

# Crew of USS Toledo was ready for action despite short notice

From A1

When Chief Fire Control Technician Rick Lopez got his orders to board the Toledo, his schedule was to have included several months at home before the ship deployed in early 2004. But that changed before he could report aboard, and he had left within days.

"I didn't even get a chance to think about how fast we moved," Lopez said. "There was so much to be done, so many preparations to make, so many repairs to do, I didn't have a chance to think about it at all."

The Toledo's captain, Cmdr. Michael T. Poirier, was fine-tuning the crew to make up for the departure of two department heads, three of his most experienced junior officers, and four senior enlisted men when the call to battle came.

"That gave us some challenges that we had to work through, but the guys did great," Poirier said.

And the tactical readiness exam, which is supposed to test a ship's combat readiness?

"I think it's validated," he said.

□□□

Fire Control Technician 2nd Class Brandolph K. Schlieper has been in the Navy just three years, but he had an opportunity to do what many

career sailors in his specialty have never done: fire missiles in combat.

His job at battle stations is at the attack console — when the countdown is finished and the captain gives the order to fire, he's the one to push the button.

"It's really not the big thing," Schlieper said. "The major part is the evolution that is involved with getting the missiles to the point where you can push the button, loading the tubes and spinning up the guidance system and all that, and working with sonar to make sure you're not going to hit anything and with engineering and navigation to make sure you're where you're supposed to be at the right time."

Still, Schlieper acknowledged, it's a pretty big deal, "especially because the boat shakes so nicely."

"And it gives me a whole lot of bragging rights, especially in the (fire technician) world, or in the weapons world in general."

Schlieper said that during the first salvo there was so much last-minute preparation to do, because the ship was firing off so many missiles at once, that he was too busy to worry about it.

"The second salvo, actually, I was a lot more nervous," he said.

Belowdecks, the torpedo reload gang scrambled to keep up with the rapid-fire schedule.



TIM COOK / The Day

Members of the USS Toledo torpedo room crew, from left, Fred Hartz, Scott Freyer and Milton Rojas, relax for a moment as the submarine continues its deployment in the eastern Mediterranean.

"The whole strike period lasted a couple of days, and none of us got any sleep until it was over. But I think the excitement kept us all going, even when we couldn't sleep," said Torpedoman 1st Class Scott R. Freyer. "It was like coffee without drinking coffee."

Freyer is getting married May 9, and while he hopes to be back well before then, he missed his wedding shower last weekend because of the unexpected deployment.

"We were all pretty sleep-

deprived," said Torpedoman 2nd Class Fred W. Hartz. "None of us could sleep anyway. We were standing by, just waiting for the next tasking."

Most of the men on the reload team "battle-napped," grabbing a few minutes when they could on the hard, cold steel of the torpedo racks.

"When you're as tired as we got, you can fall asleep anywhere," Hartz said. Then, with a grin, he added, "Besides, our racks aren't that much more comfortable anyway."

Machinist Mate 2nd Class Milton Rojas and his reload team partner, Machinist Mate 1st Class Michael Rossow, normally work in the engineering spaces but volunteered to move forward for the combat duty. Rojas said the lack of sleep wasn't particularly troublesome.

"The adrenaline kicked in, and we just kept going as long as we had to keep going," he said.

□□□

The Toledo returned from its last deployment in September 2002, when it entered what is normally an 18-month interdeployment training cycle of training, testing and repairs.

After a month-long stand down, during which the ship has minimum manning and stays pier-side, it was easing back into operations with a 10-day training exercise in October, a five-week maintenance period, and a week at sea right before Christmas last year for more training.

After the holidays, the ship went to the Caribbean for some tests, but at that point things were beginning to heat up between the United States and Iraq and the crew knew that an early deployment was possible.

It became a reality with an early February call to action. The Toledo sprinted home to Groton, arriving on a Saturday, to prepare for a

Monday morning departure. Between last-minute tasks and normal duty watches, most of the crewmen did not even get a full day home with their families, though the captain tried to make sure everyone got at least some time.

Poirier said the crew was not irritated by the sudden deployment; in fact, most were honored, taking it as a sign that the Pentagon was so convinced of the ship's capabilities that it could undertake the mission without risk.

"The guys were fired up to come out here and do this mission," Poirier said. "It's what we trained for. The opportunity to come out here, do our job, and do it well, was very satisfying."

Poirier, who had taken command of the Toledo two years ago, was expecting to be relieved later this year without a chance at a second one. But he jumped at the chance to take the Toledo to sea one more time.

He said he's not worried that the submarine force planners will overlook the Toledo's overtime hours on this cruise.

"They'll look at our schedule and they'll make adjustments as they need to," Poirier said. "Our guys will get plenty of time off. They're going to have a nice, long in-port period coming up."

b.hamilton@theday.com

# Recent sexual-assault case demonstrates flaws in arrest-warrant system

From A1

March 9, police said, he lured a 14-year-old girl into his car as she walked in downtown Norwich. In a secluded lot off Prospect Street, Davis forced the girl to have anal sex, city police said. Then he pushed her outside the vehicle and attempted to have her perform more sex acts. She resisted, and Davis eventually got in his car and drove away. He left the girl standing in the parking lot.

Two days later, police arrested Davis for the probation violation as he fled from 98 S. Second Ave.

On Wednesday, Davis was charged

with first-degree sexual assault, first-degree kidnapping, criminal attempt at first-degree sexual assault, third-degree assault, second-degree threatening and risk of injury to a minor. He was still in custody on the probation violation.

The circumstances surrounding Davis' release after his January arrest are unclear. During arraignment, a bond officer does a background check on a prisoner to determine whether there are any previous convictions. If the bond officer determines the person's alleged crime would be a violation of proba-

tion, he can inform the judge, who can order the person held while the probation department issues an arrest warrant for the violation.

Instead, Davis was released and the information on his arrest filtered to the Office of Adult Probation. Once a warrant is signed by a judge and sent to the police, the probation office can request an expedited arrest of the suspect, city police said. Sometimes, state prosecutors issue such requests. Otherwise, city police said they "triage" the warrants based on an informal assessment of the severity of the violation.

The warrant is then assigned to officers who make the arrests when not occupied with patrol calls.

Lt. Franklin Ward said Thursday that the department has a backlog of "several hundred" arrest warrants at any given time. Most of the warrants are for parole violations and for a failure to appear for a court date. The inability to make the arrests quickly comes down to manpower, he said.

"If we had unlimited resources," Ward said, "we wouldn't have a warrant list."

In the Davis case, Ward was un-

able to say definitively why it took 25 days to arrest him on the violation of probation warrant. One of many possible reasons, Ward said, was that the address given on the warrant from the probation office was incorrect.

The address on the form was 297 W. Thames St. During his January arrest, however, Davis gave his address as 98 S. Second Ave. A 2003 phone book also lists Davis' address as 98 S. Second Ave.

Ward said that criminals are often aware that a warrant is active and do their best to elude capture. Davis, for

instance, ran when he spotted police.

After his arraignment Wednesday, Davis was returned to the Corrigan Correctional Institution in Montville on a \$200,000 bond. He was scheduled to appear April 21 in New London Superior Court.

m.malone@theday.com

Get Your Daily Dose at www.theday.com

## SUPER FRIDAY & SATURDAY

# STOREWIDE SUPER BUYS

SHOP TODAY AT 9AM & TOMORROW AT 8AM\*

<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>17.99</b> MISSES' &amp; PETITES' BRIGGS CAPRIS</p> <p><small>Extra 10% off for total savings of 45%. Choose from solid colors and prints. Reg. \$34 pr., Curr. 19.99 pr.</small></p>	<h3 style="margin: 0;">SUPER SAVINGS!</h3> <h2 style="margin: 0;">SHOP COUPON-FREE</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">LOW PRICES STOREWIDE!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">EASIER TO SHOP, EASIER TO SAVE</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">NO COUPONS NEEDED</h2>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>159.99</b> ENTIRE STOCK ALL MEN'S RED-TICKETED SUITS</p> <p><small>Extra 40-45% off for total savings of 60-65%. By Chaps, Evan-Picone and more. Reg. \$425-\$475, Curr. 269.99-314.99</small></p>	
<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>79.99</b> LADIES' SPRING SUITS</p> <p><small>Extra 20-25% off for total savings of 40-45%. By Amanda Smith. Reg. \$143-\$158, Curr. 99.99-109.99</small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>12.99</b> MISSES' &amp; PETITES' COMFORT WAIST PANTS</p> <p><small>Extra 10% off for total savings of 40%. By Karen Scott. Reg. \$22 pr., Curr. 14.99 pr.</small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>40% OFF</b> MEN'S BRANDINI SPORTSWEAR**</p> <p><small>Extra 10% off. Choose from knit tops, sportshirts and shorts. Orig./Reg. \$23-\$50, Was/Curr. 15.99-34.99, <b>SUPER BUY 13.80-29.99</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>19.99</b> MEN'S COLLECTIONS FALL &amp; WINTER CLEARANCE</p> <p><small>Already-reduced for total savings of 55-85%. Knit tops, sweaters, pants and jeans. Orig. \$45-\$195, Was 29.99-92.99</small></p>
<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>40% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK ALL KIDS' SHORT SETS &amp; CAPRI PANTS SETS</p> <p><small>By Jitterbugs, Kids Headquarters. Infants, Toddlers, Boys' 4-7, Girls' 4-6x. Reg. \$22-\$32, Curr. 12.99-21.99, <b>SUPER BUY 11.99-18.99</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>40% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK ALL CARTER'S CLASSICS &amp; JUST ONE YEAR†</p> <p><small>For Newborns and Infants. Bibs, stretch, coveralls, more. Reg. \$10-\$28, <b>SUPER BUY 5.99-16.80</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>40% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK ALL PAUL PEUGEOT WATCHES</p> <p><small>Extra 10-15% off. For him and her. Reg. \$58-\$100, Curr. 39.99-69.99, <b>SUPER BUY 33.99-59.99</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>11.99</b> MEN'S NIKE® SWOOSH T-SHIRT</p> <p><small>Extra 20% off for total savings of 30%. Reg. \$18 ea., Curr. 14.99 ea.</small></p>
<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>39.99</b> LADIES' DRESS &amp; CASUAL SANDALS</p> <p><small>Extra 20% off for total savings of 25-30%. By Nine West, Unisa, Naturalizer, more. Reg. \$54-\$59, Curr. 49.99 pr.</small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>40% OFF</b> ENTIRE STOCK ALL STONE MOUNTAIN LEATHER HANDBAGS</p> <p><small>Reg. \$120 ea., <b>SUPER BUY 69.99 EA.</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>8.99</b> BATH 28"X56" SUPREME TOUCH TOWELS</p> <p><small>35-40% off. Bath 28"x56", Hand 16"x30" and Wash 13"x13". Reg. \$8-\$15, <b>SUPER BUY 4.99-8.99</b></small></p>	<p><b>SUPER BUY</b> <b>49.99</b> MAÎTRE CHEF 10-PC. STAINLESS STEEL SET†</p> <p><small>Extra 25% off. 1- and 3-qt. cov'd. saucepans, 6-qt. cov'd. stockpot, 10" open casserole, 10" open frypan and more. Curr. 69.99</small></p>

## PLUS, ALL DAY, BOTH DAYS, EXTRA 75% OFF

### ALL FALL & WINTER CLEARANCE APPAREL, ACCESSORIES & SHOES FOR TOTAL SAVINGS OF 80-85%††

CHARGE IT WITH FILENE'S WE ALSO WELCOME VISA MASTERCARD AND DISCOVER

# FILENE'S

ORDER ANYTIME CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-345-3637

Sale ends Saturday, April 5, 2003. †Excludes Designer Collections and Ladies' coats. \*\*Total savings apply to Regular prices. \*\*\*Excludes ribbed T-shirts and silk sportshirts. Merchandise selection may vary by store. Intermediate markdowns may have been taken. Entire stock savings offered only where indicated. Regular and Original prices are offering prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Advertised merchandise may be available at sale prices in upcoming sale events. \*FRIDAY, ALL STORES OPEN AT 9AM AND WILL CLOSE AT THEIR REGULAR TIMES; BOSTON, MA OPEN 8AM-9PM. SATURDAY, ALL STORES OPEN AT 8AM AND WILL CLOSE AT THEIR REGULAR TIMES EXCEPT BOSTON, MA CLOSING AT 9PM.