



the Almanac

"I have not yet begun to fight!" USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

April 4, 2012

Challenges Surrounding Sailors and Pins

Story and photo by MC3 Marcus L. Stanley

It's after 2000, and the messdeck aboard USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) is littered with Sailors studying for their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) qualification or Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS). What is considered the dining area for the crew looks more like study hall.

Now that warfare qualifications have become mandatory, there is added pressure to get what is simply known to these Sailors as pins.

"It's just so much information to learn," says Culinary Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Sakana Gray. "I've been studying gouges and flashcards for hours today. How-

ever, to be dual-qualified is something I really want to become. So, where there is a will, there is a way."

"To get your pins, it takes a combination of effort and ability to retain information," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate Airman (AW) Crystal Jackson. "Attending the many walk-throughs and the long hours of studying is just part of the process."

For every Sailor getting their pin, the criteria and the method is the same, but the way each Sailor will have to manage their time in order to get their pin can be a big difference.

"Every rate and division is different," says Aviation Ordnance 3rd Class (AW) Patrick Radich. "Some rates don't stand watches underway or work long hours, which makes it more

difficult for those who have to do those things. Some Sailors have to study for their pins when they should be getting sleep or even during their meal hours. That old saying 'choose your rate, choose your fate' proves true in these circumstances."

Once upon a time, to get pins meant a Sailor went above and beyond the call of duty and were awarded two extra points

on their rating exams for each pin attained. That is a thing of the past. Now, pins are mandatory for professional knowledge, but according to some Sailors that takes away from value of the pins.

"Since pins are now mandatory and everybody is getting them, they've lost that above and beyond power," said Jackson. "Since the Navy has become highly competitive due to perform to serve or



PTS, for a Sailor to pursue and acquire their pins could be a very defining evaluation bullet in the retention process. If you acquire something that isn't mandatory, that makes it much more valuable and also gives you a greater sense of pride."

As Sailors on the "Revolutionary Gator" press toward the goal of becoming warfare-qualified, there will always be those who remember what the system use to be and now is.

"I remember my board being nothing but walk-throughs to become EAWS-qualified," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AW/SW) Samuel Taylor. "With any system there will be pros and cons. My advice is fight through it all, because it's better to have your pins than to not have your pins."

THE ALMANAC

Top 10 BHR Brackets for the NCAA Finals

Winner - HT2 Donaldson 48pts

2nd Place - Gunner 45pts

3rd Place - HM3 Prater 44pts

4th Place - AO2 Martinez 43pts

4th Place - ACC Sartain 43pts

4th Place - AC1 Shouse 43pts

5th Place - IT1 Sanders 42pts

5th Place - XO 42pts

6th Place - QM2 Parsons 40pts

6th Place - ABHAN Payne 40pts

Japanese Phrases

You may find these Japanese phrases helpful while you're out-and-about in Sasebo Japan...

I don't understand! --- Wakarimasen.

I don't know! --- Shirimasen.

I really like it! --- Honto ni suki desu.

What is this? --- Korewa nandesu ka?

What time is it? --- Nanji desu ka?

How old are you? --- Toshi wa ikutsu desu ka?

Good night and sweet dreams. --- Oyasumi nasai.

I have to go. --- Ikanakutewa narimasen.

I will be right back. --- Sugu modori masu.

Oh! That's good! --- Sorewa iidesu ne!

Don't worry! --- Goshinpai naku!

Really! --- Honto!

I love you! --- Daisuki desu./ Anata wo aishite imasu.

Movie Schedule
Wednesday, April 4



CH. 2 Command Information --- CH. 5 AFN Sports
CH. 6 AFN News --- CH. 7 AFN Prime

ch.3

0600/1730 Army of Darkness
0730/1900 Back to the Future
0930/2100 Case 39
1130/2300 Clear and Present
Danger
1400/0130 Devil
1530/0300 Friday the 13th

ch.4

0600/1730 The Hangover
0800/1930 The Hangover 2
1000/2130 Knight and Day
1200/2330 Lottery Ticket
1400/0030 Lean On Me
1600/0230 The Open Road

ch.8

0600/2000 Avatar
0900/2300 Twilight Saga: New Moon
1100/0100 Alice in Wonderland
1300/0300 The Three Musketeers
1500 Batman Begins
1730 Flags of Our Fathers



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