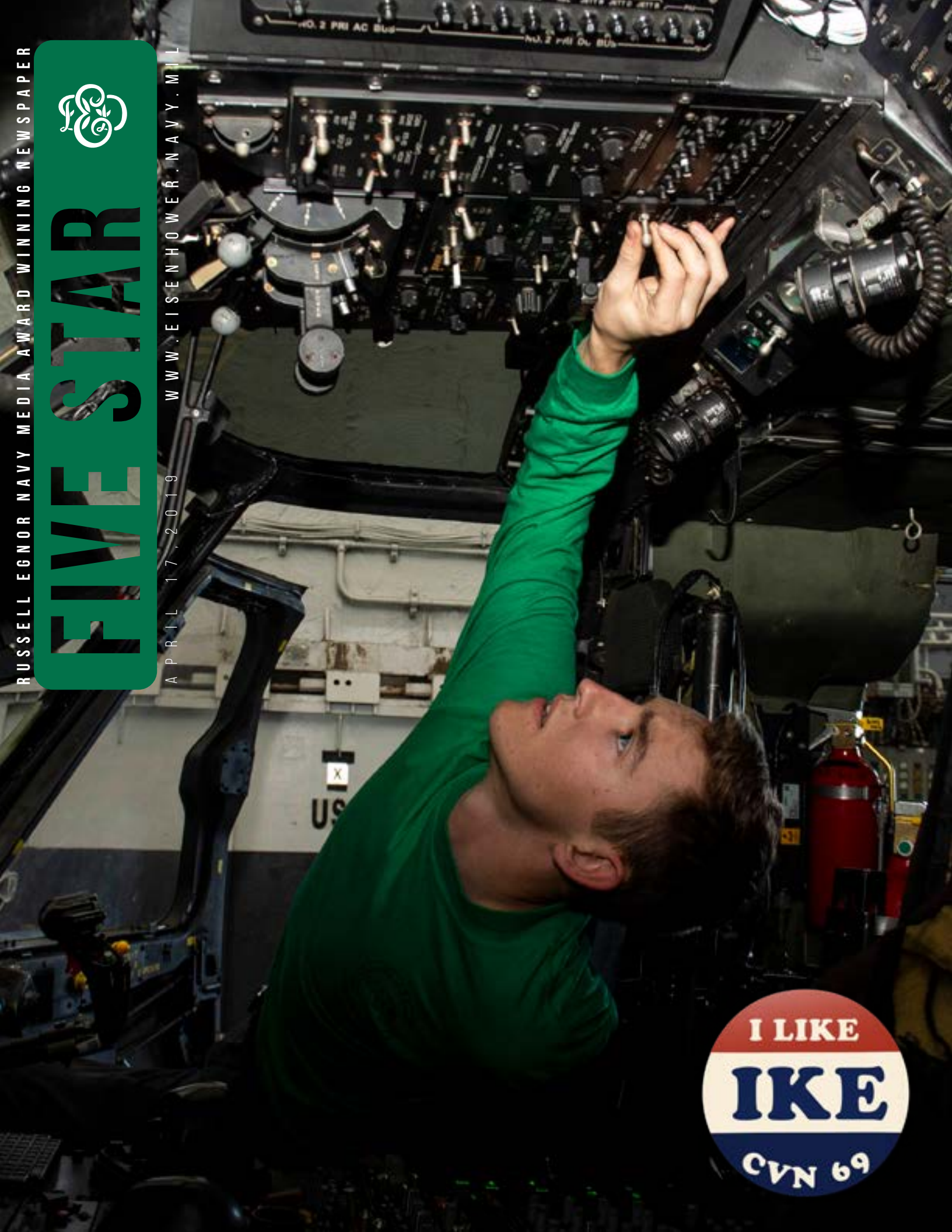


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IMPROVED LEADERSHIP TRAINING: ENLISTED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COURSES

BY MC3 ASHLEY LOWE



Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Victor Gomez, from Odessa, Texas, speaks to Sailors before a flight deck drill. Photo by MC3 Neo B. Greene III.

As Sailors enter Training Classroom Three, Senior Chief Logistics Specialist Damien Burke greets them to their first day of Fundamental Leader Development Course (FLDC). On the door, a sign reads, "Excellence Starts Here." Burke tells the students that FLDC is not like the Navy's past petty officer indoctrination (PO INDOC) courses for leaders.

FLDC is the first formalized training step in a Sailor's career to becoming a leader. The Enlisted Leader Development (ELD) courses are a fairly new improvement which is revisited at various levels of training: fundamentals for petty officer third classes, intermediate for petty officer second classes and advanced for petty officer first classes.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) became the first command to transition from the Navy's PO INDOC course to ELD courses in January 2018.

A team of command master chiefs and captains joined with the Naval Leadership Method Center and the Naval War College as they planned the EDL.

"They realized in 2015 that they wanted leaders to begin developing before they attended the Senior Enlisted Academy as Chiefs," said Command Master Chief Todd A. Mangin, who was one of the CMCs and course manager of the team during the infancy stages of planning.

At the time, there was no structure to help Sailors develop as leaders between boot camp and being selected as chiefs.

"Most of the problems with PO INDOC was reflected in feedback," said Burke. "It didn't teach Sailors any tools or skills they need to be leaders. It's one thing to say 'make sure you're doing spot checks and wear your uniform correctly,' but there were things students weren't learning like counseling other Sailors. That's something

leaders need to think about. There are situations that facilitators have experienced and can share with you."

As a solution, they chose to use the course to give Sailors the tools they need to grow. It focuses on sharing the Navy's expectation of a good leader's character and leadership skills with junior Sailors through discussions of self-awareness, decision making and ethics.

Chiefs were chosen as facilitators and trained specifically to offer the most beneficial and useful experiences to Sailors. Through their careers they have learned how to be leaders who reflect and enforce the Navy values.

"Having chiefs go through the same exercises as the junior Sailors helped us get ready for certain answers that were coming," said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician Anwar Williams, an FLDC facilitator. "There were parts of the course that were different in my mind and experiencing that opened my eyes."

FLDC is not just a typical class with instructors and students. It's set up to be an opportunity for the Navy's most experienced enlisted leaders to share their experiences and lessons with junior Sailors through discussion-based and interactive exercises.

"It's all about communication and interaction," said Burke. "From the facilitator to the student and then back to the facilitator. So, it's very specific too, about sharing and responding. That was the biggest change. The Navy wanted to get away from 'this is what you need to know' and move toward 'these are the tools you need to be Navy leaders.'"

There are various exercises that require teamwork and discussions that analyze how people are perceived and react during communication.

"What, you're not going to help me?" said a student during an exercise. She was sitting in the center of the

classroom holding a paper ball in her hand. She was told to throw it in a box behind her but not where to aim and all of her classmates were told not to help her or acknowledge her at all. It was an exercise to show how people respond to different levels of encouragement or lack thereof. The class performed the exercise four times, each with a different level of encouragement.

Students learned about self-awareness and how to use that during intrapersonal communications. The exercise reflected that the things they say and the way they speak does have an impact on people. It's important to be aware of that, especially around Sailors who look up to them as leaders.

"When you're doing the exercise of throwing the ball over your head you can see how positive, negative or no feedback at all can affect you," said Burke. "After it gets explained you have the tools you need to make sense of it. In today's generation, I think that feedback is so vital because everything moves at such a fast pace. If something happened ten minutes ago, it's not remembered."

On the last day of a recent course, each student stood in front of the classroom and shared their feedback with the class.

"I really liked how the facilitators were so real with us," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Logan Wilson. "It wasn't just senior enlisted personnel giving instruction to junior personnel."

Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Brian Tyson agreed with Wilson and described the course as interactive.

"I learned how we all communicate with each other," said Tyson. "We're all individuals but part of an organization, and we're all different but we can stick together."

The class is meant to supplement Sailors' individual growth and aid them on their path to becoming leaders. The facilitators are Sailors who have experienced paving their own way and were hand-picked by Mangin.

"The things I got from leaders in my past was how situations ended up and how they made me feel," said Burke. "I want my Sailors to feel the same way I did when my senior chief made me feel like a sharp second class, but also when he humbled me and I realized I needed that. Even though it was uncomfortable, I learned from that lesson."

During a field exercise when Burke was a petty officer second class, he set down a Sailor's weapon while they completed a task and it was left behind. When he remembered it, he took credit for the mastable offense of losing a weapon, but instead of going to mast his senior chief had him apologize publicly to the department.

"That humbled me so much because I recognized that it was my fault and I let my shipmates down," said Burke. "It really hit me hard and I'll never forget it. It was a negative feeling with a positive outcome. There are times now when I use that same corrective method to help my Sailors learn that lesson."

The intermediate and advanced ELD classes have similar curriculum, but they are more intense.

"I like to see the how the course changes junior Sailors and how their leadership skills develop as time goes on," said Mangin. "Every single day I can see around the ship how Sailors are progressing, and so far, I'm seeing a lot of return on investment."

IKE SAILORS UNWIND UNDERWAY

BY MC3 ASHLEY M.C. ESTRELLA



Sailors participate in the 300 pound club competition in the forward gym. Photo by MC3 Marques Franklin.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation division (MWR) aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) offers underway activities for Ike Sailors after working hours.

Each night underway there is an event planned to bring departments together that may not interact on a professional level. Ike's crew is able to get to know one another over recreational activities like movie nights, video games, trivia nights, board games and karaoke.

"MWR provides fun activities for Sailors to give them a mental release from the day-to-day work," said Peter Luthi, Ike's Afloat Recreation Specialist (Fun Boss).

One of the recent events was poker night. The buy-in did not require any money, and it lasted for a few hours on the mess decks.

"Poker night was my favorite," said Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Joshua Honea, an MWR representative. "We have a lot of stressful moments working on an aircraft carrier and it was nice to decompress. My entire table was laughing and enjoying the night. It was relaxing to have fun and unwind."

MWR also works closely with combat systems to provide major broadcasts that Sailors would normally miss while out to sea, such as the Super Bowl or other popular and highly-anticipated shows. There was a 'Game of Thrones' watch party April 14 in the hangar bay.

"I'm a huge 'Game of Thrones' fan," said Airman Nolan Keck. "It's cool I didn't have to miss it out to sea."

Sailors spent the evening watching the show on the mess decks and in their berthings.

Along with screenings and events, Sailors are also allowed to enjoy the services provided by MWR on their own time. The MWR window allows the checkout of video games, movies and board games for up to 72 hours.

Since Sailors spend the majority of their time away from their families, the MWR plans events so that Sailors can connect with each other like family. There was a NERF shooting range on the aft mess decks April 15.

"I don't interact with my friends and family much when I'm out to sea, so it is important for me to socialize underway," said Keck.

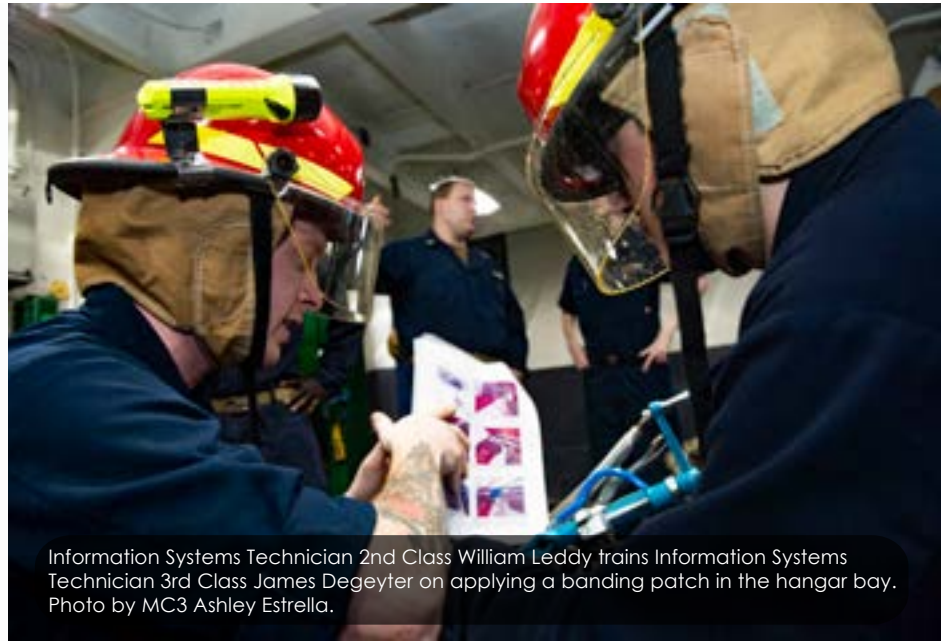
For more information about MWR, stop by the window on the aft mess decks, or email funboss@cvn69.navy.mil.



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Nathaniel Torres participates in game night in the mess decks. Photo by MC3 Ashley Estrella.



Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Ivan Leontyuk cleans a stabilator on a MH-60S Sea Hawk in the hangar bay. Photo by MC3 James Norket



Information Systems Technician 2nd Class William Leddy trains Information Systems Technician 3rd Class James Degeyter on applying a banding patch in the hangar bay. Photo by MC3 Ashley Estrella.



Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd class Colin Morgan and Aviation Electrician's Mate Sean Donague troubleshoot wiring for a fuel system of an FA-18E Super Hornet in the hangar bay. Photo by MC3 Jake Stanley.



Damage Controlman Fireman Kanawaha Williams restows Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus bottles in a repair locker. Photo by MC3 Ashley Estrella.



Damage Controlman 3rd Class Myles Newhouse sounds a tank level indicator for the listing tanks. Photo by MC3 Ashley Estrella



Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Dillon Brunson greases a lock pin on an MH-60S Sea Hawk in the hangar bay. Photo by MC3 James Norket.

U.S., FILIPINO, AUSSIE TROOPS WRAP UP BALIKATAN EXERCISE IN PHILIPPINES

BY CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II, STARS AND STRIPES



Army Sgt. Kevin Sanchez studies terrain aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk during the Balikatan Exercise near Mount Pinatubo in Fort Magsaysay, Philippines. Photo by Jon Welch

The 35th Balikatan military exercise by the U.S. and Philippines armed forces, the first to incorporate advanced U.S. stealth fighters, concluded Friday.

The exercise was held this year from April 1-12 in locations around the country. It included 28 joint training events in counterterrorism, urban, amphibious and aviation operations, according to a statement released by exercise officials.

Balikatan, which translates to “shoulder to shoulder” from Tagalog, also featured humanitarian projects that servicemembers participated in, including renovation projects at elementary schools and rendering medical and veterinary aid to civilians and their animals.

“Since 1951, we’ve had that mutual defense treaty, and every year when we were allowed to come here, to interact, to interoperate with our brothers and sisters in the Philippine Armed Forces, it makes us both better,” Lt. Gen. Eric Smith, III Marine Expeditionary Force commander, said during the closing ceremony Friday. “We look forward very much to coming back, every time and every opportunity that we are allowed to by our hosts, the Philippine government.”

The Balikatan exercise in 2017 took place as a five-month siege unfolded at the city of Marawi. During the siege, which ended in October 2017, Philippines armed forces, backed by the United States, battled a group linked to the Islamic State before retaking the

city on the southern island of Mindanao, which has a large Muslim population. About 1,100 were killed, according to news accounts. Most were insurgents.

Balikatan that year was scaled down and focused on humanitarian response exercises.

On Sunday, Philippine officials announced U.S. DNA tests confirmed the death of Owaida Marohombsar, known also as Abu Dar and a leader of that siege, who was killed March 14 during a gun battle near southern Tubaran town in Lanao del Sur province in the Philippines.

During the Balikatan exercise, the two countries focused on improving their military relations and capabilities and reinforcing maritime security and territorial defense capabilities. They also worked on their ability to respond to humanitarian disasters.

Marine Gunnery Sgt. Frank Montejano traveled from Camp Pendleton, Calif., to participate in the exercise and demonstrated for Philippine marines and sailors how to move armored vehicles on and off other vessels.

Training with allies every year in different environments than he and his fellow Marines are accustomed to is an important aspect of the exercise, he said.

“In a real-world environment, we work with other countries when we have to take the fight to the enemy,” Montejano said. “So the more we do it, the

easier it becomes for us, too.”

Members of the Australian Defence Force also participated in parts of the exercise, including humanitarian aid and special forces training.

“The exercise was able to promote a message for national leadership’s trust in having an independent foreign policy with our allied nations,” said Philippines Lt. Gen. Gilbert Gapay, commander of Southern Luzon Command and co-director of the exercise.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte in a speech April 4 spoke of his country’s closer ties with China under his leadership, at the same time warning that country to back off its encroaching claims to portions of the South China Sea also claimed by the Philippines.

This year’s Balikatan exercise was the first to include the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp along with the Marine Corps’ F-35B Lightning II aircraft.

During his remarks at the closing ceremony, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim highlighted the value of the community service projects and the sharing of military tactics and techniques practiced.

“While we may not be (able) to predict the next big natural disaster or crisis, we can be confident that the training executed during Balikatan makes us much better prepared,” he said.

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AIMD/IM-1

AOAN TERRANCE NELSON

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JOINED THE NAVY JANUARY 7, 2016

REPORTED TO IKE APRIL 14, 2016

WANTS TO ADVANCE TO THIRD CLASS



IKE'S MOVIE PLAYLIST

★★★WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH, 2019★★★

CHANNEL 5

0815/2015: ZOOTOPIA
1045/2245: JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE
1315/0115: 300
1545/0345: MULAN
1815/0615: NEIGHBORS 2: SORORITY RISING

CHANNEL 6

0815/2015: NOW YOU SEE ME 2
1045/2245: PASSENGERS
1315/0115: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL
1545/0345: RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET
1815/0615: RED SPARROW

CHANNEL 7

0815/2015: ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY
1045/2245: SECOND HAND LIONS
1315/0115: THE DAVINCI CODE
1545/0345: ANGELS AND DEMONS
1815/0615: THE MART

IKEMEDIA

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER Capt. Jon Bradford

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF CMDM (SW/AW/EXW) Todd A. Mangin

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Lt. Cmdr. Rick Chernitzer

ASSISTANT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER Ensign Lewis C. Aldridge

MEDIA DEPARTMENT LCPO MCC (SW/AW) John Smolinski

MEDIA DEPARTMENT LPO MC1 (SW/AW) Tony D. Curtis

EDITORS

MC3 Gian Prabhudas

MCSN Sawyer Haskins

MC1 (SW) Cyrus Roson

MC2 (SW/AW/EXW) Ridge Leoni

MC2 (SW/AW) Zach Sleeper

MC2 (SW) Dean Cates

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ON THE COVER:

Aviation Structural Mechanic 2nd Class Shannon Potter operates a rescue hoist cable on an MH-60S Sea Hawk, assigned to the "Dusty Dogs" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 7, in the hangar bay aboard the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Photo by MC3 James Norket.



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