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PRESS

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

SECDEF Visits Lincoln:

Thanks Crew For Serving

Lincoln Aerographer's Mates:

How Their Forecasts Support The Strike Group

Know Your Shipmate:

SH3(SW/AW) Keyshawn Coats

KNOW YOUR SHIPMATE



SH3(SW/AW) KEYSHAWN COATS
Lincoln Barber Shop Supervisor

Ship's Serviceman 3rd Class Keyshawn Coats, from Gulfport, Miss., was accustomed to the military lifestyle prior to enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He traveled the world with his father, who served in the Navy. However, it was in Rota, Spain, where he would prepare to transition from a civilian to a military service member.

Coats graduated from David Glasscow Farrat High School in 2002, where he participated in NJROTC for two years. He went on to the University of South Carolina to pursue a degree in business management.

In 2004, Coats made a life-changing choice to enlist in the U.S. Navy in order to support his soon-to-be-born daughter, Janiyah.

Highly interested in business management, he chose to be a ship's serviceman because of the particular skills to be gained and the customer service nature of the rate.

"I like helping people," said Coats. "I want to make life better for people from unfortunate backgrounds."

Coats has served seven years in the Navy with great pride as a military member, a husband and a father. His wife, Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class Tequila Coats serves aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92). "I'm proud to be a great father to my princess, Janiyah, a great husband, a Sailor and a man of God," said Coats.

He continues to serve in USS Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) Supply Department, as supervisor of both the enlisted and khaki barbershops.

"I plan to be a 30-year Master Chief Ship's Serviceman, own my own businesses and coach football in Gulfport," said Coats about his long-term goals, in and out of the Navy.

-Compiled by MC2 Brian Morales

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Front Cover Photographer
MC3 Colby K. Neal

ESWS IN THE FAMILY

LINCOLN ESWS COORDINATOR PRESENTS WARFARE PIN TO YOUNGER BROTHER

Story and photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jerine Lee



Chief Intelligence Specialist Ernesto Zarate, had the unique honor of pinning his brother, Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Phillip Zarate, with the enlisted surface warfare specialist (ESWS) device Dec. 5 aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

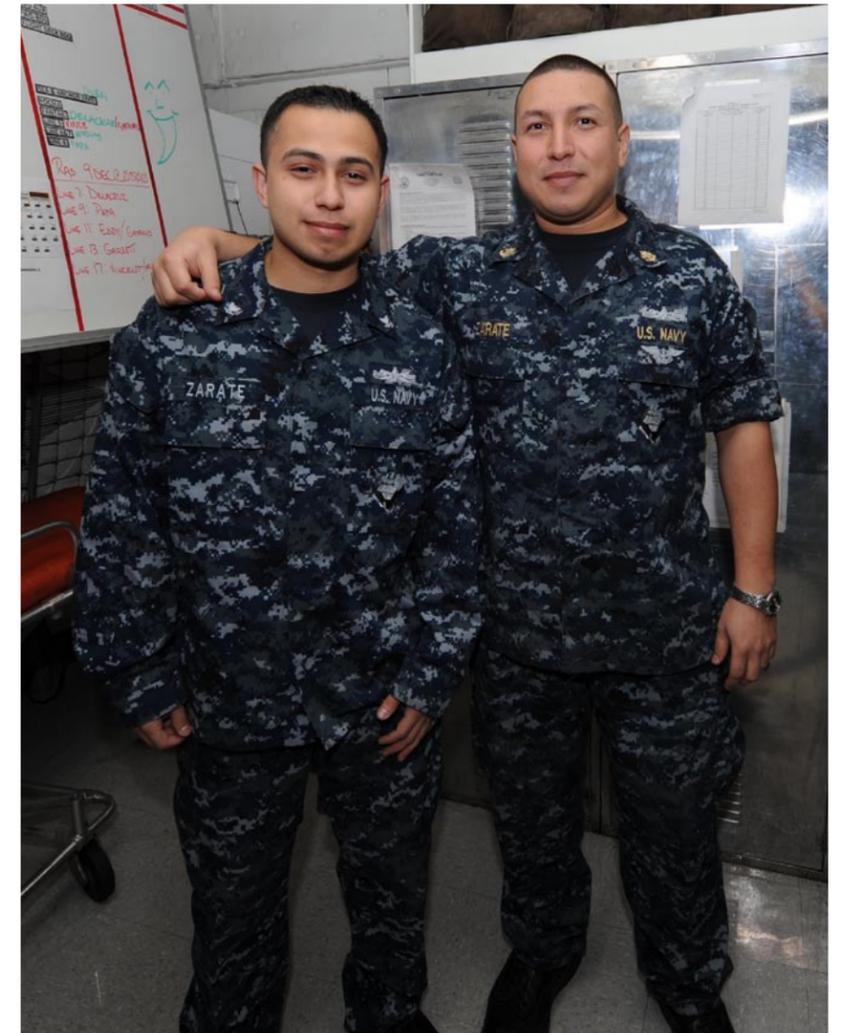
Because Ernesto is Lincoln's assistant command ESWS coordinator, he refrained from helping Phillip study for the qualification, but felt especially proud to pin his younger brother.

"As the assistant command coordinator, it would've been unfair to help my brother in studying but I also wanted him to study and learn everything like everyone else so he can appreciate it more and know that he earned it," said Ernesto.

Although Ernesto kept a safe distance in any help with studying for the ESWS pin, he has been a mentor for Phillip before he even reached the recruiting office.

"I definitely had the advantage of having an older brother to give me the extra information before joining the Navy," said Phillip. "He set me up with good information about each rating and helped me decide on what job was right for me and then told me what to expect before coming to the Lincoln."

"Even if he didn't help me with the studying, my brother motivated and pushed me every



day to keep studying and focus on getting my pin," added Phillip. "He was doing the big brother thing."

The Zarate brothers have a nine-year age difference and have been stationed together aboard Lincoln for about a year.

Ernesto claims having family on board during deployment is

very helpful when dealing with stresses from work while they are away from home.

"Having my little brother here is really nice," said Ernesto. "We help each other's morale a lot because whether it's a good day or a bad day, we always make time to talk to each other to vent or cheer each other up."

WEATHER GUESSERS? GUESS AGAIN

LINCOLN AEROGRAPHERS TRACK WEATHER TO SUPPORT STRIKE GROUP

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Spencer W. Mickler



From ships, and submarines in the water to aircraft in the sky there is one department aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) that has a forecast for it all; the Meteorology and Oceanography Center (METOC).

It's a misconception that being part of the METOC team means just coming up with a four-day weather prediction like you'd see on a local news channel.

"It's pretty varied as far as weather goes, because weather impacts so much of what goes on around the ship," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Gregory Ortiz, of Dallas.

Using data gathered from the air and sea, aerographer's mates (AGs) from Lincoln's METOC are able to support the missions of just about everyone in the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

While AGs are often affectionately referred to as "weather guessers",

coming up with the most accurate estimates requires data gathering, technology, and faithful application of scientific method.

Ortiz said forecasting the weather can be the difference between keeping a plane on the ground or seeing the enemy before they see the ship, so there isn't much room for wild stabs and rolls of the dice.

"We monitor for any thunder storm warnings, dust warnings and typhoons to see if the ship or any of our flight operations will be impacted," said Ortiz. "We have a couple of people who coordinate with Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9 by taking water samples to test the salinity, temperature and pressure to see how sonar is going to propagate through the water. We also take readings from the atmosphere to find out how well we can expect our radars to perform."

Knowing how well the ship's sonar and radar will perform with the given

conditions could potentially be a big leg up tactically, but the METOC doesn't stop with analyzing Lincoln's own systems.

"We run ranges on how the enemy's radar and sonar propagate the atmosphere and water as well as our own," said Ortiz. "The weapons sensors also have different ranges. When using infrared targeting, laser targeting, or night vision goggles dust and weather can have a big impact, and that's another way we support the war fighters."

AGs also support Lincoln's embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 by giving them hourly weather briefs for their missions," he added.

"Weather is an important part of flying," said Lt. Eric Zilberman, a pilot assigned to the Blue Blasters of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 34. "If we don't have a good understanding of what the weather is going to do to us then we can't predict how we're going to carry out our mission."

"The atmosphere can be homogenous for miles and miles, so when we do high atmosphere readings, with balloons, we can take those numbers and get a good idea of what the area is like," said Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Jason Williams, of Ventura, Calif.

Just like the plot to a comic book, AGs from across the Navy combine forces to create an even greater global force for good.

Williams said data gathered from their high-atmosphere balloons are sent to Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center in Monterey, Calif., where the data can serve in an even larger capacity, supporting the entire U.S. military.

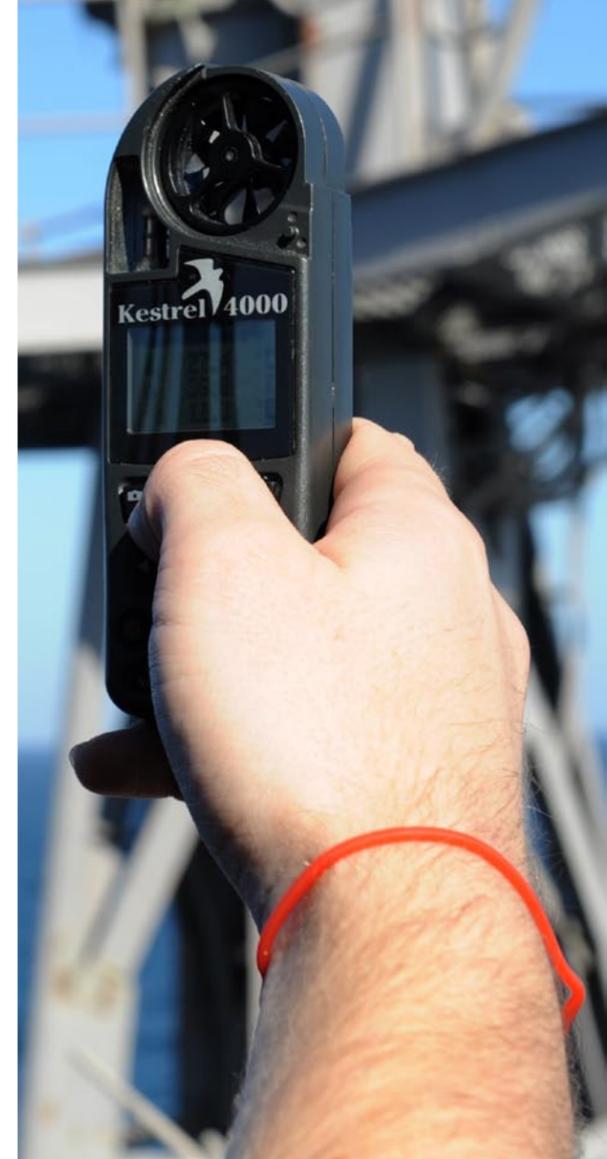
"Fleet Numerical compiles all the data from the METOC community, and puts it into a computer software program that spits out a prediction model,"

said Williams. "The more ships feeding data into the program the more accurate the predictions come out."

AGs are proud of the work they do, supporting many vital roles within a strike group.

"We know that the information we provide has the potential to save lives, save aircraft and save money," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Stephanie Reynolds, of Quitman, Ga. "If there's bad weather, and we forecast it correctly, it could prevent casualties due to unsafe flying conditions. If there's good weather, we ensure that is factored into mission planning."

You may not see them on a daily basis, but every time you hear a plane land safely or see a radar dish spinning it's safe to assume that the AGs at METOC are doing their part.



SECDEF VISITS LINCOLN, THANKS SAILORS FOR SERVING

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian Morales



The secretary of defense (SECDEF) visited the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) Dec. 6 in the Arabian Sea.

The visit marked the first time SECDEF Robert M. Gates has been aboard a deployed aircraft carrier.

Gates visited Lincoln to see firsthand the ship supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Upon arriving aboard Lincoln in the early morning, Gates was welcomed by Rear Adm. Mark D. Guadagnini, commander, Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, and Capt. John D. Alexander, Lincoln's commanding officer.

In the ship's hangar bay, Gates met with aircraft maintenance personnel alongside one of Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2's more than 40

F/A-18 Hornets. In addition, Gates met with shipboard machinery repairmen who showed their vast capabilities to manufacture and repair complex equipment and machinery parts.

Gates then ate lunch with a number of junior enlisted Sailors in a personal setting where he answered individual questions.

"It was a life changing experience," said Yeoman 3rd Class Matthew Rodgers, from San Mateo, Calif., and assigned to the Sun Kings of Airborne Early Warning Squadron 116.

Rodgers was one of 12 junior Sailors given the opportunity to meet the secretary during lunch.

Gates' personal visits with Sailors also included watchstanders driving the ship on the bridge, aviators in a squadron ready room

and chief petty officers on the ship's bridge wing.

Gates addressed more than 3,000 crew members during an all hands call in the hangar bay, after he administered the oath of enlistment for 13 Sailors. He also answered questions for more than 20 minutes after his remarks and recognized 50 outstanding Sailors selected for their hard work and dedication.

"I wanted to re-enlist to continue my career in the Navy and re-enlisting with the SECDEF is a once in the life opportunity since not everyone gets the chance to do it," said Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW/AW) Ingrý Lopez, from Los Angeles.

Ingrý re-enlisted for four years and is assigned Lincoln's supply department.

"It was my honor to have a

picture taken with the honorable Mr. Gates, and I was so excited to receive his coin. I am a coin collector and having his is priceless," said Lopez.

While addressing the crew, Gates praised the strike group for their exceptional record at the halfway point of their deployment.

"First and foremost, this visit gives me the opportunity to thank all of you for your service," said Gates. "The quality of Sailors and aviators on board this ship today is unprecedented in the history of our nation."

Meeting the defense secretary is a highlight of the deployment many Lincoln Sailors will not soon forget.

"This day will definitely go in my wall of great naval memories," Lopez said.

The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility conducting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts to establish conditions for regional stability.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Morales



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Morales



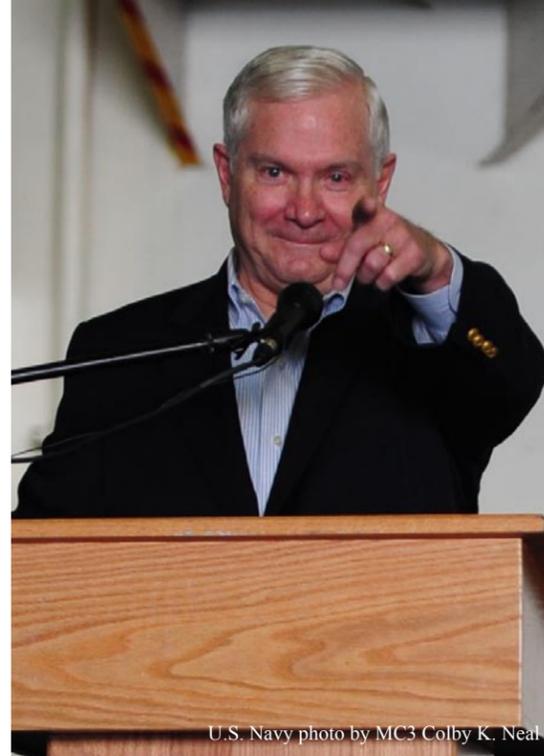
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Morales



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alan Gragg



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alan Gragg



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Colby K. Neal



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Sarah Murphy



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Sarah Murphy



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Alan Gragg



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Sarah Murphy

DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT M. GATES ADDRESSED LINCOLN SAILORS AND ANSWERED THEIR QUESTIONS DURING AN ALL HANDS CALL IN THE SHIP'S HANGAR BAY, DEC. 6.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Colby K. Neal



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Brian Morales



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Thomas G. Siniff

NIMITZ DEPARTS FOR BREMERTON, FINAL STOP: EVERETT

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class J.D. Levite, USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) departed San Diego Dec. 6 to conduct an administrative homeport change from Naval Base Coronado to Naval Base Kitsap at Bremerton, Wash.

Nimitz is making the homeport change to conduct a year-long docking-planned incremental availability (DPIA) at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF) at Bremerton.

“During the maintenance period, Nimitz will receive major upgrades to its potable water system, combat and self defense systems, navigational systems, electrical load centers and numerous other components,” said Lt. Cmdr. Charles Jones, ship’s maintenance manager for Nimitz.

Nimitz has called the San Diego area home since 2001 when the ship shifted homeports from Newport News, Va., after completing a three-year complex refueling overhaul.

“I would be remiss if I didn’t take the opportunity to say thank you to all the folks in San Diego who took care of our Sailors, and not only our Sailors, but their families as well while we deployed,” said Capt. Paul Monger, Nimitz’ commanding officer.

“I’m sad but I’m happy,” said Lila Vasquez, mother of

Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class Lourdes Torres, who is making the move up to Washington. “We’re used to having her close by, but we know it is important for the ship that she goes.”

Since 2001, Nimitz has deployed five times as part of Carrier Strike Group 11, including its most recent deployment from July 2009 to March 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet.

“USS Nimitz has called San Diego her home for almost a decade, and we are grateful to the entire community for the support they have shown us,” said Monger.

Nimitz’ DPIA is scheduled from Jan. 11, 2011, until Dec. 16, 2011.

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is the only government dry dock capable of accommodating a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier on the West Coast. The Navy expects to accomplish approximately 450,000 man days of work during the DPIA. Much of the work will be conducted by government workers at PSNS, but a substantial amount, around 72,000 man days, is expected to be accomplished in the private sector, with a significant effort being accomplished by the Nimitz crew.

LINCOLN SAILORS TAKE BREAK FROM DEPLOYMENT TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sarah Murphy



Sailors aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) honored Native American heritage through a celebration in the ship’s hangar bay, Dec. 10.

The event was themed “Life is Sacred, Celebrate Healthy Native Communities” and the audience witnessed speeches, music and cultural dances promoting Native American heritage.

Opening remarks for the celebration were given by Capt. John D. Alexander, Lincoln’s commanding officer, where he said he believes that the Navy’s strength lies within its diverse community.

“We are here to celebrate the diversity of our nation and the diversity of our military,” he said. “We are a nation that is blended, and we are stronger for that.”

Legalman 2nd Class Swanlynn Chico, a full-blooded Apache, coordinated the celebration.

“Native Americans tend to be quiet about their history and cultures; it was difficult to come up with a way to celebrate them all, without being disrespectful to one another, but we were able to do that,” said Chico. “In the end it turned out to be great and I think the crew really enjoyed it.”

Traditional Native American attire is made completely by hand and since the members of the diversity council did not bring it on board, they decided to piece together their own outfits while on liberty in Bahrain.

“Traditional dance wear is tanned and beaded by hand from start to finish,” said Chico. “There would be no way of making sure the materials could be mailed to the ship, or shipped home safely, so when we got to Bahrain, we searched for items we could use. I think we did a pretty good job.”

More than 20 Sailors contributed to celebration, with a total of 10 different tribes being highlighted. Each participant was able to showcase their tribe’s history to bring a better understanding to the crew.

“The Native American cultures are known, but not widely celebrated,” said Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Marisol Rodriguez, a member of Lincoln’s diversity council committee. “This celebration gives us the opportunity to show the beauty of the Native American culture and the opportunity to appreciate the talents of our shipmates.”

During the presentation, several Native Americans in their personally-designed attire performed traditional inter-tribal dances including the Buffalo Dance, a dance done with a partner, and a Round Dance, also called a friendship dance that brings social interaction within the tribe.

“I’m very proud to be Native American and glad that we (the Diversity Counsel) were given the opportunity

to educate the crew on the different Native American Cultures,” said Chico.

Currently, more than 15,000 active duty, reserve, and civilian members of the Navy declare themselves American Indian or Alaska Native. The inclusion of Native Americans and their many experiences, talents and viewpoints are essential to the Navy’s mission and operational readiness.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month. Today, National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month is celebrated to recognize the intertribal cultures of Native Americans and to inform the public of the rich heritage, history, and tradition of American Indian and Native American people.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 4.5 million American Indians and Alaska Natives comprise 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population.



NAVY TAKES DOWN ARMY FOR 9TH STRAIGHT SERIES WIN

Story and photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Alan Gragg



The 2010 gridiron clash between the U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman and U.S. Military Academy Army Black Knights marked the 111th meeting between the service schools.

Navy continued their dominance in the series, winning their ninth straight matchup against Army, 31-17.

The turning-point in the game came when Army was knocking on the door for another touchdown, but defensive star Wyatt Middleton snagged a loose ball and returned it 98 yards to turn the tide against Army.

The Mids entered the game ranked fifth in the country in rushing (302.6 yards per game), 16th in turnover margin (+0.9) and 19th in passing efficiency (151.2). Navy was also No. 1 in fewest penalty yards per game (29.1) and No. 2 in fewest penalties per game (3.6).

Mistake-free, solid play has become the standard for Navy under head coach Ken Niumatalolo, and he had his team focused and ready to go against their biggest rival.

Army's offense sputtered early and Navy jumped out to a 17-0 lead.

Eventually, Army was able to rally, scoring their first touchdown in the rivalry game since 2006. Prior to the game, Army had scored a total of six points in the last three matchups.

Army put together a nice drive late in the second quarter, only to have disaster strike when Middleton sprinted free for a defensive touchdown.

Despite each team being bowl-eligible for the first time since 1996, the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy wasn't on the line in this game as it usually is during the annual Army-Navy slugfest. The Air Force Academy took that honor by beating both Army and Navy during the 2010 season.

All the military academies should be proud this year, because for the first time ever, all three teams will play in bowl games at the end of the season.

This year's Army-Navy game was a bit sloppy; with a total of six fumbles, and Navy quarterback Ricky Dobbs threw one interception. Navy's four turnovers sure didn't help their cause, but Dobbs threw for 181 yards at a rate of 15.1 yards per completion, eating up the Army secondary.

The battle for total net yardage was nearly equal, with Army having the edge 332-328. However, Army committed 16 penalties for 140 yards, while well-behaved Navy drew only two flags for 10 yards.

Passing average and penalties were the two major differences numbers-wise, that and the score.

In what has become the norm for nearly a decade, Army is saying "maybe next year."

DON'T TAKE WINNING STREAK FOR GRANTED; RIVALRY WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS

By Lt. Cmdr. William Marks, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Academy Class of '96

For all the youngsters out there who are used to seeing Navy dominate this series, I'd like to bring you back to my four years at the Academy.

Those of us who graduated in 1996 can fully sympathize with West Point fans of today; we lost all four of my years, from 1992-1995, each one in the heartbreaking fashion of missed last-second field goals, ill-timed penalties and gutsy fourth quarter comebacks by the Black Knights.

It didn't get any better over the next few years, with the 2001 Navy team going completely winless for an entire season, and over a three-year stretch from '00-'02, Navy had a combined record of 3-30.

From 2003 on, Navy's fortunes have changed, as the Midshipmen will play in their eighth straight bowl game. But before any Navy fans get too arrogant, they should remember the dark decade from '92-'02.

2010 ARMY-NAVY GAME QUARTER-BY-QUARTER SCORING SUMMARY

1st Quarter:
Navy-FG Joe Buckley, 36 Yd, 12:02. Drive: 4 plays, 34 yards in 01:21. Navy 3, Army 0
Navy-TD John Howell, 77 Yd pass from Ricky Dobbs (Joe Buckley kick is good), 8:44. Drive: 2 plays, 81 yards in 01:01. Navy 10, Army 0

2nd Quarter:
Navy-TD Brandon Turner, 32 Yd pass from Ricky Dobbs (Joe Buckley kick is good), 13:44. Drive: 8 plays, 85 yards in 04:55. Navy 17, Army 0
Army-TD Malcolm Brown, 5 Yd pass from Trent Steelman (Alex Carlton kick is good), 8:19. Drive: 6 plays, 23 yards in 03:11. Navy 17, Army 7
Navy-TD Wyatt Middleton, 98 Yd fumble return (Joe Buckley kick is good), 1:21. Navy 24, Army 7

3rd Quarter:
Army-FG Alex Carlton, 42 Yd, 8:08. Drive: 11 plays, 36 yards in 06:52. Navy 24, Army 10

4th Quarter:
Navy-TD Gee Gee Greene, 25 Yd run (Joe Buckley kick is good), 5:44. Drive: 13 plays, 17 yards in 09:16. Navy 31, Army 10
Army-TD Malcolm Brown, 45 Yd pass from Trent Steelman (Alex Carlton kick is good), 4:12. Drive: 5 plays, 80 yards in 01:32. Navy 31, Army 17



WATCHING NAVY BEAT ARMY REQUIRED SACRIFICING SLEEP, BUT NAVY'S DIE-HARD FANS OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T MIND



SAILORS WATCH ARMY-NAVY GAME AT SEA

By Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Deontee Moss



When I think of great rivalries in College Football I think of Ohio State-Michigan, Texas-Oklahoma, Alabama-Auburn, and of course Army and Navy.

So when I was asked to give my perspective of watching the game while on deployment I couldn't say 'yes' fast enough.

Although I have never been to an Army-Navy game, watching it on the American Forces Network aboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) seemed to carry a little more meaning to me than when I've watched it at home in the past.

To get a feel for how other people felt about the game, I walked around the ship. In the hangar bay, a large screen was set up with speakers displaying the game. In each of the squadron ready rooms, a handful of pilots were

watching the game with their squadron mates.

I was curious to see how watching it on the ship was different from being at the game in person.

During halftime, I spoke with a Naval Academy grad, Lt. j. g. Zach Decker, who said "There is nothing like being there."

"There is some serious pride that goes on during that football game," added Decker, who was a part of Navy's Class of '07.

He and several other officers, many of them academy grads, were watching the game in one of the ship's wardrooms, commenting about seeing the game from the ship as opposed to in person.

"I've watched it more times on deployment than on land," said Lt. Cmdr. Rich Cochran, a Naval Academy graduate in 1995. "I should be sleeping

right now," he added, as he smiled with pride for his Navy football team.

In addition to talking about staying up late to watch the game (which began at 11:30 p.m. local-time), the officers mentioned missing out on the outdoor weather of the annual game, which normally takes place in Philadelphia.

Lt. j.g. Dan Kunzman, another 2007 Naval Academy graduate said that he would take the cold of the game rather than watching it on deployment any day.

As for myself, I am not sure if I would be willing to stand out in the cold for so long, as members of both schools are required to do, but I know that I will be watching Army-Navy games for many, many years to come.

Maybe someday I will be there in person, but the experience of watching the game on deployment is not one I will soon forget.

GATES HEADS BACK TO WASHINGTON FROM OVERSEAS TRIP

By John D. Banusiewicz, American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates returned to Washington Dec. 10, after visiting with deployed servicemembers, getting a ground-view perspective on operations in eastern and southern Afghanistan, and meeting with leaders in Oman, Afghanistan and the United Arab Emirates.

Speaking with reporters on the homeward leg of the trip, Gates touched on several topics, starting with the meeting he had last night in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nubayan.

“We talked about our bilateral relationship, particularly, our military-to-military relationship, as well as the desirability of greater multilateral cooperation in the Gulf on air and missile defense and maritime surveillance,” the secretary said. “We talked about Afghanistan, where the UAE is making a real contribution both on the military side and on the economic and humanitarian assistance side and is providing support to some of the other participating countries.”

Gates said he thanked the crown prince for the United Arab Emirates’ support in sustaining the Palestinian Authority over the last several months, and the meeting also included discussion on the need to keep providing assistance to the Yemeni government as it takes on the various challenges there.

“The key is getting in there before there’s a crisis with economic assistance and with building partnership capacity,” he said. “Both the UAE and Oman are engaged in these activities with development projects. Other countries are as well. The United States has some efforts ongoing in this respect, particularly in the building partnership capacity.”

The need to keep up the economic and diplomatic pressure on Iran related to its nuclear program was another topic in the meeting, the secretary said.

“I won’t speak for Oman or the UAE,” he said, “but I think that there is general support in the region for applying the sanctions and for doing what we can to make the sanctions

effective and try to influence the Iranian government to walk away from their nuclear weapons program.

“There clearly is concern -- not just in this region, but elsewhere – about Iran’s overall aggressive behavior with respect to Hezbollah and Lebanon and other places around the world,” he continued, “and I think that’s a broadly shared concern.”

Gates spent two days in Afghanistan this week, where he met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other government officials, visited with troops in Helmand and Kandahar provinces, and received briefings on operations – particularly in eastern and southern Afghanistan – from military leaders serving in the International Security Assistance Force.

“I think we have made more progress in Kandahar faster than I expected,” he said. “They have moved in that area much more rapidly than I had anticipated.”

It’s clear that depending on the circumstances, the military strategy must differ from one part of the country to another, Gates said.

“For example, in the east, what we’re engaged in is a disruption and a blocking activity to stop the Taliban coming across the border from making it into Jalalabad and Kabul, whereas in the south it’s a different strategy, clearing the Taliban out of populated areas and holding those areas.”

Part of the reason why forces along Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan are encountering more enemy fighters is pressure on the Pakistani side of the border, Gates said. While in Afghanistan, he added, he talked about the importance of building collaboration between the two countries so they’re planning operations on both sides of the border at the same time and reinforcing each other’s actions.

“My sense is that both Afghanistan and Pakistan are open to that,” the secretary said. “There have been a number of meetings between the military officials, and we participate in some, but not in all. We’re willing to facilitate that cooperation.”

NEXCOM TO PROVIDE FREE PHONE CARDS DURING UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

By Kristine M. Sturkie, Navy Exchange Service Command Public Affairs

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. -- The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) announced Dec. 7 that military members underway or forward deployed during the holiday season will be given a free \$10 phone card to call loved ones back home.

This is the ninth holiday in a row that NEXCOM has offered free phone cards to deployed military members.

“Our military men and women do so much and sacrifice so much throughout the year to protect our country,” said Jennie Zack, NEXCOM personal telecommunications specialist. “These free phone cards are a way we can give back to them and thank them for their service. That is especially important during the holiday season when they are away from their loved ones.”

Each Sailor, Marine and Coast Guardsmen who will be forward deployed during the December 2010 holiday season on board Navy ships or submarines, as well as Coast Guard vessels, equipped with AT&T Direct Ocean Service phones will receive a \$10 prepaid phone card. NEXCOM expects to distribute nearly 35,000 free phone cards during the holidays.

BOOK REVIEW: ‘FACES OF FEAR’ BY JOHN SAUL

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Sarah Murphy



John Saul’s, “Faces of Fear” is the book I chose for review because I have read some of his previous publications and I enjoyed them. After finishing this book, I realize that it does not bring the word fear into mind ... creepy is more like it. Check out this passage:

Out of the darkness and through her terror, she heard a voice.

“All I want is your lips.”

My lips, she thought. Why would someone want my —

Before she could finish the thought, the knife sliced across her throat...

There are specific physical criteria the killer needs from his female victims, each one of them has something he wants. He finds these women on Myspace, facebook and even dating websites, then he chooses who will be the next to donate based on their facial features. His excitement grows each time he finds one because it has taken him years to find everything he needs. He just needs to find the perfect woman who will undergo the complete transformation.

Conrad Dunn, a famous Beverly Hills cosmetic super-surgeon, created the perfect face to go with the perfect body; a supermodel who has been featured on the cover of every fashion magazine imaginable, his wife Margot. But after her face is severely scarred in a boating accident, a year rolls by and Conrad has done little to correct the angry scars that have left her disfigured.

Margot is finally pressured into attending her first social event, she tries to cover up her disfigurement with the help of experts, but all the makeup in the world couldn’t help her. She is well aware of the side-glances and whispered comments from strangers and “friends” alike.

Conrad loved her to only one fault, he didn’t see the scars like Margot did, he believes she is still beautiful

and thinks ‘to hell with all the other people,’ he will fix the scars as soon as she is physically ready ... but that time did not come soon enough.

In the days following the party, Margot leaves a simple message for Conrad, then drives her car to Palos Verdes, Calif., and takes a header off a cliff onto the California coastal rocks below.

Meanwhile, a middle-class real estate agent, Rita, finds out her husband, Michael, is having an affair with another man. Needless to say they divorce immediately. They have a 16-year-old daughter, Alison Shaw, a normal teenager who has great friends, good grades and is blessed with a healthy, athletic body to go with her naturally perfect bone structure.

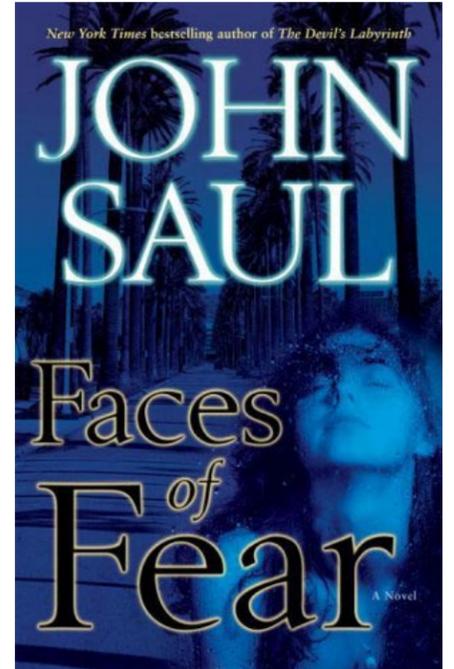
At Margot’s funeral, Conrad meets Rita, which ties the two families together. The two end up getting married a year later, but unfortunately, the book doesn’t explain their courtship, which makes you wonder how this romance blossomed. Their only prior interaction was when they met at the funeral.

The situation puts teenager Alison in an awkward position that forces her to adapt to a new life, one that only money could buy. Her new stepdad enrolls her in a private school, surrounding her with high-society feminine perfection.

Never before had she seen teenagers go to such lengths to feel accepted. Her new peers live a lifestyle ridden with every enhancement surgery imaginable. They expect Alison to do the same, especially now that her stepfather is a plastic surgeon.

The height of the plot occurs when a local anchor woman finds similarities in the area’s most recent murders and starts connecting them to killings from more than 16 years earlier... I won’t spoil the surprise, but she pieces the puzzle together and airs it on the news.

Alison doesn’t know it yet, but the



killer has been keeping a close eye on her, waiting for the opportunity to lure her into his private fantasy.

The story has a typical lesson to teenagers, don’t meet with strangers you find on the Internet, be careful who you go out with and always use the buddy system. The motive for the killings and the eventual outcome won’t surprise many readers.

This book left me wanting more, needing to feel as if I was a part of the story as I normally do when I read his books. I kept reading to the end hoping for more twists and turns in the plot, looking for the true John Saul-style that this book was clearly lacking. It was almost as though someone else wrote it and slapped John Saul’s name on the cover.

I’d still give it three pennies because it was an easy story to follow for the most part and I enjoyed the suspenseful pace at the end of the book.

Our rating....

We give it 3 out of 5 pennies



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