



Bravo Zulu

USS Key West (SSN 722)

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. David P. Manternach
MM1(SS) Shawn M. Connolly
MM1(SS) David A. Dorsey
EM1(SS) Keith d. Harrington
MM1(SS) Jonathan L. Neutgens
ET1(SS) Daniel Ponce
EM2(SS) Timothy L. Garman
EM2(SS/DV) Kenneth W. Coburn
MM2(SS) Richard R. Parker
MM3(SS) Patrick A. Howard

Good Conduct Medals

ETC(SS) Randall L. Stidham
ET3(SS) Shannon R. Robinson
ET3(SS) Andrew D. Wallin
MM3(SS) Luis M. Valdivia

Letter of Commendation

EM1(SS) Keith D. Harrington
ET1(SS) Christopher A. Lee
ET3(SS) Benjamin A. Scher
ET3(SS) Robert W. Womack

Naval Security Group Activity, Pearl Harbor

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

CTO1 Basset
CTT1(SW) Wendt
CTT2(SS) Karnes
CTM2 Earnshaw
CTT2 Munoz
CTM2 Blankenship
CTM1(SS) Franklin R. Anthony
CTM2(SS) Douglas J. Heydon
CTT2(SS) Jed M. Dornoff
CTA3 Jennifer L. Bordreau

USS Honolulu (SSN 718)

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Daniel J. Brunk
Lt. Carlos A. Galan, Jr.
Lt. Barry J. Gittleman
HMC(SS/FMF) David L. Earsing
YN1(SS) Rodney D. Ross

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Brian C. Davison
Lt.j.g. Jacob A. Foret
Lt.j.g. Michael J. Wautlet
STSCS(SS) Anthony B. Kostner
MMC(SS) Michael A. Avery
EMC(SS) Louis I. Diaz, Jr.
STS1(SS) Terry Harper
ETC(SS) Jeffrey A. Hirst
SKC(SS) Glenn E. Ruede
ET1(SS) Jonathan T. Brown
EM1(SS) Lawrence R. Eskew
STS1(SS) Tod J. Steiner
ET1(SS) Thomas L. Wilson

COMSUBPAC

Letter of Commendation

Lt.j.g. Fredrik M. Lindholm
EM1(SS/DV) Christopher W. Galbreath, III
MM1(SS) Ronald J. Schuster
MM2(SS/DV) Paul T. Dean
MM2(SS) Colin R. Dorsett
MM2(SS) Jeremy A. Goone
ET2(SS) James P. Gorman
MM2(SS) Christopher Graves
MM2(SS) Jeffrey K. Richard
EM2(SS) James R. Williamson
MM2(SS) Raymond A. York
MM3(SS) Paul T. Burns
EM3(SS) John D. Oliver
EM3(SS) Christopher D. Strong

COMSUBGRU SEVEN

Letter of Commendation

ET1(SS) Anthony Brown
FT1(SS) David L. Bryant, Jr.
ET1(SS) Kevin L. Haddock-McIntire
MM1(SS) Terrance L. Jackson
MM1(SS) Christopher A. Layton
STS1(SS) Randall E. Powell
MM1(SS/DV) Eric D. Smitherman
MM1(SS) Jeffery D. Stephens
FT2(SS) Brian S. Kloeker
FT2(SS) Jason J. Hughes
STS2(SS) Dustin E. Neuman
ET2(SS) Jonathan L. Bracewell
MM3(SS) Joel A. Immel
YN3(SS) Mark J. McMurray
ET3(SS) James D. Kennedy
ET3(SS) Shinarobmeel Roberson
FT3(SS) Gerald W. Serrano
MM3(SS) Matthew J. Thomas
STS3(SS) Daniel B. Watson
STS3(SS) Adam T. Wilkins
MS3(SS) Christopher S. Wiltanger
FT3(SS) James K. Connors
MMFN(SS) Joshua D. Inlow

Submarine Warfare Qualifications

Lt.j.g. Fredrik M. Lindholm
FT3(SS) Chad A. Bright
ET3(SS) Justin E. Sechrest

USS Chicago changes hands

By JO3 McClain Shewman
SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Chicago (SSN 721), changed hands recently as Cmdr. Daniel Prince relieved Cmdr. John Mickey.

"Chicago crewmembers have worked incredibly hard for the last eighteen months, and they have excelled in preparing for every key event thrown at them," said Mickey. "This is a crew with stamina. This is a crew that never gives up. This is a crew that will always get the job done," he added.

Guest speaker was Capt. Jeffrey Fowler, Commander Submarine Squadron Three.

"I am proud and confident that the Navy has chosen the right man to lead Chicago into the future. I have known Dan Prince for several years and he is ready to take on the challenge and privilege of command at sea," said Fowler.

USS Chicago, which is 360 feet in length and displaces over 6,900 tons when submerged, has a crew of 130 men.

The submarine force will continue to shrink from as many as 40 submarines in the early 1990's to only 25 early in the next decade.

Demand for submarines in support of specific national tasking has more than doubled since the end of the Cold War.

Chicago is a Los Angeles-class submarine and was commissioned in September of 1986. The submarine is the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name.



JO3 McClain Shewman photo

Sideboys post and salute as Cmdr. Daniel Prince arrives aboard USS Chicago (SSN 721) as the new commanding officer. Prince relieved Cmdr. John Mickey.

Lake Erie innovations increase quality of life, combat readiness

By JO1 Scott Sutherland
SURFPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The jury is in, and the new watch standing organization aboard USS Lake Erie (CG 70) is a big hit with her crew.

The innovative concept, known as blue-gold, was implemented aboard cruiser in January by Commanding Officer, Capt. Lenny Capello.

The program, which stresses combat readiness while addressing Chief of Naval Operation's quality of life initiatives, was initially conceived and successfully implemented at one of Capello's previous commands. In Lake Erie, the blue-gold concept has matured into its current, highly successful form.

The crew is divided into blue and gold teams which each work a 12-hour shift. The on-duty team is responsible for carrying out the ship's daily routine - watch standing, preventive maintenance, training, cleaning - while the off-duty team is just that-off. It's their time to do whatever they want.

"While they're off, Sailors get the opportunity to get a lengthy period of rest," said Lake Erie's chaplain, Lt. Daniel McKay. "They can relax, read, send e-mails, or

attend Programs Afloat College Education courses. Blue-gold has reached out and handed responsibility to all members of the team and, in particular, to more junior people."

According to Lake Erie's Chief Engineer and Senior Watch Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Lyons, the duty team conducts every daily at-sea evolution short of general quarters.

"Beside standing watch during all threat conditions, the duty team does at-sea replenishments, flight operations, sea-and-anchor details, small boat operations and emergency response," Lyons said.

Senior Chief Boatswain's Mate Jerard Kalani, the enlisted watchbill coordinator and senior enlisted member of the blue team, said training every Sailor in multiple jobs was the key to starting the program.

"We made a big push to get Sailors qualified," he said. "Both sections are well trained, so now we can do anything, anytime of day. Each section is ready for any type of operation."

During its current deployment with the Constellation battle group to the Arabian Gulf, Lake Erie is proving that the blue-gold system works even during sustained high-tempo opera-

tions. One of Lake Erie's primary missions of enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq requires around-the-clock operations in a high threat littoral environment. Blue-gold has enhanced the crew's ability to meet that challenge as evidenced recently by having boarded and diverted four sanctions violators during a one-week period.

"The blue-gold program is the best concept I've seen in my 12 years in the Navy," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class Richard Williams.

Williams works in the anti-submarine surface tactical air control center, where he stands duty with two other helicopter air controllers. He said the demands put on the air control module by the maritime interception operations conducted by Lake Erie in the Arabian Gulf keeps the team constantly busy.

"It's especially hectic during the 1 - 9 a.m. swing shift," he said. "The maritime interception operations are mostly conducted at night, when container and cargo vessels are coming out of Iraq. There's a lot of pressure on us, especially when we have a helicopter escort for our boarding teams."

Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeff

Bateman, was a member of Lake Erie's crew during her last deployment. He sees a significant difference in the crew's morale.

"This deployment, people are well rested and ready to go at a moment's notice," Bateman said. "It's amazing what this quality of life change has made on the crew's morale."

That high morale has also resulted in some amazing reenlistment statistics aboard Lake Erie. Eighty-two percent of second term and 96 percent of career Sailors have chosen to continue their careers. Twenty-eight Sailors have requested to extend by one year their sea duty tour in Lake Erie. Those extensions will keep critical sea duty billets filled and further enhance the team building that also is a core concept of the blue-gold paradigm.

There are many excellent initiatives in the Navy today to improve quality of life. Although the blue-gold watch standing organization was implemented primarily to increase combat readiness during sustained operations, talking with Lake Erie's crew provides graphic evidence that combat readiness and quality of life can, and should be, co-equal shipmates.

Around the Fleet

Clinton exonerates L.A. man, 80, convicted of mutiny after disaster

President Clinton pardoned an 80-year-old Los Angeles man recently who was convicted of mutiny after a deadly domestic disaster that shed harsh light on racial discrimination in the military during World War II.

As a young Sailor, Freddie Meeks was imprisoned after he and 49 other black Sailors refused to load live ammunition aboard a Navy vessel following an explosion that killed 320 men at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine.

In recent years, as Meeks' health declined, various African-American organizations, members of California's congressional

delegation and a Washington law firm joined his family in seeking a presidential pardon.

Meeks, who enlisted in 1943, ended up serving only three months for mutiny and a dishonorable discharge. But the conviction cast a shadow over his life.

Before the war, he'd worked as a welder, but no factory would hire a man with a dishonorable discharge. So he worked "whatever jobs I could get," raising three children and supporting his wife, Eleanor.

"I never thought I'd make it to see this," Meeks said of the pardon. But some military historians said that Meeks' pardon should not be the final chapter of the Port Chicago tragedy.

SPOT CHECK

The Pacific Fleet today

Personnel: 247,421
• 133,897 USN
• 70,006 USMC
• 12,848 USNR
• 30,670 civilians

Ships: 187 (*)

Underway: 78 (42%) (**)

Aircraft: 1,420 (**)

Exercises: 4

Port Visits: 8 countries

Aircraft Carriers Underway/Deployed:

• USS John C. Stennis
• USS Constellation
• USS Abraham Lincoln
• USS Kitty Hawk

LHA/LHD Underway/Deployed:

• USS Peleliu
• USS Belleau Wood

* — includes Military Sealift Command ships
** — includes USMC aircraft