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Sailor Suggestions on Effectiveness, Efficiency Make a Difference

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WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Sailors can make a difference and create a more effective and efficient Navy by finding more practical ways to accomplish their missions, and report them through the Beneficial Suggestions (BeneSugs) and Military Cash Awards Programs (MilCap).

During a recent Echelon II visit by Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark, Commander, Navy Region Northeast leaders pointed to a couple examples of how Sailors found significant efficiencies in their region through the BeneSugs and MilCap programs.

"We have extraordinary people with great skills in our Navy," Clark said in an interview later that day. "What this all means to me is we can have the greatest technology in the world - which we do - but none of it matters without the genius of our people."

As subject matter experts in their respective fields, Sailors have the unique experience and insight into the processes that keep the Navy in motion. By taking their ideas on how to improve operations, enhance safety or save resources and putting them on the OPNAV 5305/1 form, Sailors can make money while saving the Navy money. In return, Sailors not only benefit from a better Navy but can also earn up to \$25,000 in awards, depending on the safety or financial impact of their suggestion.

"Our goal is to enhance our mission accomplishment and deliver a combat-credible Navy now and in the future," Clark said in his 2004 Guidance. "It demands enterprise-wide approaches and innovation to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency in afloat and ashore operations, readiness and infrastructure."

As a part of Sea Enterprise, an enabling initiative of Sea Power 21, the CNO has called for a culture that rewards greater effectiveness and removes institutional hurdles that block innovation.

Giving the Sailor and the taxpayer the best possible return on their investment in the Navy is the CNO's goal, and the BeneSug and MilCap programs are another way Sailors can help achieve it.

More information on the Beneficial Suggestions and Military Cash Awards Programs can be found in OPNAV Instruction 1650.8C. For more information on the CNO, go to www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno/.

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