

USS CARL VINSON  
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# VOICE



## HOW THEY DO IT!

### MORALE WELFARE AND RECREATION PROVIDES HOTELS AND TOURS

STORY BY

MC2 (SW/AW) Lori D. Bent | *Carl Vinson Staff Writer*

Carl Vinson and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 17 Sailors have been filtering through the aft mess decks with one goal - to purchase their tour or hotel tickets for the upcoming port visit. Meanwhile, personnel assigned to Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division were busy tracking numbers, booking rooms and approving tour locations for the crew.

More than 4,500 Sailors are eagerly awaiting the chance to visit foreign ports, sample new foods and experience a different culture. But before the ship can deposit its Sailors into a new culture with tickets and hotel receipts in hand, there have been months of preparation.

“We work with contracted MWR companies who have been associated with the Navy for many years,” said Therese Guinane, Vinson’s Fun Boss who procures tickets and hotel rooms for the crew. “We try to confirm a rough schedule in advance with each country we plan to visit but it gets a little difficult with our dates changing and operational security issues.”

Prior to departing San Diego, MWR contacts regional representatives and negotiates offers for hotels and tours. But every country and every

CONTINUE ‘MWR’ ON PAGE 2

The Carl Vinson Voice is an internal document produced by and for the crew of the USS Carl Vinson and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government or the Departments of Defense or the Navy and do not imply any endorsement thereby.

FROM 'MWR' ON PAGE 1

company is different. Hotel rooms are not discounted by the ship's MWR and the tour rates offered to the crew are provided by the contracted MWR agent.

"The more known the companies and hotels, the better discounted rates we get," said Guinane. "The tours we negotiate for are the same tours offered to civilian tourists."

While Guinane and her team work with local companies to ensure the crew has activities and hotels available when the ship pulls into a port, Naval Criminal Investigative Services (NCIS) and local police officials communicate with the companies to ensure the areas are safe for U.S. military service members.

"NCIS consistently conducts a port integrated vulnerability assessment (PIVA) in every foreign port that a ship may pull in to," said Chief Master-at-Arms (SW/EXW) Joseph Hettinger, Security Department's operations chief. "This is done long in advance to appraise locations in and around liberty areas."

After hotels are confirmed, booking agents reserve a block of rooms for Sailors to purchase through MWR. However there are deadlines and limits on the amount of rooms a hotel is willing to hold for no cost.

"If you reserve a hotel on the Internet you have to enter your credit card information in order to reserve the room," Guinane explained. "We are not required to do that, but hotels expect us to sell all the rooms reserved to us. If we need to reserve additional rooms, we have to communicate how many we may need well in advance."

MWR has devised a spreadsheet database that calculates and tracks hotel

and tour sales, offering a quick reference guide to how many rooms have been sold and how many are still available. Hotel bookings are sent out to hotels daily, decreasing the possibility of cancellations from crew members.

"We use one computer for hotel and tour sales because of the independent database that calculates everything for us," Guinane said. "At the end of the day, all the numbers are automatically updated. This reduces any window for error."

The wait to purchase a tour or hotel was much shorter than what Sailors experienced on the last deployment, she said, with the average wait time being 10 to 15 minutes.

"We opened up tour sales first so people who were not purchasing hotels could get their tours and go on with their day," Guinane said. "The morning we opened up hotel sales the lines were shorter than last year, and we were getting people in and out more quickly."

Due to high demand from the crew, MWR sold out 161 rooms in two hours from 14 different hotels. Once hotel blocks were full, MWR began soliciting for rooms and acquired 50 additional rooms.

"We are continuously working to get more rooms so Sailors have more options," Guinane said. "We usually reserve upwards of 250 rooms for port visits but because of the holiday season we were limited to a set amount of rooms. This will not stop us from negotiating for more if we need to."

For more information on hotel or tour ticket sales, contact the MWR office at j-6169. ●



Above Photo by: MC3 (SW/AW) Nicolas C. Lopez | Carl Vinson Staff Photographer  
Photo Illustration by: MC3 (SW) Megan L. Catellier | Carl Vinson Staff Graphic Designer



*Vinson in the News*

# VINSON IN THE NEWS

MICHIGAN STATE PLAYERS, COACHES AND FANS...

## THANK CREW OF USS CARL VINSON FOR CARRIER CLASSIC



### STORY BY

Brandon Howell | *MLive.com* Writer

**E**AST LANSING -- Fans, players and coaches alike took time to honor the men and women of the nation's armed forces Monday at halftime of Michigan State's game against Missouri-Kansas City.

Athletic Director Mark Hollis had a banner created thanking the men and women aboard the USS Carl Vinson for hosting the Spartans during the first-ever Carrier Classic. The massive ship's deck was transformed into a basketball court as Michigan State and North Carolina tipped off the college basketball season on Veterans Day.

Michigan State invited its fans to sign the banner as it lay on display in the Breslin Center concourse during most of the game.

After the game, Michigan State players and coaches added their signatures.

Coach Tom Izzo delivered an impassioned speech to the crowd at halftime, thanking the many past and present military men and women in attendance Monday evening. He

left the court wiping tears from his eyes.

"After two trips to Kuwait and playing on the aircraft carrier, I'm embarrassed to say I have a better appreciation because I should have that," Izzo said after the game. "But it's kind of one of those things that if you aren't involved and you've never been in the military you just don't know as well."

Izzo said the Carrier Classic was a great event and he thanked those aboard the USS Carl Vinson for hosting it. He said that experience, as well as his prior trips to Kuwait, "changed my life."

"As I was leaving that aircraft carrier saying bye to all the sailors, I'm thinking, 'I'm going back to a ritzy hotel and chartering home and they're going off to sea,'" he said. "You just get a better appreciation of how important they are.

"They don't get enough credit, they really don't. It's our fault, and you can put me on that list. Hopefully, I'm going to keep trying to do things better." ●

Photos by: MC2 (SW) James R. Evans



# DON'T FRET YET!

## HOLIDAY MAIL TO ARRIVE IN HONG KONG

### STORY BY

MC2 (SW) Byron C. Linder | *Carl Vinson Staff Writer*

Many Sailors eager for Christmas presents were disappointed to discover only a small amount of mail was delivered during Vinson's three-day replenishment at sea (RAS) and vertical replenishment (VERTREP) series with the Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Charles Drew (T-AKE 10) and fleet replenishment oiler USNS John Ericsson (T-AO 194) Dec. 20-22.

Almost a year ago Sailors had the same high hopes for a Christmas delivery. On Dec. 24, 2010, Carl Vinson did in fact receive a massive mail delivery.

A repeat performance is not in the cards this year due to the disparate operational schedules, explained Chief Logistics Specialist (SW/AW) Noe Nesmith, Vinson's command postal officer.

According to Nesmith, the mail that did arrive during the three-day RAS and

VERTREP series was picked up by the Ericsson in Guam. "We got about 5,000 pounds delivered on the 20th," Nesmith said, explaining how ships' schedules determine our mail deliveries. "Last year the schedule of our RAS load just worked out that way. This time we missed it by a few days."

When Vinson arrives in Hong Kong on Dec. 27, Sailors can expect a massive mail call in the ship's hangar bay.

"We have about 20,000 pounds of mail heading to our next port, so it's going to be a big hit," Nesmith said.

Duty section personnel can expect to assist with loading the mail from the pier onto a liberty launch and into Vinson's hangar bay.

Nesmith encouraged Sailors to stay positive and patient.

"Wait for Hong Kong. The mail will catch up to us. We're doing what we can to get all the mail we can aboard." ●



Above Photo by: MCSN George M. Bell | *Carl Vinson Staff Photographer*

# MESSAGE FROM MEDICAL

## PROVIDED BY

HM1 Melanie Torrez | *Medical Department's Preventative Medicine Leading Petty Officer*

Smallpox is a contagious and sometimes fatal infectious disease caused by a virus, a virus sometimes used as a biological agent. The vaccination administered onboard Carl Vinson is not the actual smallpox virus, but is made from a virus with similar characteristics to build the immune system.

The smallpox vaccine is mandatory for U.S. military personnel deploying for 15 or more consecutive days to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (COMUSNAVCENT) or U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility (AOR). There are certain medical conditions that can disqualify a person from getting the smallpox vaccine. Each Sailor will be individually evaluated before being vaccinated.

Vinson conducts smallpox vaccination exercises out to sea to reduce the risk of exposure and cross-contamination because the virus is highly contagious. Medical Department works with the ship's operational schedule to conduct shot exercises to ensure vaccinated

personnel would no longer be infectious by the time the ship makes a port call.

Sailors are reminded to safely treat their smallpox vaccination site to minimize the risks of an epidemic. Medical Department encourages crewmembers to abide by the following rules on getting bandages and dressings changed:



Corpsman Holli Daniels, assigned to Dental Department vaccinates a Sailor inside Medical Department onboard Carl Vinson during WESTPAC 2010. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Travis K. Mendoza)

- Always wear a Band-Aid and change it at least twice a day. This will help the healing process.
- Do not dispose of your own Band-Aids! If the Band-Aid comes off, wrap it in tissues/toilet paper and bring it to Medical to be properly disposed.
- Keep the vaccination site as dry as possible and keep it covered when showering.
- Avoid touching the vaccination site directly or letting anyone else touch it, especially if they have not received the smallpox vaccine.
- Do not share towels, sheets, or any personal shower gear with anyone.
- Even though the vaccination site may itch, do not apply lotions, creams or topical medication. This will only delay the healing process and may cause the vaccine to spread. ●

## *Courtesies, Customs and Ceremonies* COURTESIES, CUSTOMS AND CEREMONIES

TAKEN FROM THE 24TH EDITION BLUE JACKETS' MANUAL

### GUN SALUTES

In the old days it took as long as 20 minutes to load and fire a gun, so that when a ship fired her guns in salute, thereby rendering herself temporarily powerless, it was a friendly gesture. That practice has come down through the years to be a form of honoring an individual or a nation.

The gun salutes prescribed by the Navy regulations are fired only by ships and stations designated by the Secretary of the Navy. Salutes are fired at intervals of five seconds, and always in odd numbers. A salute of 21 guns is fired on Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, and Independence Day, and to honor the president of the United States and heads of foreign states. Other high-ranking government

officials are honored by a lesser number of guns; for example, the vice president of the United States is honored by 19 guns and the Under Secretary of the Navy receives a 17 gun salute. Senior naval officers are also honored by gun salutes, and the number of shots fired depends upon their rank. Salutes for naval officers are as followed:

Admiral - 17 guns

Vice admiral - 15 guns

Rear admiral (upper half) - 13 guns

Rear admiral (lower half) - 11 guns

Officers below the rank of rear admiral (lower half) do not rate a gun salute. ●

# A SPECIAL HOLIDAY MESSAGE

## MESSAGE FROM

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/AW) Rick D. West

*Shipmates and Navy families,*

Can you believe another year is almost over? It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy! It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays, and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedication and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments, the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your Shipmates worked hard and sacrificed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles, and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and

we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don't let bad judgment ruin the New Year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your Shipmates who may be having a difficult time.

It's also important that we remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation's call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation's freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country's greatest gifts.

Happy holidays Shipmates and HOOYAH!

Very Respectfully,  
MCPON



# CHRISTMAS EVE DAY

Roman Catholic Mass at 1730 in the Foc'sle	Roman Catholic Mass at 0900 in the Foc'sle	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 1300 in the Chapel
Liturgical Service at 1730 in the Chapel	Liturgical Service at 0900 in the Chapel	Gospel Praise and Worship Service at 1900 in the Foc'sle
Caroling Service at 2000 in the Foc'sle	Anchor of Faith General Christian Service at 1100 in the Foc'sle	Bible Study at 1930 in the Chapel

*Sunday, December 25, 2011*

# TRANSITION BENEFITS: MANY ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL SAILORS

## STORY BY

MC1 (SW/AW) Monique K. Hilley | *Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs*

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- All Sailors transitioning out of the Navy are encouraged to visit their Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) to receive information on all of the services and benefits available to them.

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) FFSC's offer transition assistance services to prepare separating and retiring service members and their families with the skills, tools and self-confidence needed to ensure successful re-entry into the civilian workforce.

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) is designed to enhance personal readiness, speed the attainment of career milestones, and return Sailors to the civilian community.

Pre-separation counseling, benefits and financial considerations during a career change, employment assistance, relocation assistance, and the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop provided by the Department of Labor are just a few of the many services available at FFSC's worldwide.

The TAP workshop covers many topics including employment skills verification, individual skills assessment, pre-separation counseling, an understanding of the civilian workplace, job search process, federal employment opportunities, financial management, interview techniques, resume preparation, networking, VA benefits eligibility, salary negotiation, job training opportunities, educational opportunities, spouse employment and relocation assistance.

The TAP workshop is mandatory for all Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) selected Sailors and highly encouraged for all personnel departing the military service.

Career Options and Navy Skills Evaluations Program (CONSEP) is also available to Sailors with 12-24 months remaining on their current contract that are either first-term Sailors or mid-career Sailors with 6-12 years of active duty.

CONSEP is a 32-hour workshop providing enlisted Sailors with

comprehensive military and civilian career information enabling students to make informed decisions concerning their career path. During CONSEP, Sailors will be offered personalized "career coaching" services free of charge for both themselves and their family members.

Sailors looking for further transition assistance resources can access TurboTAP at [www.TurboTAP.org](http://www.TurboTAP.org) for 24/7 access to helpful pre-separation and transition guides, employment, education, relocation and benefits checklists and more. Other information about career options and employment opportunities is available at [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org), a Department of Labor website.

Complete information about all of the transition assistance resources available through CNIC and FFSC's worldwide can be found at [www.cnic.navy.mil](http://www.cnic.navy.mil).

For any questions or more information about the Enlisted Retention Board visit the ERB website at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx>. ●

# TRANSITION BENEFITS: SOME SEPARATING SAILORS MAY STILL USE COMMISSARY, EXCHANGE

## STORY BY

Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Some Sailors involuntarily separated from active duty may retain commissary and exchange privileges during their transition from the Navy, officials said Dec. 15.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008, any member of the Armed Forces involuntarily separated under other than adverse conditions from active duty through Dec. 31, 2012 may continue to use commissary and exchange privileges for a two-year period beginning on the date of the member's involuntary separation, said Kathy Wardlaw, director, Navy Personnel Command, records management and benefits division.

This means Sailors separated from the Navy due to the Enlisted Retention

Board, and some Perform to Serve separations may qualify for this benefit.

Navy will forward separating Sailors' information to the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) for issuance of a Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card for eligible former active duty and selected Reserve Sailors.

Former Sailors can visit the Defense Commissary Agency website at <https://www.commissaries.com/> and use the locator to find the nearest location. The card will also allow them access to Navy Exchange, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Marine Corps Exchange and Coast Guard Exchange facilities.

Eligible veterans may obtain their Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card at any ID-card site. They

must present their DD-214 and two forms of identification.

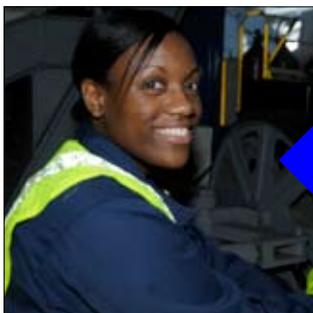
For questions concerning eligibility and to learn more about this benefit, separating Sailors should speak with their transition assistance counselor when completing their pre-separation counseling checklist.

Continued exchange and commissary privileges are just one of many transition benefits available to Sailors including those affected by the enlisted retention board.

For more information about ERB and other transition benefits, visit the NPC ERB Web Page at [www.npc.navy.mil/boards/ERB/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/boards/ERB/), contact the NPC customer service center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (1-866-827-5672) or email [cscmailbox@navy.mil](mailto:cscmailbox@navy.mil). ●

# DIALOGUES

| WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HONG KONG? |



"I WANT TO GO TO LADIES MARKET. I'LL PROBABLY GET A PURSE FOR MYSELF AND SOMETHING FOR MY MOM."

IT2 (SW/AW)  
ANTONISHA FOX

"I'M GOING ON THE MOUNTAIN BIKING TOUR. I THINK WE ARE BIKING TO THE HIGHEST POINT IN HONG KONG. I ALSO WANT TO CHECK OUT THE GIANT BUDDHA."

ABHAN  
ROBERT DIFRANK



"I'M GOING TO MY FRIEND'S RUGBY MATCH THE SECOND DAY, AND GOING ON A TOUR THE THIRD DAY."

SN  
KENIA DIAZ

"I'M GOING TO CELEBRATE MY TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY WITH MY FRIENDS."

CSSN  
FABIOLA CARRILLO



INTERESTED IN THE  
UNITED THROUGH READING  
PROGRAM?

SIGN UP AT 2-126-4-L  
WITH  
RPSA SCHUMACHER

0900-1100  
1300-2000



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## ESWS | EAWS



E-2C HAWKEYE - PERFORM ALL-WEATHER AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND COMMAND AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS FOR THE CARRIER BATTLE GROUP. ADDITIONAL MISSIONS INCLUDE SURFACE-SURVEILLANCE COORDINATION, STRIKE AND INTERCEPTOR CONTROL, AND SEARCH-AND-RESCUE GUIDANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS RELAY.



THE BOAT AND AIRCRAFT (B & A) CRANE IS USED TO ON AND OFF LOAD THE SHIP'S SMALL BOATS AND DAMAGED AIRCRAFT. THE MAIN HOOK HAS A LIFTING CAPACITY OF 50,000 LBS AND THE AUXILIARY HOOK HAS A MAX CAPACITY OF 6,500 LBS.