



Lincoln leadership awardees visit Capital

By MC2 JAMES EVANS
Penny Press Staff

USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) three Abraham Lincoln Leadership Award winners visited the nation's capital February 24-25 for an up-close look at how their government works.

The Stennis Center for Public Service hosted Liberty Award winner Hull Technician 1st Class Dwaine Bryan, Union Award winner Senior Chief Yeoman Kevin Martin, Statesman Award Winner Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hill, and Lincoln's Commanding Officer Capt. Patrick Hall for two full days in Washington, D.C. The Sailors and their families spent their time seeing the sights and interacting with key decision-makers.

The visit included a stay at the Hotel George, personal tours of the Pentagon and the Capitol building, and meetings with the Director of Navy Staff, a senator, and a congressman.

According to Rex Buffington, Executive Director of the Stennis Center for Public Service, the trip served to recognize and honor the Sailors for their outstanding service and to increase dialogue between leaders in Washington and deckplate leaders in the fleet.

"We started the leadership awards program on the (USS John C.) Stennis (CVN 74) and we've been expanding it to other carriers," Buffington said. "It's been very successful and meaningful both for the winners and for the people that they meet in Washington. It's an opportunity for them to get a glimpse into the quality and character of the men



Photo by MC2 James R. Evans

Winners of the first annual Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards from Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) pose in front of the Lincoln memorial during a nighttime tour of the Capitol. Pictured from left to right are Liberty Award Winner Hull Technician 1st Class Dwaine Bryan, Union Award Winner Senior Chief Yeoman Kevin Martin, and Statesman Award Winner Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hill.

and women who are serving."

During their first day in Washington, the group caught the Metro subway to the Pentagon to meet with Director, Navy Staff, Vice Adm. John Stufflebeem. Stufflebeem invited the awardees and their families into his office to talk about key issues facing Sailors in today's Navy. Following the

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NAVSTA provides long-term parking solution

By MC3 JASON SEGEDY
Penny Press Staff

Sailors who do not have a place to park their cars for the upcoming deployment are now able to register for free long-term parking in lot Alpha at Naval Station Everett as a last resort.

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Command Master Chief Eric Schmidt said because the location for long-term parking has changed, so has the base instruction.

According to the new guidelines in Naval Station Everett Instruction

5560.2, the requirements for parking are as follows:

1. A registered owner of the vehicle or a person with power of attorney must provide the pass and registration office with a valid driver's license, proof of insurance on the vehicle and registration that is good until November 2008.

2. Proof of insurance meeting Washington State's minimum guidelines must be with the vehicle at the time of storage and must not expire before the service-

member gets back from deployment.

3. The vehicle must have a valid base registration sticker for the member's currently assigned station, which can't expire during the storage period.

4. The vehicle must be in a safe and operable condition. Any vehicle that leaks any substance is subject to removal from long-term parking at the recommendation of the Naval Station Everett hazardous material program manager or designated representa-



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discussion the group was given a tour of the Pentagon, including a visit to the September 11 Memorial, where terrorists flew a hijacked airliner into the building in 2001.

After a gourmet lunch at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and a few hours of free time, the Sailors regrouped for an evening trolley tour of the city and its monuments, bathed in light under the clear night skies. The tour included stops at the Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt memorials. For the awardees, the words and history etched into the stone facades served as reminders of just how important strong leadership is in times of great adversity.

“Looking back at all the great leaders our country has had, Lincoln and Franklin really stood out,” said Bryan, who was in Washington, D.C., for the first time. “When they were President, the country was in a bad way and they had to turn it around. Lincoln had the hardest job ever because he had to stay neutral. With all the hate and bloodshed between the two sides, he still worked to keep them together.”

The next morning the awardees and their families headed for the Capitol building to meet with civilian leaders on “The Hill” whose decisions have a direct effect on their careers.

At the Longworth House Office

building they met with Illinois Congressman Ray Lahood. Lahood represents the 18th district of Illinois, which contains the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, and he serves on the House Appropriations Committee. During their meeting, Lahood thanked each Sailor for their service and expressed his interest in USS Abraham Lincoln’s participation in the upcoming

sitting down to lunch with the people from Congress and hearing their concerns and the jobs that they do,” Bryan said. “It was really eye-opening to find out how the chain works and how votes get through.”

Following the meal and conversations, Capt. Hall formally introduced each of the winners and spoke of their accomplishments to those attending. Civilian guests then introduced themselves and spoke about the need for such exchanges.

“It is as important for military people to understand what’s going on in Congress as it is for Congress to understand the military, so I hope you all have learned something,” said Frank Sullivan, a retired member of, and current advisor to, the House Armed Services Committee.

“In today’s government there’s the idea that there’s a gulf between civilians and the military that didn’t exist in the past when nearly every-

one in office had some sort of military experience,” said Eileen Mackevich, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Celebration Commission. “We know to be proud, but there’s no connection. Abraham Lincoln was among the military all the time and I think we can all take

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Director, Navy Staff, Vice Adm. John Stufflebeem speaks with winners of the first annual Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards from Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and Lincoln’s Commanding Officer Capt. Patrick Hall during a meeting in his office at the Pentagon.

bicentennial celebration of Lincoln’s birth.

The group then made their way through the underground trolley system that links the house and senate office buildings to the Capitol to attend a luncheon with a number of congressional delegates and committee members.

“My favorite part of the trip was



March 7

1994 - The United States Navy issues first orders to women assigned aboard combat ship USS Eisenhower.

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Photo by MC2 James R. Evans

Winners of the first annual Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards from Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) view the interior of the United States Capitol's dome.

an example from him and work to increase the dialogue between the services and the commissioners.”

When the luncheon concluded, the awardees embarked on a guided tour of the Capitol building, stopping at every major sculpture, painting, and historical point of interest in the colossal structure to learn the history

and meaning behind it. Those who followed politics couldn't help but notice that everywhere the group went in the Capitol, they crossed paths with high-profile political figures.

“I was just in awe -- it's amazing that anyone can walk around in the Capitol of the United States and see these really powerful people going about their day,” said Martin. “It's cool to live in a country where you can just walk right in. In any other country you can't even get near the process. During the tour we saw the Head of the Armed Services Committee in the hallway and then that night in the hotel I watched him testify before Congress on C-SPAN.” Before leaving the Capitol, the group took the underground trolley once again, this time to the Dirksen Senate Office Building for a meeting with Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell. Cantwell shook hands and posed for photos with each Sailor and their families and thanked them for their service. As the visit drew to a close, each of the awardees was left with a better appreciation for the way government works and its impact on their lives and careers as Sailors. “Visiting D.C. was an incredible experience that I believe all military personnel should have a chance to do,” Bryan said. “Every young Sailor should come here and see why their job

is so important. All the history that's here is a reflection of what people have done to secure our freedom.” The Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards were established last year by the Stennis Center for Public Service and Lincoln's chain of command based on programs that had been established aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and USS Nimitz (68). The awards recognize officers and senior enlisted personnel who demonstrate exceptional leadership, and awardees are chosen based on feedback from their subordinates.

PARKING

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tive, and all the costs for cleanup will be at the owner's expense.

5. Valuable items not permanently attached to the vehicle are not authorized.

6. Each military member authorized to use the facility can store one personal vehicle.

7. Vehicle covers will be allowed while the vehicles are stored in long-term parking. Covers cannot be locked or secured in any way that prevents verification of the vehicle's license plate.

8. Unless arrangements are made with the long-term parking manager, vehicles not removed from long-term parking within 30 days of the deploying unit's return to the area will be considered abandoned property and the vehicle will be disposed of. Anyone going TAD or on leave out of the area immediately upon return from deployment must contact their unit representative to get an extension on parking privileges.

“The idea is that long-term parking is available but it is a privilege, not a right,” said Schmidt. “If an individual is interested in additional security, investigate a storage unit or a secure long-term parking area.”

Base security at pass and decal has started registering vehicles for long-term parking as of this week.



Winners of the first annual Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards from Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) pose with Washington State Senator Maria Cantwell during a visit to the U.S. Capitol. Pictured from left to right are Statesman Award Winner Chief Warrant Officer Michael Hill, Cantwell, Union Award Winner Senior Chief Yeoman Kevin Martin, and Liberty Award Winner Hull Technician 1st Class Dwaine Bryan.

Photo by MC2 James R. Evans

Safety Notes

Safety Means Not Learning the Hard Way

BY THE NAVAL SAFETY CENTER
Special to the Penny Press

Welcome to the latest edition of the Friday Funnies, more examples of how faltering becomes floundering and how a muddle turns into a real mess.

A. A PFC tank crewman had to cut some comm wire that was next to some concertina wire. For those of you who are wire-disadvantaged, the risk assessment is as follows. Comm wire, no risk. Concertina wire, major risk.

Fortunately, our Marine had some gloves. Unfortunately, he temporarily forgot that these pieces of protective gear are meant for inserting your hand into. He just wrapped them around the concertina wire. The result was that he cut his hand instead of the comm wire.

“Will next time wear the PPE correctly,” the report said.

That would be a start.

B. Aboard a submarine moored in Hawaii, an MMFN was traversing the upper level of the engine room, carrying the latest updates to the crew’s football pool.

Just kidding, we don’t know what they were. They probably contained sensitive, silent-service stuff. Whatever, they were important enough so that when he dropped them and they fell into a void under the deck plate, he had to retrieve them.

Not a big problem. He simply opened a hinged deck plate, climbed into the 5-foot-deep void, and picked up the documents. Then the fly entered the ointment, in the form of an MM3 who was walking toward the open deck plate, engrossed in reading something in an open binder that he was carrying in both hands. He stepped on the fireman’s head, banging it on a piece of the deck frame and opening

a one-inch gash over his eye. Desperately trying to regain his balance, the MM3 grabbed the frame on a monitoring panel, which wasn’t a bad idea except that it was sharp enough to slice his hand open.

Once the dust settled, and both Sailors were upright on the correct side of the deck plate, and the hinged plate was safely back to the closed position, and the original documents (which may or may not have been the updates to the crew’s football pool)

and the binder had been retrieved, both sailors were found to be ambulatory. The fire-

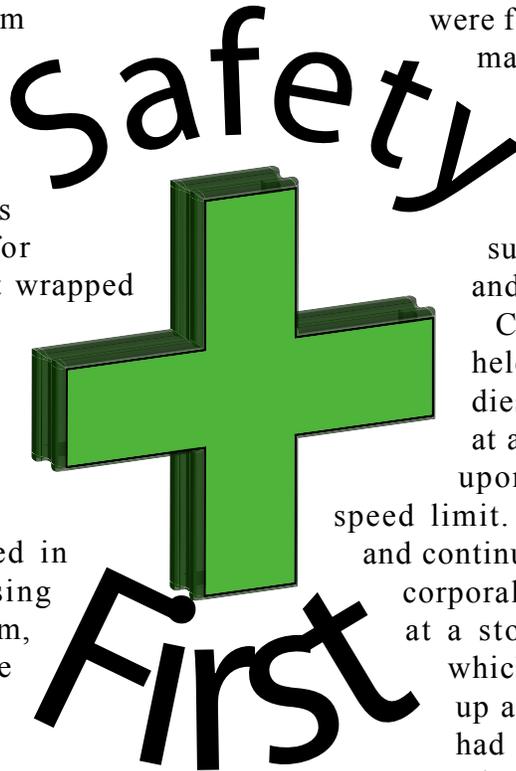
man headed over to the base clinic for some derma-bond on his eyebrow. The MM3 went to the regional military medical center for various x-rays and sutures. He was SIQ for three days and on light duty for two weeks.

C. A lance corporal from a Marine helo squadron and two of his buddies were riding motorcycles home at approximately 2145. They came upon an SUV that was going the speed limit. The buddies passed the SUV and continued onward, assuming the lance corporal would catch up. They waited at a stop light for three minutes, at which point the SUV driver pulled up and told them their buddy’s ride had ended for the night, thanks to a wreck.

The Marines hustled back and found the lance corporal “conscious but incoherent.” The usual ambulance ride ensued, along with a medevac. Three thousand dollars in damage to the Marine’s Suzuki, two days in a hospital and nine days of light duty.

Guess which Marine didn’t have a motorcycle license.

2. That’s all for this week, friends and neighbors. Until we meet again, riddle me this: Why don’t they call it “ambulatory” when you have to ride in an ambulance?



Arts & Entertainment

Vantage Point is a Must See

By MCSN JOSEPH SCARBERRY
Penny Press Staff

Told through five different perspectives, Vantage Point is an ‘edge of your seat’ action-thriller that tells the story of an assassination attempt on the President’s life at a multinational summit meeting to discuss world peace.

I was exceptionally pleased with the detail the director took in ensuring that this movie was a tour de force and an outstanding unraveling mystery that will keep the viewer guessing.

Dennis Quaid (Day After Tomorrow) and Forest Whitaker (The Great Debaters) head up the cast as two of the main characters; Quaid playing a Secret Service field agent and Whitaker playing an American tourist.

The two are supported by Sigourney Weaver (Alien) as a television news director and William Hurt (A History of Violence) as President Ashton.

The story starts out with the observations of one character, and goes through a story that is maybe a half hour long. It then rewinds time and shows you the same story through a different set of eyes

and ears and continues the story just a little bit further, showing you just a little bit more. Layer after layer is removed until you see the finished product and all of the answers are revealed.

The movie is new and fresh. Most movies are written in a third person perspective, so this is really a breath of fresh air. The story is action packed and gives you just enough new material so as not to be too predictable and to keep it from being redundant.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the movie. Its action packed, it’s fast-paced, and it keeps you on your toes during its entire duration. This movie is for action and thriller fans, and

I would definitely recommend seeing this in the theaters.



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Final Thoughts



Shipmates

The strength of a warship lies in the hearts and hands of its crew.



Photo by MCSN Kathleen Corona

Storekeeper Petty Officer 2nd Class Maria Vasquez recites the Oath of Enlistment during her reenlistment ceremony on the flight deck aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Feb. 29.

WIN A NEW CAR!!!



Edland Toyota in Everett has donated a Toyota Scion to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society to be raffled off during this year's fund drive. Tickets can be purchased through your NMCRS fund drive representative between 13 March until 13 April 2008.

Editor's Top 10

Ways to tell deployment is imminent

10. You have the exact amount of skivvies to pass your over-enthusiastic LPO's constant seabag inspections.
9. The line outside medical is twice as long as usual.
8. Liberty seems to start earlier every day.
7. The khakis won't stop fidgeting. Seriously.
6. "Good games" increase exponentially.
5. You're getting an early lead on the mustache growing contest.
4. Picking a sea-daddy takes up more time than your actual job.
3. Accidental injuries are mysteriously on the rise.
2. Sailors checking out have perma-grins* on their faces.
1. You can smell the panic as you cross the brow.