

◆ FRONT & CENTER ◆

Volume 1, Issue 1

First Quarter

October 2003

Gold Anchors for New Chiefs

After a week of intensive training and a rigorous initiation process, Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles pins gold anchors on twelve new chiefs.

The September pinning ceremony was shared by family, shipmates, friends and sponsors.

The newest members of the Chief Petty Officers' Mess are:

HMC (FMF) Stephen Bergeron NR MIUWU 105
 LNC Donald Brooks NR LSO SW 219
 MNC Troy Burrud NR MOMAU 1
 EMC (SW) Jeffrey Butterworth AR ATG PAC DET 119
 ETC (SW/AW) William Dieter NR MIUWU 105
 GMC (SCW) Joseph Hobmeier NR MIUWU 105
 BMC Cynthia Jayne NR Inshore Boat Unit 16
 OSC Sean McNulty NR MIUWU 105
 SKC Darin O'Connell NR NEW SB EOT DET 1
 OSC(SW) Matthew Prezant NR Harbor Defense Unit 114
 SKC Rueben Quezada NR Harbor Defense Unit 114
 OSC (SW) Richard Vieyra NR MIUWU 105

Command Master Chief (SCW) Terry Evans welcomed the families and friends, and executive officer Commander Brent Paschal spoke at the ceremony.

Spouses and family members were given certificates of appreciation and flowers for their sacrifice and commitment to their Sailor and to the Navy.

The presentation of anchors was followed by Master Chief Michael Brown's reading of the Chief's Creed.

Master Chief Evans ended the ceremony with a reading of a poem by Ted Nelson titled 'I am an American.'

The new chiefs ended the day with a special dinner at the 22nd Street Landing, located at Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro.

There were 1,800 applications for 300 CPO select slots in this year's evolution. Congratulations to the new



Command Master Chief Terry Evans stands with community leaders who joined together to dedicate the 9/11 Memorial at the Los Angeles Police Department Long Beach Division

Community Outreach: 9/11 Memorial and Dedication

NMCRCLos Angeles Join with Community to Dedicate LA Police Department 9 11 Memorial

Command Master Chief Terry Evans and Chief Selects from Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles represented the Navy at the Los Angeles Police Department Harbor Division's 'Living 9/11 Memorial and Media Center' dedication.

"This living memorial is a salute to the men and women affected by the World Trade Center attack," said Captain Patrick Gannon of the Los Angeles Police Department Harbor Division. "This project is a collaboration with many community groups and several local businesses that volunteered their time and money to help create this memorial."

Continued on page 3



Skipper's Corner

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Front & Center, NMCRC Los Angeles' newly-initiated periodical designed to provide our drilling reserve population with career, readiness and organizational information/insights. It is our sincere hope that this medium will enable us to broaden our member's access to current organizational events and information of interest to the Re-

servists we proudly serve.

The success of this venture is largely dependent upon the participation and ongoing contribution of material from the units we support, consequently your active involvement in the submission of material, story concepts, photos and professionally relevant information is both highly encouraged and sincerely appreciated. Operating under the age-old assertion that "knowledge is power", we will (with your help) strive to provide a quality a product designed to



Command Master Chief Terry Evans

Let the Journey Continue!

The primary focus at NMCRC Los Angeles is "Customer Service" and helping you to become a more informed and competent customer.

With the inception of the newsletter 'Front and Center,' it's our vision that our Navy family will become even closer than

before. It is our goal to provide you with current and accurate information, that will enable you to make concrete and informed decisions.

There are 27 Reserve units assigned to NMCRC Los Angeles, many of which drill off-site. Each unit has a unique Mission, which is in direct support of their Gaining Command and ultimately the United States Navy. This newsletter will allow us to penetrate into the lives of those off-site units, and enable us to provide you with a better understanding of their missions and their day -to-day challenges. Armed with that information, you as a customer can make better decisions, when making career choices. "Customer Service" being our primary focus, 'Front and Center' will provide you with accurate and timely career information to assist you in making the right decisions and provide you with current news that will keep you "in the know". These are uncharted waters, but with our team of journalists, I am confident of the end result. The journey continues.

empower our membership through the distribution of timely, well crafted articles which convey professional, training, readiness and activity-related information designed to enhance our collective levels of personal and unit readiness. Again, your comments and contributions will be critical to our success. Until our next issue, stand proudly, sail boldly and fly your standards high!



Front & Center NMCRC Los Angeles

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NMCRC LA Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Luncheon and Speaker

Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles honored National Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) on October 10th with a luncheon and guest speaker at Long Beach's Acapulco's restaurant.

President George W. Bush issued a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 "National Hispanic Heritage Month." HHM honors the contributions of the Hispanic community to America's history.

Guest speaker, Journalist second class (JO2) Margaret A. Peng, spoke to Reservists about the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to the armed services and to the history of the US Navy and Marine Corps.

This year's theme for HHM is "2003 One Culture, Many Races." The speaker highlighted the contributions of Cesar Chavez, civil rights and farm labor leader, who served in the Navy during WWII, Admiral David G. Farragut, first-generation Hispanic American who was the first four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy, and of the thirty-nine Hispanic American Medal of Honor Recipients.

Hispanic Americans have served in every war in the history of the United States.

Visit the Navy's Hispanic Website: www.elnavy.com

Check out our Navy NewsStand stories:
www.news.navy.mil/Local/nmcrc/la/

Continued from page 1

It was the vision of police officer, Art Ibarra to create this memorial, and dedicated it to the community. It was a collaboration with the San Pedro Volunteer Center.

"This dedication is a highlight of my career as a police officer," said Ibarra, a prior enlisted Sailor "Coming from a Navy heritage and being in combat, helped forge me to become who I am now," said Ibarra. "The training, feelings of camaraderie, the esprit de corps are what I learned in the Navy. It is what I brought with me to my job as a police officer."

"I wanted the Navy here," added Ibarra. "I thought it was only appropriate." Ibarra was a Naval gunner and crew chief on a Seawolf attack helicopter during the Vietnam War.

"When the Navy walked up to this event, I saw excitement in the faces of the participants," said Yeoman Second Class Stephanie Wallace, NMCRC LA Reservist and community volunteer.

"You have to be a very special person to be in the military, you have to be a dedicated person, a person willing to make sacrifices," said Wallace.

Command Master Chief Terry Evans was a speaker at the event. "I was reminded that several of my chief petty officers were mobilized after 9/11 to serve abroad, and to serve here in country."

"On 9/11 we were all mobilized. We were all asked to become more vigilant, to become more watchful, more 'one nation.' We did that, and we continue to do that. I am proud to be a part of this dedication and a part of the United States Navy."



Master Chief Michael Brown and NMCRC LA Chief Selects salute the LAPD color guard during the dedication of the Los Angeles Police Department Harbor Division's 'Living 9 11 Memorial and Media Center' on September 11, 2003.

NMCRC LA SAU Mess Specialists' on-the-job Training Saves Reserve Center Thousands

JO2 Margaret Peng

Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles (NMCRC LA) is saving thousands of dollars a year by assigning mess management specialists from the Reserve center to on-the-job training at Coast Guard Station San Pedro's Integrated Support Command Dining Facility.

NMCRC LA does not have dining facilities and has relied on outside caterers to feed the Reservists a yearly average of 42 drill days. This subcontracting of food services costs approximately \$48,500 a year for the Reserve center.

On an average day, one cook and a cashier man the underutilized Coast Guard Station galley. That would not have been adequate manpower to serve approximately 165 Reservists a day from NMCRC LA during drill weekends. By combining the resources of the Coast Guard Station galley and manpower from the Ship Augmentation Unit (SAU), the Reserve center saves about \$20,800 a year in food costs.

Starting Oct. 4, 30 mess management specialists (MS) assigned to the SAU at NMCRC LA, have been split into four section watch bills. Coordinators are able to adequately staff the dining facility every drill weekend and still offer Reserve MSs one day of classroom training.

With the support of the command and teamwork of the Sailors, Mess Management Specialist 1st Class Phillipa Mathews', the unit's leading petty officer, idea became a plan. This plan created a win-win situation for the center, the Sailors, the Coast Guard Station, and the Navy.

"When we order from places like El Pollo Loco or In-N-Out Burgers, we spend about \$1,200 to feed Reservists each day," said Storekeeper 2nd Class (SW) Jorge Paz. "By going to the Coast Guard Station and having our own MSs work there, we save up to \$500 a day."

"It is really motivating to see everyone here with work to do, and working together," said Mess Management Specialist 3rd Class Diana Lawson.

"There is a lot going on in the kitchen, and we know we have to work together as a team."

On drill weekends, MSs report to the galley one day and to the Reserve center the other. "Working in the galley is like lab, and the day we are at the Reserve center is classroom training," said Mess Management Specialist 2nd Class Roger Peck.

Continued on Page 5

Below left to right: MSSN James Wagoner and leading petty officer MS1 Phillipa Mathews





Petty officers from the SAU enjoy lunch at the Coast Guard Station Integrated Dining Facility

“The MSs will rotate to a different work station every drill,” said Mathews. “Over a period of time each MS will know how to run a galley on shore or aboard a ship.”

“Now I feel I have something to offer my shipmates,” said Mess Management Specialist Seaman James Wagoner. “When we work, we are treated like the active side. We rotate positions and job titles to get a better understanding of what it takes to work in a galley on a ship.”

Based on comments heard around the dining facility, there was overwhelming approval for the quality of the food, better choice of salad and drinks, and efficient service.

“There were some glitches as with all new programs, but it was a smooth transition, better than I expected, people were great at moving through the lines quickly,” said Mess Deck Master-at-arms, Ship’s Serviceman 3rd Class Angelita Noche.

The mess specialists train on preparing food, food cost analysis, first aid and emergency care, safety precautions, fire safety and prevention techniques, and Navy regulations.

“This partnership is a unique challenge,” said Mathews. “We function in an active duty capacity. I am in awe at how well it is going. In one hour the galley served almost 300 people.”

Mathews added, “When I look at the crew, I notice a sense of pride, accomplishment and a sense of ownership in their hands-on work. We feel employed. If these Reserve mess specialists are mobilized, I feel sure that they will be able to serve aboard any ship with confidence and the knowledge that they have been well-trained,” said Mathews.

Comments from a survey that was taken by Sailors during the lunchtime period were extremely positive.

Watters added, “I tell my junior Sailors in the galley to serve people like you would like to be served.”



MS2 Roger Peck prepares dessert for hungry Sailors at the Coast Guard Station San Pedro’s Integrated Support Command galley. Photographs by JO2 Margaret Peng

November is Military Families Appreciation Month

During the month of November we will recognize military families for their outstanding service, selflessness and commitment to our Reserve and active-duty forces.



Ship Augmentation Unit (SAU) Holds Annual Picnic at Coast Guard Station

On September 7th, the SAU held its annual picnic at the Coast Guard Station, giving the Sailors some time to relax and get to know each other.

The SAU also bid a farewell to Commander Joseph Walsh, their interim commanding officer. Commander Walsh will be leaving REDCOM to take command of MSC Pohang Korea drilling out of Ft. Worth, Texas.

Sailors spent Sunday afternoon playing Frisbee, eating and chatting.

Photographs by JO2 Margaret Peng



Below: CDR Joseph Walsh thanks the SAU for his goodbye gift. He will be the new CO of MSC Pohang Korea drilling out of Ft. Worth, Texas.



SAU Tours USS Curts

September 2003

Members of the Ships Augmentation Unit (SAU) from NMCRC LA got a special invitation to tour the USS CURTS (FFG-38) while it was moored at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.

The USS Curts (FFG-38) was at NWS Seal Beach to off load its weapons before going into dry dock at its homeport of San Diego.

It had just returned from the final phase of the 2003 Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise series in Southeast Asia.

Sailors from the SAU toured the ship, some going aboard a Navy vessel for the first time, and were given detailed briefs about workings of the ship.

All of the SAU Sailors are assigned to augment the USS CURTS (FFG-38) Sailors.

Sailor Distinguishes Herself at Boot Camp

Mess Management Specialist Seaman Tracy Watters of Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center Los Angeles (NMCRC LA) received the distinguished graduate award July 17 during her Non-Prior Service Accession Course graduation ceremony at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

She was selected by her recruit division commanders because of her supportive attitude, maturity, academics and willingness to help others during their training period.

"On day one I was chosen as the RCPO [recruit chief petty officer]," said Watters. "Being a leader, I was expected to know what to do, when to do it, and how to do it. I felt like they had higher expectations of me. I had to try harder."

NPSAC boot camp is a 17-day, intensive training program created to teach military bearing, customs and traditions, and military instruction.

"The hardest part was being away, but it was worth it," said Watters. "The feeling of accomplishment when you are on your way home is indescribably. I felt so proud of myself. I made it!"

NPSAC has changed it's name to Naval Reserve Accession Course (NRAC)

www.nsgreatlakes.navy.mil/nrac.



USS CURTS FFG 38 is one of the long-hull frigates of the OLIVER HAZARD PERRY class. Commissioned in 1983

New Unit Created - NR NPSTRU 1941

As mandated by COMNAVRESFOR, all non-prior-service personnel will be assigned to a newly created unit NR NPSTRU 1941.

The goal of creating this unit to prepare NPSACers for boot camp.

This unit will drill on both first and second drill weekends. The unit Officer in Charge is Command Master Chief Terry Evans, and Leading Petty Officers are Storekeeper 2nd Class Charles Moore and Yeoman 2nd Class Ramona Plascensia. (New unit pictured below- JO2 Margaret Peng)



Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) Roadshow

Inside NKO, you can manage your Navy career, check BUPERS, have access to your service record, find information on your rate, review your Leave and Earning Statement and retirement benefits, plan your education, and find out about health benefits.

<http://www.nko.navy.mil>



Community Outreach: H.S. NJROTC Inspection

NMCRC LA Commanding Officer Commander John Ward and Command Master Chief Terry Evans (pictured on the left) visited Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo High School in Long Beach on Oct. 15th to conduct an annual inspection of the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Commander Ward (pictured on right in center) inspected the NJROTC unit in formation, observed their in place and marching skills, reviewed their armed and unarmed drills, and pass and review. The visit ended with a briefing by the cadet staff.



NEWS Around the Fleet

* USS George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) is the tenth and final Nimitz-Class Nuclear-Powered carrier scheduled for 2008
 * PCU New York (LPD 21) San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship. 24 tons of steel beam from the World Trade Center in NYC was melted and poured to form the bow stem of PCU New York (LPD 21)
 * Happy Birthday Navy !!! 13 October 1775
 Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.bupers.navy.mil> Bureau of Naval Personnel

<http://reserves.navy.mil> Commander Naval Reserve

<http://www.mwrtoday.com/>
 Navy Region Southwest Morale, Welfare & Recreation

<https://nows.cnrf.navy.mil/nrows/>
 Naval Reserve Order Writing System

<https://www.courses.cnet.navy.mil/>
 Nonresident Training Course Administration login

<https://mypay.dfas.mil> Pay account information

<https://cetarsweb.cnet.navy.mil>
 Naval Education & Training Professional Development & Technology Center

Reservist Earns NEC Through Online Learning

By Dean Persons, NETC Public Affairs

Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Stuart Tener, a Reservist at NMCRC LA, has earned the Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) 2735, Information Systems Administrator (ISA), by completing courses through the Naval Education and Training Command's (NETC) online learning program.

"Reservists have earned NEC 2735 before, but the NEC I earned was awarded entirely based on coursework that I completed on the www.navylearning.mil Web site," said Tener. "By using NETC's online learning, it provided me with a self-directed study mechanism that I could use to learn at my own pace, and saved the Navy money in not having to send me to the IS 'A' school to gain equivalent training."

According to Tener, a native of Philadelphia, online learning is a great way to earn NECs and gain the knowledge to catch up with his prior service shipmates. "I was seeking a way to earn the NECs that my active duty counterparts receive and on line learning provided me a way to do that."

Tener added, "The Reserve center staff and other Reservists are really supportive of all the junior Sailors."

MWR INFO

For Volunteer Opportunities email MM1 Buchanan at michael.e.buchanan@navy.mil

Send a free message home for the holidays - *Print Greeting* program is an Internet program that allows any service member to send a formatted holiday greeting to relatives through the *Hometown News Service*.

<http://hn.afnews.af.mil>