

ABMA Newsletter

April 1, 2009

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From the Prez:

Folks, greetings from, “not so sunny Norfolk!” It is already March and in only 4 months we’ll be meeting again. San Diego promises to be just as fast paced as Norfolk, however, with new vision come additional challenges and increased responsibility.

I’ve recently sent out the “AB Challenge” to all the Handlers and asked LCR Rodney Moss and his West Coast counterpart to do the same with the Large Deck Amphibs. The “AB Challenge” was an initiative coined by our PAO, LCDR (Ret.) Doug Thornton in an effort to increase membership, support our operating fund and most importantly expose our junior personnel to the association. The “challenge” has, over the years, become a significant source of revenue for the funds used to run the actual operation of the symposium and the association in general. For those not aware, we are one of only two Naval Organizations driven by rating that holds an annual working group gathering to help further the Naval Aviation Enterprise, our growth and our destiny. However, as much as we love coming together each year to nurture the growth of our organization, and spend time in fellowship with old and new friends, it takes revenue to continue putting together these gatherings, so, this year and going forward I am extending the challenge to any and every member of the military, active or retired, and or any civilian individual or organization, that has ever been touched by the graceful nature of an Aviation Boatswain’s Mate to donate.

Here is how;

1. On our website, www.abma-usn.org prominently displayed in our home page, on the right hand column there is a PayPal link; donate@abma-usn.org.
2. Donors will have to develop a free PayPal account, a very easy task!
3. The link is tied to our operating fund and it is also tied to our Treasurer’s email. Every donation you make will post to the operating fund account and will immediately send Stoney Burke an email.

CHAPTERS GET INVOLVED

On a separate note I'd like to take a moment to congratulate the following personnel in their selection to LDO and CWO:

LDO

ABHC Maguel L. Brooks
ABHC Brian M. Lewis
ABEC Sean P. Pugh

ABFC James R. Dignan
ABHC Saul O. Mendo
ABHC Paul S. Young

CWO

ABHC Hector M. Arroyo
ABHC Francisco S. Jusino

ABECS Carlos A. De la Chica
ABFC Eric V. Smith

Congratulations

Last, but most certainly not least, I'd like to thank ABHC (AW) Darwin Soriano for his all his hard work in spearheading of this years symposium to ensure our imminent success. See you all in San Diego!

Greetings from your Secretary,

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health. Everything is great here in God's country. I just have a few things to tell you.

In the fall we mailed out 519 newsletters. We had 40 returned. Since then I have found some new addresses and corrected any errors. I still need for the Active Duty and Retiree's to let us know when you move or transfer. You now have the option of going to the website and selecting change of address or email to get your information to Stoney and I. This is for everyone that has access to a computer. So please take advantage of this. Now for the Email list. I have sent out 1340 newsletter emails and received 500 returned. The ones returned could be because of typing errors, internet carrier change, and change of duty station. This is the reason for my 2nd mass email. It was primarily for annual members to update there dues and addresses if need be. The Lifetime members did not require a response unless there was something incorrect on your name or rank/rate. If you still have a questions please contact me. Sorry for the confusion. I am looking forward to seeing yall San Diego. Take care and please remember I am here to help you. Don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely
Donna

From YOUR Treasurer and Membership Chairman.....

My how time is flying.....they say that happens as we age.....July will be here before we know it, cabin fever will end and we will again meet in beautiful San Diego. I am looking forward to another jaunt to San Diego and the "Little Club" in Coronado. Seeing friends and shipmates and have a good time. Membership numbers are up...we went over (keep in mind these are just number levels--we only have 1996 TOTAL members as of this writing) the 1000th Life Member and just passed the 8000 number in Annual Members, since our inception back in 1975. I must make a pitch for the Operating (General) Fund. This fund is what I have to operate the ABMA, from year to year. Things include Conference plaques, registered agent payment, postage to mail out Memberships, Secretary/Treasurer travel expenses, postage, Trademark applications, office supplies, newsletter printing and mailing, shipping of merchandise to/from conference sites, Conference

Treasurer continued

advances, etc., etc. It takes money to do these things, and in this current economical situation, money is getting harder and harder to find. A lot of folks donate to the Scholarship Account and that's a good thing. It is a rare occasion that anything, other than Membership dues, is what makes up the General Fund. A donation to the General Fund from time to time would be nice. It is not tax deductible like the Scholarship Fund, but it sure would help out the overall situation. If things do not change in the foreseeable future, this Association, in my opinion, will be a Scholarship one ONLY.

I continue to say THANK YOU, for the kudos that pours in after my selection as the "2008 Living Legend". It's hard to be humble, but I am extremely humbled. Many, many THANKS to all of you! Hope to see you all in San Diego.

Yours in service,
Stoney

CHAPLAIN

Fellow AB's and Shipmates,

I greet you in the name of the Most High! It is a beautiful thing to wake up every morning and have my sanity and the full use of all my limbs! So much is going on in this world that we can't take things like this lightly. Our Shipmates are being injured or killed for various reasons and we have to be made fully aware of this. It is pertinent that we maintain vigilance at all times and also understand that we can be here today and gone tomorrow. You all are true professionals and I am honored to be considered a part of something much greater than myself!!

You all are fully aware that we have entered serious "praying times", by taking a glance at GWOT, the recession and many other factors that affect our economy and the way AB's do business. We are all looking forward to the 2009 symposium, but let's plan ahead to ensure that we have a HUGE turnout and eliminate any funding factors now! We will come together for an Awesome fellowship and more importantly...we will discover that there are many ways that we can do business safer and better which is a testament to the constant changes of our manuals and instructions.

I am urging AB's around the world to pray for one another and continue to watch our brethren's backs. It is vital that we maintain this culture of unity and concept of "ONE TEAM, ONE FIGHT". We are in this together and will become even stronger as we bind together and constantly encourage and pray for one another in every corner of the world! Do the right thing and make the right decisions and you will get the right results!!!! I pray that you all prosper and be in good health, even as your soul prospers. Feed the faith and starve the doubt!!!! May God continue to bless you.

LT Erick C. Stroud
ABMA Chaplain

Public Affair Officer

Greetings Fellow AB's;

I hope this Newsletter is finding you and your family in the very best of health and doing quite well!

In case you haven't received the flier, the Pensacola Chapter invites you to attend the Annual Spring Jamboree commencing Thursday 30 April and ending Sunday 03 May 2009 to be held at the Blue Angel Recreational Area in Pensacola Florida. The Blue Angel Recreational Area is located at 2011 Bronson Field Rd. in Pensacola, which is seven miles west of Corry Station off of Highway 98. RV Sites for Active Duty and

Public Affairs Officer continued

Retired is \$17.00 per day. Cabins for Active Duty and retired is \$30.00 per day. Two-bedroom Trailers with appliances for Active Duty and retired is \$50.00 per day. (Only 12 trailers reserved for the ABMA, so call immediately for reservations) For reservations call (850) 453-9435. **Thursday** there will be a pot luck dinner (all hands bring a dish to pass). **Friday** there will be a fish fry (Catfish/Mullet), burgers & hot dogs, French fries, hush puppies and coleslaw will be provide by the chapter. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish or desert. **Saturday** there will barbeque hog, burgers & hot dogs, baked beans and rolls. Everyone else is asked to bring a side dish or desert. Raffles, 50/50, merchandise sales, good camaraderie, and lots of fun to be had. Each year we keep getting more and more AB's, their families and friends attending the Spring Jamboree in Pensacola and the Fall Jamboree in Live Oaks Fl. Hope you can attend as well!

For more information please contact Tim Knauber at (850) 995-9717 or Gene Roy at (850) 937-2626.

I know the San Diego Chapter is hard at work preparing for this year's Symposium/ Professional Working Group Conference, which will be held at the HANDLERY HOTEL & RESORT, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108 from Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July with the picnic on Saturday the 1st of August. The phone number for the Handlery is (619) 298-0511 or 1-800-676-6567. The Fax number for the Handlery is (619) 298-9793. The web site to the hotel is www.handlery.com. Reservations can be made up to the 26th of June 2009. The code for reservations is "Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association".

In an attempt to get more information out to newspapers and magazines about our upcoming symposium/professional working group conference I'd like to ask for some assistance from everyone. I would greatly appreciate if everyone could send me the information in the newspapers and magazines that you read, on how to contact the editors. I will e-mail, write or call the editors and see if they will publish our upcoming event in their newspaper or magazine. Each year I write up a letter and forward it to our President of the Association for review then I submit it to the newspapers and magazines editors. Of course it is up to the editors to publish the article or not. Unfortunately I'm limited to the newspapers and magazines that I come in contact with, so if you could help me get the word out I would greatly appreciate it. My contact information is available on our web site under PAO.

Also if anyone has historical information about the Aviation Boatswain's Mates Association or the Aviation Boatswain's Mate rating I could use as much information as you have available. Thanks!

As we make our way to San Diego for this year's ABMA Symposium/ Professional Working Group Conference let's keep up the recruiting campaign and continue getting our junior Sailors involved. Remember they are our future.

Please keep those that are deployed, assigned duties away from home or on work-ups in our prayers!

Keep your head on a swivel. God bless each and every one of you and may God bless America.

A Fellow AB;
Doug Thornton
Public Affairs Officer

Greeting from the Mother Chapter,

I would like to start by congratulating the newly selected CWO's and LDO's for there great accomplishment it is truly a blessing and I am sure that they will do the Fleet justice. We would like to welcome home ABE2 Nathan Foust from his tour from Camp Bucca, Iraq and farewell to ABE1 (AW/SW) Craig Gilmore to his IA tour in Iraq also we would like to congratulate ABE2 (AW) Michelle Rodriguez for being selected as NAWCAD Lakehurst Sailor of the Year. Here in Lakehurst we are reuniting all the AB's in the surround areas to come together to discuss up coming events as well as the ABMA symposium.

Very respectfully
ABEC (AW/SW) Ronald Dortch
ABMA Mother Chapter President

Gulf Coast Chapter

Hope this finds all our friends and shipmates doing good and for those that has been on the sick list our prayers or for you to get better. The chapter begins their nomination for new officers in February, and our election will be at our March meeting. We are planning our annual spring jam, that we have with the Jacksonville chapter, and AB's from surrounding areas, they come near and far to enjoy good food and fellowship with their friends and shipmates.. Dates for this event will be Thursday April 30th. thru Sunday May 03 2009. Stoney has sent a flyer out for this. So make plans to come join us. The Gulf Coast Chapter is busy working on the 2010 symposium, it sounds like a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. The chapter, once again did a fund raiser at the Blue Angels Show, thanks to the crew from Whiting Field who helped man it. The chapter had another fundraiser which was a golf tournament, which was a great turn out and did very well with it, and we would like to thank Jim Walsh for a great job in getting this going. Thanks for a great job well done Jim. Remember the dates for our JAM we would love to have you join us if you can. Till next time remember GOD loves you and so do WE.

Gulf Coast Chapter
Virgle Culberson

From the ABMA Merchandise Coordinator.

It's cold in Florida at this time but we are getting ready for our Spring Jam at Blue Angel Park from 30 April to 3 May 2009. I will have all of the AB Merchandise there and I hope to have something that will fit your needs. The ABMA web site now has pictures of the items that are for sale and there are more pictures coming. I now have a nice hooded sweat shirt with a great picture of flight deck operations on the back and AB wings on the front. Hopefully the pictures of that shirt will be on the web site soon. I also have AB wings made from neon lights. I will have a set for sale at the spring jam in Pensacola and I hope to see you all there. If you would like to order AB Merchandise you can go to the web site at abma-usn.org or contact me at Handlerjpn@aol.com or call me at 850-626-4941.

Fair winds and following sea to all.

Jim Neary

Northwest AB's

We hope everyone is doing well and has made it through the holiday season hustle and bustle without too many issues. Here in the Great Northwest, things have been unusually busy. The Lincoln crew has been host to a variety of VIPs including congressional mayoral media and yes our very own CNO, who stopped by for a visit during his tour of all Northwest commands including Naval Base Kitsap and NAS Whidbey Island. All hands were busy getting things in order, putting their best effort into allowing the CNO to experience for him the geographical hardships of getting around in order to gain a better perspective of Navy life in the Northwest. Flight deck scrubs, hangar bay shows and a variety of hangar bay ceremonies, coupled with the usual interruption to conduct the ever popular flight/hangar deck and DC drills, seemed to whirl by in the midst of winter blasting away.

USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74 was also busily making preparations for it's' departure with families working out last minute details for the long separation. The crew of the USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74 would like to thank the Norfolk Chapter for hosting the 2008 working group conference and doing such an

outstanding job. All who attended enjoyed the event and bought back some valuable information to share with others. The new buzzword in town is ARC. The crew is still learning and adjusting to the new Aircraft Recovery Control (ARC) system and familiarizing themselves with its unique capabilities. Like 76, the arresting gear crew has mixed feelings about the system. When it's working, it works well. Some components still have un-clear procedures for ships force to trouble-shoot on their own without requesting outside repair assistance and then too there are the usual parts issues with supporting ARC. Once fully supported and the bugs worked out, this system will be reliable, gain the trust of the crew and help reduce maintenance downtime. LT Eric Harrington and LCDR Alec Villegas have completed their turnover and as of 31 January LCDR Alec Villegas is the ACHO for USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74. LT Eric Harrington is transferring to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON CVN 73 to assume the duties as ACHO. If anyone should need anything from the USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74 Team, please contact the ACHO as "Mi Casa Su Casa" says LCDR Villegas. The Crash Bos'n, LTJG Keith King, won the Statesman award as the USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74 Junior Officer of the Year for 2008. From USS JOHN C. STENNIS CVN 74 to all the AB's stateside, enjoy the time with your family, we have the watch. We'll continue to have a safe and meaningful deployment and we look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

From the not-so-active side of the house, we have a bright young future in our AB's. Lots of motivation and eagerness to make improvements. Such items include; improved support for flight deck uniforms, improved safety cages for AG Sheave Dampers, developing teaming arrangements with NATEC for getting NAVAIR drawings aboard all carriers and the tenacity for not giving up the dream that we can be better, safer and stronger, as a team working together, as a fleet. The phrase "Go Hawks" recently took on a new meaning. There was also a somber time to remember the true meaning of shipmate when a variety of them (past and present) for USS Kitty Hawk, formed ranks to share stories, memories and witness the passing of a true giant, from active duty to join the ranks of Ranger, Independence and Constellation.

To all we wish you - be safe out there.

Mike Yaskin

San Diego Chapter

Greetings fellow AB's

I hope this newsletter is finding you and your family in the very best of health and doing quite well.

We have been extremely busy preparing for the 2009 ABMA Symposium. The Handlery Hotel & Resort in Mission Valley has been selected and contracted for as the Host Hotel.

The symposium dates are from 27 July through 31 July 2009. Rooms have been blocked from 26 July through 1 August 2009.

Due to the popularity of San Diego for tourism and conventions we were only able to block 60 rooms at the Handlery. However, we were able to contract a block of 30 rooms at the Ramada in case we need more. Ramada will provide complimentary shuttle transportation to and from the Handlery Hotel & Resort.

Keeping in mind the economic hardship being felt by all, we have attempted to keep the lodging cost down. Active duty personal on orders will be paying the per diem rate of \$139 a day and \$119 a day for retirees. Though, the Ramada is honoring the Handlery's room quotes, I highly recommend that retirees call and book their room through the Handlery to insure availability.

For reservation, please call the Handlery Hotel Reservations Department at (619) 298-0511 or toll free 800-676-6567 or book on line at www.handlery.com Please refer to the group name of Aviation Boatswain's Mate Association Symposium.

For reservation at the Ramada call 800-405-9102, please ask for the "Aviation Boatswain's Mate Association Symposium.

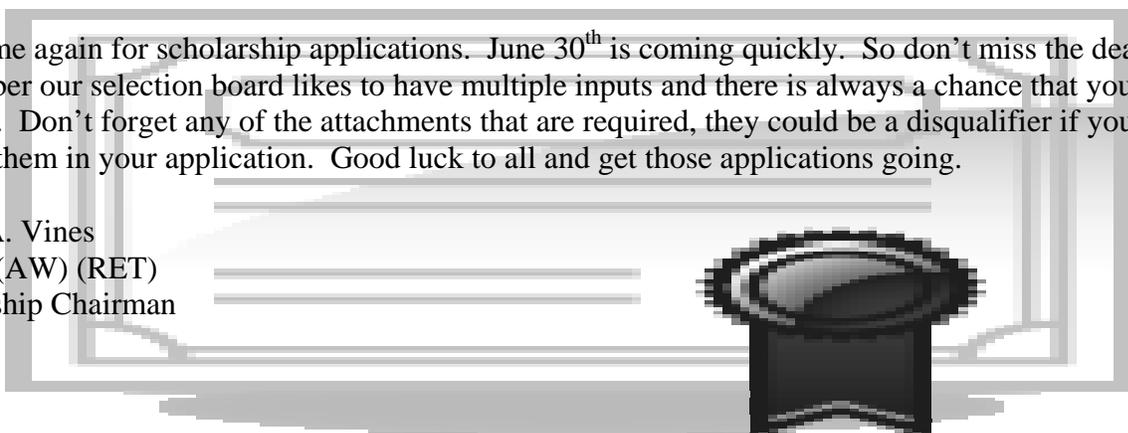
We are looking forward to hosting all our fellow AB's, their families and our vendors here in San Diego. If there is any additional information required please feel free to call ABHC (AW) Darwin Soriano at (619) 545-1552 or (619) 807-9086 or by email at darwin.soriano@navy.mil / sorianod11@yahoo.com

ABHC (AW) Darwin Soriano

Greetings,

It's time again for scholarship applications. June 30th is coming quickly. So don't miss the deadline. Remember our selection board likes to have multiple inputs and there is always a chance that you will be selected. Don't forget any of the attachments that are required, they could be a disqualifier if you neglect to include them in your application. Good luck to all and get those applications going.

Lanny A. Vines
ABCM (AW) (RET)
Scholarship Chairman



Greetings from the Tidewater Chapter

The Tidewater Chapter had the distinct pleasure of seeing and taking part in the Commissioning of the Navy's newest nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush. Named after our 41st President of the United States; George Herbert Walker Bush. The USS George H .W. Bush (CVN 77) was commissioned on Saturday, January 10th 2009 during an 1100 ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. The Air Department proudly displayed our Flight Deck Colors as they manned the elevators during the ceremony.

Capt. Kevin O'Flaherty, from Los Angeles California, and a 1981 Naval Academy graduate became the ship's first Commanding Officer, leading his crew of more than 5,500 men and women, including embarked air wing personnel. USS George H. W. Bush is currently home ported in Norfolk, Va., assigned to the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

Construction of the tenth and final Nimitz-class carrier took place at Northrop Grumman-Newport News, Va., starting with the ship's keel laying Sept. 6, 2003, and christening Oct. 7, 2006. USS George H.W. Bush towers 20 stories above the waterline, displaces approximately 95,000 tons of water, has a flight deck 252 feet, and at 1,092 feet long.

(Shout-outs)

The USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Iwo Jima are currently at the Tip of the Sphere taking care of business with our "AB's" leading the way. Our prayers are with you all for a quick and safe return from deployment.

Tidewater Chapter Continued

The USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, USS WASP and USS Kearsarge will soon have their turn as they head off to Support and defend our Great Nation. Fair Winds and following Seas as you set your course. May every launch and recovery be a safe one!

(Up-coming events)

Softball Tourney- Our annual ABMA Softball tournament is in the planning stage. Date, time and entry fees are still being worked out; we expect the event will be in Mar 09.

We are looking at making this the biggest and best event yet. With that being said, I need all the Commands to suit up, and get ready to play some serious Softball. We would like to have the event catered, with no out of pocket expense for the participants. For more details, please contact me at Rodney.moss@navy.mil or ABHC Alexander (Vice President) at alexanderaj@cvn77.navy.mil.

2009 ABMA/Tail Hook Golf Tournament. CDR (Ret) Chuck Shirley will be heading up this years annual Golf event. This has become one of the Premiere Golf tournaments in Hampton Roads. We have several holes sponsored by local companies, awards for best ball, longest shot and of course lots of freebies. Get your team together and lend your support to CDR Chuck Shirley.

(Closing Thoughts)

We need to capture our “AB” heritage. I have been in conversation with CDR (Ret) Paul Barnicle and we agree that if something is not done to preserve our “AB” History, it will pass away or in his words “End up in the Blue recycle bin on the curb”. So here are my thoughts on the subject. If every living legend, A/B Active duty and Retired donated one piece of their history, we could easily make an “AB” Museum. Place, location etc can be discussed during the 2009 Symposium in San Diego. Thoughts, comments are definitely welcome.

Remember, we are always looking for Fellow AB volunteers to get more involved in the Association. The Association is here for us, by us, so let’s take advantage of everything it has to offer. The more participation, the better the Association can work deals on discounts for certain venues and events.

Very Respectfully
LCDR Rodney H. Moss
(Tidewater Chapter President)



IN HONOR OF
JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER PRESIDENT
ABHC RETIRED JOSEPH SANTIAGO
BORN: 14 MAY 1946
DIED: 11 MARCH 2009

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS

Greetings from Jacksonville

Everything here in Jacksonville is going right along,

We had a nice Holiday Dinner for our local members who are the key players and can be counted on to always come through, and their service and dedication to the Jacksonville Chapter is very much appreciated

We have been enjoying great success and increasing popularity with our shared camping jams with the Gulf Coast Chapter. They will be hosting the next one at the end of April, and as usual can count on the Jacksonville Chapter to be there.

As of our last monthly meeting, we will not have anyone representing the Jacksonville Chapter in the upcoming National Conference and Symposium in San Diego.

And last month we received a bit of good news for North East Florida. The Navy announced that it signed a record of decision clearing the way for home porting a CVN at Mayport.

With nearly a two year absence of a Carrier here this decision will benefit Jacksonville and our local chapter. Although a vessel and time frame have not been announced, we in the Jacksonville Chapter welcome this decision

Michael J. Rotes



Celebrating Five Decades of International Exchange

March 13, 2009

Dear **Aviation Boatswains Mates Association**,

I was recently interviewed and accepted to participate as a People to People **Student Ambassador** to **Australia** this **summer**. This 17-day exchange consists of **meetings with government officials, interaction with other students my age, educational activities, and home stays with host families.**

I am currently asking my family and friends for financial sponsorship to help me with tuition, and I hope I can count on your support. In case you haven't heard of People to People, **I have enclosed a description of my program.** President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded People to People in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would nations. Programs like Sister Cities, Project HOPE, and the **Student/Sports Ambassador Program** were created by People to People, and have become independent programs since then.

People to People **Ambassadors** are carefully interviewed and evaluated before their acceptance into the program. I am excited to share my experience with my peers, family, and friends when I return. As **an Ambassador** I can earn high school and college credit because of the many educational elements in my program. This experience will increase my understanding of the world and give me the opportunity to learn firsthand about **new places and cultures.** Such knowledge will help me become the best citizen I can be.

The program tuition is **\$7239.00**, which includes meals, transportation, accommodations, and educational activities. As of today I have raised **\$4900.00**. I am asking **Family and Friends** to donate **what you can** to help me reach my goal. Is it possible for you to assist me by making a contribution? I plan to share my experience with friends and family when I return by presenting my journal and photographs. **My Mom and Dad, RD & Debbie Jones said that I can count on your support.**

My program tuition is due **April 28, 2009.** Your contribution will enable me to share in this wonderful opportunity. Thank you in advance for your gracious consideration and support.

Sincerely yours,

Brandon Jones

Option 1-- Send check payable to People to People Ambassador Programs for Brandon Jones Delegate # 10021648. Mail to: 1956 Ambassador Way, Spokane, Washington, 99224-1002.

Option 2—Send Check payable to ABMA for Brandon Jones. Treasurer in turn will send to People to People Ambassador Programs for Brandon Jones.



THE Adventure OF A LIFETIME



Outstanding students gain an edge through People to People Student Ambassador Programs.

Living the Adventure

Climbing the Eiffel Tower for a dramatic view of Paris, exploring the Great Barrier Reef with a marine biologist, or touching history on the Great Wall of China—these are just a few of the unforgettable experiences that Student Ambassador journeys offer.

Seeing the World From a Different Angle

Student Ambassadors are respected around the world, and have earned access to things unavailable to the average tourist, like meetings with members of the British Parliament and admission into Maori tribes. They create deep connections with the communities they visit through a local service project, and return home with a greater awareness of their roles as global citizens.

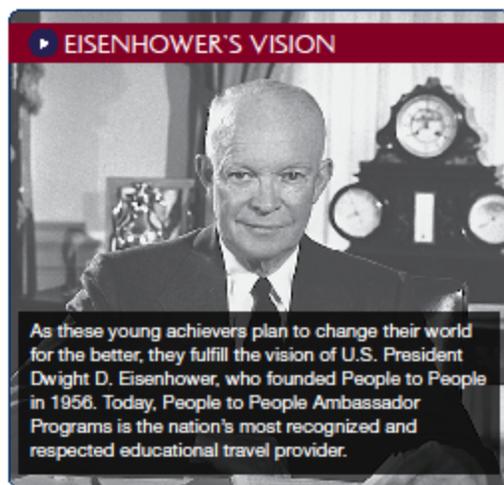
An Ambassador may even stay with a family for a few days, eating with them, taking part in their daily activities, and learning about life and customs in their part of the world.

Setting Themselves Apart

The hands-on learning and personal growth that students enjoy as Ambassadors give them a powerful advantage in the competitive college application process.

The experience also includes pre-travel preparation and interaction with a delegation full of new friends, and educational materials to introduce the history that Ambassadors will be able to see, hear, and feel during the program.

Visit us online and learn more about all our programs
www.peopletopeople.com



People to People Student Ambassador Programs | Dwight D. Eisenhower Building | 1956 Ambassador Way | Spokane, WA 99224-4002
800.669.7882 (toll-free) | Fax 877.284.4517 (toll-free) | www.peopletopeople.com

ADMACS giving Sailors a Next Generation Edge

Engineers at Naval Air Engineering Station Lakehurst, N.J. are designing a new way for carrier Sailors to track aircraft, gather unique data and put the old “Ouija board” back into its box.

The Ouija board is the informal term Sailors have given the tabletop replica scale model of the aircraft carriers’ flight and hangar decks. This scale model is used by Flight Deck Handlers to track and monitor all aircraft on the carrier.

Aircraft information, such as the type of weapons loaded and their fuel tank levels are documented on deck and hand-carried or communicated via sound powered phones to board operators where the information is written and displayed on see-through grease boards.

The Aviation Data Management and Control System (ADMACS) is a tactical, real-time data management system, which gathers and shares information between the shipboard teams who manage the aircraft launch and recovery operations on all multi-purpose naval carrier vessels and nuclear carrier vessels.

Although the Ouija board has served the Navy since its inception during World War II, ADMACS will reduce this labor intensive method, allowing Sailors to focus on other carrier duties, while providing a paperless, electronic repository of aircraft data.

“ADMACS delivers cutting-edge technology to today’s tech-savvy Sailor,” said Capt. Randy Mahr, NAVAIR’s Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment program manager at NAS Patuxent River. “ADMACS puts the information in the hands of those who have an instant and critical need for it.”

The system communicates aviation and command-related data across the system’s local area network and the integrated shipboard network system. This sharing of information allows for ADMACS to display an aircraft’s position on the flight deck, status, fuel readings, weapon types and their quantity on the carrier.

Due to the technical complexity of modern air operations onboard aircraft carriers, an information distribution system must continually disperse accurate data to all work centers. Therefore, it is imperative the system maintains power as long as the carrier is deployed.

A little upgrade in technology is going a long way for Sailors and aircraft, and gathering some significant words of encouragement along the way.

The Advanced Recovery Control (ARC) is a digital arresting-gear control system modification for the Mark 7 arresting gear found on Fleet carriers.

ARC replaces the older, mechanical system which utilized levers and mechanical actuators to control landing aircraft. The upgrade to a digitally controlled system allows for easier maintenance and use. Because of its ability to digitally monitor and automate the control system, ARC removes the “human error” factor, making it a more accurate and reliable system, lessening the damage to aircraft and potential injuries to Sailors. “The Mark 7 Arresting Gear remains the same,” said Wayne Kovacs, ARC team lead. “However, instead of being controlled by levers and [mechanical] actuators to set the engine and to stop the aircraft as was the case previously, all of that work is done by an electronic system. These electronic upgrades feature less moving parts to replace or repair and offer better reliability.”

ADMACS Continued

ARC is installed at the Naval Air Systems Command Lakehurst, N.J., test sites. Before it was sent to the Fleet, ARC underwent simulated arrestment testing at the Lakehurst Jet Car Track, assuring system's function during deployment.

ARC's initial installation was on the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Nov. 24, 2007. Since its installation, the ship has accomplished more than 10,000 arrested landings. ARC was recently installed on the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) and will begin use on a 3 month deployment in winter 2009.

This electronic upgrade is garnering positive feedback from those who use ARC on a daily basis.

The system has performed with "absolutely superb results during three in-flight engagements resulting in no damage to aircraft or arresting gear. Our fleet and engineering support has been outstanding and responsive since installation. The ARC should be considered a huge success and giant step forward for carrier aviation," said Capt. John Breast, Air Boss on the USS Reagan.

Another benefit of the ARC is its ability to electronically collect the data from the aircraft arrestment log, a data repository which collects information from the aircraft's carrier landing and store it on the system. Carriers which do not have ARC installed require Sailors to manually record the data.

"What it's doing now is collecting parameters from the arrestment, so if there are issues, we can pinpoint the problems," said Kovacs. "One of the benefits is that ARC can read that data and recognize system fault, such as low pressure or overheating oil."

With the addition of advanced technology such as ARC to the fleet, the Navy can reap the benefits of its use with today's increasingly tech-savvy Sailors.

"In the hands of the modern Sailor, who has grown up with digital technologies, advanced systems such as ARC give us an incomparable advantage in the battlefield," said Capt. Randy Mahr, NAVAIR's Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (PMA 251) Program Manager. "I think it goes without saying that ARC is one of those systems that automatically improves our Fleet and will collect invaluable data for Fleet maintenance and safety professionals."

The system is scheduled to be installed on all commissioned Fleet carriers, except for USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), which will receive the Advanced Arresting Gear, the next-generation replacement of the Mark 7 arresting gear. ARC's next installation is slated for spring 2009 on board the George H.W. Bush (CVN 77).

The PMA 251 ALRE program is committed to managing the development, demonstration and acquisition of operational advances in aviation data management and control systems, expeditionary air fields and all launch and recovery related products. PMA 251's mission is to consistently deliver adaptable and reliable technology to the Fleet.

(Article submitted by Program Executive Office for Tactical Aircraft)

The Lightning II

Flash Points

February/March 2009

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Second F-35B STOVL fighter achieves successful first flight



The second short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) F-35B Lightning II accomplished its first flight on Wednesday, Feb. 25, in Fort Worth, Texas.

The aircraft, designated BF-2, will conduct flutter envelope expansion, air-refueling testing, high angle-of-attack testing, performance and propulsion testing, weapons testing, and radar-signature testing.

Updated F135 engine arrives on schedule

On Jan. 30, Pratt & Whitney delivered Flight Test Engine 06 on schedule to Lockheed Martin in Fort Worth, Texas, for installation into F-35 BF-1, a short takeoff/vertical landing (STOVL) variant. The on-time delivery and installation were critical to meet a March milestone to begin hover pit testing prior to airborne transitions to STOVL-mode flight. The testing is designed to demonstrate the F-35/F135 integrated flight and propulsion control system as well as the thrust produced by the shaft-driven lift fan propulsion system.

New GE Rolls-Royce engine comes to life

On Jan. 30, the GE Rolls-Royce Fighter Engine Team began testing its first production-configuration F136 engine a month ahead of contract schedule at GE's test facility in Evendale, Ohio. Prototype versions of the F136 have already accumulated more than 800 hours of testing, while more F136 engines will begin testing later in the year.



F-35 opens weapons-bay doors in flight

F-35 AA-1, a conventional takeoff and landing variant, opened the doors to its twin weapons bays during the aircraft's 70th test flight on Feb. 24. The successful test marked the first airborne cycling of the doors. This paves the way for qualifying the great variety of weapons that will be carried on the F-35.



F-35 LIGHTNING II TEAM • NORTHROP GRUMMAN • BAE SYSTEMS • PRATT & WHITNEY • GE ROLLS-ROYCE FIGHTER ENGINE TEAM
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