to make life more enjoyable.

This week the diversity committee held a celebration on behalf of our Pacific Islander co-workers. MCSN Oliver Cole was there to tell us about the leis, grass skirts and other festivities in hangar bay two last Wednesday.

As some of you may know, the hangar bay normally houses aircraft when they aren't housing celebrations. And while there are always repairs and modifications going on in there, VFA-115 recently raised the bar with the new computer system in their Super Hornets. MC3 Kyle Carlstrom spoke with VFA-115's maintenance officer to find out how their new toys will bring the fight to the bad guys.

But once the planes return to the ship,

a key focus is on the human hardware. Our time at sea can be a grueling task, but luckily there are forces at work to ease some of the stress. MCSN Lex Wenberg met with the new command chaplain to find out what his experience brings to our collective table.

Part of Navy life is always having people come and go, and fewer see it more than our Security department. With over half of



the department made up of TAD personnel, they are constantly training to stay in top condition. MC3 Chelsea Kennedy has all the info on what they do to stay combat effective.

Our minds need to eat too, and to that end the Navy kindly provides us with college classes while underway. MCSA Amanda Ray spoke with the educational services officer to find out how we can take advantage of NCPACE.

But it's the weekend, and in my mind that means no homework. Enjoy your Sunday Ronald Reagan!

Contributors

MC3 (AW) Chelsea Kennedy

Kennedy grew up in Las Vegas where she found a passion for photography at a young age. She originally joined the Navy as a photographer's mate. She is aboard Reagan as part of a sea-op detachment from the Navy Public Affairs Support Element, West.

MC3 Kyle Carlstrom

Carlstrom is a San Diego native. He joined the Navy as a PH and also received video broadcasting school at DINFOS. Carlstrom completed two years overseas in Sasebo, Japan at the AFN broadcasting det before joining Ronald Reagan, where he completed hundreds of Daily News Updates.

MCSN Oliver Cole

Cole is a Kentucky native. He recently completed MC "A" school and is currently serving at his first duty station. Cole is finding his place aboard the Reagan and in the Graphics Media Department. Cole has learned much and is enjoying every minute of his time with GM.

MCSA Amanda Ray

Ray is originally from San Diego but calls Fayetteville, Ark. home. Ray is still fairly new to the Navy and this is her first deployment. She enjoys reading in her off time and eventually wants to get her degree in exotic animal training and management and work at the zoo or Sea World.

Street Beat: What rating would you like to try for a day?



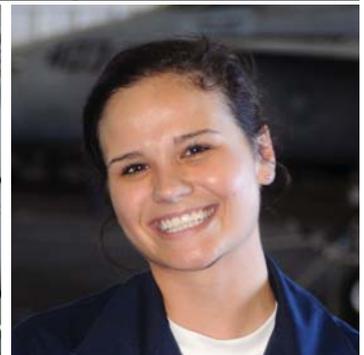
ABEC (AW/SW) Richard Fuentes
"I always wanted to be an electrician, so I would try EM."



MA2 (SW) Damon Rudd
"I wish I could be an MC because I enjoy video editing and photography."



PS3 (SW) Steven Cruz
"I would like to be an IS so I could see the Intelligence side of the Navy."



QMSN Kelli Jones
"I want to be an HM because I hope to be a registered nurse when I get out."



Pacific Islander Celebration

Reagan's Diversity Committee hosts party in hangar bay 2.

Story & Photo By
MCSN Oliver Cole

"Ka mate, ka mate! ka ora! ka ora!"

These words when translated to English mean "Tis death! 'tis death! 'Tis life! 'tis life!" These words are a quote from a Polynesian War chant, recited in hangar bay two during the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage celebration June 10.

May is recognized as Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the celebration was hosted by Ronald Reagan's Diversity Committee. The festivity included Hawaiian dances and songs, a Polynesian War chant, and presentations of awards and traditional

gifts.

The Philippines, China, Guam and Japan may be hundreds and thousands of miles away, but they are a lot closer than some may think. Reagan's Executive Officer, Cmdr. Ron Ravelo represented his Filipino heritage by participating in the celebration as the guest speaker.

"In the Navy, Asian Pacific Islanders may be a minority, but Asian Pacific Islanders represent more than half the population of the world," said Ravelo.

To show pride and respect for the Asian Pacific Islanders, Ronald Reagan hosted a ceremony in their

honor.

"The theme of the celebration is centered on harvesting talent of every demographic group," said Ravelo.

Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Alison Rodriguez, a member of the Diversity Committee, showed off one of her many talents when she performed a Tahitian dance with three of her shipmates during the ceremony. Rodriguez, a Hawaii native, said she was excited to let Reagan Sailors experience her culture.

"The last time I danced, I was 5 years old. It took me about 10 days to learn two

dances for the celebration," said Rodriguez. "I felt proud to share my culture and customs with my shipmates. It was a great experience and I'm going to do it again next year."

Rodriguez and her shipmates weren't the only Sailors dancing on stage during the program. Commanding Officer, Capt. K.J. Norton, Commander Carrier Air Wing 14, Capt. Thomas Lalor and other members of the audience were wearing leis and grass skirts while shaking their groove things in front of the crowd.

"That was my favorite

CELEBRATION cont. on Pg. 12

VFA-115 Upgrades Aircraft

A new computer system makes our Super Hornets more lethal.

Story By
MC3 Kyle Carlstrom

Photo By
MC2 Rosalie Garcia

An F/A-18E/F Super Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 115 "Eagles" roars to life as it prepares to take off. Once all systems are checked and the aircraft is cleared for launch, the pilot renders his salute and is shot off the flight deck from 0-165 miles per hour in just over three seconds.

VFA-115 recently received the new "Echo" version of the Hornet. What makes these particular Super Hornets

"super" and fast is their new technology and decreased maintenance time.

"These Super Hornets are a large jump in the technological level compared to the other jets that we've had," said Lt. Cmdr. Colin Day, VFA-115's maintenance officer and pilot. "The biggest jump was the computing power and the information processing capability of the plane. The computers in this plane are drastically faster

than the older computers. The computers in the old aircraft were the same as the computers that were in the F/A-18C like VFA-113 or 125 flies. The fact that we have new computers allows for faster software."

In other words, think about having gone from a Pentium one processor to a Pentium four. According to Day, these upgrades are part of a master aviation plan that the Navy has for

slowly upgrading its strike fighter force.

"It was set in motion several years ago, just as the Air Force's F-22 Raptor has gone through two upgrades in the past four years," said Day. "Many other squadrons will go through these upgrades between now and when the joint strike fighter comes along to replace the Super Hornet."

Not only are the pilots adjusting and enjoying the

AIRCRAFT cont. on Pg. 12





New Chaplain Brings Wealth of Knowledge

Story & Photo By
MCSN Lex Wenberg

Whether he is strumming his guitar or giving a solemn prayer on the pulpit, the new command chaplain, Cmdr. John Denton, brings a new vibe and a wave of excitement to Command Religious Services Department (CRMD).

Denton said he's excited to be part of the Reagan crew.

"It's an honor to serve on the flagship, a vessel named after such a highly esteemed man and an incredible president," said Denton.

Denton is a Southern Baptist minister who has served as command chaplain or battalion chaplain for a number of distinguished commands and units; among those is Fleet Hospital 3.

"It was the first time Navy medicine has had an expeditionary medical facility in an active combat zone," said

Denton.

Denton felt the pull to the ministry after high school and earned his bachelor's in Church Music. At seminary, he earned a Master of Divinity while enrolled in the chaplain candidate program.

Originally a Naval Reserve officer, Denton decided to go active duty in 1993 and said he doesn't regret his decision.

"I love to engage in conversation with those who would fill a vacuum in their life with the spiritual, to challenge their ethical beliefs and moral standing," said Denton.

"I was 18 when I began my personal relationship with God, and once that happened, he opened all the right doors for me."

Denton says it's a joy and privilege to serve as an advocate for Sailors, and as part of a team that delivers innovative, pluralistic, and life changing ministries too. "I'm absolutely honored to oversee and administer a religious program for the carrier strike group," said Denton.

Denton said there are a few ways that even a non-religious Sailor can make the most of the chaplains' services.

"Our job is to advocate for Sailors and their families. We're pre-marriage and marriage counselors. We stand by our outstanding Sailors, but also those not doing so well. Our core principles are to provide services for people of our faith, facilitate others' faiths, provide care for all, and to advise the command," said Denton.

Another of his responsibilities is
CHAPLAIN cont. on Pg. 12

TAD Personnel Take Charge

Story and Photos By
MC3 (AW) Chelsea Kennedy

An aircraft carrier has been called a floating city. And much like any city, it requires trained professionals to prevent and investigate crimes, as well as to protect and service. This is where Ronald Reagan's Security Department plays a key role in tandem with the ship's Master-At-Arms.

The security force aboard Ronald Reagan largely depends upon TAD personnel for support, with over half of the Security Department made up of TAD personnel.

Before anyone can join the security team they must go through the Security Response Force Basic (SRF-B) class to learn the basics of being a sentry.

"Our program is about a week long and we drill the 'one team one fight' motto into their heads," said Master-at Arms 2nd Class (AW/SW/SC) Damean Hurt, an

instructor for the SRF-B course. "Once they join security, they are a part of the team and we reinforce that they are a crucial element where ever they are, and being able to act if anything may happen because they are the first line of defense for the ship."

The SRFB program teaches the student all the basics that a security watch stander should know like empty-hand control techniques, tactical team movement, baton take down methods and even oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray techniques.

"The class is where they learn everything about being a security patrolman," said Lt. Cmdr. Raymond Paris, Ronald Reagan's security officer.

"It teaches them the basics of how to walk a post, teaches them why it's important to be professional and how to talk to people using 'verbal judo' and

how to deescalate a situation vice having to use handcuffs every time," said Paris.

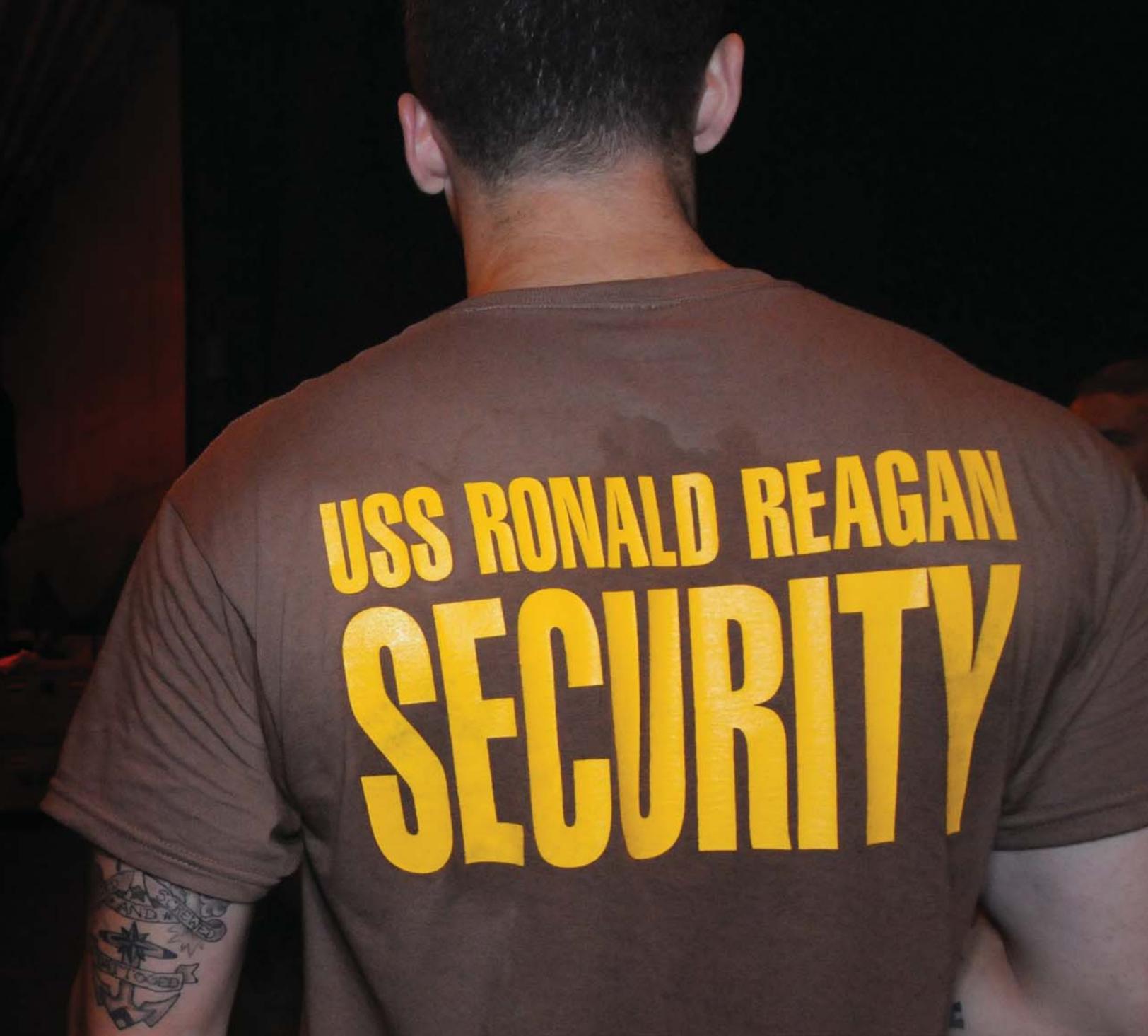
The class is serious because of the nature of the lessons learned, but most students would agree that the class is fun.

"I am excited about going through the class, ready for something new and different and joining the security team is that for me," Said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Lucinda Cardoza, a student in the SRF-B class. "Being able to learn something that could benefit me in the future and enforcing rules that will help others motivates me."

After completing the class students earn there qualification as a watch stander.

"Our program goes right back into our force protection which is everyone's job no matter what front you are on," said Hurt.







Getting an Education Underway

NCPACE offers courses for Sailors seeking higher education.

Story and Photo By
MCSA Amanda Ray

Days in the military can be fun, long and exhausting especially while deployed overseas fighting for our country, but many Ronald Reagan Sailors are taking full advantage of a unique opportunity out to sea: free college courses underway.

Ronald Reagan has welcomed instructors aboard from Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) for the past three years and there are three instructors are currently teaching a variety of classes to Sailors of all ranks.

"I've got everybody from E-2's to a master chief who's floated around this Navy for awhile," said Dr. Lani Malysa, an NCPACE instructor. "I get a much broader range in age and worldliness in

students on a Navy ship."

NCPACE classes are available to anyone assigned to a sea-going vessel. Classes are not limited to being deployed, they are also available while in port.

"One good thing about NCPACE is that it's cheap. Essentially a Sailor could finish any type of degree they want and not worry about the expense at all," said Ensign John Cruz, Ronald Reagan education services officer. "The only personal costs are the books and everything else will be picked up by the Navy."

There are attendance requirements for Sailors to get the credits they need from a class, but the instructors are very flexible and willing to help if Sailors miss

a class because of their work schedule or watch, added Cruz.

Instructors aboard teach almost back to back classes to give Sailors the opportunity to attend a class at a time that is convenient. Malysa started out only teaching Government for four classes a week, but added a new class at night to help Sailors who are unable to attend the day classes.

Some courses offered are also available through Distance Learning Classes (DLC) where Sailors work at their own pace off CDs or a website. The success rate of DLC has not been very high in the past though, Cruz said.

"I really like my teacher a lot and I like having an instructor a lot better than the CD version, because for me I

EDUCATION cont. on Pg. 12



THE FLEET

Navy SEAL to Launch into Space

By MC2 Dominique M. Lasco

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla (NNS) – A Navy SEAL in NASA's astronaut program will launch into space June 13.

Cmdr. Chris Cassidy of York, Maine, will be the second SEAL to launch into space since Capt. William Shepherd in 1992. Cassidy is a mission specialist and a part of the STS-127 crew that will work on upgrading the International Space Station (ISS).

STS-127's mission is to complete an ISS crew member swap, change out the cache of batteries which stores energy from ISS's solar arrays and install a platform to one end of the Japanese Kibo laboratory on the station. The platform will conduct



experiments designed to work outside the protective confines of the space station.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics in 1993, Cassidy continued on to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training in Coronado, Calif., and was the honor graduate for BUD/S Class 192.

Cassidy has spent more than 10 years with SEAL teams, holding such positions as executive officer and operations officer of Special Boat Team 20 in Norfolk, Va., and platoon

commander at SEAL Team 3 in Coronado.

Along with serving in the Mediterranean, Cassidy deployed several times to Afghanistan where he was awarded two Bronze Stars with Combat 'V' and a Presidential Unit Citation for missions with the Army's 10th Mountain Division on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

He applied for the astronaut program after receiving his master's degree from the Massachusetts's Institute of Technology in 2000 and was accepted into the space program in 2004.

Force Stabilization Measures Taken Carefully, CNO says

By MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The chief of naval operations (CNO) recorded a podcast June 11 to continue his conversation with the fleet about force stabilization.

Adm. Gary Roughead, CNO, discussed changes in the selective reenlistment bonus (SRB) program, special duty assignment pay (SDAP) program and

an update on permanent change of station (PCS) moves.

The purpose of the podcast was to assure Sailors and their families that the Navy is taking the right steps to size, stabilize and structure the force now and in the future.

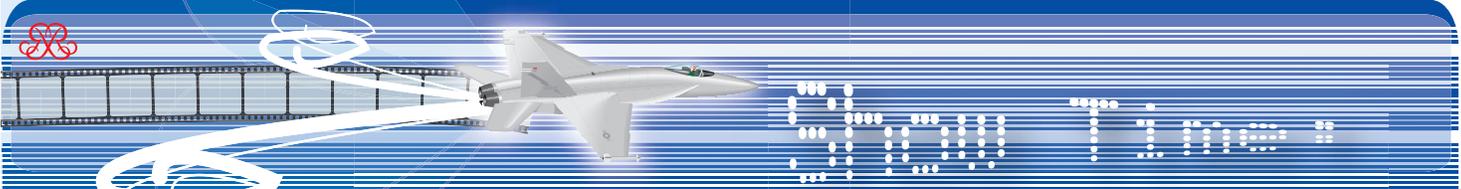
"What we do with regard to our pay and bonuses and

special duty assignment pays is to make sure that we retain the very best Sailors with the right skills that our Navy needs today and will need in the future."

"It's to keep the force balanced with the right seniority, the right experience and the right skill sets. And it's also to focus on performance and

advancing the careers of our top performers," Roughead said.

CNO referenced the SRB NAVADMIN 176/09 released June 10, as well as the SDAP program, PCS moves and several other related messages available at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/>.



14 June, 2009

CH 2

0830-1220: Fellowship of the Ring
 1220-1630: The Two Towers
 1630-2100: Return of the King
 2100-0730: Epic Movie

CH 3

0830-1200: The Sixth Sense
 1200-1530: Catch a Fire
 1530-1835: Stake Out
 1835-0730: Alpha Dog

CH 4

0830-1200: The Break Up
 1200-1530: Monster In Law
 1530-1835: The Other Boleyn Girl
 1835-0730: Why Did I Get Married?

CH 5

0830-1200: Enchanted
 1200-1350: Norbit
 1530-1835: Man of the Year
 1835-0730: Wedding Crashers

15 June 2009

CH 2

0830-1200: The Spirit
 1200-1530: The Day the Earth Stood Still
 1530-1835: Paul Blart: Mall Cop
 1835-0730: Taken

CH 3

0830-1200: Illegal Tender
 1200-1530: 8 Seconds
 1530-1835: Wind Chill
 1835-0730: Rebound

CH 4

0830-1200: Martian Child
 1200-1530: Waitress
 1530-1835: Her Minor Thing
 1835-0730: License to Wed

CH 5

0830-1200: Meet the Parents
 1200-1530: Dukes of Hazzard
 1530-1835: Old School
 1835-0730: Code Name: The Cleaner

16 June 2009

CH 2

0830-1240: Seven Pounds
 1240-1600: Bedtime Stories
 1600-1910: The Pink Panther 2
 1910-0730: Yes Man

CH 3

0830-1240: The Mummy
 1240-1600: The Reaping
 1600-1910: Final Destination 3
 1910-0730: The Hunting Party

CH 4

0830-1240: Reign Over Me
 1240-1600: The Lake House
 1600-1910: Lions for Lambs
 1910-0730: The Astronaut Farmer

CH 5

0830-1240: Lucky You
 1240-1600: Big Momma's House
 1600-1910: Clerks
 1910-0730: Beverly Hills Cop

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- Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays from 0900-1000 and Sundays from 1500-1600.
- Two resident attorneys available
- Walk-ins only and space fills up fast!
- Deals with civil law only, not criminal

Call J-6200 for more info and questions!

Sudoku

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



By The Illustrators MC3 Jackson & MC3 Bennett OADR

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

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

EOD Manned And Ready

Members of EOD Mobile Unit 11, Platoon 0-2, walk away from an SH-60F Seahawk assigned to HS-4 during a fast-roping exercise on the flight deck of Ronald Reagan. The exercise was used for training purposes by the EOD team and HS-4. Photo by MC2 (AW) Joe Buliavac



CELEBRATION

Continued from pg. 3

part!” said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Steven Cruz. “I was sitting right behind the CO, so I was rooting him on. I’m Guamanian, so I appreciated the celebration. I felt at home and it brought lots of people from different cultures together.”

Cruz added the Diversity Committee and participants of the celebration did a great job of sharing the Asian Pacific Islander cultures and bringing the Reagan crew together.

AIRCRAFT

Continued from pg. 4

new technological upgrades but so are some of the enlisted Sailors of VFA-115.

“When something does break on the plane it’s usually very small and a quick fix,” said Aviation Structural Mechanic First Class (AW) Eric Mladosich, leading petty officer for the air frame work center. “We now have a chance to work on qualifications and collateral duties. During last cruise alone we had 19 stabulator actuators break. Also during last cruise we missed a lot of meal hours due to maintenance and the flight schedule. These new aircraft are a huge morale boost for the guys in the crew due to less maintenance.”

Some unique upgrades to VFA-115’s Super Hornet are the navigation system along and the capability of giving the aircraft more information, making it an even deadlier force.

“We can give the plane information about targets, weapons and mission planning,” said Day. “The plane also has a much more accurate inertial navigation system than the one we had previously. That system is specific to

just our aircraft, not even the F-22 has it. The system helps with navigation and guidance of weapons.”

“The new radar, which is the same radar that the F-22 has had for about two years, allows us to see air targets much farther out and allows us to make very high resolution maps of targets in the air and on the ground,” explained Day. “The computers needed to be faster in order to process the information that’s coming out, the radar in particular.”

The F/A-18E/F provides the Ronald Reagan Strike Group with significant growth potential, increased range, endurance and ordnance-carrying capabilities. With all these upgrades and incredible firepower, and high speed, Sailors, Marines and Soldiers on the ground in Afghanistan can know that they will be well supported when Ronald Reagan arrive.

It is a tough time to be the enemy.

CHAPLAIN

Continued from pg. 5

playing in the chapel band. Denton plays guitar and is the lead singer. Normal a modest man, Denton said he’d rather be behind the scenes empowering others with music.

“Music is important to faith, because it has the ability to reach so many people,” said Denton. “Everyone has their own style, and that is powerful.”

Denton says that he appreciates the unique experiences of being a Navy chaplain. “Not many pastors, rabbis, priests would put on a 50-pound pack, go on a 20-mile hump with Marines, dive off a tower for swim qualifications, or go underway for a 6-month deployment with Sailors,” he said. “I’m overjoyed to participate, and that’s why I’m honored to serve with my colleagues. It’s really a blessing to work with these guys.”

EDUCATION

Continued from pg. 8

need a class and instructor so when I have questions I can ask instead of just assuming and have the wrong answer,” said Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Stefanie Lewis.

“The pace is just fine for me and I’m catching on pretty quick. The first few days were kind of crazy, but it’s nice now,” said Lewis. “It’s not overwhelming at all.”

Class selection is limited on the ship and mainly focuses on core classes like Math and English, but if a Sailor wanted to take a different class from a different college it could still be free with the help of Tuition Assistance.

“There’s \$4,500 available per Sailor for every fiscal year that pretty much goes untouched or untapped,” said Cruz. It’s as easy as just enrolling in the college of your choice and coming down and filling out some paperwork.”

Five percent of Ronald Reagan Sailors are currently using Tuition Assistance and ten percent are currently taking college classes afloat.

“NCPACE, Navy College, Tuition Assistance, Distance Learning, and the Montgomery G.I. Bill are all programs that are really under-utilized. It’s basically free education, free money that is out there for the Sailors,” said Cruz. “It’s mission, then family and then self, and unfortunately when a Sailor finishes work after 18 hours a day they aren’t looking at their education.”

With the help of NCPACE instructors, Ronald Reagan Sailors are able to take a break from their work and constantly focusing on the mission to sit down in a classroom and open a book and learn something new.



June 10, 2009

Name: AZAA Jason Ware
Dept/Div: VFA-113/QA
Job Title: Central Technical Pubs Library
Where are you from?
 Queens, New York City.
Why did you join the Navy?
 To support my wife and two sets of twins.
What did you do before you joined the Navy?
 I worked for Verizon Wireless.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
 I felt excited.
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
 The Stingers and my family.
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?
 Keep working hard and in the end it will pay off.

June 11, 2009

Name: AS3 Charles Yeh
Dept/Div: AIMD/IM-4
Job Title: AS
Where are you from?
 San Diego, Calif.
Why did you join the Navy?
 To get an education and travel the world.
What did you do before you joined the Navy?
 I was college student.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
 I thought it is cool.
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 Hong Kong.
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?
 Get the job done and done right.--



June 12, 2009

Name: OS3 Ashley Tutor
Dept/Div: Staff/N35
Job Title: GCCS Operator
Where are you from?
 Pontotoc, Miss.
Why did you join the Navy?
 It is something I have wanted to do since I was little.
What did you do before you joined the Navy?
 I was in high school and worked part-time job.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
 A little nervous and excited at the same time.
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
 My mentor and chain of command.
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?
 My favorite place was Singapore and Malaysia.
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?
 When things get hard at sea, take a deep breath.

June 13, 2009

Name: ET3 Stacey Frazee
Dept/Div: CSD/CS-9
Job Title: Work Center Supervisor
Where are you from?
 Denver, Colo.
Why did you join the Navy?
 I joined for education, travel and experience.
How did you feel when you found out you were chosen for SOD?
 I was honored, surprised and grateful.
Who do you hold responsible for your success?
 My family and friends.
Since reporting, what has been your favorite place to visit?
 My favorite place was Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
What piece of advice would you pass on to others?
 Life is what you make it, if you want it, go after it.



FEELING

HOT

HOT

HOT

PLEASE MAINTAIN AC BOUNDARIES