USS McCampbell successfully completes replenishment at sea

Story and photo by MCSN Declan Barnes, *USS McCampbell* Public Affairs

EAST CHINA SEA – Sailors assigned to Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) completed a replenishment-at-sea (RAS) with Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S. Diehl (T-AO 193) May 26.

Sailors assigned to the Arleigh burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85) heave line during a replenishment at sea May 26. *McCampbell* received 20 pallets of mission essential goods and more than 190,000 gallons of fuel from the Henry J. Kaiser-class fleet replenishment oiler *USNS Walter S. Diehl*.

During the RAS, *McCampbell* took on supplies, including food, mail and fuel, which are essential to the ship's mission and crew's morale. Conducting successful RAS evolutions allow ships to remain at sea for extended periods of time, without having to pull into port to refuel or take on cargo.

McCampbell successfully received more than 20 pallets of food and mission essential materials as well as 190,000 gallons of fuel for the ship and embarked helicopters. The evolution was completed on schedule, highlighting the crew's proficiency as well as *McCampbell*'s ability to work along side other ships.

"This was our first RAS since late 2011, and we did better than we thought we were going to do," said Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) Junior Ashwood. "We got everything over safely and pumped all the fuel, so it was certainly a successful underway replenishment."

A RAS is an all hands evolution, and every Sailor plays an important role. During the evolution, Sailors form a qualified bridge team, including a master helmsman responsible for, maneuvering the ship at a close but safe distance from the replenishment ship. Other required duties include safety observers, rig captains, riggers, signalmen and phone talkers.

Every department on the ship provides personnel to act as line handlers. Engineering personnel take samples to test the oncoming fuel and advise the ship when to secure pumping. Gunner's mates are on station to fire shot lines between the ships. Supply personnel are on hand to move and secure oncoming supplies within the ship. It is an exercise that truly requires the crew to come together and work as one.

"Today's RAS was very productive and went well because everybody did their job professionally and with dedication, which made the evolution go smoothly," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Gerald Battle.

George Washington crew welcomes new command master chief

By MCSA Brian H. Abel, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

PHILIPPINE SEA – A Sailor looks over a variety of hanging uniforms consisting of different colored flight deck jerseys, coveralls and Navy working uniforms that represent Sailors in various departments and work centers and the daily challenges they face aboard the ship.

Command Master Chief (CMDCM) Shaun Brahmsteadt from Montague, Calif., is *USS George Washington*'s (CVN 73) new command master chief. He has faced many trials throughout his career and wears a different uniform everyday to show Sailors he cares and understands the many challenges they face each day.

"I wear a different jersey everyday so I can represent every department," said Brahmsteadt.

The challenges he's conquered throughout his career have given him the knowledge to take care of his Sailors.

Brahmsteadt entered the U.S. Navy on July 3, 1985 at Recruit Training Command San Diego. He attended Radioman Class "A" school after basic training.

New Sailors usually don't know what to expect, or how to act when they first enter the service. However, Brahmsteadt's father was in the U.S. Navy during Vietnam and gave guidance to his young, new Sailor.

"I took things my father said with me to the Navy," said Brahmsteadt. "He told me, 'Shaun, it's better to be seen than heard.' So, when I enlisted, I kept my mouth shut, opened my ears and followed orders."

Brahmsteadt's first sea tour was aboard the nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser *USS Truxtun* (CGN 35) and afterward, he was part of the commissioning and maiden patrol aboard the guided missile destroyer *USS Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51).

Brahmsteadt went from a Master Chief Information Systems Technology Specialist in 2006 to a Command Master Chief with the "Tophatters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14. He gained qualifications including brake rider, duct driver, final checker and plane captain.

The transition from rated master chief to a command master chief gave Brahmsteadt many new responsibilities.

"As a departmental master chief, I was in charge of my department and about 60 Sailors," said Brahmsteadt. "As a command master chief, not only do I have to worry about taking care of my Sailors, but I have to take care of the commanding officer (CO) and executive officer. I'm the go between for the Sailor and the CO."

(Right) *USS George Washington* (CVN 73) Command Master Chief Shaun Brahmsteadt, waves goodbye to people on the pier while departing Yokosuka, Japan May 26.

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos

Brahmsteadt understands the difficulty of his position aboard a forward-deployed aircraft carrier and looks forward to what the future holds for *George Washington* and its crew.

"The night before we got underway, I didn't get any sleep because I was so excited," said Brahmsteadt. "I'm really excited to be here!"

Brahmsteadt makes his rounds and enjoys visiting with Sailors and sharing their experiences by physically helping them with their jobs during shipboard evolutions, including sea and anchor details and replenishments-at-sea.

Helping and visiting Sailors provides an easy opportunity for Brahmsteadt to get to know his crew.

"I'm a very shy person," said Brahmsteadt. "I will ask someone a question, even if I know the answer just to break the ice. This aircraft carrier has more people than my hometown."

"We're going in the right direction from the maintenance period," said Brahmsteadt. "I'm a big teamwork type of guy, I like for everyone to work together. The ship's crew and embarked air wing are working well together, and I hope we can put the battle 'E' on the side of the ship. We can't do any mission without the Sailors."