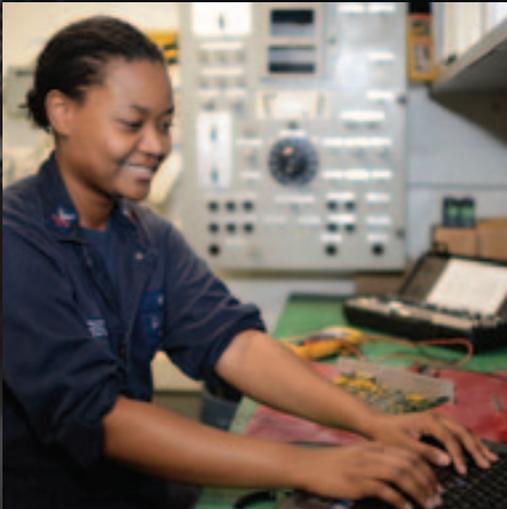


## GSE2 CRYSTAL MORRISON



GAS TURBINE SYSTEM  
TECHNICIAN (ELECTRICAL)  
USS MAKIN ISLAND (LHD 8)



*I believe information learned should be passed on to our new Sailors. Because in the end, our new Sailors are the future and this new technology is what they're going to be working on."*

### Q: WHAT IS YOUR JOB ON BOARD USS MAKIN ISLAND?

I've been an electrician on board USS Makin Island for almost four years now. I arrived at the beginning of our first deployment, our maiden voyage, so overall I've done two deployments. My main responsibility is to make sure all of our electrical supply is effectively distributed throughout the ship. In fact, my team and I are responsible for the generator and all things related to its upkeep and maintenance. Basically, if there are any issues with it, it's our job to get in there and check it out—we troubleshoot a lot. We control the 4,160-volt air conditioning system, which is unique to our ship and essentially a really big generator, as well as the transformers, switchboards, and other electrical systems. I really enjoy working on this type equipment and take pride in my job. Not everyone gets to say they actually work with a 4,160-volt system.

### Q: WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

When we are on deployment and something goes wrong or something breaks, it's up to my team and I to fix it. Luckily, for us, we like troubleshooting. It's a good challenge and once you've actually solved the problem, you always get a sense of accomplishment. I like being part of the bigger picture, helping our command stay mission ready. So that's why I always work hard and do my best. I like being able to say, "Yes! We are back on track and mission ready!"





## Q: WHAT DO SAILORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MAKIN ISLAND'S HYBRID ELECTRIC DRIVE?

The ship's hybrid electric drive (HED) is designed to run on our auxiliary propulsion motors at low speeds and on our gas turbine engines at higher speeds. Our HED not only saves energy and money but it's also a really great technology to get familiar with. It's good training. This technology is definitely the future and I think the more people who learn how to use it, the better off our Navy will be. It's definitely going to give us into a brighter future and make our nation stronger.

## Q: WHY IS THE HED SO IMPORTANT TO THE NAVY MISSION?

There are numerous advantages to having the HEDs implemented throughout the fleet. But the most important one, I think, is that it allows us to stay on station longer. While deployed and because of the HED, we didn't have to break away from our mission as often to undergo at-sea refueling since we consumed less fuel—it allowed us to be mission ready. Being energy efficient is definitely something we all need to focus on.

## Q: WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

I am getting my degree in electrical engineering, so this is a field that I actually enjoy. My main motivation is that I enjoy learning new things. No matter what the situation is, even if it's something as simple as changing out a light bulb, I am constantly learning. This allows me to get a better understanding of the technology I am working with and provides me with valuable knowledge that I can then share with others. I believe information learned should be passed on to our new Sailors. Because in the end, our new Sailors are the future and this new technology is what they're going to be working on. Eventually I am going to leave so passing on what I know is important and something I take pride in.

I also work with a lot of great people. And no matter what, we always stand together and get the job done. In the end it's our teamwork that keeps me motivated. In my shop, we have five to six people at any one time. This small group makes us even closer. It's really good to work with people you know and trust because with equipment like this, you're putting your life into their hands. If I know I can trust them, I know I can do my job better.

## Q: WHAT IS AN ENERGY WARRIOR?

An Energy Warrior is someone who is building a brighter future. Being energy efficient and going "green" is a big transition and a big step for our Navy, our mission, and our fleet as a whole. It will not only save us a lot of money but it will also help us become a more reliable force.