Welcome to the U.S. Navy’s Great Lakes Info brief ~ Battle Stations (BST-21) ~

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(which means we can have some fun)
We will only discuss Battle Stations 21 (BST-21) in this slide show

Part 1 of 2

But to understand Battle Stations, we will show a quick overview of RTC Great Lakes

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Map of the region
RTC is north
O’Hare is south

Take I-294 north which runs into I-94 N.W, then exit right on Buckley Road/IL-137

Chicago O’Hare Airport is located here.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Recruit Training at Great Lakes

The recruit training base in Great Lakes consists of 3 separate properties: Camp Porter, Camp John Paul Jones and Camp Moffett.

- Camp Moffett is the main in-processing area. This is where the recruits will arrive.
- Camp Porter is the main recruit training area where most of the training takes place.
- Camp John Paul Jones is mainly for housing of the recruits.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Recruit Training at Great Lakes

When coming from O'Hare airport to RTC Great Lakes just head north on I-294, which will turn into I-94 N/W. Turn right on Buckley Road (IL-137), go for 8 miles. You will see Camp Moffett on the left, and Camp Porter on the right.

Railroad tracks separate Camp John Paul Jones from Camp Porter.

Buckley Road (IL-137) from I-94 N/W

Keep on this road to go to NTC Great Lakes.
RTC Great Lakes ~ Ships

USS Kearsarge
Ship 11

USS Triton
Ship 12

Atlantic Fleet
Drill Hall

USS Constitution
Ship 6

USS Theodore Roosevelt
Ship 5

USS Enterprise
Ship 10

USS John F. Kennedy
Ship 9

USS Chicago
Ship 7

USS Arizona
Ship 14

USS MASON
Ship 17 for Navet/Osvet
In-processing Barracks

Recruit In-processing
(Where Hell Begins)
Golden 13

Combat Training Pool

USS Chief
& Gas Chamber

Parking Lot
(Graduation)

Medical/Dental

NEX

Buckley Road
(UI-137)

USS Pearl Harbor
Ship 1
In-processing Barracks

Note: Buckley Road divides Camp Porter (Left) and Camp Moffet (Right). They connect to each other under the road.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
RTC Great Lakes ~ Ships

- Ship 1
  USS Pearl Harbor
  Bldg 7122
  3xxx Kansas Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3122

- Ship 2
  USS Reuben James
  3600 Ohio Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088

- Ship 3
  USS Hopper
  3600 Ohio Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3156

- Ship 4
  USS Arleigh Burke
  3600 Ohio Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-7105

- Ship 5
  USS Theodore Roosevelt
  3610 Illinois Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3118

- Ship 6
  USS Constitution
  Bldg 7101
  3510 Illinois Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3119

- Ship 7
  USS Chicago
  3405 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088

- Ship 8
  USS John F. Kennedy
  3415 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3515

- Ship 9
  USS Enterprise
  3425 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3525

- Ship 10
  USS Kearsarge
  3505 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3505

- Ship 11
  USS Triton
  3515 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3515

- Ship 12
  USS Marvin Shields
  3420 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3520

- Ship 13
  USS Theodore Roosevelt
  3610 Illinois Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3118

- Ship 14
  USS Arizona
  3410 Sailor Drive
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3510

- Ship 15
  USS Mason
  Bldg 7121
  2705 Kansas Street
  Great Lakes, IL
  60088-3140

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Description:
This is an old picture of what RTC Great Lakes (Camp Porter) used to look like. All the square buildings with the open middle are now gone. This shows you how close you are to Lake Michigan (see top of photo). The main gate to Camp Porter is seen in the lower left hand corner. RTC is 35 miles north of downtown Chicago and 4 miles south of Waukegan.

Lake Michigan

The main gate to Camp Porter

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
BATTLE STATIONS

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
So where is that ship that everyone is talking about?
Hold on Partner!!!

Not so fast!!!!

To understand it, we need to step through this.......
The History...

When the Navy decided to close and consolidate the three Recruit Training Commands (RTC) -- which were RTC Great Lakes (Illinois), RTC San Diego (California), and RTC Orlando (Florida) -- into one central facility. They knew they had to invest into making this central facility “state-of-the-art” for training. The Navy chose to keep RTC Great Lakes as the central facility because of its history of being the 1st Navy boot camp and it being in a low cost area.

Battle Stations 21 (BS21) came about as one part of the 10-year, $763 million recapitalization of Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. The total contract amount, including all options for the BS21 building and simulator experience was approximately $82.2 million.

BS-21 construction was completed and recruits began training in February of 2007.
Let’s talk about the “Ship in the Bottle”

When you see this picture, do you see only the ship or only the bottle? No, you see both. The picture is meaningless without both the ship and the bottle. Together, it makes you ask “How did they get the ship in that bottle”. I will tell you the answer in a minute, but for now, think of the bottle as the USS Iowa, and the ship as the USS Trayer.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
The Bottle:
The USS Iowa (C.O.’s office)

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
For decades, the Commanding Officer (C.O.) has been extremely visible to world leaders and dignitaries. With the redevelopment of RTC, the C.O. office was close enough in order to show off the Navy’s state-of-the-art “toy”, the USS Trayer, used for “Battle Stations”.

Sailors and soldiers line route of Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s motorcade during his appearance at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.

UNITED STATES - CIRCA 1951: Sailors and soldiers line route of Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s motorcade during his appearance at Great Lakes Naval Training Station.
The total number of recruits in this picture is 4,750. Who wants to count them?!
Question: We know this building is the USS Iowa. But what is inside the back part (under the grey area)?
Trivia Answer:

Just like a “ship in a bottle”, the USS Trayer (BST-21), the ship used for Battle Stations, is located inside the USS Iowa, where the Commanding Officers’ headquarters is located.
Battle Stations building shows two faces. Its north elevation provides a traditional red brick exterior, reflecting the style of the base’s historic Georgian structures. Its southern exterior, where the recruits will enter “Pier 8” to begin their Battle Stations experience, features a descent along a walkway to a below-grade entrance, providing the feeling of being away from the base.
The USS Iowa houses the Navy’s Recruit Training (RTC) command headquarters and the Recruit Division Commander’s School. The Battle Stations building is a 157,000-sq-ft building. The USS Trayer simulator takes up a 55,700 square foot portion of that. You would hardly guess that this building contains an intensely realistic simulation of a warship layered with special effects honed in the entertainment industry.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Quarterdeck of the USS Iowa

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Here is the C.O.’s briefing room. Battle Stations 21 generates excitement. People that have come to this room to see its technology include: The Secretary of the Navy; Chief of Naval Operations; Congressmen; race car drivers; and folks from many different countries.
Time to play “Where’s Waldo”…

Can you spot the USS Iowa building with the USS Trayer (BST-21) inside?

Railroad tracks separate Camp John Paul Jones from Camp Porter.
Camp John Paul Jones

Railroad tracks separate Camp John Paul Jones from Camp Porter

Camp Porter

This is where you will attend PIR (Graduation).

USS Iowa
(USS Trayer inside)
(Battle Stations 21)

“Waldo” says...

“Dude... I’m right here”

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Battle Stations is about to begin

Running to Battle Stations – At the rear of the USS Iowa is the entrance to Battlestations. These sailors will enter Pier 8 and will be completely confused and dazed. Pier 8 is a replica of the real Pier 8 located in Norfolk Virginia.
Battle Stations 21 is just like playing a video game, but instead of playing the game, you are in it. You are a character and you must survive! ~ a new Sailor!
Battle Stations 21 was a concept, before becoming a reality
DEVELOPMENT

• The most unique building in the recruit-training center is Battle Stations 21 and the centerpiece is the USS Trayer (BST-21). This 157,000 sq ft structure holds a 210 ft long, 3/4-scale mock-up of a Navy Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer. This reduced-scale replica was created in more than 90,000 gallons of moat with the scent of seawater in the air. Since the stagnant water needed to continually be disinfected, special needs were taken to not use chlorine, since the smell would be like a swimming pool. Instead a state-of-the-art complex ozone and ionization system was created to eliminate the odorous chemicals.

• Battle Stations is a 12 hour program and can handle four (4) divisions of 88 recruits = 352 recruits, along with their facilitators. It is designed to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and accommodate these 352 recruits and facilitators simultaneously every night of the year. However, due to funding and significant contractor cost it isn’t used on Fridays or Saturdays.

• The USS Trayer feels, smells, sounds and looks like the real thing because of special effects lighting; sea and diesel scent; surround audio; and 90,000 gallons of water sloshing between the pier and the ship. Each scenario is duplicated four times to keep recruits moving efficiently.
BATTLE STATIONS FACTS...

• The divisions will begin Battle Stations in numerical order.

• Each division does Battle Stations with their “brother division” as they have done all exercises throughout basic training with them.

• 800 and 900 divisions are added in between and stay with their brother division, if applicable.

• Anywhere from 2-4 divisions can do Battle Stations per night.

• Battle Stations is approximately 8:00 p.m. until 8:00 a.m., but times can vary.

• Recruits may get to make an “I’m a sailor” phone call between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

• After the capping ceremony in the morning, the new sailors have to clean the ship, eat, and shower. Not all of the new Sailors call home. Some have other duties, some have to stand watch, and honor recruits and award winners have to practice for PIR.
Upon entering the 157,000 sq ft building, recruits begin their experience by descending along a walkway to a below-grade facility entrance (the facility rises to a height of 40 feet above the ground and also extends 14 feet below grade). The initial descent is accompanied by the broadcast sounds of shipyard activity, providing recruits with a feeling of being away from base. They will find themselves walking along “Pier 8,” gazing at the USS Trayer, a 210-foot-long replica of a Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer. The pier is a complete façade that replicates an actual pier in Norfolk, Virginia.
Trayer also sits in a pool of more than 90,000 gallons of water, but does not float, and there is a lighting system to make it look day or night on the pier. All this scenery and Hollywood-style setting is the first thing the more than 80 recruits from each division see before boarding the destroyer for their “underway” time.
Night time view of the USS Trayer (BST-21)

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Anything can happen during the 12 hours aboard this ship at sea. Among tragedies, recruits will fight fires caused by missile attacks and flooding caused by exploding undersea mines.
Ready to board the USS Trayer (BST-21)

Notice the old Navy uniforms. Pictures of the USS Trayer are rare, thus the old uniforms.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Night time view of the USS Trayer. Pretty real huh?
Notice the 5 inch, 54 caliber gun located at the front of the ship...
USS Trayer
(notice the roof above)
Front view of the 5 inch, 54 caliber gun

Here is a real 5 inch, 54 caliber gun

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Here is a real 5 inch, 54 caliber gun in action...

 Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
You’re the new guy on ship, the Weapons officer ask you to measure the barrel length of the MK45 - 5 inch 54 Caliber gun.

How long will it be?

1. 64 inches (5 feet, 4 inches)
2. 198 inches (16 ½ feet)
3. 270 inches (22 ½ feet)
4. 360 inches (30 feet)
Trivia Answer:

You’re the new guy on ship, the Weapons officer ask you to measure the barrel length of the MK45 - 5 inch 54 Caliber gun.

How long will it be?

Answer: 3 - 270 inches (22 ½ feet)

To get barrel length (on any gun), you multiply the diameter of the shell (in this case, 5 inch) by the caliber of the gun (in this case 54 caliber) which will equal 5 x 54 = 270 inches. Technically, the caliber of a rifle (Naval guns are technically rifles) is the ratio between the barrel length and the shell diameter, but the math works in reverse.
Passageway (hallway) on the USS Trayer (BST-21)

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Passageway (hallway) on the USS Trayer (BST-21)
Commissioning of the USS Trayer (BST-21)
June 18th, 2007
“Manning the Rails” during commissioning

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Changing the scene and location of the ship to confuse the recruits is really easy...
Replica of Pier 8, Norfolk Virginia...

Scenic View also provided two pier scenarios—one for entering the Trayer and one for exiting. They start out at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Virginia and end up at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown in Virginia. They did this by using a series of hinged, sliding and escalating scene changes on the steel-framed 192-ft-long pier.
Now to change the look to Yorktown Virginia...

You sail from Pier 8, Norfolk Virginia

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Changing the atmosphere…

to Naval Weapons station, Yorktown Virginia
Suddenly, you’re in Yorktown Virginia

You are now at Naval Weapons station, Yorktown Virginia

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
The rigging...
Notice the stores (supplies) in the boxes on the pier...
Since Battle Stations was built in 2007, how many wheelchair ramps were required for the USS Trayer?

a. none
b. 1
c. 2
d. 3
Since Battle Stations was built in 2007, how many wheelchair ramps were required for the USS Trayer?

- a. none
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3

Answer: a - none

Because Battle Stations was designed to be used by “able-bodied” recruits, the designer could ignore the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
What is Battle Stations?

During the recruits’ 12 hour final rite of passage, they will be participating in 17 different events; ranging from the relatively mundane to the horrific, with scenarios including:

- mission brief/move aboard,
- line handling,
- roving security,
- lookout,
- preparation for general quarters,
- flooding,
- emergency egress,
- compartment check-off list,
- stores (supplies) on-load/off-load,
- main/auxiliary watch,
- bridge watch,
- casualty control station,
- firefighting,
- mass casualty,
- man overboard,
- ship maintenance,
- and capping ceremony

During the scenarios, recruits are tested for problem solving, communications, and other essential skills. Actions have realistic consequences and facilitators use wireless hand-held PDAs to control the action, monitor recruits and communicate with other parts of the operations team.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
The USS Cole Bombing

On October 12, 2000, suicide terrorists exploded a small boat alongside the USS Cole (DDG-67)—an Arleigh Burke-class Aegis-equipped guided missile Navy Destroyer—as it was refueling in the Yemeni port of Aden. The blast ripped a 40-foot-wide hole near the waterline of the Cole, killing 17 American sailors and injuring many more.
The recruits will descend into the bowels of a guided missile destroyer to discover raging fires, floods, and mass casualties eerily reminiscent of the USS Cole disaster all in a 156,869-sq-ft "ship in a bottle* of this $82.5 million training simulator. The USS Cole was bombed by terrorists on Oct 12, 2000. Seventeen U.S. sailors killed. In this simulation, sailors learn how to respond to the chaos of a strike and the casualties that might result.
The bridge is the place where the ship is controlled when it is underway. It is manned continuously when underway but only manned in port when making preparations for getting underway. The Commanding Officer (C.O.) is ultimately responsible for the ship but is not always physically present on the bridge. When the C.O. is not on the bridge, the Officer of the Deck (O.O.D) controls the ship. When the C.O. is on the bridge, he or she may or may not assume control of the ship from the O.O.D.

A secondary conn (conning) is located within the ship near the bow that serves as a replacement for the bridge if the bridge has been damaged so much that the ship can no longer be controlled from it. The secondary conn is usually only manned during wartime general quarters conditions. It is controlled by the Executive Officer (X.O.) in case the C.O. has been incapacitated or killed.
The Bridge is the heart of the ship. From here the C.O. drives the ship. Here it is seen in white lights which means it is in port.
The Bridge...
You always use red lights while at sea. It is extremely hard for an enemy ship to spot a ship using red lights....thus saving your butt from a missile attack.

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
All ships at sea use red lights

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
♫...Girls just wanna have fun...♪

Courtesy of www.NavyDEP.com
Standing the bridge watch...
“Big Eyes” are used to locate items in the water such as pirates, refugees, or mail buoys…
(just kidding about the mail buoys)
~ Thanks for joining the world’s greatest Navy ~

Please continue with Part 2 of 2

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