

Man Overboard– not just a drill

By Shannon Smith

Did you know that on cruise ships, an average of 20 people per year fall overboard? Some jump. Others fall, usually after drinking or trying to climbing the deck or balcony railings. Ages range from 15 to 90 years old (old enough to know better). Most are male and most do not survive. The web site CruisePage.com actually keeps a running tally of the number of people who have gone overboard since 2000.

Ok, so we don't really expect a safety attitude from a lot of cruise passengers on the boat for a holiday. But can you think of anyone who takes safety at sea more seriously than the US Navy?

In a recent incident, a crewman was observed falling overboard during a training session and a rescue initiated immediately. Despite the efforts of more than six Navy and Coast Guard vessels and four helicopters, the sailor was not found.

The next time you have a man overboard drill, don't repeat the same old tabletop reading of the drill sheet and signing it. Actually throw something in the water and retrieve it. Your crewmates' responses will be a good indication of whether you could be retrieved if you fell overboard.

Search Ends for USS Normandy Sailor

The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard have ended their efforts to find a sailor assigned to guided-missile cruiser *USS Normandy* (CG 60). The search ended after sunset on June 9. Fire Controlman 2nd Class Christopher W. Clavin, 23, went overboard June 6 at about 3 p.m. while Normandy was conducting training 80 miles off the coast of Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Petty Officer Clavin was observed falling into the water Tuesday, resulting in an immediate man overboard call and search and rescue response involving an aircraft carrier, four helicopters, a Coast Guard cutter, three guided missile destroyers and additional Navy and Coast Guard aircraft.

The Navy and Coast Guard team spent over 76 hours searching an area that covered roughly 6,300 square miles.

Captain Derek Trinque, commanding officer of *USS Normandy* said, "We are not alone in our grief. Our hearts and thoughts are also with Chris's mother, sister and his entire family."

An investigation is currently underway.



Navy Petty Officer
Chris Clavin

TOP Safety Card Hits (Fleetwide last month)

Safety Attitude 14

Housekeeping 13

Communications 5