

# FLEET FOCUS

## 'Up from the ranks'

# Riddle goes from Airman recruit to 'Mustang'

By J01 Gerard Sekerak  
HAWAII NAVY NEWS EDITOR

Since the day he first enlisted in the Navy, Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (Safety Equipment) Anthony L. Riddle knew he wanted to climb as high as he could in the Navy's ranks.

Motivated by a desire to achieve increased responsibility and accountability and considering his opportunities for advancement to E-8/9 were limited, he set his sights on the officer ranks. After seven unsuccessful attempts at a commission, he finally achieved his goal.

Chief Riddle, assigned to Naval Brig Ford Island, received his commission to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in a ceremony held onboard the USS Missouri Memorial June 1.

"I pursued becoming a warrant officer because it allows me to reach a level of leadership and responsibility equal with the technical expertise, knowledge and experience I obtained during my naval service," said Riddle.

"Most importantly, I wanted to be in a position to make a greater impact on the training and careers of those who work for me, and be a positive role model and mentor to my shipmates."

In attendance were the

Commanding Officer of Naval Brig Ford Island, Commander Peter W. Klaus, his wife, Pacita and their two daughters, April and Ariel, along with brig staff and guests.

Riddle's brother, Larry also attended the ceremony to assist in the traditional pinning-on of his brother's rank insignia.

"I'm very proud of my younger brother and I'm excited he made CWO," said Larry.

"I don't think he followed in my footsteps, he just did what he thought was right and beneficial for his fellow shipmates and family."

It just so happens that being a CWO was the light at the end of the tunnel for both of us," added Larry.

A 12-year Navy veteran, Larry is also a warrant officer, and is now serving in the U.S. Army National Guard in Atlanta, Ga.

While in the Navy, he served as an aviation electronics technician (AT) and achieved the rank of petty officer first class (E-6).

After leaving the Navy, he finished his bachelor's degree and joined the Army National Guard as a warrant officer.

"I'm extremely privileged to have an older brother who is also a warrant officer," said Riddle.

Although we are both warrant officers, our goals were achieved through different avenues, but our motivations were equally focused

on being honorable, committed and beneficial to country, service and fellow shipmates and soldiers," he added.

Chief Warrant Officer Riddle was born January 29, 1959, in Rome, Georgia, the third of six children. He entered the Navy on August 2, 1977 and went on to accumulate 22 years of Naval service. Eighteen of those years he spent overseas, with assignments to four shore and six sea-duty billets with an accumulation of eight years of sea duty.

Chief Warrant Officer Riddle set his sights on acquiring positions of increased responsibility and managerial challenges early in his career.

He did not just follow orders but studied the processes of decision making and it's results to better prepare for the leadership role of a commissioned officer. He took on the most difficult, challenging and sometimes the least desirable assignments.

"Continuous solid performance is the key, a mediocre career with one or two good years won't cut it," said Riddle. You have to take the challenging jobs, the ones where leadership is important, and do those jobs well," he added.

The words "up from the ranks" refers to an officer who has promoted up from the ranks of Navy enlisted personnel through an in-service procurement program (i.e.



PHAA Josh Pritekel photo

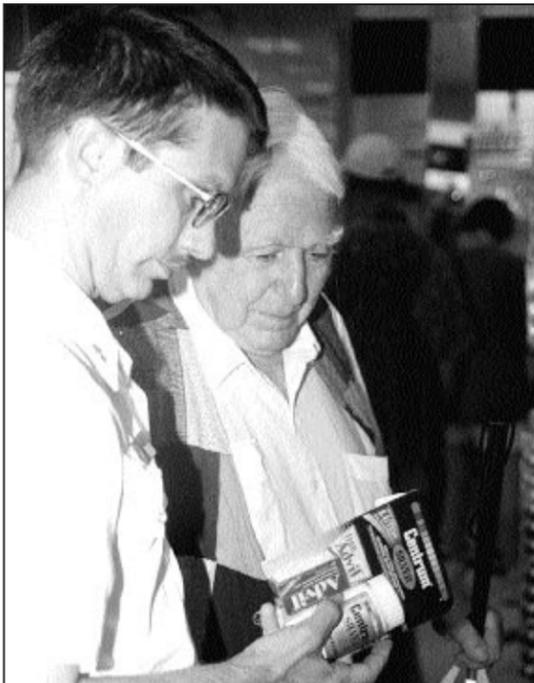
Chief Warrant Officer Anthony Riddle gets his new rank insignia "pinned on" by his wife Pacita and brother Larry, a warrant officer in the Army. Riddle received his commission to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in a ceremony held onboard the USS Missouri Memorial June 1.

Limited Duty Officer-LDO, Chief Warrant Officer-CWO), with no interruption of his/her active duty status.

According to CWO2 Riddle, he achieved his goal, "up from the ranks" through hard work, dedication and "sustained superior performance" - the most important element in preparing for and ultimately achieving a commission.

"I'm extremely excited to be a Naval Officer, my growth from Airman Recruit to Warrant Officer has been truly rewarding," said Riddle. I feel as though I have been afforded a level of prestige and honor only a few naval personnel have the opportunity to achieve."

## MDSU-1 Chief helps one of his own



J03 Brenda Diggs photo

By J03 Brenda Diggs  
NAVY REGION HAWAII

Chief Yeoman (SW) Robert Bridgewater, of Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One, heads straight to Waikiki from work at least twice a week, but not to go surfing or to shop. Bridgewater is a volunteer for the "Friendly Neighbors" program for the elderly at the Waikiki Health Center.

"Making a difference in someone else's life in a positive way is a very rewarding experience," said Bridgewater. "When you can do that, you get the most out of life."

Currently Bridgewater helps Howard and Betty Nunn. Howard, a retired Navy chief, is about 95 percent blind and his wife is in a wheelchair. Twice a week Bridgewater takes Howard shopping and helps him read labels and find specific content he and his wife need.

"Being able to help Howard is a very special experience. It's especially gratifying that I'm helping a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer," said Bridgewater.

"Chief Bridgewater is very ambitious and motivated," said Wendy Stebbins, Friendly Neighbors Program coordinator. "Bob is always willing to go the extra mile and even with his own family he still finds time to volunteer himself."

Previously Bridgewater helped an elderly woman named Elizabeth.

According to Stebbins, Elizabeth did not want to go into a retirement of

nursing facility before she died. Elizabeth wanted to stay at her home and she did, with Bridgewater's help.

"Bob was a great help to Elizabeth she was very isolated, she was home bound," stated Stebbins. "He was her lifeline to the outside world for a couple of years—even at the end of her life she was very adamant about staying at home towards the end of her life."

Elizabeth lived until the age of 95 and was able to stay in her home up until a month before she passed away with the help of the Friendly Neighbors Program and Bridgewater.

"Life is a learning experience," said Bridgewater. "We all can learn from those who have lived life longer than us. I have truly been blessed to have this opportunity to learn first from Elizabeth and now Betty and Howard. These are the experiences that help make life worthwhile for me."

Although Betty and Howard are disabled, they maintain an independent life, according to Bridgewater. Although Howard is 95 percent blind he still delivers newspapers in the mornings and Betty gets out on her electric driven scooter to join him.

The Friendly Neighbors Program's mission is to reduce isolation to frail senior citizens. This is a volunteer based program which provides help with grocery shopping, friendly visits, light housekeeping and helping people to doctor appointments, according to Stebbins. Anyone interested in volunteering with the program can call 926-8032 for more information.

Bridgewater also volunteers for the Junior Achievement. For his outstanding volunteer service Bridgewater was recently selected as Commander Navy Region Hawaii Volunteer of the Quarter.

## Submarine veterans honored during Memorial Day ceremonies

By J03 McClain  
Shewman  
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CAPTAIN David McCall, Commander Submarine Squadron One, was the main speaker in a Memorial Day ceremony honoring our submarine veterans at the Submarine Base Memorial on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

"Memorial Day is a memorial to those who have fallen so we could remain free. But it is not a holiday so much about those who have died fighting our nation's battles and have gone before us, but a holiday about what they left behind, 'The American spirit'," said McCall.

The ceremony included music by the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet Band, the posting of the 50 state flags by Radford High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students and a 21-gun salute by the Naval Station Regional Ceremonial Guard.

A floral presentation was also made by the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association, Submarine Officers' Wives Club, U.S. Submarine League, Aloha Chapter, and U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII.

"They left their homes, their jobs and their families placing themselves in harm's way to defend a set of unique ideals that define our nation. They are heroes, but they are not larger than life," said McCall.

Submarine veterans conducted the roll call, wherein other submarine veterans and their spouses placed lei on each of the plaques in remembrance of each submarine lost in WWII.

This "roll call" was accompanied by the tolling of the bell for each submarine lost.

## USS Hopper sails through Arabian Gulf on WESTPAC



FC3 Tavares photo

(Left) A view of another ship from USS Hopper as it cruises through the Arabian Gulf during sunset. Hopper is currently on a six-month western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment.

USS Hopper's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) green team (Below) pose for a photo in the Arabian Gulf. From left to right are STG1(SW) Devlin, FC2 Nevermann, STG2(SW) Hageman, DCC(SW) Wood, Lt.j.g. Montgomery, STG2(IUSS) Miree, Lt.j.g. Ward, BNC(AW/SW) Metham, ETC(SW) Pope, MA1(AW/SW) Jones and GSM2 Bryne.



FC3 Tavares photo