

# AROUND THE ISLAND

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# NEW EAWS PROGRAM

Follow MC2 Gragg's journey through the process for tips to complete your Air Warfare qualification

By MC2(SW) Alan Gragg, Around The Island Staff



**D**eployment. It's the big, bad "D" word.

I wish there was a way to abbreviate it to four letters and officially add it to our swear list.

Although we're away from home, deployment does give Sailors an opportunity to enhance their lives and progress their careers in many ways.

It's a good time to become more proficient in your rate, and all the extra time we have at sea affords us the chance to earn various qualifications.

Some quals go onto your Page 4 and may seem to just create more work for you, but I'm particularly fond of the ones you can wear right out on your chest with pride. These are the warfare designators available for Sailors throughout the Navy.

Here aboard USS Makin Island there are two devices for which many Sailors are eligible, the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS). Sailors in the intelligence fields can earn the Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare (IDW) pin also.

**As of Dec. 1, Makin Island's EAWS program has undergone some significant changes.**

One of the program's assistant coordinators, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuels) 1st Class Jonathan Castillo said the general consensus amongst the EAWS board members was that the system needed a kick-start to help make the whole process more formal and streamlined.

The air pin isn't my primary device, so I've already checked the mandatory required block of getting my primary designator, but I know how valuable having any pin can be.

I earned my surface warfare pin aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) earlier in 2011 and I can't wait to add "AW" to my title here aboard Makin Island. I want other Sailors to share the same passion I have for learning about our ship and

our Navy as a whole. The warfare programs available to us make us better Sailors.

**I'm here to walk you through the steps of the new EAWS program:**

Right now, I am on the first step, requesting to enroll.

Even though I was already enrolled, I hadn't taken the written test, so I have to start over and re-enroll. That's one of the changes in the new program.

To enroll, submit a request chit with the Page 13 Enclosure 1 attached (found in the EAWS 2011 folder on the share drive) signed by you, your LCPO, your department head and the EAWS Program Coordinator (ABFC Johnson).

Once enrolled, there are five phases to complete. Phase I covers command SORM and organization, command history and heritage. Indoc will cover basic first aid, CPR, and basic and advanced damage control. Those were pre-requisites in the old program as well. The rest of Phase I covers fundamentals and familiarization with departments of the EAWS program.

Regularly scheduled EAWS training will be held in the First Class Mess to get training and signatures for Phase I, and eventually Phase III training.

Phase II requires Sailors to qualify on their own designated rates before pursuing their EAWS qualification. To complete this section, you need recommendation from your Departmental LCPO.

Phase III consists of six blocks, five departments that house the program and one for mission integration. Each block needs to be bottom lined by a qualifying chief petty officer.

Phase IV doesn't exist, so next will be Phase V, the space walkthroughs with CPO qualifiers and a 100-question written test. A score of 80 percent is needed to pass the exam.

The final step is an oral board with at least three board members, chaired by the CMC or designated chairperson.

Well, I hope this information helps explain a little bit about the changes.

**Keep reading ATI to follow me as I go through the program and pass on valuable info about the new EAWS qualification process.**

## AROUND THE ISLAND

### COMMANDING OFFICER:

CAPT JIM LANDERS

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

CAPT CEDRIC PRINGLE

### COMMAND MASTER CHIEF:

CMDCM(SW/AW) STEVEN ALT

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER:

ENS WILSON TAYLOR

### DEPUTY PAO:

MCCS(SW/AW) DONNIE RYAN

### PRODUCTION LCPO:

MCC(SW/AW) JOHN LILL

### MANAGING EDITOR:

MC1(SW) DAVID MCKEE

### COPY EDITOR:

MC1(SW) SARAH MURPHY

### LAYOUT & DESIGN:

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

### STAFF:

MC1(SW/AW) DOUGLAS BEDFORD

MC1(SW) DAVID MCKEE

MC1(SW) SARAH MURPHY

MC1(AW) ANDREW WISKOW

MC2(SW) STEPHEN D. DOYLE II

MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG

MCSN KORY ALSBERRY

MCSA DANIEL J. WALLS

MCSR ETHAN TRACEY

### ON THE COVER:

Makin Island's Command Master Chief Steven Alt and 11th MEU Command Sgt. Maj. Scott T. Pile prepare to lay a wreath in memory of the service members who died in the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. [Photo by MCC(SW/AW) John Lill]



Makin Island's Command Master Chief Steven Alt and 11th MEU Command Sgt. Maj. Scott T. Pile lay a wreath in memory of the service members who died in the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. [Photo by MC1(SW) Sarah Murphy]

# Makin Island Remembers Pearl Harbor Attacks With Ceremony

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

Makin Island held a remembrance ceremony commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Japanese attack on U.S. forces at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, as the ship conducted operations in the Western Pacific Ocean.

Hundreds of Makin Island Sailors and Marines from the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) stood in formation inside the hanger bay, taking a moment away from the high operational tempo of deployment to honor those who served before them, many who paid the ultimate price.

"While we remember the sadness that happened on that day, seeing all of you gathered here today in these Pacific waters I couldn't be more proud to be a

***"We go forward with our heads held high, but look back and remember where we come from."***

***- Col. Michael Hudson,  
11th MEU commanding officer***

Sailor," said Capt. Jim Landers, Makin Island's commanding officer. "May God bless this ship and all who sail on her!"

Landers said that the purpose of today's ceremony was not only to commemorate those who

lost their lives on that tragic day in 1941, but also to recognize the sacrifices of those who have fought and continue to fight for our nation's freedom today.

"This is a very special day; it's especially significant to us as we, the Navy and Marine Corps team, remember together," said Landers. "It's special to us as we continue west to face

our adversity and adversaries in our future."

Capt. Humberto L. Quintanilla II, Commander, Amphibious Squadron 5, also spoke during

**PEARL HARBOR, continued on Page 7**



# Remembering Pearl Harbor 70 years later



## Ceremony photographers:

- MCC(SW/AW) JOHN LILL
- MCI(SW) DAVID MCKEE
- CPL GENE AINSWORTH
- MCSR ETHAN TRACEY



# MONEY TALK



## There are NO shortcuts to financial success!

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



When it comes to finding the money to contribute to savings, or to the Thrift Savings Program (TSP), you have limited options. Spend less or earn more.

Adhering to a budget can reduce wasted money, but in the Navy with deployments and other commitments, earning extra money from a promotion is one of the best ways to increase your future wealth.

A promotion can put money in your account without adding additional time to your schedule, except for the time it takes to study for a test.

Aboard Makin Island reference materials are compiled for advancement preparation for many ratings.

If you don't see your rating you can contact ADC Michael Paul.

Below are some steps you can take to have a firm grasp on your financial security.

**Step 1:** Find out when you are eligible to take the exam. Your Command Educational Services Officer, Command Career Counselor, or Personnel Office can assist you.

**Step 2:** Early on, become familiar

with the name, purpose and subject matter content of all publications, directives, and instructions that are used to perform tasks common to your rate.

**Step 3:** Obtain a copy of your exam bibliography. BIBs are available on the share drive at S:\All Hands\FCPOA\Navy EXAMS BIBS.

**Step 4:** Review your BIB for the paygrade you are testing for. Study the references in your BIB, paying close attention to the guidance (chapters, sections, etc.) provided for each reference. Don't forget, your exam writer created this BIB for your personal use -- don't pass up a good deal!

**Step 5:** Set up dedicated study times for yourself. Make a study schedule that details what areas you will study on certain dates. Begin your study schedule as soon as you obtain your BIB. If possible, study with others who will be taking the same exam. Only you know your study habits, be careful not to over study and burn yourself out. Study a subject, then review, and quick review later. You should not attempt to cram all your study into a few weeks (or days...or hours...) before exam time.

**Step 6:** Be sure that you are well rested on examination day. Get plenty of sleep the night before. Wake up in time to make sure that you do not have to rush to make it to the examination site. Make sure you know where the examination is to be administered at, and that you are there on time.

The most important thing to remember is to develop a good study habit and stick with it!

Your test is graded on a curve of how well you do compared to others taking the same exam, so the harder you study, the more you separate yourself out from the pack!

When it comes to building your financial future, there is no way around starting as early as you can and contributing regularly.

Finally, have a plan for the additional money you will get with your promotion, or with extra money you may receive on deployments.

Another strategy is to set up an automatic deposit system or an allotment in the amount of the extra money.

Setting goals should be a part of your wealth building strategy.

Finally, if you have questions about improving your financial plan, make an appointment with your departmental financial specialist.

Keep reading the "Money Talk" column throughout deployment to learn more ways you can build wealth.

MC1 McKee has been a command financial specialist for three years.

Makin Island's primary CFS is ASC Steve Parkinson.

### PEARL HARBOR (cont.) from Page 3

the ceremony and focused his comments on how the Japanese failed to launch a third wave of the attack, which would have destroyed the shipyard repair and refueling infrastructure at Pearl Harbor. As a result, many of the ships were able to be repaired and join the U.S. Pacific Fleet to eventually defeat the Japanese Empire.

"Pearl Harbor, a day that lives in infamy, has a lesson for us all as a nation," said Quintanilla. "The defense industrial base, the private corporate venture between the U.S. Government and our high technology corporations, must continue to be strong."

Col. Michael Hudson, commanding officer of the 11th MEU, also spoke during the ceremony.

"We go forward with our heads held high, but look back and remember where we come from," said Hudson.

Following the keynote speeches, Makin Island's Command Master Chief Steven Alt and 11th MEU Command Sgt. Maj. Scott T. Pile laid a commemorative wreath into the water.

As the wreath floated off into the sea, three volleys were fired from a Marine rifle detail. Sailors and Marines then bowed their heads in silence to the playing of Taps.

In addition to the ship's namesake, the Makin Island crew maintains a strong sense of World War II heritage. The ship visited historic Pearl Harbor Nov. 21-23, as the first port visit of their current deployment.

Commissioned in 2009, Makin Island is named in honor of the World War II raid carried out by Marine Raider Companies A and B, 2nd Raider Battalion on Japanese occupied Makin Island Aug. 17-18, 1942.

## MKI CORNER

MWR fun day this Sunday

The Fun Boss will host a day of fun and relaxation this Sunday for Sailors and Marines the day before we pull into Singapore for the Marine off-load.

The day will kick off at 0700 with the ship's inaugural Jingle Bell 5K run and costume contest. Water will be provided, so don't forget to stay hydrated and remember to dress festive!

For those looking for contact sports, there is a dodge ball game in the hangar and an arm wrestling match on the mess decks at 1300.

If all this activity leaves you hungry and in need to recoup some kilo calories, a steel beach picnic will provide lunch and dinner.

The Fun Boss will cap off the day with cinema-at-sea. The movie is a secret... Stay posted.

### Damage Control: MKI Sailors use new technology and old-school methods



Sailors from repair locker 6 Forward use the P-40 jaws of life to operate the "Power Pusher" to build I-type shoring during training Dec. 7. Sailors honed their shoring skills during training and learned how to use new technology and traditional skills to ensure mission readiness in the event of a casualty. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]



Hull Maintenance Technician 1st Class Nicholas Dubois demonstrates how to use the T-square to measure a piece of wood to be used in K-type shoring. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]



**MKI  
MWR**

**BRING A TOWEL  
TO THE GYM,  
IT'S THE RULE!**