

# THE DECKPLATE

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2002

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3)



### *Points of Special Interest*

- *News from your coordinator is on page one. See how the membership is coming along.*
- *Ten newly located shipmates are listed in the WELCOME MAT beginning on page two.*
- *We still need your stories to make this a great newsletter. Please contribute to the next issue!*
- *MAIL CALL has a great story about an unforgettable event in the life of the author.*
- *Please return the questionnaire included in this newsletter.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

**I am wishing that all have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.**

We are doing fairly well with 281 members and the 1480 names we have to search for mailing addresses. The names were purchased from the Department of the Navy, and as addresses are found for these shipmates names, up to four postcards may be mailed to the addresses found for any one shipmate. Post cards cost 23 cents each to mail. I pay for the cards used to print the message on. Of the 281 members with a small percentage of whom are paying for this

to happen, we ask for a dues of \$10.00 per year. Many of the shipmates do send more of a donation to help pay these costs, which includes the cost of having the DECKPLATE made up, printed and mailed to each of the members. For each man that sends ME a check made out to RICHARD COHAGAN for \$10.00 or more donation, I mail him a membership card. (I pay for the cards used and the envelopes.) Dues and donations should be mailed to ME. The bank account is with ATLANTIC STATES BANK. On the check is RICHARD T. COHAGAN

(SCHOFIELD REUNION GROUP) P.O. Box 223, Duluth, GA 30096.

The second USS SCHOFIELD reunion will be held in the Bremerton, WA area around May 29 to June 1, 2003. Hope to see many of you there.

Rick Cohagan

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
STAFF AT  
ML&RS, INC.**

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

This is the official publication of the USS Schofield Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the Schofield. A financial statement will appear in each of the following issues. **Send contributions to Richard Cohanagan.**

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

### *Published By:*

**Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc**  
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**"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"**

## NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the USS SCHOFIELD reunion is available to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

If you are able to visit our web site and download the Newsletter, and therefore do not need a paper copy mailed to you, please let us know.

Please visit our web site at [www.mlrsinc.com](http://www.mlrsinc.com), then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the USS SCHOFIELD. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. (As a side note - it took about 4 minutes on my computer). This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the SCHOFIELD E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

**To subscribe to the SCHOFIELD E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to [SubscribeMLRS@aol.com](mailto:SubscribeMLRS@aol.com), put the phrase SUBSCRIBE SCHOFIELD in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.**

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

If you have any question regarding this, do not hesitate to ask!

Dina Coffey



## WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome aboard. We hope to see you at the next reunion and that you will take an active part in the association. We welcome:

*John Furstenwerth (1968-69) RM2*  
950 Willow Ln  
Pocatello, ID 83201  
208-478-7195  
[elkmagik@cableone.net](mailto:elkmagik@cableone.net)

*Richard A. Wischmeyer*  
4150 Stafford Woods Ct  
St. Charles, MO 63304-1603  
636-928-2162  
[sw002@mail.win.org](mailto:sw002@mail.win.org)

*B. F. Gillenwater (1973-76) HM1*  
1636 Azalea Dr  
Birmingham, AL 35235-2804  
205-854-6735

*Roger Clore (1974-76) SN*  
1801 Denver Dr  
Park City, KS 67219-1604

*Mark Burdick SH3*  
W8147 Hwy 86  
Tomahawk, WI 54487  
715-453-9658  
[cartographic@gotousa.net](mailto:cartographic@gotousa.net)

*William Maglott*  
241 W Farms Rd  
Dubach, LA 71235  
318-777-8953

*Michael Monect (1975-76) SM1*  
31433 11th Pl SW  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
206-553-0221

*Donald Tyszko (1973-76) BTFN*  
179 W Tripoli Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

*Barry Gibelyou (1975-78) ETN3*  
7351 University Ave NE  
Fridley, MN 55432-3112  
763-786-1972

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

Jay LaCrosse (1973-75) SN  
22034 Jarvis St NW  
Elk River, MN 55330  
763-360-5976



## TAPS

The Schofield Deckplate has learned of the following death since the last newsletter. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of the deceased.

*Richard Currier, (1981-83) GMG1  
Died August 18, 2002*

Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS and also on the Honor Roll at the next reunion.

## YOUR STORIES NEEDED

The newsletter needs your stories for inclusion in the next issue. Please send in a story or article that you think would be of interest to all. We received one story about a **most memorable character (or event)**, so we are still searching for those unforgettable people who lived and worked among you on the Schofield. Please get the ball rolling. Just a few letters will encourage others to write in response and before long, we will have a great newsletter. Hope to hear from you soon. Send stories to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service  
P O Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603  
OR:  
E-mail: mlrsnewsletters@aol.com



## MAIL CALL

### MY MOST MEMORABLE EVENT

My most memorable event in Schofield has to be the time I inadvertently missed movement in Kaoshiung, Taiwan in the fall of 1969. The CHENG sent me ashore with a package conveyor motor (I carried it by a strap—it weighed about 50 lbs) to a Taiwanese electric shop to have the windings dipped and baked. I sat in that shop for 7 hours waiting on the motor. When I finally got back to the landing, the Schofield was a blip on the horizon—she had gotten emergency underway orders! The OOD had left a note with a local dockhand for me: "Meet us in Yokosuka in 2 weeks," it said. SO, there I was, in my khakis, with \$20, my ID card, and a motor on a strap, MA-ROONED. I had many adventures in getting to Yoko, which together would make a good Reader's Digest story. I drew emergency pay from another ship in port, made my way across Taiwan (got a ride in the rear seat of a Taiwanese crosstester!) made it to Atsugi (via Guam!) courtesy of the USAF, and got a lift to Yokosuka from some admiral in his limo who spotted me sitting on the motor by the side of the road, exhausted, thought my story was hilarious, and took pity on me. I made it back 2 weeks to the day! Had monstrous bruises and abrasions on the sides of both legs from the motor banging against them as I carried it across many miles. I wasn't going back without that motor! I wanted to be able to say, "Mission accomplished!" — even if there were some complications.

Submitted by Steven McMikle

## THE WIVES CLUB

The ship had made arrangements in September 1969 to bring some wives to Japan. My wife (at the time) came over and I was to meet all the wives as liaison to insure the wives got to the hotels OK. I was sent over to the carrier to fly in until the ship entered port. It must have been Yokosuka, because Mr. Rantschler later came to the carrier and bumped my flight to get job orders in to the yards for repairs. In order for me to fly in (which was LATE!) I flew in with a pilot that flew off the angle deck because the catapults were broken down. He wanted to get in to his wife and he asked me if I wanted to fly with them. In order to get in at all near the right time, I went alone.

Submitted by: Richard Cohagan,  
EMCS

## QUESTIONNAIRE ENCLOSED

Because many of you said you did not receive the questionnaire from Military Locator & Reunion Service, we are enclosing one with this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28601

## USS SCHOFIELD REUNION

**MAY 29—JUNE 1, 2003**

**SEATTLE, WA AREA**

**BEST WESTERN  
FEDERAL WAY**

*Registration packets will be mailed approximately 90 days prior to the reunion.*

# I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR

Hear my voice, America! Though I speak through the mist of 200 years, my shout for freedom will echo through liberty's halls for many centuries to come. Hear me speak, for my words are of truth justice, and the rights of man. For those ideals I have spilled my blood upon the world's troubled waters. Listen well, for my time is eternal-yours but a moment. I am the spirit of heroes past and future.

I am the American Sailor. I was born upon the icy shores at Plymouth, rocked upon the waves of the Atlantic, and nursed in the wilderness of Virginia. I cut my teeth on New England codfish, and I was clothed in southern cotton. I built muscle at the halyards of New Bedford whalers, and I gained my sea legs high atop mizzen of yankee clipper ships.

Yes, I am the American Sailor, one of the greatest seamen the world has ever known. The sea is my home and my words are tempered by the sound of paddle wheels on the Mississippi and the song of whales off Greenland's barren shore. My eyes have grown dim from the glare of sunshine on blue water, and my heart is full of star-strewn nights under the Southern Cross. My hands are raw from winter storms while sailing down round the Horn, and they are blistered from the heat of cannon broadside while defending our nation. I am the American Sailor, and I have seen the sunset of a thousand distant, lonely lands.

I am the American Sailor. It was I who stood tall beside John Paul Jones as he shouted, "I have not yet begun to fight!" I fought upon Lake Erie with Perry, and I rode with Stephen Decatur into Tripoli harbor to burn Philadelphia. I met Guerriere aboard Constitution, and I was lashed to the mast with Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. I have heard the clang of Confederate shot against the sides of Monitor. I have suffered

the cold with Peary at the North Pole, and I responded when Dewey said, "You may fire when ready Gridley," at Manila Bay. It was I who transported supplies through submarine infested waters when our soldiers were called "over there." I was there as Admiral Byrd crossed the South Pole. It was I who went down with the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, who supported our troops at Inchon, and patrolled dark, deadly waters of the Mekong Delta.

I am the American Sailor, and I wear many faces. I am a pilot soaring across God's blue canopy, and I am a Seabee atop a dusty bulldozer in the South Pacific. I am a corpsman nursing the wounded in the jungle, and I am a torpedoman in the Nautilus deep beneath the North Pole. I am hard, and I am strong. But it was my eyes that filled with tears when my brother went down with the Thresher, and it was my heart that rejoiced when Commander Shepherd rocketed into orbit above the earth. It was I who languished in a Viet Cong prison camp, and it was I who walked upon the moon. It was I who saved the Stark and the Samuel B. Roberts in the mine invested waters of the Persian Gulf. It was I who pulled my brothers from the smoke filled compartment of the Bonefish and wept when my shipmates died on the Iowa and White Plains. When called again, I was there, on the tip of the spear for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

I am the American Sailor. I am woman, I am man, I am white and black, yellow, red and brown. I am Jew, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist. I am Irish, Filipino, African, French, Chinese, and Indian. And my standard is the outstretched hand of Liberty. Today, I serve around the world; on land, in air, on and under the sea. I serve proudly, at peace once again, but with the fervent prayer that I need not be called again.

Tell your children of me. Tell them of my sacrifice, and how my spirit soars above their country. I have spread the mantle of my na-

tion over the ocean, and I will guard her forever. I am her heritage and yours.

I AM THE AMERICAN SAILOR.

*Taken from: "Navy Club of the United States of America", Spring 2001*

## THINGS YOU JUST MAY NOT KNOW

- In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frame by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase "goodnight, sleep tight" originated.
- The sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog," uses every letter in the alphabet. (developed by Western Union to test telex/twx communication systems.)
- The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- The name "Jeep" came from the abbreviation used in the Army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, GP.
- The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave It to Beaver."
- The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.
- The first novel ever written on a typewriter was *Tom Sawyer*.
- Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:
  - Spades—King David
  - Hearts—Charlemagne
  - Clubs—Alexander the Great
  - Diamonds—Julius Caesar

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The cost of this issue of the Schofield Deckplate is **\$182.47\***.