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New task force to introduce Sea Warrior to fleet

By Mark D. Faram

Times staff writer

Sailors have been promised an online career-management tool by the summer, but many can't wait — they want it now.

That's what Rear Adm. Donna Crisp says sailors tell her when she explains what the Sea Warrior program is and how the five-vector model career-management tool will change their professional lives.

"They want this, especially the younger sailors who've grown up using computers," she said. "They want to know what they can do right now."

"It's my job to deliver this to the fleet and as soon as possible," she said, though she's not making any promises when it'll be done.

Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, the Navy's chief of personnel, hired Crisp on Dec. 8 to be the deputy chief of personnel for Sea Warrior.

What that means, Hoewing said, is she'll head a team of 10 to 15 military and civilian personnel, training and acquisition experts, what he calls "Task Force Warrior."

"Because Sea Warrior has so many different parts and crosses many traditional command boundaries, this group will make sure it all comes together," Hoewing said.

"The goal of the task force is to accelerate, where possible, the delivery of Sea Warrior to the fleet," Crisp said of her Norfolk, Va.-based command.

It's her job not only to advise Hoewing, but also Vice Adm. Al Harms, who heads Naval Education and Training Command in Pensacola, Fla., on how best to combine the five-vector model, being developed by Harms' detailing portion that comes under Hoewing.

"That's the first major challenge, to get the career-management and the detailing portions working together seamlessly," Crisp said. "We'll be able to review any issue that impedes progress and make recommendations [to Hoewing and Harms] on how to fix it."

She said her staff first will look at how to make the current Job Advertising and Selection System in Millington, Tenn., available to sailors through their five-vector models.

"I can't promise when it'll be complete, but we're doing it as fast as we can," she said.

The task force isn't a permanent command and will go away when Sea Warrior is totally operational in a few years, she said.



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Having the task force as an “honest broker,” as Hoewing puts it, available to identify and iron out problems as they arise, is being welcomed by those developing the five-vector model and embedded training portions of the system.

“She’s going to have to look out over the whole system and make those decisions that are best for the Navy and not just for the commands concerned,” said Terry Halverson, the civilian head of the Naval Personnel Development Center in Norfolk, Va.

“Just getting all the information technology structure in place is a pretty complicated matter, not to mention all the other pieces.”

[Mark Faram](#) covers enlisted personnel issues. His e-mail address is mfaram@navytimes.com.