

FLEET FOCUS

USS Hopper embarks midshipmen

By Lt.j.g. Richard Marshall
USS HOPPER

Nothing forces midshipmen to consider the importance of their role in the fleet greater than their first class cruise. During the senior year, midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps units must choose an area in which to specialize while they are in the Navy, making this decision equipped with the knowledge and experiences they obtained during summer cruise.

All the paths, all the options and all the many variables to consider come to a point on the ship during that final first class cruise.

USS Hopper (DDG 70) provided many midshipmen with a lasting exposure to the life of a Surface Warfare Officer and aided several in choosing the path to become one.

Hopper welcomed the midshipmen with open arms. The instant they came aboard they were greeted with welcome packets containing the ship's information and a list of helpful objectives to meet by the end of the cruise.

Throughout the duration of the trip, meetings with the division officers were scheduled allowing them to share with the midshipmen what is important to take with them to the fleet. All the members of the wardroom and ship's crew took it upon themselves to ensure the mids received an accurate taste of life at sea. Within days each midshipmen was fully integrated into current operations, from conning the ship to aiding the boarding parties in inspections of merchant ships.

Hopper was tasked with Maritime Interception Operations in the North Arabian Gulf, which involves search-

ing and seizing United Nations sanctions violators transporting oil, as well as ensuring vessels transporting legal cargo to and from Iraq were in compliance with the sanctions.

As the midshipmen soon realized, the job is 90 percent hurry up and carve circles in the water followed by 10 percent frenzied, intense action and when operations are in full motion, it can sometimes feel very out of control.

Yet this is where the late Adm. Grace Hopper would be most proud of her crew: the character of each Sailor persevered and accomplished the job, snagging five violators during the short month the midshipmen were aboard. The midshipmen were so deeply involved with members of the wardroom and the crew that they felt incorporated into the family atmosphere; and when it was time to leave, emotions were mixed with a sense of loss for those left behind, hope for the future, and excitement for the next step.

The experience the midshipmen had on USS Hopper will be with them for the rest of their lives. The cruise played a pivotal role in the midshipmen's minds whether or not they would select surface warfare.

Former Commanding Officer, Cmdr. John W. Peterson, summed it up best when he said, "It would be nice to know where you are going to end up in life after making some of these decisions facing you in your young adult life, but it's not a luxury you have. So take the attitude that I'm going to go where I can, bloom where I'm planted, and persevere whatever the results." A person would never think you could learn so much about people, life, and love in one month. That's the great romance of the ocean, though."



USS Hopper photo

BMSN Mickel assists Midshipman 1st Class Patrick Gleeson of the Naval Academy with his battle dress while USS Hopper (DDG 70) is at general quarters. Hopper embarked more than 30 midshipmen during their deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Future officers like Midshipmen Gleeson gained valuable insight into surface Naval operations and United States policy in the region.

Lincoln Battle Group deploys to Arabian Gulf

By USS Abraham Lincoln
Public Affairs

The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) departed its homeport Aug. 17 for its scheduled six-month Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf deployment.

The carrier will be joined the following week by Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 off the coast of southern California. The 97,500-ton, Nimitz-class carrier and nine-squadron air wing will spend the majority of the deployment in the Arabian Gulf supporting Operation Southern Watch, which includes the enforcement of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

"This is what the training and preparation is all about," said Capt. Douglas K. Dupouy, Abraham Lincoln's commanding officer. "The ship's crew and air

wing have worked very hard to prepare themselves for this deployment. Now's the time when we show what makes this great Abraham Lincoln team so formidable. It's the motivation and dedication of these men and women that give the national command authority the confidence to ask, 'where's the nearest carrier?' when a situation develops."

The overall mission of the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group and CVW-14 is to provide a strong, forward-deployed presence that not only protects American overseas interests, but promotes stability and peace all over the globe. Because of its mobility through international waters, the carrier battle group requires no base or host country permission for flight operations.

The carrier represents four-and-a-half acres of sovereign U.S. territory that

can travel almost anywhere in the world to help protect the peace, provide humanitarian aid, and respond to threats against U.S. or allied nation security.

"It's always fun going to different places," said Dental Technician 1st Class Rosemarie P. Agoot, a Philippines native and the leading petty officer for Abraham Lincoln's dental clinic. "But it is also hard leaving my small children behind. This is a very difficult, but very necessary job that we all do."

"I like the idea of traveling to different places," said Personnelmen 3rd Class Lee Mendez, an administration clerk. "That's one of the reasons I joined the Navy," said the El Paso, Texas, native.

Following a two-day stay in San Diego where most of the air wing's more than 70 aircraft will join up with the ship, the nuclear-powered

warship will turn and head westward where it will be joined by the remaining ships in its battle group.

The Abraham Lincoln Battle Group, under the command of Rear Adm. Phillip Balisle, is comprised of the carrier, which serves as the command ship for the battle group, and eight other vessels.

These ships include USS Bunker Hill (CG 52) and USS Shiloh (CG 67), both guided missile cruisers; destroyers USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) and USS Fletcher (DD 992); the Los Angeles-class fast attack submarines USS Cheyenne (SSN 773) and USS Tuscon (SSN 770); the fast frigate USS Crommelin (FFG 37); and the supply ship and oiler, USS Camden (AOE 2).

For more information about the USS Abraham Lincoln Battle Group, go to <http://www.lincoln.navy.mil>.

USS Greenville
Sailors meet
Indy 500 legend
Andy Granatelli

J02 Cori Rhea photo

Andy Granatelli (third from right), Indy 500 legend and racing enthusiast, and his family recently visited USS Greenville (SSN 772). Cmdr. Scott Waddle (right), Greenville's commanding officer, posed for a picture with the family on the brow to the submarine.

By J02 Cori Rhea
SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

THE Sailors onboard USS Greenville (SSN 772) like driving their attack submarine to the maneuverability of a race car. Indy 500 Legend and racing enthusiast Andy Granatelli and family toured the submarine recently while visiting the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base.

Cmdr. Scott Waddle, Greenville commanding officer explained, "During Greenville's visit to Santa Barbara, Calif. last July 4, we met Andy and his family and became friends. While at anchor in Santa Barbara, I invited him to visit the boat but that was precluded due to weather. So we made sure Andy's visit was made possible while his family was on the island."

Granatelli, his wife Dolly, son Andy Jr., daughter-in-law Sonja, and grandsons Andy and Robby enjoyed their tour thanks to the hos-

pitality shown by the Greenville crew. As a member of the Santa Barbara Navy League, Granatelli is a big supporter of the Navy and members of the armed forces.

"The tour served to show Andy the construction of a submarine and educate him on the need to construct more submarines to meet operational requirements," said Waddle.

After touring the control room, the crews living spaces and galley, the group made their way down to the torpedo room where the Granatelli family left their mark.

Torpedoman 1st Class (SS) Corey Harris, a native of Chicago, Ill. explained, "It's tradition for our distinguished visitors to sign their names in the torpedo tube with a grease pencil."

In this case, Sonja volunteered to put on some coveralls and crawl deep into the tube to sign her families name next to Titanic Director, James Cameron's.

Waddle went on to join the group for the rest of their island visit that day.

Venture Scouts visit VP-47, tour P-3C aircraft



VP-47 photo

Lt. Erin Mulligan (left), of VP-47, describes his job as a P-3C pilot to a few Venture Scouts from the Koolau Boy Scout District as they sit in the cockpit of the aircraft. The Venture Scouts toured VP-47 P-3C "Orion" aircraft as part of a five-day program of leadership and decision-making training.

By Lt.j.g. Michael Sanders
VP-47

Recently, 10 Venture Scouts from the Koolau Boy Scout District toured a VP-47 P-3C "Orion" as part of a five

day program of leadership and decision-making training.

Retired Marine Colonel Wallace Heyer set up the events for the scouts. The events included a SWAT team course, the corporal leadership course,

an obstacle course, and many others.

The purpose of these courses and training was to teach leadership skills to the 16 to 18 year olds.

"In today's schools, they don't teach leadership skills, they don't teach team effort," said scout leader Louis Prescott.

The purpose of the week was to expose the young men to a culture that has to make decisions everyday.

"When they get out of high school and enter the real world, people will depend on them," followed up Mr. Prescott.

The scouts stayed in a Marine barracks on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, as they attended classes and courses.

In its fifth year, the scouts included a new element this year, the U.S. Navy. With the addition of three Navy patrol squadrons to the air facilities at MCBH the scouts toured a "Golden Swordsmen" patrol plane and talked to a crew that fly the plane.

Lt. Erin Mulligan shared his experiences of how he has led from the cockpit. Aviation Antisubmarine Warfare Operator 2nd Class Jason York described some of the decisions that he has made while tracking a submarine using the P-3's acoustic gear.

Prescott wanted to show his scouts that you have to "exercise judgment to be a leader" and flying a military aircraft takes leaders making decisions.

Prescott summed up the mission of the Venture Boy Scouts that effort is the only thing.