



NYC Pandemic Relief

USNS Comfort Communicators Answer the Call

By MC2 Sara Eshleman, USN

CAPT Patrick Amersbach, commanding officer of USNS Comfort's Military Treatment Facility, was standing in front of his lead PAO's smartphone. The device was affixed to a tripod via a homemade mount that had been hurriedly, yet deftly, cobbled together using duct tape and marine-green boot bands. In the captain's left ear, a wireless earbud delivered the reporter's audio feed.

It was nearly midnight following a downpour that assaulted us moments before the television interview was to start, forcing us and our makeshift set-up off the bridge wing and inside the skin of the ship. I made eye contact with the Captain, then apologetically tilted the lighting panel into its proper position - directly into his eyes. He winced ever so slightly and continued patiently waiting for the television interview to begin.

Moments later, ignoring hideous audio quality and a wet-dog smell that had taken over the bridge, CAPT Amersbach smiled with enough wattage to make the incinerator in the ship's engine room jealous, and launched into his interview...



MC2 Sara Eshleman prepares to document medical drills aboard USNS Comfort. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Scott Bigley)

Hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) had arrived at Pier 90 North in Manhattan that morning, March 30, 2020. We were part of U.S. Northern Command's support of civil authorities responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. U.S. Northern Command's Task Force (TF) New York City led coordination and command and

control to support Comfort's mission. CAPT Joseph O'Brien served as TF-NYC mission commander and worked closely with Amersbach and LCDR Amelia Umayam, Comfort's lead PAO.

"A 24-hour news cycle and the prevalence of social media require leaders to consider the PA impacts in many missions. However, during USNS Comfort's deployment to New York, PA was more a *primary* mission than a supporting one," O'Brien said.

In addition to LCDR Umayam, who was detailed from Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) TWO, our quickly assembled, Norfolk-based USNS Comfort PA shop included a five-person team from Navy Public Affairs Element (NPASE) East — a deputy PAO (O3) and four U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialists (two MCCs, one MC1 and one MC2). Because the pandemic preempted all media embarks and visits for the duration of the ship's mission in NYC, our PA team had to be creative in establishing a protocol that would respond to the enormous volume of requests for customized visual content.

"We all knew the deployment of the ship to New York City was a big deal, and that all eyes were on any efforts to stem the pandemic, so we expected attention," said CAPT Amersbach. "Having said that, I was truly surprised at the number of media requests and where they were coming from: ABC, CNN, Doctor Oz, NPR, and FOX, just to name a few."



NYC (April 5, 2020) MC2 Sara Eshleman documents a patient transport drill using a cell-phone and Gimbal aboard hospital ship USNS Comfort supporting New York City COVID-19 response efforts. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Scott Bigley)

"We definitely had a lot of interest. But with no possibility of ship visits or in-person media availabilities, our team seamlessly pivoted to produce a lot of raw video footage and to facilitate numerous subject-matter expert interviews. Instead of bringing journalists to the ship, we worked to bring the ship to journalists," explained LCDR Umayam.

The audience overwhelmingly wanted to see the inside of the ship and what comprised a day's work for the crew. Comfort's PA team developed three different weekly video series; *Video Tour*, *Video Diary*, and *Faces of Comfort*. These programs emulated the video diaries coming out of civilian hospitals at the time. Less heavily produced, more 'raw' content had become the norm early in the pandemic. "We wanted to be able to show what our medical providers were dealing with in a way that would be familiar to our audience at that time," said Umayam.

Back in our PA office (a quickly-seized shipboard classroom), the two PAOs- LCDR Umayam and LT Devin Arneson- fielded external requests for interviews. They approved and scheduled them, selected the appropriate personnel for the request, and then provided the subjects with crash-course media training. Interview traffic became so dense that the team would often split in two; each officer would take a chief



HM3 Allie Agudelo, left, who works in the patient receiving area, prepares for a remote television interview via cellphone. Facilitating are by MCC Robert Northnagle, left rear, and LCDR Amelia Umayam, USNS Comfort PAO, right. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sara Eshleman)

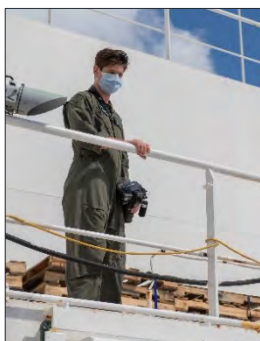
or MC1 and depart with one of the two lighting kits, a tripod, smartphone, portable internet hotspot and wireless ear buds. All interviews were conducted remotely either via smartphone, using video telephonic apps, or a shipboard telephone with a speakerphone capability for print publications. Each evening our PAOs submitted a comprehensive after-action report directly from the ship to staff officers at all echelons through CJCS and OSD. These included transcriptions, statistics and any follow-up information that may have been submitted after the interview concluded.

Our team became the singular source for coverage of USNS Comfort's highly visible mission. One hundred percent of the visual information obtained and produced aboard the ship was channeled through only two content developers. I served as the lead photographer/videographer and produced much of the content that left the ship. My days were spent traversing hospital spaces like the OR and the ICU, the patient-receiving tents on the pier, as well as the galley, weather decks and civil service mariner territory (navigation, engineering, and operations spaces). I continuously traipsed the ship's iconic "Blue Mile," the main vein to the medical facility, with camera and all manner of equipment stashed awkwardly into bulging uniform pockets. I learned how to properly don and dispose of personal protective equipment to enter patient care zones. Every bit of my gear was scrupulously sanitized following a day of shooting. (*Pro tip: survivability rates are low for windscreens when they encounter Lysol wipes.*)

It was almost anticlimactic in April when it was announced just as suddenly as we had learned of our assignments that the mission was over. The last of 182 patients was discharged April 26. (Of those, 70% had been COVID positive.) Time to pack up and go home.

We reflected on this as we gathered for an exit interview in the CO's office. Our team was applauded for our preparation and engagement from beginning of mission to the end. We had developed personal connections between Sailors, their hometowns, and the nation. And, our PAO's smartphone was now safely affixed to its tripod by way of a sleek manufactured bracket — as opposed to the duct tape and boot ties of our first interview. (I've kept the original for sentimental purposes.)

Team Effort:



Far left, MC1 Scott Bigley sets up a shot from USNS Comfort's upper decks (MC2 Sara Eshleman photo); Left, MCC Gary Keen, rear, and PAO LCDR Amelia Umayam, right, provide post-interview feedback to Gunnery Sgt. Brianna Landers, USNS Comfort's combat cargo officer (MC1 Scott Bigley photo). Right, Deputy PAO LT Devin Arneson greets NYC upon the hospital ship's arrival.



MC2 Sara Eshleman detached NPASE East in late 2020. After completion of Digital Multimedia Course "C" School at DINFOS, she is now headed west to join the HSC-3 "Merlins" in San Diego.

From the Bridge

Dear Association Members:

Spring greetings! The return of March Madness and baseball season herald more normal times ahead as 2021 has us looking forward and feeling good about seeing the pandemic start to come under control.

A representation from across our membership, *Sightings* continues to showcase the great work our current-day PAOs are doing, while also sharing lessons learned and cherished memories of days gone by. This issue continues that tradition.



RDML Tom Jurkowsky

I could not be prouder of our active-duty men and women. Our Navy's real-time flexibility is meeting the Nation's call for longer deployments that mean record days at sea and increased family separations. Our Navy also supported civilian community needs for medical support during the pandemic. In this issue, *Sightings* shares two stories from active-duty authors who played very different roles, within very different Navy commands. Both were part of history-making contributions.

MC2 Sara Eshleman's lead article describes how the USNS COMFORT PA team supported the ship's COVID-relief mission to New York. RDML Charlie Brown has repeatedly said how impressed he is with the talents of his entire team, and Eshelman's story captures that professionalism. LTJG

Devin Serlin's account of his baptism by fire as both a prospective SWO and a fresh-caught collateral duty PAO aboard the deployed USS Stout (DDG 55) will spark memories for many *Sightings* readers.

You also will enjoy catching up with our new Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, John Kirby. *Sightings'* Tina Tallman spoke with John shortly after he started in the role. John, of course, is a former CHINFO. I recall then-LCDR Kirby visiting me when I was CHINFO in the late 1990's and he was editor of *All Hands* magazine. I was always impressed by his work and leadership and remember telling him on several occasions that one day he would sit in my chair. (He did that and then some!) Following post-CHINFO assignments at DoD, State and CNN, John is a perfect fit for his current job. His philosophy on working with the press is spot on!!!

Speaking of the media, our February Virtual Happy Hour with *Washington Examiner* national security reporter Jamie McIntyre was a big hit! The former



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Pentagon correspondent is well known to many USNPAA members and connected with our VHH audience immediately. A summary is provided for those who missed it.

This edition also features David Albritton, a consummate communicator, leader and mentor who now serves as one of Amazon's top executives. As we welcome other new first-time contributors, Dave Sturges and Gene Wentz return with their memories of past mentors and missions.

On a sad note, we lost a legend recently: Master Chief Journalist Joe Ciokon. I could write countless words to describe Joe and how he was revered by everyone who worked with and knew him. Quite simply, he was a class act. Joe's daughter Lisa put on her chief's anchors in January, and I am so pleased that Joe was able to see this happen. I can only imagine the pride he had in seeing Lisa's promotion.

A final word. Make sure you receive all USNPAA email notices, invitations and virtual get-together or speaker links by updating your USNPAA contact information at: [Address Change \(usnpaa.org\)](https://usnpaa.org/address-change). And, if you are reading this and are not yet a member, please [join us](https://usnpaa.org/join). Navy public affairs pros – past, present, officer enlisted and civilian: This is your association! Let us hear from you.

Please stay well.

Sincerely,

Tom Jurkowski

JOCM Joseph F. Ciokon, Jr.

January 18, 1939 - March 4, 2021



Back to the Future



John Kirby Comes Home to Pentagon

When he returned to the Pentagon in January, it surprised few in the Navy PA community. Sightings caught up with RDML John Kirby just days into his new job as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and concurrent Spokesperson for the Department of Defense.

Asked about how it felt to be *returning home*, so to speak, Kirby replied, "you hit the nail on the head."

"The Pentagon really feels like home to me," said Kirby, who agreed it's an odd thing for someone to say – and the mark of having been in D.C. too long.

"But, my last 10 years in the Navy were served in assignments here in the Pentagon; I know the building well and can still find the bathroom."

Self-deprecation aside, Kirby has serious convictions about serving in today's government and the crucial duty for which he is now accountable. In this environment he views his paramount duty as explaining to the American people how their government is meeting national threats, acting as a good steward of taxpayers' money and safeguarding their sons and daughters who serve.

"I feel a deep sense of commitment and devotion to that idea that *we have an obligation* to explain ourselves. That's something that I'm eager to work on," he said.

His "Pentagon Spokesperson Relaunch" comes with another asset Kirby respects.

"I've worked with this particular press corps for a long time, for many different years and through many different assignments. They are *absolutely professional!* I think they have just as deep a respect for what our men and women in the military are doing every day as we do, and their coverage reflects that. They can be tough, but it's always professional."

Great Bosses

Kirby developed a relationship with his current boss, SECDEF Lloyd Austin, when both worked for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs ADM Mike Mullen. In all, as COMSECONDFLT PAO, CNO PAO and CJCS PAO, Kirby served with Mullen for almost 11 straight years. He believes that was when he developed the right habits to be an effective and efficient spokesperson.

"He trusted me and gave me a long leash. He empowered public affairs and made it clear that it was important to him. That made my ability to do the job a lot easier," said Kirby.

When recalling his most senior roles as a spokesperson, Kirby distilled key leadership attributes to emulate and add to his own professional tool kit:

- **CURIOSITY** – ADM Mullen asks a lot of questions and is unafraid to admit that he doesn't know something; Then finds the answer. His network and relationships continue to grow. He surrounds himself with people, not only of diverse backgrounds, but of diverse knowledge.
- **HUMOR** – In the tensest times and tensest places, when everybody around was feeling despair, SECDEF Leon Panetta

could bring us up with a joke, a laugh or a slap on the back. It showed me the power of humor to de-stress and reduce tension.

- **HUMILITY** — A combat-decorated Vietnam veteran, SECDEF Chuck Hagel approached everything he did with the humility of a sergeant- which he was. That made a big impact.
- **COGNITIVE EMPATHY.** “Always walk a mile in somebody else’s shoes.” — SECSTATE John Kerry used to say that all the time. It’s an old adage, but it’s true. He was not overly sympathetic, but it helped him become a better negotiator and diplomat. Looking at a problem or issue from somebody else’s perspective was a powerful lesson for me.



SECDEF Chuck Hagel confers with Pentagon Press Secretary Navy RDML John Kirby as they travel in a Marine helicopter to attend commencement ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., May 23, 2014. (DoD Photo)

Life lessons for PAOs

“When I was promoted to LCDR around the 10-year mark to make O4 (which I did not expect and don’t think many people who knew me expected), I realized I had to take this business of being a public affairs officer more seriously. So, I sat down and wrote some rules for myself that I still have,” said Kirby who shares his 13 rules with junior PAOs who ask to see them.

“They are not a list of things about how to be a good PAO. These were the things that I felt I was weak at. They were things that I needed to work on.”

One of those rules on Kirby’s list was: *Separate your personal self from the job. You must compartmentalize.*

Just as you give up certain rights when you join the military, Kirby maintains that you also give up the right to express a *personal* opinion publicly. While today’s social media easily blur professional and personal lines, Kirby’s list predates these challenges. He realizes that not everyone agrees with him and that social media -on and off duty- is now a big part of the Navy communicator’s toolbox.

But for him, “It’s just better to draw a bright line, build a big brick wall between your personal life and your professional life. Teaching myself to do that is one way that I’ve been able to not get too concerned about the highly charged words that sometimes fly at you when you’re a spokesman,” he explained.

“When you’re a spokesman you’re representing the institution; you’re not representing yourself. And, if in doing so you subject yourself to criticism—even of a *personal nature*—that’s part of the price you pay to assume the podium, to assume the role of being the face and the voice for the organization. You have to be willing to pay that price.”

Honing this compartmentalization has given Kirby incredible resilience at the podium. “Any incident where I have been criticized doesn’t bother me. I’ve learned to block all that stuff out,” said Kirby who allows public rebuke to roll off his back.

“You’re not going to be able to do your job, if you let that stuff get to you...That was one of the things I taught myself back in 1996 and I’ve always tried to remember that.”

Parting words

When asked if he might have any advice for RDML Charlie Brown, his CHINFO successor a few times removed, Kirby was heartfelt.

"The only advice I have for Charlie is to enjoy every moment. Charlie is a great PAO. He needs no advice from me on how to do his job. He does it better than I did. But it goes by sooo fast. I wish that I had had the wherewithal to treasure the moments and to really appreciate it because being CHINFO is an extraordinary opportunity and privilege. So, my advice to Charlie is: *When you can, slow down and savor every moment. Before you know it, it's over.*

"And, I'm going to try to remember that advice myself now that I'm in this job."



Then-CHINFO, RDML Kirby and honor graduates cut cake following graduation at Recruit Training Command where Kirby served as reviewing officer in May 2013. (U.S. Navy photo by Brian Walsh)

USNPAA Board Member Recognized

JOCM John Verrico Receives Astors Award



American Security Today has awarded John Verrico, Chief of Media and Community Relations, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science & Technology Directorate, a 2020 Astors Award for Excellence in Homeland Security. The following excerpt is shared courtesy of American Security Today.

- [John Verrico](#), who is also the former President of the [National Association of Government Communicators](#), has nearly 40 years of experience as a public affairs professional in federal and state government agencies, working extensively in media, community and employee relations, with significant emphasis in science, engineering and the security fields.
- A retired Navy Master Chief Journalist, John's career has focused on helping government agencies tell their stories and share important news with the public. He takes special care to ensure government information is accessible and that complex issues are easily understood.
- John has also worked as a freelance journalist, stand-up comic, and motivational speaker, among other fields where he learned not to take life too seriously and to experience everything life has to offer.





USNPAA Virtual Happy Hour

A Get-Together with Jamie McIntyre

February 18th USNPAA President Tom Jurkowsky hosted our winter Virtual Happy Hour with guest speaker Jamie McIntyre. For those of you unable to attend, here are highlights...

Jamie McIntyre joined the Washington Examiner in 2016 as senior writer covering defense and national security. His newsletter, "Jamie McIntyre's Daily on Defense," goes out each weekday morning to thousands of national security professionals and opinion leaders. An internationally known journalist with more than 40 years of experience, he served as CNN's military affairs and senior Pentagon correspondent from 1992-2008 and Al Jazeera America's national security correspondent from 2014-2016. McIntyre began his career in radio in 1976 at WTOP, the all-news station in Washington, and was a newscaster for NPR's All Things Considered from 2011-2014. He holds a bachelor's degree in broadcasting from the University of Florida and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Maryland, where he also serves as an adjunct instructor.

A Frustrating Time to be a Journalist

I have been at this for 40 years. This is a very frustrating time to be a journalist, particularly if you consider yourself a straight, down-the-middle reporter whose job is to bring facts to bear and help people make better decisions about things because they are better informed. We are in this new information ecosystem that is polluted with so much disinformation, we are a country that's so divided, and so much of our beliefs are based on some sort of emotional attachment to our identity. It is really difficult to provide context and facts so that people can make better decisions. I believe that reporters and public affairs officials, even though we are technically on different teams, actually have the same goal. If we are trying to do our job

correctly, which is to help reporting more facts and providing the context people need.

It was difficult during the Trump years because Trump would say things all the time that were factually unsupported. It also had a chilling effect on the Pentagon because the president would say something and then you would go to the Pentagon and ask about it and they could not say, either the political people or the military people, that what the president said is nonsense or it's not true.

There were many, many examples but one I remember when President Trump toured the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford. He asked about how the catapult system worked, which he referred to as a digital system. But it is

electromagnetic as many of you know. Then he issued a Twitter edict in which he said he's going to order the Navy to go back to "goddam steam because the digital catapults were no damn good". So, you go to the Navy and ask, "What do you have to say about that?" because obviously they cannot retrofit all these aircraft carriers with steam catapult systems. It's not even remotely practical. I went to the Navy and they said they would get back to me, and they would get back to me, and they would get back to me. After a couple of days, the Navy said, "We cannot say anything."

September 11, 2001

I was at the Pentagon on Sept. 11. Once people stake out a position on something -- once they have a belief even if it is a completely mistaken, false belief that is demonstrably wrong -- it is really difficult to dislodge them from that belief.

My introduction to the world of conspiracy theories and the persistence of misinformation in the age of the internet came when the plane hit the building. I was in the building when the plane hit. I went out and inspected the crash site. Eventually, we moved across the street to what was then the Citgo station. That is where we set up and reported. At one point, I was debriefed on the air by Judy Woodruff who is now an anchor on the PBS NewsHour.

Judy asked me about a report earlier in the day that a plane crashed short of the Pentagon. I had just been up to the crash site and I said, "Judy, I can tell you from my close-up inspection there's no sign of a plane crash anywhere near the Pentagon. The only crash site is behind me here where you can see the building has caved in." Those words, part of a much longer report, were taken out of context and started to whip around



the internet. They became part of this conspiracy theory about "there was no plane in the Pentagon." In particular, the part that they used was where I said, "Judy I can tell you from my close-up inspection there's no sign of a plane crash anywhere near the Pentagon." End of sentence. At the time I didn't pay much attention to it. I thought it was kind of silly. Everyone knows the plane hit the building. But remember, in 2001 there was no Facebook or Twitter, just the internet. It took me a couple of months to realize that this conspiracy theory that no plane hit the Pentagon was actually taking hold. An author in France wrote a whole book about how 9/11 was a big inside job, and it was getting a lot of readers.

The Mother of all Biases

I began to engage with some of these so-called "9/11 truthers." I had this idea that if I explained what actually happened, that if I told them I was there and I saw pieces of the plane, I would

disabuse them of this false belief. The amazing thing that happened over the 10 years I spent either writing stories about what happened on Sept. 11 or engaging with people who held these beliefs, is that in the entire time I did that I never changed anybody's mind. No matter what argument I used, no matter what reasoning I used. It really struck me about how when people become emotionally attached to false beliefs, there's pretty much nothing you can do to dislodge them.

We all know the "mother of all biases" is the one that we all are subject to: confirmation bias. We tend to believe things that support what we already think and tend to reject stuff that doesn't support it. There are so many other cognitive biases we have that prevent us from understanding why we are so prone to believe things that aren't true. The second biggest one is probably "correlation is not causation." Two things happen at the same time and we think one thing is related to the other. That is certainly a factor in people's suspicions about vaccines.

Our Qs & Jamie's As

"We are back to the old normal: Sunshine after the rain."

Q Do you expect big changes in the Briefing Room at the Pentagon now that (RADM) John Kirby is the top spokesman? We know him well and expect a drastic change in philosophy. What's your view?

John Kirby has a completely different philosophy and style. You all know his background. PAO for the Chairman. CHINFO. Became a civilian and went to the State Department as John Kerry's spokesperson. Great relationship with the press; great sense of humor. He set out a very ambitious schedule for himself.

He's been much more accessible; he doesn't cut reporters off; he lets the briefings go. Over time, it will become more routine, which is a good thing because then there's not so much attention on it. When they are routine, people can talk about routine things without subjects becoming so inflamed. He is sunshine after the rain. There has been good back-and-forth. The reporters are acting as watchdogs, not lapdogs. We are back to the old normal.

Q In your interview with Kirby, I was glad to see you and John commenting on the “Principles of Information” posted outside of his office. Can they get any traction in this environment? Is there a need for them to be refreshed?

The Principles are pretty good although I did notice that some of the principles mention disclosing information to members of the military and not necessarily the public. I was heartened by what he said because there were times when it seemed they weren't really there. It is important to have standards. [Read Jamie McIntyre's Interview with John Kirby here.](#)

Q Any advice for someone developing a media literacy course for middle-schoolers with the intent to better equip students at identifying fake news?

That would be a very valuable course to have. I find it frustrating to have a discussion with friends and they'll tell me that they saw something that was outrageous. One of the rules about fact-checking fake news is, the more outrageous and angry-inducing, the more likely it is to be false or overblown. I'll do some research and find the primary source, spend two hours to find why it's wrong, then I'll go back and explain it to somebody, and that won't change their mind. So, I've stopped doing that.

It's really important that there be trusted sources of journalism. One of the hallmarks of when someone is trusted is when they get things wrong, they correct them and give the corrections the same sort of prominence as the original story.

Q Do you see less news and more opinion?

There's definitely more opinion with the transition from a straight news approach to each hour having to win its time slot against the competition. There's also been this idea in cable news that there are only a few stories that are going to drive the day because people have so many and different sources to get their news. There was a time when if you watched CNN over the course of a day, you'd pretty much see every important story that happened from around the world. Now you see three or four stories at most. Some days you only see one story. What happens is you see a little bit of the story - one or two minutes -- and then 20 minutes of discussion with panels of two, four or sometimes more people. So, a lot more opinion.

There is a myth that there was a Golden Age of journalism, when things were so much better than today. We have this romantic notion that when Walter Cronkite did the news it was all straightforward. People forget that Cronkite editorialized on the news and forget his trip to Vietnam. News back then was so short it was seldom in-depth. Now we have news sources that go on forever. With C-SPAN you can watch in real time and judge for yourself.

I don't believe there was a Golden Age of journalism. I do look back warmly on my time at CNN. I miss the people I worked with there, had great relationships. I had a lot of backup from producers in Washington and Atlanta, people who made me look good.

Pivot of 1993:

How Navy Public Affairs Shaped My Career

By David Albritton

VP, Communications

AWS Worldwide Public Sector and Vertical Industries at Amazon Web Services

I have been blessed with an amazing professional career that has taken me to heights that I never dreamed of. I owe it all to my decision to become a Navy PAO. The experiences I had and the amazing people I've worked for, with and led, were life-changing and unforgettable.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1988, I served for 3.5 years as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) aboard USS PORTLAND (LSD 37) based in Norfolk, followed by two years getting a Masters' degree from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey. As luck (or fate) would have it, I went to NPS a little too early in my career. After graduating in 1993, the Navy wanted to send me back to sea for a second tour as a Division Officer since I was one year too junior to attend Department Head school. The challenge was that I didn't want to burden my young family with "extra" deployments after spending 26 of 39 months on PORTLAND away from home. So, I needed to find another career field in the Navy.

Luckily, I had friends like Mike Tabb, Ron McDonald and Jamie Graybeal who transitioned from SWO to this fabulous career field called "Public Affairs" that they all really enjoyed, yet I knew almost nothing about. Mike invited me to visit him at CHINFO and after meeting a ton of amazing people and better understanding the role and responsibility of a PAO, I was hooked. I submitted my designation transfer paperwork to



Keynote speaker Dave Albritton at the Points of Light Conference in Detroit. Points of Light is the world's largest nonprofit focused on volunteer service and was founded by former U.S. President George H.W. Bush. (2016)

SECNAV and was thankfully chosen by the PA selection board to transition to 1650 (many thanks to Deb Burnette!). So, after a short stint at DINFOS in Indianapolis, I reported to CHINFO to begin a whirlwind of experiences that literally changed my entire career trajectory.

Leadership by example is the best way to describe it and I was privileged to work for a bunch of great ones!

I began in the Plans and Policy shop working for Bill Sonntag and Tina Tallman before shifting to the Navy News Desk to work for Steve Pietropaoli, who is one of the most influential professionals I've ever met. I remember sitting in his office everyday with Conrad Chun and Jim Fallin and personally marveling how masterful he was at telling the Navy story to reporters over the phone - especially on the toughest issues. What I greatly appreciated was his mentoring and coaching immediately following those calls, since he would very thoughtfully explain why he positioned things the way he did. Steve had the habit of pacing back and forth when he was

working. To this day, I continue to emulate him - not only in my storytelling style, but by also pacing when I want to have an in-depth conversation. I tell him every time I see him of the impact he had on my future, but "His Humbleness" never accepts any credit for it, so I thank him publicly here.

In my next assignment, I was honored to relieve Denny Moynihan as the Flag LT/Aide to RADM Kendall Pease. I have had a lot of jobs in my career across many industries, but there are none I treasure more than the 1.5 years I worked for Kendall, Chuck Connor, Sheila Graham and Joe Gradisher in the CHINFO Front Office. I learned SO much about strategy and becoming the trusted expert in our field by everyone at all levels of the organization - regardless of rank or



The early years:
SR Albritton, 1983.

title. What I remember most is how unflappable Kendall was in every situation and how well he managed his relationships with the upper echelon of the Navy leadership. I was awed by his confidence and commanding presence, so I made it my goal to also become that confident and courageous in every future career opportunity. I don't get to see him that often anymore, but Admiral, your influence on me is a strong reason I have been successful, and I am forever grateful.

And what a career it has been! After working for Tim Taylor and Steve Honda as the Deputy PAO at CINCUSNAVEUR in London from 1995-1998, I chose to leave the Navy to pursue a civilian career in Corporate Communications. I started in



LT David Albritton, USN, (2nd from right) lead PAO for the peacekeeping training exercise, BALTIC CHALLENGE, near Tallinn, Estonia. The exercise consisted of 10 nations and 15,000 troops. (1997)

a junior role at Sears, Roebuck & Co. and later went to Compaq Computer Corp., which merged with Hewlett Packard Co. during my tenure. I've also held senior executive positions at United Way of America, Raytheon, ITT Defense (which spun off to become Exelis Inc.) and General Motors. But even after all of those amazing roles, I was literally blown away in 2018 when GM's CEO asked me to leave GM Communications to become the President of General Motors Defense, the company's aerospace and defense business subsidiary.

I served in that role from 2018-2020 and although the business was successful and winning new business, I used the time at home during the COVID pandemic to reassess my professional value proposition and decided that I wanted to return to my career in Communications. As luck would have it, an opportunity at one of the world's largest and fastest growing companies surfaced and I just recently accepted a new role as Vice President, Communications, Worldwide Public Sector & Vertical Industries at Amazon Web Services in Washington, DC.



At the podium in 1997

Throughout my career, I have committed myself to mentoring individuals who are trying to manage their own careers – especially members of the PA community. I've engaged with countless dozens of people over the years and a common theme I've seen for transitioning military members is a lack of understanding of how to leverage your experiences into something that resonates with civilians. But I also have found that many of us don't fully prepare early enough and learn the art of networking. The result is that many of us sometimes accept the first offer because we need a job!

I would like to help change that for those of you in the PA Community, whether you're an E-4 with five years or an O-6 with 30. It all starts with your resume, so if I can be helpful, please connect with me and let's have a conversation. (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidalbritton/>)

Here's to the Navy Public Affairs Community! Whether you're a current or former member of this community, we are a very special and uniquely bound family. *I am honored to be one of you!*

David Albritton was first selected as one of Savoy's top-100 most influential Blacks in America in 2014. In addition to his corporate leadership roles, Albritton continues to serve on a number of advisory and professional boards, including PRSA Foundation Board of Directors, U.S. Naval Academy Foundation, and Final Salute Inc. All of Dave's professional transitions were created through relationships: Navy relationships, corporate relationships, boardroom relationships, and volunteer relationships. In a recent conversation he shared...

Dave Albritton's Pro Tips

*Be fearless + Ask for feedback + Make real-time adjustments
=SUCCESS*

Equate what you do in communications to how it adds value to the organization.

Ask: "What kind of value can I add to the organization?"

Every Day

Don't be shy. Ask how people are seeing and hearing you.

Candid conversations allow you to make adjustments. Align your expectations with the people you work with and for.

Identify your shortcomings and try to find ways to fill those gaps.

Identify role models – people whose values and work ethic you want to imitate; seek out mentors.

Create your network and nurture those connections over your career.

Historic Deployment During Worldwide Pandemic

Destroyer Collateral Duty PAO in Today's Navy

By LTJG Devin Serlin, USS Stout (DDG 55)

As a very junior officer starting to learn the complex strategy and operations of surface warfare and U.S. Navy ships at sea, public affairs was not top-of-mind for me. Nor was I aware, in my inexperience, of the degree to which the Navy's senior leaders regard the importance of public affairs. Now, having completed an historic deployment, I understand the vital role public affairs plays in communicating the resiliency and ingenuity of the American Sailor to our nation. And, on "small boys," like STOUT, it all starts with the Collateral Duty Public Affairs Officer (CDPAO).

I reported on board STOUT in the summer of 2018 with little or no idea about anything, really, especially the responsibilities of command CDPAO. As Gunnery Division Officer (DIVO) I was tasked with the successful maintenance and operation of every weapon from the 5-inch gun mount to each individual 9mm pistol aboard. This daunting task was made more difficult in the face of a looming Basic Phase (post-maintenance workups) and INSURV (Board of Inspection and Survey) inspection.

Then the job of CDPAO fell into my lap. In a world of SKED (PMS scheduling software), briefs, and all the other DIVO administrative burdens, CDPAO felt like a breath of fresh air. While I wasn't a qualified Officer of the Deck underway (OOD) nor warfare qualified, I was a millennial familiar with social media. I owned an iPhone. And, thankfully, I had the ability to talk to people. I thought to myself: "I *can* do *this*. I'll learn SKED and everything else in time."

Fast forward to January 2020. Having survived the Basic Phase, INSURV, the dreaded Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) and myriad other underway exercises, I considered myself a fairly-seasoned first tour DIVO.



Next up: Deployment

As we made our way across the Atlantic and to the Arabian Gulf, I relied on our embarked Mass Communications Specialist Sailor who was assigned from Carrier Strike Group 10. MC3 Marques Franklin covered Cruise Book and daily media products such as photos and video of special evolutions, maintenance, and shipboard life during the deployment. I was no longer the ship's lone photographer and social media poster. My responsibilities shifted more towards news releases and publications in the event - which became ever more unlikely - that we pulled into port.

Throughout these months I faced the challenges of completing the qualifications required of an aspiring SWO. It's an understatement to say I was busy. I would set aside three hours to study for my OOD oral board and have to pause, upload a few photos, type out captions, and submit those photos for review before returning to the books. I was asked for media products while on watch, at meals, while working out -- even when asleep.

Underway, this is the life of any division officer. The miracle of the SWO process is the juxtaposition of impossible days filled with impossible tasks to reach the ultimate culmination of earning that coveted gold pin. Acting as the CDPAO added to my stress levels, no doubt. But, more importantly, *it offered me a rare opportunity to make my own waves outside my warfare community.*

I've asked myself - after the deployment of a lifetime - what does it mean to be a CDPAO? I can confidently answer: *It's an enormous responsibility coupled with extraordinary possibility.* It isn't always easy; at times, it's time-sensitive and requires you to dig into the depths of your creative capacity. Sometimes it's being told after hours of work that the command wants to go a different direction, or that there is too much rust in these pictures, or you run out of discs to burn and upload.

But it's also an opportunity to highlight young Sailors and show them and the public why the Navy matters. It's getting Sailors involved, helping them send pictures home to their families, and trying to organize people for a group photo that leaves everyone in tears from



Arabian Sea bridge-wing moment with his STOUT watch standers and former OOD mentor. (l. to r.) LTJG Devin Serlin, QM3 Tanner Steffon, SN William McClure and LT Joshua Tallman.

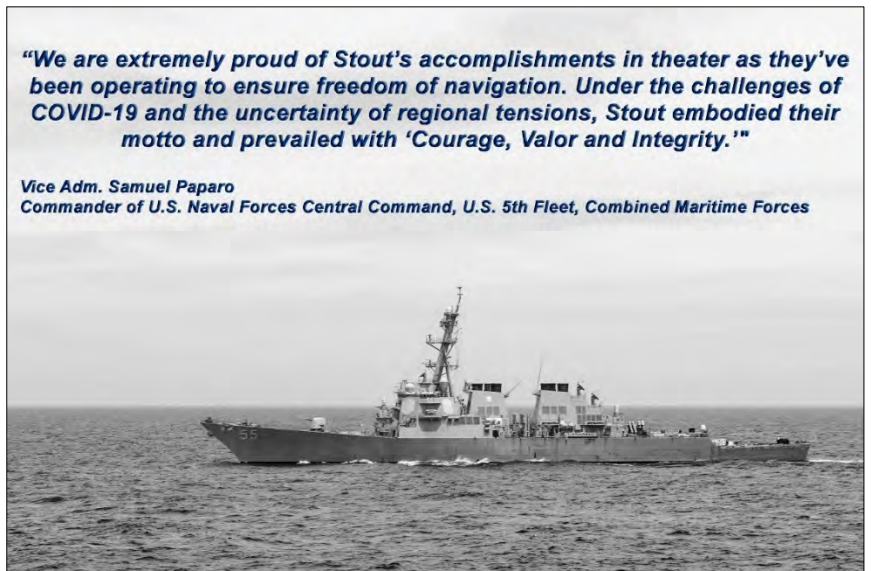
laughter and confusion. It's about being the voice of not only yourself or your division, but of your entire command - and a chance to show the world the extraordinary accomplishments of the *Little Destroyer that Could.*

After recent additional training in Newport, LTJg Devin Serlin returned to USS Stout early this year. He now serves in his second division officer tour as the ship's new Training Officer. He remains collateral duty PAO.

Norfolk-based USS Stout (DDG 55) farewelled family and friends January 17, 2020. They reunited October 12th. Nine months underway were punctuated by two short pit stops in Rota, Spain that bookended a record-breaking 215 days at sea. A Coalition Task Force Sentinel ship deployed to 5th Fleet area of operations, Stout spent 139 days providing overwatch for more than 550 vessels transiting critical chokepoints and delivered 1,500 maritime awareness calls to regional commercial shipping. The ship conducted operations in support of Eisenhower and Nimitz Carrier Strike Groups and Bataan Amphibious Ready Group. Stout also conducted the first modern era Mid-Deployment Voyage Repair (MDVR) period at sea.

"We are extremely proud of Stout's accomplishments in theater as they've been operating to ensure freedom of navigation. Under the challenges of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of regional tensions, Stout embodied their motto and prevailed with 'Courage, Valor and Integrity.'"

Vice Adm. Samuel Paparo
Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, Combined Maritime Forces



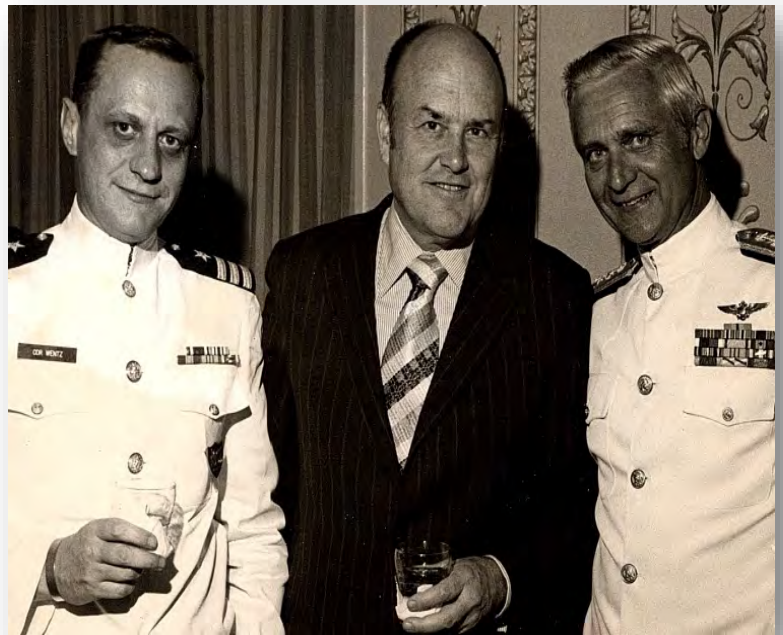
GREAT POWER COMPETITION 1973

THE MIDDLE EAST WAR

By CAPT Gene Wentz, USN, Ret.

U.S. Sixth Fleet flagship USS Little Rock (CG-4) was at sea between Athens and its homeport of Gaeta, Italy on Oct. 6, 1973 when Egypt and Syria attacked Israel. It became known as the "Ramadan War" to the Arabs and "The Yom Kippur" War to Israelis.

Politically, the Arab side would be supported by the Soviet Union with its Mediterranean Naval Squadron, while the Israelis relied on the Sixth Fleet. At the onset of hostilities, COMSIXTHFLT VADM Daniel J. Murphy shifted his flag to the command and control ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) and took a cadre of staff officers with him. Chief Journalist Steve Smith and I were part of that embarked Sixth Fleet team.



Then-CDR Gene Wentz, SECDEF Melvin Laird and COMSIXFLT VADM Daniel Murphy in Gaeta, summer 1973.

Countering the Soviet Mediterranean Squadron

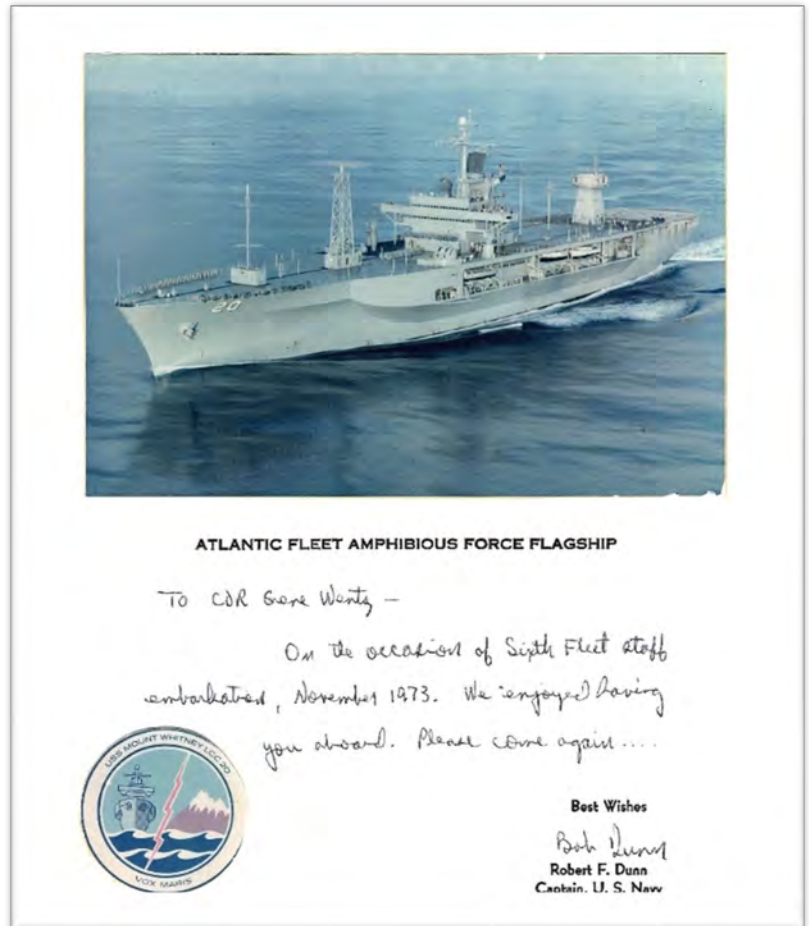
Soviet navy influence rapidly expanded in the Med with ships, aircraft and naval infantry joining forces already in the area. They assembled a force of 95 units — far larger a force than the USSR had ever deployed there. Soviet aircraft quickly replaced Arab losses.

On Mount Whitney, I listened as Admiral Murphy spoke daily by secure telecommunications with Navy leadership in Naples, Norfolk, and Washington. "I need another ammunition ship, aircraft carrier and helicopter carrier..." was just one request I recall.

The initial Sixth Fleet striking force consisted of aircraft carrier task groups headed by USS Independence (CV-62) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (CV-42). USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and USS Iwo Jima (LPH-2) arrived soon after. Although considerably outnumbered, we had much more mobility and usable firepower than the Soviets.

Admiral Murphy considered public affairs vital to the accomplishment of the Sixth Fleet's peacekeeping mission. On November 8th he hosted his first press conference of the conflict aboard JFK, while also sharing congratulatory messages with all hands. To highlight the USSR's ability to rapidly expand their naval power in the Med, he approved media flights over Soviet anchorages. Admiral Murphy accepted my recommendations and rarely changed a word I suggested for PA-related messages, many of which I released myself. (I was in PAO heaven!)

For the six weeks from October 6 to November 18, the Sixth Fleet stayed on high alert. Mount Whitney and its embarked Sixth Fleet staff remained on station. When President Nixon's intercession and Secretary of State Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" brought about an unsteady cease-fire to the region, Sixth Fleet returned to normal operations.



U.S. Sixth Fleet PA Personnel during Middle East War of 1973.

Mentoring

Remembering PAO Service Opportunities

Part 4 - A Royal Visit, Transitions & Taps

By LCDR David K. Sturges, USNR, Ret. (Life Member)

Photos Courtesy D.K. Sturges Collection

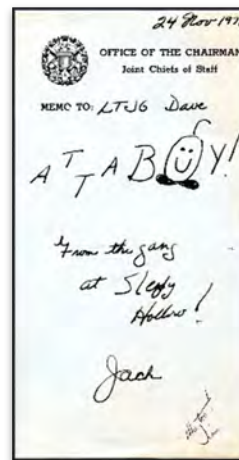
Background: *This is fourth in my series on mentoring and the people who helped shape me and my Navy career. Within a year USNPAA lost two of its founding and most accomplished members: CAPT John Cameron MacKercher and CAPT James Patrick Mathews. For our Public Affairs community, they leave timeless standards molded by a combined 65 years of experience. For me, they both were reporting seniors, mentors and close shipmates from active duty days and long into retirement. Bonded by designator and joint heritage, I am now the survivor of this trio. Our story concludes here. --DLS*

In 1971, I was station PAO at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in New Haven, CT. Known as "Fort Hale" it was a run-down wartime complex showing its age, the effect of maintenance budget cuts and patch-repair ingenuity. We managed to pass admin inspections by hiding holes in the bulkheads with shifted furnishings, keeping the harbor rats down with traps and the heating plant running on a cracked boiler.

In his letters to me from Washington, Jack MacKercher would say, "Remember: dignity and service!" That stood me well as a LTJG in a tough assignment: helping close Yale University's historic NROTC Unit because of student antiwar protests. University staff, concerned about campus calm, urged me to wear civilian clothes while on duty. I would have none of it. They were perplexed but no confrontations resulted.

Jack was a proponent of deepening the Reserve's training in Public Affairs. He was helping CHINFO develop NRPACS (Public Affairs Companies) nationwide. His emphasis was on motivation and versatility. Applying his hint to my personal interest, I focused one of my ACDUTRA's at the War College by helping the faculty redesign the College Catalog and Information Bulletin. It was when VADM James B. Stockdale was

Commandant. I watched spellbound one day when he, former Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor recipient, hobbled into the college auditorium with his cane to greet incoming students. He pushed aside their course syllabus and held up a copy of the *Enchiridion of Epictetus*, the stoic survival treatise which had strengthened him to endure and prevail while a tortured prisoner. "Read this FIRST, gentlemen!" were his only words before leaving with a wave.



1971: One of Jack MacKercher's humorous buck slips from the Pentagon; LTJG Dave Sturges

A LT by 1976, both Jack and Jim were corresponding with me regularly.



"Be ready, you never know what you'll get in the way of sudden VIP needs," Jack wrote.

"Max flex," was Jim's counsel, "guidance works both ways in the command chain."

I soon knew what they meant.



Queen Elizabeth and Duke of Edinburgh disembarking in New Haven, July 1976. Above, Royal Yacht Britannia enters New Haven Harbor.

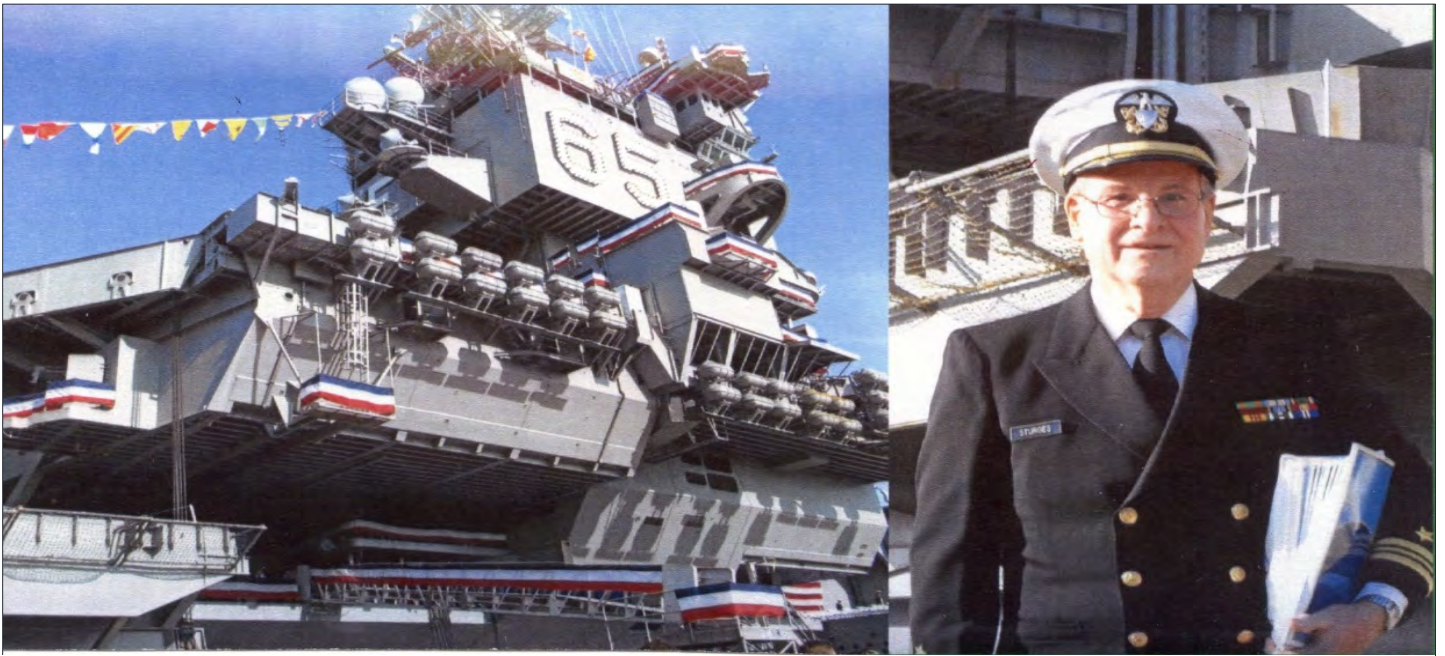
Early that spring a surprise visitor arrived in a chauffeured Bentley: the British Consul in New York. He looked us over as a landing site for the Royal Yacht Britannia, which would deliver Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh when they called at New Haven for her American Bicentennial visit. The Consul, along with us, did

not take long to conclude that our station's condition was not up to receiving any VIP let alone a queen.

Still, we were assigned to help with the advance work. The challenge for us, the Coast Guard and the harbor pilot, with State and diplomatic task force looking over our shoulders, was to get Britannia up the long channel, swung around and standing to in the inner basin as the Queen and the Duke were brought ashore. They would alight to special pier the City had built just for the occasion. It was no easy maneuver. At the time of her scheduled arrival the harbor was to be at low tide, which presented a grounding risk. Her Commanding Officer ruled out tug assistance.

Poring over charts and taking soundings for days, our team calculated that Britannia could make it but there was no room for error; careers were on the line. To our relief it went off without a hitch. The sight of that dazzling blue and white ship arriving to a 21-gun salute and seeing Queen Elizabeth's legendary grace, warmth and smile all made for an ample reward.

Back into routine after that, command consolidation led to razing our old complex. A new, bigger Center on the same site replaced it. As memories of Vietnam faded, appreciation came once more to those in uniform. When I transferred to the Retired List in 1986 with 20 years' service, I could say as so many veterans said before me: I helped leave Navy Public Affairs in better shape than when I started.



Old vets, USS Enterprise and me at her Norfolk decommissioning December 2012.

Retirement and Farewells

In retirement, the McKercher-Matthews-Sturges bond grew stronger. Jack, Jim and I would gather



Old shipmates' retirement summit; me, Jack McKercher and Jim Matthews at Jack's Brookville, FL home in 2012.

and ponder the Navy's future, hashing out issues and budgeting ups and downs of successive administrations. As the older and senior of us, Jack, despite his infirmities, was more concerned with our living challenges and urged us onward. After seeing him three years ago, one of his last letters to me began, "Dave, your presence and greetings were a real shot in the arm for me."

Thank God I could return a tiny bit of the cheer and encouragement that he had extended to so many.

At Arlington ceremonies for Jack in August 2019, Jim, at 82, was showing the effect of age. Within a year's time, he had also passed....

In crafting tributes, Jack always cautioned: "Now don't make it maudlin!" Yet, shipmates we three were, are and will always be. It's a true blessing that those in USNPAA who knew Jack and Jim can give both of them the honor they are due. Rest easy, shipmates. We're taking good care!

HAZARDOUS DUTY WITHOUT THE PAY

By Peter A. S. Johnstone, M.D.

I rolled ashore in April 1982, after completing a WESTPAC tour in USS INGERSOLL (DD990) as Navigator and Gun Systems Officer. My elder son was born three weeks prior to deployment, so I was in the mood for some shore duty and had secured a change of designator to 1650.

My first assignment was CHINFO, OI-52 in what was then Long Range Plans under John Baker, and on the Newsdesk on aviation and politico-military issues under Brent Baker. But the best part of the tour was when CAPT Jim Finkelstein invited me to join the Personal Staff of the Secretary of the Navy in 1983. My assignment: create and operate Secretary John Lehman's "Good News" program. This ensured the broadest distribution of news of Navy successes to the White House, the Congress, and SECDEF Caspar Weinberger.

All this required was typing two paragraphs each week about good things the Navy had done during the prior seven days operationally, in research, or in building the 600-ship force. Get SECNAV to sign the three originals. Deliver one to the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, one to SECDEF's outer office (his senior military assistant was BGEN Colin Powell), and one via courier to the White House. Easy-peasy, right?

For anyone thinking that such a job truly might be simple, remember the preeminent role of politics in DC. A case in point is the time when my Good News mentioned a Navy success in delivering an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate ahead of schedule and below budget. The blowback was that Senator Pete Wilson (R-CA), then on the Senate Armed Services Committee, directed the Navy to use the savings to build an extra frigate (for which it had not asked), without added authorization funding, and do it at Todd Shipyards in Los Angeles. Events like this

MUG SHOT

**TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFYING THE BODY
POST-DOJ RUN.**

(I REALLY DID HAVE HAD A COOL NAMETAG.)



sometimes made it very difficult to get the OPNAV staff to talk to me, much less to provide Good News.

Time spent hanging out with CDR (later RADM) Tom Marfiak and CDR (later ADM) Walt Doran in political-military affairs provided superb fodder for Good News. Picking up refugees afloat in the Far East could always be counted on for copy, as were successful multinational exercises.

The added benefit of being in the back row of such theater was fully shown in early September 1983 when Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson (D-WA)



NEWSDESK "Spokesman of the Quarter"

NEWSDESK Action Officer LT Peter "The Beav" Johnstone smiles gleefully upon hearing that he had been selected for this distinguished award. With customary modesty LT Johnstone said " Gee, I dunno, it's kinda creepy." Ward and June could not be reached for comment.

VINTAGE 1980'S NEWS DESK HUMOR

**BY "ANONYMOUS"
(AKA LT STEVE PIETROPAULI)**

died. Jackson had been a strong supporter of the military, and Secretary Lehman proposed that we honor him by renaming SSBN-730 after him, although clearly that release would come from the Office of the President. The keel, programmed as RHODE ISLAND, had been sponsored at its christening by the wife of the U.S. Attorney General William French Smith. Invitations had already gone out to guests for the launching a month later. When notified of such processes already underway, Secretary Lehman insisted that Mrs. Jackson should be the sponsor

of the boat named for her husband, and we would send someone over that day to brief the Attorney General of the change. His proposal was that "the junior person in the room" do it.

As the most-junior by three pay grades, Jim arranged for me to shuttle over to DOJ to break the news to William French Smith. I asked Jim how I would get back.

"There won't be enough of you to come back!" he replied.

Department of Justice

The driver dropped me off at the DOJ building, and the trip upstairs was fast. As might be expected. I was met at the door to the cavernous office of the Attorney General of the United States by his factotum.

Here are the EXACT words of conversation that ensued:

Factotum: Please sit down. Secretary Lehman's office called and said that you had some urgent information for the Attorney General? He is in his office (pointing offstage right), but I will be happy to relay it.

Me: Yes, thank you very much. As you know, Scoop Jackson just died and Secretary Lehman thought it would be appropriate that, in his honor, we should rename the submarine USS RHODE ISLAND as HENRY M. JACKSON.

Factotum: OK. But that is between Secretary Lehman and the President, right?

Me: Absolutely, sir. And there is preliminary indication that the President supports the concept.

Factotum: Terrific. So...?

Me: Well, sir...you see, if the ship is named HENRY M. JACKSON, then Mrs. Jackson should be *the sponsor*.

Factotum (comprehending): Are you telling me that the Attorney General's wife would lose her ship?

Me: Sir, it's really not "her" ship, but...

Factotum: Launching! She was counting on this and arrangements have been made!

Me: I understand, sir, but Secretary Lehman did authorize me to offer another submarine to the Attorney General's wife to make up for this. I have several here (pointing to briefcase).

Factotum: Let me go tell the Attorney General. (Exits right.)

The conversation was quite audible since the outer office door was open and I could see the edge of the desk from where I stood. The Attorney General (AG) apparently was displeased. (Expletives deleted.) The Factotum returned.

Factotum: So, what we have is a subcabinet level official telling a Cabinet official that his wife is losing her ship?

Me: Sir, in truth the President has final word on such things, but that is why Secretary Lehman sent me as soon as the concept was cleared.

Factotum: Has Mrs. Jackson sponsored other ships?

Me: Yes, sir.

Factotum: How many?

Me: Two, sir.

Factotum: This will be her third, then?

Me: Yes, sir.

Factotum: So, the subcabinet level Navy Secretary is telling the Attorney General of the United States that his wife can't have one?

Me: Sir, Senator Jackson just died, so this is not something we had planned. Secretary Lehman did authorize me to offer another submarine to the Attorney General's wife to make up for this.

Factotum: I'll be right back. (Exits right).

Me: (Expletives deleted.)

Factotum: Tell me about the other submarine.

Me: Sir, we have several LOS ANGELES class fast attack submarines to offer. These are generally named after cities of >100,000 population and there are 26 potential names the Attorney general can pick, in addition to having his wife serve as sponsor.

Factotum: Are these the same kind of submarines the Attorney general's wife had before?

Me: No, sir.

Factotum: Bigger or smaller?

Me: Well, sir, they have different purposes. Fast attack submarines are designed for vastly different maritime strategies.

Factotum: Bigger or smaller?

Me: ...than fleet ballistic submarines...

Factotum: Bigger? Or smaller?

Me: Smaller.

(AG): Expletive deleted

Factotum: (*looking over right shoulder*) So, what we have is a *subcabinet* level official is telling a *Cabinet* official that his wife is trading a big ship for a small ship?

Me: I would prefer to say that the new submarine, offered because Senator Jackson just died, has a different purpose in our 600-ship Navy. Here is a list of the 26 US cities that have populations greater than 100,000 whose names have not yet been used for LOS ANGELES class submarines. You see, Jacksonville has been taken, but Columbus is still open...

Factotum: Let me show him this list. (Goes and returns)

Factotum: The Attorney General would like to name the submarine Wilton, New Hampshire.

Me: (*looking at list*) Is that on the list? I don't see it on the list. Wilton, New Hampshire?

- Factotum:* That is the town in which the Attorney General was born. He would like to commemorate it by naming a submarine after it.
- Me:* Thank you. I will faithfully relay that to the Secretary.
- Factotum:* The *subcabinet* level Secretary of the Navy?
- Me:* Secretary Lehman and the President will decide. I'm sure they will give Wilton, New Hampshire every due consideration for the Attorney General.

Now, looking back forty years later, this was one of the decisive moments of my life. I have enjoyed my career caring for cancer patients far more than I enjoyed those 15 minutes in the Department of Justice. God bless you folks out there on the front lines in DC, and elsewhere, every day!



Welcome to the Medical Corps

Being demoted to ENS, MC (USNR) by UNSECNAV James F. Goodrich
with help from wife Meg.

Peter A.S. Johnstone, MD, FACR, FASTRO is Vice Chair & Clinical Director, Department of Radiation Oncology and Senior Member, Department of Health Outcomes & Behavior, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL.

"I was a 1650 for only three years a lifetime ago. But I had a wonderful time, and recently joined USNPAA and reconnected with the "in" crowd again!"



Sightings

USNPAA's quarterly newsletter

*Navy public affairs team past and present, let us hear from you!
Send your stories and photos to Sightings c/o:*

*Tina Tallman at ttallman1650@gmail.com or
Tim Beecher at beechert@icloud.com*

*Find USNPAA on...
the web at <http://www.usnpaa.org>
Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/usnpaa>*

SUMMER 2021 issue deadlines:

<i>Story/article proposals</i>	<i>1 May</i>
<i>Final copy submission</i>	<i>15 May</i>

U.S. Navy Public Affairs Association (USNPAA)

was established in 1994 to:

Foster and enhance cordial relations and mutual understanding among former and current active duty personnel and civilian employees of the U.S. Navy who were, or are, engaged in performing public affairs functions.

Support and promote the professional growth, education, and development of individuals engaged in all aspects of U.S. Navy public affairs.

Stimulate and promote a broad acquaintance and a spirit of fellowship among members and others interested in an effective U.S. Navy public affairs program.

Our name changed to *U.S. Navy Public Affairs Association* in 2013 to better focus on all three areas of purpose, and to send a strong *signal of inclusiveness to all Navy public affairs communities: active, reserve, retired, civilian, officer and enlisted.*

JOIN US: Become a member for free at www.usnpaa.org/membership.html to receive access to USNPAA events and community.

The U. S. Navy Public Affairs Association is a
501(c)(19) nonprofit Veterans organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia.