

# THE AVENGER

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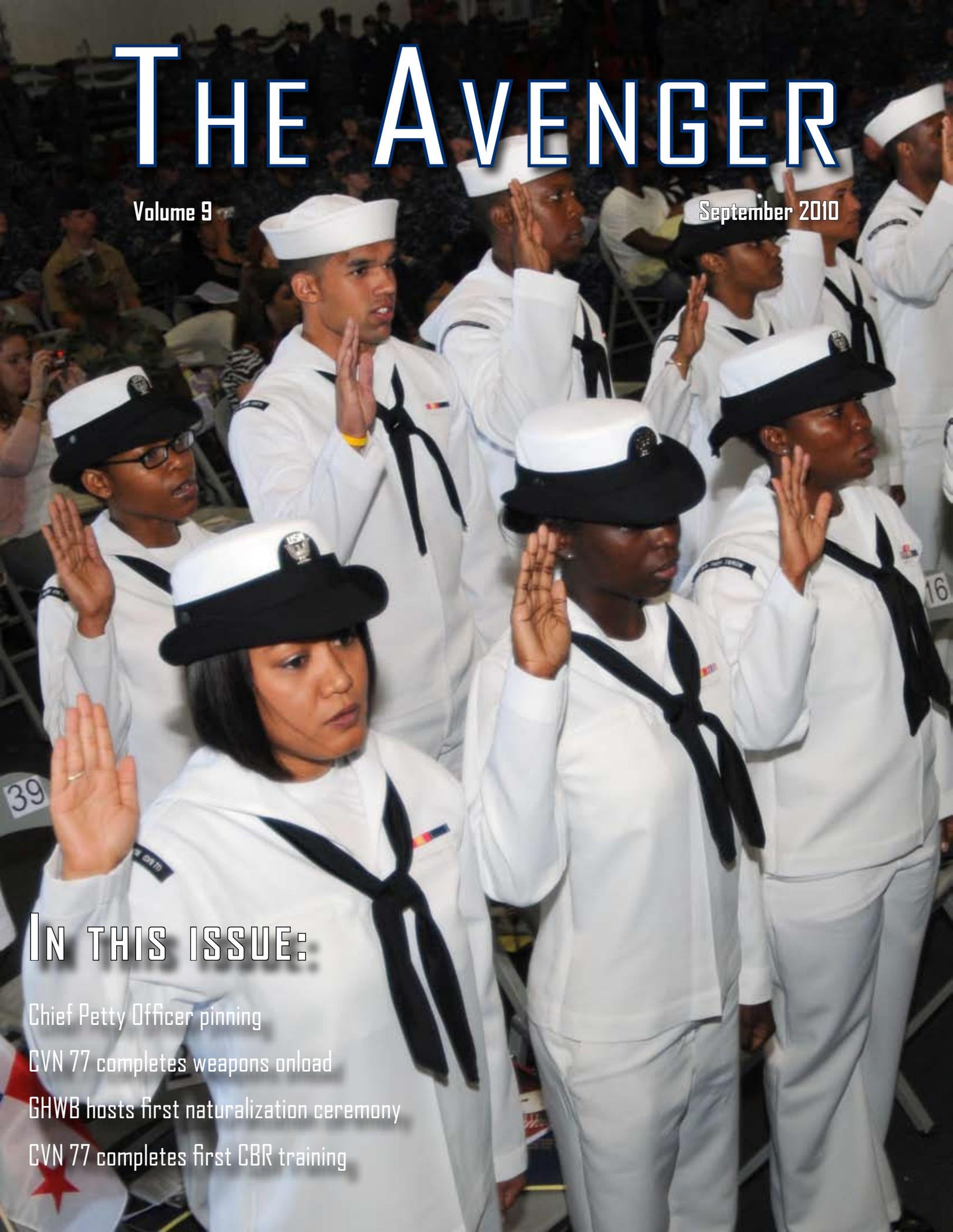
## IN THIS ISSUE:

Chief Petty Officer pinning

CVN 77 completes weapons onload

GHWB hosts first naturalization ceremony

CVN 77 completes first CBR training



## ON THE COVER:

Sailors raise their right hands while reciting the Oath of Citizenship during a naturalization ceremony in the hangar bay of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Sept. 20. (U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Kevin Steinberg)

## THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

Command Corner	Pg. 2
CSG 2 embarks on CVN 77	Pg. 3
Medal of Honor recipient visits GEORGE H.W. BUSH at sea	Pg. 4
Petty Officers transform to Chiefs through teamwork	Pg. 5
Congratulations CVN 77 Chiefs	Pg. 6
New Chiefs, new leaders	Pg. 7
Chief pinning ceremony photos	Pg. 9
CVN 77 completes weapons onload	Pg. 11
Armed and ready	Pg. 13
CVN 77 hosts first naturalization ceremony	Pg. 15
CVN 77 Senior Chief selected for Admiral Ben Moreell Award	Pg. 17
CVN 77 prepares for deployment by completing CBR training	Pg. 19
Lock, stock and one smoking barrel	Pg. 21

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## From the Commanding Officer



Greetings Team,

What a great month it has been, filled with outstanding underway training and accomplishment in port. Thank you to all hands for all the effort put forth so far and for all the hard work I know you will do in the coming months.

This most recent underway marked our first time at sea with Carrier Strike Group TWO and Destroyer Squadron 22. With the future addition of our Air Wing, all of the pieces are coming together to make us a true beacon of naval power and freedom around the globe...and a fantastic team.

It was great to embark our own Carrier Strike Group Commander, Rear Adm. Nora Tyson, and her staff. It is vital that we have an effective relationship with them as we are the strike group's flagship and they will be on board with us for the entirety of our deployment. I must say I am proud of our performance, and I can say with confidence that Admiral Tyson was pleased with everything she saw during her time on board.

We also conducted our first general quarters with a Chemical/Biological/Radiological (CBR) threat scenario. This was valuable training and hands-on experience that will greatly add to our ability to conduct overseas operations. Expect to take part in more evolutions like this during our October underway.

Next month's underway will be longer than any other we have ever done, but is a critically important step toward preparing for our first-ever combat deployment next spring. While it may seem like a long time from now, I assure you it will be here sooner than you think. Don't procrastinate when it comes to family, personal and financial security and readiness. As we will be gone for longer than most of us and our families are used to, please take extra care and precautions to ensure the well-being of yourself and loved ones while you are away. That means being prepared for anything and everything, including worst-case scenarios. We recently experienced first-hand the possibility of a hur-



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas Hall

Sailors hold American flags during a naturalization ceremony in the hangar bay of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77), Sept. 20.

ricane affecting our area, so have a plan for your families and property in the event of an evacuation.

I am sure you are all aware of the recent grand opening of the 'Lonestar Café' located on the forward mess decks. I am glad we can offer this as a means to make our ship feel a little more like home, in addition to being an opportunity to support the Morale, Welfare and Recreation division. Please take advantage of the café and all the many other programs MWR offers. It can really make a difference when it comes to morale, especially during this busy pre-deployment schedule.

Also be mindful that the PRT is approaching quickly. Manage your time wisely so that you allow yourself time to exercise, eat healthy and be fully prepared. Your health and fitness not only affect your personal life, but your career as well. Physical readiness goes hand-in-hand with professional readiness and we want all of our Sailors to be healthy, happy and effective.

With that, I'd like to reemphasize my gratitude for the great job we have done thus far. From the island and flight deck, to the reactor plants and seventh deck, every member of the USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) team performed their duties like professionals. Thanks for all the hard work. Keep it up.

Sincerely,  
Capt. Chip Miller  
Commanding Officer

# CSG 2 EMBARKS ON CVN 77

Story and layout by MC2 (SW) Nathan Bailey  
Graphic by MCSA J. Scott St. Clair



**U**SS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) permanently embarked its strike group, Carrier Strike Group Two (CSG 2) for the first time Sept. 20.

This embarkation marked yet another first in the short history of GEORGE H.W. BUSH as Rear Adm. Nora Tyson and her staff of 75 embarked America's newest aircraft carrier prior to a scheduled underway period that will combine elements of CSG 2 for the first time.

"This is the first time a flag (staff) has embarked Bush. This is really the first opportunity begin working together as a team, and is one of the steps on the road to deployment," said Tyson. "You guys have a great ship, a great crew and I'm pretty honored to be on board and be a part of it."

Prior to embarking aboard CVN 77, CSG 2 staff deployed for three months earlier this year in support of Operation Unified Response in Haiti and was also the strike group for USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) on its most recent deployment.

"It's great," said Tyson, who assumed command of the strike group in July. "I love going to sea. I'm really looking forward to it, and I'm happy to be back on a ship again."

The GEORGE H.W. BUSH Strike Group will conduct a series of training exercises and certifications at sea over the next several months as it prepares for its maiden deployment in 2011. †

# MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT VISITS GEORGE H.W. BUSH AT SEA

STORY BY LCDR J.T. SCHOFIELD

**F**or the first time in the ship's brief history in service, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) hosted a Medal of Honor recipient on board, Sept 24, while the ship was conducting training exercises in the Atlantic Ocean.

Retired Army Col. Jack Jacobs, who was awarded the MOH during his service in the Vietnam War, came aboard as part of an MSN-BC television crew producing a story about the youth of America serving on the Navy's newest aircraft carrier.

Although visiting the ship in his capacity as a journalist and military analyst for the news network, Jacobs relished the opportunity to visit with the Sailors, shake their hands and thank them for the effort in their service to the nation.

"It was so rewarding to hear their stories and witness first hand the hard work and dedication going on here," Jacobs said. "It was very special."

Jacobs watched flight operations from the flight deck, toured the mess decks and galley, and visited the medical spaces and weapons magazines. The service and accomplishments of Jacobs were not lost on the Sailors who met him.

"To be able to show him and our nation the story behind what our Sailors do is almost too hard to describe," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (SW/AW) William Doyle of the GHWB Weapons Department. "Having a Medal of Honor recipient and major news broadcasting network climb down into our weapons magazines and film our department execute what they have been training to do for so long, is one of the most rewarding feelings I have ever had during my time in the Navy."



Photo by MCSN Matthew R. Perreault  
Col. Jack Jacobs, Medal of Honor recipient, poses with Weapons Department Sailors in one of the ship's weapons magazines, Sept. 24.



Photo by MCSN Matthew R. Perreault  
Col. Jack Jacobs, Medal of Honor recipient, and Lt. Cmdr. Scott Walgrens, Training Officer with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9, observe flight operations from the ship's flight deck, Sept. 24.

For Electronics Technician 3rd Class (AW/SW) Brittney Fortenberry of the GHWB Combat Systems department, the opportunity to be around Jacobs was especially valuable.

"Speaking to him off-camera was a blessing because he gave me so much advice on my upcoming decisions to re-enlist and complete college," she said. "I really appreciate the opportunity that was presented to me in meeting him."

Jacobs was commissioned into the Army through ROTC at Rutgers University in 1966. He served two tours in Vietnam and received the Medal of Honor from President Richard M. Nixon in October 1969.

According to his biography and Medal of Honor citation, Jacobs was an adviser to a Vietnamese infantry battalion when it came under a devastating fire that disabled the commander. Although bleeding from severe head wounds, then-1st Lt. Jacobs took command, withdrew the unit to safety, and returned again and again under intense fire to rescue the wounded and perform life-saving first aid. He saved the lives of a U.S. adviser and 13 allied soldiers.

In addition to the MOH, Jacobs retired from service having earned two Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

"Having Colonel Jacobs on board CVN 77 is a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Capt. Chip Miller, GHWB Commanding Officer. "The entire crew was honored to host him on our great ship. He is a national hero who exemplifies the level of dedication, bravery and fighting spirit that we all hope to emulate as we serve our country and prepare for this ship's first-ever combat deployment." †

# Petty Officers transform to Chiefs through teamwork

Story and layout by MCSN Michael Smevog

First class petty officers selected for advancement to chief petty officer went through approximately six weeks of training and indoctrination, known as induction, before officially being promoted to their new rank. Throughout their training, the mission-essential value and necessity of teamwork was instilled in the future chiefs. They were taught to rely on each other like a close-knit family

“The whole process is built to help you better lead your Sailors when you actually put your anchors on. All the things we go through from now until the day we pin are part of that process; getting to know all of our brothers and sisters in the Chiefs’ Mess, building relationships, learning to trust one another, and trying to be a better leader,” said Information Systems Technician Chief (SW/AW) Rondy R. Pringle, one of this year’s 34 selectees on board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77).

Information Systems Technician Chief (SW/AW) Michael K. Ellis, of USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Combat Systems Department’s CS-3 Division, is currently serving as an individual augmentee (IA) in Afghanistan.

Although he was not with his shipmates through the induction season, the CVN 77 selectees came up with a



creative way to include Ellis in the process, in the shape of a life-sized doll.

One of the selectees was responsible for the doll at all times, ensuring he was on time for training sessions, and in the proper uniform. He was part of the group every time they met. He attended all of their physical training, administrative training, and even fundraisers.

“It forces us not to forget about him,” said Sonar Technician (Surface) Chief (SW/AW) Alexandra K. Smith, another selectee on board GEORGE H.W. BUSH. Smith explained that by having the doll with them, Ellis’s shipmates

would remember that he was part of the team. Smith explained that chiefs are one big family, and that’s why it’s important for the future chiefs who are stationed at other commands, to grow with their new family through this transitional period.

“We get 180 new sisters and brothers here,” Smith said. “One of the biggest pieces of this process is getting to know your Chiefs’ Mess, and this ship and Chiefs’ Mess is as much his as it is ours.”

The selectees even took the doll to visit Ellis’s wife and children.

Ellis was able to receive advice through e-mail from his peers on the ship to accompany the in-person training he received in Afghanistan, which was aimed at ensuring the future chief is prepared to lead Sailors to successfully complete any mission.

Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW/FMF) Gene A. Crozier, CS-3 Division’s Leading Chief Petty Officer aboard GEORGE H.W. BUSH, explained that the goal of every chief select’s transition is to solidify leadership skills, as chiefs are at the forefront of mission readiness.

“If the Sailors are not being taken care of, then we are degrading our ability to perform the mission. Taking care of Sailors goes much farther and deeper than that of course, but at base level, that is what it is about,” he explained.

# Congratulations new COM 77 Chiefs

Chief Aviation Machinist’s Mate (AW/SW) Erwin Bansil

Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Alaric Best

Chief Machinist’s Mate (SW/AW) Shawn Boggs

Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW) Nekeia Borders

Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Michael Brinkman

Chief Logistics Specialist (AW/SW) Tiffany Brown

Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (SW/AW) Nicholas Brunney

Chief Aviation Support Equipment Technician (AW/SW) James Bush

Chief Yeoman (SW/AW) Rachel Castillo

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Gregory Dobson

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Michael Ellis

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW/EXW) Wilfred Everett

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Clarence Hall

Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Gary Henson

Chief Air Traffic Controller (AW/SW) Joseph Hernandez

Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Matthew Houston

Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Ryan Leahy



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton

Chief Mass Communications Specialist (AW/SW) Narina S. Reynoso, from Media Department, celebrates with her daughter after receiving her anchors, Sept. 16.

Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Ronald Lee

Chief Damage Controlman (SW/AW) Jason Lockenwitz

Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW) Eliezer Martiz

Chief Machinist’s Mate (SW) Daniel Noble

Chief Electrician’s Mate (SW) Evan Pierce

Chief Information Systems Technician (SW/AW) Rondy Pringle

Chief Machinist’s Mate (SW) Pete Rausch

Chief Mass Communication Specialist (AW/SW) Narina Reynoso

Chief Operations Specialist (SW/AW) Jeremy Rodriguez

Chief Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) (AW/SW) Franklin Santiago

Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (AW/SW) Daniel Sibal

Chief Machinist’s Mate (SW) Scott Sigmon

Chief Sonar Technician (Surface) (SW/AW) Alexandra Smith

Chief Machinist’s Mate (SW/AW) Carter Smith

Chief Yeoman (SW) Eugene Taylor

Chief Boatswain’s Mate (SW/AW) Daniel Wauters

Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Thomas Zimmerman



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton

Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Thomas E. Zimmerman, from Weapons Department, is pinned by his wife during the chief petty officer pinning ceremony, Sept. 16.

# New chiefs, new leaders

Story and layout by MCSN Michael Smevog  
Photos by AWS3 Joshua Horton and MCSA (SW) Daniel Moore

The 32 newly-pinned chiefs on board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) are part of the new generation of deckplate leaders. Although they are from various departments throughout the ship, with different duties to teach their junior Sailors, they share similar beliefs in

positive mentorship and “tough love” as important in the foundation of great leadership.

Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (SW/AW) Nicholas M. Brunney, of GEORGE H.W. BUSH Engineering Department, explained that he will be able to impact Sailors in his new position like never before, as his decisions can make or break a Sailor’s career. He said there is a lot of responsibility with the new rank, but also there is the reward of watching Sailors grow, progress and succeed in part due to his hard work.

Brunney explained that he hopes the Sailors he is directly responsible for will gain something from his leadership, whether that is professional goals being met, or positive mentorship. Those things are what he feels a good chief should do.

Brunney said that his chiefs did the same things for him when he was a junior Sailor and he hopes to pass that support on to his Sailors.

Chief Yeoman (SW) Eugene R. Taylor, of GEORGE H.W. BUSH Reactor

Department, explained that by working hard to take care of junior Sailors, as his chiefs did for him, the new chiefs fulfill their responsibility as leaders and pass down the attitude of success to help complete the mission at hand. Taylor said that without leadership and guidance, junior Sailors will fall short of their full potential.

“Great leadership is important because that is what it will take to carry our Navy into the future,” Taylor said.

Taylor also said that “tough love” is another technique necessary to ensure the Sailors stay focused. Even if he could get a Sailor out of trouble, he must allow the Sailor to face the consequences of his mistakes.

“Even though you might hate to do something, sometimes you have to do it to keep them on the right path,” Taylor said.

Although these chiefs are the new leaders who train and supervise the crew of GEORGE H.W. BUSH, they will continue to rely on the knowledge of their leaders in the chiefs’ mess. †



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# NAVY PRIDE



Layout by MCSN Sandi Grimnes



# CVN 77 completes weapons onload

Story by MCSN Sandi Grimnes  
Photo by MCSN Betsy Lynn Knapper

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) completed its initial weapons on-load with USNS ROBERT E. PEARY (T-AKE 5) Aug. 30 and USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) Aug. 31, in preparation for her maiden deployment next year.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH received approximately 2 million pounds of ordnance in the form of live and practice bombs, missiles and torpedoes, and their components during the two days of underway replenishments.

While alongside the dry cargo and ammunition ship ROBERT E. PEARY, GEORGE H.W. BUSH received ordnance during a connected replenishment (CONREP), as MH-60S Knighthawk helicopters from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9 and HSC 26 delivered it to the flight deck in a vertical replenishment.

Helicopters from both squadrons delivered approximately 840 lifts of ordnance from DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER to GEORGE H.W. BUSH Aug. 31, bringing the total number of ordnance lifts over the two-day evolution to more than 1,100.

"Both squadrons that we have on board did a remarkable job today," said Commanding Officer, Capt. Chip Miller. "Everything was done with professionalism. This evolution

could not have been any better. You guys rock."

Once the ordnance landed on the flight deck, it was inventoried, sorted and staged in the hanger bay until it was placed in the proper magazines, said GEORGE H.W. BUSH Ordnance Handling Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Bunn F. Gray.

"We are bringing on all the assets needed to on go on deployment," said Aviation Ordnancemen Airman (AW) Jhatyne N. Walker, an ammunition accountant from Weapons Department G-5. "We are getting everything the IKE has, plus we will have another small on-load for the stuff we didn't get from the PEARY yesterday and the IKE today. It makes our ship what it is. It makes us warriors. Without our weapons, we are just a cruise ship."

Combat Systems, Aviation Intermediate Maintenance, Security and Weapons Departments have all had major roles over the last two years ensuring that GEORGE H.W. BUSH met all required regulations to carry ammunition, Gray said. GEORGE H.W. BUSH has been completing certifications, qualifications and inspections to verify that the ship is structurally capable to account for, construct, store and transport ordnance safely.

"The level of effort, team work and motivation was outstanding today," Gray said. "Excellent effort by everyone."



Sailors assigned to USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) Weapons Department's G-5 Division, move ammunition in the ship's hangar bay during a replenishment at sea, Aug. 30. Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker.

# ARMED AND READY

Layout by MCSN Sandi Grimnes



Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by MCSN Betsy Lynn Knapper

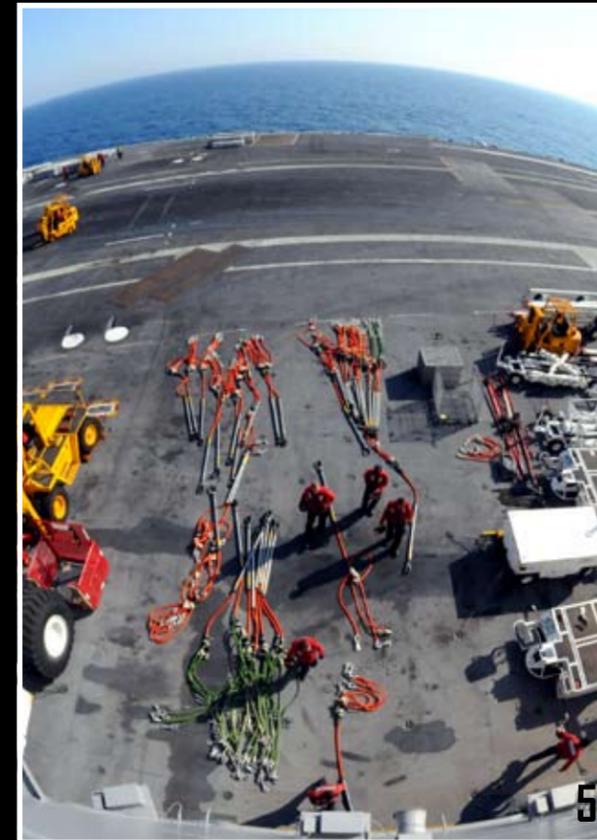


Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg

1. An MH-60S Knighthawk assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9 conducts a vertical replenishment, Aug. 31. 2. Sailors assigned to Weapons Department move transport equipment brought on board, Aug. 30. 3. GEORGE H.W. BUSH steams alongside DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER during a vertical replenishment ammunition transfer Aug. 31. 4. Sailors assigned to Weapons Department load ordnance onto an elevator in the hangar bay, Aug. 30. 5. Sailors from Weapons Department's G-1 Division prepare for a vertical replenishment, Aug. 30. 6. Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Michael R. Thorton, of Weapons Department's G-1 Division, puts ammunition on an elevator, Aug. 31. 7. From left, Aviation Ordnancemen Airman Jamie Johnson, Hamlet Urroz-Cardenas, Larry Zeigler and Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Greg Sherman move ammunition in the hangar bay, Aug. 31.



Photo by MC3 (SW) Nicholas Hall

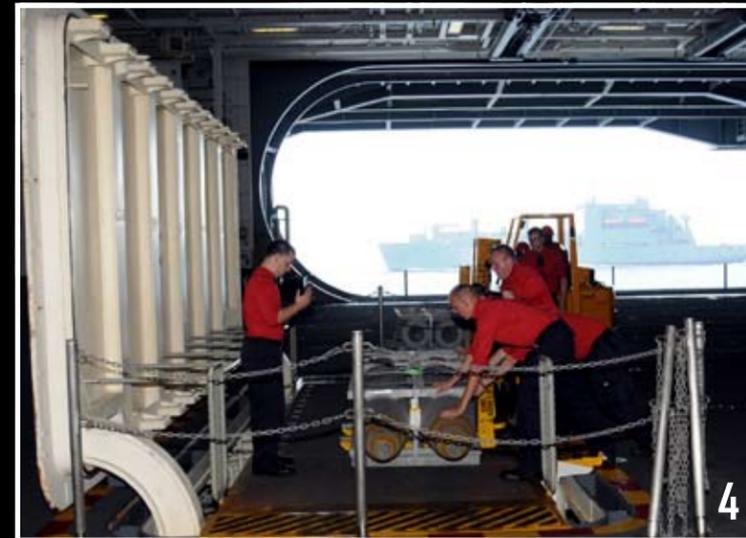


Photo by AWS3 Joshua K. Horton



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg

# CVN 77 hosts first naturalization ceremony

Story and layout by MC3 Brian M. Brooks

**F**orty Sailors originating from 20 countries became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony on board USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77), Sept. 20.

The ceremony, held in the ship's hangar bay, coincides with the annual celebration of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. It was the first ceremony of its kind for the Navy's newest aircraft carrier.

"It feels good. I've been in the U.S. for about 12-13 years," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman Emil D. Fike, assigned to CVN 77 Air Department, who originates from the Philippines. "It is a proud moment for me."

USCIS Senior Advisor to the Director, Michael Aytes, administered the "Oath of Allegiance" to the Sailors representing eight commands, to include GEORGE H.W. BUSH.

"As you take this oath and you think back on your own journeys that brought you here, know that you also join a tapestry of millions who stood before and took that same oath and what they have done to make this country great," Aytes said before reading the oath.

According to the ceremony's keynote speaker, Capt. Chip Miller, GEORGE H.W. BUSH Commanding Officer, since July 2002 when the president made it easier for members of the armed services to become naturalized, more than 60,000 service members have become American citizens.



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg  
Sailors raise their right hands while reciting the Oath of Citizenship during a naturalization ceremony in the hangar bay, Sept. 20.



Photo by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg  
Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two, Rear Adm. Nora Tyson shakes the hand of Culinary Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Phillip K. Pierre after a naturalization ceremony in the hangar bay, Sept. 20.

Machinist Mate Fireman Omer Savasci, of USS BATAAN (LHD 5), joined the Navy because he wanted to join special operations. Now that he is an American citizen he can take steps to pursue that goal.

According to Personnel Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Herlinda Garza, of GEORGE H.W. BUSH Administration Department and one of the ship's naturalization program representatives, in order for a service member to become a citizen a package would be put together to include an official application of citizenship and a passport photo. Once the package is verified by legal, it is sent off to the immigration office in Nevada for review. If the package is accepted, an interview will be set up for the applicant.

After the new citizen has sworn in, they are required to check with personnel to update their service record to reflect the change in citizenship.

"I feel very relieved. I've wanted to do this for quite a while and now I finally got it," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Apprentice (AW) Polina S. Komarnytska, of GEORGE H.W. BUSH Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department. "I want to travel and being a U.S. citizen makes it a lot easier."

Komarnytska's parents were in attendance to see her become a U.S. citizen. They expressed they are very proud of her achievement.

For more information on how to become a U.S. citizen,

visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or email YNC Rachel E. Castillo at [castillore@cvn77.navy.mil](mailto:castillore@cvn77.navy.mil); NC1 Arneida McDonald at [mcdonald@cvn77.navy.mil](mailto:mcdonald@cvn77.navy.mil) or PS2 Herlinda Garza at [garzah@cvn77.navy.mil](mailto:garzah@cvn77.navy.mil).

## Congratulation to our 23 newest naturalized Sailors:

- ABEAN Irvin Apontesorellana
- ABEAN Koffi Atanley
- ABHAN Ryan Canezo
- ABE3 Deanne Craig
- ASAN Gladys Domingo
- ABEAN Jose Dominguez Rodriguez
- ABEAN Emil Fike
- ABHAN Jerome Hamilton
- ABEAN Omar Harris
- ABHAN Jason Kalange
- ASAN Polina Komarnytska
- CSSN Eusebe LaFleur
- ABEAN Suzanne Laurent
- ASAN Valmore Omondi
- ABE3 Hector Pichardo Martinez
- CS1 Phillip Pierre
- ABEAN Annalee Rampersad
- ABHAN Olga Reyesherrera
- ABHAN Tenzin Sandop
- ABE3 Andrae Sterling
- ABHAN Julio Velasquez Arriaga
- ABHAN Lei Wang
- AS2 Daniel Wichter



# CVN 77 Senior Chief selected for Admiral Ben Moreell Award

Story and photo by MCSN Sandi Grimnes

USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) Supply Department Senior Chief Logistics Specialist (AW/SW) Beryl O'Connor Jr. has been selected to receive the Admiral Ben Moreell Award for Logistics Competence for his 2009 service as an Individual Augmentee (IA) in Baghdad.

"I'm very surprised, very honored and very humbled to be selected over everybody else," said O'Connor, who is Supply Department's Maintenance Material Management Assistant (3MA). "I try my best to do my best and it's nice to see that it is recognized."

During his tour in Iraq, O'Connor was the Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Command Group Operations Division, Secretary, Combined Joint Staff, Multi-National Force – Iraq.

O'Connor reestablished accurate accountability of millions of dollars worth of documented theatre property and equipment, said GEORGE H.W. BUSH Commanding Officer, Capt. Chip Miller, in the nomination letter written to the Navy League of the United States award board. According to Miller, O'Connor also provided logistical oversight to three Army-manned Personal Security Detachment teams and staff office enlisted and officer personnel, to ensure service members were properly outfitted for combat operations outside the wire, and constantly prepared for critical operational commitments. He performed escort duty for mission-critical material, completing 24 air and ground logistics missions, to en-

sure 100 percent accountability of the material.

He also served as the command group's Field Ordering Officer and Contracting Officer, Miller said. O'Connor personally completed 92 contractual agreements and executed 2,891 local vendor purchases, estimated at \$68.7 million dollars. He also maintained accountability of more than \$450,000 in cash used for the purchase of goods and services provided by local vendors, he said.

"I enjoyed my IA," said O'Connor. "I think everyone should do an IA, because it's career enhancing. You're working with other services and you learn their mindset. Everyone who has come back has learned about themselves; personally and professionally."

O'Connor said he credits his success in the Navy to his mentor, retired Master Chief Aviation Maintenance Administrationman (AW/SW) Mike Bevel. Bevel was the first Master Chief O'Connor worked for, and has been his advisor for his entire career.

Whenever O'Connor negotiates transfer orders, he calls Bevel and asks, "Master Chief, what do I do?" he said. "I always ask 'Is this the right place to go? To enhance my career, is this the right thing to do?' He gives me guidance and says yes or no. There are some orders I have asked for, that he says, 'Are you stupid?' Because from my point of view it would be fun, but from his professional point of view there is nobody to mentor, nobody to lead. And that is not what you want. You want to go out and mold junior

Sailors."

O'Connor measures his success by the ability of his junior Sailors to advance and perform at a professional level, he said.

"Their success is my success," he said. "If they are not doing well or if they fail to promote, it is my fault, because I am their supervisor, mentor, Senior Chief."

"His personal interest in every member under his charge is truly inspirational and an example for all to emulate," Miller said. "He is a role model who never stops teaching, improving and mentoring."

He adapts his teaching style to fit how his Sailors learn, said Culinary Specialist Seaman Kyle Mason, a Sailor assigned to O'Connor's division.

"He is not afraid to get down and dirty, even with us as the Seamen," Mason said. "When we are doing maintenance, if we have questions he will be right there with us getting grease on him, just like we are. You really respect somebody who's been in for 19 years and is way above you, but doesn't treat you like you are lesser. Someone who will do the dirty work with you and will have fun doing it," he said.

The Admiral Ben Moreell Award for Logistics Competence has been presented since 1984 to one Navy or Marine Corps officer and one Navy or Marine Corps enlisted service member who has made an outstanding personal contribution that has advanced the logistics readiness and competence of the naval service. †



# CVN 77 prepares for deployment by completing CBR training

Story and layout by MCSN Sandi Grimnes

**U**SS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) completed its first chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) training evolution while underway in the Atlantic Ocean, Sept. 25.

This training evolution was practice for the Tailored Ship's Training Availability and Final Evaluation Problem (TSTA/FEP) that the ship will undergo in October, said Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW) Ryan E. Garver, GEORGE H.W. BUSH CBR defense specialist. TSTA/FEP is a preparation phase that all ships undergo before deployment.

During the drill, Sailors familiarized themselves with CBR equipment, the process of operating a decontamination (DECON) station, and treating injured and uninjured Sailors, said Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW) Norris K. Cason, GEORGE H.W. BUSH senior radiation health technician and medical training team leader.

"The objective is to protect the crew in the event that there is a chemical, biological or radiological attack on the ship," Garver said.

The training scenario took the ship's crew through each of the five Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) levels, because during a real threat that is the process that the ship will take,

Cason said. The MOPP level determines the level of protection that the ship needs based on the likelihood of a CBR attack.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH began preparing for this drill a couple of months ago by fitting and issuing gas masks to the crew, said Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Kenneth L. Wurster, one of the ship's Damage Control Training Team members.

For this drill to go well, each damage control (DC) division had to contribute, said Damage Controlman 2nd Class (SW) Donovan Carter, GEORGE H.W. BUSH damage control work center supervisor and gas free engineer petty officer.

It is important for the Sailors to have this training because they are the last line of defense to save the ship in the event of a casualty, Carter said. The crew needs to be confident that the Sailors standing next to them are qualified and able to complete a task that will save the ship or other people's lives.

"This training prepares us for any chemical, biological, or radiological attack we could potentially get hit with," Cason said. "The ship is gearing up for deployment and those risks are always out there. It's nice to train and pass tests but in the real world we need to know how to do it." †



Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker

Operations Specialist Seaman Deondre L. Graham, of Operations Department's OI Division, dons his gas mask on the ship's bridge.



Photo by MC3 Tony Curtis

Personnel Specialist Chief (SW) Charles Hamilton, right, assists Personnel Specialist Seaman Recruit James Soboczynski, of Administration Department, in donning the boots of a JSLIST training suit.



Photo by MC3 Tony Curtis

Chief Logistics Specialist (AW/SW) Tiffany Finch, of Supply Department, conducts training after a Chemical, Biological, and Radiological (CBR) drill in the ship's hangar bay.



Photo by MC3 Tony Curtis

Yeoman Seaman Recruit Kevin Davis, of Administration Department, receives assistance adjusting the hood of his Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST) training suit in the ship's hangar bay.



Photo by MC3 Brent Thacker

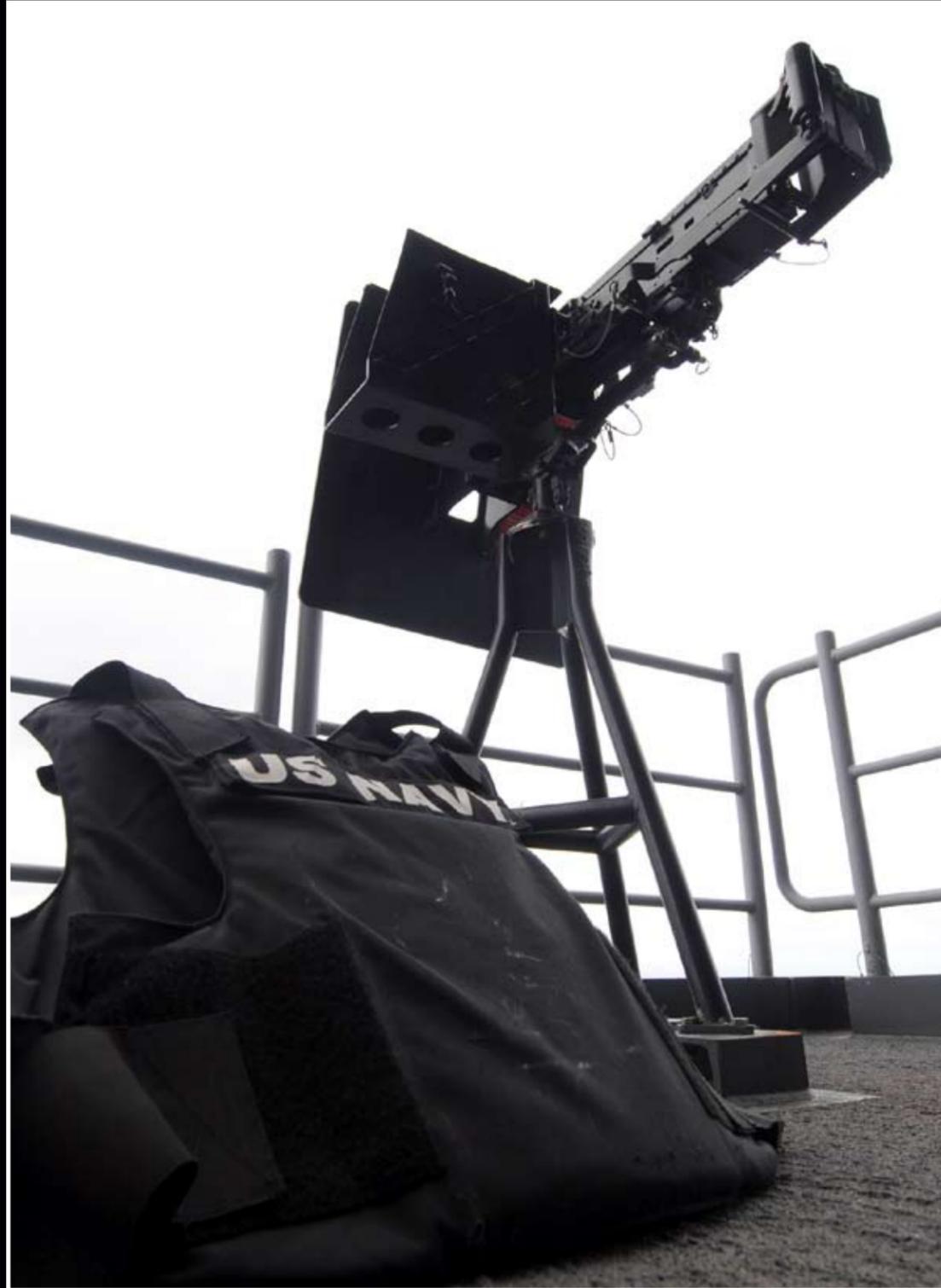
Operations Specialist Seaman Christopher Rodriquez, of Operations Department's OI Division, speaks into a sound-powered phone on the ship's bridge.



Photo by MC3 Tony Curtis

Personnel Specialist Seaman Recruit James Soboczynski, of Administration Department, awaits instructions.

# Lock, Stock and One Smoking Barrel



Photos and Layout by MCSN Kevin J. Steinberg

# Fleet and Family Support Center October 2010 Calendar

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

				<b>1</b> Art of Money Management Little Creek 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
<b>4</b> Building Healthy Relationships Little Creek 6-8:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> Effective Resume Writing Yorktown 1-4 p.m.	<b>6</b> Identity Theft Protection Northwest 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	<b>7</b> Federal Employment System Oceana 9 a.m.-Noon	<b>8</b> New Parent Resource Awareness Norfolk 8 a.m.-Noon
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Building Healthy Relationships Norfolk 6-8:30 p.m.	<b>13</b> Retirement Planning Norfolk 1-2:30 p.m.	<b>14</b> Parenting Teens Oceana 2-4:30 p.m.	<b>15</b> Ombudsman Advanced Training Little Creek 6:30-8:30 p.m.
<b>18</b> Art of Money Management Oceana 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	<b>19</b> Home Ownership Norfolk 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	<b>20</b> Interview Techniques Yorktown 1-4 p.m.	<b>21</b> Federal Employment System Norfolk 8:30-11:30 a.m.	<b>22</b> Don't Bet Your Life On It Little Creek 8:30-9:30 a.m.
<b>25</b> Credit Management Oceana 8:30-10 a.m.	<b>26</b> Art of Money Management Yorktown 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.	<b>27</b> Car Buying Strategies Norfolk 1-2 p.m.	<b>28</b> IA Family Discussion Group Norfolk 6:30-8:30 p.m.	<b>29</b> Smooth Move Workshop Little Creek 9 a.m.-Noon

To Register, contact: FFSC Oceana: 443-2923, FFSC Norfolk: 444-2102, FFSC Yorktown: 887-4606, FFSC Northwest: 421-8770, FFSC Little Creek: 462-7563, FFSC Newport News: 688-6289 or register online at [www.cnic.navy.mil](http://www.cnic.navy.mil)