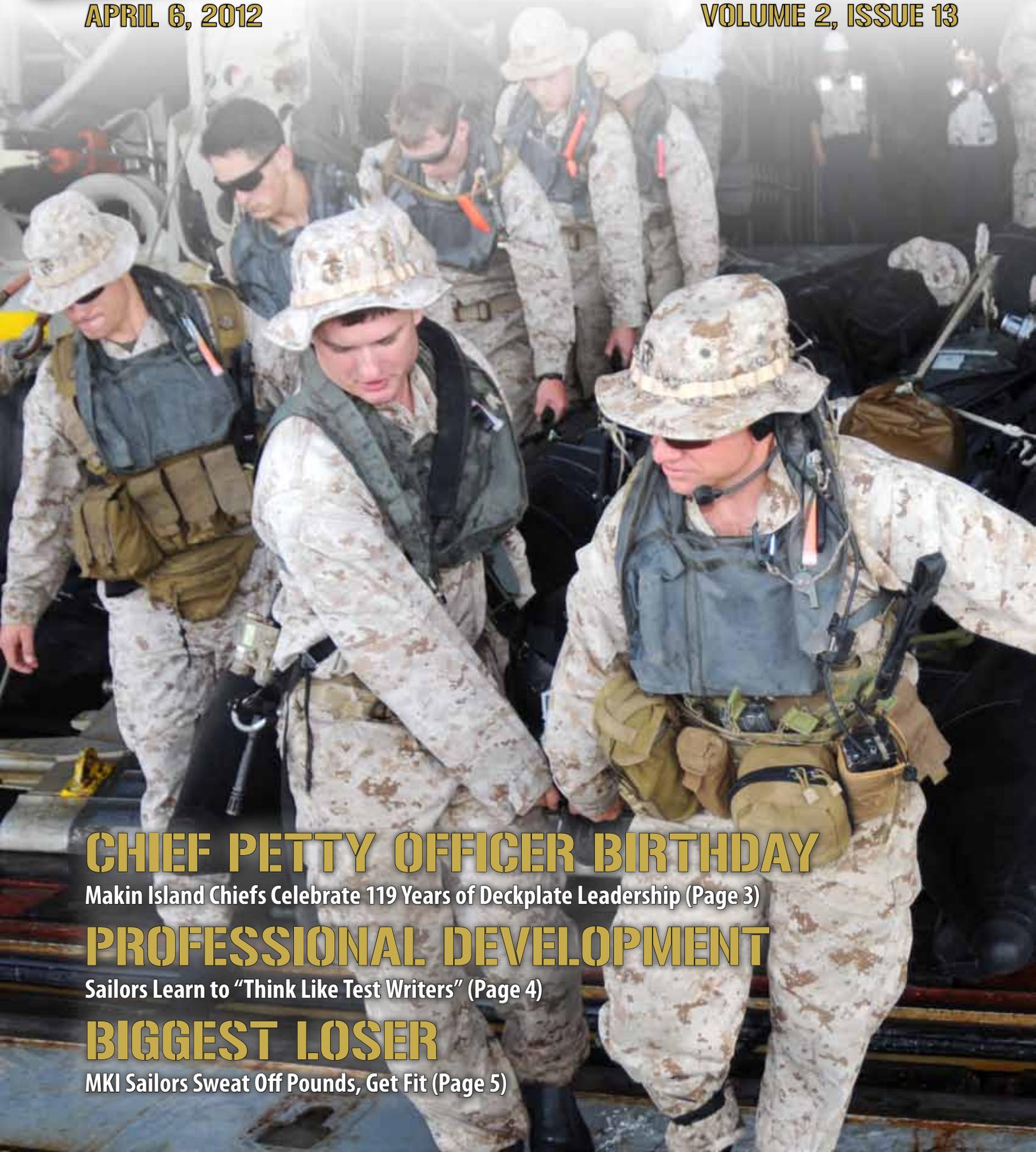


AROUND THE ISLAND

APRIL 6, 2012

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CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BIRTHDAY

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David Zavagno (center), chairman of the Perry Group's Bicentennial Committee, and Blanca Stransky, superintendent of the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, present U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus with a commemorative flag emblazed with the immortal words from the Battle of Lake Erie: "Don't give up the ship." [Photo by MCC Sam Shavers]

Regional Team Helps Launch U.S. Navy War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration

Press Release: The Perry Group

PUT-IN-BAY, Ohio -- United States Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, recently launched the Navy's commemoration honoring the bicentennial of the War of 1812 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Commemorating Ohio's critical role in the war, a regional team from the volunteer, nonprofit Perry Group presented the Secretary with a "Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial Celebration" flag stitched with five indelible words: "Don't give up the ship".

"The flag draped over the shoulder of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry - as pictured in the Halls of Congress, U.S. Naval Academy Museum, and Ohio State House - include these instructional yet inspirational words that helped chart the course of victory for America against the British in the War of 1812," says David Zavagno,

chairman of The Perry Group's Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial Committee, which has been planning its tribute for over three years.

Zavagno, along with Blanca Stransky, superintendent of the National Park Service, which oversees the Perry Memorial and surrounding grounds at Put-in-Bay, presented the navy blue flag to Secretary Mabus.

The turning point in the War of 1812 was the Battle of Lake Erie, when Oliver Hazard Perry - sailing under a "Don't Give Up the Ship" battle flag - led the U.S. Navy over the British Navy in a historic battle near Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The War of 1812, also remembered for Francis Scott Key's authoring of the Star Spangled Banner and burning of the White House by the British army, was America's first great Naval war, and the Battle of Lake

War of 1812 Continued on Page 9

AROUND THE ISLAND

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ON THE COVER:

Marines prepare to lower a combat rubber raiding craft into the water from the stern gate while conducting insertion exercises. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]



OSC Dennisha McElveen, CMDCM Steven Alt and ADC Michael Paul cut the ceremonial cake to commemorate the 119 years since the establishment of the chief petty officer rank. [Photo by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill]

Makin Island Goat Locker Celebrates 119 Years of Deckplate Leadership

By MC2(SW) Stephen D. Doyle II, Around the Island Staff

Chief petty officers (CPO) serving aboard the amphibious Assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) put on their service khaki and lined the ship's mess decks to celebrate the 119th birthday of the establishment of the CPO rank, April 1.

Makin Island's CPO birthday festivities consisted of a special ceremony that included speakers, reading of the CPO Pledge and a cake-cutting featuring the oldest and youngest CPOs serving on board. A CPO 5K "fun run" on the

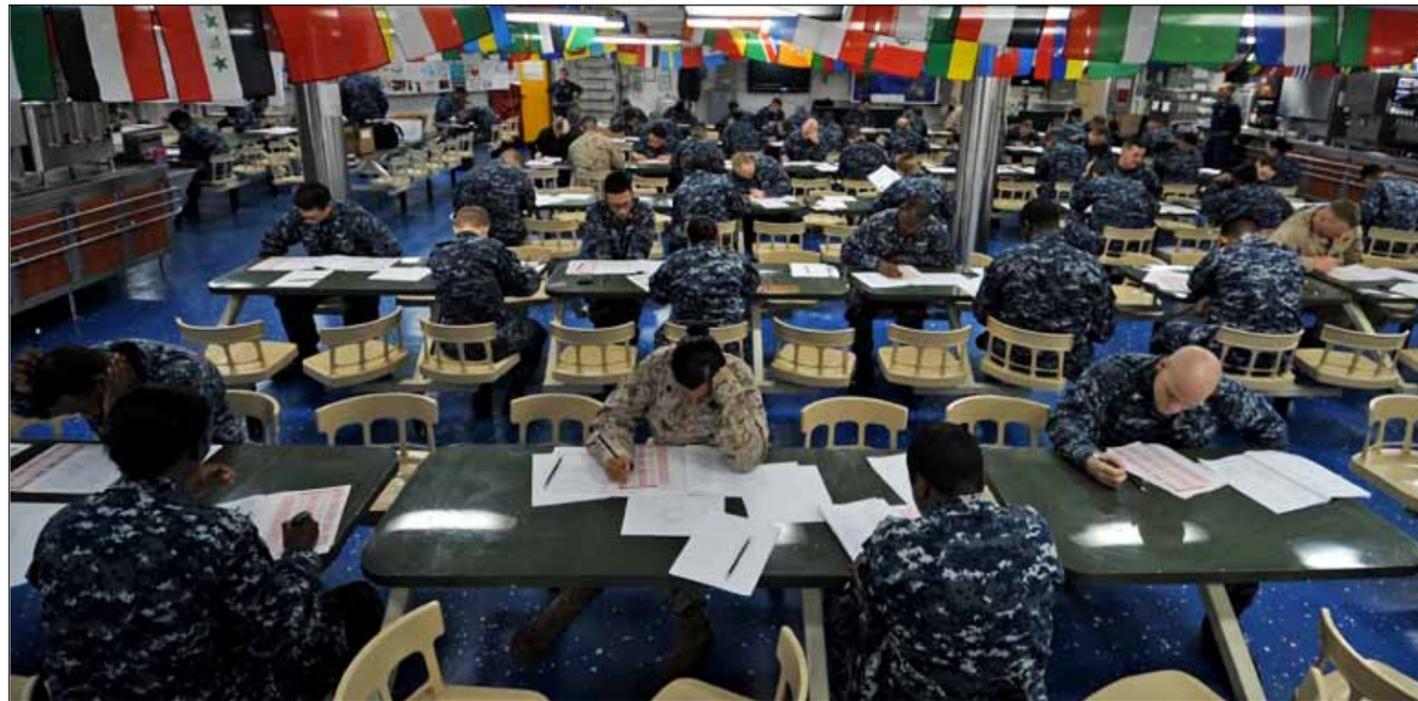
ship's flight deck was also held the day prior to the ceremony to help observe the anniversary.

"One hundred and nineteen years ago today, the rank of chief petty officer was established on April 1, 1893," said Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Donnie Ryan, who served as master of ceremonies. "In honor of that day, the Makin Island CPO Mess has gathered here today in our khakis to celebrate those 119 years of deckplate leadership and look forward to what lies ahead."

Ryan spoke of his first experiences with CPOs when he joined the Navy in 1990 and how he learned that deckplate leadership, institutional and technical expertise, professionalism, character, loyalty, active communication and a sense of heritage were the guiding principles of successful leaders.

Makin Island Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Steve Alt, who joined the Navy in 1985, served as the guest speaker for the event

CPO Birthday Continued on Page 9



Second class petty officers take the Navywide E-6 advancement exam on the ship's mess decks in March. [Photo by MCSA Ethan Tracey]

Sailors 'Think Like Test Writers' After Development Seminar

By MC1(SW) David McKee, Around the Island Staff

Sailors aboard Makin Island learned new ways to prepare for the upcoming Navy advancement exams during a personal and professional development seminar held in the ship's chapel, April 3.

The seminar allowed senior personnel to share their knowledge and helpful tips with junior Sailors. Senior Chief Intelligence Specialist (SW/IDW/AW) Cris Galvez, the leading chief petty officer for Makin Island's operations department, facilitated the class to help give Sailors some insight into Navy exams.

"I wanted to give advancement examination training and to talk about how Navy advancement exams are written, so Sailors can best

prepare themselves to be successful when preparing for advancement," said Galvez, who has previously participated in a Navy advancement exam development conference as a subject matter expert.

Although the next exam cycle isn't until September, Galvez said it's never too early to start preparing.

Galvez told the Sailors to "think like a test writer" and look for the one right answer when studying. She said those answers are usually words that stand out in some way in the reference material, and when studying, Sailors should think of a question that could be asked about those standout words.

Galvez also told Sailors to keep their preparations as simple as possible and offered straight-

forward advice for Sailors who want to be proactive about studying and advancing their careers.

"Study often, study early and be consistent," said Galvez. "Get somebody to study with you because taking somebody with you is the quickest way to the top."

Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Carlos Meza, one of the Sailors who attended the seminar, said the work put into preparing for an exam will definitely pay off in the end.

"Being a good test taker is a valuable asset when trying to advance in the Navy," said Meza, who also offered his advice on how to prepare for an examination. "Take your time on the test and use the whole three hours."

MKI Sailors, Marines Lose Lbs. During 'Biggest Loser'

By MCSA Ethan Tracey, Around the Island Staff

Makin Island is holding a Biggest Loser weight loss competition and contestants have been shedding the pounds since Jan. 8.

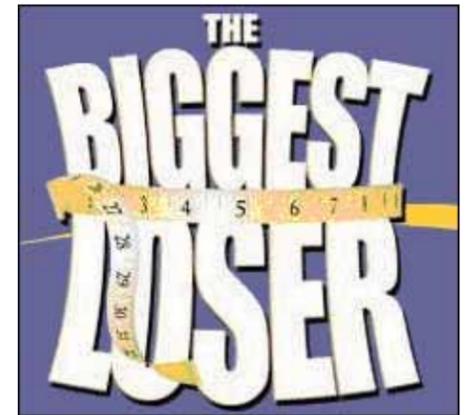
The Biggest Loser is one of several opportunities available through MWR to meet a variety of workout needs from cardiovascular to strength training.

The competitor who has lost the most weight so far is Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Ryan Thornhill who has lost 44 pounds.

"My initial goal was to get down to 230 pounds and I have already exceeded that, said Thornhill. My new goal is to get down to about 205 pounds."

More than two dozen competitors have been encouraged to keep track of calories in their meals, and they are required to keep logs of their workouts during the competition.

Fitness classes offered on board, such as the strength training class in the gym or the Zumba class in the hangar bay, are fun ways to help lose weight.



The fitness classes are led by members of the crew like Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Patrick Henry who teaches Zumba.

"I want the crew to have fun while working out and dancing is a great way to burn the calories," said Henry.

As Makin Island Fun Boss Kristen Venoy said, "May the Biggest Loser win!"

Please consider giving at least \$10 per month

2012 Active Duty Fund Drive to support Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Last year, MKI contributed \$29,054 and received \$104,845 in assistance.

This year's fund drive will be held until April 30th.

For more information, contact: EMC Kumar x2940 or LSC Mejia x2340

BAHRAIN PHOTO CONTEST



Leisure Category, 1st Place [Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Rauchfuss]



Scenic Category, 1st Place [Photo by AVCM Michael Gordon]

First-place winners of the MWR photo contest will be eligible for placement in the cruise book. MWR will sponsor other contests following upcoming port visits. Look for future MWR announcements for more information.



Tours Category, 2nd Place
[Photo by Cmdr. Hien Trinh]



Leisure Category, 2nd Place
[Photo by IS2 Dean Olson]



Scenic Category, 2nd Place
[Photo by ACAN Cameron Albert]



Scenic Category, 3rd Place
[Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Rauchfuss]



Tours Category, 3rd Place
[Photo by ABHAN Ma Fuerte]



Tours Category, 1st Place [Photo by Lt. Theodore Aquino]

Congratulations to all the winners!

THE LATEST SAFETY PROS

SECOND WEEK OF MARCH



FCC Russell Seymour

While in Bahrain, Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Bryon Yamada noticed a class "C" fire from a ventilation motor controller on the 02 level port side passageway. He immediately notified his chain of command, located and obtained a CO2 bottle. Chief Fire Controlman Russell Seymour was nearby and proceeded to report the fire to Central Control Station, then join in the initial firefighting efforts until the flying squad arrived and took control of the scene. Yamada's quick reactions and Seymour's instinctive leadership prevented what might have become a major casualty to the ship. BZ!



IC2 Bryon Yamada

THIRD WEEK OF MARCH



ABH1 Shawn-Patrick Bland

On March 20 at 1800, while preparing to join flight operations, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Dorian Johnson noticed smoke and flames from a transformer in space 03-67-1-Q. He immediately notified his chain of command, located and obtained a CO2 bottle, and proceeded to call 211 and report a Class "C" fire to Central Control Station. While CCS was being notified, Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Shawn-Patrick Bland quickly located and directed V-1 personnel to secure power to the transformer. He then sprayed the transformer with CO2 as the flying squad arrived and took control of the scene. Johnson's quick reactions and Bland's instinctive leadership prevented what might have become a major casualty to the ship.



ABH2 Dorian Johnson

FIRST WEEK OF APRIL



MRFN Koffi Kodjovi

On March 28, around 2230, the ship experienced a casualty with the pulper on board, that put it out of commission. The threaded shaft broke -- it activates the sensors, secures the feed door and basically makes the pulper run. Machinery Repairman Fireman Koffi Kodjovi stayed up until 0230 making a new shaft from scratch out of a stronger material. The next morning, not only did he make the fine adjustments to that piece to repair the pulper, he also worked from 0730 to 1600 making another piece just like it. Later research proved that the shaft he manufactured is not available in any supply stock system. So without Kodjovi's dedication, the ship would have had to find alternate means of waste disposal. Lastly, he showed a positive attitude the entire time, and not once did he complain about being tired, despite working until 0230. EA-03 and A-division are humbled and grateful for his commitment to excellence and professionalism in the line of duty. BZ!

CPO Birthday (cont.) from Page 3

and spoke on CPO heritage and tradition.

"From the early days until now, the enlisted community has come a long way," said Alt. "We've earned higher prestige and responsibility. But one thing that has not changed is that chief petty officers, by necessity and tradition, are still expected to lead from the front."

Makin Island CPOs who took part in the event said they could not understate the importance of an event honoring deckplate leadership taking place on the ship's

maiden deployment.

"We're currently in the 5th fleet AOR [area of responsibility] and we're celebrating the birthday to remind chief petty officers and the crew of the heritage, history and the reason for the chief petty officer rank in the Navy," said Senior Chief Gunner's Mate (SW/AW) Christopher Shue from Makin Island's weapons department.

Shue said the day not only observed the years of tradition but also allowed the chiefs to reflect on their roles as leaders.

"The most important thing about being a chief petty officer is the Sailors," said Shue. "Taking care of our resources, our junior Sailors, training them, leading them, making sure they can meet the mission and advance in today's Navy."

The U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington DC has officially designated 2012 as the "Year of the Chief Petty Officer." A full year of activities honoring CPOs will be taking place this year at various locations across the United States.

War of 1812 (cont.) from Page 2

Erie was the first-ever U.S. Naval fleet victory over the British navy.

The Navy, as part of its 15-city tour to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812, will visit Cleveland Aug. 27 - Sept. 4, featuring Navy ships and special events.

The Battle of Lake Erie

Bicentennial Committee encourages the public to visit <http://bit.ly/BLE200> to learn more about the Battle of Lake Erie itself and the schedule of events surrounding the bicentennial celebration.

The Perry Group is a volunteer, nonprofit organization working

with the National Park Service as well as the local, national and international community. The group honors Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, who led the U.S. Navy to victory in the Battle of Lake Erie, and celebrates the long-lasting peace among the United States, Britain and Canada.



Capt. Cedric Pringle, commanding officer, poses for a photo with the first Makin Island Sailors to qualify for the Navy's Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist qualification. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]

OPINION ISLAND

How are you preparing for your next fitness assessment?

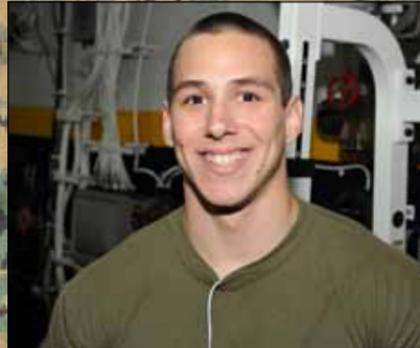


"I come to the gym six times a week."

-ABHAN William Roche

"I do a lot of running and have stopped lifting weights."

-Sgt. Matthew Lacey



"I eat healthier, run and do a lot of push-ups."

-ABHAN Stephan Gabriel



"I go to the gym everyday."

-Cpl. Joseph Longo



MKI MWR CORNER

BINGO!

Win Thousands of Dollars!

MWR will host BINGO for the crew next Friday, April 13th, on the Mess Decks beginning at 2000.

BINGO will also be broadcast from SITE TV on Channel 7.

Game Cards go on sale April 10th!

Ticket Prices are as follows.

1 for \$5

2 for \$8

4 for \$16

6 for \$24

8 for \$32

... and so on.

The more you buy, the more you win!

MAKIN ISLAND'S UPCOMING EVENTS

SAT. 7 APR

0600 ½ Way ½ Marathon (Flight Deck)

2000 EAWS Training (First Class Mess)

2000 Board Games & Kinetics (Mess Decks)

SUN. 8 APR

1830 Security Training for EAWS/ESWS (Security Office)

1900 ESWS Training (First Class Mess)

2000 Trivia (Mess Decks)

MON. 9 APR

1900 ESWS Training (First Class Mess)

1900 Box Jump Challenge (Gym)

TUES. 10 APR

Bingo Cards Go On Sale

2000 EAWS Training (First Class Mess)

2000 NBA 2K12 Tourney (Mess Decks)

WED. 11 APR

2000 Karaoke & Ice Cream (Mess Decks)

THUR. 12 APR

0900, 1400, 2000 CPO 365 Training (CPO Mess)

1900 Talent Show (Mess Decks)

1900 EAWS Training (First Class Mess)

FRI. 13 APR

1900 ESWS Training (First Class Mess)

2000 BINGO (Mess Decks)

2000 Latin Dance (Upper Vehicle Storage)

SAT. 14 APR

2000 EAWS Training (First Class Mess)

2000 Chess Tourney (Mess Decks)

OPSEC

**We Keep Watch On The Enemy,
And They Watch Us**



**Are You
OPSEC Aware?**

