



# PREBLE Post



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## The Training Cycle: Phase II

They say good things come in pairs, and the Training Cycle is no exception! The men and women of PREBLE absolutely nailed it with Phase I of the Training Cycle, and now we are in full swing with a Phase II. Throughout Phase I, the focus was on single, segregated aspects of PREBLE's warfighting capability; demonstrate a good engineering plant, execute fundamental evolutions like anchoring, etc. Phase II, however, is an entirely different twist on things.

In Phase II of the Training Cycle, everything starts to come together. The events of this phase demand participation from sailors all across the ship to ensure we are certified for various warfare areas, including Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Undersea Warfare and VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure). As the training cycle continues forward full-steam, and the certifications become more complex and in-depth, you can be sure that PREBLE sailors will be ready to knock each one out of the park with pride and professionalism.



## From the Bridge



PREBLE Family and Friends,

Another month has quickly passed. Can you believe it? Somehow summer got behind us, fall is rushing by, and the holidays are dead ahead! By all accounts, it seems as though everyone is settled into our new surroundings. If you had to homeport shift...Hawaii wasn't such a bad place to do it! Big thanks to our OMBUDSMAN, Mrs. Dana Kight, and our Family Ready Group president, Mrs. DeAndra Salazar, for their help and hard work ensuring PREBLE families are always informed, always assisting, and always taken care of! As we look ahead to the holidays, the ship's schedule is filled with events intended to sharpen our skills as a warship preparing to go to sea as well as offer opportunities for fun and excitement with families and friends. First, sharpening

our skills for sea. The ship is just over halfway through its training cycle. As many of you know, the training cycle consists of more than 100 events across 20 different warfare areas, the completion of which allows the ship to deploy overseas. Arguably the most challenging portion of the training cycle occurs between early-November and early-January. These events will require some underway time, although not as much as what some of you may have been accustomed to in days gone by. More than anything, completing these events successfully requires attention to detail and a commitment to getting things done right – the first time. Sandwiched between these events are the holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years). We have a number of family-fun events scheduled, including a children's Halloween party, Thanksgiving dinner on the mess decks, 5k Turkey Trot, the PREBLE Holiday Party, and Christmas and New Years dinner on the mess decks. Of course Sailors will be afforded the opportunity to take leave as well. PREBLE has an unusually high number of geographical bachelors onboard due to the homeport shift, which will result in a large number of Sailors requesting to take leave on the mainland over the holidays. A lot of work goes into ensuring Sailors are able to take leave when and where they want over the holidays, so all hands have been told to get their requests in now (and beat the holiday travel rush!). Thanks for everything you're doing day in and day out. The support you provide your Sailor ensures the Navy is combat and mission ready. We couldn't do it without you!

All the best,  
CDR Bob Bryan

## CMC's Corner

HOOYAH Team PREBLE Family and Aloha!

Welcome to beautiful Pearl Harbor, Hawaii! What a great Homecoming into this wonderful and historic area of the world. The "Red Carpet" was certainly laid out for the crew of USS PREBLE and our families. As we arrived into the harbor and turned into the Destroyer Piers, your loved ones were elated to see the welcoming committee from you, and the dignitaries from the the city and base. I would like to thank the Family Readiness Group, led by DeAndra Salazar, CSCS(SW) Daniel Schaeffer, and our Ombudsman, Dana Kight ensuring you all had a memorable event. These exceptional moments do not happen all by themselves. It happens from the incredible support from you and our Sailors.



Now that we have finally completed our Homeport Shift, I can tell you how impressed I was to witness the months and months of planning come together in such a positive way. The Homeport Shift Team did an **OUTSTANDING** job in ensuring your transition was as stress free as possible. Upon arrival, our Administration Team immediately got to work to ensure your Sailors pay and entitlements were correct in their paychecks as soon as possible. Many Sailors received their correct pay on their very next paycheck, and that was some great news to hear. As you know, we are a family and a transition to a foreign land, even though it may be just Hawaii, can be stressful. We wanted to ensure you met the priorities of receiving good housing, able to enroll your children in good schools, and have an accurate paycheck through your transition. I believe we met those goals, and I would like to thank all parties involved for making a difficult and complex task manageable.

Well, we have finally settled into paradise, and yes, it is a very exotic place in the Pacific; however, please do not just sit in your homes...get out and see this beautiful and historic island. There is so much to do, from discovering the culture of the Hawaiian people to exploring the islands natural wonders. I am a big history buff, and the Island of Oahu has a plethora of historical landmarks, from Captain John Smith to the attack on Pearl Harbor. I challenge you all to get out see the island and explore your own horizons. The Navy is not just an adventure for your Sailors, but it is a journey for you as well. So, go explore!

Finally, as I arrived onboard USS PREBLE almost two years ago, I stressed the word Family to you and your loved ones. That word means a lot me, and throughout my career in the Navy, the family experience has drawn people closer to be able to meet and achieve some of the more difficult challenges I have seen or faced. The Navy is tough, and I talk to your loved ones every day that they are never alone while they wear the uniform of a United States Sailor. Someone is always looking out for their safety and their welfare as they face challenging times throughout their career. Onboard PREBLE, our family, the Team PREBLE Family has met

many of these challenges head on, and we have all moved forward in a cohesive web ensuring that we are all safe, we are valued with a purpose, and we all are able to meet our individual goals. Do you want to know why your loved ones are so special onboard a small warship called USS PREBLE? It is because of your loved ones unselfish commitment to serve this great organization...with you, me, and our Commanding Officer supporting them all the way! Webster's Dictionary defines Family as, "a group of people who are related to each other". Our relationship is the United States Navy and more importantly USS PREBLE. I truly believe our Team PREBLE Family is strong! I know it, because I see it in your loved ones honesty and professionalism every day, while they have fearlessly conquered some of the most challenging pre-deployment readiness evaluations I have experienced. Your loved ones are that good, and it all originated from our Team PREBLE Family. Thank you so much for your support, and we will talk soon.

Very Respectfully,  
CMDMCM(SW/AW) Matthew Logsdon

## Chief Petty Officers' 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Story By: FCC Hingleton



On September 11, 2014, the CPO Selectees performed a Remembrance Ceremony in honor of those who were lost on that day in 2001. Preparation for the ceremony was a very tough task for us. There was an abundance of information available for us, but the effect that it had on us mentally took its toll. I opened up the ceremony with an overview of the events that happened on September 11, 2001. While researching the events, I learned of numerous

“back-stories” that occurred that day. I learned that of the suspected reason why Al-Qaeda decided to attack the U.S. and why they chose planes with California destinations. We all know of the events and have a general idea of what happened on that day, but it’s not until you actually delve into the details, that it actually hits you of how catastrophic that day really was.

FCC Segura, YNC Chau, HTC Colburn, and BMC Beltran all told heart-felt stories of individuals that lost their lives on that day. They portrayed the individuals, giving a story of their background and describing what lead to their involvement in 9/11. LSC Guzman closed the ceremony with a summary of the events of 9/11 and what it meant to Americans then and how it affects us today. She read off some names of others that lost their lives that day and how it changed America forever. The ceremony was a very solemn occasion. From my point of view, the ceremony greatly impacted the crew. There were tears rolling down the cheeks of many sailors. Some that were personally effected that day and some that felt a connection to the stories being told. YNC Chau’s moving presentation really hit home. SN Piscopo provided a piano backdrop for the ceremony and his rendition of the Star Spangled Banner was touching. What the ceremony ultimately did was help the crew of USS PREBLE to reconnect with its heritage and remind that crew of one the reasons that we are here today. It awakened our patriotism and refocused us on the mission. It helped us to remember that we are Americans and protectors of America’s freedom. We are the first and last defense and we will do whatever it takes to keep America safe.



## Visit, Board, Search and Seizure Training

Story By: OS1 Hudnall

A VBSS (Visit Board Search and Seizure) team is an all volunteer program consisting of athletic and gung-ho military members. Each member has signed on to take their training and their lives onboard foreign vessels with an unknown crew to deter piracy and prohibit the smuggling of guns, drugs, and human trafficking. The one common theme taught throughout VBSS is absolute team work and succor for each other.



Each team is much like the U.S. military in that it consists of many different ethnicities, rates, and backgrounds. Onboard USS Preble the team is preparing for deployment by qualifying as a boarding crew and ship. There are many facets to this feat. A team member has to be able to carry the weight of the gear, which in itself weighs around 45 pounds. In addition to this they have to be an above average marksman and tactician with the M4 rifle and the M9 pistol. Not the average gun range day will suffice they have to be category 4 qualified which means they have to be able to shoot standing still as well as on the move in stressful environments. Being able to handle your weapon is not the priority for VBSS. They also train in hand to hand combat and striking. Being able to protect yourself and your teammates is an invaluable aspect to a member. The team members must board a vessel and execute the mission like clockwork. Being a member of VBSS is not all about taking over fishing vessels and merchant crafts. They also assist struggling individuals and crews with bringing them water, food, and mechanical assistance if needed or asked for. The Commanding Officer has to trust his/her VBSS team to conduct themselves with pride and professionalism.



Our past Commander in Chief Theodore Roosevelt has said "...the credit belongs to the man in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood..." This is a statement that best fits military members in any field, but especially VBSS boarding team members. Their training and dedication to step outside of the comfort zone of their professional career and take on the task of encountering the unknown and often dangerous missions is a testament to the arena. All of this training has to be honed and expertly executed when representing your command and your country over the horizon.

## Defense Attaché Visit

Story By: ENS Meyer



they might have.

Earlier in the month of September the USS PREBLE welcomed aboard sixty Foreign Defense Attachés, representing 38 countries, for a one hour tour. The countries represented ranged from Algeria to Zambia, including China, Israel, and Bahrain, among many others. These high ranking officials were greeted by the CO of PREBLE, Commander Robert Bryans, and the XO, Commander Jeffery Heames; after which the knowledgeable Junior Officers of team PREBLE escorted them throughout the ship, explaining important aspects and answering any questions

The Foreign Attachés were shown the important spaces of PREBLE, where her war fighters come together to accomplish the mission with pride and excellence. Their tour ended with a group photo, after which they presented the ship with an engraved paper weight with the Defense Attaché emblem. Team PREBLE is proud to be a part of strengthening ties with other nations and was happy to have them aboard.



## Blue Angels Air Show Volunteer Event

Story By: NC1 Mackes

The Blue Angels, the Navy's Flight Demonstration Team, took over the skies of Oahu September 27 and 28th for the "Wings over the Pacific" air show at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The massive event featured numerous demonstrations both on and off the ground, and was a huge undertaking for the base, drawing in upwards of 50,000 spectators over the two day spectacle. To pull off such a large event, volunteers from all branches and commands came together to ensure everything ran smoothly and efficiently.

Team Preble was there in full force, putting in our muscle on the ground while the planes were flying high! Chief and First Class Petty Officers took charge of a concession stand, serving up hamburgers and drinks. In what can only be described as controlled chaos, volunteers working at the concessions stand cooked countless hamburgers, and sold incomprehensible amounts of water and soda. In fact, the concession stand was so popular with spectators the small stand struggled to meet the demand and was constantly having to make runs to bring more drinks and hamburgers to keep up. Junior Sailors from the ship also took time out their weekend to volunteer and worked hard to help set up the event, and continuously walked around collecting trash and helping out where needed to keep everything running smoothly.

The team's combined efforts brought in more than \$17,000 dollars, 10% of which the First Class and Chief associations will spilt to help support their future events and missions. Talk about an awesome way to make the Preble name known on the island of Oahu! Our work at the air show was just the tip of iceberg too! There are many more volunteer and fundraising events to come in the future. So, be on the lookout for USS PREBLE Sailors fundraising and making a difference all over the island!



## Bees!

Story By: LTJG Bennett

## “A Non-Traditional Welcoming Committee”

USS PREBLE’s homeport shift to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was celebrated in great fashion; the welcoming committee pier side following the long 7 day journey from San Diego, California was filled with naval and Hawaiian traditions including loving families, Hawaiian dancers, and a navy band. However, this Preble post is to report on the not-so traditional welcoming committee that also received USS PREBLE.



A massive swarm of bees were consistently present aboard USS PREBLE in the recent days following our arrival, no specific reason as to why the queen bee choose our ship but once she had made her choice she was sticking too it! The original report of the arrival of the swarm was made by a very concerned Topside Rover who with good judgment was reluctant to patrol the Foc’sle in the presence of what seemed to be thousands of bees. As the morning proceeded the queen made a decision that this was in fact the warm, welcoming, and cozy spot that she wanted her “crew” to build a nest. Taking position in the angle iron of a ladder she quickly became engulfed in a temporary hive of bees, positioning themselves to form an abstract 3D mass of bees around her, most of which was freely hanging in negative space. The only things that these bees were grasping too were each other and in a matter of a few hours a hives began to quickly form. This brought much concern to the duty section and sparked debate about what the best course of action would be in order to remove the bees but not send them on the attack. Unfortunately port ops in Hawaii were less prepared for this type of security issue and had no real answer for the ship, the CDO was consistently told “in time they will just move on”. This was a true prediction however what most people did not consider was that the bees and their queen would just move on to other parts of PREBLE. Their journey to find the perfect nest took them forward to aft, top to bottom with temporary nests formed on the Foc’sle, Aft Missile Deck, Flight Deck and finally on CONNIE, the aft RHIB.

After a week of spotting the bees in various locations they took up residency on the bow of one of the RHIBs; now located in the highest area of traffic they once again became a concern. Additional calls were made and port ops referred to the ship to the Navy Environmental and Preventative Medicine Unit (NEPMU). NEPMU Unit 6 dispatched a Board Certified Entomologist, LCDR Toby Palmer to aide USS PREBLE with our welcoming committee problem. Upon arriving onboard, LCDR Palmer went straight to the hive and was as cool, calm,

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and collected as I have ever seen anyone around an open hive of bees. He explained that the swarm's relocation and search for a new home was an indication that they had recently outgrown their previous hive so most likely they were traveling on a fully belly and thus were docile and gentle. At that point he ran his hands over bees and I in turn ran in the other direction. To my surprise he was correct, the bees were not bothered or concerned for him, and they were completely consumed by the process of building a hive around their queen. Although he debugged the belief that this group of bees was out on the hunt and looking to sting anyone that came near, there was still a concern for all of the potential Sailors who would pass by the hive, take notice, and then run across the non-skid... eventually someone was going to trip and fall on their face. With that he agreed to help remove the hive and save the ship! He explained it would be an easy process and all we had to do was reach in and remove the queen and the rest of the bees would follow. I of course was skeptical and took every precaution, unfortunately a full bee keeper suit is not available in the supply system but we did have DC gear and full battle dress. Armed with flash gear, goggles, and a soapy-water filled fresh water fire extinguisher, a fox tail, and a box we prepared for what the LDCR called a simple task. The first step was to cover the bees in the soapy water to remove their ability to fly and swarm. Once most of the bees were covered, the newly qualified bee team moved in, and in one swift motion swept the swarm of bees into the box, closed it up and taped it shut. Just like that thousands of bees were removed from the ship and taken to NEPMU, and a very thankful quarterdeck watch team was able finish their watch without threat of being stung.

Overall the experience was a unique one and thankfully no Sailors were stung while our non-traditional welcoming committee traveled and toured our ship. However this was also an experience that I do not wish to relive but if it does happen, we know exactly what to do and more importantly who to call.

## Up and Coming

### Upcoming Events

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Undersea Warfare 2.3 | 03NOV14-07NOV14 |
| Thanksgiving!        | 27NOV14         |

### Long Term Outlook

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Change of Command    | 18DEC14         |
| Holiday POM          | 19DEC14-04JAN15 |
| Mid-Cycle Inspection | 20JAN-22JAN15   |

