



Bravo Zulu

USS Hopper (DDG 70)

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal
GMC(SW) Roosevelt N. Diggs
STGC(SW) Marlo Grape

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Ens. Robert Ward III
GSCS(SW) Brian N. Ponce
STG1(SW) Shawn W. Devlin
DC1(SW) Devlin S. Dennis
OS1(SW) Robert L. Nuttall
FC1(SW) Robert J. Sorg
HT1 Thomas N. Jacob
MS2 Craig R. Gorman
STG2 Markus D. Miree
GSE2(SW) Manual N. Veloz
GSM2(SW) Daniel J. Trierweiler
GSM3 Darren B. Yazzie
YN3 Rex D. Allen
QM3 Osiris J. Castillo
GSM3 Romeo T. Tapia

Good Conduct Medal

OSC(AW) Rachele E. Dawson
RM1 James K. Kaena
FC1(SW) Alfonso C. Picardal
FC1(SW) John I. Lucas
STG1(SW) Michael D. Dery
OS2(AW) Mark T. Varner
GSE2(SW) Manual N. Veloz
OS2(SW) Kahlila I. Ellis
GSM3 Ben W. Gonzalez
FC3 Robert A. Cole
BM3 James I. Terry
BM3 Richard W. Nelson
QM3 Jermey S. Lake
GSE3 Reginald L. Jones
EM3 Fischer
GSM3 Joseph S. Salvador
GSM3 Romeo T. Tapia
SH3 Corey D. Lathan

Letter of Commendation

STGC(SW) Marlo Grape
FCC(SW) Ernie P. Wood
EWC(SW) Ronald W. Struewing
RM2(SW) Juan G. Luna

Letter of Appreciation

Lt.j.g. Toby V. Schneider
IS1 John M. Lavalley
GSE2(SW) Manual N. Veloz
HT2(SW) Michael B. Campbell

Naval Security Group Activity
Pearl Harbor

Promoted

CWO3 James Anderson

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal

CTM1 Seth Sauls
CTT2 Lucian Czarnecki

Letter of Commendation

CTT1 (SW) Cloydred Lite
CTM1 Duain Woodruff
CTM2 (SS) John Earnshaw
CTT3 Andrae Austin
CTTSN Davin Erickson

USS Asheville welcomes new commander, honors outgoing



JO3 McClain Shewman photo



JO3 McClain Shewman photo

(Left) Cmdr. Kerry Ingalls, the new USS Asheville (SSN 758) commanding officer, crosses the brow. Cmdr. Bruce Grooms, Asheville's outgoing commanding officer, poses with Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Commander, Submarine Forces Pacific Fleet. Grooms won this year's Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award for high standards of leadership excellence.

By JO3 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Asheville (SSN 758), changed hands as Cmdr. Kerry Ingalls relieved Cmdr. Bruce Grooms as commanding officer on Friday, October 15th.

Guest speaker at the ceremony was Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Grooms was recently named as this year's winner of the Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award as determined by a board of his peers for his high standards of excellence.

"There is no award, no honor, no inspection result - nothing - that speaks more highly of a person than the way his lead-

ers, his peers and his subordinates think and feel about him," said Konetzni.

"No commanding officer on the waterfront has earned more respect and admiration from those groups than that enjoyed by Bruce Grooms," he added.

"I received all the things I wanted, but could never possibly ask for. The crew always rose to the occasion and did more than I possibly asked," said Grooms. "Upon taking command, I wanted to share, help teach and help my crew to learn what it's like to be a winner," added Grooms.

"Taking command of a submarine is assuming ultimate responsibility. You have to successfully achieve all the historical challenges as well as making up for the spiraling numbers of

ships," said Konetzni.

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.

Asheville is 360 feet long, displaces over 6,900 tons when submerged, is equipped with four 21-inch torpedo tubes and twelve Tomahawk vertical launching tubes.

Asheville is a Los Angeles-class submarine and was commissioned in September 1997.

The submarine is a member of Submarine Squadron Three and is the fourth Navy vessel to bear the name.

Bowfin Memorial scholarships available to Hawaii submariners, families

By Heather Hesslink
PACFLT SUBMARINE
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Applications for the 2000-2001 Bowfin Memorial scholarships are now available for Hawaii submariners and their families.

The Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association, in honor of the 3,505 submariners and 52 submariners lost during World War II, funds

these scholarships.

This year \$20,000 will be distributed into awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 in form of Academic or Continuing Education Scholarships.

The scholarships must be used by June 2001 and are intended for people entering college, returning to college, or training for entry into the workforce including vocational education. All applications

must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2000.

Academic scholarships are available to children of submarine force personnel (active duty or retired) who are under 23 at the time of application.

These students may attend school anywhere in the United States, however, the submarine sponsor or surviving parent must live in Hawaii at the

time of application.

Awards will be based on scholastic proficiency, demonstrated potential, extracurricular activities, and financial need.

Continuing Education Scholarships are available to active duty or retired submarine force, their spouses, or the spouses of deceased submarine force personnel.

Applicants must live in Hawaii at the

time of application and during the period scholarship benefits will be utilized. Awards will be based on academic performance, community involvement, motivation, goals, and financial need.

For more information and/or a scholarship application, send an email to hesslinkt001@hawaii.rr.com or call 836-6897.

USS Chosin Sailors rescue Iraqi fisherman

By Ens. J.C. Dudley
USS CHOSIN

While conducting maritime interception operations in the Northern Arabian Gulf, in support of united nations sanctions against Iraq, USS Chosin (CG 65) was able to uphold the time-honored code of assisting fellow sailors in peril at sea when they rescued eight stranded Iraqi fishermen.

With their fishing boat's rudder broken and unable to steer, the Iraqi fishermen had been stranded for six days more than 25 miles from shore. With only three days of food and water remaining and no radio, the fishermen frantically waved red rags as the Pearl Harbor-based cruiser Chosin passed by.

Upon spotting the distressed vessel, Chosin's officer of the deck, Lt. Joshua Brooks from Selmer, Tenn., immediately dispatched the ship's rigid hull inflatable lifeboat to investigate. The

fishermen at first appeared to be frightened by the presence of American Sailors.

"As we made our approach, they realized we were an American ship and they began waving for us to go away," said Brooks. Fortunately, one of Chosin's crewmembers, Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 3rd Class Mohammed Betemour, spoke fluent Arabic to them and was able to act as interpreter.

"We were the first Americans they had seen in their lives," said Betemour, a native of Jordan. "They had been told that Americans were violent, seven feet tall and full of muscles."

"I'm 5 feet 6 inches tall, 150 pounds, and they were surprised that I was an American," said boarding officer, Lt.j.g. Tim Wilke, from Schaumburg, Ill. "When they hoisted me up they almost inadvertently threw me across the boat and over the other side."

While at first apprehensive, the fishermen soon re-

alized they had nothing to be afraid of. According to the fishermen, during the time they were stranded, two other ships had passed by them and had not stopped to render aid. They were surprised that an American warship, a country they had been lead to believe hated them, would stop and take the time to help.

Once the nature of the casualty had been determined, a repair team was dispatched to examine the boat and come up with a plan for repairing it so the fishermen could safely make their way home.

Hull technicians back on board Chosin, led by Chief Warrant Officer Loren Valadez from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, fabricated an emergency tiller that was subsequently installed on the damaged vessel.

"It was a challenge, not something we normally do," said Hull Technician 1st Class Kevin Sievert, from Marinette, Wis. "But with Sailor ingenuity, we figured

it out."

Upon completion of the repairs and verification that the vessel had enough food and water for a return trip to Iraq, the repair party said goodbye and returned to Chosin.

Valadez summarized the feelings of those involved best by saying, "There were no borders, just sailors helping sailors at sea. It made me feel proud to help them."

Chosin then continued on its mission as the USS Constellation (CV 64) Battle Group on-scene coordinator for maritime interception operations. Even though Chosin was enforcing U.N. sanctions against Iraq, the crew was satisfied in the knowledge that because of their actions, eight fellow sailors are alive and well.

Just as importantly, somewhere in Iraq there are eight fishermen who have returned safely to their families and have come away from their ordeal with a new outlook on Americans.

USS Honolulu's team makes a difference

JO3 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For the second year in a row, USS Honolulu (SSN 718) was first in the Navy Hawaii region to complete their fundraising efforts in support of the Combined Federal Campaign.

The 1999 campaign began with a kick-off luncheon on Sept. 23, and material distribution began on Sept. 27.

Honolulu completed their donor education in less than 10 days, achieving 100 percent contact despite hectic pre-deployment preparations.

Honolulu was able to attain a Bronze Eagle award yielding 33 Eagle and above donors (17 percent of the command). Honolulu had a wonderful participation rate achieving 52 percent of their designated potential.

They had fewer donors than last year, yet they were still able to increase their average donation per donor by 20 percent.

Around the Fleet

Significant changes announced to SRB program

Navy Wire Service

The Chief of Naval Personnel announced three significant changes to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program.

The changes, announced in NAVADMIN 271/99, became effective Oct. 1. First, the \$30,000 cap on the maximum bonus paid to most Sailors has been removed. The award level is now based on the standard SRB award computation up to the statutory bonus limit, which is currently \$45,000.

The second change is the addition of an SRB reenlistment option for Sailors not currently in SRB critical skills and who have insufficient time to complete training for a critical skill prior to the end of their obligated service.

Provided Sailors meet the desired training eligibility requirements, and the mem-

ber's detailer and community manager agree, these Sailors may extend their current enlistment up to 48 months, as directed by the detailer, to complete training and then reenlist for SRB.

The third change is for first-term Sailors who may now cancel up to 24 months of non-operative extension of enlistment to immediately reenlist provided they meet certain restrictions.

Current award levels remain as detailed in NAVADMIN 132/99, except for the addition of four more ratings: aviation machinist's mates, legalman, master-at-arms, and fleet Navy counselors.

As a pilot program, three TAR skills along with two aircrew specialties were added. These ratings are: air traffic controller, electronics technician, radioman, and aircrew NECs 8226 and 8252.

The current SRB NAVADMIN is available on the BUPERS homepage at www.bupers.navy.mil. For further information, contact Navy Personnel Command (PERS-815, the SRB Help Desk) at (901) 874-2526/3216; DSN: 882.