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NEWS

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Navy Webport offers innovative way to develop Sailors

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Navy Sailors may soon have another venue for furthering personal development as part of a Task Force for Excellence through Commitment to Education and Learning (EXCEL) pilot program.

Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark has described Task Force EXCEL as a catalyst, propelling the revolution of naval training and education. It is responsible for overseeing the implementation of pilot programs that are designed to enhance and strengthen the Navy's training and education structure. Task Force EXCEL will challenge old assumptions, implement new processes, and create new tools that will make a real difference in both the lives of Sailors and the Navy's warfighting capabilities. The Chief of Naval Education and Training's (CNET) newest pilot program, Navy Webport, sounds like a perfect addition.

The objective of the Navy Webport is to customize a Navy Internet website that provides Sailors career-long access to both Navy professional and personal information. The CNET, Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., is pleased with the Navy Webport's compatibility with Task Force EXCEL's Five Vector Model, also known as the Sailor Continuum. The Sailor Continuum is the roadmap used by Task Force EXCEL that identifies career milestones, and educational tools and opportunities needed to reach those milestones.

Harms, who has his own Webport page, believes, "...We must have a commitment to education and learning that will give our sailors the tools and opportunities to excel personally and professionally."

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Webport 2-2-2

Barbara Stankowski, a member of the CNET Educations and Training Strategies (ETS) team, is excited about the large number of professional links contained in the Navy Webport and how easy it is to navigate.

"Whereas you used to have to go to many different sites to find information about your personal and professional life in the Navy, the Webport streamlines this process, by collecting it all on one, user-friendly, site," she said.

Currently, the pilot program, being spearheaded by the CNET ETS team, involves six students at Aerographer (AG) "A" school as well as fifteen of their instructors. As part of the pilot, which kicked off January 3, 2002, the students were given six Navy Webport customized laptops, complete with Internet accounts. This AG pilot class will graduate from the thirteen-week course in early March, and will head to their fleet assignments with the laptops and Navy Webport in tow. The pilot will include approximately 300 students and instructors from AG, Information Technology (IT), Mess Management Specialists (MS), and Master at Arms (MA) "A" schools, Chaplain school and Senior Enlisted Academy.

In the future, the Navy Webport may allow users to view their personal Continuum for career development to find information relating to their specific career path. To help Sailor's measure individual performance, the user can then access their personal career development path and identify skill sets, courses, and advancement requirements based on the key components of the Sailor Continuum.

A key element to the website is Navy E-Learning, where a Sailor can access more than 1,400 web-based courses and check the progress of their individual learning plans. The laptop is loaded with a Navy E-Learning tutorial and user's guide, AG Advancement Manual, as well as other useful information. The Webport provides links to important information like, The Navy College Program with the SMART Transcript, Electric Training Jackets, and Leave and Earning Statements are accessible as well, while quality of life information is accessible in the LIFELines section, as well as email for student participating in the pilot.

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"My References" is an area where a Sailor can personalize the site to meet their interest. Here, Sailors can save bookmarks of their choosing and determine the look and content to be displayed on their own page. For example, AG students have available to them a file of AG-related information they can choose to display on their personal page. "Similar customization can be done for each rating, which is why the Webport lends itself to educating and training our Navy's Sailors," said Stankowski.

Through its ease of accessibility, wealth of resources, and adaptability to suit the differing needs of each Navy rating, the Navy Webport provides a roadmap for Sailors' professional and personal development.

Sailors interested in learning more about the Navy Webport project, please contact Barbara Stankowski at 850-452-2945 (DSN 922-2945).

Story by Ensign Vivian Ball, Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs

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Media representatives needing additional information should contact Michele Harrison, CNET Deputy Public Affairs Officer at 850-452-4861.