

AROUND THE ISLAND

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MKI's CPO 365 Program Working to Build Better Leaders in 2013

By MC1 (SW/AW/SCW) Ron Gutridge, Around the Island Assistant Editor

Two months into 2013, first class petty officers assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) are well on their way to becoming effective chief petty officers (CPO) courtesy of the ship's CPO 365 program.



Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Sean Starch leads a "Brilliant on the Basics" training session as part of Makin Island's CPO 365 program. The goal of the program is to help first class petty officers become more effective leaders. [Photo by MC1 (SW/AW/SCW) Ronald Gutridge]

The CPO 365 training program was launched in 2010 under then Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West. Current MCPON Michael D. Stevens revised the program for 2012-2013, amending course curriculum and reinforcing a year-round training schedule for all first class petty officers.

As part of the Makin Island program, the ship's more than 120 first class petty officers are learning about naval history and heritage, Navy policies and how to improve their own leadership skills on an almost weekly basis.

"CPO 365 is another avenue for our CPO mess to train and challenge the first class mess to become more effective leaders," said Makin Island Command Master Chief Steven Alt. "The year-long training will help provide them with a solid foundation that supports success as a CPO."

Alt said Makin Island's first class petty officers are divided into eight teams led by a group of master, senior and chief petty officers to make the training more in-depth and give participants a smaller group in which to discuss Navy and command policies.

Alt said that another interesting aspect of the Makin Island CPO 365 program is that each of the eight teams has a unique team name.

"Each team is named after a famous CPO throughout naval history," said Alt. "We hope this will help promote a sense of heritage in addition to honor, courage and commitment during their training."

Senior Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) (SW/AW) John Strickland, Makin Island's CPO 365 coordinator, said the new and improved CPO 365 training program is a year-round tool for first class petty officers to learn how to operate at the CPO level.

"It's important to continually train our first class petty officers the entire year because they are the future of the CPO Mess," said Strickland.

AROUND THE ISLAND

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ON THE COVER:

Female Sailors work in every department aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8). The month of March is designated as Women's History Month to honor the contributions of women in American society. (Photo illustration by MC3 Daniel Walls)

Makin Island Sailors Attend EWTGPAC Black History Program

By MC3 Princess L. Brown, Around the Island Editor

Sailors from the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) attended the African American/Black History Month celebration at Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific (EWTGPAC) headquarters in Coronado, Calif., on Feb. 15.

The event was organized to recognize diversity in the armed services and to recognize many of the racial challenges the country has successfully faced. EWTGPAC's program also supported the Secretary of the Navy's focus on inclusion as part of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative.

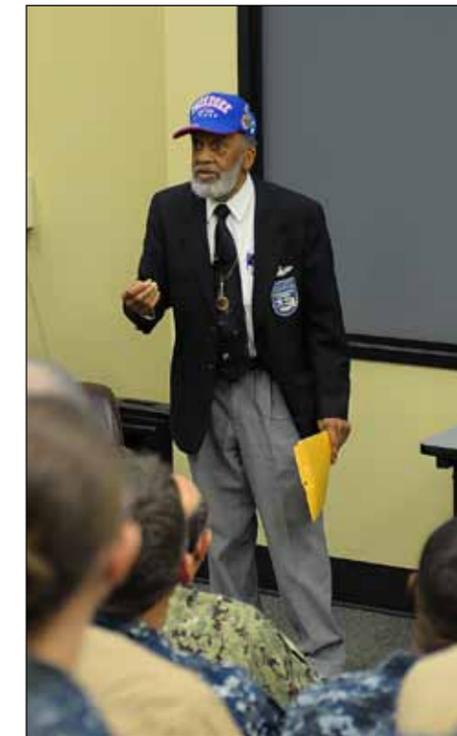
A total of 20 Sailors, including Makin Island's commanding officer, executive officer, and command master chief, were invited by EWTGPAC's commanding officer, Capt. Humberto Quintanilla III, to attend the highly inspirational program that was highlighted by a presentation from an original Tuskegee Airman.

Opening remarks by Quintanilla set the scene by linking the accomplishments of African American service members past, present, and future. He was followed by Col. Brian Kerl (USMC), EWTGPAC's director of operations and training, who provided an informative brief about the history of African Americans in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Dressed in a 1942 Montford Point Marine uniform in honor of the first African American Marines, Kerl spoke about the circumstances

that contributed to the Marine Corps being the last of the armed services to become integrated.

The keynote speaker was retired Air Force Master Sgt. Nelson Robinson, a member of the Tuskegee



Nelson Robinson, an original member of the Tuskegee Airmen, speaks to Sailors and Marines about his life as a 99th Fighter Squadron "Red Tail" in World War II during a Black History Month program at the Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific headquarters in Coronado, Calif., Feb. 15. [Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown]

Airmen, who highlighted the program by talking about his service during World War II.

A member of the famous "Red Tails" of the Army Air Corps/Air Force's 99th Pursuit/Fighter Squadron, a unit made famous by the 2012 movie by the same name,

Robinson took the audience on a visual journey of Europe during the war in 1944 and presented footage from the History Channel's reenactment of their achievements, as well as their tactics.

His very informative presentation ended with the singing of the 99th's fight song.

"We are heroes of the night, to hell with the axis might. Fight! Fight! Fight! Fighting 99," sang Robinson.

Sailors who attended said they appreciated the history lesson on African Americans in the military and the unique opportunity to meet a Tuskegee Airman.

"It's important to know about the military's past so we will not fail by making the same mistakes," said Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Angela Rushworth, assigned to Makin Island's Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD). "We're taught what to do and what not to do in the sake of history."

Rushworth said being able to hear both Robinson and Kerl speak about what they held dear to their hearts was uplifting and enabled her to understand just how much the country has changed in recent times.

I enjoyed the presentation and being able to see Mr. Robinson's portfolio on his old job," said Rushworth. "Seeing a piece of history was very interesting and enlightening. I learned that when you're going through challenges you can still make it out alive with stories to tell."

History Program Continued on Page 9

Carlson's Raiders Riding Club

MKI Sponsors First Motorcycle Ride of the Year



A group of Makin Island Sailors put on personal protective equipment before heading out for the first command sponsored motorcycle ride of 2013. [Photo by MCSN Ethan Tracey]

By MC3 Kory Alsberry, Around the Island Staff

The Carlson's Raiders Riding Club, a command-sponsored motorcycle club consisting of Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8), hosted a motorcycle safety and awareness ride Feb. 1 from Naval Base San Diego to neighboring Alpine, Calif.

The 63-mile event was the first scheduled ride for the club in 2013 and was organized to help promote the safe operation of motorcycles, supporting the Secretary of the Navy's focus on safety as part of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative.

"Statistically, most motorcycle fatalities are caused by young riders who are ignorant of or disregard Navy policy," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW) Rollie Sturdavant, Makin Island's riding club president. "Carlson's Raiders Riding Club events are a proactive,

preventative approach to entice young Sailors and all Makin Island riders into an environment that promotes safe riding habits and provides a positive mentoring and training environment."

Sturdavant said that prior to the ride, each rider conducted a pre-ride safety inspection of their motorcycle that included checking the frame, oil, lights, other controls, wheels and tires, and ensuring they had the required personal protective equipment (PPE). Required PPE for Navy motorcycle riders includes long sleeve shirts, full-length pants, boots, full-finger gloves, shatter-proof eyewear, an approved helmet and a reflective vest.

"This event is very important to the command as it raises awareness for Makin Island Sailors who ride and that they need to get on board with our safety training,

camaraderie, esprit de corps, and unity in numbers," said Sturdavant. "From the time they check in, experienced riders can mentor new riders and provide a relaxed environment for practical learning."

Sturdavant said the club's name of "Carlson's Raiders Riding Club" honors Major Evans Carlson, who led Marine Raider Companies A and B, 2nd Raider Battalion on Japanese occupied Makin Island Aug. 17-18, 1942. That historic battle, along with the heroes who fought and died there, is honored with the ship's name of Makin Island.

According to Sturdavant, the club is open to all Makin Island personnel, senior leaders to junior Sailors, with all levels of riding experience. Riders of all types of motorcycles including cruisers, street and dirt bikes are welcome to join.

"We want to promote a positive, constantly growing, rider community within our command and the San Diego region," said Sturdavant. "With the margin for error on a motorcycle being so low, no one is exempt from being susceptible to injury, or death, both of



which impact the ship's ability to execute the mission."

Sturdavant said more riding events and trips are being planned in 2013 for riding club members.

"Quarterly rides are a good way to refresh ourselves with the latest riding techniques, to practice what we preach in a classroom, to assess how our individual riders are doing and provide additional hands-on training for everyone," said Sturdavant. "The motorcycle community as a whole is a small group, and we need to be sure we protect one another. To continue to ride in today's Navy, we have to stay on our 'A-game' and keep up our proficiency."

The riding club, and its focus on the safe operation of motorcycles, is supported by leadership at all levels on board Makin Island, especially the ship's safety department.

"The key element to this club and all rides is safety," said Lt. Harriet Johnson, Makin Island's safety officer. "Safe riding habits mean Sailors get to ride for many more years because they didn't hurt themselves. They are able to decompress in a constructive manner and return to work refreshed and ready to fight."

Sailors who took part in the event said they enjoyed the opportunity to ride with other shipmates.

"The ride gave us a chance to get together with other riders on the ship and have fun together," said Logistics Specialist 2nd class Dustin Cummings, an avid motorcycle rider who is assigned to Makin Island's supply department. "We learned new skills and helped early riders by pointing out problems they may have had with their riding. It's important to me because I have the chance to police my shipmates and let them know if their bike is safe to ride.

Fool's Gear **Cool Gear**

HEAD: Considered the most vulnerable part of the body, the head is the most important. A helmet is the only way to protect the head from injury, death, and flying objects. Full-face helmets recommended.

EYES, EARS AND FACE: Exposure leads to impaired eyes, noise deafening, and distracting impacts from bugs and road debris.

FACE SHIELD: "Saves face." Any rider who's been hit in the face by stones, insects, or debris can tell you the benefits.

HANDS: An essential part for being able to lock into control position when required to cut, but generally overlooked by additional attention.

GLOVES: They're comfortable, functional, and protected. They're an obvious safety for all reasons.

SAFE LINES: A phenomenon seen only in riders who think it's when people who crash, subject to include in riding circles.

ROCKET AND PANTS: Long sleeve and sturdy trousers protect against abrasion, dehydration, or hypothermia. Some select wear padded gear with "fool's gear" for more protection. Light colors in the daytime and reflective at night make it easier for us drivers to see you.

POOP FLIPS: Technology for what you'd, but not for an open contact with road surfaces, still best to include in riding circles.

BOOTS: Provide protection against foot and ankle injuries and give you a good grip on footrests or road surfaces.

BOTTOM LINE: Don't get involved in an unsafe ride. Learn how to avoid accidents, injuries and flying while gaining valuable skills and knowledge by completing an MSF course.

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BM1 Higgins at X5009 for more information.

MSF MOTORCYCLE SAFETY FOUNDATION

The more you know, the better it gets.

March: Women's History Month *Makin Island Recognizes Female Sailors*



Photo by MC1 David McKee



Photo by MC3 Kory Alsberry



Photo by SN Matthew Hill



Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown



Photo by MC3 Kory Alsberry

The month of March is dedicated to the celebration of women's history and their many contributions to our country. This year's DoD theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics."

The history of the observance dates back to 1980, when President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. Six years later, Congress voted to expand the program and designate the entire month of March as Women's History Month.

Makin Island would like to send a special "Bravo Zulu" out to all female Sailors. The work and contributions of women on board does not go unrecognized!



Photo by MC1 Andrew Wiskow



Photo by MC3 Kory Alsberry



Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown



Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown



Photo by SN Matthew Hill

MKI Sailors Celebrate Presidents Day at Oak Park Elementary School

By MC3 Princess L. Brown, Around the Island Editor

A group of 15 Sailors from the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) joined the students of Oak Park Elementary School and Music Conservatory in San Diego to celebrate Presidents Day at the school, Feb 19.

Although a day after the actual federal holiday, Makin Island's ceremonial color guard paraded the colors as other Sailors joined the school's choir in singing the national anthem during a special Presidents Day program.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Makin Island Sailors split into small groups in order to visit different classrooms, have mentorship sessions and interact with the students.

"It was really powerful to see the cadets [honor guard] come with the flags and to have the Sailors singing with us," said Pamela King, a third-grade teacher at the school. "It goes beyond the pledge in the classroom. Seeing the Sailors joining in with the students was very touching."

King said most of the students don't know about the variety of occupations and job specialties available in the military. The ethnic, gender and job diversity of the group of Makin Island Sailors who volunteered made it easy for students to find a role model for the day.

"Most of the time the students only have images of military members that are over in the midst of the war, they don't get to see all aspects of the military," said King. "Being able to bring the military to our students is a key to educating them on the military."

King also said the Sailor interaction with the students provides motivation not only the students, but also to the parents and the community as



The Makin Island ceremonial color guard retires the colors following the playing of the national anthem during an assembly at Oak Park Elementary School and Music Conservatory, Feb 19. [Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown]

"It's important that we as Sailors go out into the community and visit so that people can see another side of the Navy."

GSMFN Kibrom Gebregziabher

well.

"I love the excitement of the Sailors, you can tell that they want to be here and that they want to interact with our students," said King. "We are really thankful for the partnership that we have with Makin Island, they always put smiles on our student's faces."

Sailors who attended the Presidents Day program said they were just as excited as the

students for the opportunity to hear the music and songs and visit the classrooms.

"It's important that we as Sailors go out into the community and visit so that people can see another side of the Navy," said Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) Fireman Kibrom Gebregziabher, assigned to Makin Island's engineering department. "We get to show that we

Presidents Day continued on Page 9

History Program (cont.) from Page 3



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Germane Bernard (left) and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Shawn-Patrick Bland (right), listen as Tuskegee Airman Nelson Robinson talks about World War II and the "Red Tails" of the 99th Fighter Squadron. Bernard and Bland were two of a group of 20 Makin Island Sailors who attended a special Black History Month program at EWTGPAC headquarters, Feb. 15. [Photo by MC3 Princess L. Brown]

Presidents Day (cont.) from Page 8

are not just service members, but also are good role models."

While in the classroom, Gebregziabher said he used a map to show the students the countries he visited while on the most recent deployment.

"They were very eager to find out information about what I do in the Navy," said Gebregziabher. "They showed a lot of interest in the stories I told about deployment and visiting foreign ports and learning about the culture."

Although the students asked many questions about life in the military, Gebregziabher said he made sure that he pointed the students in the right direction for what they should focus on now.

"I placed a strong emphasis on staying focused in school, getting an education is very important," said Gebregziabher. "The decisions you make at young ages in grade school affect your future. If the students start with good habits now, they will have the tools to be successful later."

Oak Park is one of two San Diego area schools that benefit from Makin Island's community outreach program. Makin Island volunteers also work closely with Willow Elementary School in nearby San Ysidro, Calif.

Other Makin Island Sailors said they also enjoyed the guest speakers during the event.

"It is amazing to see how far our country has come," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class Shawn-Patrick Bland, assigned to Makin Island's Air Department. "We have learned from our failures and continued to progress and succeed."

Bland said the most memorable moment of the program was Robinson's chant.

"There are some people in life that stick in your brain, and Mr. Robinson is one of them," added Bland.

For one young Makin Island Sailor, the event reminded her of why she chose to join the military.

"I enjoyed seeing Mr. Robinson light up when talking about his military life," said Aviation Administrationman Airman Savannah McPherson, also from Makin Island's AIMD. "It was inspiring to watch him tell us stories with such pride. It reminded me why I joined in the first place."

CPO 365 (cont.) from Page 2

"It is our duty to ensure they are trained and mentored, ready to take on the challenges of being a CPO. It's also a perfect way for CPO's to stay current on day to day issues, instructions and polices."

In addition to classroom training Strickland said Makin Island's CPO 365 program also places a focus on physical fitness and community service. He said these two focus areas help to promote a "team" learning environment.

Makin Island first class petty officers taking part in the program said they welcome the opportunity to learn how to become better leaders.

"CPO 365 training is reinforcing standards that I have learned throughout my career, giving me tools to assist junior Sailors, and helping build camaraderie in the first class community," said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (AW) Renee Brown.

Brown said the program also provides first class petty officers a means of gaining more knowledge on basic Navy policies that will help them when they become a CPO.

"I think that it this important because not every first class has the mentorship and guidance they need to be successful as they advance through the ranks," added Brown.

OPINION ISLAND

In recognition of Women's History Month, what female Sailor or female in history has influenced you the most?



"Susan B. Anthony because she paved the way in women's rights and was influential in getting laws passed so women could vote."
-CTR1 Rhodelia Turner

"Maya Angelou, for the way she speaks, which is so uplifting and inspiring to me, and I feel she is the true definition of a woman."
-CS2 Nicole Campbell



"Lucille Ball because she opened the doors for females to make it in Hollywood. In her time, most starring roles were played by males."
-OS3 Marquetia Conley



"Tyra Banks because even though she was made fun of, she learned to embrace her body and has become a role model to victims of bullying."
-SN GlendaMarie Fabros



MXI MWR CORNER

March Concerts

Sat. Mar 2

1930
"Tribute to Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman"
 (California Center of the Arts, Escondido)

"Dan Hicks & The Hot Licks" (AMSD Concerts)

Wed. Mar 6

1600, 1900
"Stoney B. Blues Band"
 (Escondido Performing Arts Center)

Fri. Mar 8

2000
"YES"
 (San Diego Sports Arena)

Fri. Mar 22

1930
Janis Ian
 (AMSD Concerts)

Sun. Mar 24

2000
Batlefield Band
 (AMSD Concerts)

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

SAT. 2 MAR.

1000 Stand Up Paddleboarding Clinic (NANSI)

1000-1300 FREE Toys (Bayview Community Center)

FRI. 8 MAR.

1730-2030 Family Fitness & Movie Night (NMAWC)

SAT. 9 MAR.

0900 Mountain Biking at Mission Trails (NAB Q-Zone)

0900 Paintball Bonanza (NASNI Liberty Rec.)

WED. 13 MAR.

1000 St. Patrick's Day 5k Run/1 mile Walk (NBSD)

SAT. 16 MAR.

0900 8th Annual Woof Walk (NBSD)

MON. 18 MAR.

Mar. 18-22
 1715, 1815, 1915
 March Madness Basketball Tournament

THURS. 21 MAR.

1800 Laugh Out Loud Comedy Night (NBPL, NMAWC)

SAT. 30 MAR.

2200-2400 Ghost Tour (William Heath Davis House Museum)

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