

## FLEET Focus

# Crommelin wins back-to-back Battle 'E'

By **Ens. Drew Kelly**  
USS *Crommelin*

The crew of USS *Crommelin* (FFG 37) crew has truly lived up to their ship's motto, 'munus bene factum,' or, 'job well done.'

During a Battle Efficiency "E" award ceremony on Monday, final brush strokes were painted on the hash mark denoting the second consecutive Battle "E" on *Crommelin's* bridgeway.

Commodore Mark "Buz" Buzby expressed his high regard for *Crommelin's* performance, noting that the award "recognizes the true measure of the overall excellence of the ship: the heart and drive of her captain and crew."

*Crommelin's* record-setting performance at maritime interception operations (MIO) clinched the ship's second consecutive Battle "E" award for Destroyer Squadron 31.

Every member of *Crommelin's* crew contributed to the ship's successes.

Engineering personnel kept *Crommelin's* propulsion plant, generators, and auxiliaries reliable throughout the year, notably during the flank-bell transit of the Indian Ocean. The ship's combat systems were ever ready, especially noteworthy during a period of heightened tension and potential threat while deployed overseas.

*Crommelin's* crew began the year 2000 with a tough set of workups with the Abraham Lincoln Battle Group (ALBG) and

capped the year with an historic six-month deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

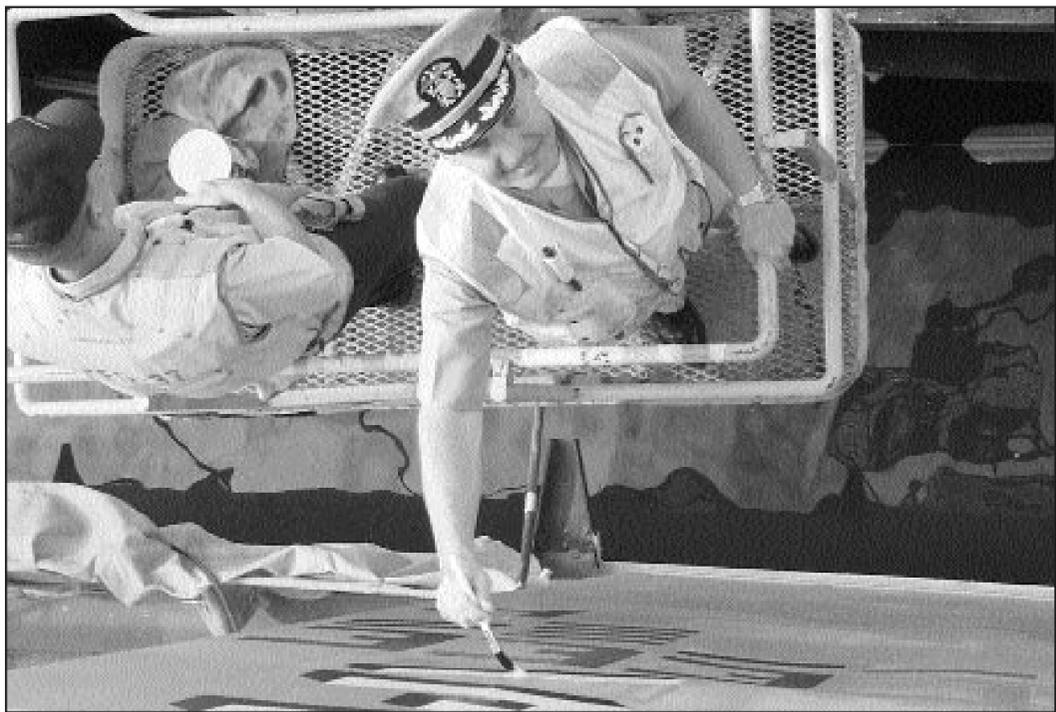
*Crommelin* earned the nickname "pocket cruiser" from battle group commander, Rear Adm. Phil Balisle during Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) in February 2000 and never looked back.

The crew overcame uncommon adversity in the Fifth Fleet area of responsibility in the aftermath of the Cole bombing, including one period of 62 consecutive days underway conducting maritime interception operations to deter or capture illegal shipments of Iraqi oil.

During most of the ship's three and a half months in Fifth Fleet, *Crommelin* was deployed in the northern Arabian Gulf, literally the farthest forward-deployed ship in the Navy.

*Crommelin's* Visit Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) team executed 18 non-compliant boardings leading to diversion of 12 vessels suspected of smuggling petroleum products from Iraq.

*Crommelin's* combat information center, communicators, quartermasters, and bridge teams unfailingly maintained the tactical picture and ensured precise navigation that enabled the ship to excel at its mission in the extremely challenging waters of the northern gulf, while deck division and 'A-Gang' kept the ship's rigid-hull inflatable boat (RHIB) continuously ready to answer the call



103 Sunday Sawyer photo

**Capt. Mark Buzby, Commodore, COMDESRON 31 puts the finishing touch of paint on USS *Crommelin's* (FFG 37) second Battle 'E' hash mark Monday morning. According to Buzby, the Battle 'E' "recognizes the true measure of the overall excellence of the ship." BM3 Shawn Ivone of USS *Crommelin* (standing next to the commodore) operated the lift.**

for boarding and seizure operations. Underlying it all was a supply department that achieved resounding success at obtaining parts for the technicians and providing hot meals and service for all hands any time of the day or

night.

*Crommelin's* back-to-back Destroyer Squadron 31 Battle "E" awards for 1999 and 2000 are a testament to her crew's unmatched teamwork and spirit. Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Alan

C. Westphal stated, "I have never known a better crew in nearly 20 years in the Navy. There are seven great ships in DESRON 31, and competition for this award was the toughest I've ever seen."

## USS Frederick hosts high school 'campus at sea'



Ens. Corey Fuller photo

**Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets pose together aboard the USS *Frederick* (LST 1184) during a visit to Hawaii in February.**

By **Ens. Corey Fuller**  
USS *Frederick*

What does a retired Navy captain, 25 Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) cadets and a command master chief half way across the world have in common?

Normally there would not be a connection, but in this story USS *Frederick* (LST 1184) Command Master Chief, Dave Pennington served with Capt. Rex Settlemoir 20 years ago at Naval Reserve Center Lexington, Ky. Today, the retired Capt. Settlemoir is a naval science instructor in Greenville, Ohio.

Between these two old shipmates, they

arranged for *Frederick* to host 25 Greenville High School NJROTC cadets Feb. 17-24 for a weeklong visit to Hawaii to experience Navy life on an amphibious ship. Concurrently, *Frederick* hosted 31 NJROTC cadets from Hilo, Hawaii making a weekend trip underway Feb. 16-18.

Following 17 hours of Naval Air Logistics Office (NALO) flights and an overnight stay on USS *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) in San Diego, the Greenville cadets reported aboard *Frederick* on Feb. 17 at Pearl Harbor.

The theme of the trip seemed to be "high school campus at sea" as all 56 cadets and their chaperones watched the debarkation of more than 300 Marines and their equip-

ment go down the bow ramp and onto Hotel pier.

During the brief stop, the Hilo cadets also managed a visit to the Arizona Memorial. Shortly thereafter, *Frederick* was "on the road again" with all 56 cadets heading towards Kawaihae, Hawaii and adjusting to all the "rocking and rolling" of the open seas.

During the transit, *Frederick* Sailors provided training evolutions in deck, engineering, operations and supply departments. Each cadet was excited about the opportunity to be given the chance to interact with Sailors only a few years older than they were.

Next *Frederick* transited toward

Kawaihae to recover 16 amphibious assault vehicles (AAV) needing to return to Kaneohe following their month long Hawaii combined arms operation exercise. To *Frederick's* advantage, the seas were calm and the sun shining to allow a safe recovery of all AAVs and to gripe them down in the tank deck.

The next stop, to pick up Marines and equipment pierside in Hilo, was the final leg for the Hilo cadets and just the beginning for the others.

Once there, the Greenville cadets bid farewell to their new friends from Hilo and watched the embarkation of over 20,000 square feet of equipment and another 250 Marines.

On the way back to Pearl Harbor, the Greenville cadets loaded up in the Marine AAVs and rolled out the stern gate of *Frederick* making their approach "Marine Corps style" to the beach at Fort Hasse. Following lunch with the Marines, they all boarded buses and headed back to meet *Frederick* in Pearl Harbor.

After arriving back, the cadets to had the opportunity to visit with Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet at Subase Pearl Harbor. Additionally, while in port they toured the Arizona Memorial, USS *Bowfin* submarine museum, and USS *La Jolla* (SSN 701).

Lastly, the Greenville NJROTC cadets received a tour of Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Center Pearl Harbor where they witnessed the launching of a weather balloon. In the midst of this full schedule, they managed to squeeze in some good old-fashioned liberty and sightseeing in the Aloha State with a picnic at Fort DeRussey, a tour of the museum and a visit to the beach in Waikiki.

*Frederick* bid farewell to these future Sailors on Feb. 24 as they headed to Hickam Air Force Base for 17 more hours of travel back to Ohio where they were awaited by their families and frigid weather.

## Blood donor dog helps hundreds, retires, needs escort to mainland

By **SSgt. Michelle Rowan**,  
Tripler Army Medical Center  
Public Affairs Office

An abandoned dog that spent most of its life saving other dogs as a blood donor at a local animal hospital is finally getting a home and yard of its own. There's one slight problem though... the home is on the mainland.

Although all the pup's expenses are paid, Honey Girl, a nine-year-old lab mix, needs an escort from Honolulu to an airport on the East Coast where new owners Sharon and Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Jacobs can reunite with the plucky pooch.

While stationed in Hawaii, Mark was stationed at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, and Sharon worked at the Veterinary Centers of America (VCA) Kaneohe Animal Hospital. It was here that Sharon was introduced to Honey Girl.

"She was pretty much left for dead. The doctors and staff at VCA brought her back to health, and she quickly stole everyone's hearts," said Sharon. "Without her help,

hundreds of dogs would not be living today. She is a very loving dog and quite the heroine."

At the age of nine, it is now time for Honey Girl to retire, and the Jacobs' volunteered to finally give the lifesaver a home of her own. The Jacobs PCS'd from Hawaii in December, but decided to wait to bring Honey Girl over until they had a house set up.

Although the couple currently resides in Virginia Beach, Va., Sharon said they can come meet the escort at any East Coast airport including Norfolk, which would be the closest to the Jacobs, or any other airport in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Washington D.C., Maryland and even Northern Florida. She added that staff at VCA would transport Honey Girl to the airport and pay the animal's airline fees, and then the Jacobs would meet the escort at the destination airport.

Those interested in being Honey Girl's escort, should contact the Jacobs at jacobsm001@earthlink.com.

## Reenlisting because 'I love being in the Navy'



Nick Galante photo

Aviation Maintenance Administration 2nd Class John Gleason reenlists in the Navy, last Feb. 20 for a three-year stint that will take him, and his family, to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Five (HC-5) in Guam.

"I reenlisted because I love being in the Navy," said Gleason, who was promoted twice since he enlisted in July 1998. "I like everything about my job especially the people I work with and the benefits."

Gleason, who is from Honolulu, was formerly a security guard at the Hawaiian Regent Hotel in Waikiki. His wife, Cheryl, and their children, Jonas, age seven, and Kapili, six months old, are also looking forward to the move. He has served at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in the Aircraft Maintenance Department since April 1998.