NKO to offer Sailors links to advancement bibliography material

By Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Sailors preparing for advancement examinations are getting a new tool to make their quest easier: Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Web pages will begin offering links to the material in advancement bibliographies.

The Navy Advancement Center (NAC) pages will provide links directly to exam bibliography documents, offering virtual 'one-stop shopping' for Sailors who previously had to track down numerous publications and references in order to get ready for exams.

"We plan to launch the Advancement Center NKO pages in early 2010, making the information easily reachable for most Sailors," said Kirk Schultz, operations and analysis division head for the Pensacola Navy Advancement Center. "All of the Professional Military Knowledge (PMK) links will be available for each rank and rating, and we've targeted the phase-in to start in March."

The PMK links include references such as: Naval Education and Training 14325 - Basic Military Requirements and Naval Personnel 5665 - U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations.

PMK links were made available in August 2009, but Sailors could only reach them through the NAC Web site. It was up to the individual Sailor to track down all of the occupational reference bibliographies (BIBs), and that could be a significant research task. For example, the March 2010 mass communication specialist E-4 exam lists 32 occupational references and eight separate PMK references.

"We've had outstanding feedback from the fleet on our PMK links," said Schultz. "But we started getting questions almost immediately on the availability of the rest of the BIBs. With the launch of the NKO pages and the addition of the occupational BIB links taking Sailors directly to the document, Sailors can save even more time."

The BIB links take Sailors to Adobe PDF files for the applicable instruction or publication where they can be viewed, downloaded or printed.

Not all of the BIB references can be linked, as many rates have occupational references from classified, commercial or copyrighted sources, but the majority of the references will have links to PDF files.

PS1 Aurora Caasi, concentrates while taking the CPO exam in the Alliance Club ballroom on board CFAY Jan. 21. NKO Web pages will begin offering links to advancement bibliography material for Sailors preparing for advancement exams. U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Devon Dow

"We're working to get the rights to as many of the copyrighted references as possible," said Schultz. "There will always be some that we won't be able to get, and we will do our best to provide Sailors with the information they need to obtain those references, but we should have the vast majority available through the links on the NKO BIB pages."

"It's important that Sailors review their BIBs before every exam," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate (SS) Jeromie Cook, Naval Education and Training Professional Development Technology Center command master chief. "Each cycle's exams are different, and the BIBs that will be listed and linked through NKO are tailored specifically for that exam cycle. If a Sailor is relying on BIBs from past exams, then he or she may miss some important references. Publications and instructions are also constantly being updated, so it's important to have the information that corresponds to that specific cycle's exam."

Cook also added that the BIBs on the NKO and NAC reference pages are the exact same material subject matter experts use to develop the tests at the advancement exam development conferences.

"Occupational links for all ratings of every rank won't be available immediately," said Schultz. "It will take a while to get all the source documents from the BIBs converted and uploaded, but we're working as fast as we can."

Classified ratings will have their unclassified BIBs linked on NKO, and in the near future the classified BIBs will be available through the SIPRNET (secure network) sites.

NKO already offers several links to government and commercial publications, some of which are used to develop advancement exams. For example, under the "Reference Tab" the link to "Navy Library E-Content" provides Sailors with several links to several subject areas. Under the "E-Content – Computers / IT" link is a "Safari Books Online" Web gear that provides access to commercial publications used by the IT (information systems technician) rating.

For more information on advancement, visit the NAC Web site at: https://www2.netc.navy.mil/advancement.

GW Sailors, CFAY firefighters exchange knowledge during joint training exercise

By MC2(SW) John J. Mike, *USS George Washington* Public Affairs

USS George Washington (*GW*) (CVN 73) Sailors and members of Commander U.S. Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ) Regional Fire Department participated in a joint training exercise on board *GW* Jan. 19.

GW Sailors used a winch and crane to free a 180-pound mannequin trapped in an 80-foot deep shaft as part of a deep-void rescue drill meant to increase interoperability between Sailors and the predominantly Japanese firefighters.

"We do these drills so we can observe how ships respond," said Dan Vogel, the district fire chief for CNFJ, and smaller military installations in the area. "The base fire department is the first to assist any ship during an emergency in port; so my firefighters must be able to assimilate with *GW* Sailors during all types of emergencies."

GW Damage Control Assistant (DCA) Lt. Cmdr. Antonio Martinez agreed that training with the fire department on base is a key component of building trust between Japanese and the Navy and keeping *GW* safe.

"The more we communicate and share with [them], the better we can plan a joint response during an emergency," said Martinez.

Jungi Kameyama, one of 16 firefighters observing the drill, said he welcomed the opportunity to train aboard *GW* because it allows for a professional exchange of knowledge between shore and ship-based Navy firefighters.

"We are happy to be working with each other so we learn how to overcome differences in rescue procedures and help support the ship," said Kameyama.

Martinez added that the training was also meant as a way for firefighters to familiarize themselves with the Navy's only permanently forward-deployed aircraft carrier.

"*GW* is special on the waterfront so it is imperative that [they] understand our ship and how we operate," said Martinez. "They haven't been exposed to this type of drill before, so this was a way for us to show them how we respond during a casualty."

GW practices deep-void rescue drills at least four times a year to ensure an injured or incapacitated person can be safely rescued from a space not easily accessible by conventional means. Martinez said *GW* has many safety procedures in place to prevent such a situation, but Sailors still must be trained for any possible emergency during the ship's Selective Restrictive Availability.