

FIVE STAR

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★ *Featuring*

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Navigating the Navy

STORY BY
MCSA Liam Antinori

Career counselors, attuned to the Navy's current policies concerning career choices, advise Sailors on deadlines, requirements and other matters affecting their long-term goals.

Every Ike department has departmental and divisional career counselors who are trained and advised by the command career counselor to assist Sailors in making important choices regarding their future plans.

Chief Navy Counselor Jamie Gilbert, command career counselor aboard Ike, works for the upper chain of command.

"We are there to protect the command and take care of our departmental and divisional counselors by training and managing all career development programs," Gilbert said.

Gilbert and the other career counselors manage Sailors' careers through the Career Waypoint System (C-Way), the program by which a Sailor's career path is determined. C-Way effects rating availability, re-enlistment, and career continuum. Sailors must submit packages through their chains of command and career counselors to seek C-Way approval and determine what options they have. This must be done 15 months in advance of Sailors' projected rotation dates (PRDs) and ends of obligated service (EAOSs.)

Sailors get four looks in their rating, four looks in conversion, and three looks in the Selective Reserves.

"C-Way is the path to staying



Chief Navy Counselor Jamie Gilbert enjoys helping Sailors navigate through their careers. (Photo by MCSA Liam Antinori)

in the Navy," Gilbert said. Gilbert encourages all Sailors to read up on C-Way and all Navy policies regarding career choices so that by the time they get to him, they already have a good idea of the directions they want to go.

"Be smart for yourself," Gilbert said. "Do your own research and find out what you can and can't do. Every single person in the Navy has the ability to open up the Navy Personal Command (NPC) website and look at all these instructions. None of this is secret. But then again, if everybody opened up NPC and read and filled out their own paperwork, I wouldn't have a job."

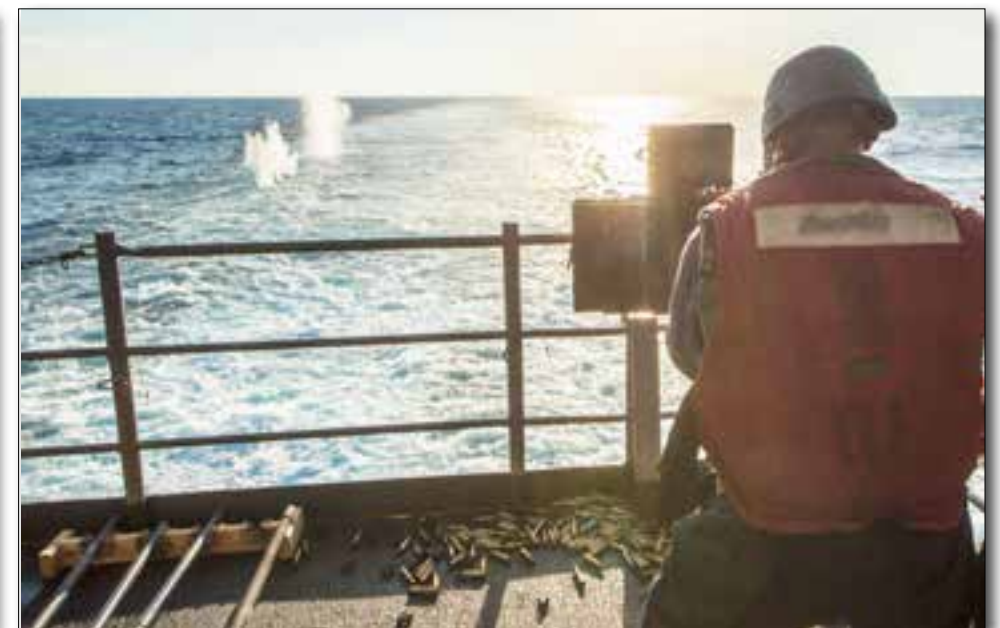
Whether it is C-Way, wanting to re-enlist, special programs or extending on board, Gilbert advises Sailors to start with their divisional career counselors to accomplish as much as they can at the lowest possible level.

"Everybody should use your chain of command; that is the way

the military works," Gilbert said. "If your divisional career counselor doesn't have the answer, he or she will take it to the departmental level, and then that person will bring it to my office if the answer still eludes them. The bottom line is, by the time that Sailor is sitting in my office, he or she is going to have a pretty good idea of the options available to them."

Gilbert said his favorite part of the job is helping Sailors.

"I became a career counselor because I was already in a customer service rating and I enjoyed taking care of people," Gilbert said. "I always tried to make people happy, or at least satisfied, with staying in or getting out. I love to hear back from people who go on to make rank and succeed with the Navy or those who get out and go on to do great things and make our society better as a whole. Not every Sailor thinks of their career—they are hoping someone gives them a kick start to get moving, and that's where I come in."





PS3 MA WAS BORN IN CHINA AND RAISED IN CALIFORNIA.

HE JOINED THE NAVY SEPTEMBER 25, 2014.

HE WANTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THE NAVY HAS TO OFFER.

HE REPORTED TO IKE ON JANUARY 20, 2015.

HE HOPES TO ONE DAY BECOME A NAVAL OFFICER.

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Cover: Capt. Koehler, Ike's commanding officer, fires a 50-caliber gun off the fantail of the ship. Photo by MC3 James E. Veal

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Movie Playlist August 31, 2015

Channel 10

0800/2200 - Twelve Monkeys

1030/2230 - Top Gun

1300/0100 - Catch-22

1530/0330 - Grumpy Old Men

1800/0600 - When Harry Met Sally

Channel 12

0800/2200 - Sparkle

1030/2230 - This is The End

1300/0100 - God's Not Dead

1530/0330 - The Hunger Games: Catching Fire

1800/0600 - Wreck It Ralph

Channel 13

0800/2200 - Prometheus

1030/2230 - Tomorrowland

1300/0100 - Life of Pi

1530/0330 - Lee Daniel's The Butler

1800/0600 - Olympus Has Fallen

Channel 7

Training / Ike On

Channel 15

AFN Prime

Channel 16

CNN

Channel 17

AFN Sports