



Abraham Lincoln Award winners visit D.C.

By MCSN AARON HUBNER
Penny Press Staff

USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) three leadership Award winners visited the nation's Capitol, April 26-29, for an up-close look at how their government works.

The Stennis Center for Public Service hosted Liberty Award winner Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handling 1st Class (AW/SW) Brian Turner, Union Award winner Senior Chief Quarter Master (SW/AW) Dexter Watson, Statesman Award Winner Lt. Joseph Gilmore, 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 an all expenses paid stay at the Marriot Metro Center, tours of the White House, the Pentagon, the Capitol building, and meetings with the Vice Chief of Naval



Photo by MCSN Aaron Hubner
Capt. Patrick Hall, Commanding Officer of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), stands with the Lincoln Leadership Award winners and their spouses in front of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The winners were flown to the nation's Capitol for a four-day visit.

Operations, a senator, and a congressman.

According to Rex Buffington, Executive Director of the

Turn to D.C., pg. 2

Abe, Washington police team up to teach Sailors

By MCSN ADAM RANDOLPH
Penny Press Staff

More than 600 Sailors from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) attended a responsible alcohol use seminar sponsored by the Washington State Patrol on Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton Friday, May 1.

Lincoln's Legal, Media, Safety departments and Abe's Command Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor (DAPA) teamed up with Bremerton's Washington State Patrol to coordinate the presentation.

Washington State Trooper Todd E. Bartolac, a former active-duty Marine, talked about responsible alcohol consump-

tion, safe driving and the DUI process for Sailors.

His presentation covered many of the aspects associated with DUI such as Washington State DUI Laws, field sobriety tests, and basic traffic safety laws.

"Most of the police force in Kitsap have prior military service, so they know what to look for. Our goal is to save lives and we need Lincoln Sailors to do their part by not driving after they drink," Bartolac said.

Parts of the slide-show presentation included videos and graphic photos of fatal local car accidents in which alcohol was cited as a main factor.

"I'm not showing you these videos and photos to shock you, rather this is to educate you on what could and what does really happen when people get behind the wheel after drinking," he said.

Bartolac said he loves his job, which includes educating people about drugs and alcohol.

"I love what I do. Personally, I love to educate and talk to the public. I think, if you educate people on the right stuff it will help them make the right decisions, which will last a lifetime," said Bartolac.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/

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News

D.C. *Cont. from pg. 1*

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 deck-plate leaders in the fleet.

“The leadership awards program has been very successful and meaningful both for the winners and for the people they meet in Washington,” said Buffington. “It’s an opportunity for them to get a glimpse into the quality and character of the men and women who are serving.”

During their first day in Washington, the group rode the Metro subway to the Pentagon to meet with Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

Walsh talked with the awardees and their families about key issues facing Sailors in today’s Navy. Following the discussion, the group was given a tour of the Pentagon, including a visit to the September 11 Memorial.

The Sailors enjoyed a few free hours and then regrouped for an evening tour of the city and its monuments. The tour included stops at the Vietnam, the Jefferson, and the Lincoln Memorials. For the awardees, it was a breath-taking sight.

“It was spectacular. Seeing them at night when they were all lit up was just amazing,” said Turner. “The city is just laid out beautifully from the Capitol all the way to Virginia. It really makes

you appreciate what we have here in the U.S.”

The next morning the awardees and their families toured the White House before making a trip to the U.S. Capitol.

The Capitol tour started at the Russell Senate Building where the Sailors had a luncheon with several senior congressional members.

“It [the luncheon] was very informative,” said Gilmore. “Both of the staffers at our table had significant Navy experience. Most of our discussion evolved around family and how policy and legislation starts on Capitol Hill.”

Following the meal and conversations, Hall formally introduced each of the winners and asked them to talk a little about themselves and introduce their family members. Civilian guests then introduced themselves and spoke about the need for such conversations.

When the luncheon concluded, the awardees embarked on a guided tour of the Capitol building, stopping to enjoy sculptures, paintings, and of course the Capitol’s large dome.

“I had no clue about all the statues and paintings and historical artifacts in the Capitol,” said Turner. “Just seeing all the history and how the whole political process takes place there was amazing.”

Gilmore echoed Turner’s thoughts on the Capitol.

“It was a humbling experience to walk down the halls of some of our nation’s greatest leaders,” said Gilmore.

During the tour, Patty Murray, senator from Washington took time out of her busy schedule to shake hands and take photos with the awardees.

The group also met with Washington Congressman Rick Larsen during the tour. Larsen represents the 2nd district of Washington, including Lincoln’s homeport of Everett, Wash. During their meeting, Larsen thanked each Sailor 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 gained leadership lessons.

“I learned we should never allow our roles as leaders to become common place,” said Gilmore. “We have the opportunity to better the situation for those we lead each day and need to keep this in mind.”

The Abraham Lincoln Leadership Awards were established in 2007 by the Stennis Center for Public Service and Lincoln’s chain of command based on programs that had been established aboard other carriers. The awards recognize officers and senior enlisted personnel who demonstrate exceptional leadership, and awardees are chosen based on feedback from their subordinates.

DUI *Cont. from pg. 1*

FMF) Jeremy L. Mcmillan, Lincoln’s DAPA, helped run the presentation.

“I do think it was helpful because it dispelled a lot of myths about drinking and driving and also educated our Sailors on some of the consequences of drinking and driving,” he said.

“There are a lot of tools out there for Sailors to use,” said McMillan. “Lincoln has set up a Saferide taxi program where Sailors can get a free ride that night if they find they are unsafe to drive.”

“As the Command DAPA I hope that Sailors understand they can’t drink and drive. I don’t want anyone to get injured or killed by combining alcohol and driving. Eventually, very bad things happen,” Mcmillan said.

During the Planned Incremental Availability status, DAPA has moved onto the barge at 02-134-2-L.



Photo by MCSN Adam Randolph
Washington State Patrol Trooper Todd E. Bartolac, of Bremerton, Wash., takes questions from USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Sailors during a DUI presentation on Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton.

News

'X-Men Origins: Wolverine' misses as adaptation

By MC3 JOESPH SCARBERRY
Penny Press Staff

Clawing his way through the box office, Weapon X tops the charts with "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," which reeled in over \$85 million this week.

Now, as an adaptation, the film lost me. It started off alright, albeit a little rushed, but that wasn't too much of an issue. They have time constraints, I get it. But the main characters were already fully developed within 30 minutes of the film and many of the other mutants they highlighted as being part of the cast didn't get nearly as much of the screen time as they deserved. Most of them were reduced to 4 scenes or less as cameos, some with their personalities and behaviors differing from their comic book identities.

Even though it was a poor adaptation from comic to movie, it wasn't a bad action flick. It had everything I love about action movies: guns, motorcycles, helicopters, explosions, swords, and helicopter explosions. You know, all of the good stuff. Wolverine kicked a lot of butt and got his butt kicked a lot, and that's what most viewers really wanted to see anyway.

Hugh Jackman continued his role as Wolverine, his fourth time playing the character. Jackman maintained a similar performance we've come to expect from him, and I enjoyed it well enough.

Liev Schreiber played Victor Creed (Sabertooth), and was a fantastic supporting actor. He and Jackman seemed to work well together, despite their characters' opinions of each other.

Ryan Reynolds, as Deadpool, was a far too underdeveloped character for the purpose he served in the film. As one of the film's primary villains, he received too little screen time, and the changes they made in him weren't explained very well. A minor upset is that in the comics, Deadpool often breaks the fourth wall and speaks directly to the readers, and he didn't do that at all in the film.

There were quite a few editing errors throughout the film that I could spend time shooting holes into. For instance, the film was set in 1845, in the Northwest Territories of Canada, despite Canada becoming an independent nation in 1867 and the Northwest territories joining their union in 1870. I also noticed two road signs that pointed out the film's actual shooting locations of Australia and New Zealand, as well as a few other minor mistakes. The editors are really to blame here. It's their job to catch these things and make sure they are corrected.

For those of you who want to see an X-Men movie that makes you reminisce about the cartoons and comics from our childhood, there are better X-Men movies, but if you just want to see a decent action flick, go ahead and get tickets (at MWR for \$5!), grab some popcorn, and enjoy.



News

CNO focused on right programs, policies

By MC2(SW) REBEKAH BLOWERS
Special to the Penny Press

The chief of naval operations (CNO) spoke about the Navy of today and of the future as a panelist on the Sea Services Chiefs' Panel at the Navy League's 2009 Sea-Air-Space Exposition (SAS Expo) during a seminar entitled "Seapower and America's Security" May 4.

CNO Adm. Gary Roughead participated on the panel with Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James T. Conway; Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Thad Allen; and Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator, Mr. James Caponiti.

The SAS Expo is the largest maritime exposition in the world and provides the Navy and other services an opportunity to interact and meet with national and international industry providers working with the latest in sea power technology. This year's theme, "National Security, Maritime

Superiority and Global Presence," complements the cooperative maritime strategy and advances public understanding of the critical importance of sea power for America's security and prosperity.

During the discussion, CNO emphasized how busy the Navy has been during the last year.

"The Navy is being used aggressively, and the Navy is being used very hard. In addition to the traditional deployments and formations that we have operating around the world, we have 14,000 Sailors on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan," Roughead said.

"We see increasing demands for things such as ballistic missile defense, intelligence surveillance reconnaissance, proactive humanitarian assistance, maritime security and of course the most newsworthy event in recent times is the counterpiracy operations that several nations are involved in off the coast of Somalia."

CNO also spoke about the completion of the fiscal year 2010 budget, the upcoming Quadrennial Defense Review, shipbuilding programs and how everything in the Navy comes back to its people.

"I think it's always important to recognize, to realize and to go out periodically into the fleet and determine what it is that we're really all about up here [in Washington]. And that is being able to provide the right things, the right programs and the right policies so that our great Sailors can go do the terrific work that they're doing," Roughead said.

The Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition features more than 150 defense industry exhibits and professional seminars with top civilian and military leaders from the U.S. Department of Defense, Homeland Security, Maritime Administration and the defense industry who provide up-to-the-minute developments on policy and programs of the maritime services.

MCPON honors Navy spouses' service, sacrifice

By MCPON RICK D. WEST
Special to the Penny Press

On the occasion of Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 8, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West sent the following message to the fleet, including Navy spouses and families:

"When I took this job in December, I made a promise to every one of you that I would do everything in my power to ensure you are supported, that you have the quality of life you deserve and when your loved ones are deployed, our Navy will take care of you when you need it.

These were not just words, and I will say the same thing to every family member or Sailor I meet. This is very important to me because I know of the sacrifices our families make so that our Sailors can defend this nation.

The life of a Navy spouse is unlike any other. We ask that you give up your husbands and wives for months at a time. We ask you to support them because nothing is more important to their peace of mind. We ask you to understand the weekend watches, the deployments, the missed holidays and birthdays. You continue to give and ask for very little in return.

We are grateful for that, but we owe you a huge debt. We owe you an equal amount of understanding for the sacrifices you make, and I can promise that you have that from Navy leadership.

May 8 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day and, we will pause a moment that day to thank you appropriately. Please take my word on this when I tell you the appreciation we have for what you do goes far beyond one day per year.

Thank you for your continued support of your Sailor, our Navy and our nation.

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News

New Post-9/11 GI Bill transfer rules offer more control

By TOM PHILPOTT

Special to the Penny Press

Servicemembers nearing the end of their careers will find it easier than first thought to transfer new Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to their spouse or children, under Department of Defense regulations.

Any Servicemembers who elect to transfer GI Bill benefits will be allowed to modify or revoke that decision at any time, thus keeping control of a benefit with an average start value estimated at \$75,000 to \$90,000.

Bob Clark, assistant director of accession policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, discussed the transferability feature of the new GI Bill Wednesday, April 29.

The details should comfort many long-serving careerists – including enlisted members facing high-year tenure rules or officers facing mandatory retirement – who worried about being denied transferability because they might not meet a retirement in law to serve four additional years.

Clark said the four-year requirement will be relaxed, and for some waived entirely, for individuals near to retirement.

The regulation on transferability isn't final yet because it hasn't been signed.

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers all veterans' education benefits. Defense officials are only responsible for transferability policy because of the potential impact on recruiting and retention. Officials decided to confirm policy details before they officially are set because VA will to accept Post-9/11 GI Bill application on Friday, May 1. Here then are the transferability details, as explained by Clark:

ELIGIBILITY – Only members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on or after Aug. 1, 2009, can transfer new GI Bill benefits, and only spouse or to children or to any Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System. Unused benefits, up to the full 36 months, can be transferred. "You can give 36 months to one child or one month to 36 children," Clark quipped. To transfer benefits, members must have served a minimum of six years and commit permanent and five temporary – will be allowed to the four-year added service requirement.

PERMANENT EXCEPTION: If a servicemember who already has served at least 10 years is barred by service policy or statute from serving an additional four years, because of high-year tenure rules or mandatory retirement rules, they still will be allowed by that policy or law.

TEMPORARY EXCEPTIONS: Defense officials will allow five other waivers to the four-year requirement of additional service for categories of members nearing retirement eligibility or with retirement orders in hand. These exceptions are to recognize, said Clark, "that we have a senior force out there who, had they had this opportunity many years ago, they

probably would have selected transferability for their family members."

Granting these exceptions also helps force managers, he said. Without them, the services would see thousands of retirement-eligible servicemembers trying to stay four years longer to qualify for GI Bill transferability. That could have "a very negative impact on our force profiles," Clark said. "So we said, 'Let's look at a way that we can phase this group out.' We developed five rules. All will sunset in 2013."

1. Members retirement eligible by Aug. 1, 2009, may transfer GI Bill benefits to an immediate family member and face no additional service requirement. "Retirement eligible" means completion of 20 years of active service or 20 qualifying years of reserve service.

2. Members with approved orders to retire on or after Aug. 1, 2009, but before July 1, 2010, will not have to serve added time to transfer benefits. This is to avoid forcing the services and members to change set retirement dates in the next year or so. Retirements set for after July 1, 2010, officials decided, could be changed with little difficulty.

3. Members who first become retirement eligible on or after Aug. 1, 2010, but before Aug. 1, 2011, will be required to serve one additional year from the date that transfer of GI Bill benefits is approved.

4. Members who become retirement eligible on or after Aug. 1, 2010, but before Aug. 1, 2011, will have to serve two additional years from the date that benefit transfer is approved.

5. Members who become retirement eligible on or after Aug. 1, 2011, but before Aug. 1, 2012, will have to serve three additional years after benefit transfer is approved.

SUSTAINED ELIGIBILITY: After transfer of benefits, spouse eligibility will not be affected by divorce, and children will stay eligible even if they marry. But the member retains ownership of the benefit and can modify or revoke transfer at any time without explanation. Also, the GI Bill benefit cannot be treated by judges as property to be shared in a divorce.

LIMITS ON USE: A spouse can use GI Bill benefits like the member. The monthly living stipend, set to match local Basic Allowance of Housing rate, won't be paid if the member is on active duty. If the member has left active duty, the spouse will be paid the living allowance. Children get allowance whenever they use GI Bill benefits. Also, the spouse has 15 years to use benefits after the member leaves service. Children can use only until age 26. They can start using transferred GI Bill benefits after graduating from high school or at age 18. A spouse can use transferred benefits immediately. A child can't use GI Bill benefits until the member has served at least 10 years.

"We hope to start to accept requests for transfers in June," said Clark. "But the earliest date transfer would be approved is Aug. 1."

Habitat for Humanity

RMD is looking for volunteers, preferably Sailors in Everett, to volunteer for Everett's Habitat for Humanity project every Wednesday.

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News

MCPON praises Sailors during Northwest visit

By NAVY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT WEST
Special to the Penny Press

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West concluded his visit to Navy Region Northwest May 1.

West arrived April 28 to show his support by kicking off individual augmentee (IA) symposiums and visiting the Sailors.

The visit included IA Symposiums held at Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Station Everett, and Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

“There’s an appetite for a Navy Sailor (in U.S. Central Command) and the reason is because a Navy Sailor always works above what is expected of them out there in that theater,” said West. “I hear that time-and-time again from other service leadership. They want more Sailors because as Sailors we are used to working out of our comfort zone, Sailors see a problem, and they fix it.”

The events not only provided a venue for West to show his appreciation for IAs and the unique challenges they face when deployed, but also to educate attendees on the resources available to them upon their return, both in and out of the military as veterans. During breaks in the presentation, networking opportu-

nities were afforded to those preparing to deploy on an IA to glean information from those who have returned.

“For those of you going on an IA, make sure you absorb everything you can from this conference, but also, more importantly, from those shipmates that have conducted an IA,” said West.

“This forum is also an important piece to provide feedback to us so we can make course changes with the IA process and continue to make it better,” said West.

The back bone of every successful Sailor is strong support from the home front through their command, spouses and family members. West appreciates the contributions and sacrifices these individuals make.

“Thank you so much for what you do every day,” said West.

Following his delivery of opening remarks at the IA symposiums, West took tours of each base, including a tour of Everett’s newest barracks, the Charles Luke Milam Bachelor Housing. The tour included a look at the living arrangements and the break areas of the facility.

“This is the standard of living and quality of life every Sailor should have,” said West.

The housing unit nearly doubles

Everett’s ‘Homeport Ashore’ capabilities. Homeport Ashore is a quality of life program for housing junior single Sailors stationed on board ships while they are in port.

The day continued with an all hands call for the chief petty officers of Naval Station Everett and an all hands call, during which West discussed many topics from manning issues to the new uniforms hitting the streets and giving advice to Sailors senior and junior alike.

“Get out of your comfort zone, take the hard jobs and make the Navy work for you,” said West.

Those who were afforded the opportunity to talk to west were impressed by his candor and awareness.

“He’s an interesting guy to talk to and he’s got a lot of knowledge about the program. He seemed extremely interested in us and our stories about what we had to do,” said Air Traffic controller 2nd Class Casey Wood, of Whidbey Island, a Cranston, R.I., native who was deployed to Camp Bucca Iraq, between April 2007 and January 2008.

“Master Chief West is the right guy at the right time, no doubt in my mind. I’m proud to serve in his Navy,” said Capt. Gerral David, NAS Whidbey Island commanding officer.

Newest Everett barracks named for slain Corpsman

By HOWARD PANKRATZ
Special to the Penny Press

The Navy honored Hospital Corpsman Luke Milam of Littleton, Colo., who was killed during a fierce battle with the Taliban in Afghanistan in September 2007, by naming a 504-bed, \$60 million ‘Homeport Ashore’ barracks for him Naval Station Everett in Washington.

The building named in Milam’s honor was dedicated April 30.

“While we know that Luke would absolutely hate the fuss made over him, we’re sure that he would love the building and the wonderful apartments,” said his father Michael.

In October 2007, hundreds of mourners packed a Littleton

church for services for Milam, where the Columbine High School graduate was honored for being a “warrior.” Those who spoke said Milam was both an exemplary Navy corpsman and an excellent combat fighter.

They also said he was an exceptional human being, driven by compassion.

“Luke was an ordinary kid who fell in love with the Navy as an eight-year-old,” his father said. “He enlisted early at 17 years old, left for boot camp two weeks after high school graduation and never looked back.”

In addition to apartments, the building also features seven lounges available to Sailors for viewing movies, studying or playing a variety of games, including pool, ping pong, air hockey and video games.

Final Thoughts



Shipmates

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



Photo by Lt. Cmdr. William Marks

USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) Commanding Officer Capt. Patrick Hall, right, presents Air Boss Cmdr. Patrick Bowman with a farewell gift during a Hail and Farewell luncheon at Naval Base Kitsap, Bremerton May 6.

Editor's Top 10

Top 10 things to keep you busy on duty days...

10. Count each hair on your head.
9. Put mulch in your DivO's coffe maker... hilarity ensues.
8. Admit to everyone that you are, in fact, Batman.
7. Trace the numerous ventilation hoses throughout the ship and try to find a pot of gold.
6. Invent new Navy jokes to replace Mail Buoy watches and ID-10-T forms.
5. Talk your friends into helping you put on a local production of Broadway's Cats.
4. Learn Jujitsu by watching Walker Texas Ranger
3. Order the Yanni gift set for your LCPO.
2. Replace all vending machine junk food with rice cakes.
1. You really don't get a choice so you better learn to love it.

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