



# Bottom Line: Up Front

May 2009

***This document is for information purposes and is designed to ensure that all personnel are aware of the many issues/changes that occur in our Navy. Although not inclusive, it is a great venue to share our best practices. If you have information, programs or best practices that you would like to share Navy-wide, send them via your applicable ISIC or Force Master Chief for inclusion. Thanks for your support and feedback.***

WEBSITE OF THE MONTH: NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND  
[www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

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Welcome to the first edition of "Bottom Line: Up Front." This is going to be a monthly newsletter intended to provide our Mess with relevant information to pass to our Sailors or discuss amongst fellow Chiefs.

This is not intended to be a publication full of the MCPON's views on our Navy. The intent is to push information to you and let you run with it. I see this product evolving over the next several months and I'm depending on you to help by sending in best practices, suggested articles or items you feel the rest of the Mess would benefit from to MCCS(SW/AW) Bill Houlihan at [William.houlihan@navy.mil](mailto:William.houlihan@navy.mil)

Communication is critical to our success as leaders. "Bottom Line: Up Front" is going to be just one of the avenues we use to make sure we're all on the same page and that our Sailors are receiving the most accurate information possible.

This is a starting point and I expect it to improve. Help me do that with your feedback and your ideas.

Hooyah Shipmates.

Rick

## What's Hot

--**Continuation Board** will convene in September. With the release of the NAVADMIN, you know who will be looked at and here's what your Chiefs need to know: this is not about numbers or quotas. This board is performance driven. Bottom line: a DUI, NJP, successive PRT failures all will get a Chief a hard look from that board. I've been asked a lot why CMCs aren't included. Here's the answer: Our command master chiefs are rigorously screened. And once they assume those positions, if they violate any of these items laid out in the NAVADMIN they will be taken to task by the Commanding Officers. Essentially, they're dealing with a continuation board every day.

--**Standards and Conduct Board**. This is a CPO-driven initiative and it's putting the responsibility to develop Sailors exactly where it should be: in the Chief's Mess. Look for the S/C Board instruction to hit the fleet later this summer and Navy-wide implementation soon after. Bottom line: the S/C Board will replace the Disciplinary Review Board process and give the Mess the opportunity to weigh in on risky Sailor behavior before it gets to be a problem. Will this board take the place of NJP or Mast? Absolutely not. That's not our call. I see this as a proactive vice reactive program to work with our Sailors early, identify potential issues and then resolve them prior to them becoming a factor in something bigger. It has been Fleet tested with very good results.

--**Induction**. In a little more than two months we'll know our newest CPO Selectees. Guidance has been out for two months and I know planning is well underway. Building Chiefs is serious business. It's important to our Mess, our Navy and every one of our Sailors. I expect every Chief to participate. And I expect our Selectees to fully understand how challenging life as a Chief can be. Introduce them to that through Induction. I'm looking forward to seeing all the great efforts and ideas.

## Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill (a.k.a. chapter 33). The VA began processing applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1, 2009, but they will not be processed until August 1, 2009. Many service members and veterans are eligible for both the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill. The VA has information to help individuals compare benefits under the two programs at its website: [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). Applications for the Post 9-11 GI Bill and all other GI Bill Program benefits are available electronically through VONAPP on the DVA website: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

## MCPON on Twitter

Get updates and stay connected on the MCPON Twitter page. Twitter is a social networking and micro-blogging service that enables users to send updates and read updates of others. Links to news stories and photos can be found on MCPON's page. <http://twitter.com/mcponpao>

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*BLUF: Easy to sign up for an account. Many of our ships have Twitter accounts and I see that several of you do as well. Great way to get timely information out to the public and to one another.*

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## Motorcycle Safety

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*Motorcycles are the number one killer of Navy Sailors.*

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Last year 33 Sailors lost their lives and most of those casualties were on sport bikes operated by untrained riders.

Motorcycle riders are required to complete the basic rider course, but also intermediate level motorcycle training. (Sport bike riders must enroll in the military sport bike rider course (MSRC) and cruiser riders must complete the experienced rider course. These courses are mandatory)

The Navy has dedicated significant resources to the cause including \$3.5 million in new motorcycle ranges and improvements, \$10 million for dedicated contract training with Cape Fox professional services and policy changes to mandate training.

Registration for courses can be found at:

[www.navymotorcyclerider.com](http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com)

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*BLUF: Due to your engagement, stats are trending down but 1 death is too many. We're still having trouble getting our Sailors to the motorcycle safety classes. Chiefs and First Class Petty Officers need to engage on this.*

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## Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program

Military OneSource ([www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)) recently announced the Military Career Advancement Program (MSCAAP) which provides financial assistance to spouses of Active Duty Military personnel. The Career Advancement Account (CAA) distributes the funds allocated by Congress and administered by the Department of Defense. Each spouse may receive up to \$6,000 for education, training, licensure or certification in careers in high-growing, high-demand occupations.

There is no cost to participate in MSCAAP. However, if the license, certification, credentialing, education or training expenses exceed the \$6,000 limit, the remaining cost will be the responsibility of the individual.

Members must have a minimum of one year remaining on the current commitment to be eligible and it is open to spouses of Reserves called to active duty.

For more information on MSCAAP, visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>

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*BLUF: Look as hard as you want, there is no downside to this. Get this word to your Sailors and their families.*

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## Career Intermission Pilot Program

NAVADMIN 095/09 announces the Navy's Career Intermission Pilot Program (CIPP) and application guidelines.

CIPP provides a one time temporary transition from active duty to the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) for a period of one to three years for service members to pursue personal or professional obligations outside of the Navy, while providing a means for their seamless return to active duty.

More information can be found under the Career Intermission tab on the Task Force Life/Work webpage at: [www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/taskforcelifework](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/taskforcelifework)

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*BLUF: Look into this and determine if it's the right program for any of your Sailors. At the very least, it's a discussion point when we begin to consider the different ways the Navy is trying to maintain our reputation as a Top 50 Employer.*

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## Calendar for America

NAVADMIN 071/09 announces upcoming events to enhance public awareness and understanding of the Navy's mission and extraordinary people in support of our nation at war, especially in non-fleet concentration areas.

The CNO has a strong desire to tell the Navy story to America and has directed a more strategic approach to the development and delivery of that message. The key tasks are to educate Americans about the maritime strategy and highlight the courageous and dedicated service of our personnel.

Navy Week is the flagship middle-America outreach activity and is led by CHINFO's Navy Office and Community Outreach (NAVCO) in partnership with Navy Recruiting Districts. CNO has asked more senior flag leadership to engage. The Navy Week 2009 program embraces the expeditionary mindset with nearly 50 percent of the Navy Week schedule taking place in first-ever Navy Week locations.

More information can be found at: [www.navy.mil/navco](http://www.navy.mil/navco)

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*BLUF: I'll be attending Navy Week in Chattanooga this June. I'd highly recommend our entire Mess take a look at the opportunities that are out there for senior enlisted leaders to reach out to the community and tell the Navy story.*

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## 2009 Diversity Events Calendar

NAVADMIN 106/09 updates the 2009 diversity events calendar. Improving Navy diversity is a strategic imperative and we are committed to developing, implementing and improving programs to promote a diverse workforce in which all Sailors realize their maximum potential.

More information can be found at:

[www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/diversity](http://www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/diversity)

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*BLUF: Diversity is very simply this: making sure every Sailor is being developed, and given the best chance to contribute to our mission. Get to know this calendar and push it to your Sailors. All of them.*

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## Suicide and Suicide Attempt Reporting

NAVADMIN 1222/09 announces the requirement for the completion of the Department of Defense suicide event report (DODSER) for all suicides and suicides attempts by active component and reserve component service members. This change allows DoD to gather standardized research data to better understand the factors related to suicides and attempted suicides and enables evidence-based improvements to our prevention efforts.

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*BLUF: Suicides across all services are a problem we are dealing with. This is one way we're leaning toward prevention and education. Leadership needs to be well-versed on prevention efforts.*

### Important Links

Suicide Prevention: [www.suicide.navy.mil](http://www.suicide.navy.mil)

Individual Augmentation: [www.ia.navy.mil](http://www.ia.navy.mil)

Military Community & Family Policy eMagazine: <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/mcftp/emag>

Military One Source: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

Force Stabilization: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/ForceStabilization>

The Navy Chief Petty Officer video clip: [www.imagework.com/w28.html](http://www.imagework.com/w28.html)