# Message from Fleet Minyard

Hello again shipmates, I have a brand new topic to talk about this month. Before I get started I wanted to say I hope you all had a great Memorial Day weekend and were able to spend some quality time with your friends and families. This weekend should have been a time to reflect on those who went before us and gave the ultimate sacrifice to our nation. It's been a busy year in the Pacific, and we've all earned the right to a little fun and relaxation. Isn't that what summer's all about; a chance to kick back, soak up some sun, and have a good time with your friends?

That's right shipmates, you've earned the right to enjoy yourself and unwind a little when the opportunity presents itself. Right up to the point where you forget who you are and what you are doing. To the point where you quit making sound decisions and do something that you just might regret later.

Sound decision-making. Let's talk about that for a minute. Every day we are faced with choices, some of them are simple like what to have for lunch. Others are more serious and can have long-term impact on our lives. In a perfect world the decisions that could harm us or change the course of our life would be easy to spot, but not all of life's decisions are as easy as avoiding a dark alley in a bad part of town. All too often the decisions that end up hurting us are the ones that appear harmless, or that we've made before without anything bad happening.

So what are these hard to spot decisions I'm talking about? Well, they can be as simple as deciding what to do on a Friday night. Let's say you plan on going out to dinner and then clubbing with a group of people from your command. Your best friend has to work late and won't be able to join you but, no problem; you've gone out with the group before and always had a good time. Besides, you're not planning to stay out past midnight and you can hang out with your friend tomorrow. About half way through the night a couple people from your group ask if you want to go outside and smoke some Spice. You have heard that some of them smoked Spice before, but that wasn't your business. Even though you've had a few drinks, you decide there's no way you're going to risk your career and decline. A couple hours later you realize you've drunk more than you intended and the room is starting to spin a little. When the bar finally closes, one of the guys that's been talking to you and buying you drinks all night offers to let you crash at his place so you don't have to stumble your way across the quarterdeck, and you accept... bad decision?

This scenario may not apply to some of you, but situations like it happen regularly in our Navy. Many of them end with no serious consequences, many, but not all. Our shipmate in this scenario started out making sound decisions, including having a liberty buddy and a plan, but didn't take all of the events into account as the evening wore on. Although she dodged one bullet to her career, she ended up putting herself in a situation that could potentially be worse. Could this situation have been avoided with better planning and decision making? I believe so.

Now, most of us didn't get to adulthood without making a few decisions along the way. From the time we're old enough to understand, we are taught right from wrong. It begins with simple lessons like looking both ways before crossing the street, learning not to take something that doesn't belong to you or borrow it without asking permission. When we're young most of our decisions are made for us, but as we grow older we begin to make decisions for ourselves. As teenagers, we face choices about whether to stay out past curfew or take our first drink of alcohol, and the decisions are more complicated as we get older. In the end though, it always comes down to deciding what's right and wrong; weighing the gains against the risks.

Now, we are all human, and as a result we are prone to making mistakes, but there is a clear difference between making a mistake and making a conscious decision to ignore what you know is right. Anyone can misread the instructions on how to perform maintenance on a water tight door, but it takes a conscious decision to gun-deck the check and sign off on the log as complete. Anyone can misinterpret signals from a member of the opposite sex, but it requires a choice to ignore the rules on fraternization or engage in a sexual assault.

It's the decisions we make that define us, not just who we are, but who we want to be. So before you make one, even one that appears relatively simple, consider all the options and consequences before making a decision, you'll be glad you did.

Until next time shipmates, thanks for all you do! - Pacific Fleet Master Chief John Minyard

# Gates recommends former 7th Fleet commander as next CNO

**From Department of Defense Public Affairs**

WASHINGTON - Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced June 16, he has recommended Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, vice chief of naval operations (VCNO), to succeed the retiring Adm. Gary Roughead as the next chief of naval operations (CNO).

Gates said he made the recommendation to President Barack Obama based on Greenert's solid portfolio that includes both significant personnel programs and budget responsibilities.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Greenert is "an exceptional officer, and if confirmed, will be, I believe, an exceptional CNO."

"He has wonderful operational experience and fleet experience, he's terrific with people and he has extensive experience in the money world, which is now facing all of us," Mullen said. "So I strongly concur with the secretary's recommendation."

Gates praised Roughead, who will retire this fall, for four decades of service and leadership at the helm of the Navy for the past four years.

"I have very much enjoyed working with Gary and have greatly valued his counsel and wisdom on both Navy issues and broader strategic issues," Gates said.

Upon being notified of the news, Roughead offered his congratulations and endorsement.

"I could not be more pleased that Adm. Jon Greenert has been nominated to be the 30th Chief of Naval Operations. I have known Jon and his family well for years and I have the utmost respect for him as a leader and a naval officer."

In a statement released after the announcement Greenert said "I am honored and humbled by the Secretary's recommendation and look forward to working with Congress during the confirmation process."

Greenert's career as a submariner includes assignments aboard *USS Flying Fish* (SSN 673), *USS Tautog* (SSN 639), Submarine NR-1 and *USS Michigan* (SSBN 727), and as commander of *USS Honolulu* (SSN 718). He also served as commander of Submarine Squadron 11, U.S. Naval Forces Mariana, U.S. 7th Fleet and U.S. Fleet Forces Command before he became VCNO.

**VCNO Adm. Jonathan Greenert answers questions during an all-hands call in the Fleet Theater during his visit here Aug. 30, 2010. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates announced he has recommended Greenert to succeed the retiring Adm. Gary Roughead as the next chief of naval operations. Greenert served as U.S. 7th Fleet commander from August 2004 to September 2006. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jennifer A. Villalovos**