



Focus on our Sailors

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Last month, Admiral Gary Roughead published the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Guidance for 2010 on Executing the Maritime Strategy. His three focus areas are “to build the future force, maintain our warfighting readiness, and develop and support our Sailors, Navy civilians, and their families.” It is with regard to this last focus area that our Association can be of the most value.

Today, the Navy competes with private employers for the best and the brightest young men and women entering the workforce. In 2009, the Navy met overall recruiting goals while exceeding quality standards. Although jobs are difficult to find for some, the top talent always has options. As the economy improves, it is essential to continue to communicate the viability and the value of a naval career. By doing so, we can help ensure the Navy continues to be able to hire the top talent. Get involved in programs such as NJROTC or community events. By sharing with potential new Sailors the opportunities we’ve experienced serving our nation, we can help them to visualize themselves in uniform as well.



ISCS Jon Altman, CDR Gerald McCaughey, NOAC; CAPT John Farr, Jennifer McCaughey (not seen behind CAPT Farr), CAPT Mark Hardy, Helene Bradley, CAPT Carol Culbertson (behind Helene), DKCM Charles Bradley, and Dr. Maureen Lindell, PhD

Assist our Wounded and Returning Warriors by donating time and effort to let them know we care. During the Fall Conference, several of us visited patients in Balboa Naval Hospital. We sat and talked to Sailors who had just undergone surgery, and gave each we met a teddy bear hand-crocheted by Ann Butler that said “thank you.” Personally, I was a bit concerned that Sailors hospitalized with serious wounds or medical conditions would want a bear, but I was wrong. The Chief I met with asked if he could take it to his Chief’s Mess. A first class petty officer had tears in her eyes when we gave her a bear — touched that someone she never met would take the time to visit just

because she was a fellow Sailor. It takes so little to offer a “thank you” that means so much. If you’ve never been to your local veterans or military hospital, go there. Visitors are welcome, and your generosity can have a lasting effect on our shipmates who need support and encouragement.

Ask at your local church or community center if you have a neighbor who may be deployed or assigned overseas. Offer to help the family who may be struggling to cope with an absent parent or spouse for the first time; let them know they are part of a bigger Navy family.

CNO specifically mentioned Navy civilians in his top three. At our Fall Conference, we voted to extend regular membership eligibility to civilian employees of the Department of the Navy (DoN). Although we had some spirited debate about whether we should admit DoN Civilians, I respectfully submit that these patriots are integral members of our One Navy team. This action is more than symbolic. We are now truly the Association of the United States Navy.

We have the largest and most potent Navy in the world today. Ships and aircraft are important, but they mean nothing without our Navy people. Reach out to our Sailors who have served or are still serving, and let them know how proud you are of them. Go one better, and invite them to become a fellow member of our Association. Their Navy careers may benefit greatly from the insight and wisdom we freely share among ourselves. Thanks for being a member, and for all that you do for our fellow Sailors.

G. Mark Hardy