



# Happening Now



Off the starboard side of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), smoke rises from suspected pirate skiffs that were fired on by USS Momsen (DDG 92) after Momsen received a call from a merchant vessel in distress.



Machinery Repairman 2nd Class (SCW/SW) Edward Pastoral observes Sailors in training during a flight deck fire fighting exercise.



Aviation Electrician Technician Airman (AW) K. Dean runs maintenance checks on a helicopter weapons system in the hangar bay on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Guillermo Hernandez and Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Jerald Legae participate in small arms qualifications.



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) cast out fishing poles during a ship wide fish call.



Commanding Officer, Capt. Dominic DeScisciolo, speaks to Bunker Hill Sailors at an all hands call on the flight deck.



The crew on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) looks on as Lt. Cmdr. Brian Connolly, the ship's Executive Officer, receives a pie in the face during a steel beach picnic event.



Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Anthony Taveras, a Boat Coxswain on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), steers a rigid hull inflatable boat (RHIB) during a seamanship training exercise.



Seaman Apprentice Richard Jackson secures safety lines after USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) went alongside the Fleet Replenishment Oiler USNS Henry J. Kaiser (T-AO-187) during a re-fueling at sea.



Seaman Nicholas Mayer, a Search and Rescue Swimmer on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), retrieves a man overboard dummy during a seamanship training exercise.



The sun sets on USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) as USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) maneuvers behind in a plane guard position prior to the Vinson conducting flight deck operations.



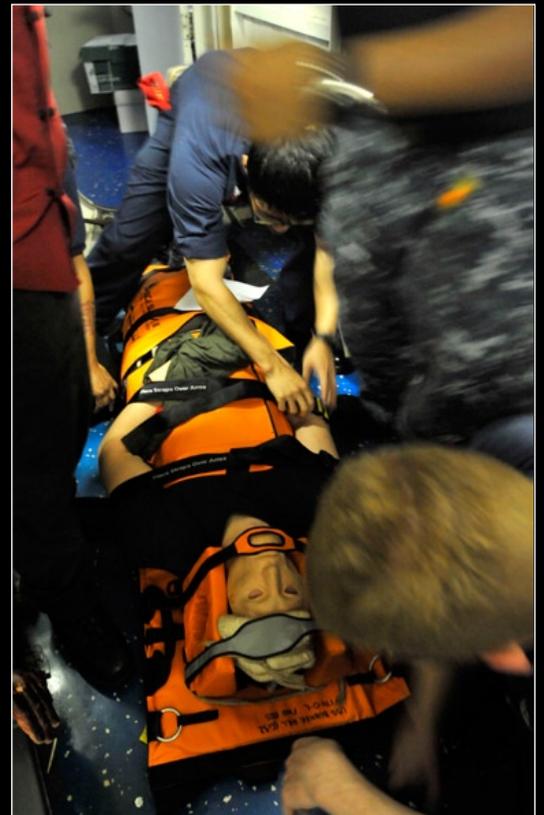
Seaman Deon Sanchez preserves top side equipment. (Photo by BM3 (SW) Alexander Black)



Stars shine above the mast's on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52), look on as Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class John Dahlstrom signals pallet distance to the crew on board the Fleet Replenishment Oiler USNS Henry J. Kaiser (T-AO-187) during a replenishment-at-sea.



Sailors attend to a casualty during an emergency medical training drill on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52).



Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Faniel Gebray participates in a ship's working party during a replenishment-at-sea.



USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) boat officer, Ensign Susan Choate, climbs aboard Bunker Hill during a self boarding and clearing exercise.



Gas Turbine System Technician 3rd Class (Mechanical) (SW) Francis Limbag cleans a turbine vent.



Cryptologic Technician (Technical) Seaman Jose Ruiz goes through a SRF Bravo OC Spray qualification course on the ship's flight deck.



Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) start their morning preparing to pull alongside USNS Wally Shirra (T-AKE-8) for a replenishment -at-sea.

# Getting Started



*February has lead the crew of USS Bunker Hill to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility. They've engaged and responded to suspected pirate vessels, conducted training exercises, and continued to support USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and Carrier Strike Group One's mission as she launches aircraft in support of ground forces in Afghanistan.*

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ATAN K. Dean



# Commanding Officers Call

Dear Families, Friends, and Loved Ones of  
BUNKER HILL,

As incredible as it may seem as of this writing we are within days of the half-way mark of the deployment!

While the news of what is happening in this part of the world continues to make headlines, your Sailors are in the thick of it every day. No sooner had we arrived on station here in the Fifth Fleet Area of Operations in the North Arabian Sea when we were in position to intervene in an attempted pirating of the Panamanian-flagged tanker “Duqm”. We teamed up with the destroyer MOMSEN, and our rapid response prevented the pirates from successfully getting aboard the Duqm. Later that day MOMSEN opened fire on their two small speed boats (“skiffs”) effectively preventing them from any more attacks. It was an interesting and exciting way to spend the first couple of days here in this dangerous part of the world. Aside from the occasional pirate chase we have settled in to our mission of escorting the aircraft carrier USS CARL VINSON as she conducts daily strikes over Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

As we begin our fourth month of deployment your Sailors continue to prove they are the finest in the fleet by the efforts they put in each day standing their watches, training, and qualifying while they operate and maintain the greatest ship in our Navy, the USS BUNKER HILL! We do manage to take time out now and then to relax and enjoy a Steel Beach Picnic, or an MWR-sponsored event on the mess decks like Bingo Night, Poker Night, or Open Mic Night. We also take time out for more serious events, like our Diversity Committee’s recent tribute to African American Soldiers and Sailors during the U.S. Civil War, in recognition of February’s celebration of African American Heritage Month.

With the continued unrest in the region and all the uncertainty it brings please know that your marvelous Sailors are doing incredible things – both big and small each day. They are serving our Navy and Nation during an historic time in the Middle East, but continue to count on your love, support and prayers as they begin and end each day. As their Commanding Officer I couldn’t be more proud of them. Thank you for your continued support for our important mission and all your prayers for our safe journey home.

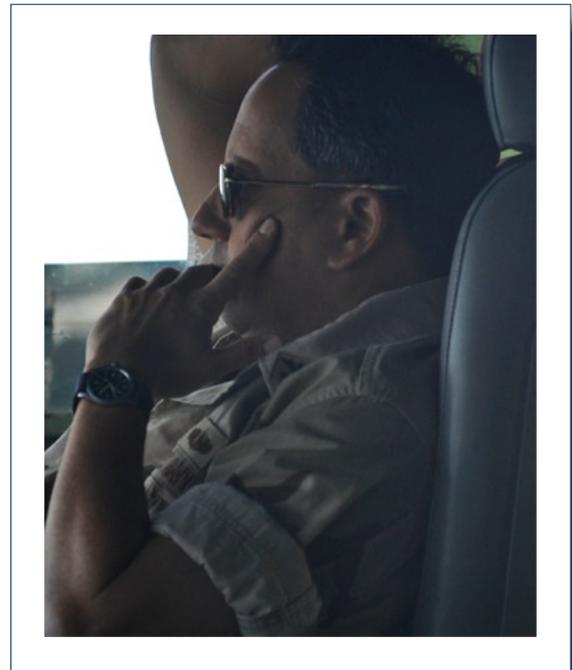
May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless BUNKER HILL and her crew.

Sincerely,

D. DeScisciolo

Captain, U.S. Navy

Commanding Officer, USS BUNKER HILL (CG 52)



# Executive Officer's Call

BUNKER HILL family,

Another month gone by already? It seems like I just finished telling you about our trip out here... February has been very interesting – we barely got in to these waters before we started chasing pirates, getting the carrier's planes in to support our troops in Afghanistan, chasing more pirates, and a couple of other things we can't talk about (but let me say that you should be proud of your Sailors for doing them). It's been busy too; it's almost "lights out" here and virtually every one of our Sailors is still on the move...many of them will be busy throughout the night. It's routine though. In many ways we work hard to establish and stick to our routine...it's comfortable, it's familiar, and it works. And yet something is missing.

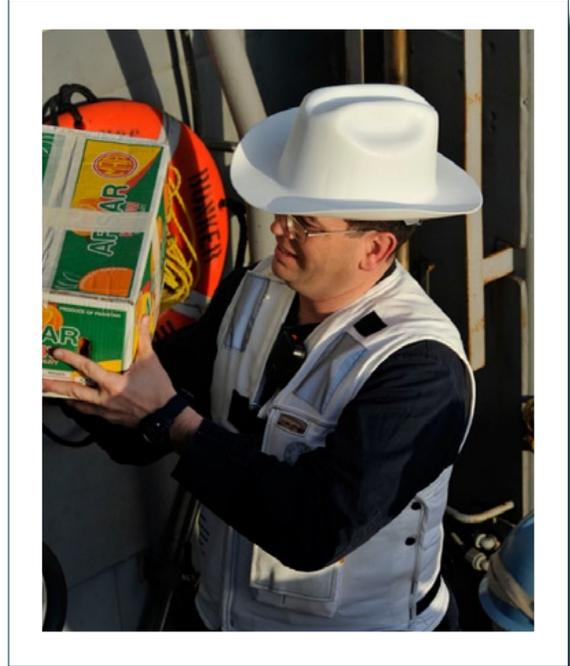
For months and months the crew of USS BUNKER HILL has been struggling mightily to prepare for this particular deployment. All of the inspections, assessments, maintenance, upgrades, changes, and drills...really that is all just preparation for what we're doing here. The odd part – and I must confess I've never really noticed it this distinctly before – is that right now it feels like there is something missing. You all back home (of course) are a lot of that, but I'm talking about something else; something here that it seems we should be doing...but aren't. It wasn't until this week that I figured out what that was. We're not preparing for deployment...we're here!

All of the drills, all of the preparation has come together. You should see how smoothly your Sailors operate, how easy they make it look. And so, for now, there is no more preparing, just doing. And we'll keep right on doing it until we start for home.

Then, of course, we start preparing for the next round.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Connolly  
LCDR USN  
Executive Officer



# Command Master Chief's Call

BUNKER HILL Family and Love Ones,

We are closing in on the half-way mark very soon. Wow we have come a long way and have seen and done a lot of exciting things.

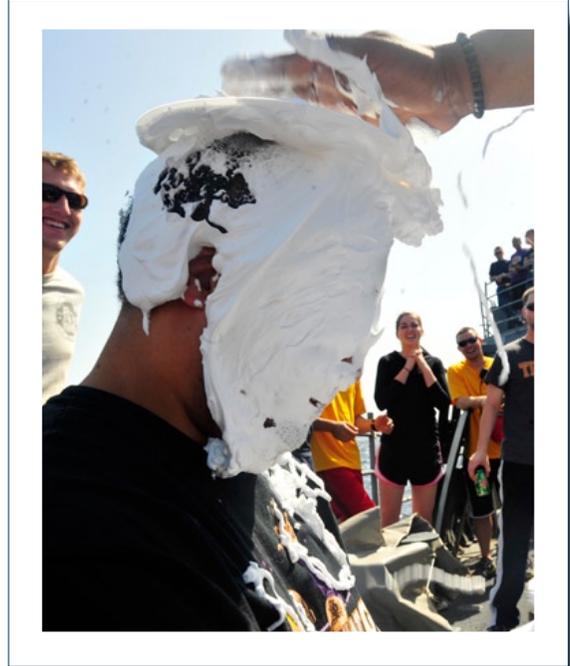
The month of February was a short month in terms of days but a very intense month at sea. BUNKER HILL Sailors spent the longest sustain period at sea since the Cruiser Modification completed over two years ago. As always BUNKER HILL shows why we are the best at what we do, because we meet and exceed all expectations as a ship and crew.

MWR keeps the ship's crew morale up by hosting several events that included Bingo Night, Poker Night, Open Mic Night, and Ice Cream Social on the crew's mess deck. Also we manage to have a couple of Steel Beach Picnics which was a fun time had by

all. As you can see how much fun I had in my monthly News Letter picture a MWR pie in the face fundraiser. But of course I wasn't the only one having fun so was Executive Officer having a little fun too!!

Ship's Diversity Committee with the help of the Supply Department putting on an excellent celebration and dinner in tribute African American Heritage Month with the theme African American Soldiers and Sailors during the Civil War.

In closing, BUNKER HILL embodies our Navy's slogan "A Global Force for Good". During our Deployment we have established our Sea Power, built lasting friendships through community relations projects in Korea & Malaysia, and supported our troops in Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. To all of our families and love ones who support us ashore I thank you for your continuing support we couldn't do it without you.



Sincerely,

CMDCM (SW/AW) Everett M. Mays

# Chaplain's Call

Greetings Family, Friends and Crew of USS Bunker Hill,

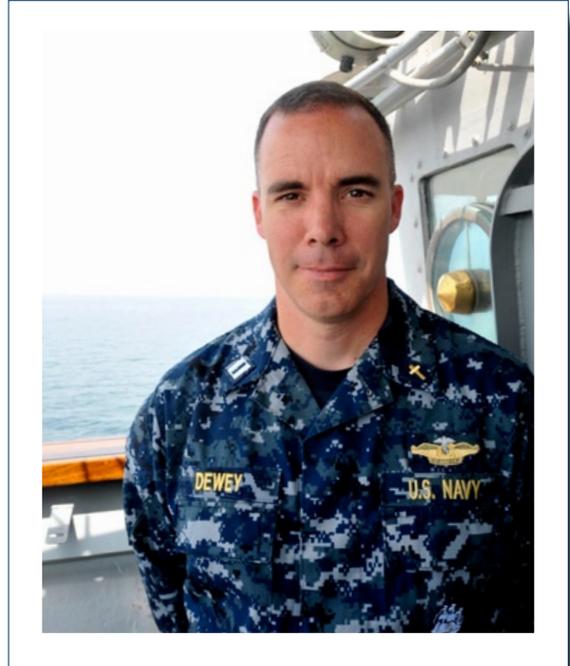
I am so very excited to be the command chaplain for the next two years aboard the Bunker Hill. I have been aboard since mid-February and I can report to you that this is the finest ship in the Navy, though I am likely very biased.

Like a parent of a new born child, I have become attached to this crew and see the Bunker Hill family as my own. I want you to know that if there is anything that I can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me.

The confidentiality that your loved one has with me extends to you also, including email conversation. If you are worried about your loved one, so am I and I want to assist you in solving any issues you may have. The chaplain is aboard to not only serve the spiritual needs of our crew but also to care for their general well being and to serve as an advocate when needed.

I am a military brat; my dad served 23 years in the Marine Corps. I have prior military experience and two deployments under my belt; one to Iraq and the other to Haiti. My wife, Aubrey, is settling in San Diego after our cross country move. We both know the stress that deployments can pose and are committed to serving you.

I look forward to meeting you all upon our return home. Until then, may the Lord bless you and your family.



Chaplain Jim Dewey  
LT, CHC, USN  
[deweyj@cg52.navy.mil](mailto:deweyj@cg52.navy.mil)

# PROVIDING THE OVERALL PICTURE

Alerts flash across a monitor, drawing the eyes and ears of watch standers. A phone rings, demanding attention. The phone hook clicks as a Sailor grabs for it, and begins answering question after question. This is not a drill. "Combat Systems Casualty, Combat Systems Casualty," is heard over the ship's general announcement system.

Sleeping Sailors are woken by the announcement and those eating chow are putting down forks. Combat System Department Sailors on board USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) are on 24 hour stand by for casualty response in order to maintain an accurate, precise and scaled combat picture for their ship. This dedication to troubleshooting equipment, networks and radar is essential to the strike groups overall mission. A part of this responsibility belongs to the Communications Division. They play a vital role in providing the communications network between allied ships, aircraft and shore personnel. This allows Bunker Hill to share her combat picture with her strike group allies. Correspondents among the watch standers also depend on this network, and without it, the ship would be greatly hindered.

With only 11 Information System Technicians on board; providing 500 user accounts for 300 plus Sailors can be a daunting task. They update and back up files for the ship's users and provide technical assistance on a daily basis. The division also provides the network link for internet, e-mail and phone lines. "If we can't communicate, we can't fight," said Information System Technician 1st (SW/AW) Gilberto Guerrero.

Protecting and maintaining those pieces of network equipment are the Electronics Technicians (ET) and Interior Communication Specialist (IC) from Combat Systems Combat Electronics Division. Close to 2,000 pieces of equipment are maintained and supported by five ET Sailors, and with the help of their IC brothers and sisters, they answer nearly 500 trouble calls a month.

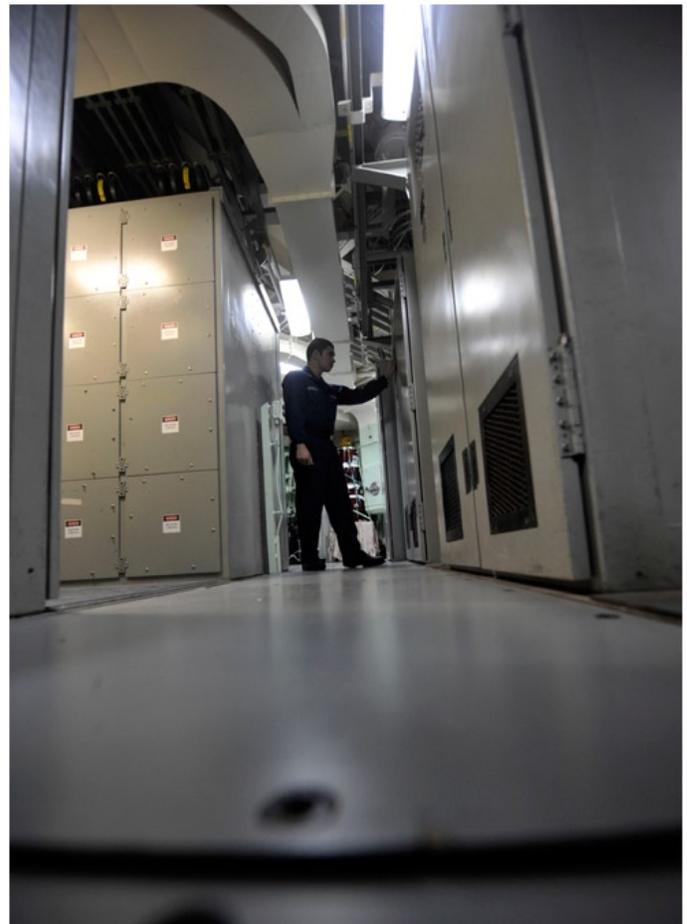
They meticulously narrow down possible errors, eliminating all problems until a solution is found. The IC's also have specialized training to repair the

ship's electronic GPS systems and gyrocompasses for navigating and steering. They man the ship's SITE TV services, playing movies and monitoring satellite television for the crew.

"How we defend, maneuver and respond as an attacking force is dependent upon the work that Combat Systems does," Said Electronics Technician 3rd Class (SW) Milton Grady." We play an integral part in policing the waters."

Combat Systems Department works similar to a human body. To function properly, every division needs to be exercised daily. If done right, each division will work in unison. The Sailors in Combat Firecontrol Division (CF) play a part similar to the bodies brain.

See **PICTURE**, Page 12



Fire Controlman 2nd Class Stevincent Mosely checks equipment in the ship's aft Radar Five Control Room.

From **PICTURE**, Page 11

These Sailors monitor and supply the computer programs that control the ship's AEGIS system. In Greek times, AEGIS was the name of Zeus's shield. Much like his shield, the AEGIS system on board allows weapons and radar control, and if the system isn't working correctly the CF division is the first response for repair.

"Are there times when I'm on an eight hour watch without a problem?" "Sure," says Firecontrolman 3rd Class Christopher Harp. "But there are also times when I'm up for two days troubleshooting one."

In charge of monitoring the overall combat systems picture is the Combat Systems Officer of the Watch (CSOOW). The CSOOW maintains a vital position of communication for all combat systems personnel. Organizing and tracking response to casualties is crucial, when minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

They monitor all updates and maintenance for combat systems repair, and they coordinate with watch standers to pass information pertaining to their individual watch stations.

All the divisions involved in combat systems work together as a well trained unit. No one job is more important than the other. Each is capable of great feats because they're supported by their shipmate's hard work, and that is accomplished due to the dedication, perseverance and overall teamwork of everyone.



Chief Electronics Technician (SW) Kendal Griffiths stands the Combat Systems Coordinator watch in the ship's Combat Information Center.



Gunner's Mate Seaman Collin Avilez and Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Henry Valdez load 5-inch shells and powder charges into the ship's forward 5-inch gun. The forward and aft 5-inch guns utilizes the ship's firecontrol radar provided by combat systems department



## ESWS WARRIORS

- CTM3 (SW) Jordan Jenks
- OS3 (SW) Bradley Carignan
- SH3 (SW) Graylon Keeton
- GSE3 (SW) Sherod Tucker
- CTT3 (SW) Tiffany Doree
- MR2 (SCW/SW) Edward Pastoral
- FC2 (SW) Matthew Degraff
- ET2 (SW) Tamara Fraley
- FC2 (SW) Cody Roberts
- HM3 (FMF/SW) David Yang
- OSSN (SW) Brittany Pearson

## RE-ENLISTMENTS

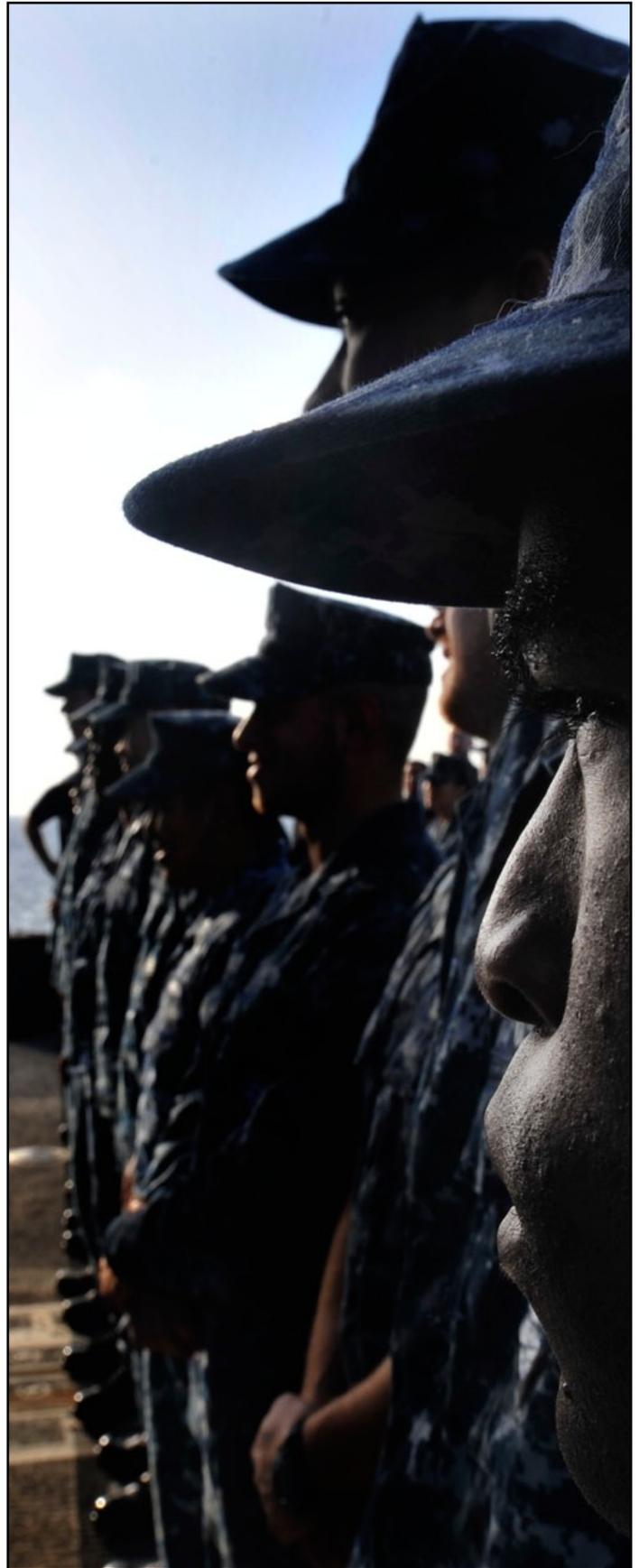
- IT1 (SW/AW) Gilberto Guerrero
- OS2 (SW) Joshua Beck
- OS2 (SW) Joel Rodriguez
- HM3 (FMF/SW) David Yang
- NC1 (SW/SCW) Nicole Anderson

## AWARDS

- CWO2 Jason Echevarria
- ENS. Jasmine Kelley
- BM2 (SW) Passion Richmond
- BMSN Deon Sanchez
- CS1 (SW/AW) Jaqueline Shaw
- OS2 (SW/AW) Jeremy D. Jones
- OS2 (SW) Jaime Lopez
- QMSN Doni Stephens
- ISC (SW) Trace Little
- MAC (SW/AW) Angelica Vironchi

## COMMENDATIONS

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| -- CMDCM Mays      | -- OS3 Drury     |
| -- LT. Adorador    | -- MC3 Shelley   |
| -- ENS. Choate     | -- CTM3 Jenks    |
| -- ENS. Eccelston  | -- AE2 Schroth   |
| -- ENS. Knapp      | -- AZ2 Perez     |
| -- ENS. Ramirez    | -- FC2 Marsh     |
| -- OSC Hickman     | -- HT2 Boyle     |
| -- OS1 Baskerville | -- OS1 Karo      |
| -- OS2 Bonas       | -- LSSA Bowie    |
| -- CTT2 Casamassa  | -- OS3 Carignan  |
| -- STG2 Gilles     | -- OS2 Rodriguez |
| -- IT2 Mitchell    | -- IT2 Petri     |
| -- FC2 O'Kane      |                  |



Ship Serviceman Seaman (SW) Graylon Keeton awaits for the beginning of an award ceremony where he will be pinned as a qualified surface warfare specialist.

# SMALL DEPARTMENT DOES BIG THINGS

NAV/ADMIN Sailors begin their day much the same as any other department; they muster in the morning, reviewing the plan of the day (POD) and then duties are delegated down the chain of command. These smaller departments (Navigation, Admin, Medical, Ship's Master-at-Arms, 3MC and the Ship's Career Counselor) are merged together due to their low personnel numbers. Though their numbers are small, their jobs are anything but.

In the Ship's Office, papers fly. The Yeoman's on board (YN1 (SW) Jeremy Pereira, YN2 (SW) Joshua Brown and YNSN (SW) Vada Branch) handle all ship wide correspondence and are directly responsible for updating and keeping accurate personnel records; including qualifications, awards, personnel evaluations, page twos, changes in marital status and processing new check-in orders.

They organize the ship's muster reports, and they produce a plan of the day (POD) every 24 hours for the next morning. This list of future operations is essential, because it gives the crew an outline of the next 24 hour cycle, and affords them the time to schedule their work and maintenance around major events, exercises and evolutions.

They also cross rate part time to Personnel Specialist (PS), with the help of the Ship's Admin Officer, Chief Personnel Specialist (SW) Thomas Walker. Updating and tracking pay issues, travel claims and emergency leave issues for the Sailors on board are another example of the crew's exchange of rate-to-rate knowledge.

"These guys make it happen, they're all-star Sailors," said Walker.

Sailor's clouded in thought can be found outside the Career Counselor's Office, where Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW/SCW) Nicole Anderson can be found answering their questions and guiding their current and future career paths.

She keeps the crew up to date on changes made in Navy policy concerning career advancement and rotation dates. She submits special program packages for Sailors that are interested in moving in differ-



Quarter Master Seaman Doni Stephens waits on a call to change flags on the starboard side bridge wing.

ent directions, and handles all re-enlistments career oriented changes.

"It's been very challenging, but very rewarding," said Anderson. "I've learned a lot and I've grown a lot."

Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/AW) Angelica Vironchi is responsible for ensuring good order and discipline on board the ship. She upholds Navy standards and provides guidance to Sailors. She inspects messing and berthing and reviews Navy standards on a daily basis to ensure that the crew is squared away on policy. She also supervises and trains Sailors going through self defense and security qualifications, and conducts command investigations.

The Ship's Maintenance Coordinator (3MC), Master Chief Fire Controlman (SW) Adam Gregory, a 26-year Navy veteran, also belongs to NAV/ADMIN Department. He act's as the ship's functional manager of all scheduled maintenance and maintenance

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NAV/ADMIN, From Page 14

procedures.

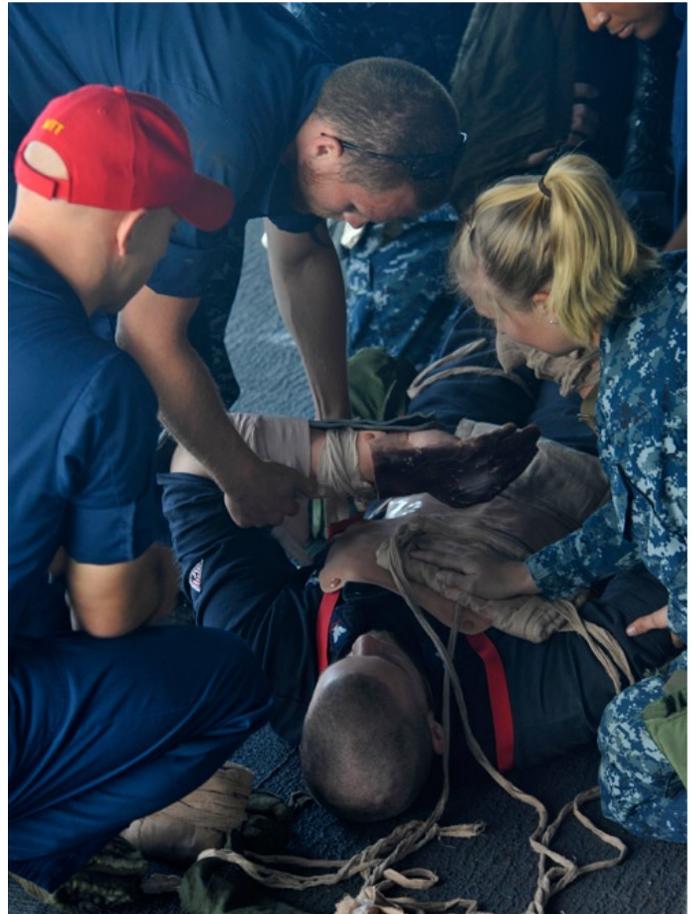
He qualifies all Sailors in maintenance procedures and safety. To guarantee procedures are being followed during maintenance, he conducts weekly spot checks and training. In addition, he reviews all maintenance supply orders submitted by the ship's departmental Repair Parts Petty Officers, correcting and training as necessary. This all ensures that the ship is achieving the maximum level of readiness possible.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm telling a bunch of Sailors to pick up their toys and clean their room, but its all part of the mission," humored Gregory.

The ship's Quartermaster's (QM) primary job is to assist the Officer of the Deck (OOD) and the Navigator in all areas of Navigation. QM's are responsible for the operation and maintenance of all signal related equipment to include; signal flags, signal lights, and lookouts (big eyes). For the most part, when not assisting the OOD, Quartermasters maintain these tools of navigation.

This includes maintaining all pertinent charts by keeping them up to date and all navigation related publications and tools. After charts are updated, they reflect them on the Voyage Management System, a

See NAV/ADMIN, Page 16



Sailors administer emergency care to Electricians Mate 3rd Class (SW) Robert Hale during a medical response casualty drill.



YNSN (SW) Vada Branch starts his morning in the ship's office compiling information for the next days Plan of the Day (POD).

NAV/ADMIN, From Page 15

newer electronic chart used to convey ship's movement, course and destination. USS Bunker Hill is certified for Electronic Navigation, meaning that she can navigate using the VMS system.

The QM's maintain all records and perform all software upkeep involved with this system. The role of the Quartermaster in today's navy is one of blending old school technique with the latest in technology and software knowledge.

"We have three Sailors doing the job of 12 Quarter Masters; none of the collateral duties go away, and for the amount of work they're presented, their doing an outstanding job," said Chief Quartermaster (SW) James Merril. "Not only are they working outside their rate, but their working above their pay grades."

For the sick and wounded, the crew relies on the ship's Hospital Corpsman (HM1 (FMF/SW) Mat Pagan, HM3 (FMF/SW) David Yang, HM3 Monica Valdez ). The Corpsman are nick named "Doc", and for good reason. The treatment they administer and the training they provide to the ship's crew is invaluable. "It's important that they everyone knows first aid," Said Valdez. "More than likely, they're going to be the first responders."

They can treat any ailment up to minor surgery in their medical facilities, and they see patients daily. They act as the ship's pharmacy and fill prescriptions for Sailors, and when they're not tending to the sick or suturing wounds, their helping the crew make positive lifestyle choices.

They offer Smoking cessation classes and give nutritional information about eating the right foods and exercising daily. They also educate the crew about health hazards before going in and out of ports.

Though they are considered one department, their jobs are very much different. These Sailors guide the ship, stitch wounds, act as financial counselors, uphold living standards, fix the broken and plan for the future.

Despite all their differences in their jobs, the Sailors in NAV/ADMIN are still one department.

"We have a diverse group of individuals that work together, but at the end of the day were all here to accomplish the same goal," said Walker.



The crew of USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) stands at attention as the ship's Chief Master-at-Arms, Angelica Vironchi departs for the very last time.