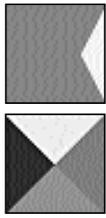


FLEET FOCUS



Bravo Zulu

USS Hopper (DDG 70)

Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Paul Schlise
Lt. Scott Shepard
Lt. j.g. Josh Olson
Ens. Ian Nesbitt
GMC(SW) Roosevelt Diggs
FCC(SW) Adam Morgan
GM1(SW) Troy Carter

Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal

FCC(SW) Kevin Hibbits
DC2 Christopher Wolney
GM2(SW) Jose Albino
GM2(SW) Paul Rezendes
GM2 Michael Eiker
FC2 Robert Chastain
IC2 Cynthia McDaniels

Letter Of Commendation

DC1(SW) Scott Wood
BM1(SW) Timothy Smith
FC2(SW) James Sherman
OS3 Mike Poole
GM3 Jeremy Sharp
GM3 Michael Winter
EM3 Daniel Luethe

1998 Senior Sailor of the Year

DC1(SW) Scott Wood

Surface Warfare Officer Qualified

Ens. Paul Celani
Ens. Rebecca Zuwallack

Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Qualified

BM2(SW) Thomas McIntyre
GSE2(SW) Michael Thorson
FC2(SW) Vincent Dominguez
STG2(SW) Anthony Hageman
OS2(SW) Leo Drury
GSE3(SW) Marco Perez

Master Helmsman Qualified

BM2 Tae Shin
QM3 Jean Icaza

Frocked

FCCM(SW) William Windsor
GSCS(SW) Christopher Coffey

USS Chicago (SSN 721)

1998 Submarine Squadron Three
Sailor of the Year/
USS Chicago Sailor of the Year
EM1(SS) Philip Gilbert

Patrol Special Projects Unit Two (VPU-2)

Good Conduct Medal
AK1(AW) Michael Campbell

1999 PACFLT 'best of the best' SOYs named

By J02 Sean A. Hughes

PACIFIC FLEET PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Pacific Fleet named its top two Sailors for 1999 during a ceremony in Hawaii on April 16th.

Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class (AW/SW) Jerry C. Moore is the flight deck leading petty officer aboard USS Constellation (CV 64), and was selected as the 1999 Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year.

"I'm awestruck," Moore said, after 17 years in the Navy. "People say I earned it, but it took a lot of people to help me get here."

Moore said his family is one of the biggest influences in his life, and that "they're my world and they keep me going."

He also gave credit to all of the nominees and said that competition for the selection board was tough. "It could have been any of us," Moore said.

Electronics Warfare Technician First Class (SW) Jeffrey P. Patterson, from Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity San Diego, was selected as the 1999 Pacific Fleet Shore Sailor of the Year.

"I was thunderstruck," Patterson said, after 14 years in the Navy. "My eyes kind of rolled back in my head and my knees got weak. It was the most incredible feeling I've experienced since I've been in the Navy. It doesn't get much bigger than this."

Patterson said his shipmates helped him earn his recognition.

"I wish that every workcenter anyone's ever had was as great as the guys who work for me," Patterson said. "No good supervisor's going to get to this spot right here without good people working for him, or without good leadership above him."

Patterson also credited his family

with getting him where he is today. "My wife has been such a positive supporter of my military career - through the underway times and raising our son," Patterson said. "I just wish she could have come with me to this ceremony because she helped get me here."

Patterson said he feels confident as he goes on to Washington, D. C. to compete against other Fleet Shore Sailors of the Year from around the world to compete for Navy-wide Shore Sailor of the Year.

"I'll do my best," Patterson said. "I've never done anything but the best."

Chief Electronics Technician (SS/AW) Bryan C. Robertson was the 1997 Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year, and was this year's event's master of ceremonies.

Robertson said that this year's selection board included the basic board questions during a week-long Hawaii visit by the Fleet Sailors of the Year, but a new twist was included in this board to aid the selection process.

"Each Sailor was given the opportunity to pick his favorite topic in Naval heritage and give a five minute presentation," Robertson said.

"The competition at this level is always very, very stiff," Robertson said. "Every guy up here is extremely squared away. You've got to be on your toes every day that you're out here."

Robertson related what it takes to be



J02 Sean Hughes photo

A01 (AW/SW) Jerry C. Moore, (Left) and ET1 (SW) Jeffrey P. Patterson were selected as the 1999 Pacific Fleet Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year, respectively.

best of the best. "Whatever you're assigned to do, do the very best at each and everything you're assigned, whether it's waxing a deck or navigating a submarine," he said. "Do each assignment to the best of your ability and you can not help but be successful."

Other 1999 Sailor of the Year nominees were Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Eugene J. Schlotterbeck II from USS Port Royal (CG 73), BM1 (AW) Cortez D. Ward from U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, Storekeeper 1st Class (SW/AW) Fernando M. Arlanza, Jr. from Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Aviation Storekeeper 1st Class (AW) Kirkland D. Kirk from Naval Air Station Fallon.

DESRON 31 'Sea Warriors' compete for Golden War Canoe trophy

By Lt. j.g. Ken Ehresman

COMDESRON 31

"Fun, Zest and Training Too" was the motto of the two-week long fifth annual Golden War Canoe competition, which ended April 3.

Former Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, Capt. Frank B. Guest III presented the highly coveted Golden War Canoe trophy to the Sailors of USS Hopper (DDG 70).

The annual Destroyer Squadron 31 competition is designed to instill intrasquadron pride and unity, while giving each ship the opportunity to strut its individuality.

The fifth annual competition kicked off with a CDS-31 hosted a dining out for all "Sea Warrior" wardrooms at the Hilton Hawaiian village. Rear Adm. John Townes III, Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific was the guest of honor.

The well-attended events gave all concerned a night to remember and put everyone in the frame of mind to enjoy the competition. Events were planned and hosted by individual ships.

The first phase consisted of a variety of import events, including RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) regatta, pistol shooting, a 10K fun run, basketball and softball tournaments, a nautical rules of the road exam, damage control olympics, a knot board/kisbee competition, a golf tournament, and a sailing regatta.

The competition was so close at the end of the first week's events that whichever ship stood out as the best during the underway phase would come home to claim the prize.

The second phase of the competition took place at sea with all six squadron

ships (USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Fletcher (DD 992), Hopper, USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS Russell (DDG 59) participating.

The underway portion of the competition included many traditional, as well as some not quite so traditional events. One long-running, nautical tradition - close formation steaming called DIV-TACS - turned out to be quite a crowd pleaser.

As the six warships joined up seaward of Waikiki for a group photograph, tourists and locals lined the beachfront to witness the impressive display of shiphandling and precision maneuvering.

After the tight, well-orchestrated photo exercise and follow-on formation steaming was finished, the Sea Warrior ships turned to open seas to put the business end of the ships to work.

The primary goal of the underway period was to provide intermediate-level, surface warfare training and an opportunity for coordinated, surface ship operations.

Crommelin, Paul Hamilton and Reuben James proved lethally accurate with their main guns against a towed target at the Pacific Missile Range Facility off the coast of Kauai.

The morning quiet was shattered by the roar of 5 inch and 76mm guns as round after round rained down upon the target sled.

After finishing the gunnery exercise, Paul Hamilton and Russell, along with an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter from Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) 37 (HSL-37), conducted a coordinated anti-submarine search and attack mission against a Mk30 submarine target.

Crommelin spent the afternoon doing

50 caliber machine gun and small arms target practice.

Other underway events included a refueling with the USNS John Ericsson, helicopter operations with HSL-37, several multi-ship, multi-warfare integrated training scenarios, and one not so traditional event, the Commodore's Surprise.

The Commodore's Surprise was a two-hour long event where the ships raced against each other and the clock to carry out a wide variety of unique tasks.

The individual tasks flexed all shipboard divisions and required close coordination and teamwork for an individual ship to complete before its squadron mates.

Some examples of tasks included determining the arc of visibility for Raffles Light in Singapore, serving lunch to the junior and senior Sailors of the quarter on the bridge wings, taking a lube oil sample from the main engines and the very popular executive officer haircut on the flight deck.

Upon return to port after a strong showing at sea, it was clear that Hopper had secured first place.

As all reflected on their performance during a squadron join-up Friday evening, a few ships were still pulling for Saturday's tug-of-war and chili cook-off to sway the ultimate scoring.

Although the last two events were not enough to unseat Hopper as the 1999 winner, all involved enjoyed the chance to 'tug' (pull) for their ship and finish with some of the best chili on the waterfront.

Previous winners include Crommelin (1995 and 1996) and USS Leftwich (1997, and 1998).

Guided missile destroyer Winston S. Churchill christened, launched

The Navy's newest guided missile destroyer Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) was christened and launched April 17 at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine.

The ship, which is named for the British Prime Minister who courageously led his nation through World War II, was sponsored by Churchill's last surviving child, Lady Mary Soames, and Janet Langhart Cohen, wife of Secretary of Defense William Cohen.

The Arleigh-Burke class destroyer will be at the forefront of technology when it's commissioned early in the new millennium.

USS John C. Stennis completes sea trials

USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) returned from sea trial

operations today off the coast of Southern California following an extensive maintenance and rehabilitation period. This is the first time Stennis had been underway since arriving at Naval Air Station North Island last August.

The sea trial period included events such as general quarters and man overboard drills, propulsion plant casualty scenarios and numerous flight deck evolutions.

GPS systems achieve Y2K compliance

The Department of Defense Global Positioning System (GPS) Joint Program Office has recently verified that all generations of GPS satellites and ground support systems are Y2K and End of Week (EOW) rollover compliant.

The GPS EOW rollover happens every 20 years because GPS system time, counted in weeks, started counting on Jan. 6, 1980.



COMDESRON 31 photo

COMDESRON 31 ships, USS Crommelin (FFG 37), USS Fletcher (DD 992), USS Hopper (DDG 70), USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), USS Reuben James (FFG 57) and USS Russell (DDG 59), in close formation steaming called DIVACTS during the squadron's Golden War Canoe Trophy competition.