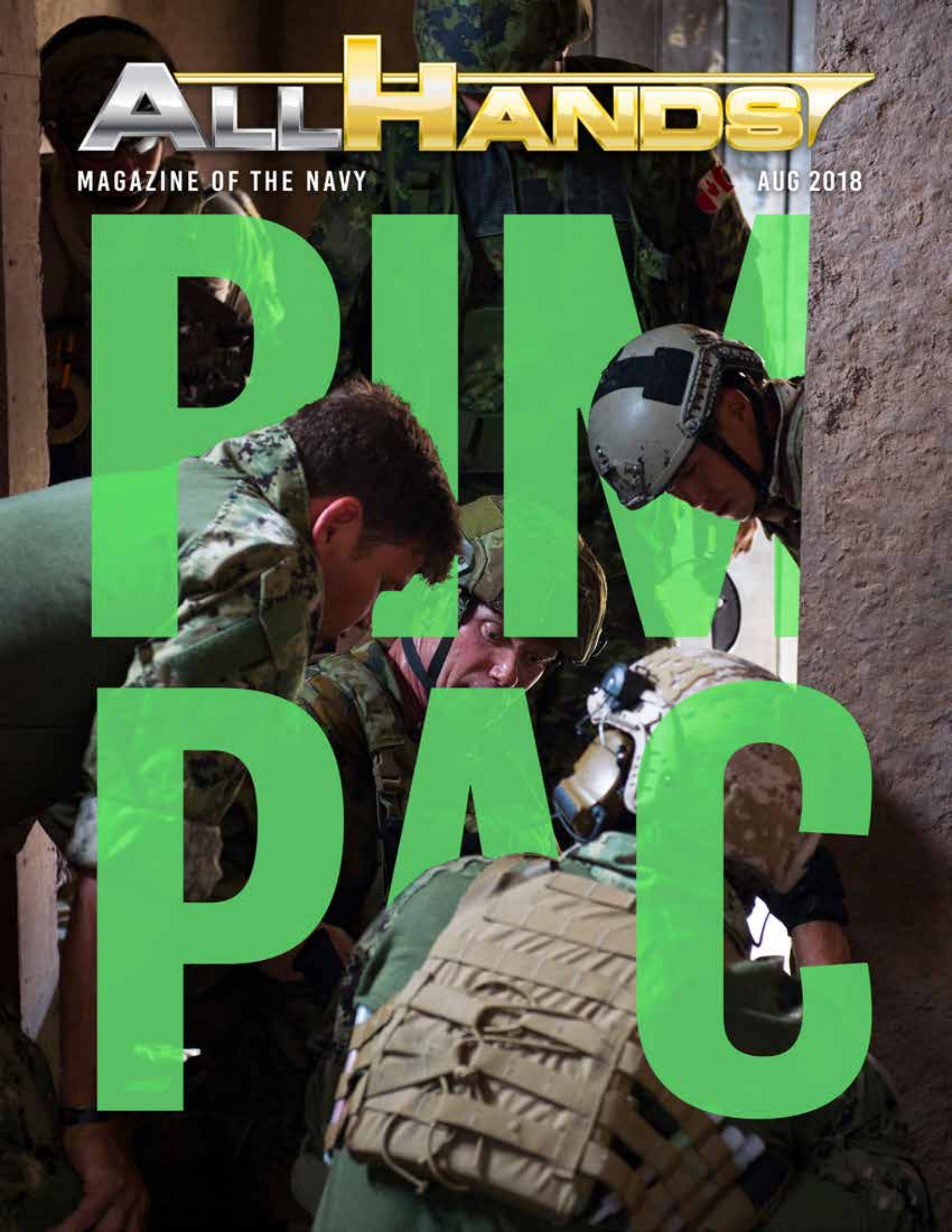
ALL HANDS
MAGAZINE OF THE NAVY
AUG 2018
RIMPAC

TOP NEWS

CNSF ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO SURFACE WARFARE OFFICER QUALIFICATION INSTRUCTION

From Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Commander, Naval Surface Forces/Commander of Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet announced a revision to the requirements for qualification and designation as a surface warfare officer (SWO), July 23.

Effective immediately, designators 116X and lateral transfers into the SWO community are the only designators eligible to pursue SWO qualification. This change aligns with new career path revisions, which focuses on increased experience on ships, including increased bridge watchstanding opportunities for SWOs.

"The surface warfare officer qualification is the path to 1110 and is the crucible of a junior professional surface warfare officer to develop and master the core competencies necessary to excel as a future commanding officer of a warship," said Vice Adm. Richard Brown, commander, Naval Surface Forces/commander of Naval Surface Force U.S. Pacific Fleet. "My team and I remain committed to ensuring the future leaders of our community are properly trained and qualified."

Officers pursuing SWO qualification must be a commissioned officer

U.S. Navy photo MC2 Devin M. Langer

permanently assigned to either a commissioned or pre-commissioning U.S. Navy surface ship.

Non-116X officers, who are currently pursuing a SWO qualification, are authorized to continue until Oct. 1, 2018.

Additionally, only commanding officers of commissioned surface ships may qualify officers who are permanently assigned to their ship as SWOs. Once SWO qualification is achieved, transfer from one ship to another will not require requalification as a SWO or revalidation of the entire SWO PQS package. However, requalification in all applicable watchstations is required.

Further changes to the instruction include removing the time requirement for attaining SWO qualification and now documenting it in the instruction.

The minimum time requirement for SWOs to attain their qualification is not specified in the instruction. However, open communication with NPC is required if a qualification is expected to take longer than the first division officer tour. Ships must actively manage and maintain Personnel Qualification Standards Plan of Action and Milestones (PQS POAMs) for each officer to ensure the officer is on track for SWO qualification. In addition to the PQS POAM, SWOs must keep a log book of the amount of hours spent on the bridge. This information will be used when detailing junior officers to their second division officer and shore tours.

The update to the SWO qualification instruction follows a revision to the SWO Career Path and Training Continuum. The intent of the revised career path is to develop the most experienced and capable commanding officers who are specialists in five areas: seamanship, navigation, and shiphandling; combat systems; engineering; command and program management and administration; and leadership.

NAVY UNIFORM MOBILE APP UPDATES

From Navy Personnel Public Affairs

Navy announced an update to the "OPNAV Uniform Regulations" app for iOS and Android mobile devices, July 25.

Sailors will have access to useful information and references in the updated Navy uniform mobile app. The expanded app has a new look and feel, and now includes information on all current Navy uniforms.

Sailors can find answers to frequently asked questions, uniform policy NAVADMINs and photos of proper uniform wear. Additionally, the app includes the U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations (NAVPERS 15665I) as a searchable document.

The app also has links to the Navy Uniform Matters Office (Uniform Matters) web page and Navy Exchange online uniform sales website.

The Navy's Sea Warrior Mobility Program (PMW 240) originally developed and continues to update the app, along with Tracen Technologies, Inc.

Sailors can provide their inputs for improvements through the feedback section of the app. Uniform Matters and PMW 240 will continue to work on improving the app to address more uniform components in future updates.

To find the free app, search "OPNAV Uniform" in the app stores or in your web browser.

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ALL HANDS MAGAZINE
PDF OF THE NAVY

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ON FRONT COVER: Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technicians from the Republic of Korea, the U.S., Canada, and Australia practice clearing a simulated improvised explosive device while participating in joint EOD training during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise on Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, July 18, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Yeoman 1st Class Anthony Ardisone/Released)

ON BACK COVER: Multinational special operations forces (SOF) perform a high-altitude low opening jump during the 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 19, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist William Tonacchio/Released)

OUR MISSION IS SHARING THE NAVY STORY

TOP NEWS CONT.

NAVADMIN OUTLINES CHANGES TO POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFERABILITY

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

NAVADMIN 170/18 announces updated changes to the Department of Defense Post-9/11 GI Bill instruction. Department of Defense released changes July 12, to department policy on the transfer by service members in the Uniformed Services of "Post-9/11 GI Bill" education benefits to eligible family members.

Effective July 12, 2019, eligibility to transfer those benefits is limited to Sailors with less than 16 years of total service, active duty service and/or selected Reserves as applicable.

Previously, there were no restrictions on when Sailors could transfer education benefits to their family members. The provision for a Sailor to have at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits remains unchanged.

Sailors with more than 16 years of credible service who have not completed the transfer eligibility by July 12, 2019 will not retain the ability to transfer education benefits to eligible family members.

The policy change allows Sailors to retain their eligibility to transfer education benefits even if they have not served the entirety of their obligated service commitment through no fault of their own. This means if a Sailor fails to fulfill their service obligation because of a "force shaping" event (such as officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion, or enlisted personnel involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, such as high-year tenure) the transfer of benefits to a family member would not be impacted.

Allapprovals for transferability of Post-9/11 GI Bill continue to require a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces and, more importantly, the member must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of election.

For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill policy changes, see NAVADMIN 170/18 at www.npc.navy.mil.

NAVY UTILIZES REALISTIC CYBER SIMULATIONS TO MATURE CYBER MISSION FORCES BEYOND QUALIFICATIONS

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Samuel Souvannason

The next phase in the maturation of the Navy's Cyber Mission Force teams is underway as leadership from U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet (FCC/C10F) develop innovative training methods that allow operators to hone their skills in a realistic and challenging environment.

All 40 of the Navy's Cyber Mission Force teams were validated as being at Full Operational Capability (FOC) by U.S. Cyber Command Oct. 6. FOC is an assessment that a unit has achieved all manning, capability and training requirements necessary as validated by U.S. Cyber Command.

"Although reaching this milestone is a great accomplishment, the true challenge will be sustaining readiness and the prompt ability to 'answer all bells' when directed by U.S. Cyber Command," said Chief Warrant Officer Five Jeff Fisher, FCC/C10F cyber training requirements.

FOC is a one-time threshold and milestone. Once a team is FOC, the cyber mission force teams and leaders turned their focus to sustaining the manning, training, capabilities and operational readiness of the team. They monitor each team's operational readiness continuously and find innovative ways to test and improve their ability to achieved assigned tasks.

The Persistent Cyber Training Environment (PCTE), managed by the Department of the Army, is expected to incorporate similar distributed training methodologies in module-based systems. PCTE is a cloud-based platform designed to deliver realistic cyber simulations, support individual instruction and certification, allow cyber operators to train simultaneously from opposite sides of the world, and meet the needs of all four services and the U.S. Cyber Command.

"Utilizing a Persistent Cyber Training Environment provides consistent hands on and real-world experience without jeopardizing actual DoD systems with vital/important information," said Cryptologic Technician (Networks) 1st Class Joshua Jarvis, who is assigned to U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. 10th Fleet. "Hands on experience provides the best overall training for personnel working in the cyberspace field as opposed to other methods of training which focus on classroom experience with limited hands on experience."

While the service branches await the arrival and full implementation of the PCTE, the Navy has begun developing scenarios with a contracted service to provide a Navy Persistent Training Environment (PTE) to allow Sailors to conduct that same hands-on training in a virtual environment using the same cyber tool kit used in real world missions, according to Fisher.

Jrvis is one of the creators of the content in the environment, which will all be migrated to the PCTE when it is eventually delivered to the joint force. He said cyber ranges provide the ability to emulate, detect, mitigate and respond to real world cyberspace attacks in a controlled and safe environment.

"Ultimately, the measure of success is the ability protect DoD networks by being able to detect, mitigate and respond to adversary presence on DoD networks," said Jarvis. "Utilization of a cyber range will allow our Sailors to continually practice (repetition) and improve their skills in order better prepare for cyber threats to the DoD."

Since its establishment, FCC/C10F has grown into an operational force composed of more than 16,000 active and Reserve Sailors and civilians organized into 26 active commands, 40 Cyber Mission Force units and 27 Reserve commands around the globe. FCC serves as the Navy component command to U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Cyber Command, and the Navy's Service Cryptologic Component commander under the National Security Agency/Central Security Service. C10F, the operational arm of FCC, executes its mission through a task force structure similar to other warfare commanders. In this role, C10F provides support of Navy and joint missions in cyber/networks, cryptologic/signals intelligence and space.

TOP NEWS CONT.

THE FIRST PACT SAILORS ADVANCED WITH NEW NAVADMIN 118/18

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Matthew Riggs

By the end of the day, both were not only rated, but also advanced to E-4.

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class White and Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Reyes are the first Professional Apprenticeship Career Tract (PACT) Sailors to benefit from the updated NAVADMIN 118/18, the Navy's newest update to the PACT program.

Effective June 2018, PACT Sailors willing to volunteer for additional obligated service (OBLISERV) to complete the sea tour for their new rating or for a minimum of 24 months of additional sea time, whichever is greater, may be authorized advancement to E-4 with commanding officer approval.

PACT Sailors will be designated based on their selection of a prioritized job in a rating for which they are qualified. Enlisted Community Managers will begin to designate PACT Sailors, prioritizing those who have been enrolled in the program the longest, said Mr. Dave Fish, Bureau of Naval Personnel PACT program manager.

"This is great news for me," said White. "I get the job I've wanted and start my new job as a petty officer. It's good for the other PACT Sailors too; it's like we finally have an incentive to stay as a PACT, and think about having a real future in the Navy."

The changes to the PACT program will make the Navy's manning more efficient and effective by linking the designation process with the Navy's requirements, as well as providing a unique opportunity for the PACT Sailor, Fish said.

"This direct link will enable a more dynamic determination of rating designation qualification and assignment to prioritized jobs based on the abilities and desires of the Sailors, who can now take a much more active role in deciding what's best for them and their careers," Fish said.

These changes were brought about in order to improve the PACT program based on Chief of Naval Personnel (CNP) Vice Adm. Robert Burke's Sailor 2025 initiatives to modernize the Navy's personnel systems and policies.

"After listening to feedback, CNP directed a complete overhaul of the entire PACT process," Fish said. " Rear Adm. John Nowell, Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy, formed a working group to find a way to make a PACT program that fulfills Navy needs while also providing for the PACT Sailors themselves. NAVADMIN 118/18 is the result of gathering feedback from recruiters, fleet Career Counselors, supervisors and most importantly, PACT Sailors themselves."

The NAVADMIN is a welcome change and improvement, Reyes said. By providing PACT Sailors this new path, Sailors can get into rates and start their new careers, and with a leg up.

PACT Sailors can go undesignated for more than 18 months, and, in some cases, even longer. Reyes said she had been undesignated for two years.

"As long as a PACT Sailor shows they're motivated and willing to put in the thought and effort for it, they could get a new rate and a crow along with it, too," Reyes said.

White and Reyes began the PACT process during a Fleet Engagement Team visit while their ship was at Rota, Spain. By the time they had returned to Norfolk, the NAVADMIN had taken effect, thus allowing them to be rated and advanced that day.

NAVADMIN 118/18 announced comprehensive policy and process changes to the enlisted PACT program outlined in Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1306-611. The changes were made to provide PACT Sailors with the ability to plan for their future career in the Navy and to reduce unplanned losses for Fleet manning.

PACT Sailors earning designation via Class "A" school who are willing to volunteer for additional OBLISERV required for that school may also be advanced to E4 upon graduation, with commanding officer approval.

Command leadership and PACT Sailors are required to ensure training records and qualifications are up-to-date to facilitate the order negotiation process.

PACT Sailors interested in expanding their available conversion opportunities should contact their command career counselor for information about additional Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) testing opportunities.

STAY NAVY

NAVY COOL: THINGS TO KNOW

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kyle Goldberg

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Rebekah Watkins

Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) assists active-duty and Reserve Sailors by funding the certification and licensing exams that map their Navy and civilian educations, training, experience, and competencies to industry/civilian credentials and occupational equivalents.

To date, Navy COOL, which is overseen by the Center for Information Warfare Training, has funded more than 175,000 credentials for more than 65,000 Sailors.

"Navy COOL helped enable me to obtain a highly sought-after radiation protection technologist (RPT) certification," said Nuclear Trained Machinist Mate 1st Class David Platt. "They helped me expedite funding the exam and were extremely helpful in aiding me in enrolling for the examination. ... I was very well prepared once the exam came and was able to pass and obtain my certification."

Here are seven interesting things to know about the program.

1. There are 1,700 funded credentialing opportunities available for enlisted Sailors, and more than 1,500 are mapped to officer designators.

Credentialing provides Sailors with greater flexibility in managing their military careers. In the future, the marketplace detailing environment will draw on Sailors' complete backgrounds, including credentials, when matching them with possible assignments, a key element of the Sailor 2025 Rating Modernization. These changes align with education trends toward "stackable" credentials, which can be a blend of academics, technical training, apprenticeships, certifications and licenses.

Also, because no one is in the Navy forever, it is important that service members demonstrate, through civilian-credentialing, that their skills are on par with those of their civilian peers. In fact, some employers - not to mention federal, state, and local laws - may require candidates for certain jobs to have specific licenses and certifications.

2. Obtaining credentialing is easy.

Navy COOL plays a role in the four-step credentialing process, but Sailors also need to reach out directly to the credentialing agency or exam vendor.

1) FIND AND SELECT RELATED CREDENTIALS.

Use COOL's "find" feature, here, to see how Navy and/or civilian training and experience matches up with civilian credential requirements. The search can be done by rating, designator, collateral duties, or out-of-rate assignments.

Note that to be eligible, a Sailor must be in a rating, prior rating, collateral duty, or out-of-rating assignment, or have been trained in or have worked in a position to which the credential is mapped. Sailors must also have passed their most recent advancement exams and physical fitness assessments (or have had them waived), and have at least six months remaining on their enlistments or service obligations. For additional eligibility requirements, see "Checking Your Eligibility," here.

2) COMPLETE VOUCHER FOR EXAM OR MAINTENANCE FEE FUNDING AND APPLY.

Once the applicable credentialing exam or maintenance fee a Sailor wants funded has been selected, and he or she has confirmed eligibility for the funding, the next step is to complete the voucher request, here, to apply for funding.

3) GET CREDENTIAL.

After the credential fee has been funded by Navy COOL, a Sailor should contact the credentialing organization or test vendor to schedule and take the exam. Navy COOL is not a credentialing organization and does not itself offer or conduct the exams.

4) REPORT RESULTS TO NAVY COOL.

Once the appropriate exams are taken or the requirements are met for certification, a Sailor reports the favorable results to COOL and other agencies, here -- where additional information on each step is also available.

3. Navy COOL offers access to other professional-development requirements.

The Learning and Development Roadmap (LaDR) is available on Navy COOL's website, here. It can be used to optimize a Navy career path based upon training and education milestones for a given rating at each paygrade.

Navy COOL also lists Advancement Exam Bibliographies (BIB), here, for every rating. These lists of occupational and professional military knowledge references help guide Sailors in their studies. Advancement candidates should check the bibliography a few times before the applicable exam date to ensure that they are studying the most current information. Navy COOL maintains the most current versions.

4. Navy COOL supports DON civilians.

The DON Civilian COOL, here, is a resource tool, mapping certifications and licensure based on formal training and on-the-job experience. It is searchable by federal occupation code or title. Navy employees will find explanations for the different types of credentials and possible avenues for financial assistance. DON Civilian COOL does not provide funding, however.

5. Navy COOL representatives are easy to reach via phone, email, or live chat.

Navy COOL representatives can be reached at navycool@navy.mil or (850) 452-6683/6324.

All Navy COOL websites, including Department of the Navy (DON) COOL, Navy COOL and DON Civilian COOL, also have a live chat feature, available between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. Central Standard Time. Representatives for all ratings are available to answer questions and help get vouchers approved through a relatively simple, streamlined process.

6. Navy COOL is mobile.

Navy COOL has an app that provides credentialing information. It also offers BIBs, LaDRs, and United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) trades and ratingiinformation cards. The app is essentially a toolbox that helps Sailors make informed professional-development decisions.

Download the app here, or directly from the iOS and Android app stores. The Navy COOL app video is here, for more information.

In addition, Navy COOL "To Go," here, allows Sailors with limited internet connectivity to download the program to a CD or computer desktop and use it on any workstation.

7. Navy COOL has many success stories.

"Obtaining the national phlebotomy certification was super easy and straightforward. There was no test involved, but there was an experience requirement, so there is no excuse why a hospital corpsman shouldn't have it," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Dezmen Young. "It is 100 percent free through Navy COOL, and can help in the Navy and for a job outside of the Navy."

RIMPAC

PACIFIC OCEAN (July 26, 2018) Multinational navy ships and submarines steam in formation during a group sail off the coast of Hawaii during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 26. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez/Released)

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM (July 17, 2018) Special Operations Forces from the U.S., Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines and Japan conduct an airborne insertion during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise from a U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17 Globemaster III. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Cory Asato/Released)

PACIFIC OCEAN (July 21, 2018) F/A-18F Super Hornets assigned to the "Bounty Hunters" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2 fly in formation near aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) during Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC) 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dylan M. Kinee/Released)

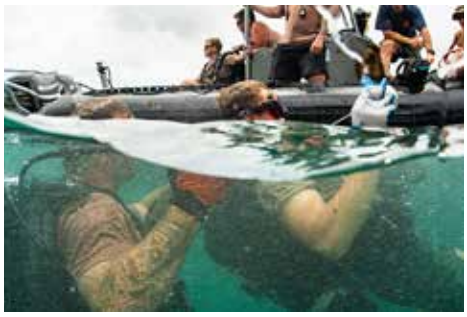
MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII (July 29, 2018) AAV-P7/A1 assault amphibious vehicles assigned to Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Regiment, unload service members during an amphibious landing demonstration as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise at Pyramid Rock Beach. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Aaron S. Patterson)

PACIFIC OCEAN (July 26, 2018) The guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain (CG 57) participates in a group sail during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise off the coast of Hawaii, July 26, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez/Released)

The guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) pulls alongside the dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Carl Brashear (T-AKE 7) to conduct an underway replenishment-at-sea, July 17, 2018. During the evolution, Carl Brashear delivered mission critical equipment to Preble as part of the 2018 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Bill Mesta/Released)

MARINE CORPS BASE PENDLETON, Calif. (July 10, 2018) Members of the Canadian 2nd Battalion Royal 22e Régiment fire a C84mm Carl Gustaf recoilless rifle during live fire platoon attacks at range 800 during the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, July 10. (Canadian Armed Forces photo by Ordinary Seaman Justin Spinello/Released)

PEARL HARBOR (July 6, 2018) Members of the New Zealand multi-cultural group aboard the Royal New Zealand Navy frigate HMNZS Te Mana (F111) preform the haka during a receptions held in port Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during the Rim of the Pacific exercise, July 6. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Natalie M. Byers/Released)



JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii (July 18, 2018) Seabees assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 and Royal Canadian Navy clearance divers, assigned to Fleet Diving Unit, conduct diving operations for underwater navigation training at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 18. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez)

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii (July 12, 2018) A Republic of Korea marine clears a building during a noncombatant evacuation operation (NEO) training event as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercisve at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii, July 12, 2018. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Adam Montera)

HONOLULU (July 3, 2018) U.S. Navy Lieutenant Kelly Cartwright, Fleet Bandmaster for the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, conducts an ensemble of musicians from the Royal Australian Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, Republic of Indonesia Navy, and Pacific Fleet Band during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise 2018 International Band Concert. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jason Abrams/Released)

PEARL HARBOR (July 6, 2018) Members of the New Zealand multi-cultural group aboard the Royal New Zealand Navy frigate HMNZS Te Mana (F111) preform the haka during a receptions held in port Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam during the Rim of the Pacific SCHOFIELD ARMY BARRACKS, Hawaii (July 23, 2018) Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians 1st Class Alexander Holmes, left, and Ryon Anderson, assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 3, set up detonating wire to an explosive charge during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, July 23, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carlos Gomez/Released), July 6. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Natalie M. Byers/Released)

NAVY SEAL HISTORY PART ONE

Story by: MC2 Taylor Stinson

EVOLUTION OF THE NAVY SEALS

The evolutionary history of SEALs began during World War II at Amphibious Training Base (ATB), Little Creek, Virginia, in late August 1942, with two special-mission units, Amphibious Scouts and Raiders (S&R) (Joint) and Special Mission Demolition Unit.

S&R was composed of Sailors hailing from the boat pool at ATB, Solomons, Maryland, and Army 3rd and 9th Infantry Divisions. S&R was a team of men who were trained to reconnoiter prospective landing beaches and lead assault forces to the correct beaches in utter darkness and were the first to demonstrate legacy capabilities that are still demonstrated by SEALs today.

Special Mission Naval Demolition Unit was made up of Navy salvage divers brought in from Hawaii to complete a crash course in demolitions, commando tactics, cable cutting and rubber boat training. Both teams served in Operation Torch, removing cabled boom blocking the Wadi Sebou River to allow USS Dallas (DD-199) to proceed up the river and train her guns on the Port Lyautey airdrome for attack and providing vital reconnaissance.

By May 6, 1943, the chief of naval operations directed the "Naval Demolition Project." The directive outlined a two-phase project which would include the initial plans for the future Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCDU).

SETTING THE FOUNDATION FOR NCDU

Plans for a massive cross-channel invasion of Europe begun, and intelligence indicated that the Germans were placing extensive underwater obstacles on the beaches of Normandy. In May 1943, Lt. Cmdr. Draper Kauffman was directed to set up a school and train people to eliminate obstacles on an enemy-held beach prior to an invasion.

On June 6, 1943, the NCDU training school was established in Fort Pierce, Florida, and organized by Kauffman. Kauffman gathered volunteers from the Bomb and Mine Disposal School in Washington, and the Civil Engineering Corps and Naval Construction Corps (Seabees) School in Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia, to fill in the first training classes.

To this day, Kauffman is given credit for establishing the infamous "Hell Week," a period of intense instruction that remains a fundamental component in modern-day Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training program. By the end of training, there was an overall attrition rate of 65-75%, much like it remains today in BUD/S.

Each NCDU was comprised of one officer and five enlisted Sailors to make up a single boat crew. The first NCDU class graduated September 1943, after several months of arduous training focusing primarily on demolition of submerged beach obstacles, much like the ones present on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day invasion. By April 1944, a total of 34 NCDUs arrived in England in preparation for the amphibious landing at Normandy -- Operation Overlord.

OPERATION OVERLORD

On June 6, 1944, the NCDUs at Omaha Beach penetrated some of the Germans' defenses, blowing up eight complete gaps and two partial gaps in German defenses. Meanwhile, at Utah Beach, 700 yards of beach was cleared in two hours and another 900 yards by the afternoon. A total of 37 men were killed and 71 wounded, a casualty rate of 52% making D-Day the bloodiest single day in the history of Naval Special Warfare. However, none of the casualties were lost due to improper handling of explosives, an important fact in Navy SEAL history.

The NCDUs at Omaha Beach were later awarded a Presidential Unit Citation: one of only three presented for military actions at Normandy. The men at Utah Beach were recipients of the only Navy Unit Commendation awarded for actions on that day.

NCDU men were engaged in combat only once more in Europe -- at the invasion of Southern France in August 1944. Operation Dragoon consisted of several of the NCDUs from Utah Beach who were augmented with new units from Fort Pierce to participate in the last 240 amphibious assaults of the war in Europe. NCDU men contributed greatly to the war in Europe and their efforts are often overshadowed by the Pacific Underwater Demolition Teams (UDTs).

MACARTHUR'S FROGMEN

Meanwhile, in the Pacific campaign, many of the early Fort Pierce-trained NCDUs were deployed. These NCDU men are often referred to as "frogmen" by some authors and historians. However, according to the Navy SEAL museum, in those early days, swimming was only a test and a method of physical training. The men at the time wore full combat dress, and were taught to operate stealthily at night and during pre-dawn hours by wading in surf and carrying explosives to obstacles from rubber boats.

The NCDUs were also known as "MacArthur's Frogmen." NCDU-1 went to Alaska in August 1943 to participate in the struggle over the Aleutian Islands, which were then part of the Alaska territory. However, they never saw combat as the Japanese had already departed the islands, leaving NCDU-1 to later be transferred to Waimanalo, Territory of Hawaii to be embedded with the provisional UDT-1.

NCDU-2, 3, 19, 20, 21 and 24 went to the Southwest Pacific and remained together for the war's duration. Lt. j.g. Frank Kaine was the leader of this group. NCDU-4 and 5 also went to the Southwest Pacific. NCDU-4 and 5 were the first men to be committed to battle in the Pacific, when they operated with the 4th U.S. Marines at Green Island and Emirau Island in the Bismarck Archipelago of the South Pacific at New Guinea. These men eventually returned to Hawaii and assigned duty with the UDTs as well.

Birth of the UDTs

On November 22, 1943, during the Tarawa landing at the Gilbert Islands, a chain of 16 atolls and coral islands in the South Pacific Ocean, a submerged reef caused amphibious landing craft to founder far offshore, resulting in the loss of hundreds of Marines from enemy fire and drowning. After the terrible loss, Adm. Richmond K. Turner, commander of the 5th amphibious force, directed that 30 officers and 150 enlisted men be moved to Waimanalo ATB to be trained on reconnaissance and demolition training. It was at that moment that the UDTs of the Pacific were born.

UDT-1 and UDT-2 were comprised of about 14 officers and 70 enlisted men each. They saw their first action

on January 31, 1944, in the attacks on Kwajalein and Roy-Namur during Operation Flintlock in the Marshall Islands. Between December 1944 and August 1945, UDTs saw action in every corner of the Pacific in every major amphibious landing: including Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Anguar, Ulithi, Pelilui, Leyte, Lingayen Gulf, Zambales, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Labuan, Brunei Bay and Borneo. In honor of their dedication and bravery, a memorial is being built at Bellows Air Force Station near the original Waimanalo ATB.

Overall, 30 UDTs were organized during World War II. UDT-1 and UDT-2 were disbanded almost as quickly as they were formed, as there were at most 28 teams at one time. Four 50-man teams were established during the post-war period. UDT-1 and UDT-3 were homeported in Coronado, California, and UDT-2 and UDT-4 were sent to Little Creek, Virginia. All were organized under Amphibious Forces Pacific and Atlantic respectively.

DEVELOPMENT OF OSS

Undoubtedly, the most influential World War II legacy unit that would affect the capabilities of UDT, and subsequently the SEALs, was a joint-service maritime component of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

January 20, 1943, a maritime section was established within the special operations branch of OSS, with responsibilities of planning covert infiltration operations from the sea. On June 10, 1943, the special operations branch was reorganized and the Maritime Unit (MU) was established with branch status. Its responsibilities included: planning and coordinating the clandestine infiltration of agents, supplying resistance groups, engaging in maritime sabotage and developing special equipment for operations from the sea.

HEIGHT OF THE KOREAN WAR

UDTs would be called on again in 1950 during the height of the Korean War. On September 15, 1950, UDT-1 and UDT-3 provided personnel who went ahead of landing craft and scouted mud flats, marking low points in the channel, clearing fouled propellers and searching for land mines. On October 12, 1950, two U.S. minesweepers hit mines and were sank. Fortunately, UDTs rescued 25 Sailors. The following day, William Giannotti conducted the first U.S. combat operation using an "aqualung." For the remainder of the war, UDTs conducted beach and river reconnaissance, infiltrated guerillas behind the lines from sea and continued mine sweeping operations. The last operation the UDTs participated in was Operation Fishnet, which was responsible for crippling North Korea's food supplies by destroying fishing nets.

The Korean War substantially changed UDT operational doctrine -- giving the men vastly expanded mission capabilities. In addition to their traditional roles established during World War II, including amphibious reconnaissance, and mine and obstacle clearance, the UDTs saw their mission expand to include stealthy infiltration from sea, and conduct raids and attack enemy shipping, port and harbor facilities; clearance of ordnance from the high seas; intelligence gathering; and the covering of the withdrawal of friendly forces.

FORMING THE NAVY SEALS

Even though UDTs saw success in Korea, they realized there would be no change of status in response to Cold War realities. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, however, directed his staff to organize new or existing Navy units for smaller conflicts. In early 1960, because of crisis in Laos and Cuba, alongside increasing insurgency in South Vietnam, Burke directed his staff to prepare options with respect to unconventional warfare.

More concrete steps were taken in 1961 when the acronym "SEAL" had emerged in outline form by March 10. By May 3, Burke signed a memorandum to his staff stipulating that, "We should have a record of all Naval personnel, particularly officers, who have been especially trained in guerilla warfare, UDT, psychological warfare, and what the Army calls "Special Forces Training ... I know this is going to be difficult, but we are going to have to take over such operations as river patrol in the Saigon Delta, in the Mekong River, and other areas. Our people will have to know thoroughly how to fit and live in guerilla conditions."

Adm. Wallace M. Beakley, strategic plans division, assistant chief of naval operations for fleet operations and readiness, addressed a memo to the CNO that proposed a concept of operations, including detailed mission and task statements for SEAL teams. He wrote, "If you agree in the foregoing proposals, I will take action to establish a special operations team on each coast."

Thus, finally, on May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy addressed Congress in regard to "Urgent National Needs" and said:

"I am directing the secretary of defense to expand rapidly and substantially, in cooperation with our allies, the orientation of existing forces for the conduct of non-nuclear war, paramilitary operations, and sub-limited or unconventional wars. In addition, our Special Forces and unconventional warfare units will be increased and reoriented. Throughout the services, new emphasis must be placed on the special skills and languages, which are required to work with local populations."

While organizing didn't officially begin until November 1961, two SEAL teams were officially authorized by December 1961, and both units were formally established in January 1962. Their mission: conduct unconventional warfare, counter-guerrilla warfare and clandestine operations. It was at that moment, the Navy SEALs as we know them, were born.

GREAT EOD PUSH

Story by: MC2 Anita C. Newman
U.S. Navy photos by: MC1 Jonathan Trejo

It's overcast, a balmy 75 degrees with high humidity at 7 a.m. on day two of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) technician dive school aboard Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida. Students, that are still wet from the 500-meter swim portion of the physical screening test (PST), are now covered in sand and sweat as they drop to complete another set of push-ups at Thor's Playground, a slightly wooded workout area. Spit and vomit drip from the mouths of new students as they are pushed beyond their limits. Sounds of birds chirping and insects buzzing are interrupted by motivation from what seems to be the entire instructor office.

"That first big day, day two PT, was a wake-up call," said Seaman James Harris, an EOD student. "You know it's going to be bad and when you get there – it's way worse than you expected. Everything hurts more, the challenges are bigger, and the pressure is a lot more than what you expected."

EOD technicians locate, identify, render safe and explosively dispose of foreign and domestic ordnance including conventional, chemical, biological, nuclear, underwater and terrorist-type devices. This enables access during military operations in support of carrier and expeditionary strike groups, mine countermeasures, and joint Special Forces.

"The pipeline of an EOD technician is pretty extensive, long and grueling," said Senior Chief Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Shawn Simmons, Naval Dive and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) readiness department leading chief petty officer. "In total, if a student doesn't roll back, I'd say on average it's about a year to a year and a half pipeline from the day you enter Great Lakes to the day you graduate, and you're at your first mobile unit."

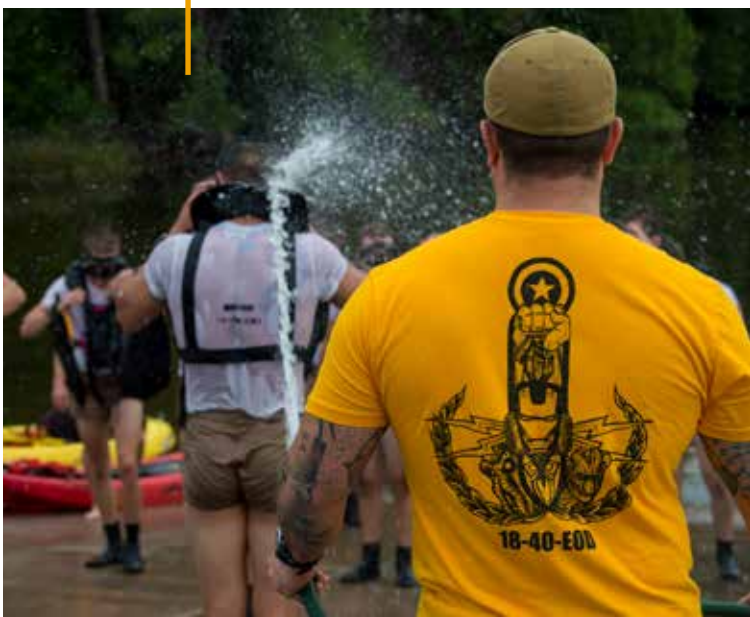
Students complete an EOD preparatory course at Great Lakes after boot camp, then a nine-week basic EOD diver course at NDSTC. After completion of the dive course, they attend basic EOD training for 41 weeks. During the final phase of basic EOD training, students complete basic airborne and EOD tactical training for a total of 55 weeks of training.

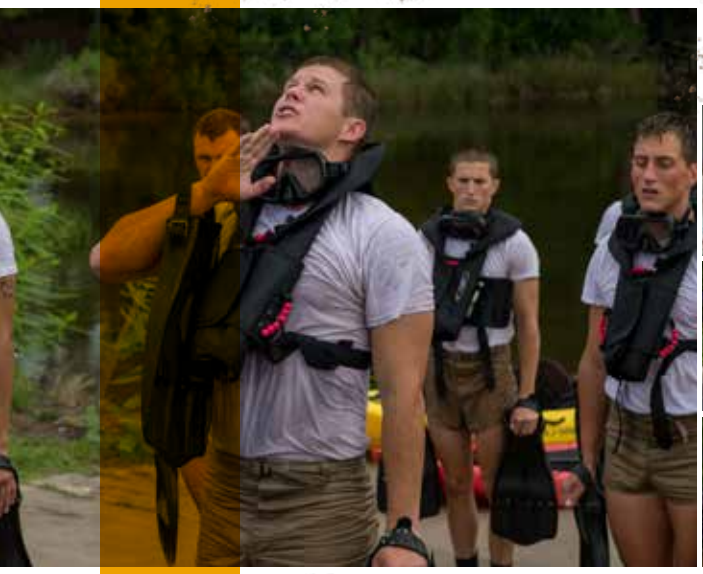
"You're never going to be comfortable in this pipeline," said Harris. "Physical preparation was taxing, but it was a straightforward plan – work out [and] eat right. If you're bored, do something to get yourself in better shape. But it's hard to hone mental skill, because you don't know what you need to prepare for until you get there. So, it was just making sure everything I did, I was a little bit uncomfortable, because the more uncomfortable you get, the more comfortable you become being uncomfortable."

Though every branch has EOD, Navy is set apart by their ability to dive, said Simmons. Technicians can to go to a depth of 300 feet of seawater in this unique community.

"As an EOD tech, the ability to dive gives you the ability to integrate - that's why Navy EOD was the first EOD and the premiere EOD to integrate with Special Forces," emphasized Simmons. "We're a force-enabler. We embed with everybody."

Being physically fit, capable of swimming fast and performing well during the physical screening test (PST) is only part of the process to become an EOD technician. Instructors stress the students physically and mentally to prepare them for future experiences.





> **True grit and character is when everything is wrong and you still have to be able to do your job.**

"There have been college swimmers that show up here," said Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician First Class Robert Zipperer, an NDSTC instructor. "You can tell that they've never been stressed in the aquatic environment. It shows whenever you add weight, a flooded mask, or put them underwater where they're not completely comfortable for longer amounts of time. All of that can stress someone, who on paper, may look like they're very comfortable in the water just because they can swim fast. Here at the school, we're looking to add that stressor. You don't [just] have to be able to swim fast, run fast or do a bunch of push-ups; you have to be able to do it when you're mentally taxed from hours of evolutions beforehand."

At the beginning of dive school, students learn to take one evolution at a time. As they progress, instructors teach them to see beyond what's in front of them, sharing thought processes and mentalities: to begin thinking four or five steps ahead to be prepared for anything.

"A lot of what the instructors are trying to do is stress you out," said Harris. "They want to see how you perform and react under stress. When they yell at you to push your face in the sand as you're crawling along they want to see you willingly follow what they are telling you to do even though it's going to hurt. They want to see if you can go back and fix the problem even though everything is already stressful and hurts. So, they're really evaluating whether you can overcome your stress and do the job that you're being asked to do."

Instructors are looking for mental toughness in each student, said Simmons. If the students can't be as mentally strong as they are physically, he emphasized, they will not last doing this job.

"We talk about a 'happy place.' [With] a lot of jobs, you're able to find that happy place and zone out," said Simmons. "Being an EOD tech, you don't have that option. We can't shoot at you here, blow you up, [or] put you in any real harm or danger."

The students are in a very controlled environment. Instructors apply pressure through time, yelling, and screaming - making them uncomfortable. This is how instructors see where a student's true character is.

"True grit and character isn't what it's like when the sun is shining and everything is going perfectly," continued Simmons. "True grit and character is when everything is wrong and you still have to be able to do your job."

Instructors work to instill a sense of urgency, to think clearly under stress. They try to foster a mentality of pride, teaching students their job is not always going to be fun, and it won't be easy.

"They need to be able to dig down, figure out where the grit is and go," said Simmons. "I would be lying to you if I said I wanted every single student here to make it through; that's not really true. I want the best students to make it through to feed the community. The community needs good Sailors, good EOD technicians to keep it going. We don't necessarily want people to quit, but what I don't want is someone learning that this isn't for them, or they're going to quit at the wrong time. The wrong time is in the middle of a firefight or if somebody gets blown up, or when they're diving an MK 16 (a re-breather) on a mine. That's the wrong time to quit, because you're going to hurt yourself or somebody else. You're just going to make the situation a lot harder than it needs to be."

The mentality to not quit once a part of the community is driven by the rigorous training endured for weeks on end. Zipperer elaborated this physical side of training is meant to prepare students for how they are going to get to their jobsite once they get to the fleet. Once the technicians get to the job they have to be coherent and make sound, clear decisions.

Grit, toughness and selflessness are just a few of the traits that describe this community. These characteristics not only define the member but contribute to the unique community's set of highly valued qualities creating what some describe as a brotherhood.

"I stay because of the guys to my left and right - the brotherhood - and no matter where we go, whenever we get there, we're automatically welcomed into a family," said Zipperer. "There's no time period where you're trying to get to know people. You show up, and everyone's willing to help you out."

Simmons echoed the same sentiments of the brotherhood, which includes a handful of women.

"I love my community, [and] this is the best community in the Navy, hands down," said Simmons. "I've been on the air crew side, fleet side, carriers, small boy, I've worked with SEALS, ODA (Operational Detachment Alpha). We're small, but it's more than that. It's the fact that any single EOD tech would put his or her life on the line for another. To give back to a community like that is an impossible task."

In the end, the EOD community is not only highly unique for their skill set and training - but also known for their unbreakable bond to one another and their commitment to complete what many would believe to be impossible tasks. As potential EOD technicians push themselves past normal physical and mental barriers, they knowingly commit themselves to a community unlike any other.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