

Abe celebrates end of PIA with command party

STORY BY MCSA JACQUELYN CHILDS
Penny Press Staff

The resort is lit up and busy with visitors like every other night. The bright, colorful lights draw people in and the constant dinging of slot machines creates a fun environment.

But despite all this, the attention of the casino's guests is being drawn back toward the resort where civilian visitors and their guests dressed in their best come in and out.

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) holds this party annually but what is usually the command holiday party turned into the ship's end of Planned Incremental Availability (PIA) party after the Lincoln successfully left the shipyard a day early. Lincoln celebrated at Tulalip Resort and Casino in Marysville, Wash., Jan. 20.

The party started when the doors opened at 7 p.m. with a DJ playing music. The party was in full swing with cocktail hour and food lines with a wide variety of finger foods for the guests. There was also a greeting line for the commanding officer, executive officer and command master chief so Sailors and their families could meet, greet and express their appreciation for these leaders.

Lincoln's Commanding Officer, Capt. Patrick Hall, gave the opening remarks, welcoming everyone and encouraging them to have a good time.

About halfway through the night, Capt. Hall took the stage again for the presentations and announcements. He began by announcing the new Bluejacket of

the Quarter, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman (AW/SW) Mitchell Larson; Junior Sailor of the Quarter, Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Casandra Olms; Sailor of the Quarter Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class (AW/SW) Jeremy Pennington; and Senior Sailor of the Quarter Electronics Technician 1st Class (SW) Jason Buonomo.

Capt. Hall went on to announce the Bluejacket of the Year, Personnel Specialist Seaman (SW/AW) David Bigbey; Junior Sailor of the Year, Quartermaster 3rd Class (SW/AW) Sarah Degraw; Sailor of the Year, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Launching, Recovery and Equipment) 2nd Class (AW) Steven Castro; and Senior

Sailor of the Year, Yeoman 1st Class (SW/AW) Garret Rucker.

Finally, Capt. Hall announced the Sailors selected for the Command Advancement Program (CAP) as the Command Master Chief presented each of the Sailors with a plaque.

CAP was established in 1978 as an incentive for seagoing personnel to be recognized for superior performance while working in a rigorous operating environment experienced at sea or while forward deployed. The Sailors chosen are immediately advanced to the next paygrade.

The Sailors 'capped' for Petty Officer 3rd Class at the party were Aviation Ord-

Cont'd at Party, pg. 9



Photo by MC3 Aaron Hubner
Sailors awarded with the Sailor of the Year award pose with Commanding Officer of the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), Capt. Patrick Hall during the command party, Jan. 20.

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Know Your Shipmates

ABHAN Stephen Weavers

Hometown:
Port Charlotte, Fla.

Quote:
*“If you can’t eat the cupcake,
don’t bake them.”*
-Estrada

Hobbies:
*Paintball, photography, working
out*

Goal:
*Go to school and get a Bachelor’s in
photography*

Top 3 bands:
*Rage Against the Machine, Tegan and
Sarah, Have Heart*



Photo and information gathered by MCSA Jerine Lee

DINE AND SAVE

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LOMBARDI’S NEIGHBORHOOD ITALIAN
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Commanding Officer..... Capt. Patrick D. Hall
Executive Officer..... Cmdr. Timothy Kuehas
Command Master Chief..... CMDCM (SW/AW) Eric Schmidt
Public Affairs Officer..... Lt. Cmdr. William Marks
Media Dept. DIVO..... Ens. Robyn Gerstenslager
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| MC2 (SW) Dennis Irwin | MC3 Zach Hunt |
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'Assassin's Creed II' even better than original

STORY BY MC3 ZACHARY HUNT

Penny Press Staff

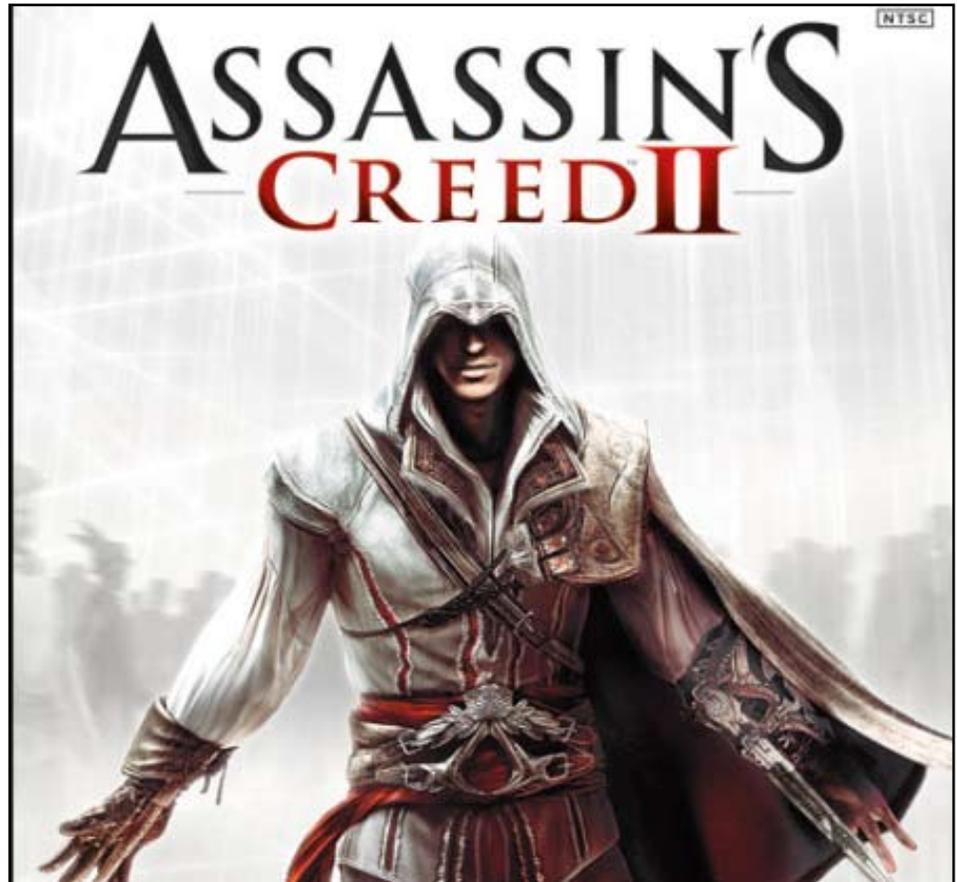
While you weave through the crowds like a silent shadow, you stalk your prey through the crowded streets. You creep closer, watching, waiting. The opportunity presents itself; you strike your target without a moment's hesitation. As the crowd begins to scatter and the guards move in, you make a swift escape to the rooftops.

For fans of the original "Assassin's Creed," this scene seems all too familiar. In fact, most people's only problem with the first game was that this scene seemed to replay itself about ten times throughout the storyline. Despite that, the game crafted a new and unique type of game play that I knew would spread like wildfire throughout the gaming world.

"Assassin's Creed 2" definitely fuels that flame. The control scheme is identical, allowing the player to control different parts of the character's body with different buttons. The player can still manipulate the character the same way as in the first game, however, players can do a lot more with this scheme than they could in the first game. They can pick up the weapons of fallen enemies; they can deliver knees and head butts while holding onto an enemy; and one of my favorite improvements, the character can swim.

I was surprised at the amount of freedom the player possessed in this game. The story still runs on rails, so the main missions have to be completed in order to advance the story. However, there are plenty of side missions and a huge world to explore. You can also spend your hard-earned money on new weapons, armor and other equipment. renovate the villa which the main character calls home. This can lead to the villa attracting more visitors, who in turn generate more income for the main character.

The missions are also varied from the original game. In the first game, the player would be given a target, gather



information about that target, and then kill that target. There was no real connection between most of the targets and the main character. "Assassin's Creed 2" focuses on a much more personal vendetta, making each kill intimate and meaningful. Yes, some of the kills are very similar, but for the most part the assassinations are unique and original.

The final thing that amazed me about this game was the stunning backdrop of Renaissance era Italy. The visuals in this game add a new sense of style and artistic flair that was definitely lacking in the old cities of the Crusades. The backdrop is a sharp contrast to the death and betrayal that the main character is constantly faced with, adding another element to make the gaming experience that much more intriguing.

The storyline is complex, involving an eternal battle between the corrupt and twisted Templars and the noble Assassins.

To truly understand the story, players should really defeat the first game. "Assassin's Creed 2" is the second chapter of this riveting franchise, and I never like to start a story from the second chapter. I'm not saying that you have to play the first game to enjoy this sequel, but it will lead to a greater appreciation for the story if you do.

There are a few moments of mediocrity in the storyline. Every so often it becomes predictable. Also the combat can get a little frustrating, due to the precision required for the counter attacks.

Overall though, I absolutely loved this game. In a sea of re-makes and copycats it's a one-of-a-kind experience that we likely won't see again until the next "Assassin's Creed." I will say that casual gamers might lose interest early on. For my seasoned players out there though, this is one game you don't want to miss out on.

A Day in the Life

CVN 72 Deck Department



Story and photo by
MCSN Jerine Lee
Penny Press Staff

"Heads up on deck, Heads up on pier!" My hands are tightly gripping the rough line while sweat drips off my forehead.

The rope-like material is splintering and slippery but no matter what, you can't let go of the line. The stench of the mold in the line is making my nostrils flare.

My legs are at a wide stance, trying to keep my balance and take control of the large line, I can barely wrap my hands around it.

Any sudden movements or slip of the fingers can pull someone's body so quickly, the speed and pressure of an uncontrolled line can break bones instantly.

However, the hard work of pulling the line will be worth it; the line will secure us to the pier of our homeport, Everett, Wash.

When I began my 24 hour adventure in deck department on board the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), I was honestly nervous, unsure of what to expect, assuming that I was going to be performing hard work that I have never experienced in my life.

Well, I assumed right. But it wasn't just manual labor that I participated while in deck, it was mental work as well.

In 24 hours, I got a small taste of the huge responsibility deck department holds in regards of keeping this ship running.

With 1st division in charge of the forward part of the ship and 2nd division in charge of the aft, both divisions worked together to cover the entire ship.

The duties needed to run this ship are overwhelming. In my 24 hours with deck, I gained a lot of respect for their work.

Being a part of deck involved an underway replenishment, mooring and preservation of the decks and spaces and I saw how deck department worked together as a team to bring us to our homeport, Everett.

Sunday afternoon began with meeting Seaman Alim Khan from deck's 1st division.

Khan, a 19-year-old, San Francisco native, who joined the Navy to gain independence and travel the world, would be my mentor for the day.

For the first couple of hours, everyone was preparing for the precision anchoring detail drill at the forecabin of the ship.

We had to remove all jewelry on our wrists and fingers, tuck our pant legs into our boots and don hardhats and safety glasses.

Khan and another Sailor from deck were in charge of rotating a brake wheel for the anchor's chain links and a third Sailor stood by to count out loud how many rotations were made.

"We have to make sure we sound off and let each other know what our actions are," said Khan. "Any lack of communication or slip can get someone seriously hurt."

The drill took up most of the working day but there was still work to do in the evening.

While many Sailors were eating ice cream and singing karaoke in hangar bay 3, I had to leave the festivities early to muster. Khan had a watch that evening.

Afterward, he and his shipmates rotate watchstations every hour. The first watch stations were all the way up on the 09 level of the ship.

With navigating binoculars and sound powered telephones, Sailors in deck department watched for everything and anything in the vicinity of the ship.

"We're pretty much the eyes and ears of the ship," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class, Dustin Nighdor. "We look out for small ships and crafts that the ship's radar might not pick up. We also check for marine wildlife in case they are an endangered species and listen to whistles of fog horns. We also check for 'navy blue,' which is when any aircraft crashes into the water."

Senior watchstanders have been on the job for so long they are able to calculate the distance of local boats by eye.

"I usually see it that the line of the horizon is about 12 to 13 nautical miles and evaluate how far a ship is from that," said Nighdor.

"After being on watch for so long, you get pretty good at knowing how far away things are."

There was also the helm and the lehelm watch, which controls the steering and the speed of the ship.

It was interesting being on the front line of what the ship is doing. However, my favorite watch stations were at the starboard and aft lookout. From there, the scenery was amazing. The stars and citylights reflecting off the water was inspiring.

I felt like I was looking at a painting, it was almost unreal how beautiful it was.

It is by far one of the best views on the ship.

"Watch can be nagging, but it can be a destressor," said Khan. "Being here and noticing the beauty around you gets you away from the craziness. On a clear night, the stars are really bright and it makes you forget all your worries."

Monday morning came, meaning we were finally heading towards land. Sailors were walking around in their dress blue uniforms and everyone was hyped, making plans for what to do when they got home and eager to see their families again.

However, the Sailors of deck department barely had time to be excited, they had to prepare for the ship's mooring into Everett.

"Being here and noticing the beauty around you gets you away from the craziness. On a clear night, the stars are really bright and it makes you forget all your worries,"

-Seaman Alim Khan, Deck Dept. 1st Division

Khan and I went around the ship helping 'fake' out the lines.

We had to lay out the line flat and organized on the deck that way the line can be pulled without any knots and so no one can trip over them and hurt themselves.

The lines were heavy and bulky, it was difficult to lay it out nicely, but with the help of others in deck, we finished.

Next, we had to 'whip' the eye of the line. We had to wrap white parachute cord tightly around the eye of the line and tie a square knot over it. I was surprised to see what precautions Sailors of deck took while they worked. Every action was for the crew and for the

ship's materials to be in good condition.

"Whipping the eye of the line is important because it makes sure the mooring line won't come apart," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Amanda

Metsker. "It doesn't hurt

to make sure nothing breaks or goes wrong because we are on the ship's schedule."

When we finally reached the Everett pier, we heaved the line overboard for the Sailors on the pier to catch. It seemed like organized chaos. Everyone was yelling orders, and then repeating the orders back. To me, everything was foreign and I was completely lost in what was going on, I watched how Khan and his shipmates communicated and kept in tune with each other's actions.

While walking off the ship and down the pier, seeing everyone's happy expressions to finally reach land and then seeing loved ones and Sailors rejoice, it really hit me how much the deck department does for the crew. Without their hard work and dedication, Lincoln Sailors wouldn't be able to go home.

I would like to thank Lincoln's deck department for allowing me to be involved in their lifestyle. When I would usually be waiting for the IMC to announce liberty call, I never thought that Sailors of deck department helped make that liberty call happen. It was rewarding to be a part of the ship's movement.

Layout by MC2 Barry Riley

Lincoln's End of PIA party at Tubalip Casino...

JACKPOT!



USS Abraham Lincoln celebrated the end of the Planned Incremental Availability with a party at the Tubalip Casino in Marysville, Wash., Jan. 20. During the event the command announced the Sailors of the Year, and Capped 12 Sailors to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class petty officers. Bravo Zulu for all your work during PIA.



Lincoln returns home to Naval Station Everett



Photo by MCSN Robert Robbins

The USS Abraham Lincoln recently returned to its home port at Naval Station Everett after a successful sea trial period following a nearly nine-month Planned Incremental Availability at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.



Photo by MCSN Robert Robbins



Layout by MC2 Barry Riley

Photo by MCSA Jacquelyn Childs



Free Online Tutoring Available for Sailors, Families

By **BRUCE MOODY, COMMANDER, NAVY INSTALLATIONS COMMAND, FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM PUBLIC AFFAIRS**
Special to the Penny Press

Free and unlimited tutoring in a variety of subjects ranging from secondary education mathematics to resume writing is now available online for all service members and their families.

A new service provided by the Department of Defense matches youths and adults with certified, professional tutors at <http://www.tutor.com/military-programs>.

Tutors can assist students in more than 16 subjects - from kindergarten to college-level calculus, statistics and physics, - as well as state standardized tests and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) exams.

The website always matches one student with one tutor, an individual certified in the student's subject and level of education. Students and tutors will meet in an interactive workspace through a chat session.

An uploaded book report, for example, can be opened in the workspace, allowing both student and tutor to review the material. Specialized workspaces for subjects such as math or chemistry include toolbars with functions for creating equations,

charts and graphs.

Tutors won't give answers to a student or write a paper for them, instead providing guidance and resources. Tutors will also work with parents desiring instruction on effectively tutoring their children.

All of the sessions are anonymous and conducted by screened, certified tutors and career specialists who have all completed a third-party background check.

In addition to providing guidance on a variety of subjects, tutors can also assist students with college searches, but the program is not specific to educational pursuits. Adults can interface with career specialists for help with:

- Job search strategies
- Resume writing
- Interview preparation
- Financial literacy
- _Help for citizenship
- Returning to college
- College entrance exams

The service is free for all U.S. active duty service members, U.S. military Reservists, U.S. National Guard personnel on active duty in a deployed status, U.S. military retirees, Wounded Warriors, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians assigned to DoD installations and their dependents.

The Tutor.com website will be widely used at Navy youth programs and by

school liaison officers, who are scheduled to showcase the website to Navy families and their children's teachers, said Chuck Clymer, Jr., Navy Child and Youth Education Program manager.

"It's a resource that is right in line with our core services," Clymer said. "It supports our mission to provide high quality educational programs for children and youth."

Navy youth programs will be using Tutor.com to augment their "Power Hour" and "Job Ready" education and career development programs.

Naval Base San Diego School Liaison Officer Kirsten Web, a Navy spouse with two children, described Tutor.com as an outstanding resource for the whole family.

"My son didn't need a full-time tutor, but occasionally needs assistance with high level math," Webb said. "Tutor.com was the perfect solution. Now he uses it for SAT prep and for assistance with his writing."

Tutors are available globally 24-hours daily at <http://www.tutor.com/navy>. To access the site, eligible personnel must first sign in to Navy Knowledge Online at <https://www.nko.navy.mil/portal/home/> and click on the "Reference" tab, found on the right side of the page. Here, there are links for the tutoring site.

Party cont'd from pg. 1

nanceman Airman Jerimiah Baker, Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Melanie Stout, Engineman Fireman Stephan Walton, Boatswain's Mate Seaman Anthony Gray, Aviation Support Equipment Technician Airman Joey Garcia, Machinist's Mate Fireman Dominic Priore, Ship's Serviceman Seaman Kenneth Bautista, Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman (AW/SW) Mitchell Larson, and Machinist's Mate Fireman Matthew Powell.

Those chosen for Petty Officer 2nd Class were Damage Controlman 3rd Class Joshua Garrison, Electronics Technician 3rd Class (SW/AW) Keith Shandley, and Quartermaster 3rd Class Sarah Degraw.

The last CAP went to Electronics Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) Kenneth Norton who is the newest Petty Officer 1st Class.

After Capt. Hall finished these announcements, Command Master Chief Eric Schmidt and the Executive Officer, Cmdr. Timothy Kuehhas, presented Capt. Hall with gifts from the Chief's Mess and the Officers on the Lincoln. The Chiefs gave the soon departing commanding officer a cutlass while the Officers gave him an ornate table with a glass top to place his collection of command coins.

When the presentations were over, the DJ took over again, letting the crowd take

a break and relax before John Porter from Morale, Welfare and Recreation on board the Lincoln, took the stage.

Porter gave away several prizes to Sailors that included one night stays at different hotels, tickets to events at Comcast Arena and Key Arena, a Wii, a Play Station 3, an Xbox 360, several other electronics, and even a couple weekend trips to Canada.

Once the prizes were given out the DJ took control for the remainder of the night as the floor was opened up for dancing. Sailors and their guests spent the evening dancing, checking out the casino, visiting with others and just having an all around good time with their shipmates.

Recreational Reader

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2010

January Naval Station Everett Fleet & Family Readiness Program

See reverse for event times, locations and details.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| 17 <i>NFL Playoff Games</i> | 18 <i>Last day for Tao tickets (ITT, January 29 show)</i> <i>Last day for Paula Poundstone tickets (ITT, January 30 show)</i> <i>Last day for Rockin' Road Show tickets (ITT, January 31 show)</i> | 19 <i>(4-H) Microwave Magic</i> <i>Ombudsman Assembly and Advance Training</i> <i>Safety in Dangerous Situations, COD Event</i> <i>Poker Tournament</i> | 20 <i>Movie at Pierside</i> <i>Stress Management</i> <i>Transition and Relocation Assistance Coordinating Committee (TRACC)</i> | 21 <i>Start Smart Basketball</i> <i>Sponsor Training</i> <i>Smooth Move</i> | 22 | 23 <i>NFL Playoff Games</i> <i>Saturday Ski Shuttle to Stevens Pass</i> <i>Mountaineering Class: Ice Axe Arrest</i> <i>Bald Eagle Float Trip</i> |
| 24 <i>NFL Playoff Games</i> | 25 <i>Mid-Career CONSEP</i> | 26 <i>Mid-Career CONSEP (4-H) Microwave Magic</i> <i>Domestic Violence Awareness Training for Executive Leadership</i> <i>Madden Tournament</i> | 27 <i>Mid-Career CONSEP</i> <i>Movie at Pierside</i> <i>Freeze Yer Buns 5K Run</i> | 28 <i>Mid-Career CONSEP</i> <i>Start Smart Basketball</i> <i>Home Buying</i> <i>Foreign-Born Spouse</i> | 29 <i>Free Family Swim</i> <i>Last Buck Party</i> | 30 <i>Saturday Ski Shuttle to Mt. Baker</i> <i>Bald Eagle Float Trip</i> |
| 31 | | | | | | |

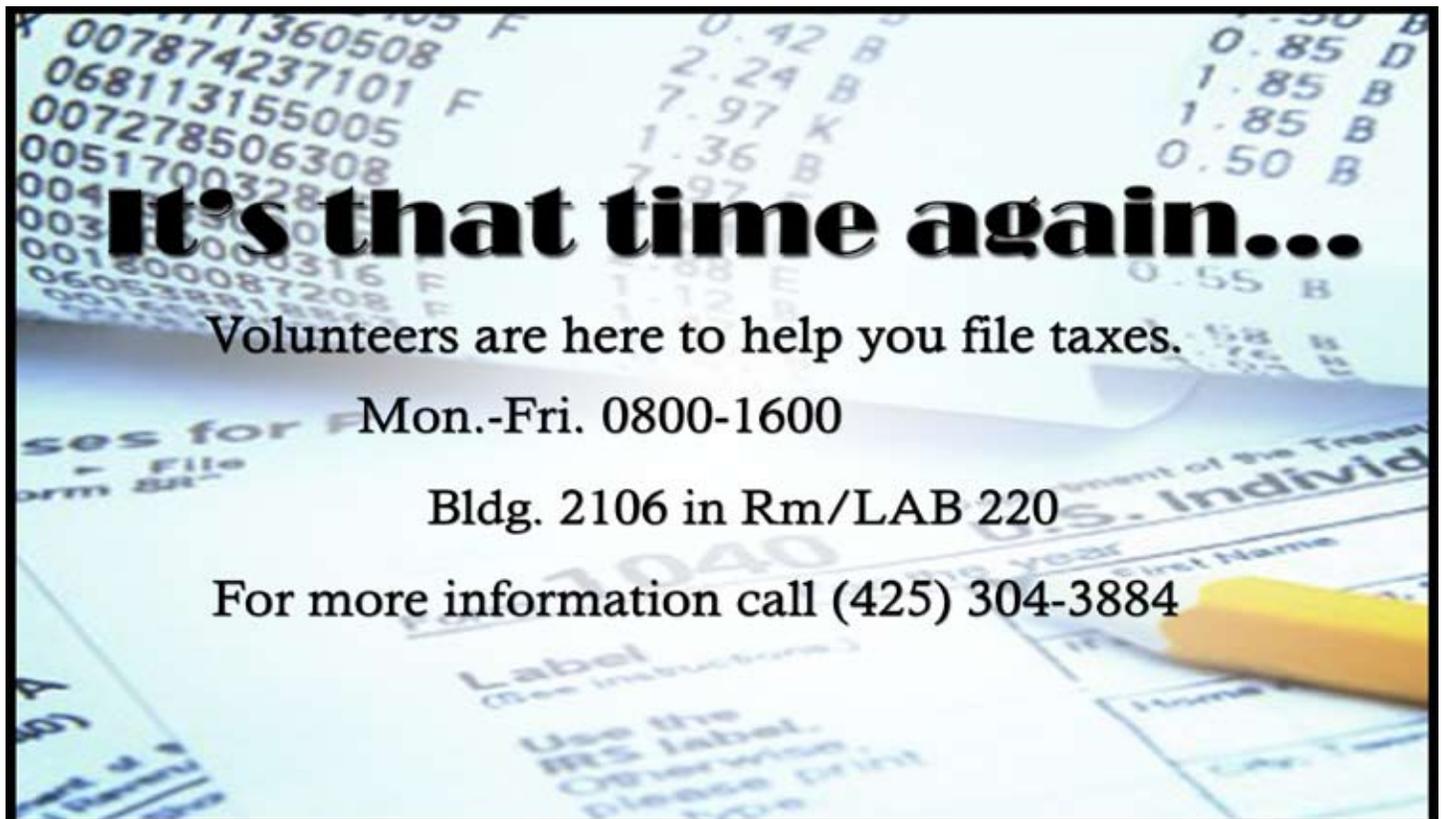
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Editor's Top 10

Top 10 Worst 1980s clothing items

10. Women's shoulder pads
9. Pat Benetar headband
8. Jams
7. Members Only jackets
6. One pink and one green Converse
5. Penny loafers, no socks
4. Jellies
3. Bedazzled jean jackets
2. Leg warmers
1. Zebra-striped Spandex pants and a WHAM T-shirt



Shipmates

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



Photo by MCSA Jerine Lee

USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) Supply Officer, Cmdr. Martin Fields awards Logistics Specialist Seaman John Liston with a certification of achievement.

