

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

AROUND THE ISLAND

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GOATLOCKER GOUGE

From the USS Makin Island (LHD 8) Chief Petty Officers Mess

In many college classes, civilian leadership seminars and corporate management training programs around the world one will often hear discussion about the almost famous "Message to Garcia" story.

This inspirational essay was written in 1899 by Elbert Hubbard, who later died in 1915 when the German Navy sank the civilian ocean liner Lusitania. Hubbard's story is based on an actual event that occurred in U.S. history.

Unfortunately, Hubbard is not known for much of anything else, only his "Message to Garcia" story. Military officials often look to his essay when trying to teach leadership qualities, initiative and responsibility to junior personnel.

While there are many variations of the tale, the basic storyline goes something like this:

During the Spanish-American War it was imperative that the President get a message to the leader of the insurgents. His name was Garcia and he was known to be fighting somewhere in the mountains of Cuba, but no mail or telegraph could reach him.

Someone said, "There's a fellow by the name of Rowan who will find Garcia for you, if anybody can."

Rowan took the letter without hesitation. He sealed it in a leather pouch strapped over his heart.

He landed in the dark of night off the coast of Cuba and made his way to the mountains, and after much difficulty, found Garcia.

He handed him the letter, turned around and headed home. Hubbard tells his story in the book.

Rowan didn't ask, "Exactly where is he?" or "I doubt if I can do it." There was a job to be done and he did it! Afterward, he didn't wait around for a "thank you" or any type of special recognition for the task he had just accomplished.

Now, fast forward about a 100 years. How does this story relate to you as a Sailor and as a leader aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8) during the ship's maiden deployment?

When you are assigned a task, do you ask a million questions and come up with a list of excuses as to why someone else, some other division or department, should be doing that particular task?

Or, are you the type of Sailor the chain of command can trust to act properly, focus their efforts on doing the right thing and get a "Message to Garcia" on their own?

Next time you're given a task, whether it be routine or crisis management, take a few minutes to think about it. Instead of making a dozen excuses why you can't complete the task, think about Rowan. Deliver the goods! Results, not excuses!

A Message To Garcia



AROUND THE ISLAND

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)

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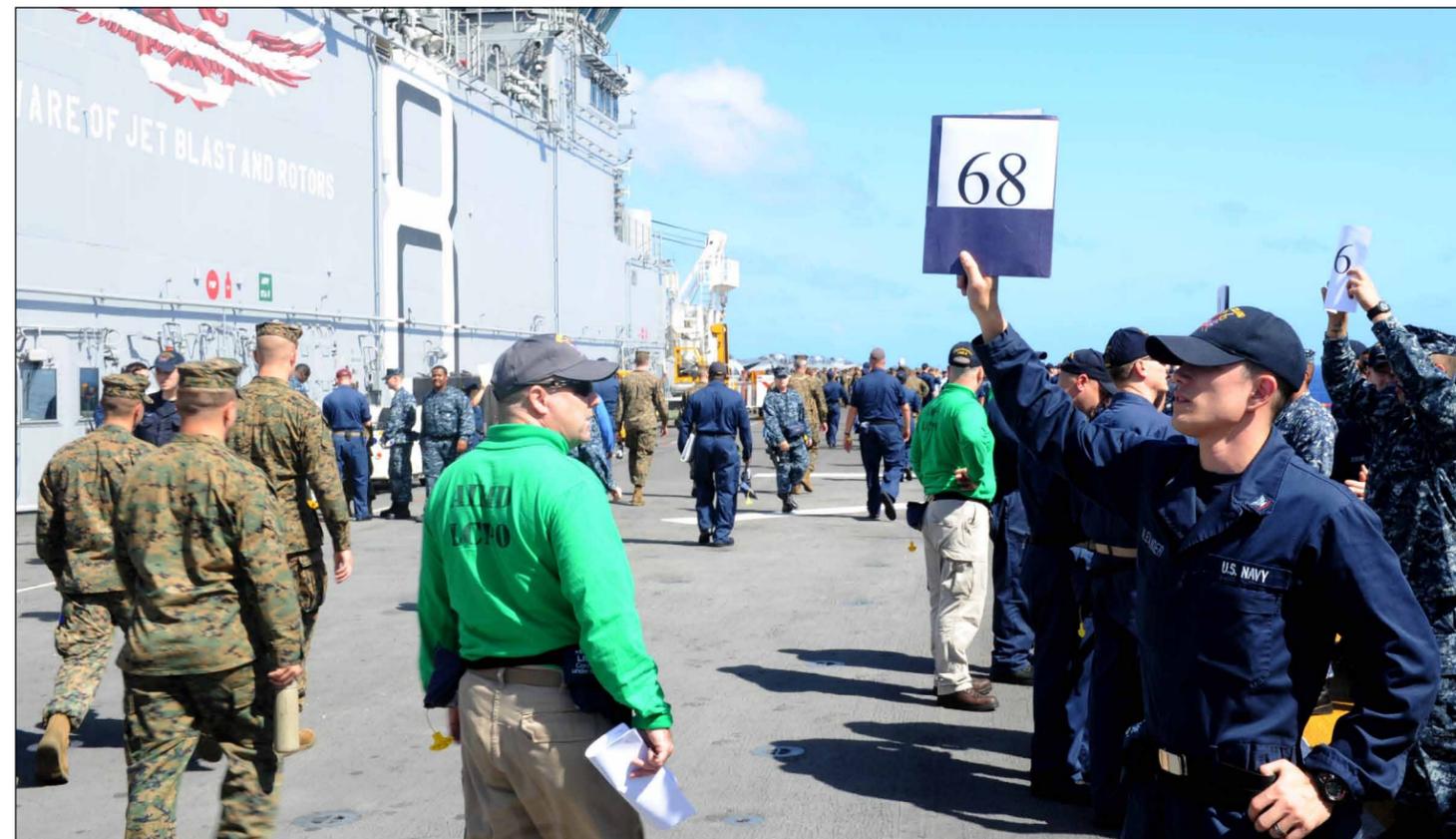
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MCSR ETHAN TRACEY

ON THE COVER:

SN Paul Ludlam draws his 9mm pistol during a small arms exercise aboard USS Makin Island (LHD 8). [Photo by MC2(SW) Alan Gragg]

Sailors and Marines Take Part in 'Abandon Ship' Drill



Sailors and Marines make their way to their assigned muster stations on the flight deck during a scheduled abandon ship drill, Dec. 1. [Photo by MCSA Daniel J. Walls]

By MC2(SW) Stephen D. Doyle II, Around The Island Staff

As Sailors and Marines scampered through the passageways and scuttles, there was a single mission on their minds.

The crew mustered on the flight deck for USS Makin Island's (LHD 8) first abandon ship drill during its maiden deployment, Dec. 1.

"Today we had the abandon ship drill, which was the first time we've done it so far on deployment," said Yeoman 3rd Class Elijah Ford. "The purpose of my job today was to make sure we had everyone accounted for on the flight deck of the ship."

Abandon ship drills are performed to familiarize Sailors and Marines with liferaft stations and

train on important survival skills. The Sailors and Marines learn how to properly abandon ship by deploying a liferaft.

The training is designed to give a basic understanding of how to navigate the raft until help arrives, and teach the crew how to survive with the contents stored in the raft.

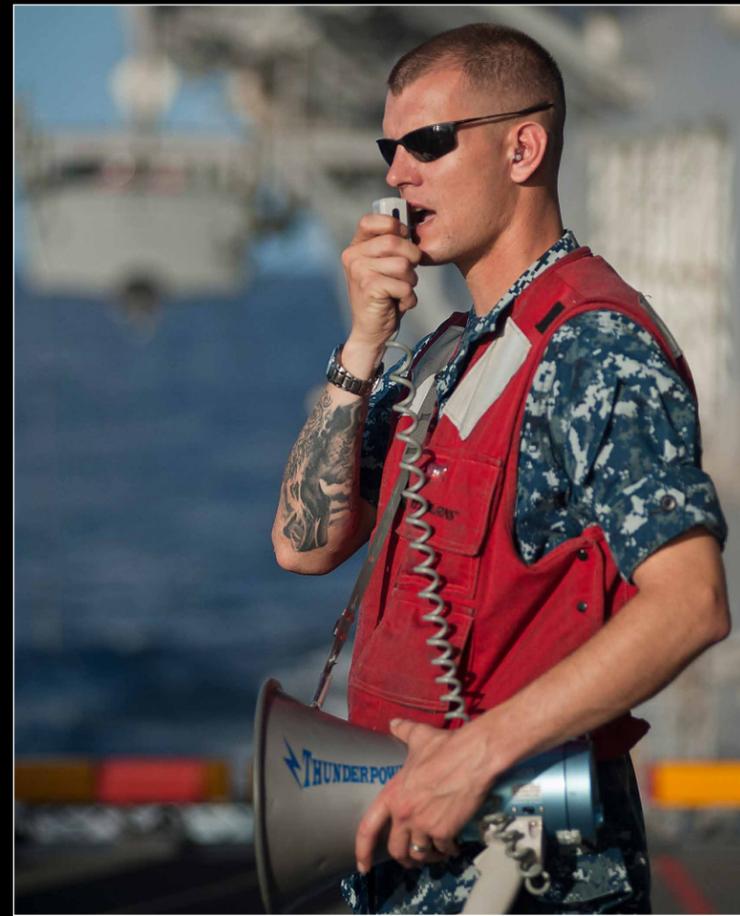
"We do it so that just in case there is a situation where our ship has to go down, the whole crew knows exactly what to do and how to get to their liferafts," said Ford.

Makin Island is equipped with 140, Mark 7 liferafts, which hold up to 25 people, and are stowed on each



Sailors and Marines receive training at their muster stations on the flight deck during the abandon ship drill. [Photo by MCSA Daniel J. Walls]

ABANDON, continued on Page 7



**PHOTOS BY
MC2(SW) ALAN GRAGG**

SMALL ARMS, BIG HEAT

Sailors aboard Makin Island participated in a 9mm pistol small arms qualification exercise on the ship's aircraft elevator Nov.29. The course teaches Sailors how to safely handle the weapon, as well as techniques for accurately engaging targets from a variety of distances and firing positions.



MKI Senior Chief Comissioned as an Ensign



Cmdr. Carla Meyers, Makin Island's supply officer, places shoulder boards on Ensign Andrea Ligon at her commissioning ceremony in the wardroom Dec. 1. Ligon arrived on board Makin Island six years ago as first class petty officer, ascended to the rank of senior chief petty officer, and will leave in a few weeks as a commissioned officer in the Supply Corps. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]



Capt. Jim Landers, Makin Island's commanding officer, shakes hands with Ensign Andrea Ligon at her commissioning ceremony in the wardroom Dec. 1. During the ceremony, Ligon gave her CPO anchors to Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SW/aw) Noel Navidad in keeping with the tradition of passing down anchors at a chief's promotion ceremony. [Photo by MC1(SW) David McKee]

Take care of your vaccination site.

Prevent the accidental spread of the Smallpox to yourself or others.

It is your responsibility to maintain your vaccination site and report to medical to have the bandage removed or changed. The bandage is considered a biohazard and should be brought to medical for proper disposal.

- ▶ Keep bandages clean, dry and covered.
- ▶ Avoid the gym until a corpsman removes the bandage.
- ▶ Wash your hands often.
- ▶ Wear sleeves to cover the site.

"Makin Island University" Kicks Off First NCPACE Semester of Current Deployment

By MCCS(SW/AW) Donnie W. Ryan, Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Sailors and Marines aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) are finding time to work toward college degrees thanks to Makin Island University, the ship's Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) program, that kicked off its first semester of the current deployment, Nov. 29.

This is the fourth semester for Makin Island University, which offered three previous semesters of instruction while the ship was in homeport of San Diego prior to the deployment that began Nov. 14.

NCPACE courses are targeted specifically for shipboard Sailors, with instructors living aboard during long underway periods like the current deployment. The courses are provided by the Navy College Office and tuition is funded entirely by the Navy. Sailors are responsible for additional courses materials such as books and other supplies.

According to Ensign Ramon

Vazquez, Makin Island's educational services officer, interest in the courses during deployment is high and most classes will be filled to capacity.

"Many Sailors joined the Navy for the educational benefits," said Vazquez. "NCPACE is a good way to go about earning a college degree while on deployment."

Vazquez said the courses currently scheduled for the deployment were selected to help Sailors and Marines meet the general education requirements for most colleges and universities.

"Students must attend class for two hours, three times each week," said Vazquez. "Classes are held in the ship's classroom at different times throughout the day to help with busy work schedules."

Sailors who are currently taking the courses said they are glad the ship is giving them the opportunity to earn college credit during the deployment.

"My chain of command is very

interested in me bettering myself," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Cameron Havard who is assigned to Makin Island's security division. "NCPACE is helping me with the courses I need to complete my general education requirements."

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Myles Gutierrez, assigned to Makin Island's medical department, said he is also fortunate to have a supportive chain of command when it comes off duty education.

"I find it very important that Makin Island is offering Sailors a chance to achieve their educational goal that they wouldn't normally have due to our busy schedule," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez said he is planning on taking as many NCPACE courses as he is allowed to during the current deployment in order to get closer to his educational goals.

For more information on future classes, contact the education services office.

ABANDON (cont.) from Page 3

side of the flight deck.

"Once everyone was mustered-up at their life raft stations, we made sure to train everyone on how exactly to use the Mark 7, what was inside of it, and what they might encounter if there was an actual abandon ship ordered," said Ford.

Each liferaft is equipped with survival gear, including food packets, bottled water, desalination kits, flashlights, paddles, first aid kits, and signaling devices.

Sailors and Marines in the liferafts are protected from wind, rain and sun by built-in canopies that automatically inflate when the liferaft is deployed.

"Although it is highly unlikely we would ever have to abandon ship, the crew on Makin Island is more than prepared to handle the situation effectively and quickly," said Ford.



Capt. Cedric E. Pringle, Makin Island's executive officer, overlooks the flight deck as Sailors and Marines muster on the flight deck during the abandon ship drill. [Photo by MCSA Daniel J. Walls]



YOUR LEGACY

Sailors making a difference through mentoring.



**"What you leave behind is not what is engraved
in stone monuments, but what is woven
into the lives of others"**

-- Pericles

