



## Editor's Notebook

The photo top left is one of my favorites. I can't think of a prettier site than a U.S. Navy ship with her proud crew standing topside — unless, of course, it is a Navy or Air Force F/A-18 Super Hornet with the sun glinting on her wings, or a speeding Coast Guard cutter, or a Marine standing watch, or an advancing Army battalion ... I think you get my point. In the months since 9-11, 80,000 Americans have deployed in the fight against terrorism. Through these difficult months Combatant Commanders have repeatedly praised the bravery of military members across the Services. When questioned about the "toughness" of the younger generation of warfighters top military leadership and Combatant Commanders alike express pride and awe at the dedication and self-sacrifice of today's servicemembers. They are eager to defend freedom — and embrace the latest in C2 and C4ISR innovations. In this issue we explore some of the new technologies that will arm our warfighters in the battle for freedom.

At the USNI Warfare Exposition and Symposium, Oct. 2002, I had the privilege of briefly meeting retired Navy Lt. Kevin Shaeffer who sustained serious life threatening injuries and burns on 40 percent of his body when the Navy Command Center where he worked exploded in a ball of fire after terrorists flew a hijacked airliner into the southwestern wedge of the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001. Meeting Lt. Shaeffer was a revelation for me. He said he doesn't consider himself to be a hero, rather he says he is a survivor. Lt. Shaeffer said the real heroes today are U.S. servicemembers fighting the war on terrorism.

Our heroes risk their lives 24x7, they aren't faceless or nameless — they are our husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, children, neighbors, friends and fellow Americans. We must arm America's best and bravest with the very latest in technology and warfare capability — they deserve nothing less.

Sharon Anderson



*Apr. 26, 2002, at a ceremony at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, CNO Adm. Vern Clark presented the Purple Heart to Lt. Shaeffer for the injuries he sustained during the 9-11 attack. Director of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. Kevin Byrnes presented the Soldier's Medal to*

*Army Sgt. 1st Class Steve Workman for rescuing Schaeffer. Photo by PH1 Roseborough.*



*U.S. Marines assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, Echo Company, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC) disembark from an Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAV) to conduct a live fire training exercise. Marines from the 24th MEU (SOC) are on a regularly scheduled deployment conducting exercises in the U.S. Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. U.S. Navy photo by PH2 Michael Sandberg.*



*U.S. Central Command Commander Army Gen. Tommy R. Franks speaks to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines during a recent troop call. The general visited the base, which is supporting Operation Southern Watch, to thank the troops for their efforts in conducting the global war on terrorism and enforcing the Southern No-Fly Zone over Iraq. Photo by Senior Airman Nicole Bickford.*