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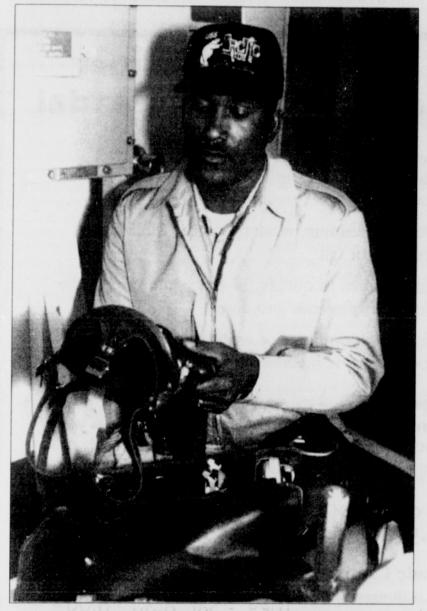
1997 Special Edition REER S

Navy is career launching pad

By R.L. Morse

Onboard USS Arctic -- As Americans everywhere turn their thoughts to the joys of summer, many are not fully

does the work necessary for damage control, ship stability, fire-fighting and chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) warfare defense in the Navy. He



Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen Fields does the work necessary for ship damage control.

aware of the enormous personal sacrifices made by others on their behalf.

also instructs ship personnel in the methods of damage control and CBR defense, and repair damage control equipment and systems.

"As the senior damage controlman onboard Arctic, I am responsible for the overall training of the ship's fire-fighting teams," said Fields. "I love my job."

After nearly 20 years of sea service and innumerable memories and accomplishments, the Sailor still holds one particular event close. He said his greatest achievement in the Navy was getting promoted to chief petty officer.

"After the promotion, my work became more interesting for me and my responsibility was almost doubled," he said. "Younger and less experienced

Sailors look up to me and respect my knowledge and experience of seamanship. In the Navy, anchors make people listen and take note.

While a major role of the Navy is to protect the U.S. from any acts of aggression by hostile forces, it also supports U.S. foreign policy during peace-time. Being able to deploy on short notice, fully trained and combat ready, and prepared to operate with joint or combined forces in response to real work contingencies, is the hallmark of the Navy and Marine Corps Operational concept "Forward ... from the Sea."

Fields plans to retire in Oregon and work as a state industrial environmentalist

Teachers of the year

Attendance in an alternative high school English class in California improves by 40 percent after the teacher decided to go "paperless." In Wisconsin, a fifth-grade teacher helps her students tutor senior citizens in word processing skills. Determined to keep her students in school and out of trouble, an urban middle school teacher in Washington voluntarily opens the school's computer lab on Saturdays. These talented teachers are among 49 K-12 educators nationwide recognized today as winners in the 1997 Technology & Learning Teacher of the Year awards program.

The 49 state winners include six regional finalists who will compete

for the national title in the annual program designed to recognize outstanding K-12 teachers and their efforts to create dynamic learning environments for students.

This year's regional winners are:

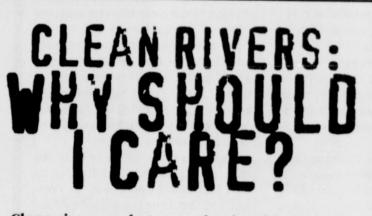
· Norman Conard, Uniontown High School, Uniontown, Kan.

· Diane Doersch, Taft Elementary School, Neenah, Wis.

· Robert Frostick, Adams Junior High School, Charleston, W.Va. · Gail Long, Blackford High School, Los Gatos, Calif.

· Lucy Miller, Davis Drive Elementary School, Apex, N.C.

· Peggy Soong-Yaplee, Mercer Middle School, Seattle, Wash.



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Gallant men and women step forward from the cities and towns across America, to carry on a proud tradition of sentry duty around the world, on land and sea. They stand a steadfast watch, day and night, to assure that the peace and comfort of their families, friends and countrymen on the homefront continue undisturbed.

Navy Chief Petty Officer Stephen Fields is one of America's sons and daughters standing vigil over the eastern sea lanes this summer. The son-in-law of Anthony Benjamin of Beaverton, Ore. (97005-07), and Rita Benjamin of Portland, Ore. (97217), he is assigned to the Norfolk, Virginia-based combat support ship, USS Arctic, currently operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

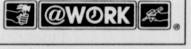
A 1977 graduate of Detroit, Michigan's Murray Wright High School, Fields chose the Navy as his vehicle to visit countries around the world and experience a variety of native customs and cultures. "My uncle, James Fields, who lives in Detroit, influenced me to join the Navy," he said. "I was totally intrigued by his seastories of the 20 years he spent in the Navy."

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