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USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77)



AVENGER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 8

In this issue:

Driven:

**A Sailor's journey
from enlisted to officer**

Plus:

Dependant dental coverage changes



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FYI

For your information

Command Photo

Make sure your dress whites are squared away for a CVN 77 command photo on the flight deck, May 15 @1230. (Say cheese)

Award Ceremony

CVN 77 will be presented with several awards to include the Battenberg Cup, Battle "E" Award and Flatley Award on May 16.

New MetLife Dental Coverage for Dependents

Story by MCSA Benjamin Kelly
Facts and information courtesy of www.tricare.com and www.metlife.com

Effective May 1, 2012, MetLife will take over for United Concordia as the dental carrier for the TRICARE Dental

Program (TDP). This coverage will be provided for the family members of uniformed service active duty personnel, members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve, their family members, and their survivors.

Changes to the TDP will include enhanced dental coverage at a lower cost than before. The plan covers more than 245 procedures at a set co-payment when performed by a selected participating general dentist. The coverage focuses on preventative care, but specialty care is also provided at a reduced fee. All current TDP enrollees will be notified about the transition to MetLife and will receive a welcome packet with a new TRICARE Dental Program Benefits Booklet.

The following are the highlights of MetLife's changes for dependents:

- Increase of the lifetime orthodontic maximum to \$1,750
- \$1,200 per year for services related to dental treatment due to an accident
- No cost shares for scaling and root planing (deep cleaning) for diabetics
- Expansion of the survivor benefits to

surviving spouse and child(ren)

- Coverage of an additional (3rd) cleaning for women during pregnancy
- Increase in the annual maximum from \$1,200 to \$1,300 per enrollee
- Coverage of posterior resin (tooth colored/white) fillings

"These changes will be very beneficial to many Sailors and their Families," said Hospital Corpsman (FMF) 2nd Class Letron Glover, Dental Lab Technician.

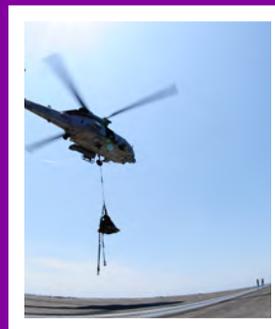
The Change to MetLife is for the TDP only. The Active Duty Dental Program (ADDP) will still be administered by United Concordia.

Active duty service members (ADSMs) living or working within 50 miles of a military dental treatment facility (DTF) must receive all care at a DTF, even when traveling for short periods of time. However, ADSMs on extended leave more than 50 miles from their DTF may receive dental care from any participating dentist, but you must coordinate with United Concordia your private sector dental care prior to your visit.

For more information please contact the ship's dental department at J-Dial 5892 or visit websites www.tricare.mil and www.metlife.com.

On the cover:

An HH-60H Seahawk, assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron (HS) 5, moves ordnance from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) to USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) during an ordnance transfer, April 29. Photo by MCSN(SW/AW) Brian Read Castillo.





An MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 9, transfers ordnance from the flight deck of USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) to the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Lewis and Clark (T-AKE 1) during an ordnance transfer. This photo illustration demonstrates the process of a single transfer
Photo illustration by MC2(SW) Brian M. Brooks



Driven: A Sailor's journey from

Story and layout by MC3 Derrik Noack

Instructed by her chain of command, Machinist's Mate 3rd Class (SW/AW) Tiffany Brown stood in the front row in preparation for a Captain's Call with Commanding Officer Capt. Brian E. Luther aboard USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77). All day, her department hinted that Brown was going to be openly scolded by the Commanding Officer. Her mind raced as she slowly eased her way into the middle of the crowd. But hiding in the crowd did not work, and she was forced to stand front and center to wait. She held back tears as Capt. Brian E. Luther took to the stage with liberty news and schedules for the crew. Before he finished his remarks, he announced Brown's name, but not with bad news. She had been accepted to go on to the U.S. Naval Academy. Brown took the stage with a dropped jaw and eyes filled with tears.



enlisted to officer.





“Leaders are
not born, they
are molded and
shaped”

-MM3 (SW/AW)
Tiffany Brown

Luther remembers his initial encounter with Brown.

“I’d always see her carrying a book bag,” said Luther. “When I asked her what she had it for, she told me she was studying to get into the Naval Academy.”

Brown has been prepping herself for that goal, challenging herself throughout her life, before and after joining the Navy.

Born in southern Georgia, Brown was raised by her mother. Brown helped take care of her younger sister, and in her spare time competed in pageants and dance competitions. The competitive spirit she learned would later be channeled and redirected toward ensuring her application stood out amongst the competition.

Brown knew in high school that she wanted to be a naval officer, but wanted a short break from school before going to college. She decided to serve as an enlisted Sailor until she was ready, and left for boot camp shortly after high school graduation.

The new environment left Brown alienated throughout boot camp. Communication barriers were hard to overcome; her accent was so profound that she found herself repeating everything she said.

“When I got to ‘A’ school, one of my instructors offered to give me speech lessons,” said Brown. “Every day for three months, I would stay after school to work on my accent. Eventually, I was able to hold a normal conversation with the people around me.”

After completing ‘A’ school, Brown was ready to get to work on George H.W. Bush. Within her first year aboard, she became surface and air warfare qualified. She even took duties as the Drill Team Instructor for the ship’s color guard. In July 2011, she decided it was time to go back to school and start the process of becoming a U.S. Navy officer.

“I knew it would take a lot of time and I did get discouraged,” said Brown. “I lost a lot of sleep staying up to ensure everything in my package was perfect.”

To complete her package, Brown had to use her chain of command to gather recommendations from officers onboard and interview with the commanding officer, and convince him she was prepared for the journey ahead of her.

“A lot of people are talented but never make anything of it,” said Luther. “Brown has talent and skills and she is determined to use them.”

Along with her officer recommendations, a standard

medical screening, a fitness test and a background check were needed for her package. But what Brown says she worked hardest on were her American College Testing (ACT) scores and personal statements.

“I retook the ACT twice,” said Brown. “Not because I had bad scores, but because I wanted an advantage on the competition.”

While working on her personal statement, Brown kept a notebook and pen in hand for weeks, even in her sleep.

“I would wake up in the middle of the night with an idea and rewrite the whole thing,” said Brown. “I wanted to make it one of the best statements the judges would ever read.”

Also, in an effort to set herself apart from other candidates, she decided to give herself more leadership experience. Brown said she took over as the gauge calibration petty officer as well as the repair parts petty officer for her division. She also helped the ship’s Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department write their Meteorological Calibration instruction during deployment, a task uncommon for a 3rd class petty officer.

“Her leadership trusted her,” said Lt. j.g. Aquichia Brown, the ship’s secretary and Petty Officer Brown’s shipboard mentor. “She is very focused on her work, and knows what she needs to get done.”

It’s that trust that Brown hopes to carry on with her to a 10-month preparatory school in Rhode Island that trains candidates before they enroll in the Naval Academy.

“I do think I’ll get singled out for being prior enlisted, but I’m not nervous,” said Brown. “Hopefully they’ll lean on me to help teach the others the ins and outs of the Navy.”

Brown plans to be commissioned by the time she turns 26, and hopes to return to sea duty.

“I hope to be stationed on smaller ships,” said Brown. “I think that would be really exciting and a chance to see something new.”

Now that she has been accepted, Brown still has a lot of work to do before she can put on the title of Ensign. A demanding schedule of academic courses, military inspections, drills, and fast-paced physical and aquatic training are all part of reaching her goal of becoming an officer.

“Leaders are not born, they are molded and shaped,” said Brown. “I believe my time onboard this ship will benefit me in the long run, and add to my leadership skills. It all started right here.”



Transition Assistance

Navy Releases Early Retirement Application Guidance for ERB-Affected Sailors

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy announced guidance for eligible Sailors separating due to the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) on applying for early retirement in NAVADMIN 140/12, released April 24.

The message outlines eligibility, detailed application procedures and deadlines for Sailors who are eligible to apply for voluntary early retirement under Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA).

Sailors must submit their applications to Navy Personnel Command (NPC) no later than June 15, 2012, and may check the status of their application through www.bol.navy.mil.

Only Sailors considered but not selected for retention by the Fiscal Year 2012 ERB who will have completed at least 15 years of active service as of Sept. 1, and whose active duty service date (ADSD) is Sept. 2, 1997 or earlier, are eligible for early retirement benefits

under TERA. Eligibility requirements will not be waived.

Sailors who are eligible for early retirement under TERA must retire no later than Sept. 1, 2012. However, eligible Sailors who may be required to remain on active duty beyond Sept. 1 on operational waivers or to complete augmentee tour requirements will have their requested retirement date addressed on a case-by-case basis. TERA-eligible ERB sailors who complete 15 years of service prior to Sept. 1 may request an earlier retirement date (June 30, July 31, or Aug. 31); however, approval of retirement dates prior to Aug. 31 is dependent on notification from the Office of the Secretary of Defense that Defense Finance and Accounting Services (DFAS) has a process in place to begin providing TERA retirement payments.

Eligible Sailors desiring to apply for early retirement under TERA, whose current expiration of active obligated service (EAOS) as extended, or "soft" EAOS, is prior to Sept. 1, may submit a short term extension request to NPC, as outlined in the NAVADMIN.

Sailors retiring under TERA will not

be entitled to involuntary separation pay, but remain qualified for other ERB-related transition assistance benefits until their retirement. As stated in the NAVADMIN, Sailors are not eligible to transfer GI bill benefits once a TERA application is approved.

Sailors are strongly encouraged to consult with career counselors on the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), which may provide a portion of retired pay in an annuity payment to surviving eligible beneficiaries. Sailors must sign up for SBP at the time of retirement.

Eligible ERB Sailors who were discharged on or after Dec. 31, 2011, and were unable to complete an application for early retirement under TERA while on active duty may petition the Board for Correction of Naval Records if retirement is desired.

For more information, read NAVADMIN 140/12, visit NPC's transition assistance Web page at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/TransitionInfo.aspx>, or contact the NPC customer service center at CSCmailbox@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

Event Schedule May 5 - 11

Ab Blast	1330	HB3 M-Sat.
Beatdown	2000	HB3 M/W/F
Mustang Madness	1500	HB3 M/W/F
NOFFS	1400	HB3 M-Sat.
Spin Class	2000	Spin Room T/Th/S
Step Class	1600	HB3 M-Sat.
Spin Class	0500/1500	Spin Room W/F



Learn about Navy Fitness

For information on Navy Fitness, nutrition, and all Navy sports teams, visit www.navyfitness.org. In addition you can learn more about the NOFFS program and use the interactive Virtual Meal Builder and Virtual Trainer.

Navy history

Establishment of the Department of the Navy, 30 April 1798

Story courtesy of history.navy.mil

This act established the Department of the Navy as a separate cabinet department. Previously, naval matters were under the cognizance of the War Department.

AN ACT (Chapter 35, Vol. I, page 553) to establish an executive department to be denominated the Department of the Navy.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted, &c., That there shall be an Executive Department under the denomination of the Department of the Navy, the chief officer of which shall be called the Secretary of the Navy, whose duty it shall be to execute such orders as he shall receive from the President of the United States, relative to the procurement of naval stores and materials, and the construction, armament, equipment, and employment of vessels of war, as well as all other matters connected with the naval establishment of the United States.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That a principal clerk, and such other clerks as he shall think necessary, shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy, who shall be employed in such manner as he shall deem most expedient. In case of vacancy in the office of the Secretary, by removal or otherwise, it shall be the duty of the principal clerk to take the charge and custody of all the books, records, and documents of the said office.

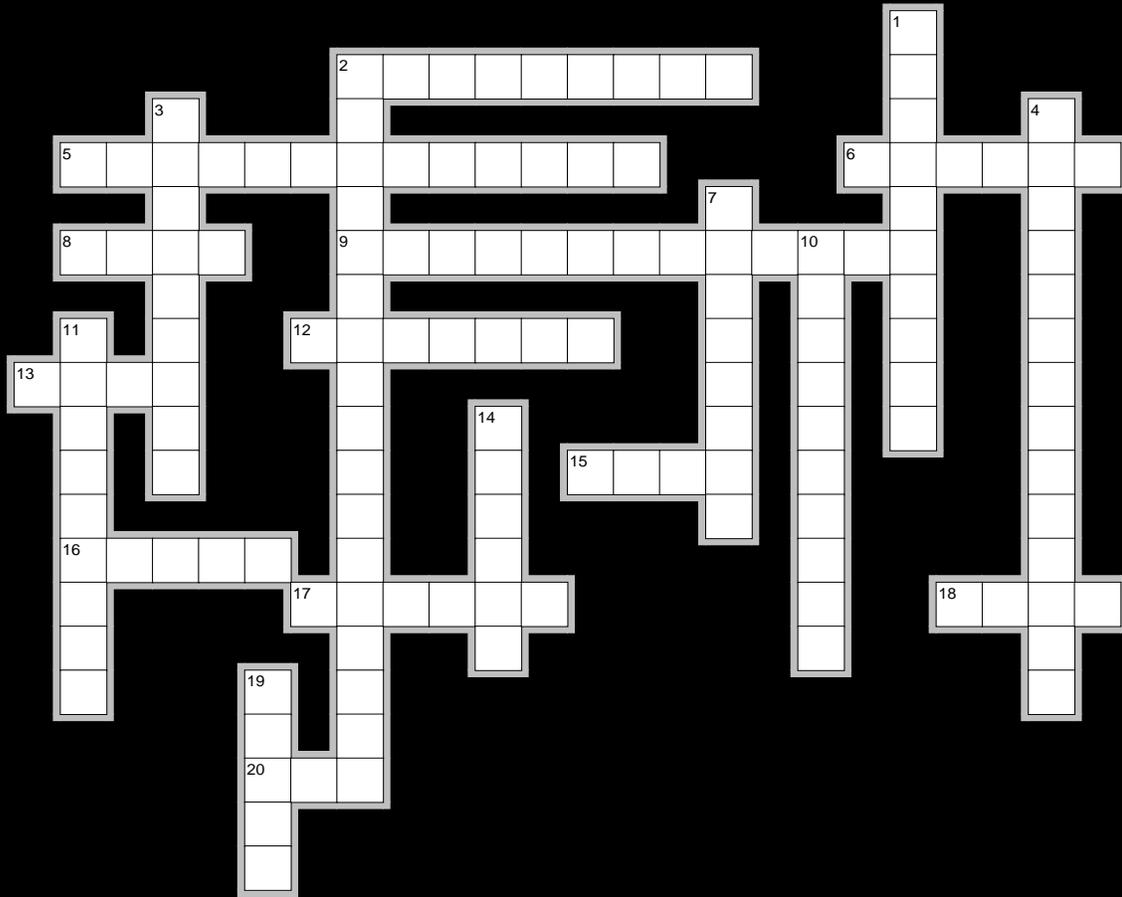
SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered, immediately after he shall be appointed, and shall enter upon the duties of his office, to take possession of all the records, books, and documents, and all other matters and things appertaining to this department, which are now deposited in the office of the Secretary of War.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed to the Secretary of the Navy an annual salary of three thousand dollars, payable quarter yearly at the Treasury of the United States; and the respective clerks in the office of the said department shall receive the same compensation, and be subject to the same regulations, as are provided by an act, supplemental to the act establishing the Treasury Department, and for a further compensation to certain officers in the offices of the other executive departments.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That so much of an act, Entitled "An act to establish an executive department, to be denominated the department of war," as vests any of the powers contemplated by the provisions of this act in the Secretary for the Department of War, shall be repealed, from and after the period when the Secretary of the Navy shall enter on the duties of his office.



Navy Knowledge Crossword



Across

2. Line used to get the span wire across the ship.
5. Father of naval nuclear power.
6. Fifth Fleet encompasses the _____ Ocean.
8. Number of propellers used on CVN 77.
9. TYCOM stands for ____ ____ (two words).
12. Name of four seat electronic warfare aircraft. EA-6B _____.
13. Mechanical device in Bridge used to turn the rudder.
15. Flag flown to recall personnel.
16. _____ around: to pull on the line.
17. Any heavy line or wire used for towing or mooring.
18. Stabilizes a bomb in flight.
20. Guided-missile destroyer acronym.

Down

1. Only nuclear powered destroyer.
2. Absorbs axial thrust transmitted through the shaft from the propeller and transfers it to the hull (three words).
3. Liason between CO and families.
4. TAO stands for ____ ____ Officer (two words).
7. One of three levels of war (starts with a 'T').

10. The method used to reduce a ship's magnetic signature.
11. In close proximity, Quartermasters signal with this.
14. Acronym for casualty report.
19. Radio detection and ranging.

Last Week's Answers

