PENNY PRESS

VOL. 20, NO. 197 USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

Nothing scary about new digital Oujia boards

By ATAN Ashley Houp
Penny Press Staff

Constantly keeping track of all aircraft on board an aircraft carrier is a job with many intricate parts. In 2009, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) will be the first aircraft carrier to experience a change with Flight Deck Control's manual "Ouija board" system by transitioning to a new digital "Ouija board" system.

The scale model, nicknamed "Ouija board," of the flight deck and hangar bay includes plastic finger-model aircraft, nuts, bolts and washers to demonstrate exactly what is happening at any time with each aircraft on the carrier.

Photo by ATAN Ashley Houp

Aircraft Handling Officer Lt. Cmdr. Frank Fuentes, of Santa Fe Springs, Calif., examines the manual "Oujia Board" on board USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

Lincoln's Aircraft Handling Officer Lt. Cmdr. Frank Fuentes, from Santa Fe Springs, Calif., said the new digital ouija board will be installed during the ship's yard period, beginning late spring of 2009. The Ouija board, currently used on all aircraft carriers, is simplistic and can be compared to the looks of a kid's toy. For decades, the system has been the most accurate way to do business.

"The use of the Ouija board has been around since the World War II era," said Fuentes. "Carriers back in the day cut out templates of all the aircraft on the ship, as it is on our board, but a little more modernized. All the nuts, bolts, and other various small objects represent types of evolutions that go on with the aircraft in the hangar bay or the flight deck. This includes maintenance evolutions, fuel evolutions, arming and de-arming evolutions, a launch sequence, wash jobs, etc."

The new system will take time to get used to, but will greatly enhance the capability of the aircraft carriers in the Navy, said Fuentes.

"I believe the new digital Ouija board system will have a positive impact on the Navy," said Fuentes. "It should be an improvement by allowing more personnel working in other offices outside Flight Deck Control, the ability to view the status, location, maintenance requirements and launch and recovery times. For all those Sailors who play Xbox or Play Station 3, I predict they'll pick up the idea of the new system right away. For somebody like myself, I'll have to refer back to the old-school method of nuts and bolts."

The Ouija board gives the handler a quick snapshot as to

Turn to OUJIA BOARD, Page 2

Chess enthusiasts gather for tournament

By MC2 Brad Wages
Penny Press Staff

The game of chess is a microcosm of life, a miniature version of the day-to-day plotting people do to get by for Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Samori Diallo, of Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 131. "Chess is the game of life," Diallo, of Houston, said. "It's all about strategizing. And it's a game played by all cultures and walks of life." Playing also keeps the mind sharp, he said. "Chess forces you to think quickly. It's a very intellectual game."

Wanting to celebrate and spread appreciation of the game with others on board Lincoln, Diallo organized Lincoln's second chess tournament of the deployment, which was held on the aft mess decks Sept. 19. The first tournament took place in June.

"I wanted to have the event so we could bring all ship's chess fans together," Diallo said. "Around 30 people showed up. We had all ranks and ages playing. There were officers, a couple chiefs, all the way down to younger enlisteds."

After five intense rounds, the final match was played. The victor was

Turn to CHESS, Page 2

Local Stories

OUJIA BOARD

Continued from Page 1

what's going on with the aircraft during flight operations. A crew in Flight Deck Control makes this process happen.

"I have maintenance representatives in Flight Deck Control," said Fuentes. "I have Ordnance, Purple shirts, and Blue shirts that all work in here. EOs (elevator operators) monitor and peg the board as new tasks are called in."

Fuentes said as maintenance is completed, nuts and bolts are picked off the Ouija board, and as the board slowly gets cleared off, the night shift will come in and load it up again with new maintenance work.

"From ordnance loading to refueling, the Yellow shirts come in here and look at the board to see what's going on for the next launch," said Fuentes. "They can view the type of maintenance needed to be done and go execute it out on the flight deck."

Fuentes described the new digital system as having flat, wall-mounted panel screens and television monitors with the layout of the flight deck and hangar deck, opposed to having the table top manual system used now.

"There will be different stations, and each station will have a computer to update new data to the Ouija board," said Fuentes. "Sailors will attend a class to learn how to work the new systems."

Although the new digital system will be installed, the original nuts, bolts and templates will be kept in safe keeping for backup purposes in case of a power shortage.

"I'm always the first to jump at new things, but I also see a lot of growing pains with the new system," said Fuentes. "The system may take a little while for everyone to get comfortable with and understand. But with the classes and time, everyone will be able to learn their job."

Fuentes said when the new digital system arrives, someone will input the same data on a digital screen so it will be reflected on the new electronic Ouija board.

"The system is important to my job because without it, I don't know what's going on," said Fuentes.

"Flight Deck Control is called the nerve center of flight deck operations. All the information that flows through here affects the flight deck and hangar bay. Whenever a request is made over the phone, it will be placed on the Ouija board, but this time it will be done with a computer, not by hand."

CHESS

Continued from Page 1

Personnel Specialist 1st Class Albertryan Hernandez, of New York City. Hernandez, of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 2, said the tournament was a good experience.

"I enjoy the challenge of chess, pitting your mind against somebody else," he said. "You have to out-think your opponent, and have a better strategy than him."

Being recognized for his skill in the game of chess is nothing new for Hernandez. Prior to joining the Navy, he said he achieved the official rank of master from the United States Chess Federation.

"I've been playing since I was 17," Hernandez said. "My father taught me the game, and he was a chess master, as well."

Along with the prestige of being Lincoln's premier chess player, Hernandez was awarded a $50 MWR gift certificate. "I'm probably going to put it towards a hotel in Hawaii," Hernandez said.

Diallo said he considers the second chess tournament a success.

"The turnout was good," Diallo said. "Everyone enjoyed it, and it was very structured and organized."

While there is no chess club on Lincoln, Diallo said he hopes someone will be inspired by the tournaments and take up the cause.

"I'll be leaving the ship after deployment, but hopefully someone will start a club. By next deployment, they could have it up and running."

Courtesy photo

Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 2nd Class Samori Diallo, right, presents a $50 check to chess tournament champion Personnel Specialist 1st Class Albertryan Hernandez.

1850- Congress outlaws flogging on Navy ships.

1944- Marines occupy islands in Palaus under cover of naval aircraft and gunfire support.

Local Stories

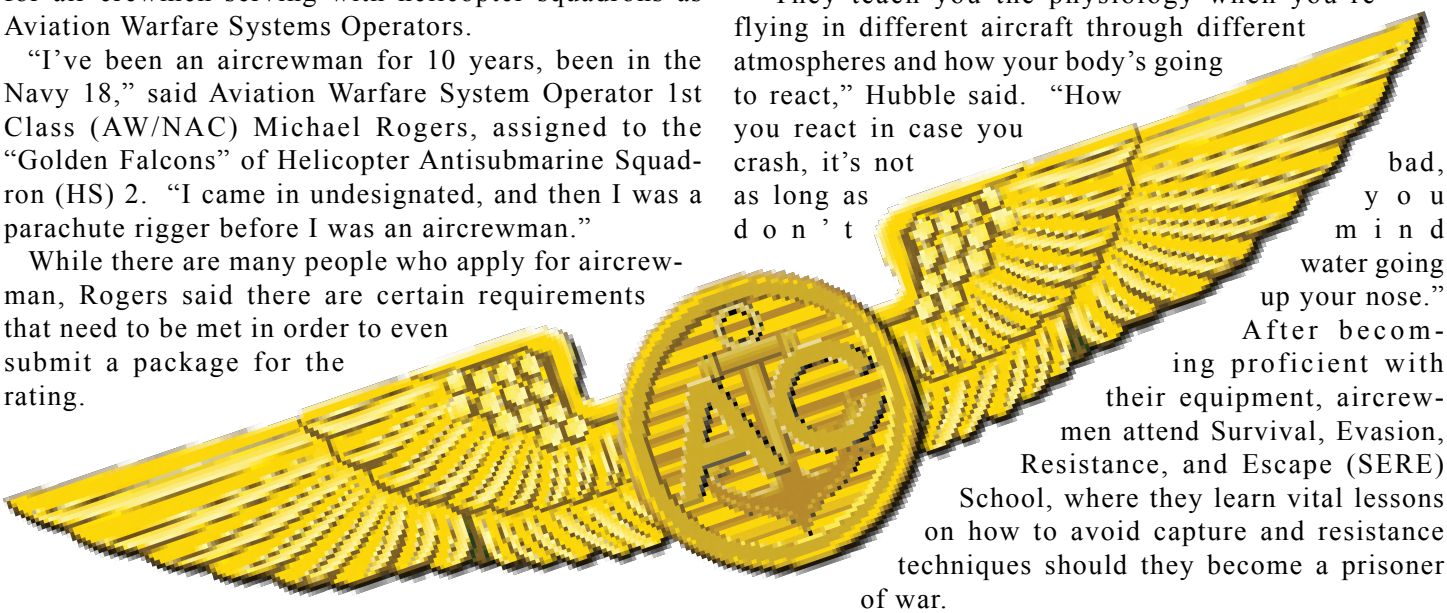
A select few go above and beyond to earn NAC

By MC3 Geoffrey Lewis
Penny Press Staff

Although the surface warfare pin is a qualification Sailors can earn for learning how a ship runs from one job to another, the Naval Air Crew pin is a requirement for air crewmen serving with helicopter squadrons as Aviation Warfare Systems Operators.

"I've been an aircrewman for 10 years, been in the Navy 18," said Aviation Warfare System Operator 1st Class (AW/NAC) Michael Rogers, assigned to the "Golden Falcons" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 2. "I came in undesignated, and then I was a parachute rigger before I was an aircrewman."

While there are many people who apply for aircrewman, Rogers said there are certain requirements that need to be met in order to even submit a package for the rating.



"You've got to have certain ASVAB scores and be able to get a secret security clearance, as well as be able to pass the second class swimmer test," said Rogers, a Plymouth, Mass., native. "Once you've done that, and the package you've submitted is approved, you head over to Pensacola, Fla., to go to Naval Aircrew Candidate School, which is about five weeks."

During training, Sailors are pushed to their mental and physical limits through water survival classes, a helicopter submergence simulator, and survivor rescue swimming.

"You go through a lot of physical training while you're there," Rogers said. "They teach you things like how to put a survivor into a rescue litter, which is basically a back board, because if they're ejected out of a plane, they pulled upwards of 16-18 G's and that put a lot of stress on the spine. We're preventing a possible spinal injury from getting worse."

Aviation Warfare System Operator 1st Class (AW/NAC) Jessie Hubble, assigned to the "Golden Falcons" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 2, said his favorite part of training was learning how to use the various tools at their disposal.

"We wear air-safe vests, which is basically a floatation that's wrapped around your waist," said Hubble, a San Diego native. "It's got radios in it, pencil flares, survival kits, spare water, anything you'd need to survive in either the desert or in the water."

Along with the equipment, Hubble said they also show you the body's natural response to different conditions while airborne or even submerged.

"They teach you the physiology when you're flying in different aircraft through different atmospheres and how your body's going to react," Hubble said. "How you react in case you crash, it's not bad, as long as you don't mind water going up your nose."

After becoming proficient with their equipment, aircrewmen attend Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) School, where they learn vital lessons on how to avoid capture and resistance techniques should they become a prisoner of war.

"It's all learning how to survive out in the woods, how to evade if someone's trying to capture you," Rogers said.

"During SERE School, you get captured and spend at least a day in a mock-POW camp where they teach you different things about interrogation. They basically teach you how to resist to your ultimate means. Every person has a different pushing point before they give up," Rogers said.

"They teach us not to give up critical information, but they realize eventually you're going to give something up. They've learned from the Vietnam War that interrogators were tying guy's arms behind their backs and actually dislocating their shoulders until they gave in. That's why they altered the code of conduct to say, '… resist to your ultimate means …'

After the initial training to become an aircrewmen, candidates are sent to a training squadron where they learn the ins-and-outs of the aircraft they'll be working on, and continue learn useful skills such as how to spot and classify submarines. Before they leave for an actual squadron, the aircremen receive the Naval Air Crew pin.

For more information about becoming an aircrewman, contact your command career counselor.

Weekly Wrap Up

Abe's busy week: honoring, posing and dancing

By MCSN Kat Corona
Penny Press Staff

It's been another busy week for USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 Sailors as they regain their high-tempo routines after their port call in Thailand and as they prepare for Abe's first stateside stop in March.

Abe kicked off the week by honoring servicemembers who were prisoners of wars (POW) or listed missing in action (MIA) since World War I during a POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony on Abe's aft mess decks Sept. 19.

Abe's Commanding Officer, Capt. Patrick D. Hall, and Command Master Chief Eric Schmidt began the observance with a cake-cutting before the ceremonial POW/MIA table was set for the Sailors at the ceremony.

Photo by MC3 Brandon Wilson

Commanding Officer Patrick Hall and Command Master Chief Eric Schmidt perform a cake-cutting in observance of POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Photo by MC3 Brandon Wilson

Yeoman 2nd Class Cheryl Martinez, of VFA 137, and Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Mario Serna, of VAW 116, dance in Hangar Bay 2 Sept. 20.

The table was set with items such as a single red rose, representing faith of the families and loved ones of the missing, a white table cloth, which symbolizes the purity of those we have lost. Also set at the table was an empty chair to remind Abe Sailors of the painful loss of many families. A bread plate was placed on the table with a slice of lemon, to remind everyone of the POW/MIA's bitter fate, and salt, which is symbolic of the lost and missing's family's tears. Finally placed at the table is an empty glass, placed inverted, to remind everyone that someone will not make a toast that night.

Lt. j.g. Adrian Young, of Abe's Combat Systems Department said many people notice the POW/MIA table, but may not understand what it means.

"As you entered the dining area, you may have noticed a table at the front, raised to call your attention to its purpose; it is reserved to honor our missing family members – our comrades in arms," Young said.

POW/MIA Recognition Day, though somber and touching to many Abe Sailors, did not set the tone for the rest of the week. Eight Sailors, who likely did not partake in any cake from the POW/MIA Recognition Day observance, took the stage in Abe's Hangar Bay 2 to showcase their dedication to fitness in the Mr. and Ms. Abraham Lincoln Pose Off Sept. 19.

The seven male competitors were separated into three different weight classes and were judged during five

Turn to WRAP UP, Page 5

Arts & Entertainment

WRAP UP

Continued from Page 4

Photo by MC2 Johndion Magsipoc

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Orlando Soto of Air Dept. and Personnel Specialist 2nd Class Blanca Marin of VAW 116 dance in Hangar Bay 2 during the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration.

different posing rounds, which showcased their physics to the crowd.

Abe's only female competitor, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling Airman Maria Sevilla was named Ms. Abraham Lincoln after hitting all her poses as the crowd cheered her on.

"It takes a lot of courage to get up there, especially since I'm the only female out here," Sevilla said. "Hopefully, next time there will be more females and I'll have some competition."

For the males, Chief Machinist's Mate (SW/AW) Michael Nisbet won the light weight division, Storekeeper 3rd Class Shawn Ryan won middle weight division winner and Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Tye Szalwinski was named winner of the light heavy weight division.

Photo by MC3 Ronald Dallatorre

Machinist's Mate Fireman Brian Bear, left, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Jose Rodriguez, center, and Storekeeper 3rd Class Shawn Ryan appear in the Pose Off, Sept. 19.

In the end, Ryan was given the title of Mr. Abraham Lincoln.

Celebrations on board continued the next day when Abe threw a fiesta to celebrate Hispanic heritage and culture for Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 20.

Hosted by Abe's Diversity Council and Hispanic Heritage Committee, the event was planned to ensure the members of the Hispanic community on board Lincoln got an opportunity to tell their stories.

The celebration, which was themed "Hispanics Making a Positive Impact on American Society," was kicked off with a cake-cutting ceremony followed by a Hispanic-style fiesta dinner of tamales, posole (beef and pork), chicken fajitas, guacamole and Spanish rice.

After the meal, the event moved into Abe's Hangar Bay 2, where Sailors were entertained by upbeat Latin dance performances of salsa, meringue, bachata and cumbia.

The week wasn't all fun and cake-cutting for all members of Abe's crew as the Lincoln Castaways, Abe's rugby team, began preparations for their next game.

With a 1-1 record for the deployment, the Castaways are eagerly anticipating another win at their next game.

"It feels good to get that first win under out belt, but now I can't wait to get another one, " said Machinist's Mate Fireman Michael Campbell, of Abe's Engineering Dept.'s A Division and the Castaways 8 Man.

The Hawaii game will be the team's final game of Abe's 2008 Gulf cruise. They have also played teams from Singapore and Thailand.

With all the celebrating, working and practicing, Abe is gearing up for its upcoming port call in Hawaii when thousands of friends and family members will come aboard to get a taste of life on the ship for Abe's Tiger Cruise, the pinnacle of the deployment for most Sailors on board.

USS Abraham Lincoln's firing squad.

USS Abraham Lincoln's firing squad stands at parade rest.

Burial at S

All photos by MC3 Bran

USS Abraham Lincoln's firing squad fires rounds in honor of the deceased.

Capt. Jeffrey Ruth salutes a flag containing empty shells from USS Abraham Lincoln's firing squad.

The cremated remains of nine former service members were committed to the sea during the ceremony.

A participant in the ceremony stands at parade rest.

USS Momsen stands guard as an F/A-18F approaches USS Abraham Lincoln.

Photo by MC2 (SW) James Evans

USS Momsen at sunset.

Photo by MC3 Sean Gal

Photo by MC2 (SW) James Evans

An F/A-18F Super Hornet launches from the flightdeck.

lagher

AM3 Chelsea Sutherland directs an MH-60S Knighthawk assigned to HSC 23.

Photo by MC3 Sean Gallagher

An aircraft director directs an F/A-18C Hornet on the flight deck.

Photo by MC3 Sean Gallagher

Sports Analysis/Opinion

Bournes' Breakdown

Avid fan gives his take on season

By MC2 James Bournes
Penny Press Staff

Another Major League Baseball, or MLB, regular season is wrapping up. One thing can be said about the season, there wasn't anything regular about it. With my focus turned towards football the past few weeks, I've neglected 'America's pastime' and one of the best finales in recent memory. So, to update all of us on MLB as whole, I found an avid fan and viewer on board, who goes by his online name of DodgerHater25.

He has been attending Major League Baseball games for the past 20 years. He says he owns 15,231 baseball cards, 30 baseball caps and three jerseys. Also, he has seen all 32 teams play on television. Here is his perspective on the 2008 season.

B: What was the most exciting part of the 2008 season?

DodgerHater25: Anybody who doesn't say it's the Tampa Bay Rays' season should move to Europe. Friends of mine who don't like baseball have been tuning in to watch the Rays. It's such an exciting story, where a small market team has taken on four big spending teams like the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays and the Baltimore Orioles, and beaten them at every turn. It's amazing, and that's what makes baseball so great.

B: Yes, their turnaround has been unbelievable, but can they carry the momentum into the playoffs?

DodgerHater25: I love Tampa Bay, and they've done huge things for Major League Baseball and the average fan, but I just see them being another Colorado Rockies. Good pitching beats good hitting, especially since they'll have to go up against the Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox or Anaheim Angels, all teams with great pitching staffs.

B: Tampa Bay did have more people paying attention to Major League Baseball this year. But, what would you say was the most overlooked event during the 2008 season?

DodgerHater25: The fact that Angels pitcher Francisco Rodriguez, or K-Rod, annihilated the saves record. Maybe it's just me, but closers are an important part of any team. Look at any World Series Champion in the past 10 years, and you'll have a dominant closer.

B: Yes, Rodriguez was a big part of the Angels winning the American League West. While we're discussing top teams, who do you think are the two best teams entering the playoffs?

DodgerHater25: Right now, I would have to say the Red Sox, just for the pure fact that they know what they're doing and they've done it before. It's hard with the National League or NL; I'd probably say the Los Angeles Dodgers, because they're in the same boat as the St. Louis Cardinals were a few years ago, where no one is going to think about them, and Nomar Garciaparra has returned from injury. Dodger Left Fielder Manny Ramirez will have his vengeance against the Red Sox.

B: OK, so you have your favorites to win the pennant. Are there any potential sleeper teams out there?

DodgerHater25: I think the Dodgers are a sleeper team in the NL, and perhaps not the favorite. In the American League, it would have to be the White Sox, if they win. They haven't received much coverage, but they're a good team, as long as manager Ozzie Guillen can keep them motivated. They definitely could make a surprise run.

B: For a guy with the name of DodgerHater25, you sure believe the Dodgers can win. Was there any team that disap-

Turn to BREAKDOWN, Page 11

Arts & Entertainment

'Nuklear Age' exploding with wit

By MC3 Joseph Scarberry
Penny Press Staff

I love pulp fiction, and pardon my blasphemy, but I'm not talking about the garbage Tarantino film. Brian Clevinger's book, "Nuklear Age" takes on this aspect, adds a cup of comedy, a teaspoon of sarcasm and wit, and a pinch of tragedy for the ultimate pulp recipe.

I got a hold of "Nuklear Age" as a gift from my wife for graduating basic training in Great Lakes in early 2005, a few months after the books release. I've read the book three times since then, and I just can't get enough of it.

Nuklear Man is a super hero unlike any other. He's super strong, witless and loves to look good in his super-suit. In Clevinger's words, "He isn't vain; he just can't live in a world where he isn't beautiful." Nuklear Man's favorite hobbies are eating and watching Saturday morning cartoons.

His sidekick, Atomik Lad (lovingly nicknamed "Sparky"), is a college student trying to get through life's usual issues, love and homework, all the while ensuring Nuklear Man doesn't get himself in trouble.

The story follows the two through their misadventures, through their maturation and their victories and defeats. A myriad of villains, including a giant robot, a giant crab, and a vampiric lawyer all stand defiantly against our mighty heroes.

I think my favorite part of this book is that Clevinger really poured his heart into it. It's as descriptive as a Clancy novel with great character development, has a thick plot that drives action forward with an interesting story and adds a mix of comedy and tragedy that leaves readers begging for more with every turn of the page.

Clevinger's ability to keep me reading is proof of his skill as a writer. He drove me to turn page after page, showed me why I should love his heroes and hate his villains and threw my world upside down by twisting and turning his plot.

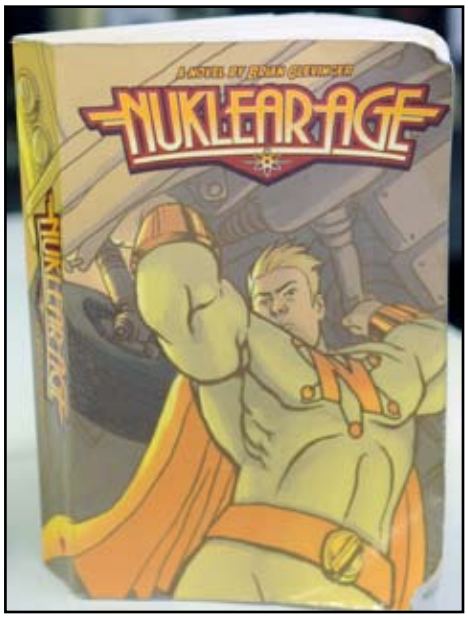


Photo by MC3 Joseph Scarberry

If you like pulp comedy, super heroes, tragedy, or any combination of the three and you haven't read this yet; you need to do so immediately. It's a long read, but it will help pass the time on those rainy days back in Everett.

BREAKDOWN

Continued from Page 11

pointed you this year?

DodgerHater25: It would definitely have to be the Detroit Tigers. With all that talent and that huge payroll, you would expect them to be running away with the American League Central.

B: I agree. Finishing last place in the American League Central is embarrassing for a club with such high hopes at the beginning of the season. Enough about the teams though, what about individual players? Who's your Most Valuable Player?

DodgerHater25: NL MVP is hard. I know most people only count NL stats as NL stats, but what Manny Ramirez and Milwaukee Brewers pitcher C.C. Sabathia have done for their respective teams is unbelievable.

B: Alright, let's get to the heart of the story. The playoffs are here, who's going to be representing each league in the World Series?

DodgerHater25: As much as I would love for it to be the Chicago Cubs and Rays, it's going to be the Dodgers and Boston. Both teams have clutch players who have won championships before. I just don't see the Cubs as being that dangerous. I have absolutely no faith in their pitching staff, and the Rays are just too young. I'd hate to see them end up like last year's Rockies and get blown out in the playoffs.

B: Thanks DodgerHater25. Like many baseball fans, I find my devotion to the game dwindle as the season goes on and my team plays their way out of playoff contention. However, with the playoffs here, I'm excited about watching the Rays make the Cinderella run, and possibly facing the Cubs in the World Series. Tune in to AFN for all of the MLB playoff games.

Final Thoughts

Shipmates

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

Photo by MC3 Rialyn Rodrigo

Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Thomas Pena, of Reactor Dept., receives congratulations from Lt. Kevin Dore during his re-enlistment ceremony on the hangar deck.

Editor's Top 10

Reasons to down huge amounts of protein shakes

10. It's the only way to get truly buff.

9. You ordered $500 worth of supplements, and they just got here.

8. They're more nutritous than junk food.

7. Steroid use is not tolerated by the Navy.

6. You're trying to fill out the t-shirt that came with the supplements.

5. If you're not 6-deep before lunch, you're wrong.

4. Your berthing loves the sound of a blender ball at 0445.

3. It's been 15 minutes since your last shake.

2. Exceeding your body weight in grams of protein is impossible, but highly recommended.

1. Only 355 days until the next pose-off.

Penny Press is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Its content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy, or the Marine Corps and does not imply endorsement thereby. All articles are subject to editing. Due to a need for timely news stories, there is no guarantee when a particular story will run.

Commanding Officer.....Capt. Patrick D. Hall
Executive Officer.....Capt. Jeffrey S. Ruth
Command Master Chief.....CMDCM Eric Schmidt
Public Affairs Officer.....Lt. Cmdr. Kathleen Sandoz
Media Dept. LCPO.....MCC(SW/AW) Joel Huval
Layout and Design.....MC2 Brad Wages
Webmaster.....MC3 Dennis Irwin
Staff.....Media Department