# *Mustin* Sailors take E-6 advancement exam at sea

**Photo and story by MC2 Devon Dow, Navy Public Affairs Support Element Japan**

PHILIPPINE SEA – Approximately 30 Sailors assigned to guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) took part in the Petty Officer 1st Class Navy-wide advancement exam on the ship's mess decks Sept. 6.

The Navy-wide advancement exams take place for qualified enlisted Sailors E-3 to E-5 twice a year. The exams test Sailor's knowledge in areas of basic military regulations and in-rate training.

"I am prepared for this exam so I believe I will do well," said Fire Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Joshua Hester from Marysville, Wash. "Making the time to study is the key. Being forward deployed, we have a lot of operational time, but if a Sailor is serious about advancing, he or she will make the time to study so they can be promoted."

Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Cecilio Innis from Jacksonville, Fla., said preparing for the exam is all about timing.

"Start studying early and know your job inside and out," he said. "There are many resources onboard from a Sailor's chain of command, to forming study groups, as well as rate training manuals that can make them successful when taking the advancement exam."

Studying up-to-date rating bibliographies, available for download online at www.nko.navy.mil, is a vital tool and a free service for Sailors to use to reach their goal of advancement and further their Navy careers.

This is the first time Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (IDW) Monica Staffend will be taking the first class exam. She thinks it is important for Sailors to strive to advance.

"It is not only good for a Sailor's career to advance to the next pay grade, but it benefits the Navy as well," the Stockton Calif. native added. "If a Sailor is performing at a high level and advancing they can be a great benefit to their department and command. Advancement can make them a better leader and serve as an example to junior Sailors, in the end, everyone wins."

**Approximately 30 Sailors assigned to guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) take the petty officer first class Navy-wide advancement exam on the ship's mess desks. The exam tests a Sailor's knowledge in areas of basic military regulations and in-rate training.**

*Mustin*, commanded by Cmdr. Joseph Ring, is one of seven guided missile destroyers assigned to Destroyer Squadron (DESRON 15) and is forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. *Mustin* is currently on patrol in the 7th Fleet area of operations.