

# Rapper Jj visits USS O'Kane

**JO2 Daniel J. Calderon**  
Staff Writer

During a recent visit to Hawaii, rapper Jj took time to visit the crew of USS O'Kane (DDG 77).

The 15-year-old rap artist, whose real name is Jillian Joyceann Thacker, along with her family and producer, toured the ship and visited several areas, including the ship's bridge.

The young rapper was in town to perform at the NFL Experience at Ft. DeRussy and see the Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium.

"After seeing [the movie] Pearl Harbor, I was really interested in seeing ships. I wanted to see what one was like in real life. This is the first time I've gotten to be on a ship like this. There's a lot more on the ship than I re-

alized and it's a whole lot cooler than I ever imagined."

For Jj's producer, singer-songwriter Byron J, the ship tour provided a 'futuristic-esque' level of detail and sophistication.

"It's something the movies can't even come close to portraying in the right way," said Byron J. "I thoroughly enjoyed the tour," he added. "My father was in the military, so any chance I get to meet people who are protecting me and America, I take it."

"Everybody seemed very well informed. I tried to find something to ask about along the way that someone on board couldn't answer, but there was always someone who knew the exact answer."

In the year and a half that she's been rapping, Jj has recorded

several new songs with Byron J and has performed on a single intended to benefit the Small Faces charity, based in England.

"We have a song called 'All about the children,'" said Byron J. "It was done by Kenny Jones [former drummer for the bands Small Faces and The Who] and Ronnie Woods [former guitarist for The Rolling Stones]. They asked me to do a re-mix and modernize it. Jj did some rap on the re-mix."

Jj is proud of the charity work she's been able to do and grateful for the chance to visit O'Kane. "I wish I could thank everyone on board," said Jj. "I would thank them for helping protect me and the whole country. I can see now that it really takes a lot to do this job."



JO2 Daniel J. Calderon photo

Rapper Jj (center with bandana) and her family get an explanation of USS O'Kane's (DDG 77) torpedo launcher during her tour of the ship Feb 7.

## New deployment health care guidelines better serve returning troops

### DoD release

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. William Winkenwerder, has announced the implementation of a new clinical guideline for use by military and Veterans Affairs physicians in caring for the unique needs of military personnel and their families.

Informed by a decade of lessons learned from the Gulf War, military and Veterans Affairs (VA) physicians are now better prepared to provide care for military personnel returning from Afghanistan and other deployments.

The cornerstone of this new health initiative is the Clinical Practice Guideline on Post-Deployment Health Evaluation and Management: [www.pdhealth.mil/PDHEM-frameset.htm](http://www.pdhealth.mil/PDHEM-frameset.htm)

developed jointly by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Service members and their families will begin to experience the benefits of this guideline starting in early March.

"Keeping our active duty members healthy is an important aspect of force health protection. This guideline assists physicians and patients by focusing on specific health concerns that may be deployment related," offered Winkenwerder.

The development of the guideline represents a two-year multidisciplinary effort involving experts from the VA, Army, Navy, Air Force and DoD. Specialty experts included clergy, so-

cial workers, nurses, toxicologists, epidemiologists, risk communications specialists, psychiatrists and family practitioners.

Health care providers at Fort Bragg, N.C., Camp LeJeune, N.C., and McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., were part of a guideline demonstration project.

"This guideline, which provides a structure to assess and manage post-deployment health, is primarily about improving the medical care for post-deployment concerns among all our patients, whether an active duty servicemember, a spouse, a child, a veteran or reservist," explained Army Lt. Col. Charles Engel, a collaborator in the development of the guideline. Engel directs the Deployment Health

Clinical Center, a DoD center based at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. since the Gulf War.

"Opportunities for change and improvement have emerged as a result of lessons learned through the implementation of the DoD's Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program and the VA's Gulf War Registry, research studies and feedback from veterans," said Engel, a practicing psychiatrist and a Gulf War veteran.

"The guideline," said Mark Brown, Ph.D., director of the VA's Environmental Agents Service, "was developed in response to the health care needs of Gulf War veterans with difficult to diagnose yet sometimes debilitating deploy-

ment-related symptoms."

"In the long-run the Clinical Practice Guideline will give VA primary care providers the tools needed to diagnose and treat veterans returning from combat and peace-keeping missions abroad."

The guideline also applies to individuals who were not deployed, but who link their concerns to a military deployment, for example, family members of recently deployed active duty personnel. The guideline also will offer physicians support in monitoring the long-term health of patients with deployment health issues and provide patients with the education they need to take an active role in their health care delivery.

"In the new approach, we

will disseminate up-to-date information to all clinicians about all deployments and essentially make them more knowledgeable about deployment health issues," said Engel.

Deployment Health Clinical Center will be responsible for monitoring the improvement of post-deployment care in primary care settings and insuring improvements in the quality of data gathered.

The major route for disseminating this information is the Center's new Web site, PDHealth.mil, located at <http://www.PDHealth.mil>. The guideline, as well as the proceedings of a satellite broadcast about the guideline, may be found on this Web site.

## Chief dives to bottom to re-enlist

**Lt. Joseph Dituri**  
PHNSY & IMF Diving Officer

On a recent Friday morning, the temperature was about 80 degrees and the rain was coming down in sheets. But the participants of a reenlistment ceremony that day did not seem to mind. They were reveling in the fact that they were already wet.

Some Sailors choose to re-enlist on the deck of the Battleship Missouri Memorial or even on the bridge of their own ship, but Hull Maintenance Technician Chief (SW) Ronnie Moore from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility chose to incorporate his favorite hobby into his final reenlistment ceremony in the Navy. He re-enlisted underwater on the wreck of the Sea Tiger 100 feet

below the surface offshore of Waikiki.

At about 9:15 a.m., four divers entered the water while two support crew members, Electronics Technician Chief (SW) John R. Kennedy and departmental career counselor HT1(SW) John Kaczor, waited topside. Re-enlistee Moore; Lt. Joseph Dituri, re-enlisting officer; ETCM (SS/DV) Bob Ashton, mentor and reader of the oath; and Damage Controlman Chief (SW) Dan Creswell, boat owner and cameraman; slipped beneath the waves and descended smoothly to the wreck.

Once on the bow of the motionless ship, the master chief recited the oath of enlistment while the lieutenant officiated and Creswell took pictures.

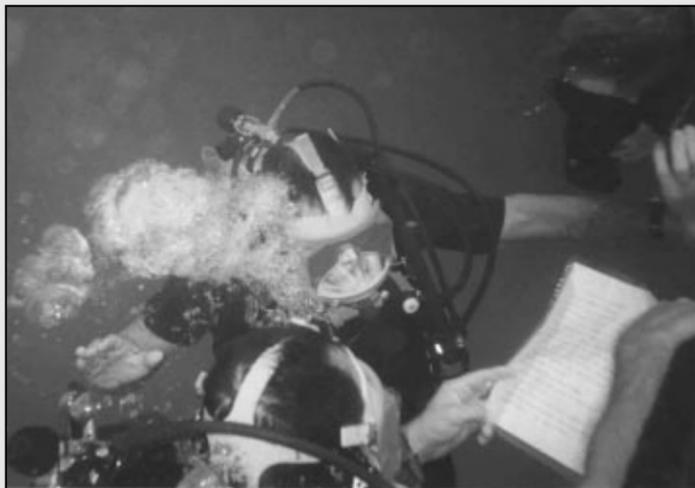
The ceremony was interrupted several times by a family of eagle

rays in the distance and a daunting current that moved the group of divers like a flag on a pole.

Special communication gear allowed the oath reader, re-enlisting officer and the re-enlistee to speak and listen underwater. There was even a laminated copy of the oath and contract that was signed with a grease pencil underwater.

The Pearl Harbor shipyard's new remotely operated vehicle (ROV) was on site to film the whole event. The ROV is used by divers and the docking office to perform underwater inspections and increase diver safety.

Many people re-enlist in the Navy. But few people seem to still take advantage of the time-honored tradition of re-enlisting where and when they want. HTC(SW) Ronnie Moore is an exception.



DCC(SW) Dan Creswell photo

HTC (SW) Ronnie Moore of PHNSY & IMF reenlists in the Navy 100 feet below the surface at the wreck of the Sea Tiger.

## USS Fletcher announces Senior, Junior Sailors of the Year for 2001

**CW02 Brian Faulkner**  
USS Fletcher  
Public Affairs Officer

Ship's Serviceman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jeffrey Davidson and Information Systems Technician 3rd Class (SW) Kevin Harris were selected as USS Fletcher's (DD 992) Senior Sailor of the year and Junior Sailor of the Year respectively.

Cmdr. Dell Epperson, commanding officer of USS Fletcher (DD 992), made the announcement at a recent command awards ceremony.

According to Epperson, the competition at this year's selection board was

exceptionally tight. All the nominees were remarkably close in leadership ability, contribution to command mission and personal achievements.

Davidson hails from Gastonia, N.C. He joined the Navy in July 1986 to see the world while serving his country. He attended boot camp in Orlando, Fla. and continued on to complete his initial training at Ship's Serviceman "A" School in Meridian, Miss.

He reported aboard USS Fletcher in June 1999 and serves as financial accountant and records keeper for the supply department. In addition, he participates as a damage

control training team member and duty section leader.

A true seafaring Sailor, Davidson's previous tours of duty include USS Sample (FF 1048), USS Davidson (FF 1050), USS Cleveland (LPD 7), USS Coronado (AGF 11) and USS Constellation (CV 64). Davidson and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of three sons, Lafayette, Jordan and Jeffrey.

Davidson shares credit for the Sailor of the Year honors with others.

"I attribute my success to the mentor program, high ideals and integrity of the senior leadership, and the motivation of my

subordinates aboard USS Fletcher," he emphasized, noting "My best advice to young Sailors is, the sky is the limit."

Harris, a native of Newark, N.J., joined the Navy in October 1999 and was recently promoted to petty officer third class. Upon entering the Navy, he attended boot camp and Information Systems Technician "A" School at Naval Training Center Great Lakes. He reported aboard USS Fletcher in May 2000 and currently serves as the assistant local area network (LAN) administrator. He is responsible for the maintenance, repair and administration of Fletcher's com-

puter network, consisting of 205 user stations and multiple servers. Harris attributes his success and selection to setting high standards and goals for himself. He stated, "without goals, there would be nothing to achieve."

Epperson praised this year's honorees as "the best of the best."

"It is always a difficult task to narrow it down to only two Sailors when I have the privilege of working with such a great crew. SH1(SW/AW) Davidson makes his presence felt throughout the ship every day. His division recently scored a remarkable 98 points on the supply management assist (SMA)," ex-

plained Epperson.

"He routinely mentors young Sailors throughout the command, guiding them through rough spots and urging them into leadership roles. He is also working on his college degree in his off-duty time. He states 'the sky is the limit.' I think that defines Petty Officer Davidson's approach to life."

Epperson spoke highly of Harris as well. "IT3(SW) Harris has a natural command presence, a rare gift for such a young Sailor. I suspect we have a thoroughbred here - we just need to slip the reins and let Petty Officer Harris run and he will do great things."

## Naval Research Laboratory ready to help at Winter Olympic Games

**Office of Naval Research**  
Public Affairs

With the expected 70,000 daily visitors to the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City this month, reliable communications are essential. Even the best laid plan needs a backup and that's why the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in Washington, D.C., has its mobile communications center standing ready in Salt Lake City.

The Office of Naval Research supported the development of a "Humvee" outfitted with the capability of instantly providing two-way satellite commercial links, data networking, land-based mobile radio networking and a private cellular telephone network. The system can even handle streaming video.

"We can deliver telephone and data connectivity anywhere," said

Chris Herndon, the NRL project manager for InfraLynx (Infrastructure Linkage and Restoration), the Humvee communications project.

Originally designed to support several Navy and Marine Corps operations, the modular communications components installed on the Humvee are entirely self-contained and can be configured to fit the needs of a particular civilian or military situation.

NRL sent the InfraLynx Humvee to Salt Lake City at the request of the federal Office of Domestic Preparedness, a program office within the Department of Justice.

The laboratory also swiftly prepared to send two Humvees to New York City in the days following the attack on the World Trade Center last September.

Although the Federal Emergency Management Administration

called off the trip at the last minute, the exercise proved to the NRL team just how quickly they could customize the Humvee-based communications units and get them on the road.

Humvee is short for HMMWV, a military term for "high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle;" "Hummer" refers to the similar vehicles produced for civilian markets.