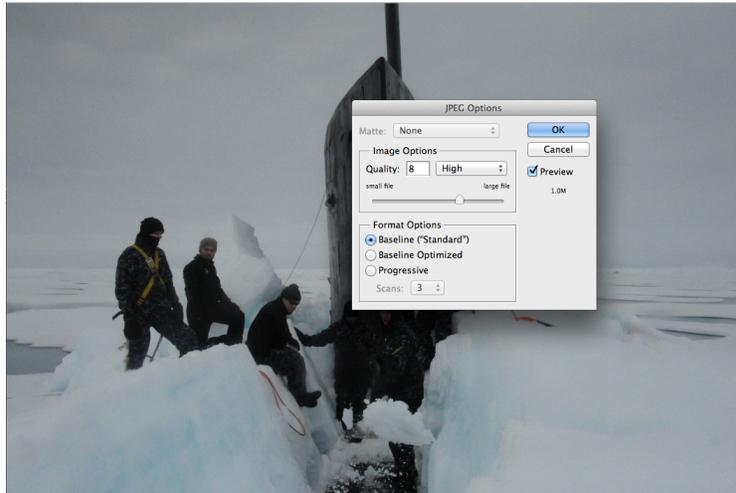


# JPG Compression

When you save an image in Photoshop a small box appears asking you at what quality you want to save the file. The default is “12.” That will give you a pretty beefy file, usually around six to eight megabytes for a full-frame, high-resolution image. If, however, you choose a quality of “10” or “8” you can reduce the file size by up to 80 percent with no perceivable quality loss. In other words, a six megabyte file is now two megabytes or less. That simple step can save you a lot of transmission time.



The above photo, when open in Photoshop, is 34.5 megabytes. When the file is closed and saved uncompressed it is 5 megabytes. When saved at a compression of “8,” the file size was reduced to 1 megabyte and still opened in Photoshop as a 34.5 megabyte file. There was no loss of quality and an 80 percent reduction in size.

Please do not resize your images to 5x7 inches. When you downsize your images you lose quality and marketability. When we post a 5x7 image on Navy.mil and someone wants a higher resolution file we have to track down the original file. This takes time and quite often a customer on deadline can't wait. It also defeats the purpose to downscale an image to 5x7 and then save it as an uncompressed JPEG. All you've done is reduce the size of the image and you still have a huge file. Compressing the JPEG to a quality of “8” or “10” before transmitting it to us is the best option for reducing transmission time, yet still maintaining image quality.

The only drawback to compressing JPEGs is that compressions below “8” can degrade image quality. As a rule of thumb we would like shore commands or organizations that have access to higher bandwidth internet connections to compress the files at “10” and deployed units with less bandwidth to send us files compressed not more than “8.” Any compression below “8” and you may start to see JPEG artifacts and other image degradation.