



IIPs in Action

By Lt. Cmdr. Danelle Barrett, USN

"We are the Navy's community of Information Warriors with expertise in information, command and control, and space systems. We own the Naval Network, the foundation of information dominance and successful execution of Naval, joint, allied and coalition operations. We plan, acquire, operate, maintain and secure the Naval Network and the systems that support Navy's operational and business processes to ensure they are reliable, available, survivable, and secure. We evaluate and integrate leading edge technologies, innovative concepts, and essential information elements to ensure a warfighting advantage. We will aggressively foster development and maturation of the skills needed to conduct network-centric operations, both afloat and ashore."

Information Professional Mission Statement

In July 2001, the Chief of Naval Operations formally announced the creation of the Information Professional (IP) Community (1600 restricted line designator) in NAVADMIN 182/01. With the help of the Fleet Commanders, the number of afloat and operational billets (where C4 expertise was most needed) was increased, a training and qualification program was implemented and a sense of community emerged among the newly formed cadre of IP officers.

A reserve counterpart (1605 designator) was added shortly thereafter. Semiannual lateral transition boards for active duty officers have grown the IP community to over 440 strong. These officers are playing important roles in billets heavily focused on operational C4 expertise and technological innovation. Below are just a few examples of IPs in action around the world, providing the warfighting advantage.

IPs at the Tip of the Spear in Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM

Lt. Cmdr. Angie Albergottie was recently forward deployed from March through August 2003 in Baghdad, Iraq. While there, she put her extensive talents to work for the Iraq Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) staff in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and postwar Iraq reconstruction. She provided a broad range of support services for a multinational, interservice coalition, as well as an interagency headquarters supporting a presidential envoy and the CPA administrator for the nation of Iraq.

Lt. Cmdr. Albergottie was appointed the Officer in Charge of the Intermediate Staging Base where she coordinated C4 support to the Joint Task Force. Additionally, she oversaw the requisition, configuration and installation of communications and computer equipment supporting a joint staff in combat operations that grew exponentially from a planned 250-person headquarters to well over 2,800 personnel, including 25 ambassadors, 16 flag officers and numerous presidential appointees. Despite the arduous environment, tenuous supply system and ever-changing priorities, Lt. Cmdr. Albergottie was instrumental in leading her joint team of 20 personnel. She ensured the Communications Sup-

port Office provided the timely and reliable support that enabled successful command and control of forces throughout the region. Lt. Cmdr. Albergottie laid the foundation for those who will follow her. Currently there are five other IP Officers assigned in Baghdad supporting CPA and JTF 7 Command and Control.

Cmdr. Jack Steiner, Cmdr. Pamela Wynfield, Lt. Cmdr. Mike Thrall, Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Prose and Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hanson were five IP Officers who led the way in providing expert communications planning, direction and execution for afloat units participating in the OEF and OIF. While deployed in the Arabian Gulf and Mediterranean, they were instrumental in ensuring their commanders had the communications infrastructure in place to effectively command and control forces, and they coordinated critical reachback support for targeting via various communications channels. Innovation and resourcefulness characterized their efforts as they worked diligently to ensure small bandwidth disadvantaged units and coalition partners were able to effectively communicate within their respective groups.

During OIF, Cmdr. Steiner, the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Force and Commander Task Force Six Zero (CTF 60) Communications Officer, conducted communications planning and resolved the day-to-day communication challenges of a two-carrier striking task force comprised of the Harry S. Truman and Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike groups. His orchestration of this effort required close coordination with Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hanson, the Communications Officer on Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Eight, Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Prose of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Two, communications planners at Commander Sixth Fleet (C6F), as well as with the critical shore communication nodes at the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Stations Atlantic and Europe (NCTAMS LANT and NCTAMS EURCENT).

Cmdr. Steiner's innovative ideas led to dramatic improvements in operational capabilities for the strike group staffs. He coordinated with the staff and carrier intelligence teams onboard the USS Harry S. Truman to establish a Global Broadcast System (GBS) imagery delivery capability, which afforded the carrier a five-fold increase in available bandwidth for image delivery and enabled reutilization of bandwidth on other channels. Cmdr. Steiner's



Lt. Cmdr. Angie Albergottie at work in Iraq.



Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hanson, IT2 Dianne Ruiz Torres and IT1(SW) Mahogany Moore in Radio aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt.



Cmdr. Jack Steiner



In the CCDG1 war room on CV-64 in the Arabian Gulf, March 2003 (left to right), Capt. Mitch Schwecker, CCDG1 N6; IT2 Darryl Goodloe, CCDG1 Knowledge Management and Coalition Comms. Technician; ITCS Rick Shute, CDS7 C4I Officer; Stacey Minor, FSET representative; Cmdr. Pamela Wynfield, CCDG1 Deputy N6 and Knowledge Manager; Cmdr. Mike Daly, CV-64 CIC Officer; ITCM Paul Sigmon, CCDG1 Asst. Comms. Officer; Ensign Keith Berens, CV-64 CMS Officer; Lt. Cmdr. Gary Myers, CV-64 Combat Information Systems Officer.

innovative leadership in C4 led to his selection as a 2003 Copernicus Award winner by the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the U.S. Naval Institute.

To support OIF, C6F, NCTAMS EURCENT, NCTAMS LANT and CTF 60 established a communication architecture which relied upon commercial and military satellite communications for network and telephone services, including SIPRNet chat and e-mail for tactical operations and coordination, and unclassified e-mail for embedded media support. Systems were used in new ways to increase command and control effectiveness. For example, Lt. Cmdr. Ron Hanson working with Cmdr. Wendy Bransom at NCTAMS LANT, successfully tested the use of the GBS within the Theodore Roosevelt Strike Group for delivery of record message traffic. This capability is extremely important and can be used to eliminate backlogs and ensure timely delivery of operational orders for units in the GBS satellite footprints.



Lt. Cmdr. Suzanne Prose aboard USS George Washington (CVN-73) going through the Suez Canal.

The GBS also served as the primary imagery delivery workhorse. Extremely High Frequency (EHF) MILSTAR satellite communications provided essential unit-level Tomahawk strike command and control. Connecting the multiple systems into a tactically reliable command and control infrastructure required close coordination among experts in multiple disciplines to work toward a common vision and architecture. These experts included Information Systems Technicians (ITs), Electronics Technicians (ETs), Operations Specialists (OSs), Intelligence Specialists (ISs), and their khaki leadership. Senior IT, IP, Limited Duty Officer and Intelligence personnel developed a command and control infrastructure, which they presented to the commanders. Once the commanders agreed upon the final architecture, the experts quickly put it in place.

The system was built around a theater-wide plug-and-play concept with resources allocated to meet mission needs within the theater. Key IP communication personnel, such as Cmdr. Steiner, Lt. Cmdr. Prose, Lt. Cmdr. Hanson, Cmdr. Wynfield, Lt. Cmdr. Thrall and others, coordinated daily to maintain the architecture, adapt to emergent changes and conduct long-range planning — always with a focus on task force mission execution.

As Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group One (CCDG1) Deputy N6 and Communications Officer, Cmdr. Pamela Wynfield and Lt. Cmdr. Mike Thrall, respectively, took the lead for West Coast strike groups deployed for OIF and OEF. Aboard the USS Constellation