



# PREBLE Post

September 2013

USS PREBLE (DDG 88)  
FPO AP 96675 - 1303

Website: [www.preble.navy.mil](http://www.preble.navy.mil)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/USSPREBLE](http://www.facebook.com/USSPREBLE)

## From the Bridge

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Up and Coming



As you are probably aware, your favorite warship and crew spent the better part of September avoiding tropical storms and typhoons. Yes, it's storm season here in the Pacific Ocean! Unless you have served aboard a small warship the size of today's destroyers, it is hard for you to gain an appreciation for the effort it takes to perform your job under such conditions. It's a little like being on a roller coaster...that won't stop. As the ship rolls left to right, as it pitches up and down, gravity has a way of wearing you out! Some of our newer sailors experienced sea sickness (Doc has been kept busy!), while the more seasoned and experienced sailors may have just felt tired. In either case, the ship's movement makes even the simplest tasks difficult and, in some cases, unsafe.

Safety is my number one concern in heavy seas, and we go to great lengths to ensure our work spaces are secured. Lose items are tied down or put away, and we're especially careful to instill extra precautions so that our operations are performed safely. We've been very fortunate thus far: with the exception of a handful of minor finger pinches and toe stubbings, we've not had a serious injury onboard. As for avoiding storms this time of year, I don't want you to worry about your sailor or Preble. Far above the ship, on the Fleet Commander's Staff and that of the Carrier Strike Group, Navy meteorologists and operational planners are watching the weather to ensure that Preble and our fellow ships stay out of danger. Just like the Weather Channel at home, we're tracking the development and movement of every storm and staying out of danger!



USS PREBLE prepares for UNREP in heavy seas! Check out Page 17 for more photos!



Send comments and suggestions  
to  
[pao@ddg88.navy.mil](mailto:pao@ddg88.navy.mil)

## From the Bridge

I hope that you are using Facebook as a means of keeping up with events happening in Preble. If you are using Facebook, you will have seen pictures of our Chief Petty Officer pinning ceremony, held while we were in Yokosuka, Japan. Three of Preble's finest were promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer: GSM1 Travis Hotter, ET1 Ravin Rambaran, and GM1 Venus Denk. Congrats, Chiefs!

We also held a September 11th Remembrance on the ship's mess decks. It was sobering but worthwhile looking back on that dreadful day and the days leading up to the attack. We also celebrated Hispanic-Heritage Month and focused attention on Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. While in port Yokosuka, members of the crew did everything from visit Tokyo Disney to climb Mt. Fuji to participate in a clean the beach community service project. I am well aware from conversations with the OMBUDSMEN and Family Readiness Group leaders that you have gotten together on a number of occasions as well to celebrate a variety of events. That is music to our ears! It's great to know that while we're gone our families are supporting each other and making the very best of the challenges faced by a career in the world's finest Navy!



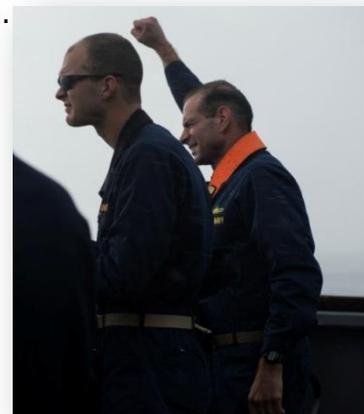
A few more items I would like to address before closing. First, Home Port Shift. I really don't have "new" news. The HPS committee has been digging in their heels and working the tough issues of identifying the impact of the HPS on each sailor and family. Earlier this week, each Preble sailor was required to submit their HPS information sheet to the committee lead, LT Jacobson. She and the Executive Officer are reviewing each sheet to ensure that we, as a command, understand the specific needs of each sailor and family. I would say we are at 95% of our goal of identifying our needs. As we reach 100%, I will

ensure a summary is sent to each family. That will happen within the next few weeks. The only other HPS issue I'd like to address is a question I receive quite often: "Captain, is the HPS official or not, sir!?!?" Yes, that's how it's usually asked - lots of enthusiasm! My answer to that is: I have been told that it is scheduled to happen, but we will not hear official word of it until December. Now you know everything I know.

Second, some family members have expressed concern over talk of a possible government shut down on 1 October. Folks, I'm a straight shooter, so let me tell you what I think. Having worked the federal budget process for a number of years, I can tell you that no one outside of select offices inside the Washington, DC beltway has any ability to predict what might happen in the halls of Congress and the White House. You and I are in the same position: all I know is what I read in the newspapers. Today I read these headlines: "Military Pay Would Be Delayed By Government Shutdown" and "Senate Pushed Bill to Continue Military Pay Through Government Shutdown." So what's happening? Based on past experience, I seem to recall military members getting paid on time, despite all of the talk, while many government civilians received back pay when their pay was late. The truth is, I don't know what will happen. None of us does. If a worst case scenario arises, and you need assistance (which is perfectly understandable), please talk to our OMBUDSMEN and FRG leads. They can put you in touch with the resources available to assist.

I don't want to end on such a somber note! Folks, we're down to less than two months to go! The FRG and others are beginning to work homecoming! And the tiger cruise is in full production! Let's get excited about Preble's return! Thanks for what you're doing - you're all ROCK STARS!!!

Warm regards,  
CDR Bob Bryans



## Command Master Chief's Corner



HOOYAH Team PREBLE Family!

While your loved ones onboard mighty PREBLE are beginning to prepare for our homecoming, they amazingly continue to lead the Fleet on the far side of the world, where their professionalism and motivation is unmatched throughout DESRON 15. Always driving to be the best, Team PREBLE continues to amaze me with their pure talent. True to form, PREBLE sailors never back down from a challenge and many signed up to climb Mount Fuji. Arriving motivated and ready to beat this monster, they proceeded up the difficult and challenging ascent to the summit at 12,388 feet. As a conqueror of many hikes and climbs in the United States, I can attest that the Mount Fuji climb was one of the most demanding challenges I have done, and Team PREBLE met their objective! It was absolutely a highlight of deployment.

Well, we are getting closer to home, and your awesome Ombudsmen and Family Readiness Group are preparing diligently for our arrival. I cannot thank Daryne Donner and Heather Wooldridge enough for the unselfish service to PREBLE FRG ensuring our families remain informed and motivated throughout this deployment. As I said, we are beginning to prepare for our homecoming, and the FRG can always use volunteers. Every month, the FRG conducts a meeting to distribute vital information and discuss issues that usually happen throughout a deployment. If you have not been to a PREBLE FRG meeting, please log on to Facebook at the PREBLE FRG group site, find the scheduled assembly day and time to attend the monthly FRG meetings, and volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! Staying busy will alleviate deployment anxiety and will also make the homecoming that much better.

I would like to recognize the 46 PREBLE Sailors that have currently completed the arduous task of completing their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. This is an enormous accomplishment for a surface Sailor, and proves your loved ones are always committed to doing their best and achieving their goals. With this achievement, USS PREBLE is now authorized to fly the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pennant, which is a rare achievement and explains to the waterfront that your Sailors are truly the best in the Fleet.

The Chief Petty Officers Mess onboard PREBLE had the honor and privilege in welcoming three new Chief Petty Officer's. For six weeks, GSMC(SW) Travis Hotter, GMC(SW) Venus Denk, and ETC(SW) Ravin Rambaran have thoroughly trained for the demanding lifestyle, and were accepted in to the fraternal halls of the Chief Petty Officers Mess. For many enlisted Sailors, achieving the rank of Chief Petty Officer is a goal that many strive for, but only a few can attain. It is the epitome of leadership in the enlisted ranks, I truly wish the very best for all three new Chief's onboard PREBLE, and their leadership skills are absolutely needed to guide our Sailors to success.



Finally, I want to thank the Team PREBLE Families for your support of our Sailors. Your unselfish efforts keep this crew together, which continues the legacy and name of the great Commodore Edward Preble. It is an honor and privilege being your Command Master Chief Team PREBLE. Take care and we'll talk more next month.

Sincerely,  
CMDMCM(SW/AW) Matthew Logsdon

## Operation: ROARING TIGER

### Please take a moment to read up on the guidelines below for PREBLE's 2013 TIGER CRUISE!

-LT Aliano is your single point of contact for OPERATION ROARING TIGER.

Email: [alianoa@ddg88.navy.mil](mailto:alianoa@ddg88.navy.mil)

Cell Phone (In port): 978-314-0923

Ship's Phone (In port PH): To be released upon entering port

Please do not contact Naval Base Pearl Harbor or any other entity with questions regarding this process.

-The official embarkation date is 11 November 2013. The command will not be able to support any Tigers staying overnight prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

-Tigers are free to arrive in Pearl Harbor prior to 11 November; however, they will need to coordinate their lodging until the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>. Neither base housing nor barracks are available on Naval Base Pearl Harbor. Temporary lodging may be available on base however. Please call 1-877-NAVYBED or email [PH\\_CBH\\_RESERVATIONS@NAVY.MIL](mailto:PH_CBH_RESERVATIONS@NAVY.MIL) to check for availability. You may also contact the Hale Koa Hotel in Waikiki Beach (30 min drive from base) for reservations. Please use the Hale Koa website for planning: <http://www.halekoa.com/>

- Tigers have the freedom to choose any local accommodations prior to embarkation. Tigers MUST stay overnight onboard PREBLE on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November in preparation for an underway on the following morning.

-The meeting point for all Tigers will be at the Honolulu Airport's (HNL) USO. PREBLE will provide a bi-hourly van run to bring tigers to the command starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. We request that you have your sponsor meet you at the airport however. The van will pick up and drop off outside of the USO.

-TIGERS must be older than the age of 8. Any minors traveling alone must be met at the arrival gate at Honolulu airport by their sponsor. An extra fee may be incurred as a result.

- TIGERS must be able to go up and down ladders and move about the ship in case of an emergency. No crutches, no casts, no disease or injury that would prevent someone moving about the ship safely. Safety is the key here. TIGERS with uncontrolled high blood pressure, diabetes etc will not be cleared for medical reasons. Medical and embarkation forms have been pushed out to all members of team PREBLE.

-TIGERS without DOD issued identification cards must be escorted at all times while on base in Pearl Harbor.

-Coordinators will provide a final list of names of Tigers who will be granted gate access due to their not having a DOD issued ID card to Naval Base Pearl Harbor prior to 11 November.

-PREBLE recommends purchasing flights early in order to defer cost. One way flights from San Diego to Honolulu cost about \$230-\$270 at this time.

-An additional fee of approximately \$100 will be assessed for each TIGER. This fee will cover the cost of food, a TIGER PIN, T-shirt, and transportation.

**\*\*\*OPERATION ROARING TIGER is susceptible to changes in PREBLE's schedule. TIGERS are implored to purchase insurance or any other "safety net" available to ensure that a full refund is in order. If a TIGER's flight is delayed passed PREBLE's scheduled underway, the TIGER is solely responsible for purchasing a return ticket home. I will make all participants fully aware of any pending schedule changes via PREBLE sponsors and via Facebook post. \*\*\***

# We Remember: September 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremony

Story by ENS Kelcie Davis

On September 11, 2013, Preble sailors gathered together on the mess decks to attend a remembrance ceremony lead by our three new Chief Petty Officers, Travis Hotter, Ravin Rambaran, and Venis Denk. This ceremony reminded Preble sailors of the events that lead up to the attack on the World Trade Centers and provided a time to honor those who have served and fallen in the line of duty to protect our great nation on September 11, 2001.

In August of 1998, jihad was officially waged by Al-Qaeda against the United States. One of the first acts of terrorism aimed towards the US Navy occurred on October 12, 2000; the bombing of the *USS Cole* (DDG 67) off the coast of Yemen. One of our own Preble Sailors, Chief Rambaran, was on the *USS Cole* the day it was attacked and gave his personal account of the bombing. During the ceremony Chief Rambaran talked about the brave men who risked their lives to save their fellow shipmates. He also explained that regardless of rank, every sailor on board the *USS Cole* that day was expected to step up to the challenge of saving their ship. He went on to remark that it can be easy at times to rush through basic damage control qualifications, but "it is important to retain the information, because you never know when you're going to have to step up and be a leader".



Commander Bryans spoke after Chief Rambaran and stated that it is vital to be prepared and well equipped for the unexpected. In order to become efficient in fighting, Preble must actively train in various damage control drills and scenarios!

Concluding the ceremony Preble sailors were able to enjoy a cake prepared by our Culinary Specialists and then participated in a moment of silence to the tune of Taps to remember the fallen. *(Photographed left is Command Master Chief Logsdon and ETC Rambaran cutting the remembrance cake).*

Today, twelve years after the terrorist attacks on Ground Zero, stands the One World

Trade Center. This new building was created as a symbol of America's strength and resilience; even though our twin towers were destroyed, we were able to build the tallest sky scraper in the Western Hemisphere reaching a patriotic 1, 776 feet (the height of this building was made in honor of the year the Declaration of Independence was signed!).

The Preble family was grateful for the opportunity to come together on September 11<sup>th</sup> to spend a few moments honoring those who have died. We are proud to serve you and our country!



*(Left) NYC Skyline (prior to 9/11)  
(Right) NYC Skyline Present Day*

*Photos from  
Architecture.about.com*

## Yokosuka, Japan (Part II)

Story by ENS Robert Martinez

Another month has passed and another port is behind us as we set sail again, saying farewell to Yokosuka for the second time this deployment. This last visit enabled the crew to accomplish several big maintenance projects vital to PREBLE's mission readiness. Visiting Japan may have been mission driven, but that didn't stop the command from arranging plenty of down time for our sailors to set their feet on dry ground. *(Photographed right is EM1(SW) Barros and EM2(SW) Garcia working on the motor controller for Number 3 Air Conditioner)*



Although it felt an awful lot like déjà vu, waking up to another port visit in Yokosuka was different this time around. Not only were the sailors different (an improved pollywog to shellback ratio), the climate had changed in Japan as well. Our last visit to Yokosuka ended just shy of the narrow window during which Mount Fuji is available for adventure seekers to take on the challenge of climbing Japan's highest peak - Mount Fuji, which stands at 12,388 feet.



This active stratovolcano can be seen all the way from Tokyo and is currently listed as a Cultural Site on the World Heritage List. When we found out that PREBLE would return to Yokosuka, our MWR team sprang to action with over 100 crewmembers jumping on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

In addition to accomplishing important maintenance and the excitement of a Mt. Fuji climb, PREBLE sailors participated in a Community Service event, otherwise known as a "COMSERV" in 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet. Lead by PREBLE's volunteer coordinator, NC1 Caesar Portillo, 20 sailors sacrificed one of their Saturdays to help clean up a local beach in Miura. ET3 Ramos stated "it's always a great experience to volunteer your time and give back to the community. Serving here had a particularly big impact because we were helping strengthen the bond with our Japanese allies."



# Command Off-site

## Story By FC2 Dyess

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, Preble sailors held an "off-site" conference, looking for ways to improve in a variety of important areas. CDR Bryans, Commanding Officer of USS Preble, led the effort, making the event an opportunity to talk about work - away from work. The event was hosted in the Yokosuka Chiefs club conference room and included over 80 crewmembers, the Captain, XO, CMC, the home port shift committee and volunteers. It provided a great opportunity to get together outside of work, in casual attire, and discuss some of the pressing issues facing the command in the coming months.



The offsite covered important issues that were voiced during the command climate survey, which is an important way for the crew voice their feelings and concerns anonymously. The survey consists of various questions that identify issue areas based on crew input. From diversity and fairness to team trust and communication, every area is carefully analyzed and scrutinized with an eye towards identifying areas for future work. For each topic brought to light in the survey, a corresponding discussion group was formed to discuss problem areas and identify potential solutions that could be implemented.

The major topics covered included the upcoming home port shift to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTM), the ship's schedule and everything we have to accomplish this upcoming year, diversity, favoritism, work-life balance, micromanagement, relationships, and communication. To conclude the conference, each group elected a representative to present a summary of the problems and the solutions they identified, creating awareness and motivation to address these issues.



The turnout for this event was impressive and provided a venue to discuss topics that truly affect the evolution of the ship and the morale of her crew. The offsite was a resounding success and served to get everyone on the same page in many areas. The command is currently taking all the great inputs and configuring ways to implement them for the crew.



# CPO Pinning

Story By: GMC(SW) Venus Denk



There are many ratings and ranks in the U.S. Navy they are justifiably worthy and deserving of great recognition. There is, however, one rank that stands out amongst the rest because of its tried and true nature. The year 1893 was the origin of the modern Navy Chief and conformity of orders changed abruptly from the past. The real backbone of the Navy was created at last. A Chief can be relied upon to be the hammer and enforcer at a command but also serve as a comrade and shipmate with special expertise and know-how. The chief expects trust, loyalty, and especially compliance; for they know all are necessary to create a team.

Navy chiefs, either alone or in a crowd, are symbols of exceptional bearing, confidence, and pride. When problems arise, a chief will find a way to overcome. Over the span of these 120 years some very special men and women have earned the right to be called "The Chief." As ETC Ravin Rambaran, GSMC Travis Hotter, and I, GMC Venus Denk, stood there ready to join the exclusive group it was then we realized we too had earned the Chief's anchors and covers. That day will always be special to us, as it was for every Chief Petty Officer. It is a day, for many reasons, we will never forget.



There was a tremendous sense of relief in knowing we had met and overcome the many challenges the Chief Petty Officer community placed before us prior to donning our khaki combo covers. It is truly a privilege to wear the uniform after years of dedicated service to our country's Navy.

Throughout the training process, we were told that we were entering a new way of life. We are now the sole wealth of knowledge to our sailors – the ones expected to have the right answers when called upon. We were also shown that being a Chief Petty Officer comes with greater responsibility than ever encountered throughout our entire careers, and that we are held to the highest standard, accountable not just for our own actions but the actions of our sailors as well.

Over the course of five weeks, new friendships, respect, teamwork, and trust were formed. We were given the tools and the knowledge necessary for success in our ever ongoing endeavors and accomplishments.

As we stood before the crew, we were ready to be called "The Chief." Fellow Chiefs told us "This will be the happiest day of your lives." Up until that moment, we may have thought otherwise. The good news is, when the time came to be welcomed by our fellow chiefs, it was the happiest day of our lives!



The Chief Selects march in while singing *Anchors Aweigh!*



# Operation: Climbing Mt. Fuji

Story By LTJG Thomas Deeter



While in port Yokosuka, more than 30 PREBLE sailors chose to take the challenge of climbing Mt. Fuji. Mt. Fuji is an active volcano reaching 3,776 meters in elevation. Some of the quickest climbers onboard included GM3 Hart, HM3 Brewer, HMC Burkholder, CMC, and CO, making the journey in 3 hours.

The climb began early on the 29th of August for the first group well before the sun came up. The group took a three hour bus ride from Yokosuka Naval Base to Mt Fuji. Around 0530, the bus made it to station 5, approximately 2000m in elevation, where the climbers began their ascent. At first, the terrain was very easy, but as they progressed, the elevation change and altitude began to take a toll on several climbers.



Every 200-400m, climbers were given the opportunity to rest and have unique stamps burned into their walking sticks. This was a great souvenir that several PREBLE sailors bought in order to help tell the story to their families once they return home (*Photographed left is CDR Heames with his official Mt. Fuji walking stick nearing the summit stamp station*). As the climbers continued to ascend, they hit stations 6, 7, and 8, which were

difficult, but didn't measure up to the final 400m elevation change to make it to the summit.

The last 400m were treacherous and really tested the climbers' fitness and endurance. Finally, around 1200, most of the PREBLE sailors made it to the top where they received their final stamp, shared a bowl of Ramen, and in the case of some, continued hiking around the rim of the volcano.



After some well deserved rest on the summit and a quick snapshot with the PREBLE banner, the climbers commenced their descent. This was no easy task either. With every step, the climbers would slide down the volcano or have to lean back just to keep from falling. However, after 4 more hours passed, everyone had reached the bottom safely and got on the bus to return back to Yokosuka. Mt. Fuji was a great challenge and as ENS Kathryn Holleran said "it was a great experience that I only wish to experience once."



# ESWS!



*Congratulations to more of PREBLE's finest for getting their ESWS and Air Warfare pins!*



# DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## CA Division

Story by ENS Tyson Eberhardt

CA division made the most of its time in Yokosuka, working hard to complete important repairs while also exploring Japan. From preservation and systems maintenance to climbing Mt. Fuji and taking in Tokyo, it was both a fun and productive port visit!

CA said farewell to LTJG McCrorey, who departed after more than two years as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. We also congratulated STG3 Davis on his reenlistment and STG2 Schwartz earning his ESWS pin.

As always, PREBLE's sonar techs took full advantage of our underway time to focus on training and broadening our navy experiences. We've had several new qualifications and even a crossdeck opportunity with STG2 Poole being the lucky candidate selected for a familiarization ride on USS George Washington.



## CG Division

Story by ENS Darren Settle



Five months into our 2013 deployment, the sailors of Combat Guns (CG) Division are still hard at work raising the bar for themselves every day. CG Division is responsible for most everything that goes "BOOM!" on the ship. Our resident expert Gunner's Mates and Fire Controlmen are responsible for the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of the Close-In Weapon System (CIWS), 5-Inch Gun Weapon System, Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes (SVTT), 25MM Machine Guns, small arms, crew served weapons, and all related ordnance and magazines.

While inport Yokosuka for three weeks, CG Division was able to accomplish an incredible amount of work while experiencing the amazing sights and culture that our Japanese allies have to offer. CG completed a highly successful week as "Division in the Spotlight" in which they demonstrated their material readiness in a rigorous command wide zone inspection.

Even while operating on the other side of the world, CG has been able to maintain its commitment and ties to home as demonstrated by GM2(SW) Ashley Cordray. Upon our return to San Diego in November, GM2(SW) Cordray will be participating in the Susan G. Komen 3 Day, in which she will walk over 60 miles in three days in honor of the fight against breast cancer. So far, GM2 has raised over \$2,000 for the event. Way to go!

With two months left to go, CG Division will be staying busy making sure that PREBLE is ready to rise to the occasion if called upon.



# DIVISION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## MP Division

Story by ENS Phil Maligsa

It seems like only yesterday MP division was under the spot light with DESRON 15's Commodore Lyons participating in zone inspection. With only 2 months left of deployment, time has really been flying. And in that time there have been many achievements being accomplished by MP division since their last DITS. We've had 3 people earn their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pins; Congratulations to GSM2(SW) Eitel, GSM3(SW) Scott and GSM3(SW) Schultz for their hard work and dedication! GSE1(SW) Carrillo-Zuniga experienced a crowning moment earning his Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW) qualification, the highest Engineering watch station, showing he has earned the Captain's trust in ensuring the smooth operation of the Engineering plant, as well as the technical knowledge and leadership to react to any casualties that might occur.



And that's not all folks, MP division has 2 new Chiefs! MP would like to welcome GSMC McGuire to the Preble crew and MP family! She is coming to us with plenty of experience, having done tours on the USS O'Kane out of Hawaii and the USS Gridley and USS Stockdale out of San Diego. Most recently, she was at SWRMC Marine Gas Turbine Inspector shop. It's great to have the inside scoop as to what assessors are looking for in our engines as we transition from deployment to the training cycle and undergo several inspections.

Finally, congratulations to GSMC Hotter! Starting out as a GSM2 when he first checked in, GSMC Hotter has been a hard charger and essential member of MP division since he first arrived. Working his way up through the roles of WCS, MP division LPO and earning a Sailor of the Year Award along the way, we can think of no better person who deserves the honor and respect that comes with earning the title "US Navy Chief".

## CF Division

Story by LTJG Scott Margolis

Combat Fire Control division was fortunate enough to be one of September's Divisions in the Spotlight! CF Division has been busy: We began the month by keeping the ship clean and shipmates safe while in port Yokosuka for 3 weeks. While there, many members of the division had the opportunity to climb Mt. Fuji, explore Tokyo, or just relax and hit the gym. FC1 Phillip Hingleton, FC1 Robert Sprout FC2 Lawrence Banks and FC2 Craig Micka were also involved in PREBLE's Command Off-site, contributing to the future plans and policies onboard.



Aegis Fire Controlman Third Class Daniel Korzen atop Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi Province, Japan.  
Photo: LTJG Scott Margolis

Since getting underway it has been non-stop action with the George Washington Strike group, conducting integrated operations and Joint Exercises with the USAF.



CDR Bob Bryans reenlists Aegis Fire Controlman First Class Paul Chamberlen onboard USS PREBLE (DDG-88).  
Photo: MC3 Paul Kelly

Special recognition this month goes out to CF's three sailors who reenlisted, continuing their commitment to Navy and Country. Congratulations to FCCS Joe Dale, FC1 Chianti Bryant, and FC1 Paul Chamberlen, on their reenlistments. Another very special "congratulations" goes to FC2 Michael Entzminger and his wife Brittany, who welcomed the birth of their son, Michael, this month.

CF Division continues to perform at the highest level possible, keeping PREBLE strong and ready to fight while we wrap up our WESTPAC experience.

# Across the Departments

## WEAPONS

By LT Jacobson, WEPS

As the Weapons Officer, I could not be more proud of my Department for their hard work and dedication this deployment. Just this month alone, we've performed multiple Anti-Submarine Warfare events, Tomahawk exercises, and gun shoots – including Naval Surface Fire Support with F/A-18 jets (see photograph to the left)!



CG Division's Leading Petty Officer, GM1(SW) Joshua Kirkpatrick, coordinated a command wide 5/10K "Fun Run" in support of PREBLE's newly formed running team. The event was held in order to promote a culture of physical fitness throughout the command and to provide a team environment for running enthusiasts onboard. As is typical with everything that CG Division does, CG's very own GM1(SW) Kirkpatrick and GM3 Hart led the way during the run by finishing first in the 5K and 10K runs. Combat Guns (CG) and Combat Acoustics (CA) both did outstanding in their "Division in the Spotlight" assessments. Their spaces are clean, equipment in peak readiness condition, and programs in order.

Combat Missiles division has been diligently at work upholding a very high standard of excellence from conducting maintenance to executing in-house and fleet level training scenarios. CM-01(Tomahawk): They have been against tight competition while involved in 7th *Fleet Fortress Raptor and Fortress Predator* Strike scenarios, and have been nothing short of flawless. *Fortress Raptor and Fortress Predator* are exercises designed on a Fleet level geared toward testing firing unit's strike teams in reaction time upon receipt of strike packages and how well they can execute such missions, and ladies and gentlemen, your PREBLE STRIKE team crushes the competition time and time again!

CM02(Gunnersmate): They work just as hard on upholding the and exceeding the standard of what NAVAL Maintenance means. A Vertical Launching Systems that is not well kept renders a Guided Missile Destroyer paralyzed in one of its main warfare responsibilities. Our Gunners Mates ensure all missiles are operational and the Launching System is mission ready. Also would like to congratulate FC2 Guthery on her qualification to Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.



A few special shout-outs:

Congrats to STG2(SW) Copenhaver, STG2(SW) Schwartz, and FC2(SW) Guthery on their ESWS qualifications!

Farewell to GM2(SW) Bach who will be separating from Naval Service in October. BZ on a job well done!

## NAV/EXEC

By LTJG Holst, NAV

Well nothing will make it feel more like the home stretch than planning the transit home...and the USS PREBLE Quartermasters have been hard at work doing just that. Besides keeping the ship in navigable waters, they have also been plotting the long (awaited) voyage home.

Leading the charge in safe navigation is none other than NN LPO QM1 McElvaney, who while maintaining duties as LPO and Assistant Navigator, also runs the ships Master Helmsman program, accepting full responsibility in training junior sailors to command the Helm with a precision unmatched.

While not underway, Petty Officers Byrd and Donner were hard at work in Yokosuka, Japan taking charge and preserving their spaces to keep the primary watch station onboard clean and rust free.

At sea or ashore, trust your keel to those who wear the wheel!

# Across the Departments

## ENGINEERING



By LT O'Neil, CHENG

September has been yet another busy month in Engineering Department! While in port Yokosuka, Japan, the Engineering team completed repairs to Firemain and Vacuum, Collection, Holding Tank, NR 4 Fire Pump, NR 3 Air Conditioning Plant (following an electrical fire in the motor controller), and NR 2 Shaft Control Unit. With all this work happening, the engineers were still able to take some well deserved rest and relaxation by participating in a Departmental football games and even conquering Mt. Fuji!

Engineering Department would also like to welcome our newest members: GSMC McGuire, HT1 Colburn, DC1 Seitz, HTFR Campbell, and MMFA Shreiber. We also said goodbye to two of our Engineers. EN1(SW) Rivera who is heading to LCS 1, USS Independence and EN2(SW) Luko whose next command is at Southwest Regional Maintenance Center. We wish them fair winds and following seas.

Finally, I am extremely proud to announce our newest Chief Petty Officer, GSMC(SW) Travis Hotter. He is one of our BEST SNIPES. Arriving onboard in September 2009 as a Second Class Petty Officer, GSMC(SW) Hotter has set an unprecedented standard in the department. His unparalleled work ethic, technical expertise, and exemplary leadership make all SNIPES want to emulate him. Congratulations to him and his family on his OUTSTANDING achievement!



### **Qualifications**

EMC(SW) Mark Muyco – Engineering Officer of the Watch

### **Re-enlistments**

GSCS (SW) Jaime Arredondo

### **Qualifications**

GSMC(SW) Travis Hotter

### **Snipe of the Month**

GSM2(SW) Francis DeChico

## OPERATIONS

By: LT Stashwick, OPS

I will pick up with the introduction that LT Hamm left off with last month. After working 3 years on staffs and one year of schools, it was with relief and anticipation to be back on sea duty. Walking toward PREBLE, down the pier and looking at the smartness of her lines and the quality of her paint and appearance even after weeks at sea, I could already tell what a special, hard working, and professional ship this is. Talking with the department and seeing how they carry themselves, it was obvious this was a ship and crew that had been excelling on a challenging and unpredictable deployment.

After a very eventful 3 week inport period, PREBLE got underway, chosen to be the lead and lone escort for our aircraft carrier, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON. By the end of day-one, plans for the exercise had changed and the ship faced the most challenging weather and seas it had seen on this deployment, and, for many onboard, in their entire careers. Operations Department rose to the challenge from securing for bad seas, taking on additional duties in Combat Information Center for defense of the carrier, and supporting helicopter operations in difficult weather conditions.

As September comes to a close we have been the standout in complex Strike Group operations and exercises – often being called upon to take on special screening and coordination tasks and execute warfare commander duties that are usually reserved for larger Cruisers and more senior ships; PREBLE consistently knocked the ball out of the park with every challenge. We have executed two exceptionally difficult Replenishments-at-Sea, requiring us to maneuver close to large oilers in the dangerous seas

caused by the remnants of Typhoons Usagi and Pabuk. In each case the masters and operations chiefs of the replenishment ships went out of their way to single out PREBLE for the professionalism and competence we displayed during these events; Operations Department in particular, has every reason to be proud of the work they have done this month. It has been noticed at every level in the Strike Group and I know we will continue to stand out as we continue to operate with the GEORGE WASHINGTON and DESRON 15 in October!



# Across the Departments

## AIR DETACHMENT

Story By LCDR Brian McArthur, LTJG Justin Langan, LTJG Nathan Rice

September was a busy month for the members of PREBLE's Air Department, nicknamed the "Money Makers." The first half of the month was spent in Yokosuka, Japan for an extended port visit. The Money Makers made the most of the port visit, ensuring helicopter maintenance requirements were met, along with spending some well-deserved liberty time enjoying all Japan had to offer. The second half saw PREBLE dodging two typhoons, while the Money Makers continued flight operations in the Western Pacific Ocean.



While in Yokosuka, the Money Maker maintenance team conducted "phase maintenance" on RED STINGER 110. Phase maintenance involves removing components of the helicopter to inspect them for corrosion and material wear, and then reinstalling the same (or new) component. The phase on RED STINGER 110 was particularly challenging as the entire rotor system was dismantled and then rebuilt; not an easy task! During free time, many Air Department personnel studied for qualifications, visited Tokyo, and were lucky enough to spend time with loved ones who made the visit to Japan. LT Cutting, AWR2 Hartman, AWR2 Petre, AM3 Thibodeau, and AWR3 Kendrick even had the opportunity to climb Mt Fuji with other PREBLE sailors!

Once PREBLE was back underway, the second half of September offered more challenges. After completion of the phase maintenance, a Functional Check Flight, or FCF, had to be conducted on RED STINGER 110. An FCF is where the pilots and aircrewmembers follow a specific set of ground and in-flight procedures to ensure the helicopter is flying properly. The Money Maker maintenance team and PREBLE's crash and salvage team persevered through long, hot days on the flight deck to ensure RED STINGER 110 completed the FCF and was back in action as quickly as possible.

Another challenge the Money Makers faced was the ever-changing weather in the Western Pacific Ocean. PREBLE operated in the vicinity of two typhoons, making flight operations difficult. The excessive pitching and rolling of the flight deck in rough seas was not always conducive to flying the helicopter, but PREBLE's bridge watch standers worked hard to find the calmest waters possible so that RED STINGER could launch.

The Money Makers have done an outstanding job so far on deployment and their dedication to Team PREBLE is truly appreciated. As deployment continues, the Money Makers are looking forward to executing the missions of Surface and Anti-Submarine Warfare for the GEORGE WASHINGTON Strike Group. Sun down, LAMPS up!



PREBLE Executive Officer, CDR Heames, with members of the Air Department at the top of Mt Fuji



# Across the Departments

## COMBAT SYSTEMS

By: LTJG Margolis, FCO

Continuing from where we left off last month, Combat Systems Department finished up a successful visit to Yokosuka, Japan. The time in port was well spent toward the material readiness and upkeep of the ship and its crew. The visit afforded our sailors the time to catch up on some much needed maintenance and topside preservation, keeping our warship an effective and materially ready machine that a nation can be proud of.

Our last day inport was a special one, not just because it was the last time we saw the sights and wonders of Japan, but because we welcomed three new chiefs into the chief's mess. Among them was our own ETC Rambaran, who has been a staple in Combat Systems Department for quite awhile. His promotion came as no surprise to anyone and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of a long career marked with milestones, but none more special than becoming a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy.



Other congratulations are in order for the three new fathers in Combat Systems: IT2 Stewart, IC1 Manuel and FC2 Entzminger. All three cannot wait to get home to experience all the diaper changes a father could want.



It is our continued honor to operate with the George Washington Strike Group and continue to hone our skills as operators and maintainers. We have had several Air Defense and Communications exercises that have flexed the ability of the ship and the skills of its crew. During these operations we assumed the Duties of Alternate Air Defense, Surface Warfare, and Undersea Warfare Commander, huge tasks, which have utilized every capability that we have. Combat Systems sailors are leading the way in these evolutions and are the primary reasons that we have enjoyed so much success. Keep up the good work!

## SUPPLY

By: LS3 Ashley Guary

It should come as no surprise that there are no Wal-Marts or post offices out at sea. How simple things would be if only there were. So how do we restock when our provisions get low? And how do we get our mail from loved ones back home? Ask anyone onboard and you will find the number one response to be "VERTREP" or "Vertical Replenishment".

You're thinking, "What does that even mean?" Basically, we transfer parts, mail, food, and more between ships using helicopters. The receiving ship comes alongside the supplying ship and the helicopters pick up and drop off material. You could closely compare the role of the helicopters to that of a carrier pigeon.



This is almost always an all hands evolution and it's quite a sight. If you would, picture a chain of 200 plus sailors creating a chain from the forecandle to both the food storage room and supply support (that's the entire length of the ship – about 400 ft and two levels down!). The food storage room is on the second deck and supply support is on the third deck just below it. You can imagine that when the boxes of food and mail finally subside, the crew is exhausted; it's all a part of the mission.



PREBLE continues on her deployment with one less thing to worry about for the moment, though there will be plenty more VERTREPS in her future. And although sore muscles will follow, food in your belly and a care package from home make it all worth it.

# UNREP



## Up and Coming

### Upcoming Events

Busan, ROK  
Palau  
Pearl Harbor  
Return Home San Diego, CA

### Long Term Outlook:

Operation Roaring Tiger, November 2013  
Homeport Shift, Summer 2014

