

Great Lakes Bulletin

JUNE 30, 2023

SERVING "THE QUARTERDECK OF THE NAVY" FOR 105 YEARS

IN THIS ISSUE

NAVFAC Awards Contract for
FHCC Renovations

Navajo Sisters Join Navy

Navy Announces Enlistment
Incentives for New Recruits

New Exec Order for Mil
Spouses

MWR & FFSC

Ready Relevant Learning
Modernizes Navy Training

DOD Returns to DTS

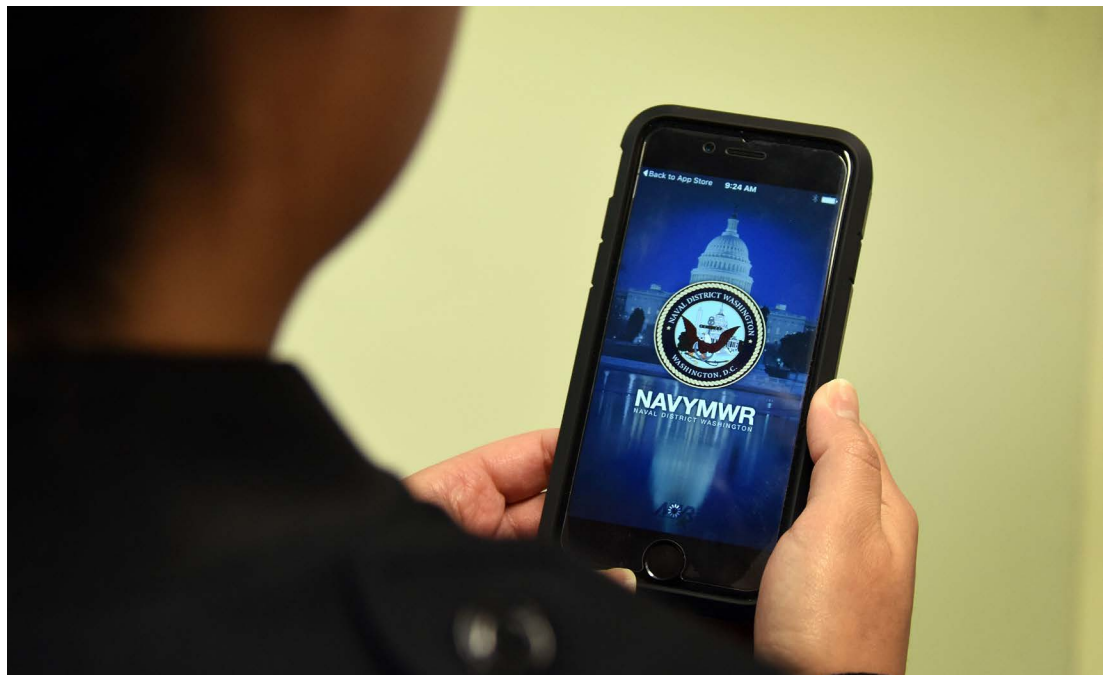
DC School Preps Sailors

Navy Gets New CWT Rating



Navy MWR Launches Program to Upgrade Wi-Fi at Select Liberty Centers

Story by MWR, Commander, Navy Installations Command



The Navy Morale, Welfare, and Recreation program has taken a major step forward in enhancing the quality of life for Sailors by piloting a program aimed at upgrading Wi-Fi services at select Navy MWR Liberty Centers. Recognizing the importance of reliable and high-speed internet connectivity for military personnel, this initiative aims to provide an enhanced digital experience for Sailors. The Wi-Fi upgrade program is set to revolutionize the way Sailors connect, communicate and enjoy recreational activities at Liberty Centers.

MWR's decision to launch the pilot program is in response to the growing demand for reliable internet connectivity among Sailors. Prior to the upgrade, Liberty Centers' Wi-Fi speeds averaged

5Mbps up and 3Mbps down. A new service delivery model was created that analyzed specific site Wi-Fi utilization. Once this new model was implemented, Wi-Fi speeds were able to be upgraded to 25Mbps up and 3Mbps down.

The pilot started in 2022 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Station Norfolk, and Naval Air Station Lemoore. To date, 50 CONUS Liberty Centers have been upgraded. The upgraded Wi-Fi will cater to Sailors' personal communication needs and facilitate various online activities such as streaming music and videos, gaming and accessing educational resources. The pilot program's success will serve as a foundation for potential future expansions, allowing more Liberty Centers across the world to benefit from



Command and Staff

Commanding Officer

Capt. Jason Williamson

Public Affairs Officer

John Sheppard

Editor

MC1 Brigitte Johnston

Contact us!

Phone

847-688-2430 ext. 359

Email

nsgl-pao@us.navy.mil

Website

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

DISCLAIMER:

The Department of the Navy does not endorse and is not associated with non-federal entities in this publication.

CNIC

★ FLEET ★ FIGHTER ★ FAMILY



upgraded Wi-Fi services. The goal is to establish a standard of connectivity that meets the evolving needs of Sailors and aligns with the digital era.

“Providing quality internet services is vital to our Junior Sailors so that they may stay connected with family and friends or fully enjoy programs that Liberty and MWR offer, such as gaming, free movies and music downloads from the digital library without delays,” said Gerry Morris, Liberty Program Analyst at Commander, Navy Installations Command’s Fleet and Family Readiness Headquarters.

Navy MWR Liberty Centers allow for the development of personal leisure skills which leads to interest in activities associated with an alcohol and tobacco-free environment. Liberty trips and tours include sporting events, shopping excursions, deep-sea fishing, seasonal programs, and local community events.

For more information about Navy MWR Liberty Centers, visit

<https://navymwr.org/programs/liberty>

NAVFAC MIDLANT Awards Contract for Renovations at Illinois- based Federal Health Care Center

Story by Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Mid-Atlantic

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Mid-Atlantic (NAVFAC MIDLANT) awarded Troop Contracting Inc., Willowbrook, Illinois, a \$8,614,000 firm-fixed-price contract for interior renovations at Building 5 of the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), North Chicago, Illinois.

Work will primarily be performed at the FHCC and is expected to be completed by June 2024.

Fiscal year (FY) 2023 funds will be obligated at time of award in the amount of \$8,614,000 from the Joint Department of Defense – Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund. Funds will not expire at the end of the current FY.

This contract was competitively procured via the System for Award Management website, with four proposals received. NAVFAC MIDLANT is the contracting activity (N40085-23-C-0024).

Lovell FHCC, located in North Chicago, Illinois, was established on Oct. 1, 2010 when the former North Chicago VA Medical Center and the former Naval Health Clinic Great Lakes merged their resources and services. The FHCC cares for nearly 75,000 patients per year, including an estimated 40,000 Navy recruits who prepare for military service at Recruit Training Command at Naval Station Great Lakes. The FHCC was named in honor of retired American astronaut James A. Lovell, who orbited the moon twice – once as command module pilot of Apollo 8 in 1968, and again as commander of the 1970 Apollo 13 lunar mission. He also served as an aviator in the Navy and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1952.

NAVFAC MIDLANT provides facilities engineering, public works and environmental products and services across an area of responsibility that spans from South Carolina to Maine, and as far west as Michigan, and down to Indiana. As an integral member of the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic team, NAVFAC MIDLANT provides leadership through the Regional Engineer organization to ensure the region’s facilities and infrastructure are managed efficiently and effectively.



Navajo Nation Sisters Join the U.S. Navy to Experience the World

Story by MCI Jasen MorenoGarcia, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Phoenix

“I joined the Navy to travel and experience the world,” said one of the three sisters. The other two replied, almost in perfect synchrony, “Us too!” These statements were uttered with contagious laughter and giggles, showcasing their excitement to start a new chapter in their lives.

The three Felson sisters, Kailan, Tyra, and Tita, departed for Recruit Training Command Great Lakes (the U.S. Navy boot camp) on June 12, 2023. The sisters are natives of Church Rock, a small town inside the Navajo Nation territory and near Gallup, New Mexico.

Kailan Felson, the oldest of the three sisters, mentioned that she moved to Albuquerque, N.M. after graduating high school. Her goal was to attend community college and study to become an automotive technician. Unfortunately, she was forced to move back home, to Church Rock, due to issues with her living arrangements in Albuquerque.

“So I came back here, said Kailan. “I came back home, and then I started working at Wal-Mart for, like, three years. One day I just kind of woke up because we had a little party for someone that worked there for five years and all they gave him was a certificate [of appreciation]. After that, I knew I didn’t want to do that. I didn’t want to just waste five years for a certificate. I quit working there to focus on passing the ASVAB [Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery]. When I finally passed it, I joined the Navy.”

Kailan also mentioned that her sisters, Tita and Tyra, deserve all the credit for helping her study for the ASVAB and keeping her motivated with her goal of joining the Navy.

“At first we were just focused on her getting in, helping her study for the test, and pushing her to not give up, said Tita.

“We would tell her that Walmart is just a job and it is always going to be there. You need to go, like, you don’t want to stay here.”

Every time Kailan went to the recruiting station Tita, the youngest of the three, would tag along to keep her company and help with the drive. The closest recruiting station to them, Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Albuquerque, is two hours away from their home. Tita was there during every interaction her sister had with Navy recruiters. Listening to everything the service has to offer.

“One day we came back home from the recruiting station and she [Tita] told me she needed to talk to me,” said Kailan. “She said, ‘I think I want to try it [the Navy] too’. I was shocked because she’s my little sister. I was expecting it to come from my sister Tyra, but not really from Tita because she’s a girly girl.”

“I joined the Navy to travel and experience new cultures,” said Tita Felson. “I want to continue my education and get a dental degree. I want to challenge myself. People didn’t expect me to join the military because I am a girly girl and the youngest. They thought I would be in college, so it was shocking to them when they heard I was joining the Navy. I just want to try something new, like, take a different path, you know, I felt like I need more than just be in school.”

Tita also said that she didn’t want to end up like most of her friends from high school.

“Most of my high school friends are stuck, said Tita. “They don’t know what to do. Most didn’t want to go to college or anything else. They just work and that’s all they do. If they ask me about joining [the Navy] I will say to challenge 3

themselves and join, that they can also do it. To join if they don't want to be stuck in Gallup and want to travel the world." Inspired by her younger sister Tita's decision to join the Navy, Tyra Felson decided to look into the benefits the service offers. Ultimately, deciding to follow her sister's lead and join too. "I have a really strong bond with Tita," said Tyra. "Wherever Tita goes, I will follow. We never thought she would go to the Navy and I got inspired. I told myself, if she is doing that, I can do it too. I also joined [the Navy] because of the experience that I can get out of it, the benefits, and traveling. You just don't know where life is going to take you. So, might as well go for it. Because we are just stuck by mountains and dirt, mostly no one here really talks about visiting other parts of the world. All we hear about is just the four corners. People just go to Nevada, California, Colorado, and Arizona. But we never heard of anybody who visited Canada, South Korea, or even visit Hawaii and come back here. Everything we know about the world outside Gallup, we see in movies or pictures. I want to experience it too."

The sisters mentioned that when they told their family about their decision to enlist in the Navy, their grandpa, an Army veteran, was not happy with their decision as, based on his experience, the military can be very tough.

"He told us that we shouldn't have joined because when he joined, it was really hard for him, said Tita. "He wanted us to follow another path in our life. Our grandma actually told him 'It's their life. It's their choice. And if that is the path they want to follow, let them.' I was happy to hear her say that."

Originally, Kailan was slated to leave for boot camp alone. When her sisters decided to join, NRS Albuquerque recruiters helped coordinate for all three sisters to leave the same day. The hope is for the sisters to graduate on the same day so their family members can celebrate them in a single trip.

NRS Albuquerque is part of Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Phoenix. NTAG Phoenix's area of responsibility includes more than 37 Navy Recruiting Stations and Navy Officer Recruiting Stations spread throughout 250,000 square miles of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado.

Navy Announces Enlistment Incentives to Attract High-Quality Recruits

Story by Elijah Leinaar, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command

Commander, Navy Recruiting Command announced the bonus increases in the Enlistment Incentives (EI) program, which is designed to attract the highest quality of recruits and ensure Fleet readiness Jun 15.

This program, outlined in the latest Navy Recruiting Manual-Enlisted (COMNAVCRUITCOMINST 1130.8M), includes various bonuses and incentives for both Active Component and Reserve Component personnel. The Navy message can be located here: <https://www.cnrc.navy.mil/Enlisted-Incentives/>

"The maximum current enlistment bonus is \$75,000, and the maximum loan repayment is \$65,000," said Rear Adm. Lex Walker, Commander Navy Recruiting Command. "They are not mutually exclusive, so if a Future Sailor maximizes both, that respectively adds up to a life-altering \$140,000, and the opportunity to serve in the world's finest Navy."

Under the authority of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2023 and the guidance provided in OPNAVINST 1160.9A, the Navy has authorized the following enlistment incentives:

Enlistment Bonus Source Rate (EBSR)

EB High School (EBHS)

EB College Credit (EBCC)

EB for Shipping (EBSHP)

Enlisted Loan Repayment Program (LRP)

The Navy has set maximum limits for certain bonuses. The maximum limit for the Nuclear Field (NUC-NF) is \$75,000, while all other rates maintain a maximum limit of \$50,000. Eligibility for bonuses is determined when an applicant

enters the Delayed Entry Program (DEP), based on the initial date of entry into DEP, ship date, and the

effective message at the time of classification. Prior Service Members reenlisting onto Active Duty or Reserve Duty must meet specific bonus eligibility criteria and not have received a bonus during their first enlistment.

Recruits who successfully graduate from Recruit Training Command (RTC) will receive payments based on specific accomplishments of the bonus criteria. Payments for EBCC, EBSHP, and EBHS are made upon RTC graduation, while EBSR payments are made after a Sailor completes specified training courses based on their enlistment rate.

"By providing these incentives, we are investing in the future of our Navy and ensuring that we maintain a highly skilled and dedicated force," said National Chief Recruiter, Master Chief Navy Counselor Gerald Allchin. "We encourage individuals who meet the eligibility criteria to explore these opportunities and embark on a rewarding career in the United States Navy."

Active Component recruits in select ratings are eligible for the enlistment bonus for source rate (EBSR) throughout the fiscal year. Similarly, Active Component recruits scheduled to ship in June or July 2024 can receive the EB for High School (EBHS) incentive. Recruits with college credits from accredited institutions are eligible for the EB for College Credit (EBCC), with varying amounts based on the number of credits earned.

Furthermore, Active Component recruits who ship during specified months in FY23 are authorized the EB for Shipping (EBSHP) bonus, depending on their rate/program. The Navy has provided a detailed table outlining the eligible rates and corresponding ship months for EBSHP.

The Navy remains committed to attracting exceptional individuals to serve in its ranks. The EI program serves as a

valuable tool in incentivizing enlistment and ensuring the readiness of the Fleet. For more information on the Enlistment Incentives program, future Sailors are encouraged to contact their local Navy recruiting command. To find a local recruiter visit <https://www.navy.com>

Better Economic Opportunities for Military Spouses Focus of New Executive Order

Story by Naval Service Training Command Public Affairs

The White House announced today a new executive order aimed at strengthening economic opportunities for military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors.

President Biden signed that order at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, currently home to the largest number of military spouses in the U.S. military. The president will be accompanied to Fort Liberty by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, who said the executive order is one of the “most consequential” executive actions the Biden administration has taken to support military spouses.

“We’re asking agencies to make it easier for spouses employed by the federal government to take administrative leave, telework and move offices,” she said. “We’re creating resources to support entrepreneurs. And the executive order helps agencies and companies retain military spouses through telework or when they move abroad.”

The new order doesn’t just support the spouses of service members, Biden said. It also aims to support veterans’ spouses, caregivers and survivors.

“The ripple effects of service do not end when uniforms are put away,” she said. “This will help so many families. The federal government can’t solve these problems on its own. So we’re asking employers everywhere to join us: recruit military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors. They’re skilled and passionate. Offer them flexible and portable opportunities so you can retain their talent.”

The executive order, in the works now for more than a year, includes a variety of actions to improve hiring and retention of military and veterans’ spouses in the federal government workforce, helping military and veteran spouses obtain employment outside of the federal government, and improving access to childcare for military families, said Cara Abercrombie, who serves as both deputy assistant to the president and the National Security Council’s coordinator for defense policy and arms control.

Among the primary actions in the EO is a directive by the president for development of a governmentwide strategic plan on the hiring and retention of military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors. The strategy must include plans for marketing the talent, experience and diversity of military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors to agencies and encourage agencies to set benchmarks to improve performance and accountability.

The EO also directs federal agencies to list military spouse non-competitive appointment authority in federal job postings, Abercrombie said. This “will allow departments and agencies to more rapidly hire qualified military spouses when filling positions.”

Also, a key part of the EO is a focus on increased telework options for military spouses in order to retain a job in the United States, even while having been deployed overseas with their military spouse.



Your recreational hub aboard
Naval Station Great Lakes!

*Check out the latest events and
activities from our MWR at*

www.facebook.com/NavyLifeGL/

and on their website at

www.navylifegl.com

*For tickets and travel,
call 847-688-5417*



The
Fleet & Family Support
Center

Life changes?
Family or financial planning?
Reach out to your team at
FFSC for classes, resources,
counseling, and more!

**Fleet and Family Support
Center Great Lakes**

525 Farragut Ave, Bldg. 26
847-688-3603 ex. 100

[Click here for the FFSC website](#)

“It directs agencies to set governmentwide standards for the agencies to make remote work options more accessible to military spouses residing with their service members stationed overseas,” Abercrombie said. “It outlines telework and remote work flexibility for military spouses and caregivers, conveying the importance of retention efforts of this resilient community of federal employees.” Childcare is also a key component of the EO, Abercrombie said. The EO directs the implementation of dependent care flexible saving accounts for service members, as well as expansion of pathways for military spouses to provide home-based childcare on military installations.

Education for hiring managers is also a component of the EO, to ensure that those who do hiring understand the challenges faced by military and veterans’ spouses, caregivers and survivors.

“I want to underscore the importance of this last point, the training requirements,” Abercrombie said. “My team and the Joining Forces team have heard from stakeholders that hiring managers and supervisors in both the federal government and the private sector may lack an understanding of the challenges faced by military families.”

Such challenges include why a military spouse might have

gaps on a resume or why it might be a challenge to get childcare while a service member is deployed.

“The goal ... of the training is to help civilians, especially those in the human resources or hiring roles, to understand this community, the needs of military spouses and caregivers, the diversity and adaptability of this population, and the skill that they bring to the workplace,” Abercrombie said.

Biden said the content of the executive order has been influenced by her own work within Joining Forces — the White House initiative she spearheaded with former First Lady Michelle Obama in 2011 — that focuses on providing support to military families, caregivers and survivors of the U.S. military.

For the last two years, she said, Joining Forces has talked with military spouses across the country about what is needed to help them find a job, keep a job and support their families. That information was brought back to the White House and information gained there was used to develop the executive order.

“[The order is] filled with solutions inspired directly by the conversations Joining Forces had with the military-connected spouses and children, because these families know what they need,” Biden said.

Ready Relevant Learning Modernizes Engineering Professional Apprenticeship Career Track

Story by MC2 Cory Asato, Surface Warfare Engineering School Command Great Lakes

Engineering Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (EPACT) at Surface Warfare Engineering Schools Command Great Lakes (SWESC GL) has begun to utilize modernized curriculum developed in support of Naval Education and Training Command’s (NETC) Ready Relevant Learning (RRL) program.

EPACT, formerly Basic Engineering Common Core, equips accession-level Sailors with the basic skills needed to function in an operational shipboard environment, familiarizing students with tools, equipment, naval terminology, safety protocols and procedural compliance.

“All of the staff and faculty at SWESC GL are responsible for the Navy’s long-term investment in each of our accession Sailors’ technical training in seamanship, navigation, repair, and engineering, including associated electrical components,” said Cmdr. Ervin L. Henley, commanding officer, SWESC GL. “In accordance with Naval Education and Training Command’s RRL framework, we are modernizing all of our facilities and classrooms, and equipping each student with mobile interactive electronic training guides. These updates will reflect the equipment our Sailors will operate and maintain aboard ships afloat, simulate real-time repair concerns and allow us to revise content on demand in our fast-paced learning environment.”

6 Instruction delivery aids at SWESC GL have progressed

over the years from overhead projectors to PowerPoint presentations, and further improving into mobile interactive electronic training guides coupled with engaging video content.

“The revised content replaced an outdated PowerPoint delivery method with interactive instructional media,” said Doug Cash, SWESC GL training director. “Live instruction supported with video content, mobile interactive electronic training guides and hands-on practice allow us to further address different learning styles which more efficiently prepares our accession level Sailors to perform and excel in the fleet.”

Utilizing fleet feedback along with efficient delivery methods and state-of-the-art equipment enable SWESC GL instructors to set a solid foundation in each accession level Sailor’s naval journey.

“Tribal knowledge and skills associated with job performance in the fleet that were either not being formally trained, or not being trained completely,” said Cash. “These gapped learning objectives will increase the level of knowledge and the skill set of every engineering rating in the fleet.”

Instructors welcome real-time feedback from Sailors who already fill out course critiques after completion and after certain phases of their training.

“The Sailors are receiving effective, impactful and meaningful training,” said Chief Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) Tyler A. Benson, a SWESC GL instructor. “The Sailors thoroughly enjoy diving into the details of their training through this immersive experience. Our students acknowledge they understand and how the training pertains to their rate.”

The RRL framework paired with the naval instructional theory equips SWESC GL instructors with more confidence to train their replacements knowing the baseline accession Sailor is better trained than ever before.

“The course expanded the amount of information, the proficiency which they apply maintenance concepts and critical thinking that our students can use in the fleet,” said Chief Machinist’s Mate Joshua J. Mitchell Jr., EPACT leading chief petty officer. “RRL provided the vision and framework, coupled with the best engineering schoolhouse and instructors in the Navy, setting the crucial foundation of technical skills and environmental exposure needed to set our Sailors up for success. This accession level training acts as a springboard platform for students, the learning, the expectation and



responsibilities will only grow in time molding them into expert maintenancemen, watchstanders, and seasoned leaders.”

The U.S. naval fleet’s future highly skilled, operational and combat-ready warfighters are forged through NETC’s RRL doctrine to deliver the right training at the right time in a Sailor’s career, in the right way, so that Sailors are ready to operate their equipment and fulfill their rating requirements. For more information on RRL, visit: <https://www.netc.navy.mil/RRL/>.

DOD Plans Return to ‘Defense Travel System’

Story by C. Todd Lopez , DOD News

In a memorandum released last month, the Defense Department announced that previous directions to begin using the new MyTravel system have been repealed, and agencies should instead return to using the existing Defense Travel System.

“DOD organizations currently using MyTravel are no longer required to use the system,” wrote Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr., undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, in a memorandum dated May 24. “Additionally, DOD organizations may suspend the planning and implementation of future financial system integrations.”

Both the Defense Travel System, or DTS, and MyTravel, are web-based applications that allow military and civilian personnel within the military services and DOD to plan official government travel.

The systems automate the booking of flights, lodging and rental cars and also produce official travel orders. When returning from a trip, the systems allow for the documenting of expenses and the generation of vouchers so travelers can be compensated for their expenses.

The Defense Travel System has been in use within the

department for about 25 years. Before that, travel was planned using paper forms and telephones.

In August 2018, the department announced it had selected SAP Concur’s software as a service product, later branded as MyTravel, to replace DTS. And in an October 2022 memorandum, Cisneros directed DOD travelers to begin using MyTravel, when possible.

That direction has now been rescinded. Instead, travelers are instructed to use DTS for all new travel that ends after July 13, 2023.

Cisneros said DOD will cease MyTravel operations in September 2023.

Officials within the DOD’s Defense Human Resources Activity said continued development of the MyTravel system is no longer in the best interests of the Department. Reasons for that include decreases in travel due to COVID-19, increases in virtual meetings, and a shift in departmental focus to achieving a clean financial audit.

According to a DOD press release, the department spends about \$9 billion annually on travel, with temporary duty travel comprising about 70 percent of all travel vouchers.7



Damage Control Schoolhouse prepares Sailors before leaving Great Lakes

Story by MC2 Cory Asato, Surface Warfare Engineering School Command Great Lakes

Surface Warfare Engineering Schools Command Great Lakes (SWESC GL) Damage Control (DC) Schoolhouse trained 24 prospective Culinary Specialist in general shipboard firefighting (GSF) training before departing to Joint Culinary Center of Excellence at Fort Gregg-Adams, Va. for “A” School, the week of June 5, 2023.

GSF Great Lakes meets the U.S. Navy’s six-year level one firefighting requirement, a training requirement for every Sailor stationed aboard a U.S. naval vessel. The school has qualified approximately 6,500 accession Sailors each year for the past six years.

“The general shipboard firefighting course here at SWESC Great Lakes builds on training provided at RTC giving new accession Sailors their first exposure to extinguishing live fires using appropriate techniques in full firefighting gear, directly building fleet readiness,” said Cmdr. Ervin L. Henley, commanding officer SWESC GL. “Our course satisfies the shipboard six-year level one firefighting requirement, which ultimately saves the fleet time and money. SWESC firefighting training shortens the new accession Sailors integration into shipboard damage control teams, supporting efforts to increase overall shipboard firefighting capabilities. With us providing this training we are assisting the fleet by providing better-trained, better-qualified Sailors that can positively impact basic shipboard fighting effectiveness.”

The two-day curriculum encompasses in-classroom lessons pertaining to fire chemistry, classes of fires (Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie), fire party organization, portable extinguishers, 8 protective equipment, as well as self-contained breathing

apparatus (SCBA) during the first day, and live firefighting trainer labs cover wild hose, hose handling, and firefighting procedures during the second day.

“Here at SWESC Great Lakes, we train all seamanship, navigation, engineering and combat systems ratings and will now be teaching supply ratings in a two-day fleet equivalent general shipboard firefighting course which gives accession level Sailors the basic understanding and operational use of naval firefighting equipment and practices,” said Chief Hull Technician Nicolas Myers, leading chief petty officer of DC “A” School. “Giving our accession Sailors the knowledge and skills to handle complex tasks to control, contain, and put out fires in this life-like-ship-in-a-box simulator using controlled propane fires. Our instructors here break down to the basics for students by explaining the proper wear, usages, and DC practices for our students ensuring they are prepared to take on casualties in the fleet.”

Training accession Sailors in GSF before reporting to their first ship not only benefits the fleet but delivers the right training, in the right way, at the right time in a Sailor’s career track to best benefit and build a strong foundation while reinforcing basic concepts instilled at RTC. The basic mandated training provided through the GSF course significantly reduces the backlog of more than 6,000 unqualified Sailors fleet wide.

“Aboard every U.S. Navy vessel, DC is everyone’s job not just the responsibility of Damage Controlmen,” said Damage Controlman 1st Class Daniel J. Shepherd, DC laboratory and wet trainer course supervisor at SWESC GL.

“Everyone says it and it’s true, the reason I point this out is to focus on and comprehend the gravity of what we do, the impact of training accession Sailors in damage control. On a ship, we’re all firefighters.”

Shepherd further explains how his instructors are the Navy’s best instructors to mold brand new Sailors into able bodied firefighters aboard U.S. Navy vessels.

“Our job here at the fire trainer is to help familiarize every accession level Sailor with the various fires, how to gauge the casualty and apply the best course of action to address it,” said Shepherd. “No junior Sailors is expected to report to their first ship an expert at fighting fires, that’s why we do our best to equip these Sailors with the best firefighting training in the fleet.”

Ships fleet wide are able to save time and money by focusing their training efforts on requalifying Sailors who haven’t had the GSF course in the last six years due to junior Sailors being qualified in GSF.

“The reality is we are preparing for that fire that no one expects at 2 a.m. or the one you stumble onto while walking through the ship. We’re laying the foundation for a solid basis so that when they check onboard, the fleet will build upon the knowledge we’ve instilled in our Sailors to stay alive.”

SWESC GL plans to ideally provide GSF training to every new accession Sailor in the future making every Sailors are more capable warfighter throughout the entirety of their first enlistment.

Navy Establishes Cyber Warfare Technician Rating

Story by MNAVIFOR Public Affairs Office

The Navy announced today the establishment of the Cyber Warfare Technician (CWT) rating via Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 147/23.

The Navy created the CWT rating to meet the requirements of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed Dec. 23, 2022, which directed the Navy to establish a cyber warfare rating for enlisted personnel separate from the cryptologic technician enlisted rating.

The CWT rating will initially absorb the Cryptologic Technician-Networks rating in its entirety, and all CTN billets and personnel have been changed to CWT effective June 28, 2023.

Vice Adm. Kelly Aeschbach, commander of Naval Information Forces and the Navy’s Information Boss, explained how the Navy developed its plan to establish the CWT rating.

“We developed the CWT rating closely with our leaders in the CTN rating, thoroughly reviewing billet requirements of Sailors assigned to the Cyber Mission Force (CMF), while determining what was required to fulfill the requirements under the NDAA,” said Aeschbach. “Our analysis showed the CTN rating had long-standing, validated billets and Navy Enlisted Classification codes (NECs) already linked to critical cyber work roles across Fleet, CMF, and national requirements; - in fact, 93 percent of all work conducted by the CTN rating is primarily classified as cyber. This rating more accurately describes the predominance of cyber work our CTN Sailors are already performing.”

NAVIFOR Force Master Chief Laura Nunley emphasized no CTN Sailor’s career will be negatively impacted by the establishment of the CWT rating.

“During the process of establishing the CWT rating, we have been committed to a ‘do no harm’ approach to CTN Sailors,” noted Nunley. “No Sailor’s advancement opportunity or Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) will be affected by this rating establishment. All rating specific

incentive pays currently entitled to CTN Sailors will be awarded to CWT Sailors.”

Nunley also explained how CTN Sailors’ inputs shaped the new rating.

“We know our CTN Sailors are vested in their cryptologic history, so we ensured we embraced them through this rating establishment process, including the design of the CWT rating badge,” said Nunley. “We invited all CTN Sailors to submit their original patch designs to our CTN enlisted leaders, and we assembled a team to evaluate these proposals and select a winning design.”

“I’m proud to recognize CTN2 Kennedy Bullard, assigned to the 552 Cyber Protection Team (CPT), Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command in Suffolk, Va., whose design will be worn by the more than 2,200 CWT Sailors!” Establishing the CWT rating ensures the Navy matches specialized skill sets to the competition it faces in the cyberspace domain. CWTs will apply their specialized skill sets to competition the Navy faces in the cyberspace domain, employing tactical and strategic capabilities to plan, develop, and execute offensive and defensive Cyberspace Operations; and performing threat analysis, digital forensics, network exploitation, research and development, and mission planning.

“CTN Sailors have been absolutely critical to addressing threats in cyberspace - ensuring our Navy and joint force stay in competition,” said Aeschbach. “We’re committed to training, recruiting and retaining talented Cyber Warfare Technicians to pace this competition, and to prevail in conflict if they are ever called to do so.”

NAVIFOR’s mission is to generate, directly and through our leadership of the IW Enterprise, agile and technically superior manned, trained, equipped, and certified combat-ready IW forces to ensure our Navy will decisively DETER, COMPETE, and WIN.