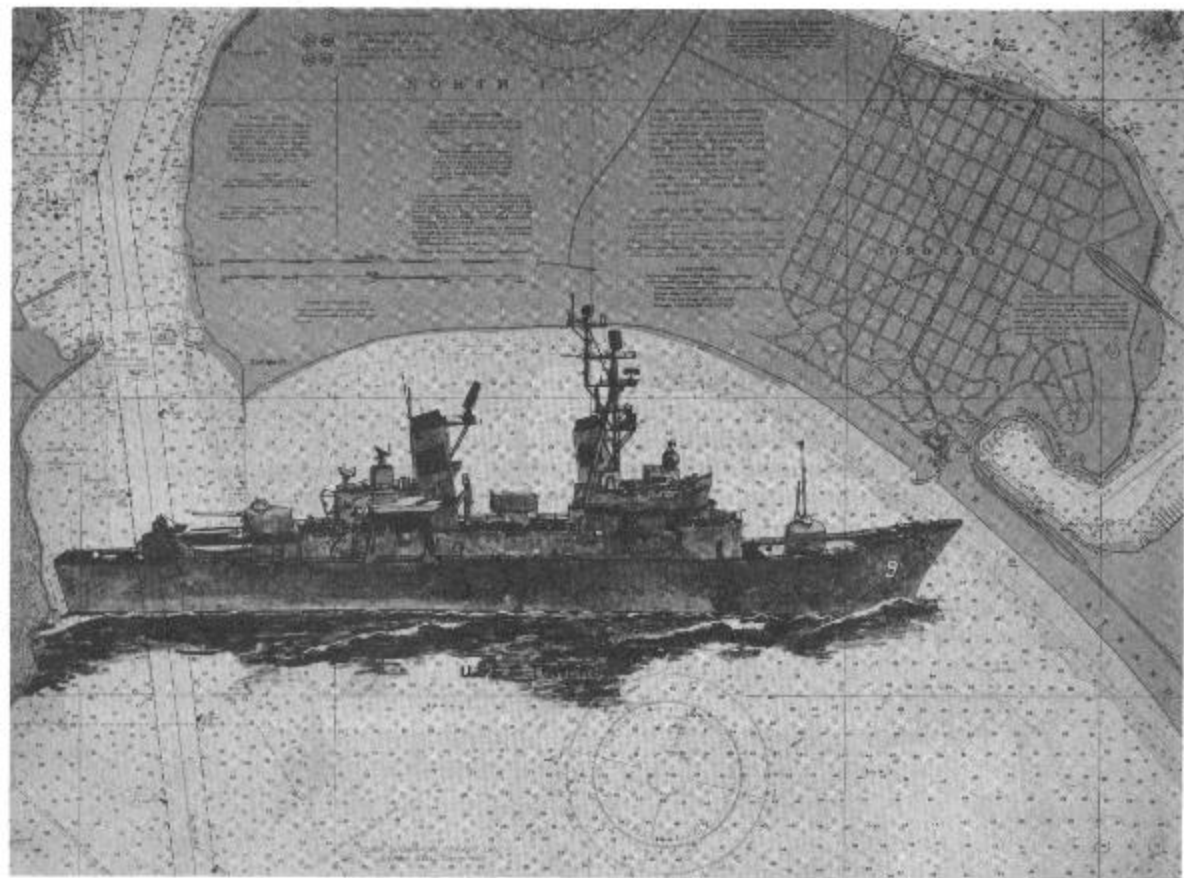


TOWERS GAZETTE

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AUGUST – DECEMBER 79



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

With the approach of the 1979 Christmas Holiday Season, it is an appropriate time to write to all of you about what has transpired since the last familygram and what will be happening with TOWERS in the New Year, 1980.

We departed Long Beach Naval Shipyard nearly a month ahead of schedule in what I consider excellent material condition. Our engineering plant is so well tuned that we completed a record full power run and held maximum speed for nearly six hours. Our Gun, Anti-Submarine, Missile, and Radar systems have operated flawlessly as demonstrated by our recent multiple weapons firings at San Clemente Island and on the Pacific Missile Range.

Our Post Overhaul Shake Down Cruise took us to Seattle, Washington where during the last 12 hours we transited through the Straits of Juan De Fuca in pea soup fog prior to arrival at our berth at Pier 70. It was a top professional job by the entire Navigation Team. While in Seattle, I believe the crew had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the four days of no work and all play. Our return transit to San Diego was uneventful save the emotion we all felt as the first line went over to the pier signifying our return to our homport of San Diego.

I am sure your thoughts are turning to Christmas and the New Years celebration and, of course, the anticipated arrival of your husbands or sons. Our current schedule is most rigorous but we have scheduled two leave periods to allow every man who desires, the opportunity to travel home for the holidays. Our schedule after the holidays, January thru April, has TOWERS underway much of that time with two important goals to accomplish satisfactorily. An Operational Propulsion Plan Exam the last three days of February and Refresher Training in March and April. Refresher training is a most rigorous and demanding time for any crew, even tougher on a crew just out of overhaul. It's the time when our Type Commander certifies us ready in all respects for Fleet Operations. Even now we are preparing and training for this event. Then during the summer months we will be participating in several Fleet exercises in preparation for our deployment to the Western Pacific in the Fall of 1980.

In closing I would like to personally wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



SAILOR OF THE QUARTER

Fire Control Technician Second Class Robert Dean from Missile Division was selected as the Sailor of the Quarter for the period 1 July to 30 September 1979. Bob, a veteran New Yorker, came to TOWERS in June of 1977. He served as an AN/SPS-65 Surface Search Radar Technician while TOWERS was involved in CNO Project 69 prior to overhaul. During the yards he assisted shipyard and Hughes Aircraft Company personnel in the overhaul of the AN/SPS-39 Air Search Radar. He is also a member of the ship's Master at Arms force. Bob's career has been epitomized by a wide range of expertise and flexibility. He is a strong leader within his Division and aboard ship. It is a pleasure to have him aboard TOWERS and to be able to recognize him for his contributions over the last two and a half years. Congratulations, Bob!

AWARDS CEREMONY

The most prestigious award a Commanding Officer can give to a crewmember is the Navy Achievement Medal (NAM). This award is reserved for men who give of themselves and perform beyond the call of duty. Four such men were honored in a ceremony held on board recently. STGC Tony Desalvo was presented the NAM for his contribution to the installation of the AN/SQQ-23A Sonar, Divisional Training Program and Divisional Leadership. BTC Connley received one for his leadership within B Division and for his management of personnel throughout the latest overhaul period.

BT1 Williams received one for his personal dedication to the overhaul of the Number 2 Fireroom and to RMC Bowman for his supervision of OC Division.

These four men are some of the Navy's finest and we're proud to have them aboard the TOWERS. They are justly honored and our congratulations goes out to them.

TOWERS BASKETBALL TEAM UNDEFEATED

San Diego Clippers watch out. To date, the TOWERS basketball team has totally dominated the 11th Naval District Fleet League. Behind the superb ball handling play and play making of Seaman John Helland and the high scoring of OS3 Vic Franklin, the TOWERS team has put together an impressive 4-0 record at the season's half-way mark.

The last game against the USS SAN BERNARDINO was a tough one for the TOWERS. It took the clutch free-throw shooting of FTM3 Herb Booker to win the game 36-35, with no time showing on the clock. Their other games include a stomp over the USS KINKAID, 56-40, an easy victory over the USS VANCOUVER, 48-33, and a win over the USS MERRILL, 44-36.

LTJG John Geary, coach of the team, said "I feel the team has done excellent so far and I think we have a good chance of going to the championships and winning them."

The team roster goes as follows:

LTJG John Geary—Coach/Guard
FTM3 Herb Booker—Guard
SN John Holland—Guard
FTG3 Jeff Kelly—Guard
OS3 Vic Franklin—Forward
ET3 Rod Wright—Forward
GMG3 Rick Byers—Forward/Center
HTFN Jim Lindsey—Center

At the end of the season, three teams in each district play in the 11th Naval District Southern Area Elimination. It's almost a sure bet that the TOWERS Blue and Gold will be there.

M DIVISION

Hello to the rest of the TOWERS family from M Division. This last quarter has produced many changes aboard TOWERS and M Division. Since our last report, the material condition of our engine rooms have increased in quantum leaps. Our equipment is onboard and in place and the testing of the equipment has provided good results. This has been due to the long hours of hard work by the Division.

Not only has the equipment improved considerably but so has the personnel. Lovable Link hit the trail for life as a civilian. Bill Fesmire has departed the TOWERS for recruiting duty in San Diego. In addition to our departures, there have also been two additions to our group. They are Michael McNeely, who has joined the crew in the Number 1 Engineer room, and Chief Petty Officer Orville Young, who comes to us from the Shore Patrol in Long Beach. We would like to welcome both these men to the TOWERS.

We have been quite busy the last few months. We have gone from a hulk that was welded to the pier, to a fast sleek warship. During our times underway, our people have been sharpening their skills in their particular watchstation in preparing for the exams which are upcoming. With the enthusiasm and dedication of our machinist mates, the TOWERS cannot help but be successful. Goodbye for now, you'll be hearing from us next quarter.

B DIVISION

Ahoy from the men of B Division. Since our last familygram, B Division and the TOWERS have gained several new members. They are BT1 Williams, BT1 Stevenson, BT3 Williams, BT3 Plaisance (who incidently was runner-up to the TOWERS Sailor of the Quarter, Congrats) and BT3 Rex. The Division has a couple of new firemen since the last firemen exam. Congratulations to both BTFN Johnson and BTFN Lapp on their advancement. While we are offering congratulations we have two men who earned the Navy Achievement Medal. They are BTC Conley and BT1 Williams.

B Division and TOWERS successfully passed our light off exam and our machinery trials without any major problems. We also completed a full power trial turning almost 35 knots. In Captains Cup competition we lost a hard fought football game to 2nd/ASW Division in the fourth overtime period.

B Division is glad to be back in our homeport of San Diego and we all look forward to the coming

training and schools in preparation for the Operational Propulsion Plant exam (OPPE). Mr. Guillery says "All hands beware of seabats".

A & E DIVISION

With the yards behind us and the friendly waves of the Pacific ahead of us, we the men of A & E Division are looking forward to a very productive and fun tour to come. With three well varnished supervisors; EMC Huff, ICC Hayes and MM1 Retzak, and a spanking new Division Officer in Ensign Crayton, we feel we have a winning team.

Congratulations go out to EM3 Wolfe and his wife, who just gave birth to a baby girl. We wish the family the best and hope they'll have many happy returns. Since our last familygram, we've had some new personnel report aboard. They are FN Smith, who transferred here from First Division and has proven to be an asset to our Division, and FN Guerin, who has recently reported onboard. We would like to welcome both these men to our Division.

To close, the whole Division would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

R DIVISION

R Division has been very busy for several months putting the finishing touches on a ten month overhaul. Long hours have been put in making ready the damage control and firefighting equipment. We also have been assisting other Divisions in office modifications, installation of equipment and various other welding jobs.

We have welcomed aboard several new people since our last writing. They are ENS Mark Crayton, who will become the new DCA, HT2 Matt Crandall from the USS PROTEUS in Guam, HTFA Jim Lindsey from the USS ASHTABULA in Pearl Harbor, HTFA Jeff Lyon and HTFA Dwight Powell from the USS MARION in Norfolk. We had to bid farewell to HT2 Sid Wells, HT2 Bob Hollenberger, HT2 Roy Reger (whose wife gave birth to a baby girl), HT3 John Perez, HTFN Mark Roach and HTFN Frank Chavez.

We've had quite a few advancements lately starting with HTC Hull being advanced to Senior Chief Hull Tech, HT3 Cory Wall and HT3 Joe Intravaia to HT2, Scott Densmore and Dave Fehling to HT3, and Jim Rudick and Brian Hall to HTFN. Cory Wall's advancement to HT2 was a meritorious advancement through the Command Advancement Program. We are happy to be back in San Diego and operational again.

1ST DIVISION

As the first line of defense in the battle against rust, 1st Division has spent many an hour fighting. The Division works by the motto "Work hard, play hard". When the time comes to play, we do. We were delighted by the ship's recent visit to the Pacific Northwest city of Seattle. Whatever hardships or unusual conditions that developed were accepted in the spirit of good seamanship.

Since the last writing, we have welcomed several new men to the Division. They are SR Silos, SR Koehler, SR Stahol, SR Holland, BMSA Dansby and SR Brooks. We also have a new Division Officer in LTJG Sohns, who we are secretly turning into a "Diehard Deck Ape". Welcome aboard to all.

On October 25, we hosted a Division party on the pier with a keg of beer and a can of moo juice. In usual fashion, we trounced 1st Division of the USS BELLAEU WOOD, 12-11, in a game of softball. We are glad to be back in San Diego and we are looking forward to things upcoming in the Fleet.

2ND DIVISION

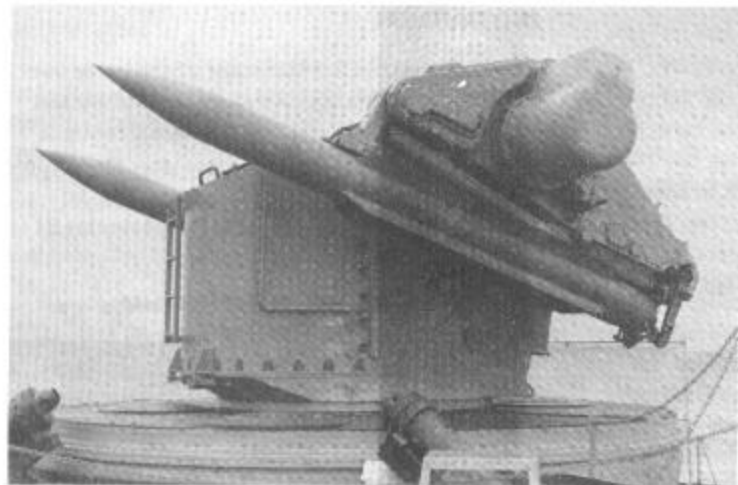
Now that the ship has come out of the yards our work is just beginning. We must continually test and re-test our equipment to insure the best possible performance. Our first major gun shoot coming out of the yards was a big success. We did experience minor difficulties with gun mount 51 but those have since been corrected.

Ben Sizemore, Rick Byers and Phil Cordial are working on gun mount 52, while Randy Malaise, Art Murphy, Adam Kluth and Dan Dobson are working on gun mount 51. In gunplot we have Roger Cook in charge. Pete Shoemaker and David Gallaway are in radar and Bob James and Jeff Kelley are maintaining the computer and the gun director.

We would like to give a hearty welcome aboard to newcomers Rick Byers, Pete Shoemaker and Bob James who are hard at work in our Division. Speaking of new additions, Rodger Cook and his wife Sheri just had a baby girl. Ben Sizemore and his wife Becky are expecting one in the near future.

We combined with ASW Division to take first place in overall Captains Cup Competition. We swept up first place in football, softball and racquetball while running a close second in bowling.

In closing we would like to dedicate this letter to David Callaway who suffered severe injuries in a near fatal motorcycle accident. We wish him a speedy recovery.



MISSILE DIVISION

Eleven months of intensive overhaul and testing of the missile system has drawn to a close with most satisfactory results. The first major milestone in store for Missile Division was the Combat Systems Ship Qualification Trial (CSSQT) in mid-November. It involved an inspection and testing of our equipment and a comprehensive training program for our technicians culminated by two missile firing exercises at the Pacific Missile Test Center.

Congratulations are in order for FTM1 John King and FTM2 Bob Dean, who were selected as TOWERS Sailors of the Quarter for April-June and July-October respectively. This is quite an achievement and one which reflects the great professionalism and spirit that characterizes Missile Division. We would also like to congratulate Joel Farnham on his advancement to FTM2, George Milcetic and Bobby Quaid on their advancements to DS2, and GMMSN Larry Smith and GMM3 Mike Kearney on their respective reenlistments.

Several members of our Division have separated from the Navy. They are DS1 Greg Kaiser, FTM3 Troy Stelow, FTM2 Ken Sanderson, and GMM3 Rick Abbott. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Our transferred men include FTMC Don Cook, GMM2 Mike Dishler and FTM2 Jim Bass, the later being the result of a swap with FTM2 Brian Croteau off the USS BUCHANAN. We would like to welcome YNSN Tony Beard to



our Division. Tony just completed Yeoman "A" School and comes to us as the Weapons Department Yeoman. FTM2 Steve Hill and DS2 Bill Richardson have recently returned to us having each attended several months of schooling.

This concludes our news for now. We look forward to our next opportunity to communicate with the families of our Division.

OC DIVISION

The overhaul is over and we're operating again. We're back doing the things we were trained for and it's keeping everyone quite busy. Many new personnel have reported aboard. A big welcome aboard goes out to RM1 Charles Keller, RMSA Wayne Palomaki, and RMSA David Staehlin. All are learning the often stubborn traits of our new equipment and are doing very well keeping the messages and visual communications running smoothly.

Two of our people have earned special recognition for their outstanding performance this past year. RMC George Bowman received the Navy Achievement for his numerous superlative accomplishments and SM3 Pat Barkley was meritoriously advanced to SM2 for his outstanding dedication to duty. SM2 Barkley was also a runner-up as the TOWERS Sailor of the Quarter. We also had a big reenlistment turnout as SM3 James Colwell, SM3 Larry Sherwood and SMSN Michael Myers all decided to continue.

Probably the most enjoyable news is that we are all back in San Diego. To help celebrate we're going to throw our party with Navigation and use that keg which was won during the softball competition earlier this summer. There sure is a lot to celebrate, but who ever said we needed a reason to have a great time.

OI DIVISION

Since the last familygram in July, OI Division has been extremely busy getting back into the "underway" routine. With sea trails, a Seattle visit and several other underway times, the OS's have had a chance to work at their jobs in CIC. Speaking of that Seattle trip, we demonstrated our skills when the ship experienced 11 hours of heavy fog. CIC, using radar, had the only reliable navigational information available.

We would like to welcome three new personnel onboard to our Division. They are OSSN Colantonio, OSSN Simonson and OSSR McDuff. We also had to say goodbye to some "Old Timers" that have left for civilian life. They are OS2 John Hyden, OS2 Dan McLaughlin and OS3 Keith Burch.

The Division is anticipating the Christmas holidays and the New Year where the men of OI Division will meet new and exciting challenges.

OE DIVISION

Oh, the stories that could be heard while we were in the yards. After our ten months in Long Beach we are finally back home in San Diego. Although we were involved in a lot of hard work, some of our free time was spent visiting other places such as Hollywood, Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm and Malibu Beach. On a more serious note, we finally have all our equipment onboard, and after many long frustrating hours of letting it know who is boss, the equipment is ready to do its job for the ship. It will be a challenge learning how to work the new equipment, but with the personnel in this Division it'll be a sure success. The new Satellite communication and navigation systems are sure to improve the ships capabilities. The new surface search radar gave us quite a fright when it decided to go on strike, just as we were entering fogbound Puget Sound on our trip to Seattle. With Chief Schmidt, Steve Southerland, and Jerry Parkers keeping it company it decided to guide us on into Seattle. The last achievement exams brought some happy smiles to the Division. Steve Southerland, Wade Heinecke, Lynn Gage, Tim Senzig and Rod Wright were all advanced and have seen an increase in their pay checks. Art Carroad had the distinct privilege of being the first man on TOWERS to be promoted under the Command Advancement Program. Congratulations guys, you all deserve it. Congratulations are due to Mrs. Wright for presenting her husband Rod with a beautiful baby girl the first part of September. What happened to the cigars, Rod? A sad note is the departure of some of our friends and shipmates. Rick Rohrer and Phil Alatorre head for recruiting duty in Texas, after a brief stopover in Florida for schooling. Tim Sensig and his wife head for Charleston and shore duty. Rob Mangan headed back to Texas and only the good Lord knows where Fedysyn headed after he got his walking papers. We want to welcome aboard Robert Butler who came to us from Sub Base Pearl, Richard Senzig from CSTS Mare Island, and Arthur Clifton who came to us from one of the commands on Point Loma. I'm sure these guys will enjoy their tour. One final note, we are fast approaching the Christmas holidays. We want to take this opportunity to wish all of our shipmates and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

NAVIGATION DIVISION

Things have been very busy in navigation since the completion of the overhaul period. The navigation team got its feet wet with the long and interesting transit to and from Seattle. Now that we're back in operational condition, efforts are being concentrated on improving the material condition of the navigational spaces.

We lost several experienced personnel recently, notably QM3 Frank Ralieg, who moved to the Seattle area after many fine years onboard. Also gone is YN2 Steve Cohan, who has shore duty at Miramar Naval Air Station after good service in the ship's Administrative Office. We would like to welcome aboard QM3 Ronald Miller, who reported to us from the USS HAMMOND and has proven to be a welcome asset to the QM gang. We would also like to welcome back JOSN William Travers from COMNAVSURFPAC, who will be operating the closed circuit television onboard ship.

The Division is looking ahead to make preparations for the refresher training in March and to build up for the deployment in October of '80, not to mention the upcoming Christmas holidays.

SUPPLY DIVISION

Getting back in the swing of things has been the Supply Departments theme since completing our overhaul in Long Beach. The Mess Management Specialists, under the fine direction of MSC "Hurricane" Turnage and MS1 Dave Miller, are providing the superb chow and relaxed dining atmosphere Towersmen have grown accustomed to.

Our Storekeepers, who are charged with maintaining the readiness of repair parts onboard, have completed the transfer of repairables from the Long Beach "Soap" Team. SKC Roy Domingos led this evolution to an unprecedented 100% inventory validity. The ship's servicemen are going full steam on the laundry with new washers and dryers. The ship's store is well stocked and store operator, SHSA Andy Csiha, says sales have never been better. The ship's barber, SHSA Greg Woolridge, is keeping the crew's hair looking neat and well groomed. Our disbursing team of DKC Adian Balaria and DK3 Bill Aylward have been busy with the new 7% pay

raise and all that travel pay from Long Beach to San Diego.

A Divisional party is in the works and recently advanced SK2 Jim Dawley assures a good time will be had by all. A few words of congratulations are in order for the new addition to the MS3 Walt Soss' family, daughter Jandelle, who was born on July 17. Also, MS3 Pat Lynch was chosen as runner-up for TOWERS Sailor of the Quarter.

All good things must come to an end. So we, the Supply Department, say goodbye to MS1 Hanser, who's going to NTC Great Lakes, SH1 Dioquino, who's going to the Naval Station, Norfolk and MS2 Acab, who's going to Port Hueneme, CA. Finally, we would like to welcome MS1 Francisco from NSD, Yokosuka, Japan.

ASW DIVISION

Greetings from ASW Division. It's been a very interesting last few months for us. The sonar is finally in and working. Don Minar, Jeff Tipton and Ted Story have been very busy repairing the little problems we've had while breaking it in. With the help of GMTSC Scherhorn, the ASROC decks look great and everything is functioning very smoothly.

The first two weeks of November were dedicated to ASW and we came through with flying colors. All the systems worked perfectly and we scored 2 ASROC hits and 1 torpedo hit in our trials at San Clemente Island. Most of the crew got to watch the shootings which were very exciting indeed. We won the Captains Cup Competition with a little help from those guys down in Second Division.

Richard Roll is in Orlando, Florida at TMA School and Danny Turner is applying for admission to the Naval Academy.

That's all the news for now. We will see you all for Christmas and the New Years celebration.



The officers and men of TOWERS would like to welcome the following newly reporting personnel into the TOWERS FAMILY:

FTG3 JEFF KELLEY

RMSA WAYNE PALOMAKI

MMC ORVIL YOUNG

HR GERRY LUNDY

ETN3 RICHARD SENZIG

BT1 GARY STEVENSON

GMG3 RICHARD BYERS

RMSN DAVID STAEHLIN

MMFN MICHAEL McNEELY

OSSR TYLER McDUFF

FTG2 PETER SHOEMAKER

STG3 DAVID CHRISTL

MS1 ALBERTO FRANCISCO

ENFA JOHN GUERIN

SA JOHN HOLLAND

SR THOMAS KOEHLER

QM3 RONALD MILLER

BT3 GEARALD REX

OSSN ROBERT COLANTONIO

OSSN RONALD SIMONSEN

RM1 CHARLES KELLER

ET3 ROBERT BUTLER

FTGSR ROBERT JAMES

SA JAMES DANSBY

SR TIMOTHY SILOS

SR RICHARD STAHL

FR DAVID NASH

BT3 KELLY WILLIAMS

BTFR MICHAEL STEVENSON

SR TIMOTHY PERRY

SR JOSEPH BLACKMAN

FTM2 BRIAN CROTEAU

ET3 ARTHUR CLIFTON

HTFA JAMES LINDSEY

FN DWIGHT POWELL

FA JEFFREY LYON

FTG2 LARRY HARWOOD

SR DOUG ELLISON

EM3 KEITH DENMEADE

SA RICHARD SCHOOR

PNC RONALD HARDIN

SR BRUCH SHAW

SN JOE LUVAIL

EMCM PABLITO DELAROSA