

# Navy Reserves bring IT experience, expertise to Enterprise

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USS *Enterprise* Public Affairs

**USS ENTERPRISE, At sea** – When Chief Electronics Technician (SCW/FMF) Sean Gaylord last served aboard the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65), he had to number his letters home to the family so they could read them in the correct order. It could take 30 days for him to get a response back to one.

“Now, we have people onboard who complain because they can’t get their e-mail out in 30 minutes”, said Gaylord, a 23-year veteran of the Navy and now, the Navy Reserves.

Gaylord is part of a unique team of Reserve Component Sailors and information technology (IT) experts who are trying to make those e-mail transmissions go as quickly and smoothly as possible aboard *Enterprise*.

Most Reserve Sailors spend their required annual two weeks of active duty service doing training. This is not true for the four Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Sailors completing their two weeks with the *Enterprise* Strike Group (ESG) February 11.

“We like to come and provide training. We really push to get out there on the deck plates and support our gaining command. Our model is fleet support,” said Lt. Cmdr. Meade Dillon, leader of the SPAWAR team aboard *Enterprise*. Specifically, they are providing instruction to the ESG Information Systems Technicians.



office. Information Systems Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Kelley R. Brown, another member of the team, said they helped ADP members set up a new quarterdeck security

Fifteen subjects are covered, such as advanced PC repair, computer networking, network security and managing routers. When they leave, over 40 hours of instructions will have been provided to Sailors aboard both *Enterprise* and USS *Mason* (DDG 87).

The lessons do not stop in the classroom, either. Over-the-shoulder training is given daily in the ship’s Automatic Data Processing (ADP)

system involving ID card scanning, making liberty tracking more efficient on *Enterprise*.

When not helping with network processes, Brown said they also help with the unique challenges ITs face on ships, such as cutting their own Ethernet cables from 1,000-foot spools.

Each team member brings a breadth of civilian knowledge in cutting-edge technology, according to Dillon. The team’s collective resume includes a major aerospace company, a U.S. Department of Forestry consultant and a self-employed consultant.



However, Gaylord said the SPAWAR Sailors are here not just to offer their civilian expertise to the sailors of ESG, but to impart a deeper understanding of the IT rating that will help them advance not just in the field, but in the Navy.

“From SPAWAR’s perspective, I want to train the people on the ship, so the ship can go fight the fight,” said Chief Gaylord. “From a chief’s perspective, I’d like to train our ITs to be better prepared for advancement. When I retire, I hope these guys have gotten their anchors and taken my place.”

Both Gaylord and Dillon said they are happy to help young *Enterprise* Sailors, as they were once crew members themselves. Dillon last served aboard the *Enterprise* in 2006. Gaylord last stepped on *Enterprise* in 1989. Both were eager to return.

“As soon as I saw *Enterprise* was going to sea, I said ‘that’s my ride this year,’” said Dillon.

“I love this,” said Gaylord. “When the option to go to *Enterprise* came up, I had to come.”

Both Gaylord and Brown have talked about trying to return to the *Enterprise* for her final deployment in 2012.