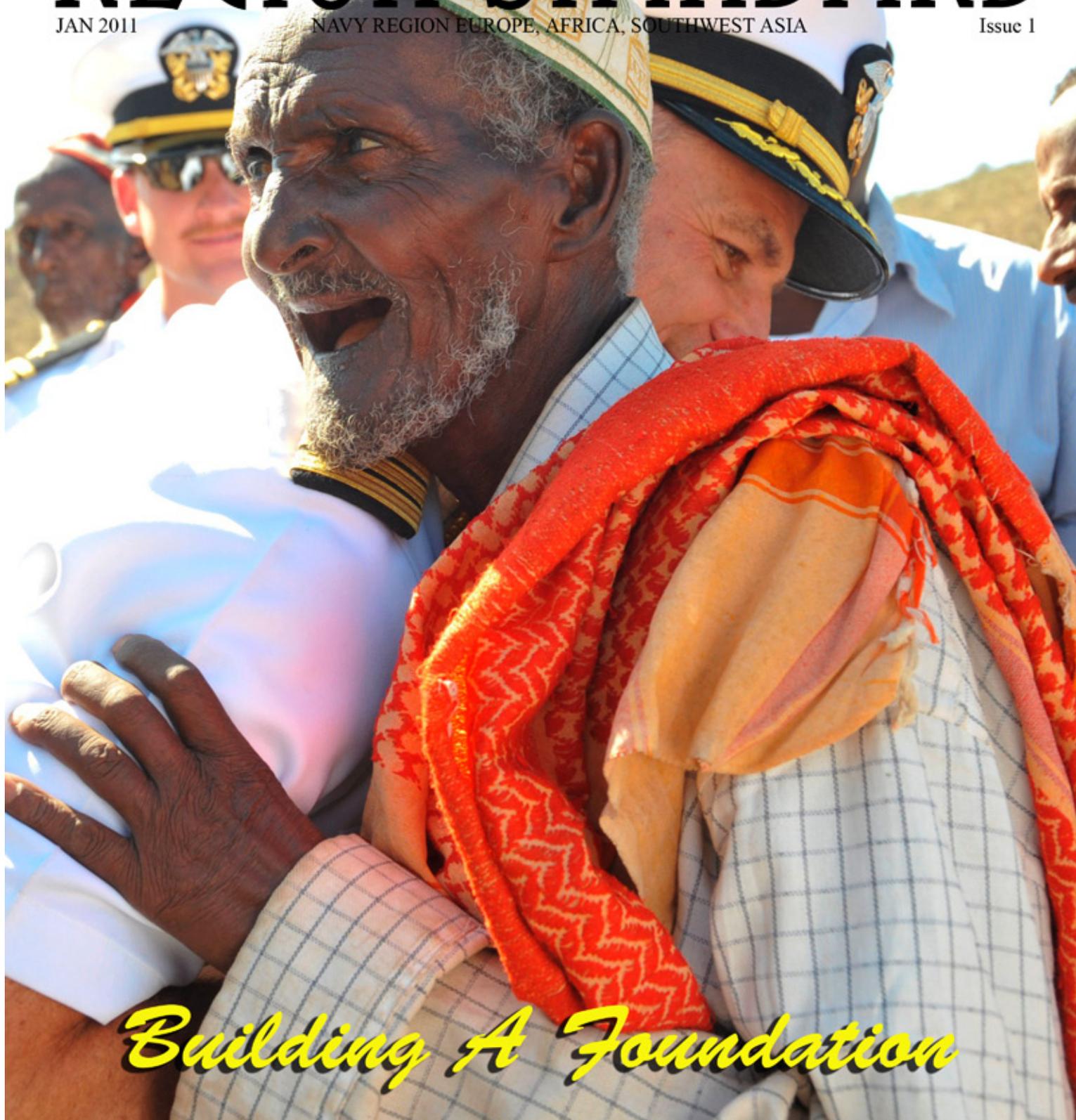


REGION STANDARD

JAN 2011

NAVY REGION EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA

Issue 1



Building A Foundation

Essential Comms: Region Suspends Mandatory Housing Assignments

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Community Support: USS Truman Sailors Make the Most of Recent Port Visit at NSA Souda Bay



E S S E N T I A L C O M M S

Region Housing Policy Changes

Story by CNREURAFSWA PAO

NAPLES, Italy — Mandatory assignment to housing for incoming families has been discontinued aboard Navy installations in Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (EURAFSWA) in accordance with a policy change established Jan. 1.

Newly arriving families to the Region's affected installations Naval Station Rota, Spain, and Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, will be given the option of either residing in military family housing or a private rental on the local economy.

"This policy change on housing assignment provides greater flexibility and choice for our families," said Rear Adm. Tony Gaiani, Navy Region EURAFSWA commander. "Changing conditions have given us the opportunity to try a new approach to family housing assignment in an effort to better serve their needs."

Since January 2009, a direct housing

assignment policy was implemented Region-wide to mitigate high vacancy rates. Of the region's six installations, Rota and Naples locations were most affected.

"There were families arriving at our installations who desired to move into base housing, but who were unable to do so due to lack of availability driven in part by the mandatory assignment policy," said Sandra Schlosser, the regional housing program director.

Leased housing on overseas bases has to be paid for whether it is occupied or not, so Schlosser said the policy will be revisited at the end of 2011. If at that time, family housing occupancy rates aboard any installation have fallen below an acceptable level, the installation commanding officer may reinstate the mandatory housing assignment.

The policy change is intended to provide more options to incoming families with approved permanent change of station (PCS) orders. However, members already assigned to base housing desiring to relocate to a private rental on the local economy may submit a request for

exception to the policy to their respective housing office.

Requests for policy exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the installation commanding officer. If approved, costs incurred in relocating from housing to a private rental would be the responsibility of the service member.

The new family housing policy now in effect also stipulates that newly arriving families who choose to reside off base when family housing is available will be responsible for costs related to any later decision to relocate to on-base housing.

Arriving service members who are required to live on the local economy due to lack of available base family housing may receive government funding for relocation when on-base family housing becomes available.

"So long as we are able to maintain an acceptable occupancy rate while offering families choices, we will keep this policy change in place," said Gaiani. "Quality of life and good stewardship of our limited resources are integral to military readiness."

Front Cover: A member of the Gugure Clan embraces Capt. Scott R. Vasina during a well dedication ceremony in the Adiga Famlia area of Dire Dawa, Djibouti. Photo by Spc. Sheri Carter

The Region Standard

The Region Standard is a Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) publication disseminating national, regional and local news and information.

The goal of the monthly publication is to provide an avenue of communication directly from CNREURAFSWA to installation personnel and their families.

With contributions from public affairs offices throughout the AOR, The Region Standard is staffed by:

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E-4'S AUTHORIZED IN THE BARRACKS

Story by CNREURAFSWA PAO

NAPLES, Italy — Unaccompanied E-4 personnel stationed aboard Navy installations across Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia are now eligible to live in unaccompanied housing, according to a new Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (EURAFSWA) policy that went into effect Jan. 1.

Under the previous policy, unaccompanied on-base accommodations were generally reserved for E-3 and below. Newly arriving E-4 service members will be mandatorily assigned to unaccompanied base housing where space is available and where it is determined to have no adverse impact on potential occupancy for unaccompanied E-3 and below.

"This new policy now in

place allows us to better ensure our incoming E-4 personnel have the on-base housing support they need," said Navy Region EURAFSWA Command Master Chief Robert White. "But I want the E-3 and below to know that they will not be impacted. They are still the top priority for unaccompanied housing and will continue to get top consideration for requests."

According to Sandra Schlosser, the regional housing program director, exceptions will be considered on a cases-by-case basis for incoming unaccompanied E-4 personnel who received permanent change of station orders prior to implementation of the new policy.

"Some service members already received their orders and shipped household goods and pets," said Schlosser. "These service members, as

well as any for whom assignment to unaccompanied housing would result in undue hardship, will be given case-by-case consideration."

An estimated 200 vacancies in unaccompanied housing exist at current Navy Region EURAFSWA installations. New vacancies may be created in the future by reactivating other facilities.

Unaccompanied E-4 personnel currently residing in private rentals on the local economy are not required to relocate from their current residence, but they may request reassignment to unaccompanied housing on base on a space-available basis. Members seeking this type of relocation are responsible for any related moving costs.

Assignment to unaccompanied housing for geographic bachelors will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

F E A T U R E D S T O R Y

CAMP LEMONNIER PERSONNEL RUN 28TH GRAND BARA 15K

Story and Photos by Spc. Sheri Carter, CJTF-HOA PAO

GRAND BARA DESERT, Djibouti — More than 300 service members and civilians attached to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) and Camp Lemonnier participated in the 28th Annual Grand Bara 15k Race, sponsored by the French Foreign Legion, December 16, 2010.

International partners throughout the region participated in the event, including members of the French Foreign Legion, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Djiboutian nationals and runners

from around East Africa.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be able to participate," said Kent Long, a Department

"The most exciting part of running this race was the chance to share the experience with the other soldiers from my unit."

of Defense civilian contractor for CJTF-HOA. "To be able to meet and compete with such a diverse group of runners was an incredible experience. For the Camp Lemonnier runners, this will be an event that we remember throughout the years."

-Staff Sgt. Nathan O'Donnell

The run took place in the

chance to share the experience with the other soldiers from my unit," U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Nathan O'Donnell said. "The training was the hardest part, trying to balance the distance needed for my first marathon in January, with maintaining the needed speed for this race, since it's a shorter distance."

O'Donnell was the first CJTF-HOA member to finish the race.

"Even though I did not win, being able to be the first finisher from Camp and at least in the top 50 overall was a big mental victory, since I have only just started to get serious about running this past spring."

U.S. Marine, 1st Lt. Michelle

Perez also participated in the day's events and was the first female to cross the finish line, which earned her a trophy and a medal.

Left: Marine 1st Lt. Michelle Perez receives a trophy and medal as the first woman to finish the 15K race.



Above: Army Capt. Kimberly Young waves as she crosses the finish line with Army SFC Mark Young.

Below: Army Staff Sgt. Nathan O'Donnell crosses the finish line at the Grand Bara 15K Race.

U.S. Marine, 1st Lt. Michelle



A R O U N D T H E R E G I O N

Passport, Visa Required for Bahrain Duty

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- A change in the Department of Defense (DoD) Foreign Clearance Guide now requires military and civilian personnel and eligible family members moving to Bahrain to get a no-fee passport and visa.

According to the DoD's Electronic Foreign Clearance Guide, which is available at <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>, updated Sept. 14, military and civilian personnel and eligible family members must possess a no-fee passport valid for at least six months beyond the date of arrival in Bahrain and obtain a visa prior to traveling to Bahrain.

"Passports can take up to six months to process," said Cmdr. Carl Chaffin, Distribution Management and Procedures branch head. "Upon receiving permanent change of station orders or a letter of intent, Sailors need to immediately go to their servicing personnel support detachment to start the process."

Policy changes have allowed family members to return to Bahrain. Adult family members were authorized to accompany service members to Bahrain in November 2008, and the rules further changed in June 2009 to allow all family members to accompany their sponsor.

Sailors interested in assignments to Bahrain are reminded that the Career Management System/Interactive Detailing window was recently shortened and that their detailing window is now seven to nine months prior to their projected rotation date. After that three-month window, Sailors become eligible for "needs of the Navy" assignments.

For more information, visit the Navy Personnel Command website's "Enlisted" or "Officer" assignments pages at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/Enlisted/> or <http://www.npc.navy.mil/Officer/> and look for the "Bahrain Fact Sheet" in the menu on the right side of the page.

-NPC Public Affairs

Rota Sailor Selected as Region SOY

NAPLES, Italy -- Commander Navy Region Europe, Africa, Southwest Asia (CNREURAFSWA) selected its 2010 Sailor of the Year during a ceremony at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Naples,

Italy, Dec. 9.

During his ceremony remarks, Rear Adm. Tony Gaiani highlighted the significance of Master-at-Arms 1st Class David Farnsworth being selected as the CNREURAFSWA 2010 SOY.

"We are recognizing that Sailor who most closely represents the values of honor, courage and commitment," said Gaiani. "With the incredibly diverse missions being performed today during a time of war and with our naval forces spread so thin, singling out one Sailor for recognition was an extremely difficult task."

Farnsworth, NS Rota, Spain, Security Department; said he was initially rendered speechless when Gaiani announced his name.

"I never expected to receive this," said Farnsworth. "I work with an outstanding group of professional Sailors that helped me get to where I am at. I worked hard this year and it feels great to have earned this."

Five candidates from Navy installations in Bahrain, Italy, Sicily, Crete and Spain traveled to CNREURAFSWA headquarters in Naples to compete for the Region award.

"We looked for sustained superior performance, primary responsibilities, leadership, 'sailorization', self improvement, meritorious achievements, collateral duties, education accomplishments, peer group and community involvement, and military bearing," said CNREURAFSWA Command Master Chief Robert White. "Each of the candidates exhibited all these qualities and represented their installations to the highest standard. We had a very tough selection process."

During the week, the Sailors visited local historical sites, including famous World War I battle grounds. They also dined at local Neapolitan restaurants.

Farnsworth will soon compete against other region-level selectees for the Commander, Navy Installations Command Sailor of the Year award.

"I know the day-to-day grind may get to you, but just keeping pushing forward and good things come," said Farnsworth.

"Don't wait to lead," said White. "If you see something wrong don't walk past it, correct it. Be involved with bystander intervention, peer group engagement and challenging those Sailors you lead on a

daily basis to continue to raise the standard both personally and professionally."

-CNREURAFSWA Public Affairs

Navy Women Attend International Conference

MANAMA, Bahrain -- Service women assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 5 took part in the First International Military Women Conference at the Isa Cultural Center in Juffair, Bahrain, Nov. 30 through Dec. 1.

The theme for the two-day event was "Military Women - Achievements, Challenges and Ambitions".

The mission of the conference was to encourage the role of women in the military by channeling their talents to the international military leadership programs that benefit military women worldwide. The conference also focused on developing the partnerships between men and women in implementing military tasks, and to outline a strategic plan to create a network between female military leaders.

Guest speaker Rear Adm. Margaret Klein, commander, ESG 5; discussed the history of women in the U.S. Navy, which began with women solely serving solely as nurses, to women now being in senior-level leadership positions.

The conference hosted women from 13 countries and was the first of its kind in Bahrain. It provided women with different professional backgrounds the chance to meet and exchange thoughts and ideas.

"I think this is groundbreaking," Klein said. "It is very powerful for these women to have each other as role models and mentors."

The conference was hosted under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and Chairwoman of the Supreme Council for Women. Princess Sabeeka honored women in the military, interacted with officials and guests, and toured the Bahraini military women's exhibition.

"In her remarks, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka was very encouraging of these Bahraini pioneers and wanted to publicly acknowledge their contributions to Bahraini society," said Capt. Ann Kubera, NAVCENT Human Resources.

A R O U N D T H E R E G I O N

Emergency Services Conduct Training Exercise

SIGONELLA, Italy -- The Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella Fire and Emergency Services, along with the Italian Air Force (ITAF) joined together on the NAS Sigonella Flightline Dec. 13, 2010 for an integrated training exercise on putting out a fire on a plane and rescuing mannequins who played the part of trapped passengers.

NAS Sigonella Assistant Fire Chief Michael Bowling said the training scenario set up a medium sized aircraft which Sigonella Firefighters set on fire. After the plane was set ablaze, a Sigonella fire truck along with an Italian Air Force ambulance rolled down the flightline and used hoses attached to the top of the two trucks to put out the first wave of flames.

"You come in and you start flooding the aircraft with water, cooling it down to make an entry way to go inside and rescue the people trapped inside," Bowling said. "Then you go in on a smaller scale and clean it up."

After the fire on the exterior of the plane was put out, firefighters from both sides donned their protective suits and went inside the aircraft to retrieve the trapped passengers.

NAS II Sigonella Station Chief Joseph Richie said the Sigonella Fire and Emergency Services train with the ITAF as much as possible, and thinks it's very important to keep having training exercises together.

"It was a joint training evolution with both parties who share an airfield with different aircrafts coming in and out," Richie said. "In the event of an incident, both parties are aware of the procedures and the instances that we're going to encounter so we have a better understanding within, both Italian and American fire departments."

Bowling and Richie both stated the importance of working with the ITAF on a regular basis, and said they try to train with ITAF once every quarter.

"We get prior notification if an aircraft has any kind of problem coming in from the runway, and based on our procedures and proper methods and techniques, we immediately know what to do and that's why we keep training with the Italian Air force," Bowling said. "If we ever had an

aircraft crash or a real emergency, there is a very good possibility that we would have assistance from the ITAF so it's important for us to train like this because we know what each other is going to do and how to operate together."

"It's very important because we have a chance to gain a better understanding from each other and learn how both sides work, that way, if an incident does

occur, we'll be ready for it," Richie added. "Overall, it went great but of course we think you can never have too much training and we hope to continue our joint training exercises with ITAF even more."

-NAS Sigonella Public Affairs

Question & Answer

Rear Adm. Anthony Gaiani

1. Can we save energy by changing to lower wattage bulbs or just using every other fixture in the hallway?

A. Excellent suggestion, short answer -- Yes. Lighting is utilized for security and safety, and we must balance this with energy conservation goals. Our Region-wide energy conservation measures employ a number of strategies -- low-watt bulbs, timers, motion sensors -- to save energy. NAVFAC, through the Region Energy Manager and Building Energy Managers, is heavily engaged in the energy conservation efforts. We can also all do our part by making sure to properly secure our spaces, turning off lights and equipment, before departing for the day.

2. Can the electronic suggestion box be added to the EURAFSWA page of the CNIC Gateway (keeping the anonymous aspect)?

A. Not everyone has access to the gateway, but everyone across the region has access to the EURAFSWA home page and it is anonymous. It can be accessed from any computer at home, on travel or at work. Please keep the suggestions coming.

WE WANT YOUR QUESTIONS! CNREURAFSWA is committed to providing a better, more open line of communication between the Region leadership and installation personnel and their families. If you have a question for Region leadership, e-mail the question to DLCNREURAFSWAPO@EU.NAVY.MIL or use the suggestion box at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Europe>.

Good Job! *Excellent* **Bravo Zulu** *Good Job!*
HEY... GREAT EFFORT *YOU ARE AWESOME*
HEY... GREAT EFFORT *'Well Done'* *Perfect!*
HEY... GREAT EFFORT *Great Work*

-Exercise Neptune Response: A very well deserved 'well done' goes out to all the personnel who planned and executed the Neptune Response exercise. With an outstanding effort, we achieved our highest level of integration with Region personnel and CNE-C6F staff. A special thanks to the N7 team: LT Frauenthal, Scott Harvey, Stan Scott and Steve Ursell.

B I G N A V Y N E W S

Re-Enlistment Rules Benefit Fleet, Readiness

By MC1 LaTunya Howard, NPC PAO

MILLINGTON, Tenn.-- Two new algorithms were developed for the Perform-to-Serve/Fleet Rating Identification Engine (PTS/Fleet RIDE) system and activated Oct. 1, to better identify top-performing Sailors.

The new algorithms benefit Sailors by including factors that distinguish them from their peers.

"These algorithms were built from fleet input," said Joe Kelly, PTS program manager. "One is specifically for in-rate applications, and the other is for rating-conversion requests. Both algorithms were created with specific factors that better

align the application with the Sailor's desires."

The algorithm ranks Sailors using the following performance indicators in order of priority:

- Highest Pay Grade – Senior pay grades will rank highest in the system.
- Selected-Not Yet Advanced – Frocked Sailors rank higher than those not yet picked for advancement.
- Average Ranking of Five Most Recent Evaluations – Early Promote, Must Promote, and Promotable have numeric values of 5, 4, and 3, respectively. This is used instead of calculating trait averages.
- Critical Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) – Critical NECs

rank higher than non-critical NECs (The conversion algorithm substitutes Fleet RIDE scores for critical NECs).

- Fleet RIDE/Rank Score – Provides an indicator of potential success in the rating requested; largely based on a Sailor's ASVAB score (This applies to a conversion algorithm only).

- Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) Results – PFAs are calculated based on the number of failures within the past four-year period. Only physically ready Sailors can reenlist.

- Proximity to End-of-Obligated-Service (EAOS) – Sailors closer to their EAOS rank higher in PTS. This indicator would be the tie-breaker between otherwise equally qualified Sailors.

The new PTS/Fleet RIDE system includes the enlisted community managers (ECM) in the selection process by giving them the ability to review the algorithm results for content and accuracy. The

Head ECM can then review all approved and denied quotas, forwarded from the ECMs, to ensure their list complies with end-strength goals set forth by the chief of naval personnel, resulting in better program oversight and management.

Another improvement in PTS is the shift to year group management, vice zones.

"Year group management is advantageous for several reasons," said Capt. Hank Roux, head enlisted community manager. "It now compares Sailors with their contemporaries, Sailors who are in the same rating and entered the Navy in the same fiscal year. The pre-October legacy system compared those at extreme ends of each zone against each other."

For example, a hospital corpsman with four years of service no longer has to compete against a corpsman with six years.

For more information read NAVADMIN 352/10.

Navy Announcements

LDO, CWO Communities Under Review

MILLINGTON, Tenn. -- In an effort to ensure the right specialists are in the right place, the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) announced Dec. 29 that it has been conducting a review of its technical leadership since August and will brief Navy leadership in early January 2011.

MCPON Stresses Do Your Part for 'Zero Tolerance' on Sexual Assault

WASHINGTON -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released a message on Sexual Assault to the Fleet Dec. 28. To view the messages visit the MCPON's news page, www.navy.mil/local/mcpon/.

Navy T-45 Crashes Near Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla -- A U. S. Navy T-45C Goshawk training jet assigned to Training Air Wing Six crashed east of Tallahassee, Fla. while conducting a training mission at approximately 10:15 a.m. CST, Dec. 29.

NAVADMIN 420/10 - NEW POLICY REGARDING INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION PAY FOR PHYSICAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT FAILURE

NAVADMIN 415/10 - VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)/ELECTRONIC TAX FILING (ELF) POLICY AND PROGRAM GUIDANCE



Littoral Combat Ship Contract Awarded: The Navy has awarded Lockheed Martin Corp. and Austal USA each a fixed-price incentive contract for the design and construction of a 10 ship block-buy, for a total of 20 littoral combat ships from fiscal 2010 through fiscal 2015. The amount awarded to Lockheed Martin Corp. is \$436,852,639 and Austal USA \$432,069,883. Both contracts include a line item for nine additional ships. The pricing for these ships falls below the escalated average Congressional cost cap of \$538 million.

C O M M U N I T Y S U P P O R T

TRUMAN MAKES MOST OF CRETE PORT VISIT

Story by MC3 (SW) Nina Hughes

USS HARRY S. TRUMAN, At Sea (NNS) -- Crew members aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) recently enjoyed the opportunity to relax and experience some Greek culture and food during a port visit to Souda Bay, Crete, Dec. 3-6.

Sailors and Marines were able to participate in several functions and tours organized by Harry S. Truman's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division, such as shopping and wine-tasting tours in Chania, hiking in the Gorge of Imbros and trips to Knossos palace and the "White Mountains" of Omalos.

"Greece was hands-down my favorite port

and had the most beautiful scenery," said Operations Specialist 3rd Class (AW) Andi Lubera, whose grandmother is Greek. "The whole port was like looking at a series of postcards. I went on the hiking in the Gorge of Imbros and Greek dinner MWR tours. The food was great - I loved the stuffed peppers and spinach."

Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jelissa Broadbelt first visited Crete 10 years ago as an Airman on board USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) and enjoyed the chance to see and explore new places.

"MWR's tours were not even available last time I visited Crete," said Broadbelt, who visited Knossos palace and a Chanian winery. "Signing up for the tours allowed me to see



great scenery and wander away from the local area for a true Greek experience. Greece was definitely a great country to visit as an ending to a successful 2010 deployment."

Sailors were also able to purchase unique Christmas gifts for loved ones back

home.

"I did loads of shopping," said Lubera. "I bought a set of mythological plates and jewelry for all of my siblings."

"I was able to buy a bracelet with the eternity Greek sign for my Mom which is exclusive to this region and a winter jacket for myself," said Yeoman 3rd Class (SW) Jason Leach.

In addition to MWR tours, a wide variety of community relations projects and sports were also offered. Crew members had the option to compete in friendly games of basketball, softball, flag football, kickball and soccer with Sailors from Naval Support Activity Souda Bay.

"I signed up to play flag football while in Crete," said Seaman Sebastian Rivera, of Air Department's V-3 Divi-

sion. "Sports are one of my passions, and it was nice to enjoy the off-time playing sports with my Shipmates while in Greece."

Listed as their favorite port visit by several crew members, most appreciated the chance to relax with their friends and interact with the locals.

"I really enjoyed eating gelato and spending time with my friends away from the work environment in Crete," added Machinist's Mate 1st Class (SW) Leslie Grant, of Reactor Training Division. "A lot of time we, as Americans, are naive about different cultures and countries. By visiting all the ports, we have the opportunity to open our eyes and take in a new experience away from home."

