Pacific Fleet commander visits *USS Mustin*, praises crew

Story and photo by MC2 Devon Dow,
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PORT KLANG, Malaysia – Commander, Pacific Fleet, Adm. Cecil Haney visited guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) Sept. 27 during the ship's port visit to Malaysia in conjunction with the 2012 Western Pacific Naval Symposium.

At this year's symposium, held in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, Haney will be the senior U.S. representative in attendance.

The biennial event, which began in 1988, hosts senior leadership from 24 countries who come together to increase naval cooperation and the ability to operate together.

The participating nations in addition build trust and confidence between navies by providing a framework to enable discussion of maritime issues of mutual interest, the exchange of information, the practice and demonstration of capabilities and the exchange of personnel.

During Haney's visit onboard *Mustin*, he received a tour of the ship and held an all hands call where he answered questions from the crew. He personally thanked them for their diligent work and spoke about the importance of the U.S. Navy's role in the 7th Fleet.

"It is always special when I have an opportunity to visit the men and women of our forward deployed naval forces," said Haney. "For more than 70 years our Navy has maintained a strong and purposeful presence in the Western Pacific and after my visit to *USS Mustin*, it is clear that this team remains ready to safeguard peace and stability in the vital Asia-Pacific region."

Mustin Commanding Officer Cmdr. Joseph Ring said Haney's visit was welcomed and that *Mustin* felt privileged to represent the U.S. Navy in Malaysia during Symposium.

"It was a great honor and thrill to have the boss onboard today," Ring said. "It was a special treat for the crew to visit with the Pacific Fleet commander."

Following Haney's words to the Sailors, he pinned Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class Blair Ransom, a *Mustin* Sailor and native of San Diego, with his newly earned Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist device.

"It was an honor to have the admiral pin me," Ransom said. "It was great having Adm. Haney onboard *Mustin*, he got a chance to see a great Navy ship and outstanding crew. He provided us with a lot of good insight. It was nice for him to take some time out of his very busy schedule to come and see us today."

Mustin Sailors said they were pleased with the chance to meet Haney and to hear his appreciation for *Mustin*'s efforts in the 7th Fleet as well as his thoughts on the Navy's performance and future in the pacific.

"He had a lot of great things to say about *Mustin*, I was really happy to hear we work really hard as a team out here, most recently during Valiant Shield 2012," said Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Krista Crumbly from Pensecola, Fla. "I am happy to know he recognized our efforts and had the chance to thank us in person."

"I think it was great for the admiral to come visit our ship today," said Seaman Mohamed Kargo of Bronx, N.Y. This is my first ship in the Navy and I have already met the leader of the Pacific Fleet, it's hard to believe, but I am happy I got the chance."

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.

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Cecil Haney is greeted onboard guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) by the ship's Commanding Officer Cmdr. Joseph Ring Sept. 27. While onboard *Mustin*, Haney visited with the crew and was provided a tour of the ship. Mustin is visiting Malaysia in conjunction with the 2012 Western Pacific Naval Symposium.

New qualification standards available for EOD, NEIC Sailors

By MC3 Kay Savarese,
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Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. – The Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS) pin is now available for Sailors within the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Navy Expeditionary Intelligence Command (NEIC) communities. Navy Expeditionary Combat Command announced Sept. 28.

The EIDWS Personnel Qualifications Standards (PQS) for EOD and NEIC are a compilation of skills and knowledge relating to information dominance warfare doctrine, policy, history and warfare-fighting capabilities these Sailors must be proficient in to complete the EIDWS pin requirements.

The EIDWS designation can be earned by Sailors within the Information Dominance Corps (IDC) ratings: information systems technician (IT), cryptologic technician (CT), intelligence specialist (IS) and aerographer's mate (AG); as well as non-IDC Sailors who directly support the IDC mission.

"NEIC is an intelligence command, and about 95 percent of our billets are IS and CT," said Master Chief Intelligence Specialist James Kesner, NEIC senior enlisted advisor. "Navy Cyber Forces Command is the awarding authority for EIDWS. We worked with Cyber Forces to get our program approved and started." EOD also met the criteria for the EIDWS program.

"Earning the EIDWS pin benefits our Information Dominance Sailors because it represents a key milestone for their professional growth and development within their ratings," said Cmdr. Joe J. Johnson, commanding officer of NEIC. "It also benefits our Sailors in other ratings because they get a broader exposure to information dominance and why it is a critical warfighting discipline for maritime operations in the 21st century."

In order to qualify for EIDWS, expeditionary Sailors must first complete the primary qualification.

"Our IDC Sailors are not eligible to complete the EIDWS qualification until after they complete the Expeditionary Warfare Specialist (EXW) qualification," said Capt. John Coffey, deputy commander for EOD Group 2. "Completing both of these qualifications will result in a well-rounded, highly qualified expeditionary Sailor."

To qualify for the pin, Sailors are required to provide an understanding of specific knowledge pertaining to information dominance and the IDC ratings.

"Sailors are required to complete the EIDWS Common Core and Unit Specific PQS, successfully pass a written examination and, finally, pass an oral qualification board," said Coffey.

The enlisted insignia is a two and three-quarter inches by one and one-eighth inches, silver oxidized metal pin showing a background of ocean waves, a crossed naval enlisted cutlass and lightning bolt with a fouled anchor and globe.

The EIDWS PQS is available on the NKO website through the Command Management page at https://wwwa.nko.navy.mil/portal/careermanagement/personalqualificationstandards.