

FM CNO WASHINGTON DC//N00//

TO NAVADMIN

UNCLAS//N05000//

NAVADMIN 217/08

MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N00/SEP//

SUBJ/NAVY FAMILY OMBUDSMAN APPRECIATION DAY//

REMARKS/1. ON BEHALF OF SAILORS, NAVY CIVILIANS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS AROUND WORLD, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR NAVY FAMILY OMBUDSMEN. THEY WORK TIRELESSLY AND GIVE OF THEIR TIME TO IMPROVE THE READINESS AND LIVES OF OUR SAILORS AND THEIR FAMILIES. WITHOUT THEM, WE COULD NOT DO WHAT WE DO AS A NAVY.

2. AS THE DEMAND FOR OUR NAVY INCREASES, WE FIND OURSELVES MORE DEPENDENT ON THE OMBUDSMAN NETWORK. THEY PROVIDE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT AND SUPPORT OUR FAMILIES. THEIR ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH CHALLENGES FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO EXTENDED DEPLOYMENTS HAS BEEN EXTRAORDINARY.

3. OMBUDSMEN CONNECT OUR COMMANDS WITH NAVY FAMILIES, THEY EASE THE UNAVOIDABLE STRAIN ASSOCIATED WITH LONG DEPLOYMENTS. THEY KEEP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND INFORMED ABOUT CRITICAL ISSUES FACING OUR PEOPLE, FROM HOUSING AND CHILD CARE, TO PAY AND BENEFITS. OUR NAVY IS NOTHING WITHOUT OUR SAILORS. WITHOUT OMBUDSMEN, WE WOULD FIND IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DO OUR JOB. THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR SAILORS IS A TESTAMENT TO THEIR GREAT SUCCESS.

4. SEPTEMBER 14TH IS SET ASIDE TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. I ENCOURAGE ALL COMMANDS TO HOST APPROPRIATE FUNCTIONS THAT EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM, VISIT THE NAVY FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER WEB SITE AT WWW.NFFSP.ORG.

5. AGAIN, THANK YOU TO ALL THE OMBUDSMEN AROUND THE GLOBE FOR SERVING AND SUPPORTING OUR NAVY.

6. RELEASED BY ADM G. ROUGHEAD, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.//