

The Kicker

July 4, 2015

HMC BROWN
A CAREER
OF HELPING
OTHERS

SEA CADETS
THE NAVY'S
FUTURE
LEADERS

FAMILY OF SERVICE
BROTHER AND SISTER
ON BOARD REAGAN



[facebook.com/ussronaldreagan](https://www.facebook.com/ussronaldreagan)

<http://www.reagan.navy.mil>

MEN'S HEALTH

June is Men's Health Month, an opportunity to increase awareness about health issues important to men, such as prostate, testicular, skin and colon cancers, hypertension, obesity, and heart disease. This month the Military Health System (MHS) will focus on the importance of recognizing preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys within the DoD community.

Men's Health Awareness - Military Health Systems:

<http://www.health.mil/News/Articles/2015/06/05/June-is-Mens-Health-Awareness-Month>



USS RONALD REAGAN

Commanding Officer

Capt. Chris Bolt

Executive Officer

Capt. Brett Crozier

Command Master Chief

CMDCM Spike Call

76ER

PRODUCTION TEAM

Managing Editors

MC3 Dave Frederick

MC3 James Mullen

Staff

MC2 Jacob Estes

MC2 Omar Powell

MC2 Chase Lacombe

MC3 Timothy Schumaker

MC3 Nathan Burke

MC3 Jonathan Nelson

MEDIA

DEPARTMENT

MC1 Dustin Kelling (LPO)

MC1 Xander Gamble

MC2 Nathan Hawkins

MC3 Kevin Hastings

MC3 Joshua Warne

MC3 Devin Kates

MC3 Christopher Gordon

MC3 Cody Hendrix

MC3 Paul Archer

MC3 Ryan McFarlane

MCSN Timmothy Erdt

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Lara Bollinger

Media DIVO

Lt. j.g. Michael Hathaway

Media DLCPO

MCCS Mike Raney

Media LCPO

MCCS Terry Feeney



3 HMC Brown: From submarines to Afghanistan to America's Flagship - A Career of helping others

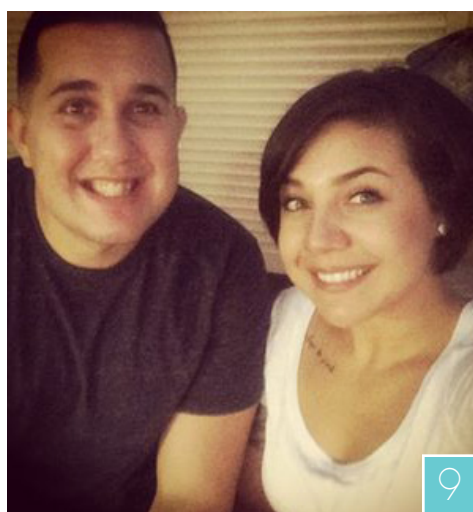
7 Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

9 Siblings Who Serve
What it's like for siblings serving aboard USS Ronald Reagan

13 Through The Lens

15 Q&A with BM3 Sciotto

17 Sea Cadets
Cultivating Success in our Navy's Future Leaders



On the front cover:

Photo by MC3 Jonathan Nelson

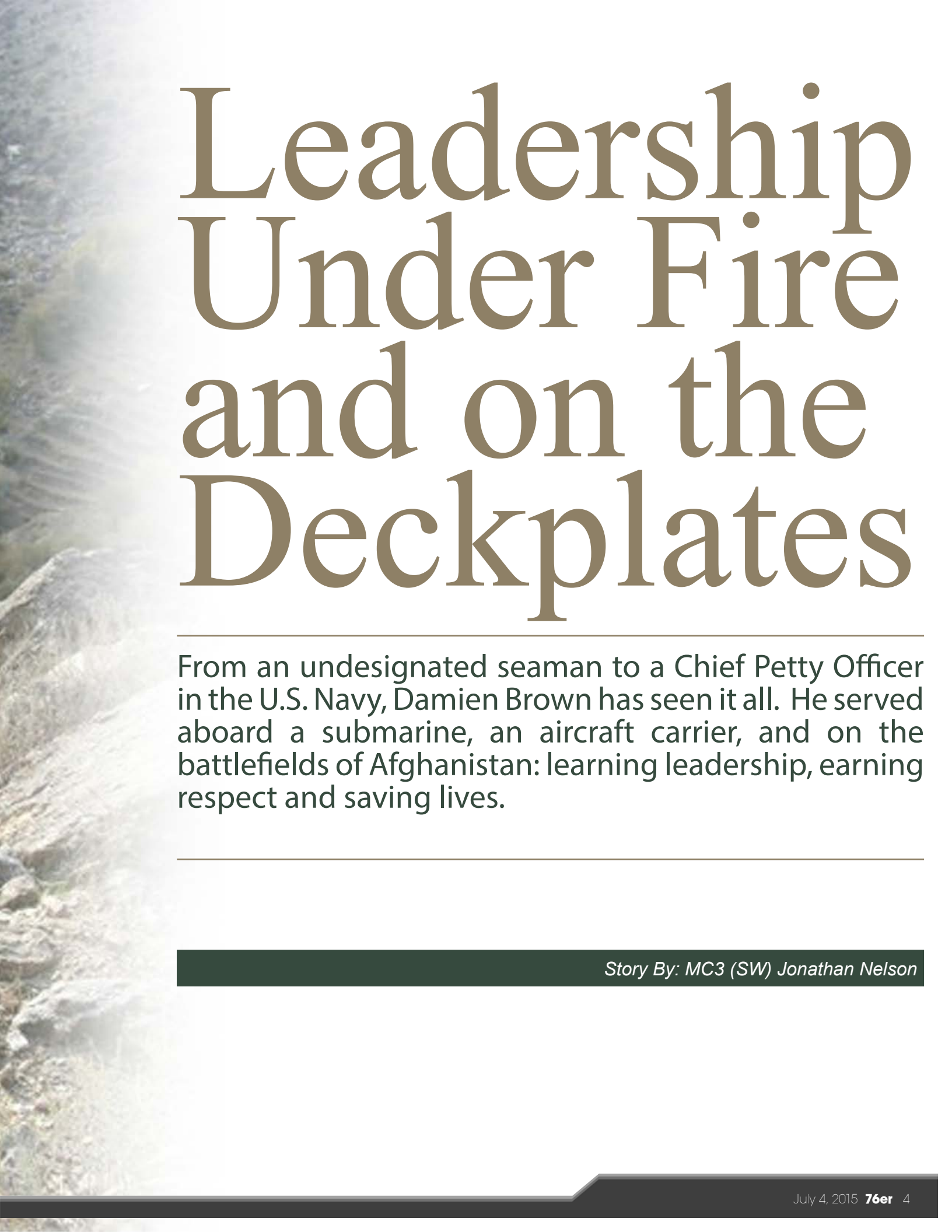
Photo Illustration by MC3 James Mullen

On the back cover:

Photo by MC3 Nathan Burke

Photo Illustration by MC3 James Mullen





Leadership Under Fire and on the Deckplates

From an undesignated seaman to a Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy, Damien Brown has seen it all. He served aboard a submarine, an aircraft carrier, and on the battlefields of Afghanistan: learning leadership, earning respect and saving lives.

Story By: MC3 (SW) Jonathan Nelson

A simple passage from the Bible sums up the history, mission and the ardent service and sacrifice of a U.S. Navy Corpsman, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Some call them heroes to the heroes. They are caregivers to our Warriors – willing and often the first to go in harm’s way to save a brother in arms.

This month, the Hospital Corpsman rate celebrates its 117th birthday. The Navy Hospital Corpsman is one of the most decorated rates in Naval history. Consisting of more than 25,000 active duty and reserve members, corpsmen have been on the frontline of every major military conflict since their conception on June 17, 1898.

Corpsmen serve aboard ships, naval hospitals and clinics and on the frontlines of battle with Marines, providing healthcare and aid in an injured service member’s time of need. USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) has a fully functional medical department, consisting of corpsmen and medical officers who provide various medical services to the crew.

Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW/SS/FMF) Damien Brown, a native of Madera, California, is one of the department’s most influential enlisted leaders. Today, he serves as the Medical Leading Chief Petty Officer and Preventive Medicine Technician. In a past life, he has been there comforting the sick, injured and wounded; he has saved lives.

“I run the day to day operations of the corpsmen in our department,” said Brown. “I mostly manage my Sailor’s careers. I do career development boards and give them general Naval advice. I hope that my corpsmen use the Reagan as a jumping platform to eventually become Independent Duty Corpsmen, or even Preventive Medicine Technicians.”

Brown went to boot camp May 23, 2001, at the age of 20. Raised by a single mother and having four siblings—of which he was the only son—he enlisted to make a change.

“I joined the Navy to get out of the small town I was raised in,” said Brown. “I didn’t know the adventures, stories, and lifelong friends I would end up making when I enlisted. I had three jobs at one time to help around the house, so the military seemed



“It’s easy to complain,
but it’s hard to lead.
Take pride in everything
you do.” —HMC (SW/AW/SS/FMF) Damien Brown

like a good option at the time. It has been the choice that I have been most proud of in my life so far.”

Brown started his Navy career as an undesignated seaman aboard USS Albany (SSN-753), a Norfolk-based submarine.

“On Reagan, Deck Department is over 150 people strong,” said Brown. “When I was in Deck on a sub, it was literally me and one other person. We painted the sail, laid tar, waxed decks and did that kind of stuff while in port. While we were at sea, my main job was driving the sub, no different than the junior Sailors here on a carrier.”

As an undesignated seaman, Brown started working with Albany’s Independent Duty Corpsman and took a liking to providing medical care. After his two-year hitch as a submariner, Brown struck corpsman, packed his sea bag and headed to Great Lakes, Illinois, for Hospital Corpsman “A” School.

After school he reported to Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Virginia, for a two-year tour. Brown decided he wanted to become a Preventive Medicine Technician and attended Preventive Medicine School in San Diego. After graduating, he received orders to be a corpsman of Marines. Next destination: 3rd Marine Division, Okinawa, Japan.

“I spent the next four years in Japan,” said Brown. “While in Okinawa, I got to deploy all over the place. I went to Korea, Thailand, and a number of other countries. However, the most memorable time there was my deployment to Afghanistan, August 2009 to April 2010.”

This deployment sent Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brown to the Korangal Valley in north-eastern Afghanistan. Korangal Valley had been the scene of fierce fighting between U.S. Forces and the Taliban.



"It wasn't all bad. I did a lot of patrols and got into a lot of firefights," said Brown. "I was combat promoted to 1st Class, under a program called Combat Meritorious Promotion. I earned a Navy Commendation with Valor for multiple actions in Afghanistan."

On the morning of August 20, 2009, Brown's combat outpost came under attack and an eight-hour firefight ensued. He manned an M240B machine gun to provide cover fire for his teammates, giving them just enough protection to make their way to an Afghan Army commander who was pinned down on the other side of the base.

Eventually, Chief Brown ran out of ammunition. There was an MK-19 grenade launcher that he could use, but he would have to expose himself to intense enemy gunfire to reach it – and he did. With a new weapon in his hands, he provided more suppressing

fire on the enemy and helped his team successfully repel the attack.

Less than a month later, on September 8, Brown showcased his adept medical skill under daunting and heroic circumstances. Thanks to his quick action and courage under fire, he saved the life of a downed U.S. Army pilot who sustained a gunshot wound to the head during a firefight. Brown immediately stopped the bleeding, stabilized the pilot and prepared him for a medical evacuation. His life-saving efforts earned him the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat Distinguishing Device.

"When you're in this kind of situation, it is do or die time; fight or flight," said Brown. "This is your time to be brave and do what you've been trained to do, or you're going to hide behind something and wait for it all to pass."

The courageous pledge of all corpsmen in principle is to risk being wounded for the life of a patient.

"Rounds are whizzing past your face, but in the moment you don't really have time to think about that," said Brown. "You're just trying to defend yourself and you're trying to keep the Marines that are with you alive."

Before returning to Okinawa, Brown received the George William "Doc" Piercy award—equivalent to a "Corpsman of the Year Award"—and presented by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.

"I was the only Navy participant in the award ceremony; the rest were all Marines," said Brown. "The Commandant came and presented me with an Iwo Jima Statue award and personally shook my hand."

By 2012, then-HM1 Brown was the leading petty officer of the Fort Worth Naval Clinic in Texas, where he was the command's 2011 Sailor of the Year. With this honor came opportunity to visit the USS Constitution and represent as Navy Medicine East's Sailor of the Year. Shortly after, Brown's name appeared on a list with 242 others, announcing he was selected for promotion to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Chief Brown's next tour of duty: USS Ronald Reagan.

"Being on a ship is very fast-paced," said Brown. "Especially on a carrier. There's always something coming up around the corner. You kind of have to have good foresight and look ahead to prepare for what's coming. You have to be able to react and perform no matter what."

Arriving in August of 2013, Brown has been with the Ship through two TSTA/FEP evaluations, a Rim of the Pacific exercise, a Planned Incremental Availability, and numerous other ship evolutions.

"I think the expectation on sea duty in general, is higher," said Brown. "More is expected of you, more hours are expected of you; it's an aircraft carrier."

Fourteen years into his Navy career, Chief Brown offers this advice to junior Sailors.

"It's easy to complain, but it's hard to lead. Take pride in everything you do," said Brown. "Listen to the advice of those seasoned in the Navy, and make smart life decisions. Every action has a reaction, what is done in the dark always comes to light." ■

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Story By: MC2 (SW/AW) Omar Powell

Photos By: MC3 Nathan Burke

“The U.S. Navy’s diversity is what makes our Navy the most powerful Navy in the world and our Asian American Pacific Islanders have a lot to do with that.” —Yeoman 3rd Class Lovely Frantz



Their goal was to realize the American dream. Generations of Asian American Pacific Islanders struggled and persevered to make our country what it is today. Every May, America pauses to recognize the collective rich and complex experiences of our brothers and sisters of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Southeast Asian, Asian Indian and Polynesian descent. We celebrate the aspirations, accomplishments, lives, challenges and struggles of Asian American Pacific Islanders across America.

On May 23, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) held a living recognition of America’s Asian and Pacific Islander heritage. This shipboard commemoration celebrates the incredible diversity within our communities, military and specifically – our Navy.

“A lot of people volunteered their time and effort in making this event happen. Our diversity committee can take a lot of credit for that,” said Aviation Structural Mechanic Chief Alfred Villamor, diversity committee coordinator.

The celebration consisted of remarks Sonar Technician Senior Chief Elny McKinney, followed by a Filipino folk

dance called “Kalapati,” which means “dove.” The dance included bowing, billing, cooing and exchanging flowers carried in the dancer’s mouths, much like the ritual of a dove trying to court its mate.

“We had a good number of Sailors from all backgrounds wanting to learn our dance, so they could be a part of the presentation,” said Villamor.

“This was my second year as a dancer in the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage ceremony,” said Yeoman 3rd Class Lovely Frantz, the command’s recent Blue Jacket of the Quarter awardee. “As half Filipino and half German, I take great pride in sharing part of my culture.”

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, originally Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, began in May, 1990, when President George H. W. Bush signed a bill extending Asian Pacific American Heritage Week to a month.

May was chosen for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month to commemorate the first Japanese immigrants coming to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad



on May 10, 1869, largely constructed by Chinese immigrants.

Today, Asian American Pacific Islanders are proud to share their discoveries, experiences and voices. Many of these men and women are trailblazers and leaders in every aspect of American life, including service in the Navy.

Take Rear Adm. Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon, a man of Chinese, Hawaiian and English descent. Chung-Hoon attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in May 1934, becoming the first Asian American U.S. citizen to do so. Through his gallantry and extraordinary heroism as commanding officer of the USS Sigsbee (DD 502), he rose to the flag ranks.

On Sigsbee, Chung-Hoon assisted in the destruction of 20 enemy planes, while screening a carrier strike force off the Japanese island of Kyushu in World War II. Despite taking on a direct hit from a kamikaze crash, Sigsbee was able to deliver a prolonged and effective fire against the continuing enemy air attack while simultaneously directing the ship back to port. His commitment to duty saved countless lives on his ship and many other lives in his strike force.

"The U.S. Navy's diversity is what makes our Navy the most powerful Navy in the world and our Asian American Pacific Islanders have a lot to do with that," said Frantz.

"Having an understanding of one's background enhances cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness, promotes harmony and unit cohesion in the Navy as well as aboard the Reagan," said Villamor.

The celebration finished with a ceremonial cake cutting by the ship's Executive Officer, Capt. Brett Crozier, followed by Asian fare served on the mess decks.

"I like what the ship did for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month because it exposes the ship to different cultures," said Frantz. "I also learn new things about my own culture during these celebrations. The event made learning fun and entertaining."

"One thing I would like people to take away from our Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage ceremony is how we take pride in our heritage and our contributions to our nation," said Villamor. ■

FAMILY OF SERVICE

Meet the Schows: Siblings who Serve

Story By: MC3 Nathan Burke



Less than one percent of Americans volunteer to serve their country. It's uncommon that a family member decides to sign their name and take the oath, let alone an entire generation of children. This makes the latest generation of Schows a rarity.

Christopher, Brandi and Nicholas Schow are children of the American working class - their mother, a telemarketer and their father, a chef.

"We don't really come from money or anything," said Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class (AW/SW) Brandi Schow. "Everything we've got, we've fought for and got ourselves."

"It'll be three years in December," Schow said of her Navy anniversary. "I joined at my brother's two-year mark and my little brother joined at

my two year mark. "It's pretty funny how all that panned out."

"My brother was right there with me supporting me and helping me study," said Brandi. "He got me prepared for boot camp and I did exactly the same thing for my little brother by giving him everything I knew. We all just helped each other along the way."

After hard work at "A" and "C" schools, the stars aligned—her orders and ship had come in. Brandi and Christopher would serve together aboard America's Flagship, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

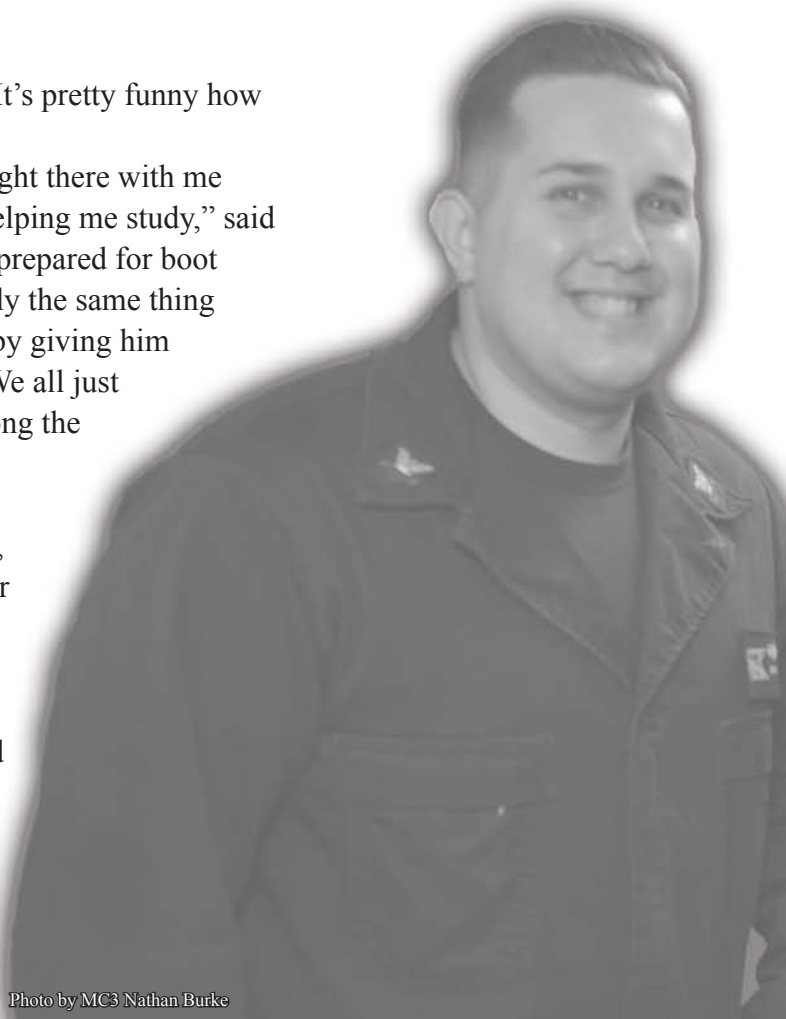


Photo by MC3 Nathan Burke

"I am the big brother, but at a young age, I kind of was thrown into having to be like their father figure at times."

— Machinist Mate 2nd Class (SW/AW) Christopher Schow



Photo by MC3 Nathan Burke



"I wanted a carrier and my brother told me that this ship was going to be going to Japan," said Brandi. "I wanted to go overseas and you know a carrier is probably the best thing for an air traffic controller. So I picked it."

"She is very determined when she puts her mind to something," said Machinist Mate 2nd Class (SW/AW) Christopher Schow. "Ever since she was a young kid, she knew what she wanted to do when she grew up and I am actually pretty envious of that."

A glimpse of her determination surfaced during a rare sighting of the brother and sister duo together. Brandi wanted a picture of the two sharing a hug and she got it. Her tactic—an unstoppable combination.

First, she refused to take no for an answer. Secondly, she unleashed "the look"—the heart melting stuff

often seen between a girl and her father. Specifically, the look when the father just can't say no. It worked.

"I am the big brother," said Christopher. "But at a young age, I kind of was thrown into having to be like their father at times. So I'm very happy that they (Brandi and Nicholas) joined and have grown up the way they are."

Like most new Sailors, when Brandi reported aboard Reagan, she was lost in a sea of unfamiliar faces on a huge warship. Luckily, if she looked closely enough, she knew a face in the crowd.

"It was so comforting to have my brother here," Brandi said. "It was helpful to have him explain everything to me and to show me around. When we were growing up, it helped me a lot that he was able to explain things



Photo by MC3 Nathan Burke

in a way that I could understand.”

While siblings often grow apart going into adulthood, being shipmates helps the Schows remain close and appreciative of one another.

“I don’t give him enough credit all the time but he’s really smart,” Brandi said of her older brother. “He applies himself a lot and works very, very hard and it shows.”

“The best part about having my sister onboard is if I ever need to call someone or sit down and have a heart-to-heart conversation, she’s there,” Christopher said. “What better person to talk to than my sister?”

Even though they serve aboard the same ship, Brandi and Chris are the first to admit they each have a job to do—so quality time can be hard to come by at times.

“It’s nice to know that he’s here, but at the same time, I know he’s down on the second deck. Even though

he’s so close, he still feels really far sometimes,” said Brandi. “I rarely see him.”

“I probably only see her an hour or two every three weeks,” said Christopher. “She works for aviation. I work down here for Reactor.”

While their jobs are worlds apart, they are both integral pieces to the mission of Reagan. After serving together for nearly a year, Christopher and Brandi say a single Reagan experience stands out from the rest.

“It was exciting to experience her first port call with her and share that moment with her,” said Christopher. “I never thought I would be in Hawaii, let alone be there with my sister. So when she first signed onboard it was really exciting, really cool.”

Their days serving together aboard Reagan are numbered. However, the horizon shows promise

for a new chapter of family service.

“I transfer in October,” said Christopher. “I’m leaving here with a lot of achievements and a lot of things that in a first-time career very rarely happens—experiencing a natural disaster, experiencing a DPIA, two PCS moves and a RIMPAC.”

Christopher says he has experienced many new things aboard America’s Flagship and feels like now is a great time to end one and move on to the next chapter of his career.

“I’d say I’ve learned a lot about myself and I’m pretty excited to have my sister here to follow in my footsteps,” said Christopher. “I hope she experiences the same things that I’ve experienced. I’m excited to see her and watch her grow in years to come.”

“I’m pretty self-sufficient now, but I still wish my brother was going to be around,” said Brandi. “I don’t want

“The best part about having my sister onboard is if I ever need to call someone or sit down and have a heart-to-heart conversation, she’s there.”

— Machinist Mate 2nd Class (SW/AW) Christopher Schow

him to leave.”

Just as their time together in uniform started far from home, so too will it end. This summer, Reagan will embark on its new mission as America’s only permanently forward deployed aircraft carrier that will patrol and call the Western Pacific home.

“I have orders to Camp Pendleton where our younger brother is stationed,” said Christopher. I’ll be going from here with Brandi for a year, over to Camp Pendleton with Nicholas. “He’ll be there for about another year, so I’ll go from having one family member on a ship, to having another family member at shore duty,” said Christopher. “That’s pretty cool and pretty exciting.” ■



Photo by MC3 Nathan Burke



Photo by Lt. j.g. Joe Pfaff



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Cody Hendrix



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Jonathan Nelson



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker

TOUGH THE NS



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC2 Chase C. Lacombe



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker



Photo by MC3 Paul Archer



Photo by MC3 Timothy Schumaker

BM3 Laurel Sciotto

Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class (SW/AW) Laurel Sciotto, a native of Columbus, Ohio, reported aboard America's Flagship more than two and a half years ago. She hit the ground running soon after arriving, quickly obtaining both her Surface and Aviation Warfare pins and has her eye on the Information Dominance Warfare pin—a qualification she'd like to earn before transferring. She was featured as a May Reagan Sailor of the Day and is an active member of the 3&2 Association, Diversity Committee and serves her departmental shipmates as a Morale, Welfare and Recreation representative. During Reagan's planned incremental maintenance availability, she played a vital role performing maintenance and preservation on many of Deck Department's spaces.

Sciotto works in Reagan's respirator issue, temporarily assigned to Safety Department. In her position, she issues respirators and full protection to the crew, ensuring they are trained and qualified to properly use this important safety gear. She also works as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist coordinator for Deck Department, conducting walkthroughs and training for Sailors working toward their warfare pins. Sciotto is at most of the ship's major evolutions, working as a safety observer and ensuring the job is done safely and correctly.

When she isn't making a positive impact on the Reagan crew, Sciotto enjoys spending her time skateboarding, fishing, working out and snowboarding during the winter. She is also planning to begin college classes again soon so she can finish her degree.



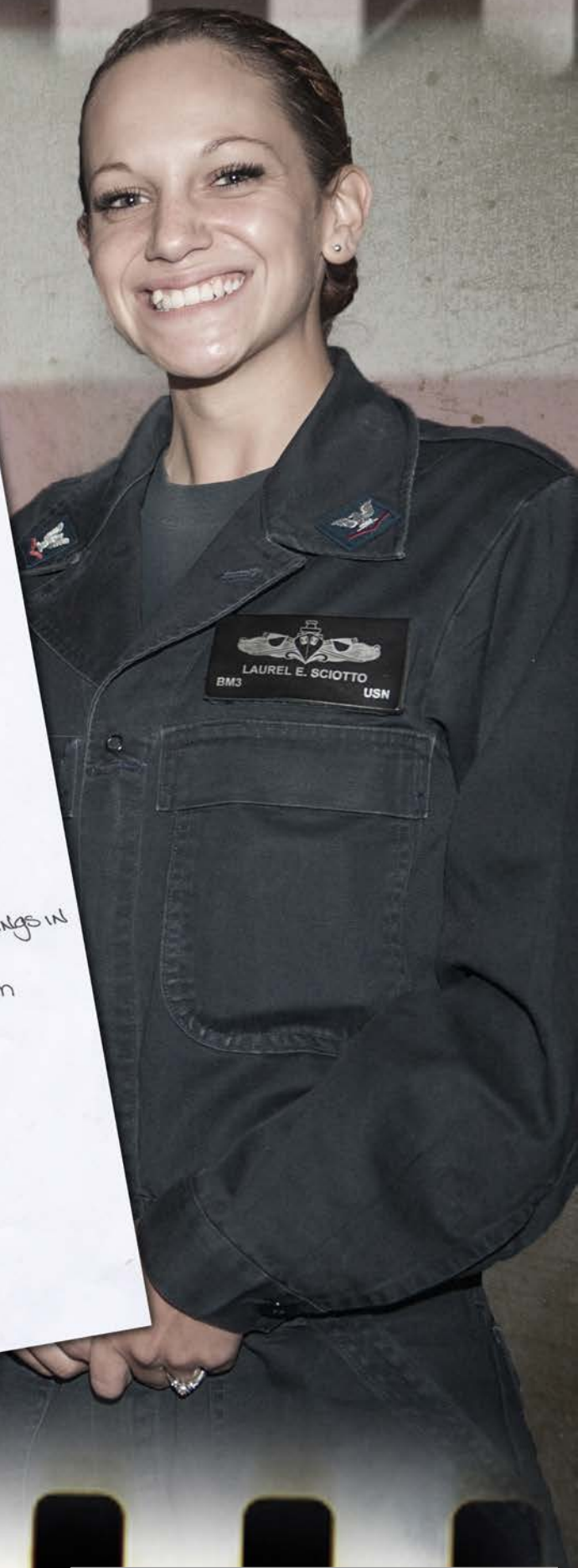
Sciotto

SAILOR SPOTLIGHT: getting to know

name: LAUREL ELIZABETH Sciotto rate/rank: BM3
 department: Safety division: _____
 daily grind: Respirator Issue
 hometown: Columbus, Ohio
 inspiration: My Mother
 soundtrack (song): "She will be loved" - Maroon 5
 that special place: THE BEACH AFTER SUNSET
 sports team: Ohio State Buckeyes
 movie: Step Brothers
 food: Baked Spaghetti
 can't live without: Music
 proudest moment: Getting Capped to 3rd
 strawberry or grape jelly: Strawberry
 best age, why: 11, BECAUSE ALL YOU WORRY ABOUT ARE THE FUN THINGS IN LIFE AND GO TO SCHOOL
 mentor: ADI MEKEI
 hobby: SKATEBOARDING, READING, SNOWBOARDING, Gym
 that perfect day: THUNDERSTORMS

signature:

Laurel E. Sciotto





SEA CADETS

Cultivating Success in our Navy's Future Leaders

Story By: MC2 (SW/AW) Jacob Estes

Honor, Courage and Commitment serve as part of their credo and moral compass, yet they've never signed a Navy enlistment contract nor recited the oath of enlistment. They don their uniforms with pride, rise through the ranks and understand the value of teamwork. However, they haven't served a single day, enlisted or commissioned as an officer. They are trailblazers committed to the highest standards, setting the pace for their peers to emulate.

But who are they?

Adopted by the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) First Class Petty Officers' Mess, they are the fastest growing sea cadet unit in the nation—the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Wolverine Division.

The relationship dates back to 2012, when Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class (AW/SW) Melanie Mezei and Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 1st Class (AW/SW) Michael Kwon were recruit division commanders (RDC) at the Navy's Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes, Illinois.

During sea cadet training, all cadets are required to attend a mandatory two-week recruit training session facilitated and hosted by RTC.

Kwon and Mezei had the honor of commanding a sea cadet division during their tenure as RDCs.

"More than 60 percent of enlisting Sailors are members of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) or Sea Cadets," explained Kwon. "That's a drastic figure, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to train the Navy's future leaders."

"The motivation they possess is exceptionally inspiring," said Mezei. "I see the cadets as the future, not just of the Navy, but all branches of military service. They are future leaders of both enlisted and commissioned service members."

While at RTC, Mezei met Sea Cadet Capt. Daniel Sydes of the Royal Marine Reserve,

who also serves as executive officer of Wolverine Division.

"Each summer, Mezei volunteered to help with the Sea Cadet recruit training as an RDC," said Sydes. "We pushed two consecutive Chief of Naval Operations Honor divisions in 2011 and 2012. She possesses a passion for the personal development of junior Sailors and Sea Cadets."

That passion, record of success, and the engaging nature of the Wolverine division prompted Mezei to remain in touch with Capt. Sydes. When she transferred to Reagan, her connection to the Sea Cadets made its way to the ship and caught the attention of her peers.

"AD1 Mezei encouraged and initiated the sponsorship between our First Class Petty Officers' Mess and the Wolverines," said Kwon. "I felt motivated by the efforts extended by the cadets during their training at RTC and felt blessed that they wanted our mentorship."

Reagan's first class petty officers made things official by taking a vote and formally announcing its sponsorship of the Sea Cadets on June 24, 2014.

"I am honored to be part of their lives," explained Kwon. "This is a great opportunity to work side by side with the cadets and watch these young Americans grow."

On February 13, 2015, Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class (SW/AW) Joseph Christensen joined Mezei on a trip to Michigan, joining the cadets for their drill weekend.

"The visit was timely," said Sydes. "They braved the harsh Michigan winter and played a crucial role in the preparations of the division."

After the two Reagan leaders returned to sunny San Diego, their time with the Wolverines paid huge dividends. Wolverine division earned four national-level awards: Most Improved Unit, Best Unit in Region Nine and two Honor Certificates (Battle Efficiency).

As a thank you for their mentorship, the

Wolverines presented Reagan's First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) with a bell.

For Mezei, the gift was more than a memento.

"This bell represents much more than what words can describe, said Mezei. "Molded from gun brass from the shores of Camp Perry on Lake Erie and regular brass from an LCM-8 boat bell, it reflects the hard work and dedication of the Wolverine cadets and staff."

Kwon said Wolverine division's success and its gift to the FCPOA are both indicators of a fruitful relationship.

"It means the world to the FCPOA, but more importantly, we appreciate their heart," reflected Kwon. "Young kids showing acts of kindness, gratefulness and joy is an emotional moment. The bell is a piece that ties our organizations together as 'one team, one fight.'"

Launched in 2013, the Wolverine division has reached an astounding 56 cadets, making it one of the fastest growing units in North America.

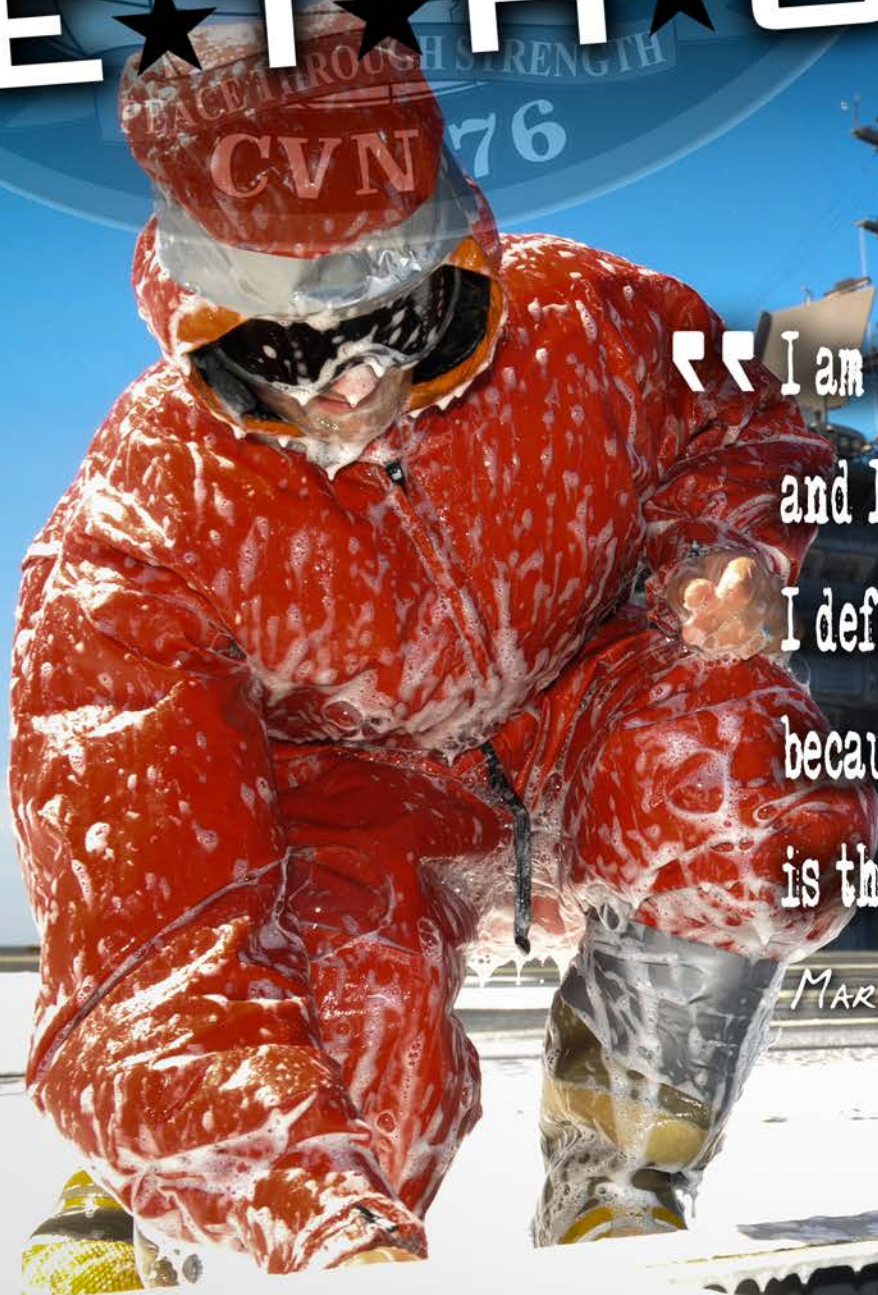
"Being sponsored by the FCPOA of the nation's flagship is hugely important and significant to our cadets," explained Sydes.

With an eye on the future, the FCPOA expects continued involvement with the cadets, including time underway during Reagan's Friends and Family Day Cruise. Additionally, the FCPOA reaches out to the Wolverines via email, Facebook and sending copies of the ship's magazine, "The 76er." When cadets earn promotions within the division, the FCPOA mails rank devices to the cadets.

The FCPOA recently agreed to make a \$1,000 annual contribution for scholarships exclusively available to Wolverine division cadets.

"I get goosebumps knowing that I have been blessed with the opportunity to help future Sailors achieve their dreams," said Mezei. ■

WARRIOR ETHOS



“ I am a member of a team,
and I rely on the team,
I defer to it, and sacrifice for it,
because the team, not the individual,
is the ultimate champion. ”

MARIEL MARGARET "MIA" HAMM



USS RONALD REAGAN
SAILORS HELPING SAILORS. ONE TEAM. ONE FIGHT.