Navy readies physical fitness assessment NAVFIT98A software

By MC1(AW) LaTunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Navy will release a new version of NAVFIT98A software Aug. 1, changing the way physical fitness assessment (PFA) results are documented in block 20 of a fitness report or evaluation.

"We released a new version of NAVFIT98A to accommodate the recent policy changes and at the same time fix several longstanding problems associated with the application," explained Jim Price, director, Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Performance Evaluation Division.

NAVFIT98A Version 28 supports new performance report policy changes and fixes known security and printing problems, as well as other technical issues associated with older versions of the software. Because of these changes, all forms will have new version numbers. Electronic versions can be found at http://www.npc.navy.mil/careerinfo/performanceevaluation/softwareforms.

Commands that still have an older version installed but that need to submit performance reports with ending dates of Aug. 1 or later can submit performance reports generated by older software versions until network updates are complete.

The E7-E9 chief evaluation has been modified to include the new policy guidance. Evaluation form NAVPERS 1616/27 8-10 can be found at the website link mentioned above beginning Aug. 1. This website also answers frequently asked questions concerning Version 28 deployment and provides a reference guide on using the application.

"I'm really excited because improving the documentation gives PFA the level of attention it deserves. The upgrade will get leadership focused on their Sailors' fitness and the importance of the Physical Readiness Information Management Systems," said Chief Yeoman (AW) Alisha D. Marshall, Navy Operational Support Center Fort Worth, Texas, command fitness leader.

For more information on NAVFIT98A Version 28, read Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 233/10.

For technical assistance with NAVFIT98A software, call NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672). For any network software deployment issues, contact your local network Helpdesk.

QM1 Andrey Mihaylovski monitors the time during the 1.5-mile run portion of the CNFJ bi-annual physical fitness assessment (PFA) on the CFAY Berkey Field. The Navy will release a new version of NAVFIT98A software Aug. 1, changing the way PFA results are documented.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dominique Pineiro

Enrollment begins in web-based NavyWomen eMentoring Program

By Lt. Laura K. Stegherr,
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The NavyWomen eMentoring Program, a web-based tool that connects uniformed Navy women for mentoring relationships, has begun a new open enrollment period that was announced in Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 226/10 July 7.

The program, now in its third year, is designed to support the personal and professional development of women by building productive mentoring relationships between mentors and proteges.

Four hundred new slots are available for mentors and mentees during the open enrollment period, which will last until Aug. 15.

The program is open to all active duty and reserve Navy women, to include officers, officers-in-training and enlisted members.

The program features a user-friendly interface that offers several options for Navy women to create mentoring relationships.

In addition to the basic one-on-one mentor to protege matching, mentees can also take part in situational mentoring for more short-term, situation-specific needs. This function allows mentees to select one or more mentors to assist them with a particular situation or to post the situation, allowing mentors to volunteer their support.

A new feature of the program beginning in late summer 2010 is group mentoring, where mentors can post a topic for discussion. Mentees can then join the group and participate during a designated time frame.

The program currently has 1,250 participants enrolled, including 800 mentors from nearly every designator and rating. Members include women of all ranks and reflect a broad range of designators, experiences and expertise.

Stefanie Goebel, NavyWomen eMentor Program director, is pleased with the momentum the program has gained throughout the past two years.

"I am very excited about the way Navy women have embraced the NavyWomen eMentor leadership program," said Goebel. "The ongoing high numbers of enrollees clearly show the great need and desire for this kind of mentoring. Participants tell us again and again how grateful they are to have such easy access to more experienced women who understand firsthand their unique brand of challenges."

The NavyWomen eMentoring Program, a web-based tool that connects uniformed Navy women for mentoring relationships, has begun a new open enrollment period from now to Aug. 15. The program is open to all active duty and reserve Navy women, to include officers, officers-in-training and enlisted members. Visit www.academywomen.org/ementor/signup/ to register in the program.

Image courtesy of www.academywomen.org

Participants surveyed about their impressions of the program indicated that they had positive experiences with the program.

The survey indicated that 82 percent of mentees and 84 percent of mentors were highly satisfied with their initial experiences and that 80 percent of all participants said they had improved career satisfaction since using the program.

"The best thing about the mentoring program so far is that I have an awesome mentor who is caring and practical, helping me to put some items into perspective so that I can work them out and move on," said one survey respondent. "She is able to address both my professional and personal goals, which is a huge plus."

"I am finally able to talk to someone with confidence and confidentiality about my experiences, questions and concerns and am able to receive valuable and actionable advice - from someone who's been in my shoes!" said another respondent.

Mentors also found much value in the program.

"Being able to assist someone with concerns I've already faced reminds me how small our Navy is," said a surveyed mentor. "And I believe keeping that idea in mind helps us all."

Goebel explained that the mentoring program serves an important role in the overall development of women in the Navy.

"Mentoring is not simply a feel-good activity. It is 100 percent about valuing human capital," said Goebel. "The existence of this program clearly sends the message that the Navy cares about the professional and personal growth of uniformed Navy women. And the women are hearing the message."

Navy women are encouraged to register at www.academywomen.org/ementor/signup. Within two days, registrants will receive an e-mail instructing them to create an account and profile, and for mentees, to search for and select a mentor.

The Navy recognizes mentoring as a valuable and necessary component to job satisfaction and performance.

More information on the Navy Women eMentor Program and other women's policy initiatives can be found at the website www.npc.navy.mil/AboutUs/BUPERS/WomensPolicy/.

The Chief asks:

"Did you know, on this date, July 23, in:

• 1947 - The first Navy all jet squadron (VF-17A) received its first aircraft.

• 1948 - *USS Putnum* (DD 757) evacuated United Nations (U.N.) team from Haifa, Israel, and became the first U.S. Navy ship to fly the U.N. flag.

• 1950 - *USS Boxer* (CV 21) set record crossing of the Pacific Ocean to bring aircraft, troops and supplies to Korea at start of the conflict.

• 1958 - *USS Nautilus* (SSN 571) departed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for first submerged transit of the North Pole.

• 1993 - Sarah Deal became the first women Marine selected for naval aviation training.

"If you didn't know, now you know." - MCC(SW/AW) Eric Hannah, CFAY Public Affairs