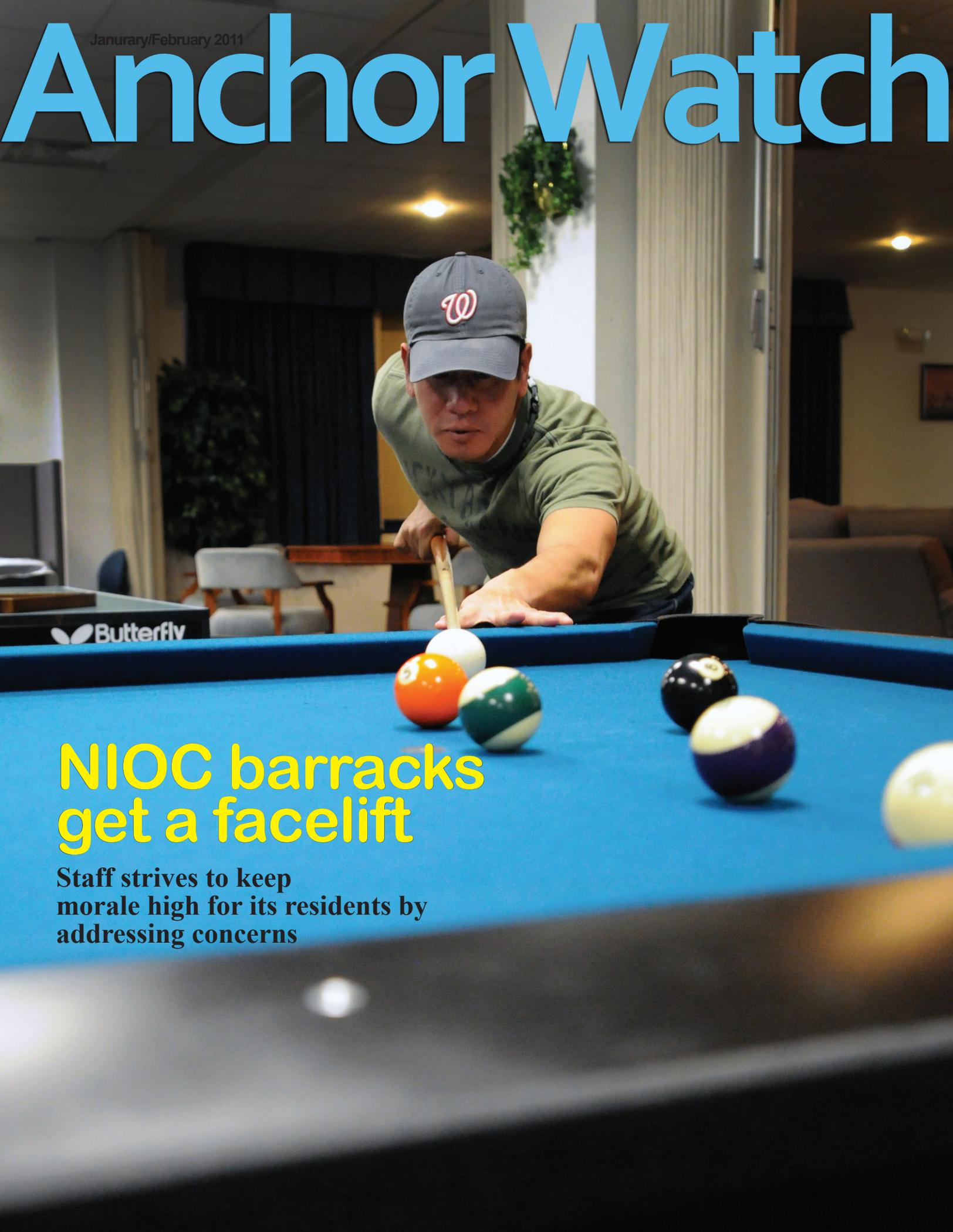


January/February 2011

Anchor Watch



NIOC barracks get a facelift

Staff strives to keep morale high for its residents by addressing concerns

CONTENTS

2 Catch up on your naval history with a momentous breaking of the ice

4 Meet some Sailors who have what it takes to represent NIOC MD

8 Find out what secrets are being told by NIOC's top investigative reporter

10 Read why it is crystal clear that NIOC barracks are ranked number one

ANCHOR WATCH

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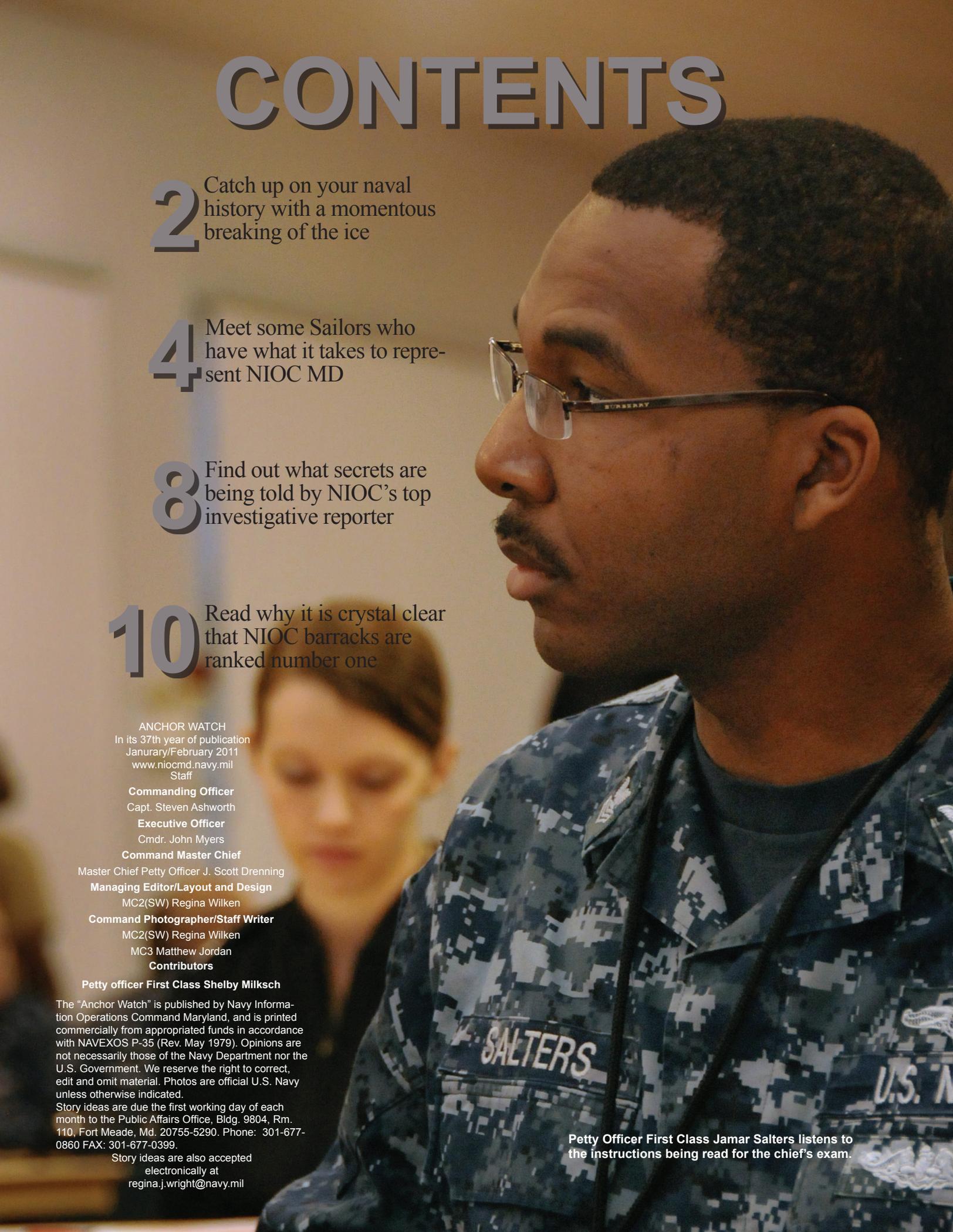
Petty officer First Class Shelby Milksch

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Story ideas are also accepted electronically at regina.j.wright@navy.mil

Petty Officer First Class Jamar Salters listens to the instructions being read for the chief's exam.





Amazing Grace

Story by Petty Officer First Class Shelby Miksch

*Namesake of
USS Hopper (DDG-70)*

January 6th marks the anniversary of the launch of USS Hopper (DDG-70). The name borne by the ship is especially noteworthy, because it is not only the second commissioned Naval vessel to be named for a female servicemember, but also for the first woman in the Navy to wear the rank of Rear Admiral.

Rear Adm. Grace Hopper was a pioneer in naval leadership who laid the groundwork for many of the technological advances in computer science. She was a gifted mathematician, holding an associate professorship at Vassar before her commissioning as a reserve officer in 1944. Her career path would lead her to work as a naval contractor at Harvard, where Hopper assisted in the programming of the Mark I computer for use by the Bureau of Ships.

Hopper's work did not end there. After her stint at Harvard she went on to develop numerous programming languages for computers. The COBOL programming language, a variation of which is still used today, is widely attributed to her.

After being recalled to active duty twice, she attained the rank of Rear Admiral, Lower Half by means of a special Presidential appointment.

She retired involuntarily from the Navy in 1986 at the age of 79 and was the oldest commissioned naval officer on active duty.

The illustrious career of Hopper was immortalized on January 6, 1996 when the USS Hopper, sponsored by Mary Wescote, Hopper's sister, was launched in San Francisco.

The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer has participated in many deployments to the Middle East and East Asia, bearing Hopper's name and her attitude of "Dare and Do" far from America's shores. The Hopper and her crew most recently participated in the Rim of the Pacific 2010 international naval training exercise along with representatives from 13 other countries.

It goes without saying that much of today's society is kept smoothly running by computers or related technology. The Navy has long prided itself on technical innovation and continues to lead the way as war fighting efforts expand into the digital domain. Even though the technology employed today bears little resemblance to the machines operated during Hopper's tour of duty, each Sailor that uses it is an heir to her pioneering spirit.

Breaking the ice

Story by Petty Officer First Class Shelby Miksch

The submarine has long been valued as a unique and effective tool of naval warfare. Operated by a rigorously trained, highly skilled crew, a submarine is capable of projecting a nation's sea power in ways impossible to traditional surface vessels.

As illustrated during World War I and II, these stealthy predators were capable of crippling supply lines with swift attacks and paralyzing the heart of the common citizen with fear. The growing power and capability of the submarine forced the world's most powerful navies to develop new combat strategies and stronger weapons and tracking methods to defeat their underwater enemies.

The end of World War II, and the beginning of the atomic age, furthered the advance of submarine technology with nuclear reactors proving to be a vast improvement over diesel engines. USS Nautilus (SSN-571) traveled over 60,000 nautical miles, half of which were underwater, on the energy provided by a few pounds of uranium before it had to

be refueled. A diesel-powered submarine would need over two billion gallons of fuel to travel the same distance.

Nuclear-powered submarines could reach corners of the world that their diesel counterparts could not and were a natural complement to the United States' growing interest in Arctic exploration.

Nautilus led the way and completed the first trans-polar crossing of the Arctic Ocean in 1958. Although its voyage was ultimately a success, technical difficulties suffered by the Nautilus sent the Arctic program's planners back to the drawing board to design a vessel more able to meet the challenges of navigating through polar ice fields and surfacing through the ice.

USS Skate (SSN-578) continued the work that the Nautilus and her crew had started and perfected techniques for surfacing that would be used by later Arctic expeditions.

USS Sargo (SSN-583) joined the group of elite northern explorers two years after the voyages of the Nautilus, completing

an unprecedented 31-day mission that covered over 6,000 miles and revealed previously uncharted regions of the Arctic Ocean. Sargo surfaced at the North Pole on February 9, 1960, breaking through 39 inches of ice.

While on this cruise the crew was able to perform valuable research on Arctic ice and water and helped to provide undreamed-of insight into the mysteries of the North Pole.

In thanks for their efforts, the crew of the Sargo earned the highly prestigious Navy Unit Commendation.

Exploits such as those accomplished by Sargo and her fellow submarines often go unnoticed in the face of other feats carried out by the surface fleet.

By daring the dangers of the Arctic in addition to the rigors of submarine service, the Sailors that crewed these boats confirmed America's status as a superpower willing to risk greatly for even greater achievement.



USS Sargo surfaces at the North Pole on February 9, 1960.



December Awards

Air Medal

Lt. Paul Krieger

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Lt. Robert Virden

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Chief Petty Officer Brandon Moore

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Johnathan Sholtis

Petty Officer First Class Richard Marcotte

Petty Officer First Class Katriana Negronlozada

Petty Officer First Class Ronald Burk

Petty Officer Second Class Gasper Bontempo

Petty Officer Third Class Randi Martin

Sailor of the Quarter

Petty Officer First Class Melinda Ray

Junior Sailor of the Quarter

Seaman David Trent

Civilian of the Quarter

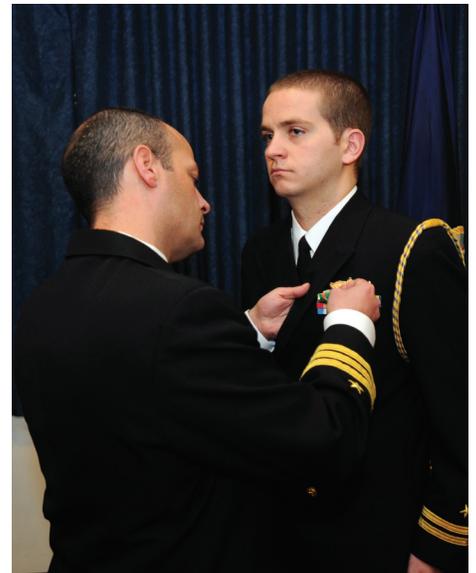
Linda Wise

Good Conduct Medal

Petty Officer Second Class Eric Loge

Petty Officer Second Class James Mullen

Petty Officer Third Class Nicholas Bearman





PO1 Hammond, PO1 Choquette, PO2 Carroll, PO2 Jarrad, PO3 Martin, and PO1 Libbey stand with the CMG and the CO at the Sailor of the Year announcement breakfast.

Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan

Making the



The announcement breakfast at The House of Five Hats was so crowded there was standing room only. Hopeful young Sailors were sitting on the edge of their seats, waiting for their names to be called by the commanding officer and be dubbed, Sailor of the Year. Soft murmurs were the only noise that could be heard until Capt. Steven Ashworth stood and began his speech.

Becoming NIOC MD's Sailor of the Year is no easy task. It takes knowing your job, doing it well, being versatile, giving back to your community and command, and keeping a positive attitude while doing it all.

"I've never been eval driven, and I know it might look like I am, but I have never wanted to do things for my eval," said Petty Officer First Class Beth Hammond, NIOC's Senior Sailor of the Year. "Like, I wanted to be a Sexual Assault Prevention Response advocate, and that's what I did. And yes, I get credit for that on my eval, but I'm glad I had that teaching and schooling to help people out in that area. I do things because I want to help out Sailors."

At the board, Hammond was very nervous because she was the first one and thought no matter how well she did, she would be graded the toughest.

"I thought it was like ice skating, where no matter how good you are they judge the first one hardest. I walked out of there really mad. I didn't think I did very well," said Hammond. "And I was going up against some really great people, some first class all-stars."

Apparently, she did very well on the board and when her name was called, she was shocked.

She said, "It was a good moment. I felt very proud and very happy to finally be able represent the command."

Working full time in the Navy and two part-time jobs gives her very little time for other many other things in her personal life.

"I work two part-time jobs, one cleaning inside the building at nights and one

cut

Story and photos by MC2 Regina Wilken



Libbey plays BINGO with his wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Layla, 4, at their home in Odenton

escorting on the weekends,” Hammond laughed. “Not that type of escorting... You know, for contractors to come in the building.”

However, working extra jobs has its benefits.

“I really like to travel, so that’s why I work so much. I’ve been to Vegas, Disneyland and I’m going to Italy this summer. I guess traveling would be my hobby,” said Hammond.

Not only does she work two jobs, but she just finished her bachelor’s degree last year, is the assistant leading petty officer for 20 Department, President of the First Class Petty Officers Association, a SAPR advocate, Color Guard LPO, FCPOA Community Service Chair, and volunteers.

“As FCPOA president I wanted to make it better, help the first class mess connect to each other, and provide training. It all falls down to you at the end of the day, no matter what you do or what is on your eval, if you have helped out Sailors and you feel good here [in the heart] then that’s what counts,” said Hammond.

Although it seems like she is always going and doing for others, she does take Sundays for some much needed rest and relaxation.

“Sunday is my one day off, that’s my day of rest. I kick back and watch my 63 inch television and sit with my animals, Benny, Vanity, Figaro, Cloey and Ozzy. They are my kids,” she said.

When it was Petty Officer Second Class Bradley Libbey’s turn to walk into the board room with multiple chiefs relentlessly staring at him while asking him questions, he was nervous but not for the same reasons as most people who go through it.

“I get more nervous about the technicalities. Like where’s the chair? Do I stand next to it? In front of it? Those are the things that make me nervous,” he said. “Because once you get in there, you can’t control the questions.”

When they announced Libbey as NIOC’s Sailor of the Year, he was excited and nervous all at the same time.

“It didn’t really sink in when I they called my name,” said Libbey.

Like Hammond, he just completed his bachelor’s degree, which was one of his short term goals. Libbey said, “I received my B.A. in Information Technologies. I’m looking at master’s programs right now. I think that will be my next short term goal, but I am really just in a stage where I’m thinking where I want to go next.”

Finishing his bachelor’s degree not only helped him in his personal life, but in his career too.

“The classes I took to get my B.A. helped me because the points on the board are huge. I got a lot of big certifications too that incorporated into it,” he said. “It was my personal goal and it just happened to fit in with what the board wanted too.”

Libbey’s wife, Jennifer, is very flexible while working with the demands of his job and school.

“My wife is very understanding and supportive. At first it was rough, because we hadn’t worked out how I was going to juggle home, Navy, and all the outside stuff you have to do,” he said. “But we worked it out so when my daughter has her settle down time before bed, that’s the time I use to study and do any extra



Hammond walks her dogs, Vanity and Benny, outside her home on Fort Meade.

work.”

While Libbey isn’t going to school, working or spending time with his wife and daughter, he is volunteering to help better his community and advises younger Sailors to do the same.

“Don’t do it just for the title because you will get burnt out. If you are doing things you enjoy doing that coincide with going up for SOY, that’s great,” he said. “Like, don’t volunteer at a soup kitchen if you don’t like to cook. If you are working towards your own goals it will probably match what the board wants to see and it will all work together.”

Petty Officer Third Class Randi Martin, who was named NIOC’s Junior Sailor of the Year at The House of Five Hats that morning, has just completed her associates degree. (Do you think there is a theme here...?)

“I’ve already decided I am staying in the Navy for 20 years, but I would like to get my B.A. in Social Science. I’m interested in people, how they work,” said Martin.

When Martin joined the Navy two years ago, she didn’t really know what she wanted to do, so she left it up to the recruiter.

“They only offered me three jobs, and my job now was the best of those,” she said.

Although Martin admits she didn’t know much about her rate when she joined, she has quickly become the go-to person when any questions need to be answered.

“At my job, I am versatile. Most people do one certain thing, but I do everything,” she said. “I don’t know why I am the go-to girl, maybe because I am older and they think I will be able to

handle it.”

Martin is also an avid volunteer.

She said, “I volunteer because I like to do it, not because I have to do it. I was just doing what I find to be the right thing to do. So somehow that got me the title of JSOY.”

Even though Martin was nominated for Junior Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter, and knew what to expect in the board, she forgot to practice one important part.

“I had studied all of the Navy instructions and was so focused on that, I forgot to practice my introduction. So I got in there and I was like, ‘I’m Petty Officer Third Class Martin and I’ve been in the Navy for three years, and yea...’ It’s the one thing you know, but I didn’t practice it at all. And when it came to it I just kind of clammed up,” she said.

After lying awake for many nights after the board, the morning finally came to find out who had won JSOY.

“I wasn’t expecting it. I had my food in front of me and wasn’t really paying attention, and then I heard, ‘From 60 department,’ and I was looking around thinking, who else went up from 60?” Martin said. “And then I thought, no one, it’s you! So I was very happy.”

These Sailors did not come by the title of Sailor of the Year by accident. So whether it was from excelling at their jobs, education, volunteering or helping out the Sailors around them, or a combination of all, these Sailors have shown that if you do what you love and love what you do, anyone can rise to the top.



An unsuspecting *Employee of the Month*

From the files of Seaman Smuckatelly

My search to uncover the mystery of famed NIOC MD sportsman, Shamus Jenkins, led me to the archives of NSA investigation reports, categorized as weird or unusual. As I perused the endless files of unexplained phenomenon looking for clues into the past of our long lost hero I came across a story that sparked my journalistic curiosity.

In Sept. 2008, NSA Security received a report from a NIOC MD Sailor concerning possible doppelgangers roaming the campus. The Sailor, who believed he resided in the same neighbor-

hood as Ms. Kathryn Garbe, the N1 Department Head, reported that while walking his dog in early June 2008 he passed by the would be woman, while she prudently worked in her yard.

As he passed by her home the Sailor offered a friendly wave that unexpectedly elicited a puzzled look from the supposed co-worker. Feeling that she may not have recognized him the Sailor decided to wait until the following day to introduce himself at work in case he happened across her again during his nightly dog walking sessions.



While heading from OPS 1 to the House of Five Hats the next day, he witnessed Ms. Garbe exiting her vehicle in the 9805 parking lot, but before he could approach she waved hello to him and asked how he was doing. Puzzled by the sudden recognition at twice the distance from their previous encounter the Sailor decided not to mention the prior evening's occurrence.

Later that week the Sailor again encountered the mysterious Ms. Garbe while walking his dog, and just as in their previous encounter, he waved hello and to his surprise, and now anger, she again looked him with extreme puzzlement.

During the next three months the Sailor often found himself in the confusing cycle

of being recognized by her while on the NIOC MD campus while simultaneously being ignored while off it. Frustrated by N1's perceived Jekyll and Hyde disposition, but fearing that a direct confrontation concerning unanswered greetings would negatively influence his standing within the command, he decided to choose another path for his evening dog walks.

Two weeks after his last unreciprocated greeting he executed a 10 day TDY to DLI in Monterey, Ca. for language refresher class.

During the first weekend of his training, he stopped by the local Jack in the Box and noticed a slightly familiar face smiling back from the Employee of the Month frame. As the sailor moved closer to investigate the photograph he reluctantly confirmed his initial thought. There in the middle of the Jack in Box located at 889 Abrego St, Monterey, Ca. was a picture of the 2009 NIOC MD Sailor of the Year, Petty Officer First Class Benjamin Chester. Although the plate displayed below the photograph was etched with the name of Victor Jackson, the Sailor was definitive in his belief that the photograph was that of one Benjamin Chester.

Confused by the two events the Sailor decided to investigate the matter through casual inquiries. After learning that Ms. Garbe resided 20 miles from his residence and that Chester had never been employed as a fast food worker he became convinced that an evil network of Doppelgangers were located within NIOC MD. He titled his report "Fake Garbe" and submitted to NSA security.

NSA's security investigated the claims and after interviewing the supposed "Fake Garbe," the Sailor's optician and his friends, they determined his current prescription of 20/200 and extreme disappointment from failing to complete level 19 of Call of Duty, Modern Warfare, were the motivation behind his current paranoia. Unwilling to earmark funding into investigating the Employee of the Month aspect of the report, NSA decided to archive the occurrence.

The Sailor of the Year mistaken identity sparked my interest after learning the Public Affairs Office recently informed the Chief Master-at-Arms that Sailors of the Year, Petty Officer First Class Bradley Libbey's and Petty Officer Third Class Randi Martin's, photographs had been stolen from the Command Board on two separate occasions. Based on interviews

with members of the PAO, Bldg 9805 staff, and Jim the janitor, the CMAA concluded that friends of the SOY's were probably playing practical jokes on the recently decorated servicemembers.

I reached out to sources within NIOC's Georgia and Texas locations and learned that each command over the years had to replace their SOY photographs. I then contacted the Abrego Street Jack in the Box to speak with the Aug. 2009 Employee of the Month, Victor Jackson. Upon inquiry I was informed that he had been terminated two days after receiving the award.

On a hunch I contacted five local fast food restaurants to inquire if their current Employee of the Month was still working within their establishments. Of the five only two current Employees of the Month were still employed and only one of those two was expected to survive the end of the day.

I arranged an interview with the last surviving current Employee of the Month and only with the promise of a job interview with Sedexo Catering, he offered to explain the true meaning of the cursed award.

We met at the Anne Arundel Mall and conducted the interview next to the Popeye's Chicken establishment. It was there that I learned, despite its apparent meaning, the Employee of the Month award was actually given to the worst employee, who was subsequently terminated. After the employee was removed from the premises a photograph of an unknown person, preferably with military like appeal would be placed on the wall above the name of the recently fired employee. It seemed that fast food restaurants had become frustrated with quality members leaving their establishments shortly after realizing that their friends and family members were making fun of their low profile success, and had decided to embrace the perceived ineptitude and truly treat the award as society has deemed it

As I sat and listened to his tales of sorrow I couldn't help but notice the photo of the current Popeye's Employee of the Month. Although the plaque read Winston Jennings I couldn't help the déjà vu that began to grip my psyche. And then, as if I had just recognized an old friend, I smiled and thought, welcome home Shamus Jenkins, welcome home.



Bachelor Quarters

NIOC

Maryland



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Story by MC2 Regina Wilken
Photos by MC3 Matthew Jordan

Crystal Clear

If you measured the morale in the NIOC MD barracks two years ago it would pale in comparison to the level it is at today. There were broken ice machines, off-center pool tables, no place to workout and furniture that when you sat down, you didn't know if you were going to end up on the floor or stay where you plunked down.

NIOC MD barracks residents need not worry anymore. Now, thanks to the hard work of the barracks staff, who has earned the prestigious 2010 Crystal Award, there is new furniture, game tables, lounges and workout rooms ready to be used by its deserving residents.

"The Crystal Award is recognition from the Professional Housing Management Association of top barracks with customer service and is based on what the residents say from a survey that is turned in," said Chief George Keene, N4 Leading Chief Petty Officer.

Over the past year, there have been numerous projects completed to help to make the barracks more accommodating to its residents.

"Last year, we installed all new high efficiency washers and dryers so it will conserve energy and we can 'go green' in that aspect," said Keene. "We got some fitness equipment and we turned all of our second deck lounges into fitness rooms offering cardio, a few weights, and yoga balls."

The barracks staff did not stop with the laundry rooms and fitness equipment.

"We got all new dayroom equipment and furniture," Keene said. "We have 10 new recliners to go in front of the TV viewing area, and all new game tables. A lot of the residents are happy we got the ping pong table, because that's the big thing."

As if all of those changes weren't enough, the staff went one step further.

"We installed new LED TV's into each of the lounges, so we are more advanced. And for those who are just checking in and don't have cable in their rooms, or if there are a couple of people that want to get together, and they won't fit in their resident rooms, they still have a nice place to watch TV and hang out," he said.

One thing still in the works, but has been paid for, is each of the access doors in the barracks will be able to open with the resident's common access card.

Keene said, "Not only are the Sailors looking forward to it, but it's also a safety measure, so if an emergency arises, we have that accountability."

Since all of these changes have taken place, morale has seemed to rise at a drastic rate.

"Change is all how you represent it or change it. We now have a 24-hour duty for my Sailors so we can address personnel issues and residents' concerns after hours. Whereas before, we didn't have that, so it's a good thing for our Sailors here at the barracks," Keene said.

The barracks staff also started holding quarterly town hall meetings to measure the residents' complaints and advice.

"That is how we found out they weren't happy with the laundry rooms or the access doors, and that they wanted the ping pong table," said Keene. "So it is really based on what the residents want, within reason."

Seaman Gabrielle Lewis not only a member of the barracks staff, but she was also a resident of the barracks when she first checked in to NIOC MD.

"All of the changes make it so that the only thing isn't drink-

ing or going out and partying. You can pretty much stay here and chill out and watch movies on the big screen in the dayroom," said Lewis.

On any given night you can find a movie going on the big screen and lines of people waiting to play on the game tables.

"It feels like more of a dorm, than a home honestly. It's nice to have a bunch of people your age and older around, especially since they are now gathering in the dayroom every night," said Lewis.

Just as Lewis came straight from her parents' home into the Navy, so did Seaman Derrick Hockman.

"Being able to have that privacy in your room and then the social atmosphere just downstairs makes it feel more like a home," said Hockman. "And being able to have cable installed is amazing."

Residents not only appreciate the game tables, but also the second deck lounges that were converted into workout rooms.

"Being able to just walk down the hall is more convenient than going out there [Eagle Fitness], especially if you are running late in the mornings, you can get a good run in and shower and get to work because it's thirty seconds down the hall," said Hockman.

Having a cushy place to sit in the dayroom isn't being under-appreciated either.

"The chairs are amazing," said Hockman. "I think it's a lot better and has offered a place for a crowd to come together and socialize."

Although most of the residents at the NIOC MD barracks are first-termers' who haven't lived outside of their family's home, there are the rare few who have.

"The best part about having all this new equipment, being a first class close to retirement, is I get to meet a lot of the junior Sailors," said Petty Officer First Class Gary Suzuki, the barrack's resident advisor.

With nearly twenty years of Navy service under his belt, he has a keen eye for morale building efforts.

"I believe the morale has improved, because you see a lot more people in the dayroom than you used to when the old equipment was here," said Suzuki.

While the barracks will never be a literal home to most, the barracks staff is making it as comfortable as possible for their residents.

"I think since Chief Keene has come aboard, he has tried to make improvements for the quality of life within the barracks. Like, asking the residents what improvements are needed," he said. "And just simple things, like making sure the light bulbs work in your room."

Suzuki is attached to NIOC MD, but works at the Navy barracks for the Defense Information School, Fort Meade.

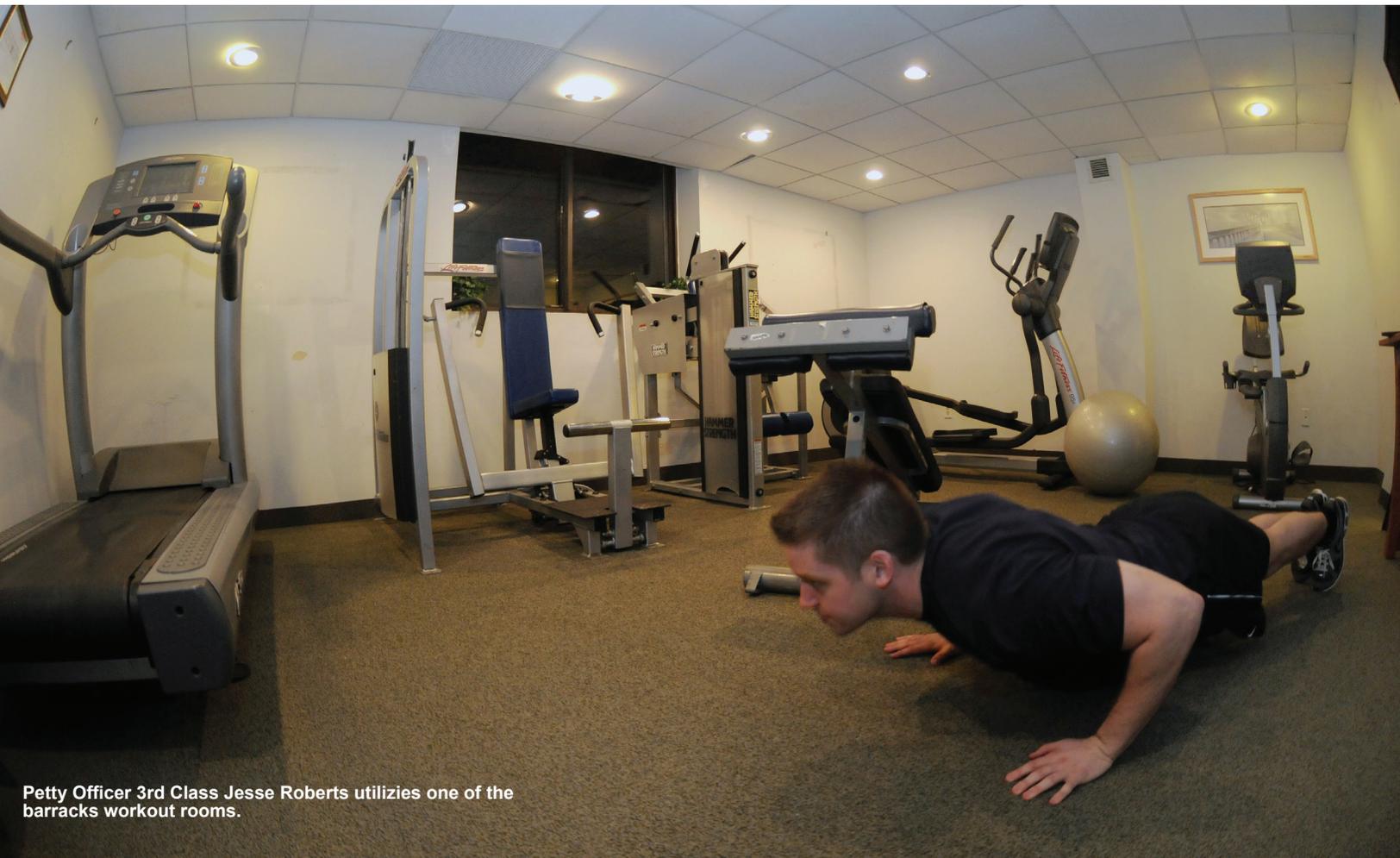
"Compared to other barracks, this is one of the better ones I have been in. I work over at the DINFOS Navy barracks and their rooms and quality of life are far worse than it is here," he said.

With so many improvements, residents may be looking for someone to thank.

"This couldn't have been possible without the teamwork and cooperation of the barracks staff. Every one of them deserves the credit because they are the ones going out there and taking care of the residents. They are the ones hooking up the ice machine, making sure the kitchen is equipped, and making sure that if there is a trouble call in, they take care of it," said Keene. "They deserve all of the recognition for the Crystal Award."



Seaman Candace Roberts takes full advantage of the stocked barracks kitchen.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesse Roberts utilizes one of the barracks workout rooms.



Petty Officer 2nd Class William Sweats, on NIOC's team Man-of-War, shoots a three-pointer as Cpl. Christopher Young attempts to block during a game against Marine Team, Company B.
Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan