

ANCHOR WATCH

July/August 2011

INSIDE:

NIOC Maryland Awards
A note from editor

Old Glory:

Wid to rest



Chief Petty Officer Vita Hankins, program lead for Drug Education For Youth (DEFY), laces up a pair of skates for one of the children attending the summer camp, while on a trip to Wheels Skating Rink in Odenton. DEFY is a program aimed at empowering military children to build positive, healthy lifestyles as drug-free, successful citizens.
Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan

2 See which of your shipmates received awards for their accomplishments.

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11 A farewell from our Commanding Officer, Capt. Steven Ashworth



ANCHOR WATCH
In its 37th year of publication
www.niocmd.navy.mil

Commanding Officer
Capt. Steven Ashworth
Executive Officer
Cmdr. Rachel Velasco-Lind
Command Master Chief
Master Chief Petty Officer J. Scott Drenning
Public Affairs Officer
Terrina Weatherspoon
Layout and Design
MC2(SW) Regina Wilken
Command Photographer/Staff Writer
MC2(SW) Regina Wright
MC3 Matthew Jordan

The "Anchor Watch" is published by Navy Information Operations Command Maryland, and is printed commercially from appropriated funds in accordance with NAVEXOS P-35 (Rev. May 1979). Opinions are not necessarily those of the Navy Department nor the U.S. Government. We reserve the right to correct, edit and omit material. Photos are official U.S. Navy unless otherwise indicated.

Story ideas are due the first working day of each month to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 9804, Rm. 110, Fort Meade, Md. 20755-5290.

Phone: 301-677-0860 FAX: 301-677-0399.
Story ideas are also accepted electronically at
regina.wilken@navy.mil



From the Editor's Desk:

Hello NIOC Maryland!

As we prepare for the upcoming change of command it seems one theme is reoccurring, change. I'm hoping we can all embrace it.

The biggest change I will have to work with is getting people, who have been told their whole careers not to share information, to share information. There are a lot of great things going on that CAN be talked about. The Sailors, DoD civilians and contractors at NIOC Maryland are doing great things for the community. This is something you can share!

In the last issue of the Anchor Watch we ran a story about the Saturday Scholars graduation. You all helped make that, and the entire program, a success. That program is starting back up in the fall and I know there will be many more of you wanting to volunteer. And we want to make sure Big Navy and your community knows what a great service you are providing.

Recently the commanding officer was awarded the Naval District Washington Community Service Program Plate Steppers Award. This award recognizes the command that "stepped up to the plate" when a call for help went out to rescue a community service program project that did not have adequate support. Members of NIOC Maryland were instrumental in fixing this problem by rallying a sufficient number of volunteers to provide much-needed support to help make the District of Columbia Environmental Fair project in Anacostia Park a resounding success.

In this issue we are running a story about Ride across Maryland, an annual event that raises money for Breast Cancer research. Members of our command were able to raise more than \$30,000 through website donations and sponsors.

I am ecstatic to be working with such a great group of people who put the needs of so many others above their own. Let's make sure we get the word out. I want you to look around your office, your building and your base. Are there things you would like to know more about? Are there people you would like to see recognized? Let us know. This is your command magazine. It's time to let people know about the good things that are happening beyond the gate. Trust me; it doesn't have to be a secret.

Terrina Weatherspoon
Terrina Weatherspoon,
Public Affairs Officer



June

Air Medal

Petty Officer 1st Class Heather Burns

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Senior Chief Petty Officer Julia Haley
Chief Petty Officer Russell Crandall
Petty Officer 1st Class Jennifer Schooley
Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicolas Piazzese

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. John Bogdan
Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Druilhet
Petty Officer 1st Class Megan Lucas

Sailor of the Quarter

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Neesa Broussard (1st quarter)
Petty Officer 2nd Class
Regina Wilken (2nd quarter)

Civilian of the Quarter

Ms. Lorraine Jones

Good Conduct

Petty Officer 3rd Class Camille Kollar
Petty Officer 3rd Class Tyler Kollar

July

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Chief Petty Officer James Loe

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Petty Officer 1st Class Edward Klonowski

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

Lt. Cmdr. Paul McKelvey

Joint Service Achievement Medal

Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Bareham
Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Jones

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

Chief Petty Officer Steven Lewis
Petty Officer 1st Class Matthew Traylor
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Scott

Flag Letter of Commendation

Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Henderson

Capt. Steven Ashworth awards Petty Officer 2nd Class Jason Scott with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal at the July command awards ceremony.



Capt. Steven Ashworth receives the Naval District Washington, Plate Stepper Award, from Olivia Hunter, NDW Regional Volunteer Coordinator. NIOC Maryland was awarded for adopting the D.C. Environmental Fair, a community service project that did not have sufficient volunteer support.



Chief Petty Officer James Loe stands with his family, wife Monique, son Garrett, and daughters Alyssa and Rebecca, after being awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal at the July command awards ceremony.



THE RIDE OF (saving) A lifetime



Photo by MC2 Clifford L.H. Davis

****Last year U.S. Navy Chief's and Friends was born under the guidance and leadership of Chief Petty Officer Kirk Towner. This year the team grew both in size and in the amount of money raised and donated to the cause of finding a cure for Breast Cancer.**

By Terrina Weatherspoon

"Someone just like you saved my mommy," read the sign. A little boy holding it, jumping up and down as the motorcycles sped past him.

"Stop the war in MyRaq," read another. That sign held by a woman who had to trade her long locks of red hair for a pink and black bandana due to a current battle with breast cancer.

Pink as far as the eye can see.

This was the scene this year during Dick Gelfman's 2011 Ride Across Maryland, a motorcycle ride to Maryland destinations to raise money to fight Breast Cancer. In its first 10 years, the annual event has raised more than \$10 million.

More than \$30,000 was raised this year alone by the team Navy Chiefs and Friends, a team of more than 60 members and headed up by retired Chief Petty Officer Kirk Towner, U.S. Cyber Command.

"This is my second year as a team captain. However, I've been participating in the event since my wife heard about it on a radio show in 2007," said Towner. "In 2010 I started my own team and as a team of 47 we raised \$18,000."

This year the goal for Navy Chiefs and Friends was to raise \$25,000. Through individual donations on the team's website, social networking mediums and email the team was not only able to meet that goal, but exceed it. There was also a tremendous outpouring of sponsors who donated money, T-shirts and restaurant profits to the cause. The money will go toward Cancer research, and will also be used to give grants to individuals who are dealing with overdue bills and missed work.

One in eight women will be diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Chances are every household knows someone who has been

affected by the disease. Towner is no exception.

"A good friend of mine Chief Petty Officer Dabet Valez passed away while on active duty. Her husband, Master Chief Petty Officer Javier Valez, has been a huge support to us, driving our support vehicle, helping to set up our tables and even watching my son while I participate," said Towner. "Also my cousin had a double mastectomy when she was 27 and cancer runs in my wife's family."

"I lost someone very important to me," said Chief Petty Officer Brian Waggoner, from N7, and a Navy Chiefs and Friends team member for the past two years. "You never know what the future holds. Doing this ride gives me a sense of purpose. You see people from all walks of life. Hard Corps motorcyclists, business types. It's cool to see everyone come together. It just really proves that this disease can affect anyone at any time."

The sister of Retired Senior Chief Dwight Barnthouse rode with the team this year. She is currently fighting breast cancer.

"That really brought it home for me," said Waggoner. "To know that what you are doing can actually make a difference in someone's life. It's powerful. I saw some women wearing T-shirts that read 'under construction.' They are bald and they are fighting for their lives. But there is hope there. Hope that we can find a cure. And I'm happy to have a part in that."

Towner plans to continue to support Ride Across Maryland. If you are interested in participating email cpo96@rocketmail.com or call 410-693-8184. Anyone can join the team as the name Chiefs and Friends indicates. The 2012 ride is scheduled for June 1 through 3, 2012.

Sponsors

- Trans-Tech, Inc.
- A.S.E. Tool & Maintenance Systems, Inc.
- Honda PowerSports of Crofton
- Jameson's South Trail Café
- Fleet Reserve Club of Annapolis
- Fleet Reserve Association Branch 24
- CPOA Retensol Fund
- Patuxent River CPOA
- ARK Systems, Inc
- Road ID
- Harley-Davidson/Buell of Annapolis
- Hooters of Laurel
- Hooters of Waldorf
- Double T Diner
- NavalTees, LLC
- 1st Mariner Bank
- CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
- The Meltzer Group
- S.F. & C Insurance Associates
- Tom Vallee Branch 93 Fleet Reserve Association



T-shirt graphic by Navychief.com





Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Farquharson places a decommissioned U.S. Flag into a fire pit during a ceremony at Navy Information Operations Command (NIOC) Maryland, June 14.

Story and photos by MC2(SW) Regina Wilken

Honorably decommissioned

The Funeral Honors Division at Navy Information Operations Command Maryland held the command's first flag decommissioning ceremony in Starr Park on Flag Day.

Cmdr. Rachel Velasco-Lind, NIOC Maryland's executive officer, led the ceremony with the Master of Ceremonies, Petty Officer 2nd Class Carl Buse, a member of the Funeral Honors Division, by inspecting and honorably decommissioning 10 U.S. Flags that were deemed unserviceable.

"We had a couple of flags turned in to us from different people asking us if we had a way to dispose of them, and if we could take care of them," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Farquharson, another member of the Funeral Honors Division.

They asked their leading petty officer what to do with the flags, and after some research he told them they could hold a ceremony and to run with it, Farquharson said.

And run with it they did, by putting together an instruction that covers quarterly reviews, joint service events and institutes an annual Flag Day decommissioning ceremony.

"It took a total of maybe six days, and we got everything rolling and together. The command was great and gave us the 'go' as soon as they heard about it. They were very excited," he said.

With Buse as Master of Ceremonies and Farquharson charged with soaking each flag in kerosene and then placing it in the fire pit, their personal touch wove through the ceremony from start to finish the same way the threads on the original flag did 235 years ago.

"We took a combination of what the American Legion does and took bits and pieces of what others do for their ceremonies and kept what we liked, and then wrote specific parts that we thought sounded better. Initially there is a lot more inspection and three to four different chains of custody, so we pretty much streamlined their ceremony," said Buse.

With the script running more than 800 words, Buse had his work cut out for him as Master of Ceremonies to remember each word of it, when to speak, and exactly what commands to call out to the flag detail.

"Luckily, Farquharson is a friend of mine and we spent a couple of days before drilling and practicing. I pretty much think he had the XO's part memorized by the time it came to the ceremony," he said.

Although it had been almost twenty years since Buse had been involved in a decommissioning ceremony, he was more than ready to take the lead at NIOC Maryland.

"When I was a teenager, I was in Boy Scouts and was a part of a couple of decommissioning ceremonies, so it was a great honor to be the Master of Ceremonies," said Buse.

Lt. Timothy Springer, NIOC Maryland chaplain, gave the benediction to open and close the ceremony, and credits the Funeral Honors Detail on the work they put into the ceremony.

"I think they did a great job, and I only wish it could have been attended by more of our command," Springer said.

Although it wasn't his first time attending a flag decommissioning, he admits emotions were stirred in his heart while Taps played as the flags were being burnt.

"Regardless of the context, I think of our fallen warriors whenever and wherever I hear Taps played. Our National Ensign is a symbol of freedom around the world, and the playing of Taps reminds us of the cost of that freedom," Springer said.

Fifty stars. One for each state. 13 stripes. One for each of the 13 original colonies. That is all most people think of when they see the flag waving majestically in the wind. But U.S. servicemembers know what that flag really represents. It represents who Americans are and what they stand for. And it is only fitting the flag is retired the same way in which it has served our nation, with honor and respect.

"Our flag means all that our fathers meant in the Revolutionary War. It means all that the Declaration of Independence meant. It means justice. It means liberty. It means happiness.... Every color means liberty. Every thread means liberty. Every star and stripe means liberty."

Henry Ward Beecher



Velasco-Lind leads the ceremony at Starr Park.



Sailors with N5 hold U.S. Flags while being decommissioned during the ceremony.



“I GOT IT!”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nick Pellant, short stop for the NIOC N1 softball team, catches a fly ball while Petty Officer 3rd Class Garrett Schoonover (left) and Seaman Derek Malin (center) back him up. NIOC MD N1 won the game against USASSD II, 30-7. *Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan*

The best things said, come last....

As I sat in my office discussing with the Public Affairs Officer my farewell message to the command, I thought about the significant chapter in history this command has written through its many substantial accomplishments over the past two years.

The 3,000 plus Sailors who have passed through the Command's doors have enabled literally hundreds of operations around the world in support of USPACOM, USSTRATCOM, USCYBERCOM, USEUCOM, USAFRICOM, USNORTHCOM, USCENTCOM, USSOCOM and USSOUTHCOM, NAVAF, NAVEUR, COMTENTHFLT, COMFIFTHFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, COMFOURTHFLT and COMSIXTHFLT. You have touched every corner of the earth and the command has averaged more than 140 Sailors deployed at any single moment in time to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, above, below and on the seas. Your devotion to duty and commitment to operational excellence has kept the Nation and Navy safe.

After my arrival two years ago, I knew that if I provided the leadership, strategic vision and guiding principles, correction and guidance when needed, the command would respond and achieve greatness. I was honored to have had the opportunity to address the entirety of the Chief Petty Officers' Mess shortly after I met with Command Master Chief Scott Drenning. We talked about leadership philosophies and that under my command the Chiefs would run the command. Chiefs are the foundation of the Navy and if they took care of the day-to-day issues, the Officers would be allowed to keep their heads up with their eyes focused on thinking strategically with longer range vision and innovation. The junior Sailors in turn, could be led, mentored, developed and Sailorized by the Senior Enlisted leaders and allowed to thrive and achieve their greatest possible potential.

Under this leadership of command by negation style, the Sailors soared to greatness with too many achievements to mention in this writing. However, a few significant achievements are worth mentioning:

- Advancements averaged over 54 percent, three times the Navy's average.
- Retention soared with the command earning the Retention Excellence award the last two consecutive years.
- Our language program was selected as the DoD Language Program of the year.
- We won the Navy's Crystal award for barracks excellence.
- Over 29 command and community activities have enabled Fort Meade and the surrounding community to thrive with support to Saturday Scholars and Sarah's House touching the lives of hundreds and leaving a lasting positive legacy. This commitment to the Navy and community helped earn the 2010 Naval District Washington Large Shore Category Community Service Award.
- All of your accomplishments have been truly amazing!

Although the command earned its share of accolades, we experienced tragedy in the untimely deaths of Petty Officer 1st Class Ronny Vigilant, Petty Officer 2nd Class Bradley Sunkins Jr., Mr. Raymond Borredo and Christian Dencklau. These tragedies shook the command to its foundation but proved the command's resolve and showed we could mourn together and heal together as a strengthened Navy family.

I am very proud of each of you for what you have done, from building out the foundation of United States Cyber Command and Commander TENTH Fleet to enabling the operations conducted in the Mediterranean and Middle East; you have made a lasting difference in how the nation conducts cyber operations.

I know that you wear the cloth of the Nation each day and don't think twice about the sacrifices you make but realize that today in America, less than one percent serve in the armed forces. That one percent protects the remaining 99 percent of the American population and protects our American way of life, which allows each individual to sleep soundly in their beds while you stand watches around the world.

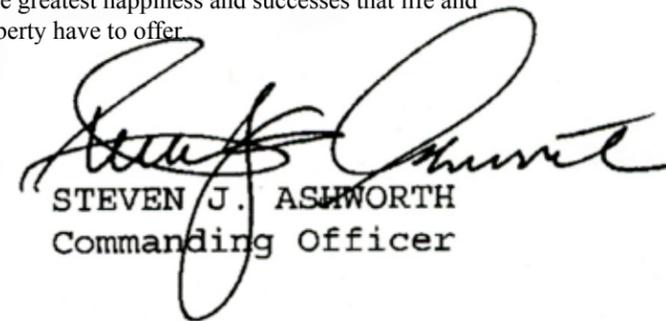
On that note, I would like to leave you all with one final thought on a conversation that I had with

an acquaintance on what today's American Sailor was like when pushed into a fight and as to how so few could possibly protect so many.

He had a turned up eyebrow on the one percent number, so I asked him if he had ever seen the movie "True Grit?" He replied "Yes." So I said the American Sailor is like the scene in the movie where Rooster Cogburn takes the reins of his American quarterhorse in his teeth and with a lever action rifle in one hand and a six shooter in the other, he charges off across the field with guns blazing to take on the enemy, knowing full well that he is out-numbered and out-gunned. At the core of the American fighting spirit is a bare knuckled brawler who, like the Greek Spartans, will always come back from a fight with their shield or on it and that is how so few protect so many! He smiled back, saying "Enough said, I will sleep well tonight."

When you are old and gray bouncing your grandchildren on your knee, know that you have been a vital participant in an important chapter in history that has changed the world, made it safer and will be a shining light of pride for an entire nation to guide by as we move out into the 21st century.

God bless each of you, thank you for your service and selfless sacrifice and I wish you all of the greatest happiness and successes that life and liberty have to offer


STEVEN J. ASHWORTH
Commanding Officer





Guess who's turning 236?

Navy Day Ball

Where: Baltimore Marriott

When: October 15

Contact your department Navy Day Ball representative to purchase tickets!