

THE DECKPLATE

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2003

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



Points of Special Interest

- *An hilarious article on how to make your family's home into a Navy ship is our cover story. Share it with your family!*
- *WELCOME MAT on page two has four new names for the roster.*
- *Only two responses for stories in MAIL CALL. Please send in your story for inclusion in the next issue.*
- *Some interesting facts on the status of the Navy are on page four.*
- *An important message about the next newsletters is on page four.*

HOW TO SIMULATE BEING A SAILOR

1. Buy a steel dumpster, paint it gray inside and out, and live in it for six months.
2. Run all the pipes and wires in your house exposed on the walls.
3. Repaint you entire house every month.
4. Renovate your bathroom. Build a wall across the middle of he bathtub and move the shower head to chest level. When you take showers, make sure you turn off the water while you soap down.
5. Put lube oil in your humidifier and set it on high.
6. Once a week, blow compressed air up your chimney, making sure the wind carries the soot onto your neighbor's house. Ignore his complaints.
7. Raise the thresholds and lower the headers of your front and back doors so that you either trip or bang your head every time you pass through them.
8. Once a month, take all major appliances apart and then reassemble them.
9. Disassemble and inspect your lawn mower every week.
10. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, turn your water heater temperature up to 200 degrees. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, turn the water heater off. On Saturdays and Sundays tell your family they used too much water during the week, so no bathing will be allowed.
11. Raise your bed to within 6 inches of the ceiling, so you can't turn over without getting out and then getting back in.
12. Sleep on the shelf in your closet. Replace the closet door with a curtain. Have your spouse whip open the curtain about 3 hours after you go to sleep, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and say, "Sorry, wrong rack."
13. Make your family qualify to operate each appliance in your house-dishwasher operator, blender technician, etc.
14. Have you neighbor come over each day at 5 am, blow a whistle so loud

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Helen Keller could hear it, and shout, "Reveille!"

15. Have your mother-in-law write down everything she's going to do the following day, then have her make you stand in your backyard at 6 am while she reads it to you.

16. Submit a request chit to your father-in-law requesting permission to leave your house before 3 pm.

17. Empty all the garbage bins in your house and sweep the driveway three times a day, whether it needs it or not.

18. Have your neighbor collect all your mail for a month, read your magazines, and randomly lose every 5th item before delivering it to you.

19. Watch no TV except for movies played in the middle of the night. Have your family vote on which movie to watch, then show a different one.

20. When your children are in bed, run into their room with a megaphone shouting that your home is under attack and ordering them to their battle stations.

21. Make your family menu ahead of time without consulting the pantry or refrigerator.

22. Post a menu on the kitchen door informing your family that they are having steak for dinner. Then make them wait in line for an hour. When they finally get to the kitchen, tell them you are out of steak, but they can have dried ham or hot dogs. Repeat daily until they ignore the menu and just ask for hot dogs.

23. Bake a cake. Prop up one side of the pan so the cake bakes unevenly. Spread icing real thick to level it off.

24. Get up every night around midnight and have a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on stale bread.

25. Set your alarm clock to go off at random during the night. At the alarm, jump up and dress as fast as you can, making sure to button your top shirt button and tuck your pants into your socks. Run out into the backyard and uncoil the garden hose.

26. Every week or so, throw your

cat or dog in the pool and shout, "Man overboard port side!" Rate your family members on how fast they respond.

27. Put the headphones from your stereo on your head, but don't plug them in. Hang an paper cup around your neck on a string. Stand in front of the stove, and speak into the paper cup, "Stove manned and ready." After an hour or so, speak into the cup again, "Stove secured." Roll up the headphones and paper cup and stow them in a shoebox.

28. Place a podium at the end of your driveway. Have your family stand watches at the podium, rotating at 4 hour intervals. This is best done when the weather is worst. January is a good time.

29. When there is a thunderstorm in your area, get a wobbly rocking chair, sit in it and rock as hard as you can until you become nauseous. Make sure to have a supply of stale crackers in your shirt pocket.

30. For former engineers: bring your lawn mower into the living room, and run it all day long.

31. Make coffee using eighteen scoops of budget priced coffee grounds per pot, and allow the pot to simmer for 5 hours before drinking.

32. Have someone under the age of ten give you a haircut with sheep shears.

33. Sew the back pockets of your jeans on the front.

34. Every couple of weeks, dress up in your best clothes and go to the scummiest part of town. Find the most run down, trashiest bar, and drink beer until you are hammered. Then walk all the way home.

35. Lock yourself and your family in the house for six weeks. Tell them that at the end of the 6th week you are going to take them to Disney World for "liberty." At the end of the 6th week, inform them the trip to Disney World has been canceled because they need to get ready for inspection, and it will be another week before they can leave the house.



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmate has 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:

*Neil Buck (1968-69) SM3 Ops-OC
12429 Del Oro St
Boron, CA 93516*

*George Badger
14406 Engelwood Dr Kp N
Gig Harbor, WA 98329
253-884-1783*

*Joe Masic
1456 E Philadelphia #345
Ontario, CA 92669
909-923-2458*

*Rick Ness (1984-88)
33396 578th Ave
Cambridge, IA 50046*

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance after 09/03 issue

\$586.60

Funds received since 09/03 issue

\$0

Funds available for 12/03 **\$586.60**

Expended 12/03 newsletter-

\$208.75

Balance for 03/04—\$377.85

Contributions should now be made to ML&RS, address below.

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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"



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.

*Leonard Wahlig
LTJG (1968-71)
Died November 27, 2003*

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.



MAIL CALL

Editor's Note: In an effort to get some stories for Mail Call, I sent out an e-mail to everyone asking for stories. The following are the only responses I received. A big thank you to those who responded. Please, more of you need to share your stories or there will be nothing for a newsletter. It's up to you!

Deckplate,

My name is Gary Guesto, BM-3, and I am one of the original 17 plankowners who went from schooling in San Diego to Bremerton, Washington in early 1968 to await the U.S. Navy taking ownership of the USS Schofield DEG-3.

The incident I am about to describe actually took place. It was September 8, 1969, while on Taiwan Patrol and the rescue of the USS Warbler MSC-206. Being in the First Division we were responsible for setting up the rigging to tow

in the Minesweeper that seemed doomed without someone's help. We stayed up most of the night getting everything we might need, and would probably would need, ready for rescue. All night one of our Seamen kept complaining how his feet hurt. I told him we didn't have time to complain, we were needed! Entering the heavy seas, we were ordered to be outfitted with lifejackets at all times, stay roped together in at least threes, and not to go on deck unless absolutely necessary. That early morning of the rescue, Seaman Cary Matthews, Seaman Edward Sands, and myself took a short break in the helo hangar about an hour before we met up with the Warbler. At that time I noticed that Seaman Matthews had his shoes on the wrong feet! We could not stop laughing. After nearly twenty straight hours of being up and preparing for an operation and listening to a complainer who managed to do his job, we got to laugh a little. Strange, but I have the picture to prove it as someone had a camera handy at the time. It was not embarrassing, it was just funny!

Gary Guesto

Deckplate,

One of the most memorable times for me was when we came back in from deployment and had 28 days to get her ready to deploy again. I'm no journalist or chronographer though. The crew stood up to the challenge, banded together and made it successful. If you have contact with Steve or Patty Weld, they could be of assistance on that particular event, I would imagine. Steve was our NC and Patty the Ombudsman at the time.

Dorin Matney
RM1 (1986-88)

Steve and Patty, let us hear from you!

SOME HUMOR FROM LIFE

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and they are all different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Submitted by Rick Cohagan

**USS SCHOFIELD
REUNION
JUNE 24—27, 2004
SAN DIEGO, CA
HANDLERY HOTEL
& RESORT**

STATUS OF U.S. NAVY

As of December 16, 2003

Navy Personnel

Active Duty: 380,756

- Officers: 54,964
- Enlisted: 321,507

Midshipmen: 4,285

Ready Reserve: 152,548 (As of 31 Oct)

- Selected Reserves: 87,482
- Individually Ready Reserves: 65,066

Reserves currently mobilized: 1,585

Personnel on deployment: 33,035

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 184,131 (as of 30 Sept)

Ships & Submarines

Ships: 294

Ships Underway (away from homeport): 135 (46% of total)

On Deployment: 93 ships (32% of total)

Submarines underway: 26 (49% of submarine force)

On Deployment: 11 (21% of submarine force)

Ships Underway

Carriers:

USS Enterprise (CVN 65)-Arabian Gulf
 USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67)- Atlantic Ocean
 USS George Washington (CVN 73)- Atlantic Ocean

Amphibious Ships: Expeditionary Strike Group I(ESG) One:

USS Peleliu (LHA 5) (MEU)- Arabian Gulf
 USS Ogden (LPD 5)- Arabian Gulf
 USS Germantown (LSD 42)- Arabian Gulf
 USS Port Royal (CG 73) - Arabian Gulf
 USS Decatur (DDG-73) Gulf of Oman
 USS Jarrett (FFG 33) - Gulf of Aden
 USS Greenville (SSN 772)

Amphibious Ships: Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) Two

USS Wasp (LHD 1) (22MEU)- Gulf of Mexico
 USS Shreveport (LPD 12)- Gulf of Mexico
 USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41)- Gulf Of Mexico
 USS Yorktown (CG 48)- Gulf of Mexico
 USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55)- Gulf of Mexico
 USS McFaul (DDG 74)- Gulf of Mexico
 USS Connecticut (SSN 22)

Amphibious Ships:

USS Nashville (LPD 13)- port visit, Yorktown, VA

Aircraft (operational): 4,000+

Taken from the United States Navy web site

IMPORTANT NEW POLICY FOR NEWSLETTER

Approximately 18 months ago, we began providing a link to your newsletter on line from our web site so that those who could, would be able to download it at their convenience. Our original intent was to reduce the number of copies mailed through the USPS, therefore reducing the ever-increasing cost for postage, printing, labor, etc. In theory, it worked great. We have had a number of positive comments regarding this matter. It did in fact reduce the number of pieces of mail we sent out for newsletters. However, there turned out to be a flip side to this issue. Voluntary contributions supporting the newsletter decreased drastically.

The Schofield Deckplate is designed to be a source of information for the entire membership—supported by your contributions. It is not intended to be, nor is it, a “money-making” venture for ML&RS, Inc. It has come to the point that we can no longer continue to lose money in this area. Effective immediately, the following procedures will apply:

- The Deckplate will no longer be posted on the internet.
- If sufficient funds are not available, no newsletter will be composed. Your Reunion Chairman will be notified so he can take whatever action he deems necessary.
- Beginning with the next issue, everyone with an e-mail address on file will be sent the newsletter as an e-mail attachment instead of through the USPS. In the event that you cannot download a file attachment, please notify the newsletter editor at mlrsnewsletters@aol.com so your entry on the Schofield database can be changed back to Postal Mail. You will then receive that issue as well as future issues through the USPS.
- The newsletter's financial statement appears in every issue. Please check this each time, and if the funds are getting low, consider making a contribution to support the newsletter!

ML&RS, Inc