



# IA Family Connection

FEBRUARY 2008

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## Send Off Thank You

I am always moved by the kindness of others, but I was particularly impressed recently. The other day my husband left for a tour in Iraq. He had to be at the community center at 4:00 a.m. I found this particularly difficult because I am not a morning person, and I am very seldom on time. However, for my husband I can do anything. I had the fortune of being able to accompany him by myself. This is no small feat, considering we have three small sons. My mother was gracious enough to come over before dawn and sit with them. I was already a wreck as we pulled out of our driveway.

My husband and I have this tradition of writing letters to each other when he deploys. Of course he had written his and of course I had not written mine. I can always blame life, but the truth is I just couldn't bring myself to write the letter this time. I felt that it made the situation too real and too hard to handle. Needless to say, I felt horrible I didn't write the letter, so I decided to tell him everything I would have written. I will not share all my deep intimate thoughts with you, but we were both crying by the time we got to the community center. As tears were flowing down my face, we arrived at the community center where I was so moved by what I saw - the amount of people at the community center to show their support for VC-6.

Lincoln Military Housing staff was there. Not only were they there; they had hot coffee, donuts, and travel bags for the Sailors. These people do not get paid extra to do this. They give their time and energy because they care. They know how excruciating it is for the Sailors and families to say goodbye and they want to do anything they can to make it a little easier.

As time wore on, and I knew the separation was inevitable, my husband and I said our final goodbyes. I have to tell you through the years, deployments have not gotten easier—they have gotten harder. It gets harder and harder to tell my husband goodbye. My husband and I walked through the gauntlet of well-wishers, and I watched him get on the bus. Once he boarded the bus, I fell apart. My body shook with every gut-wrenching sob and I fought to catch my breath. My husband stepped off the bus one last time to give me a final kiss goodbye and then he was gone.

I continued to shake and cry. I was crying so hard I couldn't even see the bus anymore. It was at that moment Captain Glen Ives, CO NAS Patuxent River, turned to me and told me to let him know if I needed anything. Of course all I could do is cry harder. He then gave me a hug. That hug meant so much to me. I was at my worst and someone took a moment to be kind. The human contact of that hug and the genuine concern that accompanied it will always remain in my heart. Captain Ives didn't have to be there and he didn't have to show me such kindness, but he did. I will always be eternally grateful for that moment.

I write this as a thank you to all who were there to support my husband and his platoon. Thank you for being there for me and showing such kindness. It is the little acts of kindness that mean so much to the families who are left behind. I know the coming months will be difficult, but I know I will get through them because of the kindness of others. Thank you all for your kindness and God Bless.



Misty, Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland





Josi Hunt  
CNO Ombudsman-At-Large

## Meet the New CNO Ombudsman-At-Large

My name is Josi Hunt and I have been a Navy spouse for 28 years. Throughout my Navy experience I have always been an advocate of Navy families. I volunteered for Navy- Marine Corps Relief Society as a budget counselor and as an advisor. I worked with, and sponsored various spouses' organizations. I was a volunteer for the USO in Jacksonville, Florida supporting its programs at the facility and at the airport.

I have a great appreciation and understanding of the IA spouse role as my husband recently completed a twelve month deployment in the Horn of Africa. I helped to establish the COMPASS team in Mayport, Florida and I am a qualified COMPASS mentor.

Currently, I am the Ombudsman-At-Large for the CNO and Chairman, Naval Services FamilyLine. My hobbies are reading, weaving baskets, golfing, walking and sea turtles.

For FamilyLine information and resources please go to [www.lifelines.navy.mil/Familyline](http://www.lifelines.navy.mil/Familyline). To contact me please email [josi.hunt@navy.mil](mailto:josi.hunt@navy.mil).



Deanna and family

## Kissie Box

Before Deanna's husband deployed as an IA Sailor he routinely kissed his three girls before tucking them in bed. To continue this tradition while dad is deployed, Deanna took pictures of each of the girls kissing their dad. She put the photos in a wooden box that also contains Hershey's kisses.

No matter how naughty the girls may be during the day, they always get a "kissie" from dad at night. Of course, the boxes are put away during the day as the girls really like getting "kissies" from dad! Deanna also made daddy dolls for each of her girls.

Deanna shared her "kissie" box idea with other IA spouses during a virtual IA family discussion sponsored by Commander Navy Installations Command. See the back page for information about upcoming IA Family discussions.

## Savings Deposit Program (SDP)

The Savings Deposit Program (SDP) is available to those serving in designated combat zones. Military members deployed in combat zone, qualified hazardous duty areas, or certain contingency operations may be eligible to deposit all or part of their unallotted pay into a DoD savings account up to \$10,000 during a single deployment. Interest accrues at an annual rate of 10% and compounds quarterly. Interest accrued on earnings deposited into the SDP is taxable.

To be eligible for SDP, a service member must be receiving Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP) and serving in a designated combat zone or in direct support of a combat zone for more than 30 consecutive days or for at least one day for each of three consecutive months. Service members may begin making deposits on their 31st consecutive day in the designated area. All deposit amounts must be made in \$5 increments and deposits may be discontinued at any time. The account will stop accruing interest 90 days after a member returns from the combat zone. To learn more about SDP, visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil).

Military Saves Week is

**February 26–  
March 2, 2008**

For a FREE Financial Fitness Checkup, contact your local Fleet & Family Support Center



## IA Sailor Timeline

To help you understand the process IA Sailors go through to prepare for duty, the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center provides this timeline. While each set of orders varies, this timeline is similar for most IAs.

1. Your Sailor is notified that they have been selected to fill an IA billet. Sailors may have been selected by their command to fill a request for forces billet or they may have negotiated for IA GSA (PCS) orders.
2. Upon notification, your Sailor and their Command IA Coordinator should review the ECRC IA Checklist and other official requirements posted on the NKO website. Sailors should start to complete these requirements as soon as they are notified that they have been selected for an IA assignment. Command IA Coordinators should track progress and assist your Sailor with any problems they may have in completing the mandatory requirements. Command IA Coordinators should also coordinate with your Command Ombudsman to ensure you have a point of contact information if you should need assistance.
3. Once your Sailor receives an official set of orders, he or she and the Command IA Coordinator should read every portion of the orders and comply with all prerequisites and mandatory requirements before your Sailor leaves their current command. The ECRC IA Checklist must be submitted electronically to ECRC within 14 days of receipt of orders.
4. Your Sailors will report to the Navy Mobilization and Processing Site (NMPS) designated in their orders that is selected by training site and unit requirements. Your Sailor will be there for approximately one week to ensure all prerequisite items and mandatory requirements were completed and that he/she is qualified to move forward. Sailors receive uniforms at NMPS. You cannot accompany your Sailors at NMPS or from this point forward.
5. Your Sailor then travels to an Army training site that is designated in their orders for basic combat skills training. Training lasts approximately three weeks.
6. Your Sailor may require additional mission-specific training. The location and length of additional training is stated in their orders.
7. Most Sailors also receive additional training when they process through Kuwait. Sailors travel to their IA mission location stated in their orders after all required training is completed.
8. After completing their IA mission, most Sailors go through the Warrior Transition Program (WTP) before returning home to begin reintegration into life in a non-combat environment. Sailors that do not transition through the WTP in theater return to the United States by the route directed in their orders and begin reintegration at that location.
9. All returning Sailors pass through the NMPS as stated in their orders.
10. Your Sailor will then “demobilize”, return to their parent command or check out of their parent command for follow-on orders. The Command IA Coordinator will ensure your Sailor is welcomed back. The Command IA Coordinator, in coordination with your Sailor and PSD, will ensure that all of your Sailor’s pay, leave requirements, personnel records, evaluations, awards and advancement exam information reflect honorable service as an IA Sailor.

### Do You Know?

According to Rhumblines...

- **In 2007, 6,516 of 279,896 enlisted Sailors (2%) served on IA orders.**
- **In 2007, 2,207 of 51,300 officers (4%) served on IA orders.**
- **GSA detailing will account for 73% of the Navy’s GWOT requirements by 2009.**



# IA Family Connection: A Virtual Meeting for Families

## FEBRUARY

### **Virtual IA Family Meetings**

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Join us for an opportunity to virtually meet other IA family members to share information, ask questions, and provide tips and resources on:

**Thursday, February 7, 2008 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/462859018>

**Thursday, February 21, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/481089306>

New this month, if you don't live near a Navy base and didn't get a chance to attend a deployment or homecoming brief, Commander Navy Installations Command is offering virtual briefs.

### **Are You Ready for Deployment?**

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IA/GSA deployments are a bit different than a typical deployment that you may or may not have experienced. Join us in this 60 minute discussion to:

- Learn what your Sailor and you need to do to get ready for deployment.
- Get updates about organizations that can help if you need it.
- Gather tips to help you make it through this deployment.
- "Meet" other family members whose Sailors have recently deployed.

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/116842201>

### **My Sailor's Coming Home!**

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Homecoming—there's nothing more exciting! Are you ready? During this 60 minute discussion we'll talk about changes, expectations, and helping your Sailor readjust to family and friends after being deployed. We'll also touch on what to do if you are concerned your loved one may have experienced too much stress due to serving in a combat zone with options for help, if needed.

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST**

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/211037482>

## **Meet with other IA family members from around the world in the comfort of your own home!**

To participate in the IA Family Connection:

### **You will need:**

1. A computer with broadband Internet access.
2. A telephone.

### **To join:**

1. Go to the browser address listed next to the date you want to attend. It will take you to a registration website where you'll be asked for a few pieces of information.
2. You will receive a confirmation email from WEBINAR providing the Internet browser address for the session as well as the telephone number to dial.

### **To attend session:**

1. Insert the website address for the session into your browser window. It will scroll and a box will come up on your screen.
2. Click "Download GoToMeeting". To download GoToMeeting.
3. Click "run".
4. A bar will appear in the middle of the page as it downloads.
5. If you arrive before the facilitator, a window will let you know. Do not exit the window. Just wait for the meeting to start.
6. Once completed, the computer will ask you to enter: Name & email address.
7. "Waiting to View Screen" will appear. You are connected.
8. Dial in on your phone by calling:  
**1-800-791-2345 Code: 40560**

These virtual IA family member discussion groups are hosted by Commander Navy Installations Command and Fleet and Family Support Centers worldwide.

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**Check out deployment and homecoming information at [www.ffsp.navy.mil](http://www.ffsp.navy.mil)**

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