

# STARFLEET COMMUNIQUE

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October/November - 2007 #142

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF **STARFLEET**, THE INTERNATIONAL *STAR TREK* FAN ASSOCIATION, INC.



Emmett Plant



Wade Olsen



Sal Lizard

## Did YOU Vote?

### STARFLEET Election 2007

Ballots Due  
November 15



Joost Ueffing

#### Inside:

Check out our new design layout!  
IC 2007 Photos and Articles  
STARFLEET Annual Award Winners  
Region 6 Summit  
Executive Committee/Admiralty Board Report  
STARFLEET Marine News  
Financial Report and Tax Issue Update  
Flat Les and More!

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# "Quote" Trek

## STII: TWOK

Kirk: "There are always possibilities," Spock said...

## TOS: "The Galileo Seven"

Scotty: Mr. Spock, You said a while ago that there were always alternatives...

Spock: Did I? I may have been mistaken.

McCoy: Well, at least I lived long enough to hear that!

## TNG: "The Survivors"

Worf: Good tea. Nice house.

## DS9: "Prophet Motive"

Quark: Is there anything else I can do for you, Nagus? We just got in a shipment of quality Hupyrian beetle snuff.

Zek: Actually, I've lost my taste for beetle snuff. It might be fun for you and me, but it's no fun for the beetles!

## VOY: "Bride of Chaotica"

Janeway: Coffee, black.

Neelix: I'm sorry, Captain. We've lost another two replicators -

Janeway: Listen to me very carefully because I'm only going to say this once. Coffee - black.

## ENT: "Broken Bow"

Archer: You're from 900 years in the future, and you need MY help?

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# Region 6 Annual Summit

## And a Visit to the Future Birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk

Article and Photos By **John Schulte**  
CO, *USS Riverside*

Region 6's Annual Summit was held in Coralville, Iowa, this year on June 29th thru the 1st of July. Our hotel was decorated in a beautiful medieval motif, complete with pool, hot tub, and walk out rooms. We had almost 25 people in attendance from members across the region, as well as Admiral Sal Lizard and Matt Moyer from Region 1. Our programs consisted of our normal meet and greet on Friday, followed by morning activities, which included participating in Trek Fest XIII in Riverside, Iowa, a short 15-mile drive from the hotel.



After the parade, many of our members participated in the costume contest, met interested attendees of Trek Fest, and encouraged their participation in STARFLEET. Shortly after the costume contest,

the *USS Riverside* NCC-1660 was officially commissioned by Admiral Mike Urvand and Mayor Bill Poch of Riverside. The mayor graciously agreed to participate in the ceremony, and welcomed the *Riverside* to their town. Captain John Schulte presented the Mayor with a limited edition *Riverside* logo plaque, in gratitude for the warm welcome this crew received in the past.

After the First Watch Commissioning Ceremony, members returned to Coralville to continue the General Session. During the session, members of the region were informed of fleet-wide activities by Admiral Urvand. Commander, STARFLEET candidates were given an opportunity to talk to members, and members were directed to review candidates' web sites and encouraged to vote for the candidate of their choice.

Later, members were given the option to return to Trek Fest or lounge around the spacious hotel grounds. After the evening banquet, Region 6 conducted their annual awards ceremony. Awards were given to:

Shuttle of the Year:  
***Shuttle Riverside* NCC-63541/01**

Mothership of the Year:  
***USS Saint George* NCC-63541**

Chapter of the Year:  
***USS Czar'ak* NCC-1798-A**

Enlisted Member of the Year:  
**Crewman Erin McMichael,**  
***USS Imperium***

Junior Member of the Year:  
**Lt (jg) Trent Schulte,**  
***Shuttle Riverside***

Officer of the Year:  
**Commander Shawn McMichael,**  
***USS Imperium***



Commanding Officer of the Year:  
**Captain John Schulte,**  
***USS Riverside* NCC-1660**

Flag Officer of the Year:  
**Captain Cynthia Henry,**  
***USS Czar'ak* NCC-1798-A**



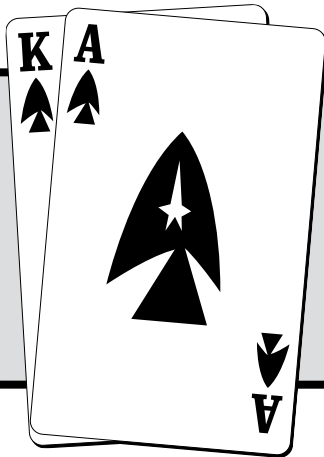
...and Party Barge was awarded to the ***USS Riverside* NCC-1660.**

After the awards ceremony, many members played games, retired to the pool, and most participated in the Trek themed fireworks in the town of Riverside. The fireworks were performed by the Stumptown Shooters, and sponsored by the Riverside Area Community Club.

Our summit concluded with a poolside breakfast gathering and planning for the following year's activities. Trek Fest is planned for the last Saturday of June every year. The *USS Riverside* plans to lend a helping hand to the Riverside Area Community Club next year in support of Trek Fest XXIV.







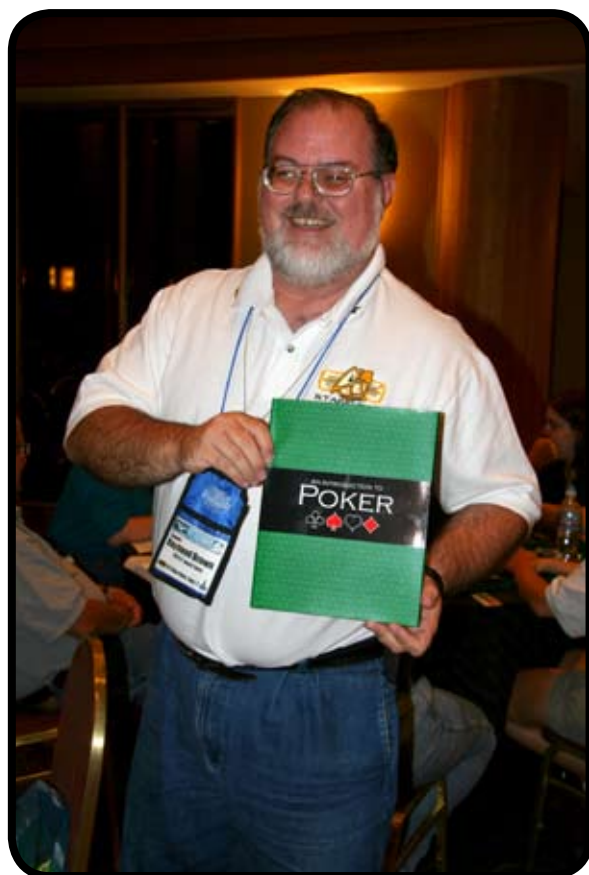
# STARFLEET HOLD 'EM

## "All-In" For Charity At IC 2007

By **David Horst**  
IC Gaming Chair and Tournament Director

They bet, raised, bluffed, and went all-in for National Jewish Medical and Research Center. Eighteen players came to play Texas Hold'em for Charity, but before we got started, we had our first casualty. The journey to get here proved too arduous for Robert Westfall (lack of sleep and long hours of travel), but as a parting gift, he got a Ghost Rider "Team Blaze" hat. Thanks Robert!

Our first player out was Ray Brown. He fought hard, but lack of playable hands, and a bit of bad luck, took its toll. No one goes away empty handed here though, and he won an "Introduction to Poker" book as his prize. Watch out for him next year!



Read up, and better luck next year. Raymond Brown was the first Texas Hold 'Em casualty, earning an Introduction to Poker book as a prize. Photo by David Horst.

Everyone was a winner with additional prizes thrown into the pots of many of the hands dealt. Hard Rock guitar picks; hats from the Shane Company, *Mission Impossible III*, and *Ghost Rider*; and rare foil *Star Trek* CCG cards

were added to spice up the action. The next 6 players out got a copy of either *Cardplayer* or *Bluff* magazine and their choice of movie posters from *Star Wars Episode III*, *Star Trek*, *Night Watch* and *Spiderman III*.

Ten different ships were represented, and after more than three hours we had a champion. Martin A. Lessem of the *USS Asimov* got out to an early chip lead and never looked back. Congratulations Martin! Following closely in second was Rick Speaect from the *USS Omega Glory* and our third place finisher was Joost Ueffing of the *USS Magellan*. Rounding out the seven at the final table was Karina DeCounter in 4th from the *USS Pioneer*, Doug DeCounter in 5th also from the *USS Pioneer*, Alaya Speaect in 6th from the *USS Omega Glory*, and Jonathan Connor-Foetsch in 7th from the *USS Angeles*. Debby Horst was our final table dealer...thanks, Debby. Debby was supposed to win the tournament but had her Aces cracked. I, um ... she really wanted the first place prizes, especially the *Voyager* Print.

The total prize pool was valued at \$1,307. We greatly appreciate all the donations from Dave Foster of the *USS Tiburon*, Roddenberry.com, Starland.com, and the *USS Pioneer*. First place received a one-of-a-kind Champion Bracelet, (made in style of the IC Badges by Christina Sievers), *Voyager* Cast Lithograph, IC 2007 Hat (one of only 10 made), a set of episode and movie scripts, a set of Hard Rock buttons, a Hard Rock Pin, Colorado playing cards, and a \$1 Token for the Billy the Kid Casino in Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico. Total value of first place was over \$400.

Second place also got a set of scripts, IC Hat, token, playing cards, Hard Rock pin, as well as the shooting and dialog scripts from *Star Trek IV*, a set of *Star Trek* Collectable Card Game cards, and the first two books in the *Kitty* series (*Kitty and the Midnight Hour*, and *Kitty Goes to Washington*) autographed by the author Carrie Vaughn, a Hard Rock singer dude, and one of the pints with either a STARFLEET or IC logo. Total value of second place was over \$280.

Third place prizes included a set of scripts, IC hat, token, playing cards, Hard Rock pin, as well as a Hard Rock guitar dude and one of the pints with either a STARFLEET or IC logo. Total value of third place was over \$130. Fourth and fifth place got a deck of cards from Roswell, NM, one of the pints with either



Card sharks. Clockwise, starting with the fellow in black on the left: Wayne Snyder (*USS Omega Glory*), Doug DeCounter (*USS Pioneer*), Carrie DeCounter (*USS Pioneer*), Jonathan Connor-Foetsch (*USS Angeles*), Jennifer Cole (*USS Angeles*), Alaya Speaect (*USS Omega Glory*), Gaylene Speaect (*USS Omega Glory*), Jennifer Scott (*USS Omega Glory*). Photo by Max Khaytsus.

a STARFLEET or IC logo, as well as a Billy the Kid token. Everyone who entered got an entry pack with a copy of the script for the TNG episode "Peak Performance", a collectable poker chip commemorating the event, and a pencil from the *USS Pioneer*.

For the event, we raised \$380 for the National Jewish Medical and Research Center. A big THANKS to everyone who entered and supported this event. Everyone had a great time, and we were able to raise some well-needed donations for the IC charity.



Unicorn Escobedo (*USS Angeles*) watches as Martin Lessem (*USS Asimov*) and Rick Speaect (*USS Omega Glory*) battle it out for the top place. Rick's confident smile was premature. Martin walked away with everything. Photo by Max Khaytsus.



# STARFLEET Annual Awards



The last time! The Thermopylae is the final winner of the "Shuttle of the Year" Award. Starting next year, start-up chapters will be known as Shakedown Vessels.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2006 STARFLEET Annual Awards, presented at the 2007 STARFLEET International Conference in Denver, Colorado.

Annual Award winners are selected by the STARFLEET Executive Committee from the nominees submitted by each Region.

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR  
**USS Haise**, Region 2

SHUTTLE OF THE YEAR  
**Thermopylae**, Region 5

MOTHERSHIP OF THE YEAR  
**USS Challenger**, Region 7

JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
**Sam Wilson**  
**ISS Saratoga**, Region 20

ENLISTED MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
**Larry Kirby**  
**USS Ronald E. McNair**, Region 1

OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
**Debi Knight**  
**ISS Saratoga**, Region 20

COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
**Eric L. Watts**  
**USS Republic**, Region 2

FLAG OFFICER OF THE YEAR  
**David Lee Kania**  
**USS Wildhorse**, Region 5

BEST NEWSLETTER - First Place  
**Subspace Communicator**  
Regional Newsletter, Region 4  
Editor: **J. Unicorn Escobedo**

BEST NEWSLETTER - Second Place  
**Angels Flight**  
**USS Angeles**, Region 4  
Editor: **Dave Mason**



Rear Admiral Jim Brunton (right), CO of the *USS Okatoma* and also a member of the *USS Haise*, accepts the "Chapter of the Year" on behalf of the *Haise* from Region 2 Coordinator Jack "Towaway" Eaton.



Admiral Bob Vosseler, CO of the *USS Challenger*, accepts the award for "Mothership of the Year." Behind him are Awards Director Liz Woolf (right) and a cardboard cutout of Fleet Admiral "Flat Les" Rickard.



Two for two for two. Rear Admiral Jennifer Cole holds up two fingers as the *USS Angeles' Angels Flight* newsletter comes in second place for a second year in a row. All photos on this page by Jon Lane.



Fleet Captain Unicorn Escobedo takes great pride in winning "Newsletter of the Year" for a second time in a row.



# Mile High IC

By **Dixie Halber**

Chief of Communications, STARFLEET

IC 2007 took place in the "Mile High City" of Denver, Colorado at the Adam's Mark Hotel this past August. Although it was a smaller crowd than in past years, it was a fun and relaxing atmosphere for the weekend.

Located at downtown Denver's 16th Street Pedestrian Mall, the Adam's Mark hotel is a 1225-room luxury hotel with ample meeting space. The hotel itself was split between two buildings and had two separate lobbies, which led to some amusing tales of misconnections. The meeting spaces were quite nice, although in a cellular dead zone. The staff was also attentive. The rooms were quite spacious; some even had sofas and love seats and plenty of room for an impromptu EC meeting. Emmett Plant even rented the "Presidential Suite" which was larger than many apartments and some houses! He hosted very nice and very comfortable parties there all weekend.

The 16th Street Pedestrian mall offered a wide variety of shopping and eating. A free shuttle bus made it easy to travel the 16-block length of the mall, but the weather was mild enough most days that it was a comfortable walk.

Friday brought with it the annual EC/AB meeting. Unfortunately, it didn't also bring VCS Mark Anbinder or his traveling companions. Having set out from Ithaca the day before, they spent all of Thursday and most of Friday traveling around the country in vain hopes of getting a flight to Denver. Their airline was besieged with delays and flight cancellations. This resulted in Mark and his away team crisscrossing the US and eventually arriving in Denver late on Friday afternoon. Mark arrived to a standing ovation at the end of the EC/AB meeting. However, the meeting did go on as planned with Jonathan "Gumby" Simmons chairing the meeting in Mark's stead and doing a fine job of it.

Friday also brought a first to the IC: the Marine Corps Mess. All reports say it was a huge success. The Commandant hopes that this becomes a regular part of future ICs.



**Live from Iraq!** Mark Anbinder (left) watches and listens as Greg Trotter calls the Commander, STARFLEET, Les Rickard, currently serving in the Middle East. In Denver, it was late morning, but for Les, it was the middle of the night. *Photos by Jon Lane.*



A charity poker tournament rounded out the rest of the Friday events. Participants had a great time and raised a nice amount for the IC charity.

The General Session opened on Saturday morning. Even though

some technical difficulties surfaced, the meeting was finished in good time. Highlights of the meeting included two separate phone calls to the meeting. Ops Chief Gumby Simmons was able to call a chapter at their commissioning party and commission them on the spot. They then proceeded to make the whole room hungry by describing the meal they were all having. Towards the end of the meeting, FADM Les Rickard was able to call in to say hello...all the way from Iraq! It was wonderful to hear his voice and everyone wished he could have been there, rather than in the desert.

After the general session, people wandered off for lunch. Later on in the afternoon there were a variety of panels, including a "Meet the Candidates" session. All four candidates for the upcoming Commander, STARFLEET election and three of the VCS candidates were there to answer questions from the attendees. It was well attended

*Continued on the following page...*



**They do run, run.** The 2007 candidates for Commander, STARFLEET (and their running mates), pose for a group photo. From left to right: Election Coordinator Jerry Tien, candidate Sal Lizard and his running mate Gary Halverson, candidate Emmett Plant and his running mate Will Devine, candidate Wade Olsen, and Dixie Halber running with candidate Joost Ueffing. *Photo by Jon Lane.*





**A solemn ceremony.** The STARFLEET Marines held a touching flag-folding and presentation ceremony to honor our friends and fellow STARFLEET members who have passed away. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

*Continued from the previous page...*

and lots of questions were asked and answered. It even went overtime a bit. The candidates, for the most part, enjoyed the experience and laughed and kidded with each other. They even posed for pictures together at the end, proving to everyone that despite everything that goes on in the election, everyone is still friends in the end.

Before the banquet on Saturday night, the Marines put on a very moving flag ceremony to honor fallen friends. Included in the ceremony were both Marines and Fleet members to signify the unity of the members.

Tim Russ was the special celebrity guest and entertained at various times throughout the

weekend. He went on stage even though he was feeling very ill for most of the weekend. He even hosted a table for some lucky fans who were able to join him at the banquet on Saturday evening.

The Adam's Mark really shined during the banquet. The food was excellent and the service quite attentive. A choice of entrees was available, including buffalo steaks, which is quite an unusual offering for banquet meals...except, apparently, in Colorado.

After the banquet was a highly successful charity auction. Whether it was so successful due to the quality of the items available or the Orion Slave Girls is still yet to be determined.

The auction gave way to room parties and wandering bands of friends gathering and talking well into the night. It's those times that remind everyone why they got into STARFLEET to begin with.

The IC wrapped up with the closing ceremonies the next morning which included a marriage proposal from IC Chair Bran Stimson to his (now) fiancée, Christina Sievers.

The IC was officially over at that point, but some people stayed for another day or two to spend



**It's not easy being green.** A quartet of alluring Orion dancers entertained folks after the banquet, helping with the charity auction, too. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

more time with their friends and to enjoy the city of Denver.

Another IC is done, and it's time to look forward to the next one: ***Onward to Ithaca!***



**Looks like a "yes."** Christina Sievers gives her new fiancé, Bran Stimson, a big hug and smooch after he proposed at the end of IC. A match made in Denver. *Photo by Jon Lane.*



**A special message.** Tim Russ signs a personal postcard for Les in Iraq. *Photo by Jon Lane.*



... and here is Tim Russ's message to Fleet Admiral Les Rickard. *Photo by Jon Lane.*



# Thank you, Denver!

By Fleet Captain **Unicorn Escobedo**  
*USS Angeles, Region 4*

Once again, another IC has come and gone. However, before everyone forgets what a great time they had, I wanted to let folks know whom to thank for showing us such a great weekend.

Starting with the Co-Chairs, Bran Stimpson and Dave Foster, gentlemen, you both did a great job of making us feel welcome to your city on the hill (a mile high hill at that). I could always find one or both of you out amongst the attendees. If there was a problem (usually the hotel's fault), one or both of you were there to hear about it and remedy it as fast as possible. I never saw either of you without your smiles and kind words to others. Bran, congratulations to Christina and yourself on your engagement. What a wonderful highlight at the closing ceremonies of the Conference.

Who could forget the woman behind the table (that seemed never to be in the same place twice), Jennifer Scott? Not only did she make sure you received your Registration packets, but she was also the one who helped with the sales of the various and many IC keepsakes (which I seemed to have lots of). And she assisted with making sure those of us who had orders from the Quartermaster got those packages too.

Audi Jack and Jennifer Sontag were the Hospitality team. Both of these women always had a smile and time to share a few words with you, even though I



**The Denver STARFLEET International Conference 2007 committee and staff.** Left to right: Gary Hudson, Andy Wolf, David Horst, Wayne Snyder, Debby Horst, Dave Foster, Christina Sievers, various plush mascots, Will Keebaugh, Bran Stimpson, Audi Jack, John Roberts, Joe Hinson, and Jennifer Sontag. Missing: Andrea Foster, Max Khaytsus, John Roberts, Jennifer Scott, and Carol Stewart. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

never got to seem them relax, as they were busy making sure everyone was having a good time. Audi was also the Charity Liaison, where I got some great plaques at a bargain.

Although I'm not a Marine or even a reservist, I must say that John Roberts did a great job of getting the Marines together for the various ceremonies and parties. A great group of men and women, they looked really good in some of the best uniforms I saw all weekend.

could purchase, she was the woman behind it all. I'm speaking of Christina Sievers, the IC Graphics Designer. FABLOUS work and congratulations to you also on your engagement to Bran.

Although I don't dance much anymore, I heard the Federation Ball was a success and much fun, thanks to Debby, who also was the Dead Dog party hostess...another person with a great smile and friendly personality. It was fun and memorable. Her husband, David, was the Gaming Chair and made the poker tournament a lot of fun from what I saw. I was too cheap to buy in (too many trips to the IC trinket table and the charity auction), but nonetheless, there was great energy and fun in the room.



**"It's said that no man can resist them..."** But we're not exactly sure this is what they meant by that, as Andy Wolf gets his funk on with the Orion dancers...sort of. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

Wow... where do I start with this next woman? Most times you never knew she was in the room, for it is her style to be seen but not heard. And seen she was, everywhere. Starting with the FABLOUS graphics, name badges and many IC items one

I never got to make it to the Panels, but I still hear there was a wide selection to attend, and many people did, thanks to Wayne Snyder, the Panel/Lecture Chair.

When it came to making you laugh and bouncing off everything from walls to ceilings, I have to say a big thank you to Andy Wolf. He played a major role getting Roddenberry.com to be a sponsor and donate nearly \$10,000 worth of items to the

*Continued on the following page...*





**Over \$1,000 raised for charity!** IC 2007 was not just a success for STARFLEET, but also for the National Jewish Medical and Research Center. Charity Liaison Audi Jack (left) presents a check to the National Jewish representative. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

*Continued from the previous page...*

registration packets and auction. Now, can you folks stop giving that man caffeine and let him take a rest?

To Max, the IC Treasurer, thanks for keeping track of the monies, and here's wishing you the best when you close the books.

And last, but by far no means least, a BIG THANK YOU to Joe Hinson and his crew, Will ( the Furry Guy) and Carol, who made sure we got to the IC and back to the airport. These folks spent most, if not all day Thursday, Friday, and Monday, making a one hour drive (each way) to the airport and back to make pick-ups and later to return folks. Good people who were usually the first and the last folks of the IC we saw, and again always with smile on their overworked and very tried faces.

I cannot forget Mr. Tim Russ himself, who was the friendliest, most down-to-earth, and most generous guest I've ever meet at an IC or any convention I've attended. How he did it all weekend with his schedule (filming his new series in one state, attending the big Con in Vegas and then flying to Denver) with little to no sleep was amazing. He was always available for an autograph (and lots of them



**Smile and say "neck pinch"!** Tim Russ (right) takes one of many "buddy" shots, this one with Joost Ueffing. *Photo by Jon Lane.*

FREE) and/or a photograph. A true gentleman in every sense of the word.

Finally, I have to say thank you to Roddenberry.com, who I said earlier donated a very large amount of items to the weekend so that we all could go home with a little something extra. Eugene (Rod), your father would be proud of you, for you are carrying on the BEST legacy left to modern man.

If you, too, had a good, great, or FABULOUS time at IC07, then please take a moment to thank one or all of the above individuals for their hard work in making the weekend a success. Below is a complete list of names, e-mails and a couple of postal addresses so that you can contact them to say so. Please do.

### IC 2007 Committee and Staff Contact Information

IC Co-Chair & Programming Chair:  
Bran Stimpson - [bran@ic2007.org](mailto:bran@ic2007.org)

IC Co-Chair, Website Chair & Dealers Room Liaison:  
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Transportation Chair: Joe Hinson - [transporter@ic2007.org](mailto:transporter@ic2007.org)

Panel/Lecture Chair: Wayne Snyder - [programming@ic2007.org](mailto:programming@ic2007.org)

Entertainment Chair: Andy Wolf - [muppetfinder@yahoo.com](mailto:muppetfinder@yahoo.com)

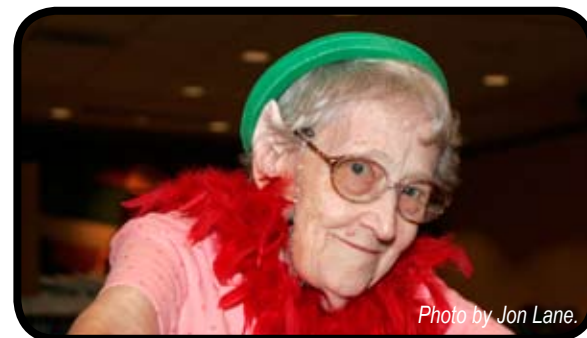
Charity Liaison: Audi Jack - [charity@ic2007.org](mailto:charity@ic2007.org)

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## IC 2007 Another Point of View



*Photo by Jon Lane.*

By Admiral Helen M. Pawlowski  
Troubadour Station, Region 12

If you got nothing else out of IC 2007, you got plenty of exercise!

The Adams Mark in Denver is so large it takes up two sides of the street. Guaranteed, whatever function you chose to attend -- sharing a lunch or listening to a debate -- whatever -- it was going to be on the opposite side of the street.

Two ways to cross that space -- dodge traffic or use underground hotel space. On the surface you braved traffic, below ground you dealt with elevators that ran between a black hole and the twilight zone. A trail of bread crumbs would have helped...

A real show of "Starfleet Spirit" occurred on Saturday night during the charity auction. Among the items up for sale was a poster of the Original Spock and Kirk -- a popular item.



*Photo by Will Devine.*

A strong bond of friendship has sprung up between the *Niagara* in Region 7 and the *Hadfield* in Region 13, and the attending *Niagara* members had determined to get the poster and present it to the *Hadfield* to be used in their upcoming charity effort for the Ronald McDonald House in Toronto.

The bidding was brisk and soon out of hand. Then, in the true STARFLEET spirit of cooperation, people started coming to the *Niagara's* table to throw money on a growing pile until the bid stopped at \$105.00 -- finally!

Thanks to all of you who chipped in. We may never know all your names, but a fine charity benefited from your team spirit and soon another charity will feel your generosity.

GO STARFLEET! I'm proud to be a member!





# See you next year!

**USS Accord** looks forward to welcoming you to the first International Conference in the Empire State! Join us next June for **IC'08** in beautiful Ithaca, New York.

Our theme is **Back to School** and we'll take full advantage of Cornell University and Ithaca College, two major institutions of higher education right here in town. We'll be joined by Rick Kline from the Cornell Astronomy department for a presentation, and have field trips to the Fuertes Observatory, the Ithaca Sciencenter, and the Museum of the Earth.

## Register now!

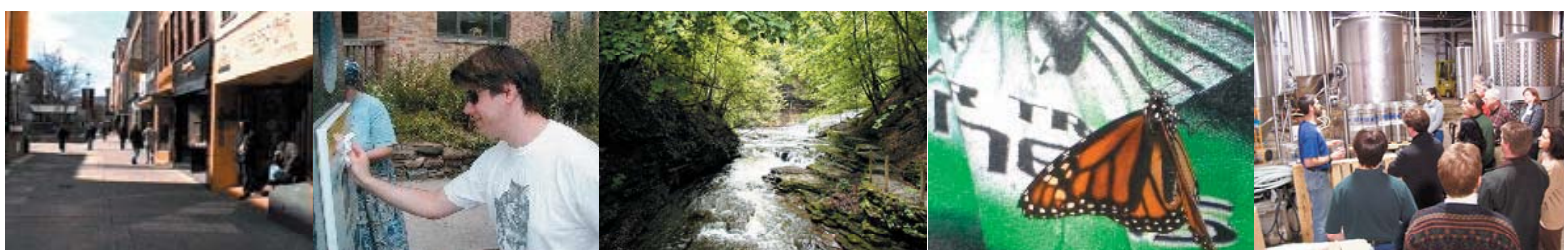
Just \$20 for a full weekend pass to IC'08 if you register before the end of 2007. See the web site for more details.

The Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn is now accepting room reservations at just \$99.95 per night.



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Hotel reservations are now available! Call the hotel or 800-272-6232 and use group code STAR for our \$99.95/night (plus tax) rate.

## Back to School!







# ATTENTION ON DECK

## SFMC

THE OFFICIAL NEWS AND INFORMATION RESOURCE OF THE STARFLEET MARINE CORPS.



### Origin of the Mess Night

The SFMC Mess Night has its roots buried deep in the traditions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century militaries of Earth. Specifically, the Royal Navy of the United Kingdom and the United States Marine Corps, although other militaries of the world used a similar concept. Mess Night (also known as Dining In, Dining Out, and various other names for those who are ex-military), an amazing chance to get together and enjoy fun and friendship (not to mention a great meal) with your fellow Marines, Fleeters and civilians.

### Concept of the Mess Night

The Mess Night or dining-in is a formal dinner for members of a military organization or unit. It provides an occasion for officers to meet socially at a formal military function. The purpose of a Mess Night or dining-in is to recognize individual and/or unit achievements or any events that are effective in building and maintaining esprit de corps to include saying farewell to departing officers and welcoming new ones. A Mess Night or dining-in may also be held to honor one or more distinguished visitors. It is important to emphasize that a Mess Night or dining-in should be viewed as a manifestation of association rather than a mandatory formation for all parties.

# MESS NIGHT: A NEW TRADITION BEGINS!

By Major General John Roberts • Commandant, SFMC

### Mess Night at IC 2007

I first proposed the idea of adding a Mess Night to the IC line up in August 2006. Bran Stimpson, IC Co-Chair asked me how many people he thought would go if we put one on the schedule. I said "25. If it's a success, we'll get maybe 30 or 35." Boy, was I WRONG! We had 48 people sign up for Mess Night and 46 were actually able to make it. A success beyond my wildest dreams.

The evening started at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail hour and cash bar. The attendees were joined by many other IC attendees for some fun and fellowship before dinner. At about 6:50 p.m., we entered the dining room and found our seats (arranged by rank). The meal was spectacular with dessert being the crowning glory in most attendees' minds. Each attendee was also given an SFMC Glass as a souvenir of the first-ever Mess Night.

During Dinner, several toasts were made to honor STARFLEET, the CS, the SFMC, and several other groups and persons. The ceremony for this Mess Night was shortened from what is published in the Dress Mess Manual (can be downloaded from the SFMC website). This was

done for two reasons: 1) limitations from the hotel on outside drink (needed for some toasts as originally presented); and 2) we wanted to ease folks into the ceremony of a full-on Mess Night. As Mess night progresses and becomes part of ICs in the future (2008 and 2009 teams are already looking at adding it to their programs), we will add more ceremony and pomp as we go until we have integrated a complete Mess Night as written.



### What was Missing?

Other than some of the pomp and ceremony as mentioned above, the only thing missing were the hacks and naming a "Goat of the Mess." The Goat of the Mess is the person at the Mess who accumulated the most hacks. Hacks are given by the Vice President of the mess for a variety of infractions: Speaking without permission, leaving the table without permission, wearing the uniform incorrectly, etc...). During some military mess nights or dining-ins, the attendees have played practical jokes on each other by having pizza delivered to the Vice President or President of the Mess (all prepaid so the delivery guy simply walks up and asks for the right person, delivers it and walks away) or some will bring a small water pistol or such and shoot their table mates then pass the gun off to another in attempt to get two people in trouble, etc... remember, the Mess is formal, but if you can do it and not get caught (or better yet, get someone else caught), then why not have a little fun? We are all here to enjoy ourselves, after all.

### What did everyone think?

Here are a few comments overheard or posted directly to me or the lists about the Mess Night:

"I was delighted with this Friday night's Marine Mess Dinner! Commandant John Roberts and the IC'07 crew together put together a wonderful event that was attended not just by members of the SFMC, but also by several non-Marine STARFLEET members who were curious to learn a little more about the Corps. The Mess Dinner featured not just a delicious meal but also a little bit of ceremony, and it was a nice treat. I'm hoping this will become an annual tradition."—Mark Anbinder, Vice Commander, STARFLEET.

"I was afraid I wouldn't enjoy it because it was a Marine event. I had a great time."—Unknown member (Overheard after Mess Night).

"I had so much fun at the Mess Night, I decided to become an active duty Marine."—Laurie McFarland, USS Anasazi, 898<sup>th</sup> MSG

"What a great night! I hope we can do this every year and see it grow with each passing year."—John Roberts, SFMC Commandant

I would like to thank the IC 2007 staff for allowing us to do the first Mess Night and everyone who attended. I hope to see many of you at the 2008 IC and Mess Night in Ithaca, New York.

# INTERNATIONAL MUSTER AWARDS

By Brigadier Linda Olson • CO, FORCECOM

Since we have just completed the International Muster 2007 and many of you are interested in what awards are possible from such an event, I thought I might try to explain some of them.

### The International Service Award

This award is issued by the COFORCECOM once a year to anyone who attends an International STARFLEET Marine Muster. We generally pass around a roster at the event for everyone to sign. Just being present at the event will earn you this award.

### Embassy Duty

This award is issued by the Brigade OIC. (Your Brigade OIC not the one for the Brigade in which the event was held). If you are attending a STARFLEET function, such as the International Conference or a Regional Summit AND you participate (not just attend) you are entitled to request this award. The key word here is participation, not just attendance. To participate you must do more than simply attend, such as work on the set up and break down, host a panel, work security and you must have done this as a Marine for the entire time. You must be recognized as a marine, wear a marine uniform or t shirt or pin at all times. You must request the award within 6 months of the event date.

### Great Barrier Expedition

This award is issued by the Brigade OIC. (again YOUR OIC not the one for the event). This award is given to Marines who have traveled **extreme** or **lengthy** travel **on behalf** of the SFMC. The distance or time involved in the travel requires a judgment call by the issuing authority, however,

if you are not making the trip to perform a function on behalf of the Corps, such as hosting a panel, presenting a class or demonstration, working security, sitting registration, etc. you do **not** qualify. You must be part of the event, not just an attendee. This award is limited to **two** per Marine per year. You may request it from your Brigade OIC if you feel you qualify and the service has been within the past six months.

### Marine Honor Guard

This award is also issued by the Brigade OIC and is limited to one award per marine per year. It is given for participation in a Color Guard Ceremony, the Final Mission Ceremony, and such things as Standing Guard on the Wall of Honor. Several marines earned this award at the IM in Denver this year. It is always a good idea to inform your OIC of any and all participation in events to be included in the unit report so that your Brigade OIC is aware when you qualify for an award. There is also an online awards request form that you may fill out to request awards when you feel you qualify. Any Marine may nominate any Marine (including himself) for consideration for an award.

If you wish to nominate your OIC for an award please use the online award request form and it will be submitted to the next link in the chain of command for consideration. An OIC is not entitled to award himself.

I hope this helps you to understand some of the awards in the SFMC. If anyone has questions concerning a particular award or the process, please email them to me at forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org and I'll attempt to answer them in a future article.

It has been a busy couple of months as I try to settle into the position, as well as taking care of multiple projects.

An issue developed with the SFMC mail server. It appears that our current web host changed mail servers. Well, this has caused many ISPs to classify mail coming from the SFMC mail server as spam, which is subsequently quarantined. In order to allow the mail through, one needs to add the following to one's white list: sfmc@newfiz.fuse969.com. If you do not know how to do this, please contact your ISP's customer service department, check the help file for your mail program, or even check the web. Besides the whole issue with SFMC mail being classified as spam, it appears there is an intermittent issue where there is extreme lag between the time mail is sent from the SFMC system and the delivery of the mail. I did some testing and in some cases it took almost 6 hours for the mail to arrive. This might be an issue on my side, but then again it might not be. So the best thing to do in this case is to wait for a couple of hours after filling out a form before trying again. If it still doesn't go through, contact me and I'll look into it.

In another issue with e-mail, I've noticed that more and more reports are being replied to. Normally this wouldn't be

an issue, but the way the web reports are set up, the forms come from the site and not the person filling out the form. This means that any replies are sent back to the webmaster of the SFMC site instead of the reporting officer. So what I did was create a new e-mail address noreply@sfi-sfmc.org. Report forms will now come from this address. Any e-mail that is sent to this address will go to an unattended mailbox. A notice has been added to the report forms that are received by the various people stating this fact.

Continuing on this vein, the report forms continue to be an issue. While the unit (MSG) and battalion forms seem to be function properly, the brigade form has not been. When I was contacted by a few people regarding the non-receipt of their copies of the forms they had just filled out, I decided to see if the SFMC database had a copy that I could then forward onto them. Well, looking at the database, it became apparent that something was not working. Instead of populating the database with

the information typed into the form, the database was being populated with the actual form variable for which it was supposed to be recording the data. So, I began looking at that data and the form trying to track down the error. I eventually traced the error back to a change that was made to the brigade report form that was made sometime in June of last year (this is when the incorrect data started being populated into the database). So this means that from June of last year there are no brigade reports stored in the database. However from the next reporting period on the data should be stored in the database. I'll continue to monitor the situation and in order to do so I've added myself to the recipient list for the form. I will remove myself once I am satisfied that the form is working correctly.

For some reason it is always the forms that cause the most trouble. Aside from the problems with the brigade report form there was an issue that developed with the Awards Request form. The issue

was that while the nominator would pick the correct award, the award listed in the e-mail would be incorrect. I traced this error back to a change I made in the sorting order to display the awards in order of precedence. I had to revert the sort order back to the way it was before the change, which means that the awards are out of order, but the form now works.

When I'm not fixing things, I'm working on projects for the future. I am continuing to work on a new SFMC web site. The site is almost done; I only have to work on the report forms and the main SFMC site will be done and ready for beta testing. While that site is in beta testing I will be working on creating a new SFMCA site. Once that site is done and both it and the SFMC site have been beta tested, I will then begin the process of moving the SFMC sites to a new web host. I will be putting out a call for beta testers in the near future.

Ladies and gentlemen of the Corps, I'm here to serve you and to that end, I maintain an open door policy. If you need to contact me for anything please feel free to contact me at infocom@sfi-sfmc.org. I'm also willing to help any unit out there that needs help with their web site. Just drop me a line and I'll see what I can do.

End Transmission...

# INFOCOM REPORT

By Brigadier General Sean Niemeyer • CO, INFOCOM

## HOW TO START AN MSG

By Brigadier Linda Olson • CO, FORCECOM



I have been working in the database this past week trying to locate all our "unassigned"

Marines. You may have received a sort of form letter from me concerning your status and your desire to join/form an MSG or MEU. I appreciate those of you who have replied, either wishing to join/form a unit or graciously declining.

I just wanted to make sure that all STARFLEET members who wish to participate in the Marines have the opportunity. I have found some confusion as to how this can be done. Therefore I would like to attempt to clarify this for anyone interested enough to read this article.

In order to be a STARFLEET Marine you **must** be a member in good standing with STARFLEET, the International STAR TREK Fan Association, Inc. That is about the only requirement.

If you are a member of a chapter that already has an MSG (Marine Strike Group) you merely need to find out whom the OIC (Officer in Charge) of the unit is and have them add you to the roster. An email to myself will get you assigned to that unit in the database. Before I can assign you to a unit I have to make sure that you are affiliated as a Marine, either a Reserve (you wish to continue to use the Naval ranking system and uniform as your primary) or as an Active Marine (you wish to change to

the Marine ranking system and uniform). Now, even Active Marines may wear STARFLEET uniform whenever they wish to do so, but doing so may eliminate you from qualifying for some awards for a particular event.

If you are a member of a chapter that does **not** already have an MSG and you would like to start one, you need permission from the CO of the chapter. Then you can contact me or the Brigade OIC for your area (each Region = a Brigade of the same number). You would need to select a number to designate your unit from the numbers allowed to the Brigade to which your unit will belong. You will need to select a **nickname** by which your unit will be called and a motto that your members feel means something to them. Examples of this are the 674th Dragon's Fury, "There is no fury like a dragon scorned" or 214th the Black Sheep, "He who endures, conquers" or the 882nd Glory's Chosen, "Remember the Fallen." Some units don't have a nickname and some don't have a motto. But it is nice when the unit has these things to identify with.

If you are a member of a chapter that does **not** have an MSG and **does not want** an MSG attached, you may join another chapter's MSG as a member, but you may **not** hold the position of OIC or DOIC of that unit. This also goes for a member who wants to participate as a marine but is not assigned to a STARFLEET chapter

at all. The other option that is available to members of chapter which do not want an MSG or members who do not belong to a chapter at all is to form an MEU (Marine Expeditionary Unit). This unit is a stand alone marine unit, not affiliated with any chapter in fleet. Any MSG or MEU may have as few members as **one single** marine or as many as wish to join.

The major requirement for being an MSG or MEU is to **file** the bi-monthly report. These unit reports are due to the battalion OIC of your area on the **first day** of every **even** numbered month only. This means that on the 1st of February, 1st of April, 1st of June, 1st of August, 1st of October and the 1st of December, you need to go to the SFMC website find the online report form and fill it out. It has specific sections that require information to allow us to gauge what is happening within the Corps. There are places to list the unit number, battalion, and brigade. This is very important as it determines where the report gets sent. There are places to put the nickname, motto, and chain of command information and the roster info. Then there is a place to put information about what your people have been doing. Some of this information can be used to determine if the members qualify for awards. There is a separate online form for requesting awards for Marines also.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, check out the Marines website, it

is accessible from the sfi.org site and contains a lot of information in the MFM (Marine Force Manual) that will enhance your enjoyment of being a member of the SFMC.

If you think you would like to start an MSG or an MEU please feel free to contact me at the address below and we will work together to get you started. Please remember that any unit will need to clear their number, nickname and motto thru this office to insure that it is not being used by any other unit in the Corps. This is also standard procedure for changing nicknames and mottos. Just drop me a line and we will check with the heraldry information on file to insure your uniqueness.

Another unit that is now available in the Corps, is the MTU (Marine Training Unit). This unit is for the cadets of an MSG or MEU. It shares the same unit number as the parent unit, but can have its own nickname and motto. There are also awards for cadets only and classes that they can take at the academy. Any existing (or new) unit that would like to explore the possibility of a cadet MTU attached to their unit, may also contact either myself or your Brigade OIC for further information or check out the MFM on the web site.

Linda Olson  
CO Forces Command SFMC  
forcecom@sfi-sfmc.org





From the Office of the

## Commander, STARFLEET



By Fleet Admiral **Les Rickard**,  
Commander, STARFLEET

Greetings.

Welcome to the post IC2007 issue of the *Communiqué*. As with past issues, I find myself sitting in my rack, what serves as my home here in Iraq, trying to decide what I should report on. This issue will have reports from the EC covering various topics, from IC to more serious issues like our current tax issues with the State of Texas. I will hit on a number of things briefly and let those handling the issues directly cover them in more detail. But let me start with something that strikes home and is important to you as a member and to me as a husband and father to be.

### DEMOBILIZATION

As I write this, I am, indeed, sitting in my rack – in Iraq. I am finishing this up and then I am preparing to demobilize from my mission here and head home. The reason for this is my wife, Heather, is having some significant health issues that places her on bed rest with no one to care for her or my stepdaughter, Riley. I received a Red Cross Emergency Message the week after IC2007 with the problem, and the command here has been working on it since then.

Within a few days of writing this I expect to find myself on the way back home, via helo and commercial air. I will, likely, not be back in NC immediately as I have to go through a demobilization station before returning home and to my home command. By the time you read this, I should already be home and caring for my family.

I am somewhat conflicted by this as I am very proud of my service here, and the job I am doing is important to the success of our mission here and elsewhere in the war on terror. But at the same time, I know that the things I have done since arriving here have had an impact on our overall mission, and I am satisfied that I have served faithfully and diligently. It is time to go home and take care of my family and let my fellow shipmates continue the mission. They will be in my prayers and thoughts every day, and I will ask my family, fleet and blood, to keep all of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen working hard in Iraq in theirs as well.

### IC 2007

This issue is chock full of IC content and pictures including,

I believe, some pictures of my rather one-dimensional appearance in Denver. Yes, that's right, I made the IC in the form of a large cardboard cutout courtesy of my Chief of Staff, Greg Trotter. He reports that I had a great trip out and back from IC, and along the way took pictures with a lot of different people and in a lot of different places. As I have not seen close to all of the photos yet, I am eager to see where my doppelganger appeared.

Since I wasn't really there and can't really comment on the actual event, let me say a few things about what I have heard. First of all, I am told I should congratulate the entire IC2007 Committee for an outstanding event. Like any IC or Summit, there are always speed bumps as well as things you see that you would have planned differently after seeing it in action. But, like I said, that is normal and we work through them. Congrats to the IC Committee on a successful event. In the coming weeks, we will be working with the IC Committee to close the books on the IC and move forward to the end of the year.

I am very sorry I could not be there, but the US Navy had other plans for me, and I was still in Iraq during that weekend. But let me say that I did get a chance to attend, via phone, during the ECAB meeting, General Session and Closing Ceremonies. I cannot tell you how great I felt hearing the shouts and cheers during General Session. I got a tear or two in my eye and was glad I got to talk to and hear from my Fleet family.

I am looking forward to attending, with the family, next year's IC08 in Ithaca, New York, hosted by the *USS Accord*. I have no doubt it will prove to be a fun weekend filled with food, fun and fellowship. Then, as was announced at IC07, in 2009 IC will return to Greensboro, North Carolina, for STARFLEET's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Many may remember North Carolina hosted Fleet's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party in Charlotte in 1999. We plan to top that weekend and provide an outstanding weekend.

Congratulations go to this year's honorary and lifetime membership awardees. Receiving this year's honorary membership award and a three-year paid membership were Carol Thompson and Ed Nowlin. Receiving this year's lifetime membership award was my first RC and good friend, Linda Smith from Region One. Congratulations to these members who received deserved recognition for long time service and dedication to STARFLEET. I would also like to congratulate all of the annual award winners and promotions, a list of which is located elsewhere in this issue.

I wish I could have been there to personally congratulate all of this years deserving awardees. But let me say here that I am always proud to see the hard work members of Fleet undertake for their fellow members and chapters as well as the communities in which they live.

### TEXAS TAX ISSUE

CFO Liz Woolf will report on this issue at length, as she did at the IC, and give some specifics. Let me speak in some general terms about what I think regarding this.

First and foremost, let me echo something I said on the fleet list and other places. We will not be concerning ourselves with who or why this was reported to the authorities without benefit of advising us that it was occurring. I have some personal feelings on the "why's," but they are not germane to the issue at hand – we are operating incorrectly and need to make changes to come into compliance with state sales tax laws.

Initially, we formed a taskforce to look into the issue, and it continues to discuss the issue. However, The EC will be, and likely already have by the time this reaches you, hiring a professional tax attorney in the state of Texas to handle this on our behalf. The attorney will review and make recommendations on how we can come into compliance with state tax law not only in Texas but elsewhere. When these recommendations are provided, they will be reviewed by the ECAB and then enacted in order for us to be able to do business once again.

Let me be clear about something here. We will not carry out actions that are contrary to the law. If that means making radical changes to the structure of the organization, then we will do so – because otherwise we are operating in contravention to the law of the land. I will not allow that, and I am sure no one in STARFLEET would disagree with me there. These changes, whatever they may be, will be reported in full to the membership in order to maintain full disclosure. Nothing less will happen.

Let me thank CFO Liz Woolf, her finance team and the finance taskforce for their hard work going through this and making recommendations. We are continuing to work on this issue and will resolve it – one way or the other. Everyone's patience while we do so is appreciated.

*Continued on the following page...*

## MISSION, FAMILY, FLEET

Recently, I responded to an email regarding my timely response to some emails on an email list. While the list in question was not one I was on, I agree that I should do my best to answer or have someone answer with my information as quickly as possible. That said, they also commented on how my priorities should be Fleet since I had chosen to remain CS and serve on deployment in Iraq.

Now, I can understand and certainly have been in the place where I thought my issue was important enough to get an immediate answer. The reality is that this is not always possible, even under the best of circumstances. The root of my response was to highlight my priorities – Mission, Family, Fleet.

My mission in Iraq was first and foremost on my mind every moment of every day. The word of the day, every day, was "Vigilance." We were always cautioned to remain vigilant to our surroundings, our missions and anything that could cause harm to us or our coalition brothers and sisters. Failing to keep mission first could result in serious consequences, including the death of fellow military personnel. My mission was always first because it was my intention to return home with everyone that I came with, everyone no worse for wear – physically anyway. That mission is still there for my fellow shipmates, soldiers and airmen carrying out the mission in Iraq.

My family came in a photo finish second place with my mission. It was important to ensure that the family back home was aware that I was okay and carrying out my mission successfully. It was important to ensure that communication with family happened as often as possible. So, when it came down to prioritizing who I called or emailed during the times I had, to that my family received first priority. It was my job to ensure they felt secure in my relative safety and could hear from me as often as possible, knowing I was safe and unharmed.

The Fleet, yet again, came in a third place...so close it was hard to see it wasn't a tie with my family. Fleet, indeed another part of my family, is as important to me as any other single group of people except for my real family. My duties to STARFLEET are important to me, and I worked very hard to ensure that I had an outstanding group of people standing with me on the EC to complete this mission and stand down as Commander, STARFLEET.

But understand that, in the scheme of things, my mission in Iraq and my family had to come first. There was no way that there would be a change in that priority – no matter what anyone said or did. But I am hopeful and sure that most, if not all, members understood my priorities and commitments. Luckily, I had an outstanding VCS, EC and Chief of Staff to keep me informed and on track. But now I am home and in an element where I can get more done, even in the presence of some concerns over Heather's and Tucker's health.

## 2007 ELECTION

I have nothing to say about it other than, "Good Luck and be careful now, ya hear?" <G>

## SOME THANKS

I need to, once again, thank some people.

First and foremost is Vice Commander, STARFLEET Mark H. Anbinder. Mark has worked hand-in-hand with me in running Fleet while I was in Iraq. He made it possible for me to be there and do my duty. He served as the US counterpart to a truly International STARFLEET Headquarters – the first ever. Mark ensured that when a decision needed to be made immediately, he did so, knowing I had full faith in those decisions. When at all possible, we interacted about problems, concerns and issues – working together to resolve them. Mark, thank you for your friendship and your dedication to Fleet as my VCS. You made my time in Iraq easier to handle as CS. I look forward to finishing this term with you as my partner.



"Flat Les" enjoyed the IC. Photo by Jon Lane.

I want to thank Greg Trotter, my Chief of Staff. He worked with Mark to keep my desk cleared and tidy. He ensured I was getting things that need to be handled. He provided me summaries of the events going on so that, on my off days, I could easily review and deal with them. Greg's dedication to STARFLEET Headquarters and me during the deployment to Iraq was instrumental in its success. The International STARFLEET HQ concept we developed to deal with my deployment was his design. It worked well, considering the challenges of time difference, work schedule and my off base commitments we had to face. Greg, thanks for your consistent words of encouragement, support and hard work during my time in Iraq. I am glad to have you here, you are indeed my "Leo" for those that are familiar with "The West Wing". You and others have consistently been there to jump down into that hole with me and I can't be prouder of that. Thanks for jumping off that cliff for me pal.

The STARFLEET Executive Committee deserves a lot of credit and kudos for their work under the less-than-ideal circumstances. Each and every EC member has served with distinction during the time I have been away – and certainly before. They have all met challenges unique to my deployment and met them head on and with courage. The

motto on the unit patch from my deployed unit is "One Team One Fight." This group, from the VCS to the CFO, have indeed personified that motto as well. So this term's EC will indeed adopt that motto: "One Team One Fight." Thank you all for your service and dedication to Fleet; it reflects on your character and no one can take that from you – ever.

The Admiralty Board, a board that can be at odds with the EC and itself at times, has been supportive and understanding during the deployment. They understood that, in many cases, Mark would be working on issues after having discussed them with me. They were also very supportive of him during my leave prior to deployment to theater. Thanks goes to all of them for their dedication to the membership and willingness to work with me and the HQ team to get the job done despite my great distance and such.

The membership of STARFLEET deserves a lot of credit for me continuing on as CS after deploying with the US Navy. I received emails, letters, packages and words of support while visiting Fleetchat in IRC. The members, whom I only want to serve as best I can, made it easy. They deserve a lot of credit for my ability to continue as CS while in the desert as a "sand pirate."

Finally, there are four people who, without their love and dedication, I could not have done it. My wife Heather, my son Zachary, my stepdaughter Riley and little Tucker who will be here in October were a constant source of love and support during my time in Iraq. These four people made it possible for me to do the things I did in country and maintain the strength of heart to keep fighting, not only in Iraq but here at home as Commander, STARFLEET. They will continue to be my main support system as I work for Fleet these remaining few months. Heather, Zach, Boo and Trip, I love you and I thank you for being there to support me while I complete two very important missions.

## FINAL WORD

Well, I will close this with a simple quote from the bible that got me through my time in Iraq. I wore it around my neck on my dog tag chain along with a St. Christopher given to me by Zachary before leaving for Iraq:

***"I will be strong and courageous. I will not be terrified or discouraged; for the Lord my God will be with me everywhere I go." Joshua 1:9***

I will continue to wear this around my neck to remind me of my time there, as well as my dedication to the important things and my victory over despair, discouragement and fear.

That's about all I have to say about that....

FADM Les Rickard  
Commander, STARFLEET





From the Office of the

## Vice-Commander, STARFLEET



By General **Mark H. Anbinder**  
Vice-Commander, STARFLEET

### Back from Denver!

Those of you who made it to IC 2007 in Denver probably heard a little bit about the travel difficulties three members of *USS Accord's* contingent faced on the way. I'm glad to say the trip home was completely uneventful and on-time!

Happily, the IC itself wasn't uneventful — it was a fun-filled weekend that gave lots of us a chance to meet people, new and old friends alike. I was particularly pleased to get to spend some time with folks I'd never met before in person, or had only met briefly, before this weekend. Combine that with the opportunity to catch up with long-time friends, some good food, and a little bit of exploration of the surrounding area, and it was a great weekend.

One big highlight for me, and judging by the cheers I could tell for lots of other folks, was the "visit" from Fleet Admiral Les Rickard, who was able to call in from Iraq for the General Session and the Closing Ceremonies. I know Les really enjoyed hearing those cheers, and I'm sure by the time you read this, he'll have gotten to hear from lots of you by mail.

### Up Next

Among the topics of conversation at this year's IC was next year's IC, and of course the year after. As IC Liaison, I was privileged to announce that STARFLEET's 2009 International Conference will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina. (In fact, Les is one of the organizers!) We'll be marking the 35th anniversary of STARFLEET, and the 40th anniversary of mankind's first visit to the Moon. Check out [orwww.ic2009.org](http://orwww.ic2009.org) for more info about IC'09.

But first, *USS Accord* territory and the Ithaca Airport Ramada Inn (familiar to WGW attendees) is the site for IC 2008, next June. IC chair Dan Adinolfi, as well as Will Devine and Alec Frazier, did a great job of holding down the fort in the IC'08 hospitality room in Denver, and signed up lots of attendees. If you haven't registered yet, I hope you'll visit next year's IC site at [www.ic2008.org](http://www.ic2008.org).



General Mark H. Anbinder. Photo by Jon Lane.

### Bulletin from HQ

As you know, Les and I have been sharing a "combined" Headquarters role this year, to simplify things while he's serving overseas, and I'm frequently called upon to handle some items that would traditionally be in the Office of the CS instead of the Office of the VCS. One result, as I talked about at IC, is that a few items that would normally get plenty of attention have gotten short shrift. With thanks to Michael Klufas and Greg Trotter, we've been catching up on some of these things.

In the Office of the VCS, both the Youth Services Coordinator and International Charities Coordinator posts are awaiting new

appointees. Job opening announcements went out in the last issue of *Communiqué*, but production delays on the CQ mean those posts have yet to be filled as of this writing.

Youth Services is an issue that's gotten a fair amount of attention, and we're hoping to resolve some of the lingering questions once we have a new coordinator appointed. (In other words, we don't want to make any decisions on behalf of someone who's about to start the job; we want that person involved in the decisions!)

As for Charities, until we have a new coordinator there, please send any reports on your chapter's charitable activities to VCS Chief of Staff Michael Klufas at [vcs-cos@sfi.org](mailto:vcs-cos@sfi.org).

### Election Season

At the International Conference in Denver, many of us had a chance to see the public "meet the candidates" forum, hosted by Jerry Tien and Ray Brown, and hear from each of this year's four candidates for the office of Commander, STARFLEET. I'm hoping anyone who *wasn't* there will take a moment to watch the video of that session, and/or read through the archives of the election discussion list that's been running for a few months.

Even better than the organized forum, to be honest, was the chance to chat with each of these four friends in person. I truly think each of the four candidates could do a good job as CS, and I hope you'll take the time to learn as much as you can about them and their plans for Fleet before making a decision.

Whatever your decision, please don't forget to vote! STARFLEET members get the opportunity to elect their new leadership just once every three years, and it's important that we all take that privilege — and responsibility — seriously.



# Around the Fleet...



**It's good to be the acting Commander, STARFLEET.** VCS Mark Anbinder enjoys some of the privileges of rank at IC 2007. Photo supplied by Mark Anbinder.



**Oh say, can you see?** STARFLEET members rise for the National Anthem at the beginning of the IC 2007 General Session. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Starship may also be used as a floatation device.** Tom Pawelczak's son-in-law Craig enjoys a beer aboard the *USS Enterprise* at USS Niagara's pool party in August at Tom and Bridget's house. Photo by Mark Anbinder.



**What a coincidence - they wore the same thing!** Alex Rosenzweig and Ray Brown chat before the start of the General Session at IC 2007. Photo by Jon Lane.



**They have such spiffy uniforms.** The STARFLEET Marines bring in the flags to begin the General Session of IC 2007 in Denver. Photo by Jon Lane.



**It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood.** Members of USS Accord get together for a BBQ on a perfect June day in Ithaca, NY. Photo by Danielle Fuld.



**Larry, the video guy.** Larry Barnes sets up the video feed for the General Session at IC. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Remember to send hi-resolution digital images of your  
Chapter or Region's best events to: [cq@cq.sfi.org](mailto:cq@cq.sfi.org)  
(make certain you include captions, names of people in the photos, and credit the photographer)**



**Sacred site.** Members of the *USS Angeles* pose at Vasequez Rocks, a frequent shooting location for *Star Trek* north of Los Angeles. The crew was being filmed as part of a documentary on Trek fans. Photo by Susan Fox.



**I'm Gumby, dammit.** STARFLEET Chief of Operations Jonathan "Gumby" Simmons rallies the troops IC 2007 in Denver. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Flipping the Great Bird.** One of the lovely Orion women shows off this item during the IC charity auction. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Puttin' on the ritz.** Michael and Kris Klufas look mahvelous before the IC 2007 banquet. (Mike is always funnier in Ukrainian.) Photo by Will Devine.



**Psst, the auctioneer is a married man.** STARFLEET Chief of Staff Greg Trotter works with his "special assistant" during the IC charity auction. Photo by Jon Lane.



**"Towaway" Elvis has entered the building.** Region 2 Coordinator Jack "Towaway" Eaton looks cool addressing the IC 2007 General Session. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Here comes Santa Claus.** Sal Lizard enters the IC General Session. Photo by Jon Lane.



**Time to order new stationery.** Tom Pawelczak (left) being promoted to the rank of Fleet Captain by VCS Mark H. Anbinder at *USS Niagara's* pool party in August at Tom and Bridget's house. Photo by J.C. Cohen.



From the Office of the

## Chief of Operations, STARFLEET



By Admiral **Jonathan Simmons**  
Chief of Operations, STARFLEET

### Fleet Status

As of August 15th, 2007, we have 3,759 members and 230 chapters of STARFLEET.

### New Commissionings at IC 2007

Please join me in welcoming the following new chapters:

- *USS ROBINS*, Region 2  
Colonel Oliver Savander, Commanding
- *USS TIBERIUS*, Region 2  
Captain R. Michael Sleet, Commanding
- *USS SOUTHERN CROSS*, Region 11  
Colonel Bruce O'Brien, Commanding

### MSR Reporting Totals

- June – 86%
- July - 83%

### Correspondence Chapters

Admiral Michell Fanelli reports that we now have a total of 46 Correspondence Chapters in the Fleet with more on the way. Go Correy!

### Chapter Support Services

Chapter Support Services is fully up and running. We've successfully helped one understrength chapter pull back up, and they are doing nicely now. Two more chapters have requested help, and we are working with them to help. If your chapter needs support, please let us know at [ops@sfi.org](mailto:ops@sfi.org).



Admiral "Gumby" Simmons. Photo by Jon Lane.

### MSR info

Recently there has been some confusion as to MSRs being logged as received by some RCs. So to clear up the confusion, here is the way we do things. When you file your MSR via snail mail or email, it is marked as received, then reporting officers or COs get a confirmation email from OPS. From there it will be entered into the database (DB) by myself or Commodore Steve Bowers, who is the MSR Coordinator. At the end of the

reporting period (10th of each month), Steve logs the totals and begins to enter the MSRs into the DB manually. This usually takes a couple days. So if an RC checks the MSR Review Tool in the DB \*before\* the MSRs are entered, all he or she will see are those chapters that actually use the DB for filing their MSR. This has recently led to an RC telling chapters that their MSR was not received by OPS and subsequently, we got doubles and triples of MSRs resent to us.

If you got a confirmation email from OPS, then your MSR has been logged as received. If you did not, please email me at [ops@sfi.org](mailto:ops@sfi.org) so that I can find out what the issue is.

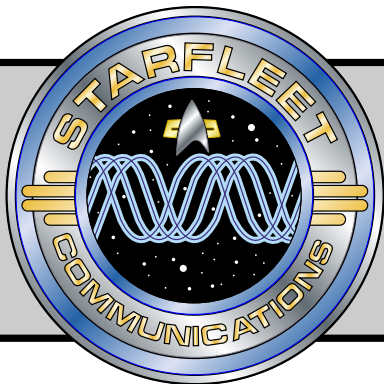
COs and reporting officers could help us out by using the DB to file your chapter's MSR. That saves us from having to input it manually. There is a Database MSR Tutorial in the START Manual for those who do not know how to submit an MSR that way, and the OPS Staff can also help walk you through the process. It's much easier than you think.

For RCs, we recommend waiting to check the MSR Review Tool until the reporting period is over. Regional Status Reports are not due until the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, and we usually have the MSRs entered well before that.

I hope that better explains the process.

Stay tuned for more exciting OPS news in the next issue!





## From the Office of the Chief of Communications, STARFLEET



By Commodore Dixie Halber  
Chief of Communications, STARFLEET

Greetings STARFLEET! I hope everyone is well. I am back and recovering from the IC. I had a great time, and it was good to get to see many of you there. If you didn't make it to Denver, I encourage everyone to look into IC 08 in Ithaca or IC 09 in Greensboro, NC. Or both!

### Newsletter Awards

One of my favorite things from the IC is handing out awards for the annual Newsletter contest. We had a lot of great entries this year. I'm always pleased to see a lot of people participating.

We awarded three newsletter awards this year. They were:

Third place: "The Scuttlebutt" - *USS Southern Cross*, Region 11

Second Place: "Angels Flight" - *USS Angeles*, Region 4

And the winner of the *USS MAAT* Award of Excellence for the second year running:

"Subspace Communicator", Region 4.

Congratulations, everyone! And to everyone who entered, good job.

### The Communiqué

Probably the biggest question on everyone's mind these days is, "What exactly is going on with the CQ?" Well, let me take a few minutes to actually tell you.

John Adcock stepped down as managing editor of the CQ recently. Prior to this, he'd been unable to complete issue 141 due to time issues. I completely understand, real life always needs to take precedence.

I asked assistant editor Emmett Plant to step in and get CQ 141 completed, as I knew that Emmett was involved in the CQ and a friend of John's, and was the best choice to get that issue completed. I am very grateful to him and his wife Stephanie for pitching in and getting CQ 141 in the hands of the members. With all the change of staff, the issue was late, but it did go out last month.

During the IC and for a little while afterwards, I began to speak with people about forming a new CQ staff. I initially approached Jon Lane, and while he felt his real life was too busy to handle the entire thing, he came up



Commodore Dixie Halber. Photo by Will Devine.

with a new approach that I felt was a great idea and a good way to spread the work of the CQ among several people. What you have in your hands now is the product of that system. What we've done is gather several capable people and assigned them a few pages of the CQ apiece. Each works on his section, then sends it to me when it's complete, and I assemble the finished document. Although we're still figuring out a few kinks in the system, it's worked out really well this time, and I am pleased with the results. And many thanks to Jon, who's come up with new templates and instructions for us to use—something that I'll be able to pass on to the next Comm Chief, whoever they may be, to continue the look of the CQ.

All that said, I'm aware that we're still behind. But we're catching up, and I'm committed to making sure the members get all the CQ issues that are due them this year.

### CQ Issue Months

Given the above, you may be confused about the months of issue on the CQ. Fear not, we're still going to publish six issues this year. The change in the month of issue was simply to better comply with the USPS regulations.

### "Attention on Deck"

I wanted to take a minute and explain about the seemingly small "Attention on Deck" that appears in this CQ. With all the turnover that's been happening on the CQ staff, there was confusion about what Marine content should appear when. The articles that were submitted for 142 were placed into 141. I'm honestly not sure where their submissions for 141 wound up. I'm certain they were sent to us on time, but not everything made the transition when John had to step down. I've worked with the Corps and offered them space if they want to rerun that content for archival purposes. I'm also very grateful to Corps Commandant John Roberts for understanding the situation, and to him and Sean Niemeyer for getting some new material for this CQ. Next issue will get things back to normal for them.

### Other Submissions

I've found a lot of submissions that were never run, and am working to clear that backlog. If you haven't seen yours yet, never fear, we're working to get it in place. This issue is largely IC. Next issue, you'll see a lot of the backlog clear up.

### That's all folks!

And with that, another column is done. Back to CQ work and I'll see you next issue.



From the Office of the

## Commandant, STARFLEET Academy



By Rear Adm. **Wayne Killough, Jr.**  
Commandant, STARFLEET Academy

Hello, Membership! Welcome back to another exciting edition of the CQ. As you can see, the CQ is undergoing some enhancements to its look and design. We hope that you enjoy the latest issue, as well as the content, news, stories, and articles. So, without further delay, on to the Academy...

### Administration

The Academy Degree Program is in the final stages of approval/design. This project has taken quite a while to complete, and we want to make sure it is the best possible program for our Students.

I would like to welcome two new additions to the Administrative/Support Staff here at the Academy. Please help me welcome Alejandro L. Barreiro Agrelo, our new Director of Electronic Services/Webmaster. Also, please help me welcome Ayled Barreda Diaz to our Arts & Graphics Department. Both members are fine additions to the Academy! Alejandro can be contacted at [abarreirouh@gmail.com](mailto:abarreirouh@gmail.com), and Ayled can be reached at [lelexbarreda@gmail.com](mailto:lelexbarreda@gmail.com).

Scholarship Applications have been reviewed, and recipients will be announced in the next issue. I would like to personally thank Sam Black for his hard work on

getting the Scholarship enhancements taken care of this year!

The Academy is finalizing our Accessibility Program (not to be confused with our College of Accessibility). The Accessibility Program will allow members with disabilities the opportunity to partake in Academy exams without having to rely



Wayne Lee Killough, Jr. Photo by Jon Lane.

on the help of others. The first phase of this project is aimed at providing exams, in conjunction with the computer, in a format for our visually-impaired members. Several members of our Team have been working on this project, with Ron Novak spearheading things. For more information on this program, please contact Ron at [hazguy36@yahoo.com](mailto:hazguy36@yahoo.com)

The Academy is bringing back our Alumni Association, and we are looking for a Director. This program will handle the

collection and processing of the Academy History, as well as producing a newsletter (either bi-monthly or quarterly). The Academy will include the Graduate List in this publication, along with highlights of the Academy, interviews of Academy Staff and Graduates, and various other topics of interest to students. This undertaking can be one member, or a team of members... but we need one Director to spearhead this project. Below are the requirements:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be capable of producing a newsletter on a timely basis.
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.
- Examples/proofs of Newsletters is a plus.

For more information on this, please contact me at [robbynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robbynhunter@mchsi.com). Applications are due by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Institute of Alien Studies

We have a new addition to the Institute of Alien Studies. The Vulcan Orientation College is now live and ready for students. I would like to thank Carol for creating this College for the Academy. Carol can be contacted at [betazoid@mosquitonet.com](mailto:betazoid@mosquitonet.com).

*Continued on the following page...*





### ***Continued from the previous page...***

I would like to welcome Richard Hewitt to the Academy as the new Director of the Romulan Orientation College. Richard can be reached at **[caphewitt@cox.net](mailto:caphewitt@cox.net)**.

I would like to welcome Jay Hurd as the new Director of the Cardassian Orientation College. Jay can be reached at **[jay.hurd@comcast.net](mailto:jay.hurd@comcast.net)**.

### **Institute of the Arts**

Running at Optimum Speed.

### **Institute of Cadet Studies**

Running at Optimum Speed.

### **Institute of Foreign Affairs**

The College of Down Under has been offline due to Internet Provider issues. Jayden is now working on getting things caught up. For information on the College, please contact Jayden at **[jayden\\_tyronian@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jayden_tyronian@yahoo.co.uk)**.

### **Institute of Intelligence & Espionage**

Running at Optimum Speed.

### **Institute of Leadership Studies**

We at the Academy are discussing a new idea for a College: the College of Diplomatic Affairs. This College would include both real-life Diplomatic/ Ambassadorial information (such as United Nations, Treaties, etc.) and *Star Trek* related topics (Ambassadors, Treaties, diplomatic situations, etc.). We are looking to find someone in the membership that would be interested in

working with the design of this College, as the Director. The requirements are:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be willing to process applications/ graduates/exams/etc. within 72-hours or less. (Note: real-life can change this when needed...but not on a regular basis.)
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.
- Must submit a layout of the College, with names of Exams, Schools (if applicable), etc.
- Must submit at least two rough draft exams.

For more information on this, please contact me at **[robynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robynhunter@mchsi.com)**. Applications are due by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Institute of Military Studies**

Running at Optimum Speed.

### **Institute of Science & Technology**

The College of Engineering is looking for a new Director. This College will need to be redesigned from the ground-up. Below are the requirements for Director:

- Must have successfully completed OTS, OCC, and FOS (or successful completion within 90 days of appointment).
- Must be willing to process applications/ graduates/exams/etc. within 72-hours or less. (Note: Real-life can change this when needed...but not on a regular basis).
- Must submit a resume with both real-life and STARFLEET-related information.

- Must submit a layout of the College, with names of Exams, Schools (if applicable), etc.
- Must submit at least two rough draft exams.

For more information on this, please contact me at **[robynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robynhunter@mchsi.com)**. Applications are due by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Institute of Science Fiction Studies**

The Institute of Science Fiction Studies is always looking for new additions. One potential addition I have tossed around to other Staff members is a College of the Comic Book Universe. This College would be broken out into Schools (School of the Marvel Universe, School of the DC Universe, etc.). If this sounds like a venture that you would be interested in, please contact both Dean Truman Temple at **[hstrymj@yahoo.com](mailto:hstrymj@yahoo.com)** and myself at **[robynhunter@mchsi.com](mailto:robynhunter@mchsi.com)**.

### **Course Development**

As always, the Academy is looking for new additions. This can be new ideas, courses, schools, colleges, institutes, staff, etc. If you have an idea for a new college, a new school within a current college, new exams within current colleges/schools, etc., please feel free to contact us. There is a new email set up specifically for Course Development: **[sfa-cd@sfi.org](mailto:sfa-cd@sfi.org)**. This email address will contact all members of the Course Development Team in one shot. We can't wait to hear from you on your new ideas!!!

Until next time!

Rear Admiral Wayne Lee Killough, Jr.  
Commandant, STARFLEET Academy  
**[academy@sfi.org](mailto:academy@sfi.org)**



From the Office of the

**Chief of Computer Operations, STARFLEET**



By Brigadier General **Susan Ueffing**  
Chief of Computer Operations, STARFLEET

Hello, STARFLEET.

I just want to thank the IC staff for the great time I had at the International Conference in Denver this year. This is the first time I can remember that we've had it in Region 17, and it was great to see the chapters of that region, along with the rest of the fleet, gather in the Mile-High City.

As this was the time for the EC's annual reports, this article will be a recount of what I gave at IC.

I came into this role last November and it's been an interesting journey ever since. I want to thank Bob Chin for making the transition very easy for me. Without his help it would have been a lot harder to assume the role with the ease I did.

Membership Processing has done a fantastic job this year. I really want to thank Chrissy Killian, Matt Ingles, and their respective teams for the wonderful job they've done this year. Chrissy has done a remarkable job with Membership Processing, especially with being an RC at the same time.

Matt Ingles has done no less than a stellar job on the east coast, as well. I was pleased to see him promoted to Fleet Captain for all the work he's done. We moved the MP address from Texas to California. If you sent something to the Texas address, don't worry as we have

a forwarding address on it right now. If you did not know we changed it, the new address is:

**STARFLEET Membership Processing**  
**PO Box 712**  
**Kingsburg, CA**  
**93631-0712**



Brigadier Gen. Susan Ueffing. Photo by Jon Lane.

Development of SFI.org continues as well. Immediate projects in the works include finalizing staffing so that regular updates can be done in a timely manner, a classified ad system, and a shopping cart system for the Quartermaster. Also in the works is an updated step-by-step process to keep the chapter listing maps updated more quickly.

The helpdesk software will be updated to the most recent version of the software to incorporate more security features and cut down on spam.

This year we also moved the database from our old host to the new one on Dreamhost. You probably will have noticed that we've had very little down time, and that time has only been when our host has needed to do system-wide maintenance on their systems. We're very pleased with the increased reliability. You also probably noticed that you no longer get that pesky notice saying the security certificate was not current. This is due to the renewal of our security certificate and its implementation when we moved the database. Overall, the move was good for us and we're happy with the results.

I want to thank Danny Potts for all of his hard work on the database and making sure that the move went smoothly. Danny is stepping back to spend more time with his family and take a much deserved break. With that, we are now looking for programmers to help with database projects, so if you have PHP, MySQL, or other online database experience, please e-mail me at **compops@sfi.org** so we can get you in touch with Mike Dugas, who is now in charge of the database.

And that is all for this issue's report. If anyone has any questions, they are welcome to contact me at **compops@sfi.org**.

Thank you,

BGN Susan Ueffing







From the Office of the

## Chief of Shakedown Operations Command, STARFLEET



By Rear Admiral **Jerry Tien**  
Chief of Shakedown Operations, STARFLEET

We have been very busy at Shakedown Operations since the last issue of the *Communiqué*. It is my great pleasure to announce six new training chapters:

*USS Atlanta* (R2) - Atlanta, GA  
ADM Michael Henigan  
mikehenigan@comcast.net

*USS Aviator* (R9) - Baasrode, Belgium  
COMM Michael Vermoesen  
michael\_vermoesen@hotmail.com

*USS Azrael* (R3) - Carville, LA  
CAPT Beau Thacker  
beau.t.thacker@us.army.mil

*USS Corsair* (R3) - Baton Rouge, LA  
FCAPT Trisha Tunis  
pirate.trisha@gmail.com

*USS El Destino* (R3) - Perryton, TX  
CMDR Rhonda Day  
co@usseldestino.org

*USS Starquest* (R2) Naples, FL  
CAPT Jeffrey Handshaw  
jeff.handshaw@collierclerk.com

Some of these chapters take the correspondence/virtual chapter concept to a new level. Take *USS Aviator*, for example. This chapter has a strong interest in the Second Life community (see <http://seondlife.com> for more details). If you have not tried Second Life before, it can be a very interesting way to participate in *Trek* fandom.

On the commissioning side, we have three chapters that have finished up their shakedown cruises:

*USS Robins* (R2) - Warner Robins, GA  
CAPT Michael Sleeth  
hoffmanite@yahoo.com

*USS Southern Cross* (R11) Waiuku, New Zealand  
COL Bruce O'Brien  
ob.one@xtra.co.nz

*USS Tiberius* (R2) St. Petersburg, FL  
COL Oliver Savander  
smirandr1@tampabay.rr.com

All were commissioned during IC 2007 weekend. These are each very active chapters in their respective regions. *USS Robins* and *USS Tiberius* expand our coverage of a healthy region, while *USS Southern Cross* joins the ranks of a rapidly growing region.



Rear Admiral Jerry Tien. Photo by Will Devine.

Whether they are in training or full chapter status, most chapters welcome new members around the fleet. Many individuals in SFI even sign on with multiple chapters as associate members. This creates an even more exciting experience as you "meet" folks from all kinds of diverse backgrounds and participate in activities that may not be available in your local chapter. Feel free to contact the chapters listed above. You may also refer to the current Vessel Registry for additional information about these chapters.

The MSR reporting rate has been great in recent

months. More and more chapters are leveraging the convenience of online MSR over previous methods. The online MSR also allows more efficient tracking of problems, which means we can mobilize all the resources to solve the problems even faster.

Since ShOC switched over from Shuttle Operations Command to Shakedown Operations Command, we have been working on a new release of the START Manual. I am happy to announce we have a new revision that will be available soon at the document center for upcoming training chapters. A new logo is also forthcoming. I think you'll like it. There was some confusion regarding the routing procedure of Vessel Registry Requests. The proper routing order is as follows:

Training Chapter  
Support Chapter  
Regional Coordinator(s)  
Shakedown Operations Command

Be sure to obtain all the required signatures and fill out the VRR form completely before submitting it to ShOC. This will avoid processing delays. Also, please note that if the support ship resides in a different region from the training chapter's, both RCs must approve the VRR before launch.

Fortunately, there's a little bit of silver lining to the regulatory issues fleet has encountered. Until further notice, all VRR fees are waived! Yes, that means both launch and commission VRR fees are waived at this point. Other requirements (OTS, OCC, crew strength) still apply, but you don't have to worry about fees for now.

Last but not least, ShOC is actively seeking members with experience in drafting (for ship schematics) and programming (PHP preferred). The first position will address the growing need to create schematics for a wide variety of ships & stations, while the second will help us to provide more electronic processing of core ShOC services. We welcome folks with all experience levels. So don't hesitate to apply. I look forward to hearing from you soon.



From the Office of the

## Chief Financial Officer, STARFLEET



By Commodore **Liz Woolf**  
Chief Financial Officer, STARFLEET

So let's start with the good news. We have money in the bank!

### Bank Balances as of June 30, 2007

Main Bank Account	\$6,699.72
Savings & Scholarship Fund	\$30,236.70
CD Scholarship Fund B	\$1,017.91
SFMC Marines	\$1,141.18
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$39,095.51</b>

As you can see by the accompanying financial report (on the following page), we did spend a bit more than we brought in during Fiscal Year 2007. Some of that can be attributed to unusual expenses in the Quartermaster Department and for equipment, and some of that is because the cost of doing business keeps increasing, as I discussed in my column in CQ140. We've got some more big expenses coming up in the near future: the Commander, STARFLEET elections, and then the cost of transferring materials to the next administration. But STARFLEET still maintains a healthy bank balance, and people shouldn't be worried about the financial health of the organization. We continue to pay our bills, we continue to fund the services that STARFLEET members expect and enjoy, and at IC07 we were able to award six scholarships. We're not going anywhere just yet.

There have, however, been a few bumps in the road, as you may have heard. If you haven't heard, then the short version of the story is that at the Region 3 Summit in Texas, a representative from the Texas State Comptroller's office showed up to question STARFLEET and Region 3 about their payment of state sales tax in Texas.

We've learned an exciting new word in STARFLEET HQ these past few months, and that word is "nexus". Rather than that nifty afterlife you go to once you've shuffled off this mortal coil, it is the status of doing

business in a state. If you have nexus within a state, then your taxable activity in that state is subject to sales tax. Here's a tongue twister the Texas State Comptroller taught us: "If you have nexus in Texas, you pay Texas taxes."

For STARFLEET, it's a complicated issue, because we operate in so many ways in so many different locations. For example, we have nexus in Alabama, because our



Commdore Liz Woolf. Photo by Jon Lane.

Quartermaster lives there. We have nexus in California because membership processing operates there. This means that someone in Alabama who buys something from the Quartermaster in Alabama should be paying Alabama sales tax, but it also means that someone in California who buys something from the Quartermaster in Alabama should be paying California sales tax. We're one organization, so any state where we have nexus impacts all activity in that state.

STARFLEET is now investigating its sales tax responsibilities throughout the United States (and yes, after that we get to figure out tax and tariff responsibilities internationally). This involves the sale of STARFLEET memberships, the sales of Quartermaster merchandise, and the extent that Regional activities impact on the

international organization. It is not, obviously, a small job.

Initially, we did what STARFLEET does best -- pull together, and pull from our immense pool of volunteer talent. We formed a Task Force to research the issues in the various states and come up with a plan. I'd like to publicly thank the men and women who volunteered their talents, time and knowledge to this task: Steve Halber, Brad Pense, Chrissy Killian, Tammy Wilcox, and Emmett Plant. I appreciate their willingness to help.

However, there comes a time when a business needs the protection that only comes from retaining trained professionals to represent and advise it. The more we investigated the sales tax regulations in the various states, the more we realized it was a tangled web of regulations and interpretation, and that it was not something a group of volunteers should be the ones to untangle. As such, we are now actively seeking an attorney with experience in multi-state sales tax issues and nexus determination to advise us as to the best steps we can take to bring us into compliance, and to keep us there.

In the interim, we've taken steps to reduce our potential liability. We've temporarily closed the Quartermaster and SFMC Quartermaster. We have eliminated VRR fees and STARFLEET Academy fees -- so if you were planning on launching a shakedown chapter or taking an SFA course, you can now do it with STARFLEET picking up the tab. We have asked the Regions to limit their potentially taxable activities. We even, for the first time, obtained sales tax licenses in STARFLEET's name for the International Conference, and remitted city, county and state sales taxes in Colorado to cover IC07's sales tax responsibility.

It's a strange new world of tax compliance, and we're entering it with baby steps, but we're on our way. By the time you read this, the CS will hopefully have identified and retained our tax advisor, who will then help us figure out what comes next. There may be changes down the road in how we do business, and how the Regions do business. But that's not something to be afraid of, because STARFLEET changes all the time. And we'll all be around for the ride.



# STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc.

## Profit and Loss Statement for Fiscal Year 2007 July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Income	
Membership Processing	
MP Scholarship Fund Adjustment	(856.00)
MP-Cash at Conferences	74.00
MP-Checks or Money Orders	6,475.00
MP-Credit Cards	24,612.69
MP-PayPal	6,500.90
MP-Replacement of Missing Check	0.00
Total Membership Processing	\$ 37,006.59
Quartermaster Sales	
Starfleet QM Sales	
QM Cash	1,340.00
QM Checks	3,030.45
QM Credit Cards	2,389.40
QM PayPal	1,379.96
Total Starfleet QM Sales	\$ 8,139.81
Total Quartermaster Sales	\$ 8,139.81
Refunds & Repayments	
DHL Refund Discount	443.49
Repayment of IC Hotel deposit	2,265.36
Return Check Fee	57.20
Total Refunds & Repayments	\$ 2,766.05
Scholarship Fund & Others Funds	
Interest Earned	1,181.84
Let Me Help Fund	0.00
Scholarship Fund Challenge	231.00
Scholarship Funds from MP	712.00
Total Scholarship Fund & Others Funds	\$ 2,124.84
SFA - Academy Income	25.00
SFA PayPal Donations	130.00
Total SFA - Academy Income	\$ 155.00
SFMC - Marine Income	
SFMC QM	0.00
SFMC PayPal Transfer of Funds	872.15
SFMC QM Sales Cash or Check	1,022.14
Total SFMC QM	\$ 1,694.29
Total SFMC - Marine Income	\$ 1,694.29
VRR Income	60.00
Total Income	\$ 51,946.58

Expenses	
Bank Account Checks & set up	
Bank Monthly Service Fee	5.87
Return Check MP	30.00
Return Check SFMC QM	42.20
Total Bank Account Checks & set up	\$ 78.07
CQ	
FedEx Shipping CQ	695.36
Postage for CQ	4,300.00
Printing of CQ	8,870.03
Total CQ	\$ 13,865.39
Equipment Purchase	
Equip for CFO	0.00
Equip for CQ	0.00
Equip for CS	1,704.50
Equip for MP	346.46
Total Equipment Purchase	\$ 2,050.96
Insurance - Bond	506.99
International Conference	
Flags	0.00
IC 2006 Merchandise	118.50
IC Awards	659.65
IC Hotel Deposits	0.00
Start Up for IC & CS Expense	0.00
Total International Conference	\$ 778.15
Processing Fee	
Membership Processing	
MP Credit Card Fees	1,010.98
Total Membership Processing	\$ 1,010.98
Monthly & Yearly Statement Fee	474.10
PayPal Fees	
MP PayPal Processing Fee	200.20
QM PayPal Fee	54.30
SFA PayPal Fee	10.71
SFMC PayPal Fee	16.48
Total PayPal Fees	\$ 361.69
QM Credit Card Fees	67.99
SFMC CC Fees	1.64
VR Fee	1.91
Total Processing Fee	\$ 1,526.31
Return Check	
Return Check - MP	15.00
Return Check QM	25.00
Total Return Check	\$ 40.00
Scholarship Fund	2,500.00
SFA - Academy	
SFA Office Supplies & Postage	0.00
Total SFA - Academy	\$ -
SFMC - Marines	
Petty Cash Postage	20.00
Quartermaster Supplies	873.29
SFMC PayPal Fee	9.57
SFMC Uniform Ribbons	446.40
SFMC Web Hosting	85.00
Total SFMC - Marines	\$ 1,434.36
Supplies	
CFO Office Supplies	217.02
CS Office Supplies & Postage	670.93
Membership Supplies	
Lamination, etc	279.07
Membership Certificates Printin	2,414.00
Membership Printing	4,261.53
MP Office General Supplies	252.80
MP Package Give A Ways	398.63
PO Box Rental	132.00
Postage	7,500.00
Postage Machine Rental & Suppli	908.74
Shipping	0.00
Total Membership Supplies	\$ 16,143.85
OPS Office Supplies	0.00
Promotion Department	366.02
QM Supplies	
Associate Advertising	11,944.93
Other QM supplies	4,070.31
Postage	0.00
QuarterMaster Petty Cash	157.00
QuarterMaster Shipping	697.27
Supplies for Office & Shipping	0.00
Total QM Supplies	\$ 16,869.51
SFA Reference Books & Office	0.00
Total Supplies	\$ 34,275.33
Voided Check	0.00
Web Hosting	99.95
Total Expenses	\$ 57,555.53
Net Income/Loss	\$ (5,608.95)

## Projected 2008 Budget

Note below that this is a proposed budget based on the policies of the current STARFLEET administration. With a new administration taking office starting in January, 2008, the actual budget for the next year may be significantly different from the projections below.

	2008 Proj.	10% worse	5% worse	5% better	10% better
Income					
Total Membership Processing	39,580.00	35,622.00	37,637.30	41,529.30	43,538.00
Total Quartermaster Sales	8,210.00	5,679.00	5,994.50	8,625.50	9,941.00
Total Scholarship Fund & Others Funds	2,880.00	2,880.00	2,839.30	3,179.30	3,219.00
Total SFA - Academy Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total SFMC - Marine Income	1,790.00	1,575.00	1,663.50	1,837.50	1,924.00
VRR Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$5,350.00	\$5,556.00	\$5,899.30	\$5,951.30	\$6,623.00
Expenses					
Total Bank Account Checks & set up	126.48	132.04	126.34	111.40	136.04
FedEx Shipping CQ	580.00	550.00	525.30	475.00	438.00
Postage for CQ	3,200.00	3,029.00	3,059.30	3,126.50	3,401.00
Printing of CQ	3,860.00	10,020.00	10,143.30	9,127.00	9,034.00
Total CQ	\$15,566.48	17,765.04	16,307.54	14,777.54	13,393.04
Insurance - Bond	520.00	572.00	544.30	494.00	458.00
Total International Conference	1,200.00	1,100.00	1,050.30	350.00	300.00
Total Membership Processing	1,115.00	1,225.30	1,155.30	1,054.50	999.00
Monthly & Yearly Statement Fee	410.00	451.30	438.50	359.50	389.00
Total PayPal Fees	340.00	374.30	357.30	323.00	308.00
QM Credit Card Fees	60.00	66.00	63.00	57.00	54.00
Total Processing Fee	1,826.00	2,012.90	2,015.14	1,824.00	1,779.00
Total Return Check	40.00	44.30	47.30	38.00	36.00
Scholarship Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,159.30	2,859.00	2,730.00
Total SFA - Academy	80.00	89.30	84.30	76.00	72.00
Total SFMC - Marines	1,540.00	1,604.30	1,617.30	1,403.00	1,384.00
Supplies					
CFO Office Supplies	220.00	242.30	227.30	229.00	136.00
CS Office Supplies & Postage	390.00	413.30	399.30	367.00	343.00
Total Membership Supplies	13,030.00	17,193.00	16,411.30	14,046.30	14,007.00
OPS Office Supplies	10.00	11.30	10.30	9.30	9.00
Promotion Department	280.00	223.00	218.30	196.00	136.00
Total QM Supplies	5,310.00	5,941.30	5,625.50	5,594.50	5,073.00
Total Supplies	23,730.00	29,625.90	23,867.54	25,612.54	26,475.00
Postage Expenses	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,159.30	2,859.00	2,730.00
CFA Review Expenses	500.00	550.00	525.30	475.00	438.00
Web Hosting	99.95	111.30	107.30	92.00	88.00
Total Expenses	\$9,785.43	\$5,365.59	\$7,754.34	\$7,754.34	\$5,253.00
Net Operating Income	148.48	(4,759.59)	(1,755.04)	5,196.96	10,370.00
Net Income	148.48	(4,759.59)	(1,755.04)	5,196.96	10,370.00

\*2008 Expected\* is based upon FY 2006 and FY 2007 averages, with exceptional items removed.  
Not projected are remaining expenditures for KOB or costs related with bringing STARFLEET into full compliance.

## 2007 USPS Report

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)			

# EC/AB Report from IC 2007

By Commodore **Michael Klufas**  
Chief of Staff, Vice Commander

This report includes a recap of the Executive Committee/Admiralty Board (ECAB) meeting at the 2007 International Conference, as well as a summary of discussions, resolutions, and votes which occurred before that meeting.

## IC 2006 Issues

Actions involving the 2006 International Conference occurred before the Executive Committee/Admiralty Board meeting at the 2007 IC. There were additional reports/discussions during the ECAB meeting, as noted below.

After failing to obtain the required documents from the 2006 IC, the Executive Committee was left the decision on how to handle Mike Smith's failures with the Admiralty Board. What resulted were three AB resolutions and one EC resolution:

- **AB07-05**, moved by Dave Blaser (R13) and seconded by Jim Herring (R12), recommending that the Executive Committee reduce Fleet Admiral Michael D. Smith to the rank of Captain. By a vote of 14-2 (R7, R11 opposed) with one abstention (R20), the resolution passed.
- **AB07-06**, moved by Dave Blaser and seconded by Jim Herring, recommending to the Executive Committee that a criminal complaint be filed with the appropriate authorities so that they may investigate Michael D. Smith's failure to provide appropriate financial information regarding IC 2006, thereby putting the corporation in jeopardy of failing to file appropriate tax paperwork with the IRS, as well as misappropriation of STARFLEET funds as a result of his inappropriate management of IC 2006 finances. By a vote of 11-5 (R4, R7, R10, R11, R14 opposed) with one abstention (R20), the resolution passed.

- **AB07-07**, moved by Dave Blaser and seconded by Bill Herrmann (R1), revoking Michael D. Smith's lifetime membership but permit him to remain as a member by allowing him to pay for his own membership, if he chooses to do so. Since this involved a change in membership status, the EC also was required to vote on this resolution, which was presented as **EC07-01**. By a combined vote of 19-3 (R7, R11, Chief of Communications opposed) with three abstentions (R14, R20, Chief Financial Officer), the resolution passed.

While these votes were going on, Mike Smith voluntarily resigned from membership in STARFLEET, notifying the Commander, Vice Commander, and the Chief of Computer Operations about his decision in an email on July 8. AB members decided to proceed with the votes on the aforementioned resolutions, rather than suspending the motions.

At the Executive Committee/Admiralty Board meeting during the 2007 IC, Vice Commander, STARFLEET, Mark Anbinder provided the following update:

- Fleet would cover donations to the official charities of the 2006 IC, along with a letter indicating why the donation is only now being sent.
- Mark's records show three people have outstanding issues related to merchandise from the 2006 IC, and he is working to resolve these issues.
- The EC had not yet considered the AB's requests as per resolutions **AB07-05** and **AB07-06**.

## ECAB Meeting at 2007 IC

As noted above, the Executive Committee/Admiralty Board held their annual meeting at the 2007 International Conference in Denver. With Commander, STARFLEET, Les Rickard absent (serving in Iraq) and Vice Commander, STARFLEET, Mark Anbinder delayed in arriving,

Operations Chief Jonathan "Gumby" Simmons chaired this meeting.

Each regional coordinator/representative gave a status report for their region. There was no old business, so the meeting proceeded to new business.

Region 1 representative Sal Lizard introduced three "concurrent resolutions" on behalf of Region 1 Coordinator Bill Herrmann.

- The first item called for loosening of chapter strength regulations. Currently, a chapter must have ten members to be considered active. Bill wanted to use ten members as a "suggested" minimum, with a hard minimum of 5-7 (with the ECAB voting on the exact number). After some discussion, R14 representative Joost Ueffing moved to table to motion and was seconded by Region 13 coordinator Dave Blaser. The vote was 12-1 in favor (R5 opposed), with four abstentions (R1, R2, R11 and R20).
- The second item called sought to address the issue of "cyberbullying" in electronic communications through various STARFLEET channels (email lists, IRC, etc.). After some discussion – including a reminder that many of these channels are considered "unofficial" – Region 4 Coordinator Chrissy Killian moved to put discussion of this matter on the ECAB email list. Her motion was seconded by Region 7 representative Bob Vosseller. The vote was 14-0 in favor, with three abstentions (R1, R15 and R20).
- The third item included a "one-time request for a dispensation" to transfer a chapter – the *USS Inferno* – from Region 7 to Region 1. The *Inferno* is located on the western fringe of Region 7 and shares many activities with Region 1 chapters, while rarely participating in Region 7 activities due to distance.

*Continued on the following page...*



**Continued from the previous page...**

- AB members suggested that the *Inferno* could change their city of charter (the *Inferno* had already rejected this idea). They also noted that the proposed move could set a “dangerous precedent” that could lead chapters to change regions at will and destroy the regional structure as it exists. It was also noted that the matter needed more discussion between the respective RCs (R1’s Bill Herrmann and R7’s Joe Hoolihan).
- After additional discussion, Region 12 representative Robert Westfall moved for a vote on the “dispensation” and was seconded by Region 9 representative Martin Lessem. By a vote of 16-1 against the “dispensation” (only R1 voted in favor), the motion failed.

The matter involving alleged improprieties during the 2004 election for Commander, STARFLEET was raised. Dennis Rayburn and Scott Grant had appealed decisions to suspend their membership. A three-person appeals board ruled that the appeals had merit and sent the matter back to the Admiralty Board for further consideration. Little action had been taken on this matter since the appeals board ruled during the winter, and the sentiment was that this matter needed to be brought to a close. Region 13 Coordinator Dave Blaser moved that the Admiralty Board request an apology from Dennis and Scott; following such an apology, the matter would be closed with no further penalty.

Dave’s motion was initially tabled while R2 Coordinator Jack Eaton contacted Dennis to discuss the matter. After these discussions, the motion was brought back for a vote by Region 10 Coordinator Paul Reid, seconded by Region 14 representative Joost Ueffing. By a vote of 16-0 with one abstention (R6), the motion passed.

There was a discussion about the use of pseudonyms to obtain STARFLEET memberships. The policy has always been that the membership database should have legal names, while pseudonyms may be used in correspondence or other matters. In addition, the Computer Operations department is working on a way that would allow a person to register their pseudonym and their legal name on their membership. The discussion was closed without a vote.

Chief Financial Officer Liz Woolf discussed a proposed constitutional amendment to bring International Conference finances under the CFO’s control. This proposal stems from the difficulties with IC2006 and allows additional checks and balances on the IC committees. After discussion, Region 9 representative Martin Lessem moved for a vote to bring this proposal to the membership as part of this year’s election mailing, and was seconded by Region 10 Coordinator Paul Reid and Region 11 representative Emmett Plant. By a vote of 16-1 (R8 opposed), the motion passed.

Liz was joined by Steve Halber – who chaired the committee to address the income tax issue – in discussing the progress made in resolving the issue. Emmett Plant has drafted a letter – which has been reviewed by professionals – that will be mailed to all states in which STARFLEET has a presence.

Liz also indicated that the tax issue will not be resolved overnight and is likely to require drastic changes to Fleet’s operating structure. Possible options include bringing regional finances under the CFO’s control or declaring STARFLEET regions as autonomous structures that would be responsible for their own finances, including tax obligations. Fleet will have to retain an attorney (preferably a tax attorney or one who is also an accountant) to review the best course of action.

Inspector General Ray Brown reported on his investigation into a complaint against Scott Akers. Scott was accused of libel and slander against STARFLEET Quartermaster Pete Mohney after claiming in an IRC conversation that Pete had used “his official position to steal from the (Fleet) membership.” Ray noted that, while Scott indeed made those statements, he also apologized and stepped down from all Fleet positions, and there was evidence that Pete accepted said apology.

Because he filed his own complaint in this matter and pushed for the matter to be investigated, Region 13 Coordinator Dave Blaser recused himself, with Region 13 assistant Gary Halverson representing the region.

After a lengthy discussion – including additional evidence from Region 11 representative Emmett Plant that Pete indeed accepted Scott’s apology – Region 9 representative Martin Lessem moved that the charges be dismissed and the investigation

closed. The motion was seconded by Region 5 representative Cathy Fuller. By a vote of 8-4 (R2, R6, R13 and R15 opposed) with five abstentions (R7, R8, R11, R12 and R20), the motion passed.

By a vote of 13-1 (R4 opposed) with three abstentions (R11, R14 and R20), the AB voted to reconfirm Sam Black as Judge Advocate General. There was some discussion on this matter because of confusing language in the STARFLEET Constitution; the language indicated that the JAG’s term would begin the first day of the year after the election of a Commander, STARFLEET and would end the last day of the year before the election of a Commander, STARFLEET, while calling for the JAG to serve a three-year term. This was variously interpreted as a one-year or two-year term, but not as a three-year term. The ECAB as a whole agreed that this would be a cosmetic change/clarification of existing language and would not require a constitutional amendment. At present, Sam’s term extends until December 31, 2008.

By unanimous vote, the AB concurred with the EC’s recommendations that Linda Smith be awarded a lifetime membership to STARFLEET while Ed Nowlin and Carol Thompson receive honorary (three-year) memberships.

Finally, in the wake of the discussions involving improprieties during elections and the financial issues, the ECAB agreed to form a committee to discuss constitutional and election reforms.

### **Unfinished Business from CQ141**

In Communiqué 141, we did not have a final result for resolution **AB07-04** – appointing Brad Pense as STARFLEET’s Internal Auditor. By a vote of 14-0 with two abstentions (R3 and R20), the resolution passed. (NOTE: Region 11 was not yet active when this matter came up for a vote.)

### **The Last Word...**

As always, if you have any questions about these matters, please contact your regional coordinator or chapter’s commanding officer.

# Commanding Officer FAQ

Submitted by the Office of  
**The Chief of Operations**

## What is a Commanding Officer?

A commanding officer (CO) is the president of a local chapter of STARFLEET. They serve as the leaders and administrators of the chapter.

## What are the responsibilities of a CO?

A CO is the leader and administrator of the chapter and may be involved with organizing chapter activities, administering policy, and developing chapter projects and operations. They are also ultimately responsible for chapter finances. The CO is required to keep the chapter's membership at or above the required ten member minimum and is required to file an MSR on a monthly basis.

## What is an MSR?

The Monthly Status Report is filed every month by the CO with STARFLEET Operations. It can be filed online (via the database or e-mail) or as a physical copy (via postal mail). The MSR lists the name and current contact information of a CO and his/her XO, as well as a listing of all of that chapter's current STARFLEET members with non-expired memberships. The MSR should list any promotions, citations, and chapter activities that occurred during the reporting period.

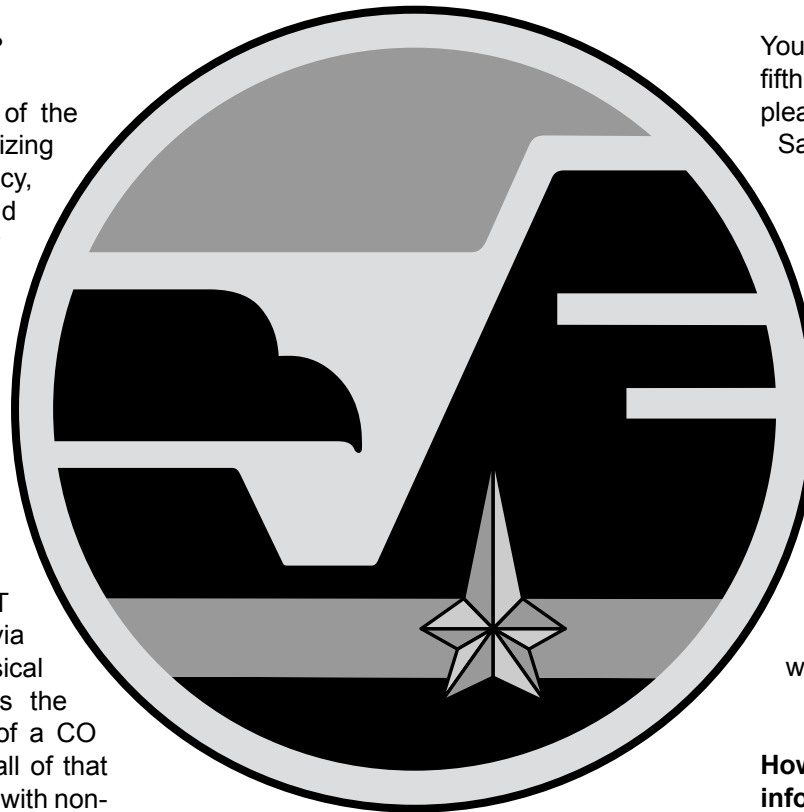
## Where can I find an MSR form?

You may find the MSR form at [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org). It is located under **Chapter Support** in the **Document Center**. You may also file your MSR electronically using the STARFLEET Database online at [database.sfi.org](http://database.sfi.org).

## What do I include in my MSR?

Your MSR needs to include the name, registry, and address of your chapter. It also needs to include the current address and contact information for you and your Executive Officer. There are spaces

to list any shuttles/shakedown vessels under your purview, as well as any member of your crew who graduated a STARFLEET Academy course, was promoted, received a commendation or award, and any activities the chapter or chapter members participated in. You may also list any problems or concerns you have that you wish to make STARFLEET's leadership aware of so that the issue(s) may be addressed.



## Why do I need to file a MSR?

STARFLEET's leadership wishes to know the accomplishments of your crew and chapter, and it is an important channel for you to communicate with STARFLEET's leadership. It is also a good place to report problems or concerns so that they may be addressed.

## Where do I send my MSR?

If you use the STARFLEET database, your MSR is automatically submitted to the correct recipients. If you send the form via e-mail, be sure to send it to STARFLEET Operations at [ops@sfi.org](mailto:ops@sfi.org) and to your Regional Coordinator at their contact e-mail. If you choose to postal mail your report, please

send one copy to the address in the top right corner of the form and one copy to your Regional Coordinator's contact postal address. Allow extra time if you're in an area of the U.S. that often experiences mail delays, or if you're mailing from outside the U.S. Remember that you are responsible for getting your MSR in on time.

## When do I send my MSR?

Your MSR should be received no later than the fifth day of each month. If sending via postal mail, please allow at least three business days (Monday-Saturday) to arrive.

## What do I do if a member is not getting their CQ?

Use the **Problems, Questions and Concerns** section of the MSR. Be sure to include the SCC number of each member and their current physical address. Check to make sure the address the member provided to STARFLEET is their valid address according to the USPS or their local postal service. Note that their mailing address may not be the same as where they physically reside. Remember: the [usps.gov](http://usps.gov) web site can help validate U.S. addresses.

## How do I change my chapter's contact information?

You may list the new information in the **Chapter Information** section at the top of the form. Please also note that the information has changed in the **Problems, Questions and Concerns** section of the MSR.

## How do I recruit for my chapter?

A good place to start is the **Recruitment Resources** section of the **Document Center**. You should also speak with your Regional Coordinator, other Chapter Commanding Officers in your region or area, and STARFLEET Operations Chapter Care staff. You can find their contact information in the **Staff Directory** under the **Department of Operations**.

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#### **How do I advertise my chapter?**

One way is to hang flyers in bookstores or gaming stores, though it is important to always first speak with the management to both gain permission and to discuss any placement guidelines. Many local cable channels are required to carry free "Public Service Announcements" about events in the community. Electronic advertising on web forums and e-mail lists can also be effective, but again, like physical stores, you should always first contact the forum or list administrators privately to get both permission and discuss any guidelines on how often you can post and what you can post.

#### **Bobby is being mean to me. Can I kick him out of the chapter?**

While STARFLEET cannot require you to accept or dismiss a member, such punitive actions, at best, maintain the "status quo" of bad feelings and often escalate. STARFLEET recommends working with your Regional Coordinator to try to come to a more effective and cooperative solution. Do note, however, that STARFLEET never condones harassment or misconduct, defined as behavior by one member perpetrated upon another member that would be construed as illegal under local, county, state, provincial, federal, or international law. If such harassment or misconduct is happening in your chapter, you must contact STARFLEET Operations and your Regional Coordinator immediately and report it. This is as much for your own personal safety and liability as it is for the member(s) being affected.

#### **How do I recommend someone for an award or promotion?**

As CO, you have full authority to promote any member up to the grade of O-5 (Commander/Lt. Colonel). You also have full authority to design and implement an awards program for your chapter and its members. To recommend someone for promotion to the grade of O-6 (Captain/Colonel) or above, you will find the necessary forms in the **Promotions and Awards** section of the **Document Center**. To nominate someone for a Regional Award, contact your Regional Coordinator or the Regional Awards director (if applicable). The annual STARFLEET Award nominees are chosen from the Regional Award winners.

#### **Our chapter never wins an award. Why not?**

The most important requirement to win an award is to first be nominated. If your Region has an Award Director, contact them and request an award form as well as any relevant documentation. If the Director does not respond, or their response is unclear, do

not hesitate to contact your Regional Coordinator and politely ask for assistance/clarification. If that does not work, contact the STARFLEET Awards Director at [www.lizsdesktop.com/sfiawards/](http://www.lizsdesktop.com/sfiawards/). Once you have received the nomination form, it is important to put your best effort into writing the nomination. You are probably not the only member or chapter seeking this award in your Region. Even if your chapter/member's accomplishments are not as numerous as other's, a well-written nomination can be the difference between winning and not winning. Be clear and concise, but do not be brief for the sake of expediency. Ensure your spelling, punctuation, and grammar are correct. Take the time to explain what this member's or your chapter's deeds mean to you, to those they affected, and to STARFLEET as a whole.

When you send in your nomination, ensure that it was received. Do not just assume it arrived. Politely contact the recipient and ask them to confirm it has been received and is properly completed.

#### **I can't afford \$15. Can I renew in a couple of months?**

Unfortunately, STARFLEET requires you and your members to maintain your membership status at all times to continue being counted as active. If necessary, set aside two dollars every month in an envelope so you are able to renew on time.

#### **How detailed do my MSRs have to be about our events?**

You may make your MSRs as detailed as you feel necessary. Some COs just list the event and who attended. Others go into great detail, often using it as the basis for an article submission to the *STARFLEET Communiqué*.

#### **If I can't log into the database, do I still have to submit an MSR?**

Yes. If the database is unavailable, submit the form via e-mail or postal mail.

#### **What is the helpdesk?**

The STARFLEET Helpdesk is there to help direct you and your chapter's members to the information needed to answer your/their questions about STARFLEET, its policies, and procedures.

#### **How do I file a helpdesk ticket?**

Helpdesk tickets must be filed online. You can reach the Helpdesk from the main [www.sfi.org](http://www.sfi.org) site. Look for **Member Helpdesk** under **Resources** on the left-hand menu.

#### **I don't have an Internet connection. Can I still run a chapter?**

Absolutely. The Internet helps make running a STARFLEET chapter easier in some ways, but it is not required.

#### **I don't like my Regional Coordinator. Can I change regions?**

As with issues between the CO and chapter members, STARFLEET prefers that issues between the CO and the RC be worked out constructively. In such cases, you will work with STARFLEET Operations to try to come to a mutually satisfying conclusion. However, STARFLEET rules require that the chapter reside in the same Region as the Commanding Officer does. Therefore, the only way to change regions is for you as CO to physically move to another Region or to relinquish your command and elect a new CO from your membership who lives in another Region, provided such members exist and they meet the requirements to serve as CO.

#### **Our chapter is a Not-For-Profit group. Can I use STARFLEET's tax ID number for my chapter?**

At this time, STARFLEET's Federal Tax ID number is reserved solely for STARFLEET Headquarters' use. If you feel it necessary to do so, you can obtain your own federal tax ID from the US Internal Revenue Service.

#### **I'm an Admiral in another club. Can I transfer that rank to STARFLEET?**

In general, STARFLEET does not recognize the rank a member earns in other *Star Trek* fan clubs. Rank in STARFLEET is in no small part a measure of one's accomplishments and involvement **within** STARFLEET. Exceptions may be made on an individual case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee. If you desire, you may contact them directly and make your case.

#### **What resources are there for disabled members?**

STARFLEET does maintain an Office of Equal Accessibility for those members who are physically or developmentally challenged. Contact information is available from the Office of the Vice Commander, STARFLEET at [vcs@sfi.org](mailto:vcs@sfi.org).

*STARFLEET Commanding Officer FAQ written by Chris Wallace, Mark H. Anbinder, and Johnathan Simmons. Based on an idea submitted by Chrissy Killian. If you have something you feel should be included, email [ops@sfi.org](mailto:ops@sfi.org) and put "CO-FAQ" in the subject line.*

# STARFLEET STAFF DIRECTORY

## STARFLEET Headquarters

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## STARFLEET Operations

### Chief of Operations

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## STARFLEET Communications

### Chief of Communications

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**As of October 2007**

## **STARFLEET Academy**

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## **STARFLEET Shakedown Operations**

### **Chief of Shakedown Operations**

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### **Chief of Computer Operations**

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## **STARFLEET Finance Office**

### **Chief Financial Officer**

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# Flat Les — A Real Stand-Up Guy

**While Fleet Admiral Les Rickard finished up his tour of duty in Iraq, his cardboard cut-out partied and played at IC 2007 in Denver, Colorado**



Flat Les presides over the Mascot Panel at IC 2007 in Denver. Left to right: Smoky, Scorch, Stormy, Hootie, Jack, Billy, Autumn, Basil, and Star. Photo by Max Khaytsus.



Is Flat Les really an Andorian? This secret signal might provide a major clue. Photo by Will Devine.



Um, let's not tell Mrs. Flat Les about this, okay? Photo by Will Devine.



What the well-dressed CS and Acting CS are wearing this year. Photo by Jon Lane.



Chief of Computer Operations, Susan Ueffing, admires the tall, cropped, and handsome Flat Les as she addresses the crowd. Photo by Jon Lane.



At the end of the Conference, dozens of STARFLEET members signed the back of Flat Les, which would later be sent to our absent friend and Commander, STARFLEET. Photo by Jon Lane.



Flat Les gets cozy with some of his biggest fans. From left to right: Stephanie Fox, Kris Klufas, and Liz Woolf. Photo by Will Devine.



Flat Les never travels without his "Wing Man" Emmett Plant. Photo by Will Devine.



Pay no attention to the man behind the cut-out. Acting CS Mark Ambinder always has Flat Les' back. Photo by Jon Lane.

