



# Bravo Zulu

Destroyer Squadron Thirty-One

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal**  
Lt.j.g. Eric Rasch  
YNC(SW) Robert Bridgewater

**Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist Qualified**  
YN1(SW) Richard Griffith

USS Crommelin (FFG 37)

**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal**  
Lt. Rod Gayton  
Lt. Jason Lankford  
TM2(SW) Joseph Maki  
EM3 Michael Serafin  
IC3 Michael Tarantino

**Joint Service Achievement Medal**  
DC2 Jason Jackson

**Letter of Commendation**  
Ens. Mike Vining

**Command Advancement Program**  
DK1(SW/AW) O'Neal Wilson  
TM2(SW) Joseph Maki

Defense Information Systems Agency  
Pacific

**Joint Meritorious Unit Award**  
Capt. Paul Stokes  
Cmdr. Steven Brockett  
Cmdr. Deborah Holzinger  
Maj. Philip Rynn  
RMCS(SW) Miguel Adams  
RMCS(SW/AW) Terrelle Bradshaw  
SKC(SW) Alfredo Aguas  
RMC Donna Davis  
RMC(SW) Angelo Velez  
RMC(SW) Benjamin Johns  
RMC(SW) Paul Kratz  
RMC(SW) Raymond Lewis  
RMC(SW) Tyrone Mason  
RMC(SW) Kenneth Pernsley  
RM1(SW) Robert Riccitelli  
RM1(SW) Marvin Monroe  
RM1 Patricia Negron  
YN1(AW) Sandra Cabe  
RM1(SW) Karen Coffey  
RM1 Daniel Conger  
RM1(SW) William Dickson  
RM2 Christopher Carroll

## Lake Erie's redesigned watch organization means better quality of life for Sailors

By Lt. Cmdr. Paul Lyons  
USS LAKE ERIE

In concert with the Chief of Naval Operations renewed emphasis regarding Quality of Life initiatives in port, USS Lake Erie (CG 70) is using expanded initiatives at sea as well.

Embracing the concepts of team building and delegating authority and responsibility to the men on the deck plates, Lake Erie has completely redesigned her underway watch organization into Blue and Gold Teams. On the surface, this might appear to be nothing more than a port and starboard rotation, but when viewed in totality, it becomes apparent that Blue/Gold is something radically different and better. The key to Blue/Gold is understanding the difference between the terms "on duty" and "on watch." To Lake Erie Sailors, these terms are the mantra of an increased quality of life while operating in an environment of enhanced trust, reliance, and war fighting agility.

The premise of Blue/Gold is that half the crew is "on duty" with responsibility for the safety, routine operation, and tactical performance of Lake Erie during a designated 12 hour period. For example,



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

USS Lake Erie (CG 70), which left for deployment last Saturday, will operate with a redesigned two team watch organization. The Blue/Gold rotation offers Sailors more "off" time while underway.

the Blue team, which consists of one half of the entire crew, has "duty" from midnight to noon and is solely responsible for ensuring Lake Erie carries out the daily routine, PMS/PQS, training, cleaning, and all other operations that confront ships at sea, including replenishment at sea, flight operations, sea and anchor details, small boat operations, and at-sea emergency response while also standing watches in all threat conditions.

Blue/Gold was instituted primarily to increase combat readiness but a corollary benefit of the concept is increased QOL for all of Lake Erie's crew. The concept was tested during Lake Erie's recent six week Battle Group work-up schedule off southern California during which Lake Erie performed sustained complex operations around the clock with either the Blue or Gold team taking full responsibility for getting the job done. Within the "on

duty" section, increased QOL was the result of the number of qualified watchstanders for any particular watchstation and the flexibility to vary the watch routine as required. This enabled the three division officers who are qualified Officer of the Deck underway in the Blue Team to stand four on-eight off, two on-four off or any combination of hours which made sense for that day.

What does the "off duty" section do in the interim? "It's great!" said Lt. Dan McKay, Lake Erie's chaplain. "Sailors finally get the opportunity to get a lengthy period of rest, relaxation, time to read, send e-mails, attend PACE courses, etc. Blue/Gold has reached out and handed responsibility to all team members and in particular, more junior personnel. Each member of the team is a viable member." Crew rest now applies to the whole crew not just to the aviation detachment.

Blue/Gold has re-engineered the paradigms of watchstanding and QOL at sea. By transcending organizational and departmental boundaries and formulating two cohesive teams within the ship, Lake Erie is collectively redefining the spirit of "teamwork" at sea.

## Honolulu holds change of command in Yokosuka

By Michelle McCarthy  
NAVAL FORCES YOKOSUKA

U.S. Navy officials and distinguished guests joined the crew of USS Honolulu (SSN 718) in a traditional change of command ceremony onboard Fleet Activities Yokosuka as Cmdr. John M. Richardson relieved Capt. (sel.) Cecil D. Haney as commanding officer on June 10.

The ceremony was coincided with a port visit to Yokosuka while the submarine is on a routine Western Pacific deployment (WEST-PAC). Rear Adm. J.J. Krol Jr., Commander Submarine Group Seven delivered the honor address and Capt. John F. Dohse, Commander Submarine Squadron Three was present to witness the relinquishing and acceptance of command.

"It is indeed a rare event to have a change of command on a deployed submarine," remarked Krol during his address. "It is a welcome change to our daily routine, a real chance to participate in and enjoy some of our Navy tradition during which we take time to pay tribute to a job well done and welcome a new commanding officer to the submarine force. In many ways however, the most important recognition will be for the superlative effort of the crew assembled before you."

"Over the past three years the Honolulu has experienced a wide variety of operational challenges - from complex engagement exercises with our allies to important national missions, the crew of this ship has delivered under Capt. (Sel) Haney's command. Tactically this ship is one of the best of the submarine force has ever had and I am extraordinarily pleased with the profession-

alism and seamanship displayed," added Rear Adm. Krol.

Under Haney's leadership Honolulu was awarded her fifth Battle Efficiency "E," fifth Engineering Readiness "E" and second Administrative Excellence "A" in 1997 by COMSUBRON Three. In addition in 1998 Honolulu was awarded the COMSUBRON Three Deck Seamanship "D" and Commodore's Cup.

In recognition for his superior guidance Haney was presented with the Legion of Merit by Rear Adm. Krol during the ceremony. That is added to Haney's other accolades which include earning the Navy's 1998 Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award. He was presented the award by Adm. Jay Johnson, the Chief of Naval Operations, and Stockdale before the ship got underway for this deployment.

"The credit for this award goes to my crew," exclaimed Haney. "For on a submarine, operating in the bastions of today's littorals requires just a tremendous amount of teamwork, technical skills and warfighting instincts. It has only been by the enormous commitment of each and every one of my shipmates - officers, chiefs, petty officers and seamen that has made the heartbeat of Honolulu serve the nation with gusto and pride. I salute you, my shipmates, for your genuine efforts and overwhelming support."

Haney took time during the ceremony to present Electronics Technician Seaman Bryan A. Rosendale with the submarine service insignia. "I felt it to be a great way to round up my command tour by putting dolphins on this young man's chest. Congratulations are in

order for this young man as well as the crew. It is the crew that works together and trains hard together that has helped this young man hone his efforts that has culminated in his submarine qualification."

After acknowledging other crewmembers and lavishing many thanks and praise on his wife and family, Haney read his orders and was presented with the submarine's commissioning pennant. His next assignment is at the National War College in Washington, D.C. Haney will be accompanied by his wife, Bonita and three children: Elizabeth, Thomas and Joseph.

Upon assuming his responsibilities as commanding officer, Richardson addressed his crew. "We are lucky in the submarine force - for no matter how fast we charge ahead, there is always a wind at our back, pushing us forward. This force is our tradition which has been built by brilliant people doing a sacred

duty on magnificent ships. I'm honored and humbled to be part of this. Together with this great crew, we'll keep Honolulu running on the winds of submarine tradition, even as we steam ahead flank into the future."

Richardson has just completed four years at the White House where he served as the Naval Aide to the President. His ship assignments include USS Parche (SSN 683) as the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant, the main Propulsion Assistant and the Weapons Officer; USS George C. Marshall (SSBN 654) as Engineer Officer and USS Salt Lake City (SSN 716) as Executive Officer. He has also completed an assignment to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations where he served in the Attack Submarine Division in the Seawolf and New Attack Submarine programs.

### AROUND THE BAY

#### USS Constitution does annual turnaround

More than 600 people embarked aboard USS Constitution during its annual turnaround cruise in Boston Harbor. "Old Ironsides," the Navy's oldest commissioned warship, conducted the turnaround cruise in observance of Bunker Hill Day June 12.

Constitution promotes the Navy through educational outreach, public access and historic demonstrations.

Constitution was escorted by USS Clark (FFG 11). Clark is in Boston for a week before she transits to Maine, and then into the St. Lawrence Seaway where it will begin the Annual Great Lakes Cruise.

#### Defense Bill authorizes 36.5 acre transfer to expand Arlington National Cemetery

The House took steps to prevent Arlington National Cemetery from running out of space in 25 years by passing a Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Authorization bill June 10 with a provision to expand the nation's most hallowed burial ground.

Among the several initiatives of interest to veterans in the DOD bill, the provision authorizes the transfer of 36.5 acres at the Pentagon's Navy Annex to Arlington National Cemetery. It would also require the Secretary of the Army, who is charged with supervising the ceme-

tery, to modify its borders by including eight acres from nearby Fort Meyer.

#### USS Rushmore chosen as first ship for paperless service record

USS Rushmore (LSD 47) has been chosen as the first ship to demonstrate the use of a "paperless" service record during her deployment with the USS Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group.

The object of the demonstration is to field test the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS)/Electronic Field Service Record (EFSR) system under operational conditions. Authorized users can now access service records across the unclassified LAN. Features of the NSIPS/EFSR system include the ability for multiple users to access a service record simultaneously, the ability to view the service record without having to go to the personnel office reducing data entry by pre-filling electronic forms with available data, enhanced security and an automated workflow for routing service record pages for approval. Other features include the ability to make global entries, which allows a clerk to enter the data for an award and have it post to all eligible members service records automatically. Currently, clerks must pull each service record individually, remove the page to be updated, make the appropriate entry on a typewriter and re-file the service record.

## MDSU-1 crew supports Special Olympics games

By QMCS(MDV) Danny Boyd

MDSU-1

The Annual Hawaii Special Olympics were held in Olympic Town at the University of Hawaii recently. Every year Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) supports the Special Olympics by setting up a dive tank display on the Olympic town site.

This year, members of fleet maintenance dive department volunteered to provide dive teams to entertain the athletes, their families and the general public. Hull Technician 2nd Class Rick Pelton organized and supervised diving operations for

this event.

"This is one of the events that we really enjoy supporting," Pelton said. "The divers play tic-tac-toe with the kids as they come up to the dive tank window and the whole team can see in the faces of the kids how much they really enjoy the experience. They are always full of questions and they don't want to leave our display. Some of them take up chairs and become part of the dive team until they have to go participate in their next event."

Lt. Chris Rodi, MDSU-1 diving officer said, "We take pride in our job as Navy divers and this opportunity affords us the chance to display our capabilities and work with the community."

## USS Crommelin Sailor saves life

by USS Crommelin Public Affairs



HM1(SW/AW)  
Daniel Ackerman

Sunday, June 6, 1999 started out like any other day for Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (SW/AW) Daniel Ackerman. After completing his Saturday duty on USS Crommelin (FFG 37), Ackerman headed home for what he hoped would be a relaxing Sunday afternoon. He and his family decided a hike up to the Makapu'u Lighthouse might be a nice way to spend the day.

Soon after arriving at the summit, Ackerman realized that something was terribly wrong. A woman ran by him screaming to call an ambulance, because a man had just fallen 30 feet into

the jagged lava rocks and water below. As a Navy corpsman, Ackerman's instincts immediately took over. Instead of taking the lengthy trail down to the victim, Ackerman opted to scale down the side of the cliff without any assistance or regard for his own safety. Upon reaching the bottom he helped the victim's wife pull the injured man out of the water. After making an initial assessment of severe head and facial lacerations and a near compound fracture of the left arm, Ackerman managed to keep the victim from going into shock and losing consciousness despite his being sprayed by the onrushing surf. Because of his skill and firm grasp of the situation, the Emergency Medical Team placed Ackerman in charge after their arrival on scene. Ackerman thus continued to coordinate the emergency treatment for two grueling hours until a rescue helicopter finally hoisted the man back to the top of the cliff and into a waiting ambulance. Captain Edward Puana, the first Emergency Medical Technician on the scene, remarked that Ackerman did "a fabulous job of treating the man and probably saved his life."

Thanks to a quick-thinking and extremely knowledgeable Navy Corpsman, the 58-year old victim survived. One would hate to imagine how badly the accident could have turned out had Petty Officer Ackerman not been nearby. Fortunately for Crommelin and her crew, Ackerman will always be at the ready for them.