

Cultural Considerations for Civilians Providing Care for Navy Families

Part I



Paul S. Hammer
CAPT, MC, USN
Director, Naval Center for Combat &
Operational Stress Control



Importance of Military Cultural Competence

- Awareness of Military Cultural Competency
- Education and training experiences
- Credibility
- Patient-Focused
- Interdependence: Respect the chain of command
- Tradition and Practices: Respect military culture
- Language and Skills: Learn the language and use it appropriately



Cultural Differences

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Warrior Culture</u>• Collectivistic• Interdependent• Self sacrifice• Fulfill role within group• Group achievement• Hierarchical decision making• Maintain tradition• Pain: Increased tolerance• Emotional suppression• Unique and separate• Locus of control "external"• Model: Strength-Based• Shame/guilt due to failing group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Mental Health Culture</u>• Individualistic• Independent• Seek help• Pursue individual goal/interest• Self-determination and individual choice• Progress and change• Pain reduction• Emotional expression• Common and ordinary• Locus of control "internal"• Model: Pathology• Shame/guilt due to individual failure |
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United States Navy

The mission of the Navy is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.



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Introductory facts about the Navy

- The US Navy is the largest and most powerful Navy in the world
- Larger than the navies of the next 13 countries combined
 - More than 381,000 on active duty
 - 53,000 officers
 - 323,000 enlisted sailors
 - 158,000 personnel on ready reserve
 - Over 300 ships and 4,000 aircraft
 - Over 43 installations worldwide



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History

- Roots in the Continental Navy
 - Birthday is 13 Oct 1775
- US Navy was disbanded after the Revolutionary War
- Re-established in 1794 in order to battle piracy in the Mediterranean Sea
- US quickly learned the importance of sea power
- Evident even today with piracy off the coast of Somalia



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Tradition and Context

- Much of Navy culture and tradition springs from the days of sailing ships
 - Rank structure and organization based on British Navy
 - Shipboard practices
 - Language
- Some of our greatest heroes come from our Naval history
- Navy played large role in US world power in the 20th century
- The Navy occupies a unique role in national security
- But this role requires great sacrifices from Sailors and their families



Some Basic Terms and Concepts

- Many different communities and subcommunities
 - Surface ships
 - Submarines
 - Naval Aviation
 - Special Warfare
 - Naval Construction
 - Navy Medicine
 - Navy Chaplains
- Different Navy communities can have different deployment cycles
- Rate - a Sailor's job in the Navy
- Rank - a Sailor's paygrade



Enlisted Ranks








