

#164

Apr/May 2011

STARFLEET

COMMUNIQUE

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

In this Issue:

Star Trek in Indonesia

Chapter Anniversaries

Icy Plunging Borg

Disaster Preparedness

And more!

Eulogy for the Space Shuttle: Page 24-25

Upcoming Conferences and Summits

Region 1: May 13-15, Pigeon Forge, TN
<http://sites.beyondweb.com/r1-summit/>

Region 3: June 10-12, Lubbock, TX
<http://www.region3.org/summit/>

Region 5: May 20-22, Yakima, WA
<http://sites.google.com/site/r5summit11/home>

Region 15: May 20-22, Seabrook, NH
<http://www.region-15.org/summit/index.html>

Region 17: June 3-5, Colorado Springs, CO
<http://www.region17.org/summit/index.htm>

IC 2011: August 12-14, Pocono Manor, PA
<http://www.ic2011.com/portal/>



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STARFLEET *Communiqué*

Issue Number 164, Apr/May 2011

A newsletter publication provided for members of
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Upcoming CQ deadlines can be found on:
<http://cq.sfi.org>



NAME: DAVE BLASER
RANK: FLEET ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDER, STARFLEET
SHIP: USS HADFIELD NCC-75006
REGION: 13, ONTARIO (CANADA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER REGION 13 COORDINATOR; FORMER VICE-COMMANDER, STARFLEET



COMMANDER, STARFLEET

Report from the Commander, STARFLEET

We're getting close to spring again; it's slowly getting warmer and the days are getting longer, and I'm very much looking forward to it – playing outside in the snow with the dogs is nice and all, but there's only so many days of -21 Celsius that even you can take before you start looking forward to the summer.

And with the coming spring means that Summit Season is upon us again. As I write this, we're now a week away from the Region 2 Summit in Tampa, Florida – this will be the first time I've been back to Region 2 since the Birmingham International Conference, and my first time ever to Florida, and I'm really looking forward to getting to meet more of the members in places that I haven't been to before, as well as spending time with friends that I haven't seen since last summer in Oklahoma.

I hope that many of you will be able to make it out to your own region's summits and conferences this year, not to mention the International Conference – it's a great change to meet other members, enjoy some time together, wear your costumes or uniforms (whichever you choose to call your Star Trek clothing) and, as my good friend Richard Smith says, it's a chance to actually play Star Trek.

Hey, don't forget, while you're at summits, conferences and chapter events, please don't forget to take photos and to post them on STARFLEET's Flickr group and share them with us, not to mention to send them in to the Communiqué

to share! We can't all make it out to all of the chapter and regional events, but we definitely want to see what you folks are doing.

Also with spring come thoughts of our students about the end of school – how many of us didn't dream about getting out of classes and lounging around (only to find out that we had to get summer jobs) and enjoying the sunshine and warm temperatures? Forgetting about school and not worrying much about anything.

This brings me to the first focus article that I'd like to talk with you about, the STARFLEET Scholarship Program.

Many of our long time members will already know that STARFLEET has a scholarship program, but for those of members who are new to STARFLEET or who haven't heard about it already, since 1990, our organization has presented monetary scholarships to special active STARFLEET members who are attending community colleges, four-year colleges, most technical schools, junior colleges and universities or graduate school.

Members who have been in STARFLEET for at least one year as of June 30th can apply for one of ten \$500 scholarships which are awarded annually at the International Conference – with the different scholarships that are available, there's something for most students.

Last summer, STARFLEET awarded \$3,500 in scholarships, which is

where we need everyone's help – we need to annually replenish the scholarships that we award to our members, and every dollar counts, so I'd like to ask members to consider sending a donation to the scholarship fund when you renew or even by making a one-time donation to your scholarship of choice.

If you'd like to find out more about STARFLEET's scholarship program, or if you'd like to make a donation, there's a couple of ways that you can get information – you can be in touch with our Scholarship Director, Reed Bates, by sending her an E-Mail at scholarships@sfi.org, or you can visit the scholarships page on our website at <http://scholarship.sfi.org>.

Donations are always appreciated. If you'd like to make a donation via PayPal, you can click on the "Donate" link on the scholarship page I mentioned above and follow the instructions on the site.

Donations can also be sent directly to STARFLEET. If you'd like to make a donation by either check or money order, please make it out to "STARFLEET" and put in the memo line, "Scholarships--General Fund" or "Scholarships--[Write in Your Choice]". Then mail your payment to:

STARFLEET
 ATTN: Scholarship Donations
 9020 N. State Road 53
 Madison, Florida 32340-3541

Please include the words "For STARFLEET Scholarship Fund."

in the note blank of your check or money order. Please also specify if there is a particular Scholarship to which you wish to donate towards.

Unfortunately contributions, donations, or gifts to STARFLEET are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

Get others involved! Encourage your crewmates or your entire chapter to make one large collective donation instead of individual donations.

Get the word out! Announce your fundraising efforts and challenge your local chapters, your region, even the whole Fleet, to match your donation.

Put your money where your pixels are! Add our donation button to your chapter, MSG/MEU or Region Web site. It's easy... head over to STARFLEET's website, go to the scholarship donations page, and download the web code and include it in your Web page.

That's it for this month, talk to you again in the next edition!





NAME: BRAN STIMPSON
RANK: MAJOR GENERAL
POSITION: VICE COMMANDER, STARFLEET
SHIP: *USS TIBURON* NCC-74220
REGION: 17, COLORADO (USA)



VICE COMMANDER, STARFLEET

The Second Fiddle Report

Since taking office I have been part of many discussions and have been asked many questions. One of the biggest things that surprised me in all those conversations is the continuing misunderstanding of the relationship between STARFLEET and the STARFLEET Marine Corps (SFMC) and I thought that I might take a moment and talk about these items with all of you.

First thing I would like to say is that I completely realize that the STARFLEET Marine Corps is not for everyone. However for almost 25% of the total membership of STARFLEET, it is. This popularity among our membership may be a result of a need for a feeling of authority or being in charge. Or because they like to wear a different looking uniform that has a military feel to it. But for whatever the reason they enjoy it and that in itself is the purpose of STARFLEET as an organization.

One of the biggest conversations about the SFMC is that they are not a part of STARFLEET, that they are some sort of affiliated fringe group. Well this could not be further from the case. Once upon a time STARFLEET and the STARFLEET Marine Corps were separate organizations, but that is no longer the case. I know that the Membership Handbook lists the SFMC as an affiliate group and that as such implies it is a separate group but that is not correct and the wording in the handbook needs to be corrected to reflect that. The STARFLEET Marine Corps is a program offered for the enjoyment of

the members of STARFLEET. You MUST be a member of STARFLEET to be in the SFMC! They do not have a separate membership structure or fee system. They are a program of STARFLEET just like the STAR Program or the Annual Campaign. Now to directly answer some misconceptions

- You can't become a Marine unless you take the PD-10 exam!
 - o Incorrect – really the only thing you have to do is be a member in good standing and change your affiliation to either reserve or active in the STARFLEET database.
- If I become a Reserve Marine, then I lose my Fleet status!
 - o Incorrect – As a Reserve Marine or even Active Marine you never lose your Fleet status.
- The SFMC will not 'allow' Fleet members to "play" with them; you have to be either an Active or Reserve Marine!
 - o Incorrect – We are all part of STARFLEET and hence we share the same sandbox.

One of the largest concerns that I hear concerning the STARFLEET Marine Corps is that it does not belong in STARFLEET since it was never in Gene's Star Trek. As a member of STARFLEET each of you has the right to that opinion. However to say that a military force was really never portrayed in Star Trek would be only partially accurate. In later series

references were made in Deep Space Nine and a precedent was set with the MACO's in Enterprise (assuming anyone noticed).

STARFLEET the International Star Trek Fan Association Inc. is a fan club and above that, a fan entertainment organization and as such, we fans love to take things and expand them, twist them, examine them and have fun doing it. The purpose of the STARFLEET Marine Corps is to provide an avenue within STARFLEET for members to express and play in a more military aspect of the STARFLEET organization envisioned in the Star Trek franchise. In a very real way the SFMC has contributed to the image of STARFLEET. All of us I am sure appreciate the Color Guards, the Wall of Remembrance and the energy the SFMC provides for our organization.

I am sure that I have not wiped clear all the misconceptions about the STARFLEET Marine Corps but I hope that by opening dialog with those of you who have concerns we might bridge the gap and come to a common understanding that we all can have fun in this organization. If you have any questions, comments or thoughts on this subject or any other please feel free to contact me and I will be more than happy to discuss it with you.

Major General Bran Stimpson
 Vice Commander, STARFLEET
 vcs@sfi.org

Promotions

Region 1:

FCPT Jill Tipton USS Jurassic
 FCPT Stephen Stott USS Ronald E McNair

Region 7:

COMM David W Ferber USS Hecate

Region 11:

BGN Bruce O'Brien USS Southern Cross

Region 12:

FCPT Elizabeth Cash USS Marko Ramius
 RADM Troy Cash USS Marko Ramius

Region 17:

FCPT Craig Cheairs USS Anasazi
 BDR Philip Dillard USS Anasazi
 COMM Earl Beighley USS Anasazi
 BGN David Reustle USS Anasazi



Congratulations to the Captain and Crew on the Launching of the USS Horangi NX-74707 in Heidelberg Germany. After being stationed in Heidelberg for 3 years with the US Army and returning to America 1995, it is great to see a new chapter launching in Heidelberg. I wish the captain and crew all the best.

Mark Anderson
 Fleet Captain SC,
 Region 2 Chief of Communications
 USS Victorious, Commanding





NAME: CHRIS CAROTHERS
 RANK: COMMODORE
 POSITION: CHIEF OF COMPUTER OPERATIONS
 OTHER POSITIONS: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 SHIP: *USS RICHTHOFEN* NCC-73286
 REGION: 7, MARYLAND (USA)



CHIEF OF COMPUTER OPERATIONS

Computer Operations Report

Computer Operations is continuing to stay on top of trouble tickets for the database and the website. I have to give HUGE kudos to my staff for their excellent work and their speedy turnaround times. Great job team! I am proud to have you on my staff!

I have been keeping busy lately by continuing to look over our proposal for the new STARFLEET database. I know it seems I have been sweating over this list of needs and wants to the database a lot lately, but this is a database that will hopefully be with

us for a long time. I want to be sure that our end product is well worth it all and will stand the test of time. The list is looking very good. I am adding a few things to the list and then the proposal should be off to our esteemed CS for his go-over.

Beyond the database project is the plan of revamping and streamlining the STARFLEET website. What we have currently looks good, but I have heard from quite a few people that things are sometimes difficult to locate. I want to alleviate

that problem and make the whole site a lot more user-friendly. If you have any suggestions for things you would like to see change on the website, please email me at compops@sfi.org and let me know.

In closing, I just want to make sure all members know that if they are experiencing problems on the database, the website, or anything concerning Computer Operations, please do not hesitate to let me know. My door is always open!



Orders of Merit



Name	Chapter	Region	Award	Class
Chris Tolbert	USS Aux Arc	12	Babel	First
Laura Victor	USS Challenger	7	Cochrane	First
Carla Ackley	USS Jurassic	1	Samaritan	Second
David Garrett	USS Thermopylae	5	Samaritan	Second
Carla Ackley	USS Jurassic	1	Babel	Third
Marybeth Simkins	USS Storm	7	Babel	Third
Carla Ackley	USS Jurassic	1	Cochrane	Third
Kris Winegar	USS Trinity River	3	Dionysus	Third
Carla Ackley	USS Jurassic	1	Gaea	Third
Jeff Radford	USS Oklahoma	12	Grankite Order of Tactics	Third
Hector Santiago	USS Storm	7	Roddenberry	Third
Stephen Stott	USS Ronald E McNair	1	Samaritan	Third



NAME: LINDA OLSON
 RANK: LIEUTENANT GENERAL
 POSITION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET
 SHIP: *USS RELENTLESS* NCC-81001
 REGION: 2, FLORIDA (USA)



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, STARFLEET

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

Greetings from the Vault!

It has been a busy month! Many of the yearly services that STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. uses come due around the first of the year. Being new to this, I have wanted to make certain that everything that we are being billed for is legit. In the process of checking out some of the stuff I have received both thru email and snail mail, I located a long over-due charge dealing with IC 2006. We managed to get that taken care of and also paid the Florida Corporation Fees. I took care of the reorder of polos for the Quartermaster and renewed our Quickbooks Accounting Fees.

I attempted to renew our Conference Calling System, but for some unknown reason, the Phonepeople.com computer refuses to accept

my address information and in the process of trying to work it out (at least 23 attempts to pre-authorize the charge), I managed to trigger a Fraud Alert with Bank of America. Therefore my debit card was frozen for 24 hours until I was able to call and get the problem resolved. Yes, it has been an interesting month here in the Accounting Department. And I haven't even done payroll yet.

Currently the bank account information is as follows:

Main Checking Account

Credits

2- 10 \$1050.04 from Paypal
 2-23 1803.15 from Paypal
 2-28 464.00 deposit in San Antonio

Checks cleared

#2360 \$30.28 to Linda Kloempken as reimbursement for postage paid

last year but never reimbursed.

Debit transactions

2/04 \$ 8.57 USPS
 2/07 14.85 USPS
 2/17 181.46 Google Adwords
 2/25 23.27 USPS
 2/28 174.90 transfer to IC Odd
 2/28 540.75 Polo order for Quartermaster
 2/28 74.66 Settlement of IC2006 debt

Closing balance for Main Checking account on 3/1/11 \$6979.81

SFMC Checking Account

2/3/11 deposit from SFMC Quartermaster \$28.09
 Closing balance \$2285.66

SpecOps Checking Account

Closing Balance \$128.00

IC Even Account

Closing Balance \$692.75

IC Odd Account

2/8/11 deposit \$174.90
 2/14/11 deposit \$212.62
 Closing Balance \$1948.64

SF Scholarship Savings Account

Interest earned in February .27
 Closing balance \$4382.16

SFMC Scholarship Savings Account

Interest earned in February .18
 Closing balance \$2973.84

Linda Olson
CFO@sfi.org

Correspondence Chapters Operations Report

Greetings STARFLEET Members,

Do you know what "correspondence chapter" means in STARFLEET? It means chapters that meet online or through other means, but who don't have face-to-face meetings. The Correspondence (Correy) Ops website is now online and is full speed ahead at www.correy.sfi.org.

Whether you're with a correspondence or meeting chapter, come join the website forums and have fun. Suggest what you like to see. So far we have a topic requested to find out where all correy chapters got their names and some history about them.

Share your stories and role-play; let everyone know how your correy chapter has fun while being a family and promoting friendship. These are great ways



to get "closet trekkers" more active, and are only some of the activities that an online club can enjoy.

Correy Chapters don't just stop at online fun. We venture to Summits, movie premiers, group outings such as paintball or air-soft, and going to conventions, planning fun times for all involved.

Contact me, your guide, and I will endeavor to make your correy experience an enjoyable time.

Commodore Beau T Thacker
Blackskull65@gmail.com



NAME: PEG PELLERIN

RANK: ADMIRAL

POSITION: COMMANDANT, STARFLEET ACADEMY

OTHER POSITIONS: DEAN, INST. OF ALIEN STUDIES; DIR, VULCAN ORIENTATION COLLEGE; DIR, VESSEL READINESS PROGRAM; XO

SHIP: *USS CONSTITUTION* NCC-75020

REGION: 15, MASSACHUSETTS(USA)

ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER CO, *USS EQUINOX*; FORMER DIRECTOR, OTS, FORMER DEAN OF INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP, SFA

COMMANDANT, STARFLEET ACADEMY

Academy News

Greetings from the great Halls of Learning, STARFLEET Academy.

"I believe that every person is born with talent." Maya Angelou

I read this and immediately thought about the talent I have seen through our directors, old and new. Just within the past couple of months and much so in the past month; courses have been added to existing colleges; a college has been rewritten, as you will note in Admiral Thompson's desk notes and a new college has opened for those of you who just can't get enough of STAR TREK aliens, Bajorans.

The old website, which is being kept up to date for requesting courses until the new one is ready, is available to all members at <http://acad.sfi.org/courses/courserequest.php>

Please pass this information around to all your fellow STARFLEET members.

There is no reason for anyone to not be able to request courses at the Academy and enjoy so much we have to offer.

As of this writing, we are preparing for the annual Red, Blue and Gold Squad Awards that will be presented at the International Conference 2011, in August. Heck, I'm actually going to be able to go and represent the Academy for a change. I'm really looking forward to meeting many of you in person, whom up to now have only be in contact with by email. It will be great to connect the names with faces

Promotions

Congratulations to the following on a well deserved promotion:

Bruce O'Brien to Brigadier General
Jill Tipton to Fleet Captain

From the desk of Coordinator of Academics: ADM Carol Thompson

The Academy continues to grow with new courses in the Institutes of Law Enforcement, Science Fiction Studies, Alien Studies, and Star Trek Studies. One old favorite, the College of Federation Studies

has been completely rewritten and is now open for business. Because the exams are all new, even people with prior COFS credits may take these exams.

From the desk of the Chief, Awards Program: CAPT. Scott Schaller

JANUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

Hi everyone here is the Boothby Report for the Month of January 2011 for the New Year. You can see it was a pretty busy month.

50 Bronze

01/05/2011 Jesse, Brianna
01/01/2011 Savander, Dixie

100 Silver

01/28/2011 Hutley, Jim
01/26/2011 Baxter, Bobbie
01/26/2011 Baxter, Patricia
01/24/2011 Smiddy, Josiah

150 Gold

01/16/2011 Topp, Darlene
01/14/2011 Grate, David

200 Latinum

01/22/2011 Schleigh, Cher

250 Diamond

01/26/2011 Waidlich, Judy

350 Titanium

01/15/2011 Newman, Franklin

400 Zirconium

01/31/2011 Skelton, Jeremy
01/11/2011 Ruhland, Russell
01/11/2011 Parker, George

500 Trilithium

01/26/2011 Giles, David
01/12/2011 Wenclewicz, Adam

600 Garnet

01/10/2011 Savander, Oliver
01/07/2011 Miller, Marlene

650 Topaz

01/15/2011 Miller, Marlene

700 Amethyst

01/14/2011 Allen, TJ

750 Pearl

01/02/2011 Hewitt, Richard

800 Opal

01/26/2011 Hewitt, Richard

900 Ruby

01/30/2011 Stubblefield, Erik

950 Emerald

01/14/2011 Diebold, Glendon
01/07/2011 Tipton, Jill

1000 Omega

01/19/2011 Tipton, Jill
01/17/2011 Wheeler, George Ann
01/07/2011 Fisher, Josephine

1050 Bronze Star

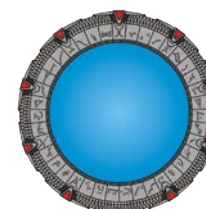
01/22/2011 Hollifield, Gary Tiny

1150 Gold Star

01/16/2011 French, Larry
01/15/2011 Smith Wayne

1450 Platinum Star

01/07/2011 Thompson, Carol



FEBRUARY BOOTHBY AWARDS

Here is the Boothby Report for February 2011. You can see we had a little busy month:

50 Bronze

02/03/2011 Pendleton, Larry
02/03/2011 Towne, Robert
02/11/2011 Krogh, Michael
02/12/2011 Robinson, Charles

100 Silver

02/10/2011 Jackson, Barry
02/18/2011 Michael Steven Krogh
02/24/2011 Cynthia Cook

150 Gold

02/14/2011 Adrian Jones

200 Latinum

02/06/2011 David Grate

250 Diamond

02/12/2011 Norris, Sharon
02/14/2011 Beaulieu, E. Jerry
02/16/2011 Cher Schleigh
02/18/2011 Barbara Paul

300 Dilithium

02/15/2011 Barbara Buffington
02/24/2011 Mark Anderson

350 Titanium

02/16/2011 Byers, Mykah

400 Zirconium

02/05/2011 Newman, Franklin

450 Platinum

02/17/2011 Ruhland, Russell
02/21/2011 Newman, Franklin

500 Trilithium

02/07/2011 Schaller, Scott

550 Amber

02/17/2011 Wenclewicz, Adam

650 Topaz

02/12/2011 Savander, Oliver

750 Pearl

02/19/2011 TJ Allen

850 Sapphire

02/18/2011 Eric Johansson

900 Ruby

02/24/2011 Thomas Pawelczak

1000 Omega

02/03/2011 Rowletter, Bill

1050 Bronze Star

02/03/2011 Fisher, Josephine
02/21/2011 Tipton, Jill

1100 Truman Temple

02/26/2011 Gary "Tiny" Hollifield, Jr.
02/27/2011 Josephine Fisher

1500 Trilithium Star

02/16/2011 Thompson, Carol

FEATURED COLLEGE:

COLLEGE OF STARGATE

Fleet Captain Wayne Smith,
Director
Borgsfa@uss-orionstar.com
PO Box 2086
Elernore Vale, NSW 2287, AUS

In 1928, archeologists unearthed a giant ring and its cover stone with strange markings. For many years after futile attempts to find out what the ring did, the program remained dormant. Then the daughter of the original lead archeologist convinced the U.S. military to begin anew the research on the ring. A discredited Egyptologist, Dr Daniel Jackson was brought

into the program after word of his belief that aliens created the pyramids reaches Dr Langford who is heading the new research program. Dr Jackson deciphers the markings and the final chevron needed to activate the giant ring and a franchise is born. The Stargate can take us to worlds beyond our universe and even parallel universes. Welcome to the worlds and adventures that the Stargate has taken us and continues to take us to through the original movie, the live-action series (SG1, Atlantis and Universe), DVD movies and even the animated series.

Riddle Me This:

Last Issue's riddle:

Answers its caller without being asked. Responds within seconds, and speaks all languages with equal ease.

ANSWER: Echo

NEW Riddle:

Axes and swords,
Will not help you through.
Yet it and a little push will do.
Some in the road would have fought
and soon died
Were it not close at hand, to let them
inside.

Answer next issue.

ADM Peg Pellerin, SFA Commandant

academy@sfi.org OR mrspeapod@myfairpoint.net

"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."

Helen Keller (1880-1968)

**CHECK OUT THE PROMOTIONS LISTING ON PAGE 5
AND THE MERIT AWARDS LISTING ON PAGE 6!**

Member Recognition Report

ADM Linda Kloempken, Administrator USS Czar'ak, Region 6, Minnesota

Congratulations to the recently promoted and the latest recipients of Orders of Merit! As always, it's fun to see what everybody is up to and a definite pleasure to recognize your achievements with the promotion and award certificates.

Flag rank promotions – Fleet Captain and above – are approved by the Promotions Board. Guidelines and the on-line submission form are available on the STARFLEET website. Please keep in mind when writing up a promotion request that the more information you provide in the nomination the smoother the process will go. Focus on the achievements of the nominee since their last promotion. Include titles and duties of positions held. Keep in mind that not everybody has the same types of community event opportunities and briefly explain the Zoo Boo or the Duck Races and what organization benefits.

Orders of Merit are anytime awards that can be presented to members of STARFLEET when you want to recognize

their accomplishments but they don't really fit the big annual awards. There are Orders of Merit for volunteering, for event organizing, for party organizing, and even for scholarship excellence. A full listing, along with their criteria, is available at awards.sfi.org. You will also find the on-line nomination form here.

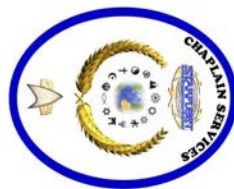
Many people wish to give out promotions and awards at their regional summit/conference or a chapter awards dinner. Please remember to submit promotion requests and Order of Merit nominations at least one month before your event. Be sure to include the date of the event! With enough notice I can always get the certificates in the mail to you in plenty of time for your event. (And I won't update the database until after the event so the promotion and/or award can stay a surprise.)

The deadline for those Annual Award submissions is May 15, 2011. I'm looking forward to seeing nominations from every region this year! The listing of awards and criteria can be found at awards.sfi.org along with the on-line submission form.

CHAPLAIN CORPS, STARFLEET



NAME: RUSSELL RUHLAND
RANK: COMMODORE
POSITION: CHIEF CHAPLAIN
SHIP: *USS DAVINCI* NCC-74281
REGION: 2, GEORGIA (USA)
ACHIEVEMENTS: CHAPTER OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2003; CHAPTER LEGION OF MERIT 2007



NAME: BRYAN JONES
RANK: COLONEL

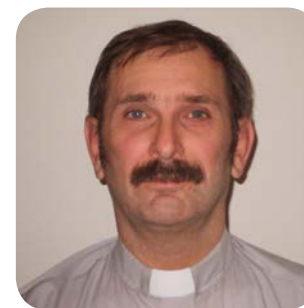
POSITION: DEPUTY CHAPLAIN

OTHER POSITIONS: LOGISTICS OFFICER, 2ND BDE

SHIP: *USS TIBERIUS* NCC-58210

REGION: 2, FLORIDA (USA)

ACHIEVEMENTS: MARINE PROFICIENCY AWARD, COMMANDANT'S CAMPAIGN AWARD



The Chaplain's Chat

I have often wondered, and on many occasions read numerous articles, about religious culture and Star Trek fandom. The most asked question I receive is, "How can you be a preacher and do all that Star Trek stuff?" The general answer I give is always the same. Being a "trekkie" has nothing to do with my real life obligations to the ministry. It's simply a hobby, so to speak; a breakaway from the real world of all that violence, corruption, politics, and well, you know the rest. I've been a trekkie ever since the beginnings of the original series and will remain as such until the day I am beamed up to "the great starship in the sky." And beyond all that, what better place than to be in a position to provide for the spiritual needs of a sci-fi related fan association of over 4,000 members worldwide by being in service as the Chief Chaplain? I've had the extreme privilege of serving in real world positions as a pastor, associate pastor, evangelist, teacher, southern gospel music soloist, and member of a local gospel quartet. I have provided for the needs of the many, above the needs of the one (myself) and never on any occasion has my relationship as a member of the STARFLEET Fan Association come into conflict with my duties as an ordained minister.

OK, sounds like I've just been rambling on but to quote an old phrase, "I said all that so I can say this!" I recently dealt with a situation that involved the comment "that there is no place for religion in a fan club." Despite what the "die-hard"

individuals might wish to believe, Star Trek culture throughout the entire planet is filled with members and individuals that represent, from my observations, every imaginable spiritual denomination in existence. In keeping with that thought, my Deputy Chaplain, Bryan, has come up with and initiated a "Faith Advisory Council" which is made up of STARFLEET members from various denominations for the purpose of gathering and disseminating information concerning our religious cultures under the theme of IDIC so that we can all understand and get along in unity and bliss.

I recently attended a new all-Trek convention and had the opportunity to attend a panel on faith based cultures. I met one STARFLEET member that said he actually "reads" my article (they like me... they really like me). If one actually took the time to do some research on the subject, and believe me I certainly have, one will truly find that religious culture and Star Trek are blended together in an unmatched form that is as undeniable as the everyday life issues and situations that Gene Roddenberry

brought into being with nearly every series episode that he had a part in creating/producing. When I attended a guest panel featuring actor Tim Russ (Tuvok on Voyager), I was impressed with the different aspects of Tuvok's personal life that the series portrayed. His thoughts, his marriage and family, his dealing with the absence from his family, and serious personal issues such as having to go through Pon Farr while in the Delta Quadrant and his illness at the end of the series. These

are issues that we all either have dealt with ourselves or know of someone else that has and guess what? We are still trekkies!

The cultural background of the numerous STARFLEET members

that I have had opportunity to counsel has always resulted in positive feedback from the individual concerned. Everyone always needs to have someone to talk to about spiritual or moral issues at one time or another. Chaplain Services is one avenue available to provide the "proverbial shoulder to cry on" and give advice or referral in those same areas. I've counseled STARFLEET

members both person to person and via internet. People may be surprised at what a simple kind word will do for someone facing or experiencing a spiritual crisis in their life. As chaplains, we are available to provide a service to the needs of the many. We are not nor will we ever attempt to change or push religious denomination or "hell fire & brimstone" down someone's path of life.

Allow me as I close to acknowledge Philip Bower as our first official Regional Chaplain Services Liaison. Philip is a member of Region 2 and has already accomplished some wonderful things for the Chaplains within the Chapters of Region 2. He has created a website at: www.r2-chaplaincorp.webs.com. You can also check out the STARFLEET Chaplain Services website at: www.starfleetchaplainservices.webs.com. Questions concerning chaplain services or questions you may wish to be addressed in this article can be sent to me at: trekchristian@gmail.com, or to Bryan at: rustyanchor1962@yahoo.com. Identity of the sender will always be kept confidential in order to protect their personal spiritual and moral values. Warp speed ahead!!!

Russell & Bryan





NAME: BERTHOLD "BERTY" SINAULAN
 RANK: UNASSIGNED
 POSITION: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
 SHIP: *UNASSIGNED*
 REGION: 11, JAKARTA (INDONESIA)
 ACHIEVEMENTS: MEMBER OF THE INDONESIAN STAR TREK COMMUNITY



11-11-51-31

Star Trek in Indonesia

The first contact of Star Trek with the Indonesian community was back in 1974. People watched the Star Trek television series on the government national TV channel station, Televisi Republik Indonesia (TVRI). As a young boy, 14 years old, I was so amazed with every scene in the Star Trek: The Original Series. The TV series ran until the early 80's. Then it stopped, but people can still remember those great scenes.

IST Community has built a website (<http://www.indo-startrek.org>), a mailing list, a Facebook group, and many more venues.

Recently, the IST Community had a great opportunity to appear on national television. It was when Star Trek won a battle with Star Wars. Of course this is not a galaxy war, which will never happen since I think the Star Trek community prefers to live in harmony, but only on a "Super Family Quiz" TV show,

was leading with 55 against 45. Then in the main round, the Trekkers team took the lead and won with a big gap. Unfortunately in the "jackpot round", the Star Trek fan team could only get 135 points out of 200 target points to get the super bonus prize. Still, the Trekkers team received a money prize of Rp 4,35 million (around USD 450).

The quiz was only one of many activities of the IST Community. On January

were in the event, wearing their Star Trek costumes. While they were there, a reporter from Trans7, another Indonesian TV channel, interviewed the IST Community members about the "Car-Free Day" activities and also about the phenomenon of the "crop circle" which recently appeared in one of the paddy fields in the Central Java Province of Indonesia.

There are still many activities for the



SOME MEMBERS OF THE INDONESIAN STAR TREK COMMUNITY LEAVE THEIR CAR IN THE PARKING LOT, BEFORE JOIN THE "CAR FREE DAY" ACTIVITIES IN JAKARTA.



THE STAR TREK TEAM ON THE "SUPER FAMILY" TV QUIZ, FROM L TO R: FERRY MARYADI, BERTHOLD "BERTY" SINAULAN, FARIS "YOKI" SYAUKI, AND HILMY HASANUDDIN.

In the 1990's, the Star Trek television series came back to Indonesia through RCTI, our first national private TV channel. As far as I know, 1995 was counted as the first time Indonesian Trekkies or Trekkers got together as a group.

But it was not so easy to have a Trekkers fan group in Indonesia. There were ups and downs, and in 2003, some Trekkers established the fan group known as the Indonesian Star Trek (IST) Community. Since then, the IST Community has had many activities for getting together with all the members. Especially, after the "internet-era" boomed in Indonesia. The

based on the popular "Family Feud TV Quiz". The IST Community team appeared with the Indonesian Star Wars fan team in ANTV, one of the Indonesian TV station, on February 25, 2011.

The Trekkers team with Ferry Maryadi, an Indonesian film actor as the captain, and members Berthold "Berty" Sinaulan, Faris "Yoki" Syaumi, and Hilmy Hasanuddin, anonymously won with the score of 477 against 88 for the Star Wars fan team. But it was not easy to win the "Super Family Quiz".

In the first round, the Star Wars fan team

30, 2011, some members of the IST, with more than 20,000 residents of the Greater Jakarta Province, joined the "Car-Free Day" activities in Sudirman and Thamrin Streets, two main streets in Jakarta. That day, Luis Figo, the FIFA Soccer Player of the Year 2001 who was sponsored by one snack company in Indonesia, visited Jakarta to promote fair play in soccer tournaments. Thousands of the Jakarta residents joined the fun walk and fun bike event. Many also played in the street soccer festival with Luis Figo as the guest of honor.

The members of IST Community

IST Community members coming up this year. Recently, the Jakarta Post, a leading English newspaper in Indonesia, interviewed some of the Indonesian Trekkers for the Sunday edition of that newspaper. On April 16, 2011, the IST Community will celebrate its 8th anniversary with a party in Jakarta. I will share the news later.

Berthold "Berty" Sinaulan
 Communications Officer,
 The IST Community and STARFLEET
 (Email: bertholdsinaulan@yahoo.com;
 Jakarta 13150, INDONESIA)



NAME: CAROLYN PETERS
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHIP: USS HORNET NCC-1714-D
REGION: 1, NORTH CAROLINA (USA)

01-12-4171



USS Hornet Supports Operation Christmas Child



BRUCE SCHULMAN, MARY KANE, DEVON SCHULMAN PACK THE SHOEBOXES FULL OF GOODIES FOR NEEDY GIRLS AND BOYS.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLYN PETERS.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in November 2010, crew members from the USS Hornet (Charlotte NC) gathered for our annual charity project: preparing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. In attendance were CO Captain Bruce Schulman, XO Captain Carolyn Peters, 2nd/Secretarial Officer VADM Mary Kane, MSGT John Kane, Commander Donna Parker, and Cadet Devon Schulman. Additional support was provided by Commander Debbie Ham and PO3 John Vittal (currently on assignment in Albuquerque NM) and by non-Starfleet personnel Bob & Carolyn Peters (Carolyn Peters' parents). PO3 Carolyn Smith who could not attend the shoebox preparation event volunteered at the local distribution center.

For those not familiar with Operation Christmas Child, the program was founded in 1993 by Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Its mission is "To

demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ". Donors are asked to pack shoeboxes with anything that will bring joy to a child who may not receive anything from "Santa" including toys, games, school supplies, hygiene items, and candy. Filled shoeboxes are dropped off at collection site which sends them to a distribution center. In the weeks before Christmas, Samaritan's Purse will load them into huge cargo planes and fly them to all corners of the world for distribution by local churches and ministry partners. The shoeboxes are given to the children unconditionally.

The Hornet shoebox project goes on all year as several of us regularly haunt dollar stores and sales looking for suitable items. Shopping for school supplies takes place in early August

when North Carolina has its tax free weekend as we brave the crowds of Mundanes (Muggles?) looking for pens, pencils, glue sticks, erasers, note pads, crayons, markers, index cards, rulers, scissors, and other school items. Even though OCC offers a complimentary paperboard box, we always purchase plastic boxes as it provides a lasting gift for a child to store personal items. The next step is to determine when the collection week is scheduled and set a meeting to assemble the boxes.

We are fortunate that VADM Kane's church, Holy Comforter Episcopal, allows us to use space in their educational building from time to time. This year, we were excited to visit their new Van Every Building for our afternoon of fellowship and box assembly. Once filled, the boxes

were loaded into Carolyn Peters' car for delivery to a local collection location.

The USS Hornet has been supporting Operation Christmas Child approximately 8 years. In 2010, we again donated 20 shoeboxes. For the first time, we took advantage of a new tracking feature offered by Samaritan's Purse and were pleased to learn that our shoeboxes were given out in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Dominican Republic, Macedonia, and Ukraine.

If your ship would like more information on Operation Christmas Child, go to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on "What We Do" to find the link to Operation Christmas Child. National Collection Week is November 14-21, 2011.



CAROLYN PETERS, MARY KANE, BRUCE SCHULMAN PEEK OVER THE COMPLETED STACK OF BOXES, READY TO BE DELIVERED TO OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CAROLYN PETERS.



NAME: BOB VOSSELLER
RANK: ADMIRAL
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
OTHER POSITIONS: REGION 7 VICE-REGIONAL COORDINATOR
SHIP: USS CHALLENGER NCC-1876-D
REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)

07-13-6761



“Cube Bob Ice Borgs” Take the Plunge

It was back in 2002 that members of the USS Highlander, including its long-time Captain Gerry Wampler and members Geri Sylvester and other members of their crew, began the tradition of the Plunge.

Former R7 member Sandy Berenberg also helped to organize that first effort of R7 members to boldly plunge into the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. I recall that evening we all stayed at a local hotel and smoked cigars in victory of our conquering the cold water.

We had a very good turnout and members of the 7th Fleet from various chapters and states came out to support Special Olympics Maryland and take a dip carrying the STARFLEET banner. It was an incredible event.

As a local reporter in Ocean County, NJ, I had covered polar bear plunges for the Special Olympics held in Point Pleasant and Seaside Heights, always believing that those involved were just plain nuts but had good hearts to help out a great cause in that way.

I never thought I would ever participate in the event myself, but when it became a STARFLEET effort and when the USS Challenger became one of those chapters in R7 to take part, how could I refuse?

During each Shore Leave Convention, a specially-built themed plunger was auctioned to raise money. One year we had a polar bear attached to a silver sprayed plunger. The next year featured a Sea Horse theme. I recall an R7 Holiday Party when members of my crew...borrowed the plunger of the Asimov and it had to be ransomed back. All in fun, of course, and even Challenger's was “borrowed” one year.

Our second plunge in Maryland we were

gifted with a tank top with the motto: **S T A R F L E E T** “Scotty we’re about to get wet”, or something like that. Unlike our first year, when the water was not quite as cold and many of us went back into the drink for a second plunge, the second year involved the event organizers having to break up the ice in the Bay before we could go in.

Needless to say we didn’t linger in the bay too long that year. That was in 2003.

After two years, *C h a l l e n g e r* decided to expand the program and to host a NJ Sector plunge in our home turf, as Special Olympics New Jersey held their Plunge at Point Pleasant, within our home territory, and eventually the event moved right into our front yard of Seaside Heights, where we hold our meetings.

The February 26, 2011 plunge in Seaside Heights marks the 5th year that CAPT Patrick Barnes has participated in not only plunging with us, but also designing some incredible costumes. Patrick is kind of the “MacGyver” of R7, creating cheap costumes out of odds and ends and making them look great.

Our first year, we were Trek Rock, a



BORGIFIED ADM VOSSELLER AND CAPT PATRICK BARNES OF THE CHALLENGER READY TO ASSIMILATE INTO THE ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PLUNGE HELD IN SEASIDE HEIGHTS ON FEB. 26.

variation of classic Star Trek meets the Flintstones. Our second year we were Silly Super Heroes, with me being Capt. Cornfusion, Patrick being Bunny Man, and Challenger's CMO David Singleton being Soup Man.

Our third year we were just plain nuts...as in escapees from an insane asylum. Patrick donned pigtails and a pink tutu while I wore an oversized Napoleon hat and Dave wore an end-of-the-world costume. Last year, we were the “3 Trekateers” when STARFLEET met Musketeers.

At the time of writing this article, we are ready to plunge again into the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean. USS Storm XO Larry Neigut will be our fourth team member, after many years where a fourth plunger was unable to join us for either work reasons or last year when the event got postponed a week because of snow.

Part of our tradition is have a breakfast at local spot known as Bobbers in Seaside Heights before the plunge and to have a post-plunge lunch at our local Atlanta Bread in Toms River. Those events are open to supporters as well as plungers.

One of the things I've learned doing this is to protect your feet. At the very least, wear water shoes as the stinging cold hits your feet the most. As I get older, I get less brave and make my knee high romp into the sea as brief as possible.

I've been wearing my water booties and Dave even wore his fireman's boots for warmth. Our first year, we seemed to have a nearly co-ed changing room, which proved rather interesting as the tents put up on the beach were a free-for-all when exiting the water. No one seemed to pay attention to which tent was for men or women.

Food is served to the plungers and we've all netted pullovers, sweatshirts, hoodies and jackets bearing the Polar Bear Plunge logo.

Collecting funds has been more and more difficult for some of us as the economy worsens and as our own job situation changes.

Despite it all, it's a worthy cause and an enjoyable effort as we boldly plunge where many plungers have gone before. The NJ Polar Bear Plunge is not the only plunge to hit the Jersey Shore since January 1 but it is usually the largest of them and I expect this year will be no exception. STARFLEET R7 will be there helping to make a difference and to have fun afterwards. Our foursome is ready to be assimilated into the cold surf and to have another adventure to talk about at Challenger's Intergalactic Food Festival, which will be held the following weekend.

The tradition continues:

Plunge Day itself was, of course, eventful. With water temperature at 39 degrees we prepared for entry into the sea during a sunny and sometimes breezy day.

Polar Bear Plunge, Continued

We enjoyed our traditional breakfast at Bobber's Restaurant and then the process began of our assimilation into Borgs. Patrick even made a Locutus-type arm piece and eye piece. We were truly 3 of Borg.

Our only obstacle was that due to the weather, the amount of plungers and spectators swelled up and the crowd on the boardwalk grew to 5,100, including plungers. Parking was at a premium and Patrick and fellow Challenger Ann Marie McGinley had to high-tail it all the way from the Seaside Park end of the boardwalk. Dave and I waited for Patrick, feeling we could not plunge without our third Borg.

While waiting on the beach with our Engineering Chief CAPT Ken Diehl, Dave and I got bumped by either someone who was very inconsiderate or a bit tipsy. A guy carrying a box deliberately bashed into the back of Dave and then bashed into me perhaps thinking it would be funny to challenge a Borg.

Needless to say, Bob the Borg didn't take that too well and I pushed him back. Then I thought, gee, what if I get in a fight with this guy and we get arrested. I'd make headlines in the newspaper I work for and the headline might read «Borg battles drunken man at polar bear plunge». I also had my behind pinched, hopefully not by the same individual but by the bikini clad girl who asked to have her picture taken with us.

Sadly, Patrick got stopped from entering the beach as by the time he arrived, the organizers were calling people back in. That had never happened before but then again, this was a record turn-out of plungers and spectators and Seaside Heights may have been getting nervous about amount of people present.

We were not aware of this at the time, but after 30 minutes we decided it was time to hit the surf and to get assimilated into the cold water. As we exited the water we were interviewed by someone with a digital video camera asking us how we felt. «Great!» Dave and I said. The water was not as bad as in some years but not as warm as others. We survived again. It was not quite the same without the three of plunging together, but there are some obstacles that even the Borg can't adapt to. There is always next year however.

We learned afterwards that the Special Olympics New Jersey raised an estimated \$1.5 million and that the Borg triumvirate raised a combined total of a little over \$300.

The plunge itself was only part of the fun as Dave and I got our photos taken by many people. Perhaps the most touching of those photo ops came when I was returning to my car and was stopped by a woman who brought along two Special Olympics athletes who were thrilled to have their photo taken with an oddly dressed individual. They may not have known what a Borg was, but

that didn't matter. This was what it was all about: giving them a special time and raising money for their big event.

We were not the only team in crazy costumes. We had our pictures taken with a team dressed as the Justice League of America, and they also included Spider-man, The Hulk and Mr. Fantastic of the Fantastic Four. A Pirates and Pirate Wenches team was also there.

Joining us on the boardwalk were Avenger crew members Annie Slonski and Todd Brugmans and USS Storm XO Larry Neigut, who tried to observe the activity from the crowded boardwalk. After the plunge it was time to don some dry pants and head over to the Atlanta Bread Company, where most of us went for some hot lunch. Joining us there were two friends of Todd and Annie and Challenger XO Jeff Victor and his wife, Challenger Comm Chief Laura Victor.

After that, it was time to head to my place in Ortley Beach to play the Star Trek version of the DVD game Scene It, and that was quite enjoyable. We had Challenger members Julia and new Asst. Security Chief Kevin Victor, our new Chief of Helm Joe Gough and our SF Marine Strike Force OIC Col. Pat Comune join us.

We played it for hours and then realized it was a little after 8 pm and if we wanted to go out for dinner, we better do so. Chinese food at the Golden Gate down the street was the consensus.

Quite a day, as always, and next year will mark the 10th year that members of Region 7 will take part in a plunge. Based on what occurred this year, it looks like we'll be utilizing our chapter headquarters, the Seaside Heights Community Center, as a base of operations and a place to park, which will allow us to shuttle people to the day's activities and make life easier should the population of the borough triple in size again prior to the Plunge.

Like the Borg, we are adaptable to change.

Here is a neat way to promote STARFLEET and your chapter!

Go to your favorite T-shirt shop and have them print this on a t-shirt (or more than one) in a size that is comfortable for you and then get out there and promote STARFLEET. These would be perfect for a public event or just to go out for a stroll. If you'd like to get this graphic, I'll post it on the STARFLEET graphics database for everyone to use.

Capt. William J. Higgins
USS Banting, NCC-17220
Region 13
whiggins001@sympatico.ca
Skype: william_j_higgins

Ask Me
About:



USS CHALLENGER CHIEF ENGINEER KEN DIEHL IN (WEAR'S WALDO TYPE CAP) AND BORGS ADM. BOB VOSSSELLER AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER DR. DAVID SINGLETON AT THE FEB. 26 SEASIDE HEIGHTS BASED POLAR BEAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Don't have a t-shirt shop in your area?
Buy this shirt at the STARFLEET
Spreadshirt store: <http://starfleethead-quarters.spreadshirt.com/>

Want an easy way to get your chapter logo on merchandise? Talk to the STARFLEET Quartermaster about adding your logo to the Spreadshirt store.
Just email qm@sfi.org!



NAME: JAMES CECIL
RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
POSITION: PETFLEET COORDINATOR
SHIP: *USS COMMONWEALTH* NCC-74620
REGION: 1, KENTUCKY (USA)



PetFleet Pawprints

Greetings furry friends! It is nice to see that we are getting some warmer weather for a change here. With the warmer weather comes the daily walks and romps at the local animal parks. With this in mind, I'd like to remind everyone to visit your Chief Medical Officer (vet) and get your vaccinations up to date. Also watch out for roaming wildlife animals who after their long winter naps are coming out and exploring the area around them in search of food.

Paws to The Stars has resumed publication again and can be found on the PetFleet yahoo group under the files section. We had four new members join PetFleet and collected a total \$5.00 in PetFleet Memberships. Our long-term goals are to continue to recruit new members into PetFleet via the various ideas I mentioned in CQ#163.

PetFleet will continue to help pet owners find their missing pets by allowing them to report their

missing pets to us via the PetFleet web site. In order to have all PetFleet members listed in the STARFLEET Database with their owners the compromise of this would be to build PetFleet its own Database borrowing the tools that are currently with the STARFLEET Database. That way, if something goes wrong, there would be no need for someone to learn a completely new database management system before they can affect any repair work needed to be done to the

database or add any new features that may be needed in the future.

Check with the STARFLEET Finance Office about setting up a PayPal account for PetFleet to use for new and existing PetFleet Members. The PetFleet website address is <http://petfleet.sfi.org/> stop by and check us out. The cost to have your pet or mascot in PetFleet is only one dollar (\$1) per year.



NAME: CYNTHIA COOK
RANK: LIEUTENANT COLONEL
POSITION: STAR PROGRAM CHIEF OF COUNSELORS
SHIP: *USS MARATHON* NCC-3105
REGION: 2, FLORIDA (USA)

From the Counselor's Couch

Greetings. My name is Lieutenant Colonel Cynthia Cook and I am the new Chief of Counselors for the STAR (Starfleet Applied Research) Lab.

I am the Officer in Charge of the 621st MSG onboard the USS Marathon in sunny Florida within Region 2. My XO of the Counselor Corps is Jon Cording, Chief of Security on the USS Horangi. He has recently been appointed the Deputy Coordinator for the Diplomatic Corps in

the International Federation of Trekkers. The Counselor Corps is a place where counselors can come together to support ideas and offer resources to our crewmates in their time of need. We are here to have fun and we are in *no way* "professional counselors." We do have a new website at <http://sficounselorcorps.webs.com> and I encourage all ship counselors to take a look, check in, and offer ideas and comments as they see fit.

I would like to briefly talk about stress. It is like an iceberg because we can only see one eighth of it above the surface, but what lies below? Excess stress can manifest itself in a variety of emotional, behavioral, and even physical symptoms.

These symptoms will vary enormously among different individuals. It was, however, discovered that people with adequate social support networks reported less stress compared to

those without said social contacts. As I sit here writing this, I am glad to have people in my STARFLEET group who care for me and who I can turn to.

I hope I can offer you the same one day.



NAME: RICHARD HEIM
RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
POSITION: STAR PROGRAM CHIEF OF SCIENCE
OTHER POSITIONS: USS ALARIC CHIEF OF SCIENCES
SHIP: *USS ALARIC* NCC-503
REGION: 1, NORTH CAROLINA (USA)

SCIENCE LOG: Pondering the Chemistry of Life As We Do Not Know It

(Science Log is brought to you by S.T.A.R. Lab Sciences, which is a laboratory in the STARFLEET Technical Applied Research program. S.T.A.R. labs promote the mutual advancement of their members and of STARFLEET as a whole through the exciting, educational, and fun sharing of innovative ideas and their practical applications to 'Fleet. S.T.A.R. Lab Sciences, also known as Starfleet Sciences, is run by Rear Admiral Richard Heim of the U.S.S. Alaric. RADM Heim can be contacted at alarich@charter.net by email, or by mail at P.O. Box 2072, Asheville, NC 28802.)

One of the fun things about my job is the opportunity to travel to scientific conferences and talk to fellow scientists about the latest advancements in their field, in addition to presenting research in my own field.

One such opportunity presented

itself in August 2010 at the American Geophysical Union meeting in Iguassu Falls, Brazil. Brazilian biologist Pabulo Henrique Rampelotto presented some papers on "The Chemistry of Life as We Do Not Know It." We have all been taught that carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur are the six basic building blocks of life, at least of all known forms of life here on Earth.

We assume that life "out there" will need to be the same as life here, so we devise our planetary probes and experiments to detect carbon-based life. But what if life is based on some other chemistry? Our space explorations may completely miss whole civilizations! Dr. Rampelotto's presentation summarized real laboratory experiments that have been conducted in recent years exploring the possibility of non-terrestrial life processes, and he related them to observations from our planetary probes.

Planetary Sciences Department Chief, I presented Dr. Rampelotto's papers at the November and January meetings of the Alaric, and that prompted a discussion of theological and moral issues associated with space exploration -- i.e., when we explore other worlds, we may not even recognize alien life forms and could end up inadvertently destroying millions of alien lives and starting an interplanetary war.

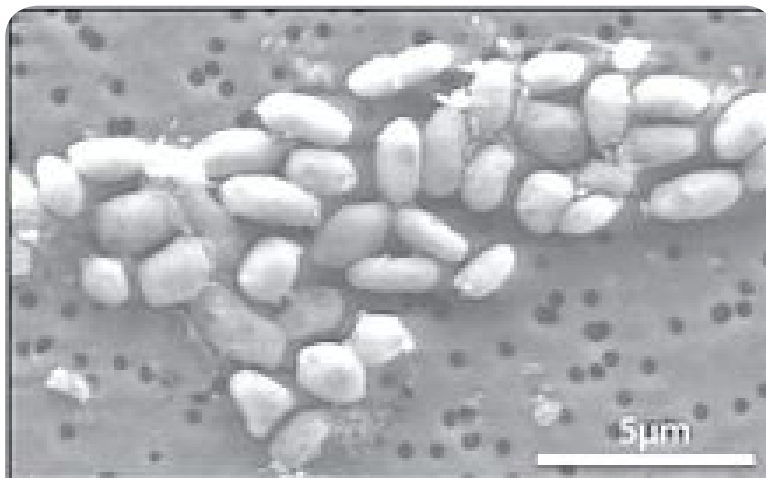
Dr. Rampelotto explained that, in order for us to detect life vastly different from what we find on earth, we have to alter our understanding of what life is. This is done by identifying the three basic requirements of life. These are: (1) chemical complexity, (2) solvent, and (3) energy source.

(1) Chemical Complexity. This is one of the fundamental features of life, which is based on polymeric molecules joined by covalent bonds. Wikipedia describes it this way: "Biochemistry governs all living organisms and living processes. By controlling information flow through biochemical signaling and the flow of chemical energy through metabolism, biochemical processes give rise to the incredible complexity of life." Atoms form molecules by exchanging electrons in the valence shell, forming covalent bonds. But only certain elements have the valence structure to create molecules that can lead to biochemical processes. Carbon is one. Dr. Rampelotto explained that our present knowledge of physics and chemistry suggests that an organism could have an entire non-carbon-based metabolism. Silicon has similar features to carbon, since it is directly underneath carbon in the periodic table and thus has similar chemical properties. What kind of environmental conditions are

needed for which biochemistry based on silicon compounds might be a realistic possibility? They are: An atmosphere free of oxygen, a non-aqueous solvent like liquid methane or ethane, a limited availability of carbon, and temperatures far below the freezing point of water. Dr. Rampelotto noted that Titan and Triton provide the best targets in our solar system for investigating this possibility.

(2) Liquid Solvent. A liquid solvent is necessary for the chemical reactions required to support living processes to occur. Wikipedia explains that solvents can affect the solubility, stability and reaction rates of chemicals, and choosing the appropriate solvent allows for thermodynamic and kinetic control over a chemical reaction. Water is an ideal solvent for carbon-based life. Dr. Rampelotto described novel studies which have demonstrated that a variety of solvents, other than water, may sustain life. Among them, ammonia is the most cited. Several studies have pointed out ammonia analogues to water and suggest the possibility of building proteins, nucleic acids, and polypeptides within a liquid ammonia solvent. The lab experiments of some researchers suggest that 'ammono' analogues of Terran biomolecules in which oxygen atoms are replaced by NH (Nitrogen-Hydrogen, or ammonia) groups might yield an equally viable biochemistry. Evidence has accumulated that liquid water/ammonia may exist within the Galilean moons and it may also be present in Titan.

Ammonia is not the only polar solvent that might serve as an alternative to water. Sulfuric acid and formamide are reasonably good solvents that support chemical



BACTERIUM GFAJ-1 GROWN ON ARSENIC.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RICHARD HEIM

Non-Terran biology is something that has been explored in science-fiction and Star Trek episodes ("The Devil in the Dark" and "Home Soil", for example) many times. We find this subject fascinating aboard the U.S.S. Alaric, and I'm sure you do, too. As her Commanding Officer and

Science Log, Continued

reactivity. Formamide is used primarily for manufacturing sulfa drugs and synthesizing vitamins and as a softener for paper and fiber. In its pure form, formamide dissolves many ionic compounds that are insoluble in water, so it is commonly used as a solvent in industry.

Dr. Rampelotto pointed out that non-polar hydrocarbons such as methane and ethane are better than water for managing complex organic chemical reactivity. In fact, many preparative organic reactions are done with these solvents in the laboratory. Since such hydrocarbons are abundant on Titan, it is the best target in our solar system for investigating this possibility.

(3) Energy Source. An external energy source is universally accepted as another minimal requirement for life. Dr. Rampelotto explained that light and oxidation of inorganic compounds fuel the biosphere on Earth, so wherever light and a means for sustaining oxidation-reduction cycles can be demonstrated, the possibility for maintaining life is present. However, other forms of energy, from thermal gradients to kinetic motion to magnetic fields, can be found on worlds devoid of both light and oxygen and could serve as energy sources for life. There are abundant examples of this on earth in the form of "extremophiles". Wikipedia defines an extremophile as an organism that thrives in and may even require physically or geochemically extreme conditions that are detrimental to most life on Earth. Some examples include organisms living in hydrothermal vents in the dark depths of earth's oceans (no light), those living in hot rocks deep under the earth's surface (again no light), and those that derive energy by digesting mineral compounds ("lithoautotrophs"). Jupiter and Saturn are far from the sun so light intensity is very dim. But the planets are huge and have a strong gravitational effect on their moons. Gravitationally-induced friction on Jupiter's moon Io has resulted in over 400 active volcanoes, making Io the most geologically active object in the solar system. Another of Jupiter's moons, Europa, has an ice surface thought to cover a liquid ocean. Some scientists theorize that heat energy from tidal flexing on Europa causes the ocean to remain liquid, drives geological

activity similar to plate tectonics, and could be an energy source to support some form of extraterrestrial oceanic life.

What would we look for while exploring another world which may not have carbon-based life? Dr. Rampelotto gave examples of recent observations from Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus. Titan has a substantial atmosphere composed mainly of nitrogen and methane, methane rain, and hydrocarbon lakes with a variety of organic compounds. Photochemical models have predicted that Titan should have a layer of ethane sufficient to cover the entire surface to a thickness of many meters, but Cassini has found no such layer. Instead, a strong flux of hydrogen into the surface has been estimated, there are depletions of acetylene at the surface, and ethane on the surface of Titan is lower than expected. The unexpected ratios of these molecules indicate that some form of chemical processes is occurring. Researchers McKay and Smith, in a 2005 paper, concluded that, "the results of the recent Huygens probe could indicate the presence of methanogenic life by anomalous depletions of acetylene and ethane as well as hydrogen at the surface." These depletions have been confirmed by other scientists in 2010. New results published by Clark and colleagues find a lack of acetylene on the surface despite its expected production in the atmosphere and subsequent deposition on the ground. While these observations "are not evidence of life," Dr. Rampelotto says, "they are extremely interesting." Even if life does not exist on Titan, he added, "the current understanding of Titan's organic chemistry has been simulated successfully in the laboratory."

In a June 8, 2010, article in Space Daily, Chris McKay painted a picture of possible Titanian life. He hypothesized that H₂ (hydrogen) could play the role that O₂ (oxygen) plays on Earth. On Earth, organisms, like humans, react O₂ with organic material to derive biochemical energy for life's functions. On Titan, organisms could react H₂ with organic material to derive biochemical energy. The waste product of O₂ metabolism on Earth is CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and H₂O (water); on Titan,

the waste product of H₂ metabolism would be CH₄ (methane). Organic molecules on the surface of Titan (such as acetylene, ethane, and solid organics) would release energy if they reacted with hydrogen to form methane. Acetylene gives the most energy. So, lifeforms that eat hydrogen, ethane, and acetylene and exhale methane to generate biochemical energy -- could it be possible that we're observing that right now?

Enceladus has cryovolcanic activity (ice volcanoes) indicating heat is available to drive chemistry in its interior. Organics, methane, water vapor, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and possibly several nitrogen chemical species have been observed in the plume material from the cryovolcanic eruptions. There is evidence of an ocean beneath its icy surface. Dr. Rampelotto believes there is the possibility of water-to-rock contact and the formation of amino acids at any rock/liquid interfaces is feasible, thus making Enceladus "one of the most promising targets in the outer solar system for astrobiological studies."

Literally days after I presented Dr. Rampelotto's paper at the Alaric's November meeting, NASA announced the discovery of a bacteria on earth which substitutes poisonous arsenic for phosphorus, one of the six basic building blocks of all known forms of life on Earth. Found in arsenic-laden Mono Lake in California, bacterium GFAJ-1 is capable of substituting arsenic for a small percentage of its phosphorus and sustain its growth. Many bacteria are known to be able to tolerate high levels of arsenic, and to have a proclivity to take it up into their cells. However, according to the NASA scientists, GFAJ-1 has now been proposed to go a step further: when starved of phosphorus, it can instead incorporate arsenic into its metabolites and macromolecules and continue growing. Phosphorus is part of the chemical backbone of DNA and RNA, the structures that carry genetic instructions for life, and is considered an essential element for all living cells. Arsenic-based molecules (arsenate esters) can substitute for phosphorus-based molecules (phosphate esters) in DNA (arsenic is directly beneath phosphorus in the periodic table, thus

has similar valence chemical properties), but its chemical bonds are not as stable. According to Wikipedia, estimates of the half-life in water of arsenic-based chemical bonds, which would link the DNA's nucleotides together, are as short as 0.06 second -- compared to 30 million years for the phosphorus-based chemical bonds in DNA. The NASA scientists speculate that the bacteria may stabilize the arsenate esters to a degree by using poly-beta-hydroxybutyrate, a complex molecule employed by micro-organisms as a form of energy storage molecule to be metabolized when other common energy sources are not available.

(The NASA article is "A Bacterium That Can Grow by Using Arsenic Instead of Phosphorus", published in Science [Sciencexpress], 2 December 2010, by Felisa Wolfe-Simon and colleagues, and is available on the web at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2010/12/01/science.1197258.full.pdf>)

Dr. Rampelotto concluded his paper by noting that, "to search for life on planets other than Earth, we must be prepared to recognize life as we do not know it. We cannot rule out other planets just because they are not like our world. This study suggests that there may be many environments where the physical and chemical nature of a liquid allows complex, patterned, self-sustaining chemistry, which we would recognize as life, but which is structurally quite different from the C-H-O-N carbon-based life with which we are familiar." So, is the Horta scenario possible? Science says yes -- maybe! This is one thing that I find fascinating and exciting about science -- how it pushes the boundaries to make science-fiction real!

An addendum to this article: In the harsh economic times we find ourselves, Congress (especially the U.S. House) is proposing devastating cuts to the funding for NASA and science in general. This is a catastrophic course of action, especially since NASA and science funding in general make up such a small percentage of the federal budget. Let Congress know how important science funding is to you and to our Nation.



NAME: KRIS DOBIE
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REGION: 3, TEXAS (USA)



03-11-98-32

Victoria Station “Latinum Chef” Challenge

This is the official report of the away team activities at the Latinum Chef challenge held in Victoria, Texas. The USS Joan of Arc has a permanent Marine station located in Victoria, as that is where the majority of our Marines live. They offered a challenge to see who could prepare the best lunch in the “Iron Chef Style” between them and the Fleet members of the rest of the club. The winning recipe would be served for dinner and the late evening snack attack.

In response to this challenge, eight members of the Joan of Arc traveled to the challenge location. Shortly after the Joan crew arrived, Artimus (another Marine also living at the station), drove in from Galveston. She had been down there for several months for shoulder therapy and everyone was excited to see her home, especially this weekend.

Hello done, Frank (the moderator), gave

all cooks and assistants a quick tour of both kitchens. One team would be in Kitchen Two with Teams One and Three sharing the main kitchen during the event. The teams were made up of one main Chef with one or two assistants.

Team One was the Marine team, known as “Team Hoorah”, consisting of Kaiden K. and Chris T. Team Two was Team Command, composed of the Captain Robin V.C. and the XO Tahnya A. Finally, Team Three was Team Turner made up of Fleet members Amy T., Kitty T. and Isabo T. as assistant. Another Marine, Trent W., played the part of the Chairman and revealed that the secret ingredient was all the various types of potatoes piled on the dining room table.

Each team was given ten minutes to plan their menu, following the Chairman’s directions of using a variety of Potatoes in their dishes. After that, everybody

gathered at the mound of potatoes, cooks in front and the cheering section in back. As the 60 minute cooking session began, chaos reigned as the cooks and assistants gathered their supplies. Time was announced every fifteen minutes as to how much was gone and how much was left.

At the fifteen minutes left mark, the judges took their places at the now empty table to prepare to render a verdict deciding dinner. The judges were Artimus, representing the Marine contingent, Alex, representing the younger Fleet members and myself, representing most of the adult Fleet members. Plates from each team were placed above the team’s name for judging. We were instructed to judge based on taste, use of secret ingredient, and presentation of the dish.

Team Hoorah made potato nachos with mixed cheeses topped by chopped shrimp

as an accent. Team Turner chose to make three dishes: potato salad from white Irish potatoes, grilled chicken breasts topped with thinly sliced new potatoes and shredded cheese, and cinnamon-crunch red potatoes for dessert. Team Command’s offerings were Sheppard’s Pie with a cheese/potato crust and sweet potato fritters, both accented with fresh asparagus spears across the top.

As judges, we were required to taste each portion of each dish and then comment before moving on to the next plate. After the tasting was finished, judgment was rendered. Team Command was declared the winner on the basis of taste and style of presentation. The remaining crew was encouraged to finish the samples, all of which disappeared at warp speed!

After a tasty dinner, the evening was capped with a GURPS (role playing) game and fellowship around a toasty fire pit.



NAME: KIMBERLY LANDEN
RANK: CREWMAN
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REGION: 1, VIRGINIA (USA)



Stay Fit with Your Friends in PetFleet

Taking a metaphysical look at the havoc of today’s world, and the hassle that is given to us though daily life, I have found myself in the mist of commotion of the internet and television. Though both television and the internet can be entertaining, they are far from the quietness of nature.

In order to get away from this chaotic commotion, my family dog Skippy,

of Pet Fleet, and I took up the USS Cumberland’s exercise offer to STARFLEET International. Skippy and I enjoy our daily walks and exercise. Anyone in STARFLEET or Pet Fleet can join the Exercise program.

Contact Captain George Pimentel, Col. SFMC (Reserves), USS Cumberland NCC 74669 (george.pimentel37@gmail.com) for more details. To register with Pet Fleet, contact Pet Fleet (petfleet@sfi.org) for more details.

petfleet@sfi.org) for more details. To register with Pet Fleet, contact Pet Fleet (petfleet@sfi.org) for more details.

PETFLEET MEMBER SKIPPY ENJOYS DAILY WALKS AS PART OF THE PETFLEET EXERCISE PROGRAM.





NAME: MARK RUSSELL
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POSITION:
SHIP: *USS GENESIS* NCC-61945
REGION: 11, ADELAIDE (AUSTRALIA)



11-19-5496

Shuttle Maintenance 101

Shuttle Repairs

This is Lt. Mark Russell reporting from the USS Genesis, Deck 5, Shuttle Maintenance.

It has come to my attention, through direct liaison with my CO, that voluntary shuttle maintenance duty shifts have declined in crew attendance over the past year. My orders are, communicating by means of the CQ, to increase STARFLEET crew members' awareness of essential shuttle maintenance requirements, general "get out of trouble" tactics and "do it yourself" procedures.

Firstly, though, I wish to respond to some concerns I have overheard through comm. traffic over the past few weeks. Any crew members struggling to understand my terminology should refer to the conversion glossary at the end of this article.

Always Hot Asked:

Question: Does driving with my windows open, rather than air conditioner on, really increase drag and therefore affect my fuel consumption/running costs?

Answer: Generally speaking, the environmental controls should keep the shuttle's cabin pressure and temperature at a consistently comfortable level and therefore rule out the need to open a window to the vacuum of space. Should you be compelled to ignore this and be exposed to these extreme conditions, the impulse engine fuel consumption variation would be negligible.

Consider this, though. Environmental systems greatly benefit, over time,

from being cycled or used consistently as the lubricating oil (known as PAG oil) circulates, allowing internal parts to remain moist, free of corrosion and deformation, and therefore remain in good working order for a longer period of time. And just remember, not only does your environmental system work very effectively as a temperature increaser rather than just a reducer, but it also demists/defogs your shuttle's front screen very effectively.

Doc Asked:

Question: I drive a Ford Fairlane Ghia Sportsman which has a squeak while braking. I have had it serviced twice and yet it is still there, just not so loud. Can we do anything to the car ourselves to fix this?

Answer: Well Doc, that shouldn't be too hard to address. You see, when you request a "full stop" with any model of shuttle craft, your friction material vibrates at different frequencies. These vibrations can often convert to a frequency your ear drums will absorb as a squeal.

Friction material can be made up of several combinations of compounds, including metals. Some friction materials contain more metal, to extend their working life and, as a result, cause more wear to your friction surface. The other extreme will work in exactly the opposite allowing more efficient stopping time with the reduced friction material working life. This being said, and if you paid attention during your compulsory Engineering studies at the Academy, you will begin to understand that all friction materials vibrate at different frequencies.

Next time, Doc, you fit genuine shuttle

parts, remember that the friction surface must be machined and make sure the anti-squeal/vibration retainers are in place. Should the retainers be missing or non-existent, have the friction material glued into place. Refer to Engineering Crew Members for further information.

And finally, Obi One Asked:

Question: Our business has a 9 year old Toyota Hi-Ace 2.8l diesel van, with around 270,000 km on the clock. It is serviced regularly (every 5,000 k) but we have begun to notice that, when it is first fired up, that it now belches black smoke that takes a few minutes to dissipate. We get huge use from this very reliable vehicle and don't wish to replace it. Should we be doing something to it, though?

Answer: Let's keep it simple on this topic, Obi One. Without a diagnostic inspection of the craft, the correct form of action will elude me.

Black smoke from the stern of your shuttle craft is a sign of over-fueling. Your deuterium injectors are potentially dripping or spraying incorrectly, or it's possible your deuterium pump is letting you down.

I recommend you speak to the Chief Engineer on the subject and he will schedule you a diagnostic check over for my duty roster. See you soon.

With that being said, I shall return to the holodeck for some undeserved R&R, but before I go, one more piece of advice.

Impulse engine plasma is a crucial maintenance item and should be changed at a minimum interval of 10,000 light years, unless the

manufacturer states otherwise. As impulse engine plasma's secondary purpose is to clean internal build up and waste away, it goes without saying, plasma becomes highly toxic. Over time, with neglect, plasma will no longer perform its function efficiently and excessive debris or sludge can result in a blockage of vital galleries eventually leading to impulse engine failure. This never looks good on a failed mission report.

Glossary of Terms

Deuterium: Fuel or petrol/diesel

Environmental Controls: Climate control or Air conditioning

Friction Material: Brake pad

Friction Surface: Brake disc or rotor

Impulse Engine: Vehicle engine

Light Year: One kilometre (1km)

Plasma: Oil or lubricant

Shuttle: Car

Toxic: Contaminated or dirty

Vacuum of Space: Outside atmosphere



AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE USS NAVRAS

Amidst great expectations, Star Trek Online, the first massively-multiplayer online role-playing game for the Star Trek franchise, was launched by Cryptic Software in February of 2010. I had been privileged enough to be able to participate in the Closed Beta Test of the game, as well as the Public Beta that followed. When our tax return came in, I purchased a Lifetime Membership for the jaw-dropping price of \$349.99, justifying the price by noting that a monthly subscription of \$14.99 would have eventually cost me \$359.76 after two years of gameplay.

Regardless, I founded a guild within the game (in STO, a guild is referred to as a fleet) and named it Project Navras. To commemorate this occasion, I even went as far as to have one hundred three-inch embroidered patches made, for our members to purchase at a small mark-up, to help fund the fleet website and voice server. Then in March, the number of new members in Project Navras soared from a dozen recruits to over forty-five members, and I found myself looking for some way to provide more involvement for them than the other fleets had to offer. In my research, I came across 'FLEET.

I'd heard of STARFLEET before March, and had even considered joining—but I'd never researched too far into it before then. One of the things that surprised me the most was seeing how long the organization had been around, and how many people had produced content on a regular basis. I reached a state of information overload, to be honest. There was so much information to go through, so much to read, and so much to research, that I found myself a little intimidated at the prospect of joining.

What if there were hidden obligations or requirements that I couldn't fulfill? What if there was some kind of hidden fee, or what if, somewhere in all of those regulations, policies, bylaws, and procedures, there was some hidden rule that said that bald guys from East Texas weren't allowed to join? Alright, so maybe I'm exaggerating a little bit, but I've never really been much of a fan club kind of person, so I really had no idea what to expect. I eventually came to the realization that I could read information until I went blind, but I wouldn't know exactly what it was about until I joined—and so I did.

I started my membership in April 2010 and promptly began researching what it would take to start a correspondence chapter for the members of my Star Trek Online fleet to join and participate in. To my surprise, Admiral Alex Rosenzweig of Shakedown Operations Command was more than accommodating to answer any question I had.

I spread the information to my fleet members, and we set out with the intention of making a correspondence chapter specifically geared towards players in Star Trek Online. By the end of May, we had the necessary number of members and enough people who had completed the OTS to begin. Alex and Joost Ueffing had helped us with our ship specifications, helping us take the 24th century Emissary-class as depicted in Star Trek Online and turn it into something a little more real. Before we knew it, we had received clearance to launch, and by the beginning of June, we had entered shakedown.

Our crew meetings have been held in Star Trek Online, along with all of the events that we have hosted together. It didn't take long for me to get the hang of the Monthly Status Reports, and that little spark of interest within our in-game fleet quickly had other members curious about how to join the STARFLEET chapter we had created. Likewise, we began meeting others in Star Trek Online who were proud members of 'FLEET, and were happy to meet others in the same boat. Truth be told, it makes for an entirely new experience when you can literally face off against a Borg cube, with the other men and women in your chapter.

Throughout the course of shakedown, we've watched as amazing additions and improvements have been made to Star Trek Online, with new areas, new missions, new ships, new uniforms, and new alien species—and I can proudly say that it has evolved into something even better than I had expected. I can honestly say that I am happy to have paid the \$350 for a Lifetime Subscription. But likewise, our chapter, the USS Navras of Region 3, has evolved into something I honestly hadn't anticipated.

We've seen our first election for CS and VCS, we've had the honor of communicating with people like Alex and Joost, not to mention Michael Tolleson and Mark West of the USS Regulator, our support ship. I've spoken with Emmett Plant on the telephone, I've sent e-mails back and forth with Reed Bates, and I've chatted on IRC with the infamous Gumby. On January 19, 2011, our in-game fleet celebrated its One Year Anniversary—and on February 12, 2011, we were humbled when the USS Rachel Garrett presented us with a beautiful cake and the USS Regulator presented us with a dedication plaque to commemorate the imminent end of our shakedown cruise.

As I look toward what 2011 has in store, I'm eager to see what else lies ahead. This has been nothing short of an exploration for me and my members, and we cannot express how happy we are to be a part of this organization. That being said, I would like to express our thanks, from the entire crew of the USS Navras, to the entirety of STARFLEET. You have certainly built something special here, and I know that in your own ways, each of you realizes that. It will be interesting to see how the organization adapts to welcome new members and new chapters with new ideas—like a correspondence chapter that operates purely within the realm of an online game. If you treat them with the same courtesy that we've been treated, then I see a lot of great things in the future. As we commission, we would like everyone to know that we're thrilled with the chapters of Region Three, and indeed, the rest of this organization as well. We're honored to be here and thank you for having us.





04-24-8417

NAME: JON LANE
 RANK: REAR ADMIRAL
 POSITION: COMMAND ADVISER AND CHIEF KIBITZER
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 REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)
 ACHIEVEMENTS: FORMER CHIEF OF COMMUNICATIONS, STARFLEET



STARFLEET Not Featured on National Geographic Channel

Bad news, I'm afraid...

Back in CQ #162, I reported that STARFLEET would be featured in an upcoming episode of the television documentary series Taboo on the National Geographic Channel. The production company had sent two film crews out to Los Angeles, one in September and another in October, and filmed members of the USS Angeles, USS Centurion, and USS Thermopylae for an episode focusing on "Fantasy Lives."

All told, I'd estimate that the crews shot between ten and twenty hours of raw footage—one-on-one interviews, members at a convention, and even an away mission to the famous Vasquez Rocks (a filming location used in nearly all of the Trek TV series and movies...for example, where Kirk fought the Gorn).

There was lots of excitement from members about seeing our club featured prominently in a national TV documentary. But after a few months of not hearing any update from Emily Potts, the producer in Australia who had set up the shoots with me, I emailed her to see if she knew when the episode would be airing here in America.

The response I received was not the one I'd been expecting nor hoping for...

Hi Jonathan,

I apologise for the slow reply, I moved onto another production at the end of last year and am a little bit behind when it comes to Taboo knowledge. However, just last week I had the chance to see Fantasy Lives and speak with my series producer and unfortunately due to a number of reasons the Trekkie story didn't make

visit Fandom and Trekkies in a future series. And we do often re-visit stories. Please let me know if you have any further questions and I'll be happy to answer them.

*All the best,
 Emily*



it into the episode. I am so sorry for the disappointment. I know how hard you worked on my behalf to rally people together at such short notice and then to flip the shooting days etc. And though it may be little or no consolation now, please know that it is not uncommon for us to lose good stories along the way, and this year, Trekkies sadly, was one of them.

Thanks again for all your help and it's my hope we will be able to re-

And that, as they say, is that.

I did try to pry some additional information out of Emily. Were we cut because the episode was running too long? Was there some licensing issue with CBS or Paramount? Unfortunately, Emily remained frustratingly vague on the reason... and honestly, she might not have known. The decision had obviously

been made at another level, as she wasn't aware we'd been cut until she saw the completed episode.

I made sure to mention to her that STARFLEET would be happy to appear in another episode at some later date. I even suggested that scheduling a Star Trek-themed episode to air near the June 2012 release date of the next Star Trek movie might give them a bit of a ratings boost. Of course, if the reason we were cut had to do with licensing fees being too high or something like that, then it might well not happen for us at all. And as they say on Earth: c'est la vie.

But I will try to keep in touch with Emily if I can, and hopefully we'll get another shot at some point. In the meantime, the glass-is-half-full part of my brain is still very encouraged that the production company approached STARFLEET in the first place. They found us through the Internet, and that means that our web presence is working for us—getting our name out there, ranking high on search engines, and providing a professional and engaging appearance to attract notice.

And who knows? We might even be approached in the future by a different production company to be part of a different documentary. Stranger things have happened in this club!



NAME: JARI JAMES
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SHIP: *USS THERMOPYLAE* NCC-74703
REGION: 5, WASHINGTON (USA)



05-22-3747

Awards: What They Are and How to Write Them

I have yet to belong to organization where someone somewhere doesn't say 'I can't believe so and so didn't get such and such' or 'that group got all the awards and I don't think that's fair'.

Want a reason why that person or that group were recognized and another equally deserving group weren't? Someone somewhere sat themselves down and wrote a letter of recommendation or a request for award consideration. I won't say that writing something will automatically guarantee this person being recognized, but I can 100% categorically state that if someone doesn't write something, the chances of it happening drop to close to zero.

There's no simple formula for writing the perfect award recommendation – the information needed varies with each individual group or award. But there are some steps that are consistent no matter what group you're with.

Step 1: Collect the basic information you'll need in one place. For anything to do with SFI and SFMC, that may include any or all of the following:

*Who are you. This is usually your name, rank, SCC, SFI/SFMC assignment and a way to contact you. It's important to have a way to contact you if any questions come up after the submission goes in.

*The date you are writing the recommendation.

*The information on the person you are recommending. The basics such as name, rank and their SFI/SFMC ship/group assignment. It's also helpful if you can provide their SCC if you have it.

*Your relationship to the person you're recommending. It can help give a sense of perspective to those who will be making the award decisions.

*The award you want them considered for. Before you have even made it to this step, you need to confirm that the person you want considered meets the basic requirements for the award. In regards to anything to be issued by the Starfleet Marine Corps *always* review the current 'Marine Force Manual'. It's your responsibility to make sure your recommendation meets the requirements listed for that specific award.

Some have fairly specific per-requests. There are awards that are limited to a specific branch of service [STARFLEET or the SFMC]. Some awards are rank specific [Officer vs. Enlisted or warrant Officer]. Some can only be submitted by specific individuals [SFI upper level awards go through the RC]. Make sure you're doing it right the first time. Remember it's never wrong to ask someone in the Chain of Command for guidance.

There may be times you feel there are several different awards that a person may be eligible for. There's nothing wrong with submitting someone for different awards or submitting more than one person for the same award. Don't just cut and paste the same comments from award to award. Be specific when you write your recommendation. Go into details as to why they qualify for that specific award.

NOTE: Please remember that the window for award submission is no more than six months after the action or event took place. It's a sad thing to discover that someone may have met all the requirements for something

they really deserve, but you waited until October of this year to contact folks about something that SGT William Snuffy did the year before.

Step 2: Here comes the actual hard part. Everything up to here is just data. Why do you think they deserve consideration for this award? This is where you make or break a person's chances and it's probably the hardest part of the whole process. You need to be complete and detailed, but concise. Sounds like a contradiction, I know, but if you're too wordy, you'll lose your target audience and too brief, you may not make your points clear.

You need to ask yourself the following, 'what did this person do to deserve this award?'. If you are having problems with this step, try writing yourself a simple list of specifics. For example:

* Was CO when ship was awarded 'Ship of the Year' for 2005 & 2007
* Has been a member of the Special Olympics organization committee for their state for the last two years.
* Has organized unit activities for the Cadet Detachment for the last three years.

It doesn't have to be deep and complex. This is to help you sort out specifics in your mind before you start writing the actual recommendations.

What I've found works for me are what we called in the military 'bullet point summaries' – a short, one or two line description of a pertinent point usually preceded with a symbol of some sort to designate each individual line. It's clean, concise and easy to read. The last thing you want is to 'lose' the person reading your recommendation due to 'purple prose'.

Step Three: You need to make sure your recommendation goes to the right person in time to be considered. All your hard work up to now will do no one any good if you send things to the wrong person or miss the deadline. Make sure you know the recommendation got there. Tag your email with a 'return receipt requested' from the recipient and a 'cc' to yourself. If it's sent by 'snail mail', consider certified, return receipt requested

And please, before it ever leaves your hands double check all the data you entered for accuracy and spell check it.

Step Four: This is your final step. Submit the award. If you're using one of the available online forms, please make sure you've entered everything correctly, including what Region or Brigade you're from, before you hit that 'Enter' key.

As a final note: Want to recognize someone's work and nothing official seems to fit? There's nothing that prohibits you asking your CO, your OIC, or any other ship's member from working with you to present an 'Official Thank You' of some form.

Remember: STARFLEET International in all its many and varied forms is first and foremost a volunteer organization made up of people who are giving of themselves to make sure we all have a good time. It never hurts to say 'Thank you'. It makes everyone feel good in the end.

In Service to the Corps,
COL Jari "Gato" James, SFMC[R]
503rd MSG 4BN 5BDE – The Spartans
DCOFORCECOM



NAME: LLOYD BATES
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS ARK ANGEL* NCC-1889
REGION: 3, TEXAS (USA)

03-23-9881



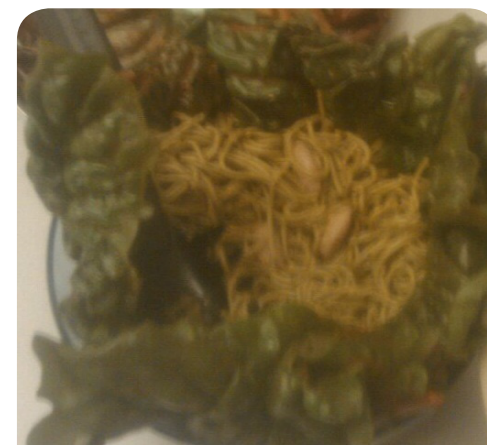
USS Ark Angel Celebrates 10 Years



USS ARK ANGEL 10TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE, COMPLETE WITH MINIATURE
CONSTELLATION-CLASS USS ENTERPRISE

For myself, I burned a few coins at the Old Gauntlet machine and wore out my trigger finger on a sit-down version of the Voyager (borg shooter) video game, along with making a valiant attempt to assemble the bride of pinbot, making well into 100 million points. But alas I failed to get her assembled. Every time I went to look around, everyone was at a machine or moving thru the facility with big grins on their faces. It was a nice thing to see for my first event as CO.

By the time I read this in print, I hope to have news of a crew camping trip, so 'til then, CO Lloyd Bates of the Ark Angel Station in Region 3 signing off.



ONE DISH ENJOYED BY THE CREW: GAGH WITH
DENOBLAN SEA SLUG LARVA.

In January, the Ark Angel had its 10th anniversary party with both current and founding members, and guests in attendance.

We all met at the Pinballz arcade in Austin TX, with the CO providing Trek-themed catering and some hidden libations (The honey whiskey, was a big hit). The festivities included his special recipes for Gagh and a personal creation, "Ferengi Lobes" (outlawed in most civilized space), along with a Trek anniversary cake.

Pinballz (<http://www.pinballzarcade.com/>) is a retro arcade, with lots of the old pinball and video arcade machines of the past, including a

fine selection of Star Trek games. There is even one of the 1979 Star Trek pinball machines with back art that still shows only Klingons vs Federation. The owner has elected to keep the coin slots in them so they still have the satisfying sounds of the coins falling through the machine to add credits. That sound brought back many memories to this old CO, let me tell you. Everyone had a great time.

THE R3 RC ENJOYS SOME QUALITY TIME
ON AN OLD SCHOOL STAR TREK
PINBALL MACHINE.





NAME: ROBERT C DAMBECK
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS PAEGAN NCC-1755
REGION: 2, FLORIDA (USA)



02-22-5571

Eulogy for the Space Shuttle

By the time this article reaches the masses it will be April or May of 2011. The twilight of our beloved space shuttle program is at hand.

I have lived in Central Florida all of my adult life. Moving to Orlando from New York in 1976 I was instantly exposed to America's space program. Looking East one day I unintentionally witnessed a launch from Patrick Air Force Base during what I call the "Empty Space Years" between 1973 to 1981, and even though "Skylab" was overhead during these years she was unmanned till her fiery death on July 11th 1979. (See photo 1)



PHOTO 1: SKYLAB SOARS OVER THE EARTH.

When news of this prototype "Space Plane" hit the papers I made a scrapbook of every article that came out. I couldn't be more excited. I missed out on the Apollo Program but I was going to see this new space program built from the bottom up. (See photo 2)

When Shuttle "Enterprise" arrived at Kennedy Space Center I was at the open house. I was on the tarmac with



PHOTO 2: THE SHUTTLE ENTERPRISE ATTACHED TO A 747 TRANSPORT PLANE.

hundreds of others watching her on the "Mate/De-mate" structure being lifted from her modified 747 partner.

Going to the Cape to see Enterprise was an amazing experience. It was one of many as I would go to launch after launch. For five years I would set up my telescope at the same location meeting people from all over the world who would wait all night with me for a launch the coming morning, or wait all day for that spectacular night launch and the artificial sunrise it would create.

I saw them all go up—Shuttles Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, and Atlantis. By the mid-80s the shuttle

program was in full swing, and it looked like nothing could stop the momentum. From the outside spectator looking in, that was an illusion as we all would find out in a tragic way. (See photo 3)

The destruction of the Space Shuttle Challenger is to this day the worst event I ever witnessed. Even though I was not there that Jan. 28th 1986, I did see it out my window. It was all too real to me. The shuttle was built by man and man is not perfect in his creations. Things go wrong, and people die. As I drove to work that cold afternoon, I looked to the East, towards the coast, and there it was, just lingering there against the cold blue sky: this pure white distorted column of

various chemicals as a reminder of the national loss earlier that morning. If there was a time I thought our shuttle program was to end it was with Challenger.

Back in full swing and a little wiser for the wear the program was once again struck with tragedy. February 1, 2003, Shuttle Columbia was lost upon re-entry (see photo 4) while returning to Florida after a flawless mission. Again the program came back. 14 lives, redesigns, and administrative changes never stopped the program. It was politics and budget cuts that killed the shuttle program. Sound familiar? It's the



PHOTO 3: CREW OF THE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER, LOST ON JANUARY 28, 1986

same reason the Apollo program wasn't extended and what sealed Skylab's fate.

So here is that part of the article where we ask ourselves "did the bad outweigh the good"? Since I've already listed the negatives in the programs 30 year history, just what good did it do? (Research found at http://techtran.msfc.nasa.gov/at_home.html)

Medical

- * Laser heart surgery
- * Breast cancer research



PHOTO 4: CREW OF THE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA, LAUNCHED ON FEBRUARY 1, 2003.

- * MRI and X-Ray technology
- * Light emitting diodes (LED) used for performing surgery on brain cancer patients
- * Digital mammography technology
- * Pill-sized transmitters for monitoring fetuses from inside the womb
- * 'Smart' composite forceps for safer baby deliveries
- * Artificial limbs (prosthetics)

Protecting your eyes

- * Polarized and scratch resistant sunglasses

Safety in flight

- * Lighting protection for commercial aircraft
- * Windshear prediction
- * TACS (Traffic Alert and Collision avoidance System) No more playing chicken at 30,000 ft.

Sports

- * Padding for football helmets

Firefighting/Rescue

- * Portable Jaws for rescuing

It also goes without saying if it were

not for the space shuttle we would not have today those seemingly necessary necessities that just 10 years ago we so easily did without, such as:

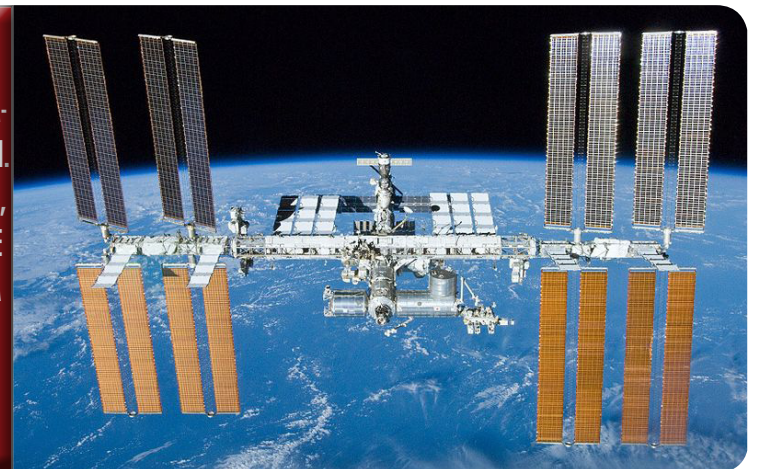
- * Improved internet
- * Cell phone coverage worldwide
- * The technology to watch over 300 cable channels
- * GPS technology

And lastly, the largest contributions in space, the Hubble Space Telescope (*see photo 5*) and the International Space Station (*see photo 6*) wouldn't



PHOTO 5: THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE WAS PLACED INTO ORBIT BY THE SPACE SHUTTLE. WITHOUT THE SHUTTLE, THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER MAINTENANCE ON THE HUBBLE

PHOTO 6: THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION. WITHOUT THE SHUTTLE, IT IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE BY SOYUZ UNTIL NASA BUILDS A SHUTTLE REPLACEMENT



exist without the shuttle program. Should I even mention the countless jobs the shuttle program insured? Jobs from California to Florida and from the SRB (Solid Rocket Booster) recovery team to the launch abort recovery team in Spain.

With a possible Cancer cure an arm's reach away, we must rely on our resources, and unmanned cargo ships and the outdated and cramped Soyuz ships to and from the ISS just won't cut it. Also, three gutted museum displays (our shuttles) can't rescue the ISS (up to 7 crew members) if needed.

I'm not mad, I'm sad. When I think of where we saw ourselves 40 years ago—the Moon, Mars, exploring the stars with men and women, and not machines—I believe we let the dreamers down. Verne, Kennedy, Roddenberry, Sagan, what do we say to them? And what do we say to the dreamers of tomorrow?



ABOVE: APOLLO/CHALLENGER/COLUMBIA MEMORIAL PATCH. BELOW: STS-1/STS-107 COMMEMORATIVE PATCH.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF RAHADYAN SASTROWARDYO





NAME: DORIS HUTLEY
RANK: COMMANDER
POSITION: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
SHIP: USS SUSQUEHANNOCK NCC-71833
REGION: 7, PENNSYLVANIA (USA)



USS Susquehannock Participates in Daffodil Days

The USS Susquehannock participated in Daffodil Days for the second year. I am on the Daffodil Days planning committee in the Harrisburg, PA Capital area. I work on the Daffodil Days Newsletter in our area and, along with some great people from the USS Susquehannock, helped out at the day sites selling daffodils. It's a very satisfying way to help fight cancer and to start thinking spring.

Our first Daffodils site was the Hershey Bear game on March 13. We had sold at this site last year and had found it to be a fun and exciting spot. This year Carl Deitrich, Jim Hutley and myself participated along with one of my fellow committee members, Nena Zeiders. Cocoa and Red Robin stopped for photos. Carl and Jim are excellent sales

people and sold many "vintage" bears, lunch bags and raffle tickets to win the giant bear for this year, Liv N Hope. Unfortunately we didn't have the daffodils yet. But it was still an exciting time. We also ran into some people we had met at Farpoint. Guess it's a small world!

We also sold my first Gift of Hope. This is where you can buy a bunch of daffodils and have the American Cancer Society send them to a cancer patient. Another great option is the Project Care, where you can send a Daffodil Day gift to a child in the hospital.

Jim and I sold daffodils at Polyclinic hospital in Harrisburg. Oliver and Tina Maxwell joined us in selling at Central Penn Fitness and East Shore YMCA.



**COL JAMES HUTLEY, COMMANDER DORIS HUTLEY, LT. TINA MAXWELL AND LT. OLIVER MAXWELL
CELEBRATE DAFFODIL DAYS**

LT. JR GRADE CARL DEITRICH, COCOA, NENA ZEIDERS, COMMANDER DORIS HUTLEY AND LT. COL JIM HUTLEY



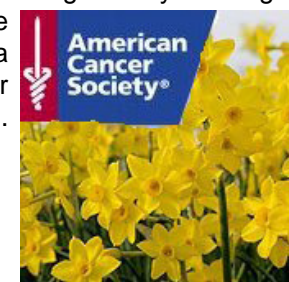
ease their experience

I wanted to let everyone know where the proceeds from Daffodil Days go. When I checked the Daffodil Days website, they said they have a number cancer patients can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for a listing of services. In case anyone knows someone in need of it, the number is 1-800-227-2345. Some of the services listed on the site include:

- * Transportation to and from treatment
- * Lodging for people who have to travel long distances for treatment
- * Online education for cancer patients and loved ones
- * Free assistance locating cancer clinical trials based on individual needs
- * Physical, Emotional and Financial assistance to cancer patients to help

These are just a few things that donations to American Cancer Society help fund. I think I hear about different ones at every meeting.

Our group will also be participating in a Relay for Life event in June and hope to raise more funds for the American Cancer Society. Volunteering is very fulfilling – especially since my Father is a two time cancer survivor.



STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 4TH PLACE



NAME: LEA HEPLER
RANK: ENSIGN, FIRST CLASS
SHIP: *USS REPUBLIC* NCC-1371
REGION: 2, NORTH CAROLINA
ACHIEVEMENTS: 4TH PLACE WINNER, 2010 STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST



What Price Salvation?

Thirteen-year-old Jim Kirk awoke to a wave of nausea. Hot sun poured through the window, painting the boys' beds white. He squinted into the brightness, looking for his older brother, George Samuel Kirk. "Morning, Sam."

Sam pushed his face into the pillow, his cheekbones sharp.

Jim rolled from the bed and padded toward the kitchen, eager for a glass of water. He heard his mother Winona's trademark snore, but no answering honk from his father George. George Kirk, a Lieutenant with Starfleet's Colonization Task Force, was often on duty at odd hours, but rarely first thing in the morning. Unease warred with hunger in Jim's stomach.

The message light blinked at him. Jim clicked the wall interface next to the sink. When his father was gone for more than a few hours, he usually sent a quick note to reassure the family. The message was not from his father, though, but from their neighbor, Thomas Leighton. Thomas and Martha Leighton were good friends of the Kirks, and Jim and Sam went to school with their son, Thomas Jr.

Thomas Sr. had forwarded an official communiqué to Jim's father: *The revolution is successful! Your new Governor summons you to a*

mandatory assembly this morning at 0830 hours. Report to the athletics field at Cochrane School. Unlike the previous administration, we will immediately address the problems that threaten our colony's very survival.

The following families are required to attend with all members...

Hundreds of families were named.

George, asked Thomas Sr., *what's this all about?*

Food, Jim answered. Hot cakes, cookies, and chicken danced in his head. *They overthrew Governor Zamki and found the food he's been stockpiling. Now they're going to give it to us!*

He eagerly scrolled down the list – but the Kirks were not on it. He scrolled up, checked again, did a search for their names. Nothing.

He dashed back to the bedroom. "Sam!" he hissed, shaking his brother's shoulder. "Sam, wake up!"

"Urrgh," Sam moaned, "Go away." He rolled over.

"Look," said Jim, bringing up the message, "Zamki is out! There's a new governor, and they're having a meeting at the school – everyone's

invited but us! I bet they're going to pass out Zamki's stockpile –"

"Slow down." Sam rubbed his eyes. "First of all, Dad said that story about the governor hoarding food was bunk."

"Maybe Dad was wrong."

Sam snorted. "Not likely." Their father was second in command of the colony's security forces. Originally a defense force to protect the settlements from indigenous wildlife and space faring threats like Orion pirates, the security men had transitioned over time to a more traditional law enforcement role. "Zamki doesn't stub his toe without Dad knowing about it."

Jim was undeterred. "Well, something big has happened, and we've been left out of it. What's that about 'the revolution'?"

Sam bit his lip. "I don't know. I heard Dad say there have been some riots. If they overthrew Zamki, then what happened...?"

To Dad, they both thought, but neither said it aloud.

Jim cleared his throat. "Dad or not, I'm going."

"Says who?"

"Me."

"Jim, you don't even know what they're doing. We should stay here and wait to hear from Dad."

"No way. That could take hours."

"Then we'll wait."

"What if they are handing out food there?" As if to nail Jim's point, Sam's stomach growled like an ion engine. "Hah. You can't wait, either."

Sam scowled. "I'm not sure about this, that's all. If something bad is going on, we don't need to be in the middle of it. Mom would kill us."

Jim exhaled slowly. "If we don't get some food, Mom's not going to make it much longer."

Sam's mouth opened, and then closed.

"You know it's true. It's only been three days for us. How long do you think she'd gone without before Dad caught her?"

Sam stared at his hands in his lap, a tuft of sandy hair falling over his forehead. He bit his lower lip. Jim recognized the expression from their tri-D chess games – his brother was balancing options, searching for the right answer. Their father liked to joke that if you asked his sons to

STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 4TH PLACE

jump off a cliff, Jim would hit bottom long before Sam finished calculating the force it would take to get airborne.

Finally, Sam gave Jim a curt nod. "Let's go."

To save energy, they rode Jim's scooter most of the way to Cochrane Academy. A copse of fernlike trees near the road hid the scooter. They continued the last block on foot. Falling into step with the dozens of colonists heading for the athletic field, they reached the entrance unnoticed. Sam drifted into the crowd on the left, Jim to the right.

Jim spotted the Leightons ahead of him. He weaved around a middle-aged couple and touched Tom's arm.

"Jim! What are you –"

"Shh," Jim hissed.

"Do you know what's going on?"

"No. Maybe there's food?"

Tom looked hopeful. "I don't know. Mom thought so, but Dad is worried. He said the message didn't sound right."

Jim scanned the area. Like many of the community spaces, the stadium was not yet finished. Two sets of bleachers stood on either side of the field. Unlike the hard-packed ground of Earth, the turf was thick and spongy. Once Jim had gotten used to it, he found it made a great surface for football and track. It was soft enough, too, for his athletics class to practice martial arts outside without a mat.

"Do you see my dad?" asked Jim.

"No."

The crowd was not headed to the stands. Jim noted the bleachers were bare of any supply boxes or equipment. Six security officers were seating families in rows on the field

itself. He didn't recognize any of them, which was strange – Sam and Jim knew most of the officers that served with their father. The nearest officer was chewing his thumbnail.

Jim frowned. Security officers tended to have the same qualities: they were ever-moving, ready for action, always watching. This man fidgeted: Hand in pocket. Thumbnail to mouth. A glance over the shoulder. *Something is not right.*

The line ahead dwindled as the colonists sat down. Jim watched Mrs. Takagawa ease her elderly frame to the ground. The security officer stared over her head, not looking at anyone. The sudden knot in the pit of Jim's stomach had nothing to do with hunger.

"Tom," he whispered, "I need you to make a distraction."

"Like what?"

Jim shoved him.

Tom tumbled sideways into a girl from their Biology class. The two went down in a tangle of arms and legs, crashing into Tom's parents and half a dozen others. The crowd parted, dodging the sudden pile-up.

The nervous security guard pounced on them like a cat on mice. Jim walked past, trying to look innocent. With everyone focused on Tom, it was any easy slide through the gap between the first and second bleachers and back against a column.

He peered out through the gap. The field was nearly full. The guard was back at his post, still fidgeting. The Leightons were seated three or four meters past the site of Tom's collision, near the end of a row. Tom was now engrossed in conversation with the girl. *You're welcome*, grinned Jim.

Sam was nowhere to be seen. Jim

hoped he had found a good hiding place.

Six security guards took evenly spaced positions around the edge of the crowd. The nervous guard turned his back to Jim. A suspicious bulge wrinkled his uniform shirt at the waistband.

Jim surveyed the rest of the schoolyard. A shuttle was parked next to the administrative building. Three men emerged from it, two in security uniforms. Jim did not recognize the third—a slim man with an aura of power. Heavy copper eyebrows floated above a pair of piercing eyes; a pointed beard circled the cold, hard line of his mouth. He said something to the guards Jim could not hear. They nodded and marched around the bleachers toward the field.

The bearded man walked toward the stairs to the announcer's booth behind the stands.

Jim edged to the right and flattened against the column. From the field, Tom caught his eye. He stared at the bearded man, and then glanced back to Jim. *Who's that?* he mouthed. Jim shrugged. Tom tried to tell his father about the man, but by the time Thomas Sr. looked up, the bearded man was gone. Jim wondered if anyone but he and Tom had seen him.

"Your attention, please." The distinctive whistle announced the message was being broadcast to the whole colony. The crowd quieted.

"This is your new governor," he said, his voice deep in the speakers. "We live in desperate times, perhaps the most desperate in the history of the United Federation of Planets. Governor Zamki was unwilling—" He sneered – "Or unable, to save our colony from the ravages of not only the blight on our crops, but the drain of precious resources that starved our systems. Only I was willing to speak out, forced to seize the control

our government lost. The revolution is successful, but survival depends upon drastic measures.

"As you all know, our food supplies are gone. The remaining replicators cannot produce enough food to feed us all. No ship answered our distress calls. Therefore..."

Seconds passed.

"Therefore," he repeated, "I have no choice but to take drastic action to ensure the survival of our colony.

"You have been summoned to these assemblies on the basis of several criteria.

"First: I was shocked to find that many of you have no documentation from your home systems on file with the Migration Office. You invaded this colony, literally taking food from our mouths. Without you, there would be no famine!"

The crowd buzzed. Angry voices shouted in a number of languages.

"Second. Many of you transported, sheltered, and aided these surplus persons. While they received our services, consumed our medicines, and expended our provisions, you defended their treason. Had this excess population not been in residence, our supplies would have been enough to sustain us – the colonists who went through the correct channels in order to get here."

More voices joined the cacophony. Jim was worried. The new governor wasn't making any sense. Angry at being accused, the colonists were close to becoming a mob. *And where is Sam?*

The governor produced a data pad. "This is Executive Order 518, the first on my authority as your leader." He cleared his throat.

"Assembled colonists: Your

STARFLEET SHORT STORY CONTEST WINNER - 4TH PLACE

continued existence represents a threat to the well-being of our society. Your lives mean slow death to the more valued members of the colony. Therefore, I have no alternative but to sentence you to death. Your execution is so ordered.

"Signed, Kodos, Governor of Tarsus IV."

Kodos closed the channel with a click.

The crowd rose to its feet, a thousand voices screaming in every language of the Federation. The orderly rows were gone, replaced by an amorphous mass. A dirt clod sailed from the middle of the crowd and smashed into a guard's face.

Sidearm, Jim snapped. The thought surged ahead of comprehension. *That bulge in his waistband was a –*

The officer fired. Three colonists evaporated.

Seven other security guards opened fire, bright laser trails crossing and recrossing the field. Colonists disintegrated in mid-scream. The red silhouettes of people caught in the phaser beams turned the yellow morning sun a sickly shade of orange. Mrs. Myamoto, the science teacher, took a shot in the back and disappeared; her daughter vanished beside her, still clutching their new grandbaby. When Martha Leighton stumbled, a beam of deadly light found her.

Oh my God –

Thomas Sr. was sprinting for the closest cover, the stands, with his son in tow. He glanced over his shoulder at his wife's killer; the weapon had turned on him. He heaved Tom toward the first bleacher, tripped forward, and instinctively reached out to push the boy ahead of him.

Jim watched in horror as red light

enveloped Leighton. His outstretched hands caught the left side of his son's body. His last touch burned half of Tom's face away.

Tom pitched headfirst onto the first bleacher. Jim hauled his friend through the gap by his shirt, both boys falling backward onto the spongy ground. Jim glanced up, waiting for the face of the guard; the whine of phasers continued, but the officer did not appear.

Jim righted himself and rolled Tom over. His friend was unconscious. The left side of his face was a mass of burnt flesh, bone exposed in places. Jim covered his mouth to stifle the heave his empty stomach could only partly deliver.

He caught movement from the corner of his eye. Kodos' shuttle was in the air, making a slow pass over the field. Guards raced past the stands, sweeping left and beyond, hunting down the last of the colonists as they ran for the exits. Jim saw half a dozen people running toward the school, survivors of the onslaught. He looked past them: the closest door was at least twenty meters away. The distance stretched out as if it were a light-year.

Fear rippled from his empty stomach. For an absurd moment, he wanted to cling to the turf and close his eyes, as if it were all a dream.

He gritted his teeth, willing himself to his knees. He stole a glance through the gap. The guards continued down the field away from him, their backs turned. Two girls were gunned down in front of the pink-flowered bushes lining the walk.

Jim eased Tom under the first bench, avoiding the boy's mutilated face. He prayed Tom would not be seen. *I'm so sorry.*

He scuttled to the far end of the bleachers, fear making his muscles taut. The stands lay diagonally

between him and the guards; the school door was dead ahead. He subconsciously dropped into a starting position.

Get set –

Jim launched himself like a missile. The ground sprang beneath his feet, adding extra height to every step. He cleared the edge of the field, forgoing the sidewalk. The door loomed ahead like the gates of heaven. He heard a shout.

A bolt sizzled over his right shoulder and burned a black hole in the building. Jim cried out and jerked left. A second shot hissed past his right hip. He sped for the door.

"No!" yelled a voice over the announcement system. "Go left!"

Jim obeyed, swerving down the side of the building. He ducked as another bolt whizzed overhead.

"Turn right!"

A waist-high fence surrounded a small courtyard with two picnic tables. Jim raced toward it.

"Jump! Jump!"

Hurdles had never been Jim's strong point, but he soared over the fence like a master. Momentum carried him to the far picnic table in two strides. He leapt from the tabletop over the rear fence. A crash and a howl erupted behind him.

"To the lab door! Hurry!"

His legs pumped faster than he'd dreamed possible. The door whooshed open like magic.

"Head for the office!"

More shouts – the officers were still in pursuit. He skidded down the Life Sciences hallway. The door snapped shut. A phaser bit into the metal with an ugly *zing*.

"Come on, come on!"

He burst into the administrative wing. Thirty meters, twenty, ten... The door to the dean's office opened. Sam's head popped out!

"Don't stop!"

Jim barely touched the floor over the last ten meters. Sam slammed the door controls as Jim flew inside. He tried to brake, but his inertia and the smooth carpet sent him headlong into the wall.

"Oh, my God! Jim!" Sam pulled his arm. "When I saw there wasn't any food, I hid in the building –"

Adrenaline ebbing, Jim gasped like a fish. A field of stars threatened his vision. His lungs and legs were on fire. "Help –"

Sam half-dragged his brother into the dean's office, babbling all the way. The carpet was pulled back in one corner, a trapdoor askew. "The security cameras were on, so I tried to find you. Then I saw – can you get down the ladder?"

Jim swung himself down the first rung, letting gravity do the rest. He hit bottom about ten feet down. The white flush of emergency lights illuminated a small alcove. A red door bore the words *Emergency Shelter* in dozens of languages. Sam landed next to him as it opened.

Hands reached out. Faces swam before Jim: Kevin Riley from the grade behind him, Mr. Molson from two streets over... A satisfying clunk rang out as a bulkhead sealed behind them.

Sam untangled himself first. "Thank God. Thank God. Jim?"

Jim struggled for air, grateful for the cold floor. Hot blood hammered in his temples, and it seemed as though Sam was very far away. Jim fell

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backward down a dark tunnel and was gone.

The call came just after seven. George Kirk, Sr., hungry as hell, was dressed and ready to go within ninety seconds. He took an extra thirty to kiss Winona's cheek, check on the boys and reset the house's security systems.

He took the speeder to the governor's house. The streetlights were in power-save mode. Each one lit up before him and shut off behind him. As he parked, the last light did not cut on, leaving him in the dark. Slits of weak yellow light oozed from the covered windows.

The gate, more decorative than functional, was smashed inward. Footprints crossed the leafy grass and the white path. The governor had brought a traditional glass and wood front door with him from Earth; the fancy brass knob had been replaced by a neatly burned hole.

Ensign Martinez was on his way out. "Morning," said George.

Martinez nodded and yawned as he went past.

The first floor held the governor's public offices. Muddy tracks came in from the lawn and went everywhere. The reception area was ransacked. Tables upturned, pictures yanked from the walls – even the couch was upended and ripped open. *No stone left unturned*, noted George. It looked less like the mob was searching for something and more like they had simply tried to destroy the house.

Officers Wallace and Burke were carrying a computer terminal down the hall from the direction of the governor's office. "Did you get the comm system?" asked one.

"Of course," answered the other.

Curious, George tossed them a

wave. The computer appeared to be untouched. He headed upstairs.

On the landing, a family portrait was smashed on the floor. More debris tumbled from the doorways of the bedrooms and Zamki's private study. The study was smaller than the official downstairs office, but even through the mess, George could see Zamki did most of his work here. On one wall, a digital bulletin board was filled with status updates, to-do lists, and project deadlines. Reports littered the desk, floor, and leather recliner, the latter taking up the remaining space in the room. Amid more datapadds and a stack of old-style books sat Lieutenant Commander Dave Rankin, George's superior and the head of Tarsus IV's security.

"Morning," said George.

"Kirk." Rankin grinned. "Sorry to get you out of bed, but as you can see, we had a bit of excitement."

George nodded. "What happened?"

"A small armed group arrived about oh-five-hundred hours and demanded the governor distribute the food he's stockpiling."

"Ah. But he doesn't have any."

"That's what he told them. They seemed to think he was lying."

"Of course."

"Mrs. Zamki called for help at five-fifteen, shortly before they broke in." Rankin snorted. "I told them that antique door was a bad idea."

"That hole looked like a phaser burn."

"Yep. We're analyzing it now to be sure."

George prepared for the worst. "And Zamki?"

"They're in the panic room."

"No kidding?"

"Nope. Wife grabs the kid, he grabs his comp interface, pow, down the chute. The mob comes up the stairs and they're gone."

George grunted. The so-called "panic room" was a small, sub-basement bunker beneath the house's foundation. In an emergency, personnel could escape to a turbolift in the back left corner of the house – through the governor's office on the first floor or the master bedroom on the second. The lift would drop directly into the bunker and seal itself in place. When the doors reopened, escapees would share two tiny rooms: a bunkhouse with cots, water, and medical supplies for up to six people, and a miniature command post with computers and communication equipment. Per Federation regulations, similar shelters were built beneath the schools and public buildings. "Are they still down there?"

"Get this. That idiot went into a priority-one lockdown once they were inside. No communications net, no info feed, nothing from the colony computer. Flying solo."

"That's overreacting."

"Yup. And now we come to why you're out of bed."

"You need my code," said George. It would take top-level security codes from two officers to override a priority one lockdown. On Tarsus IV, only he, Rankin and the governor himself had the necessary clearance.

Rankin gestured him to the desk. "Why don't you start the process? I gotta use the head."

George sat down at the terminal, pushing a stack of datapadds to one side. Rankin had already established a direct link with the security system

on the bunker's computer. George began the tedious process of verifying his identity: manual data entry, voiceprint ID, retinal scan... *Where the hell is the scanner?* The slim disc resembling an old-style monocle was missing. Rankin would have used it to enter his code earlier, so it had to be nearby.

Annoyed, George checked the drawers. He stood and surveyed the desk, then picked up the terminal and looked under it. He picked up the datapadds, looking under two at a time. The fifth padd was still active.

Surprised, he glanced at its readout. The unit had performed data retrieval from the restricted colonist database, displaying three columns of names. George scrolled through the list. There were almost four thousand people, divided into categories and subcategories for no obvious reason. George thumbed for information about the search. Rankin was the requestor, and the report was time stamped at 0613 hours. The padd also noted the list had been forwarded to a private computer terminal on the colony network.

"Computer," he said softly, "Belay code entry."

The terminal beeped an assent. He eased back into the chair. Disclosure of identity records was a court-martial offense, and the evidence was in his hands with Rankin's name on it.

"Problem, Kirk?"

George started. Rankin was standing in the doorway, his arms crossed. "Can't find the scanner," he offered weakly, sliding the datapadd on top of the pile.

Rankin fired a glance at the padd. The names were still visible on its readout. "Just doing a little research," he said smoothly, tucking it under his arm. "Trying to find our perps."

"You don't have them in custody?"

"They ran. Raymond and Chang hadn't had full rations for almost a week. The poor guys passed out."

George's eyes narrowed. Most of the colonists had been on half-rations for over a month – they weren't outrunning anyone. "They passed out," he repeated.

"You heard me. Damned upset about it, too." Rankin paced to the left, blocking George's path to the door. His face was red. "You know, George, not everyone is in as good a shape as you."

The hair on George's neck was on end. He forced himself to smile.

There was no mob.

As soon as he thought the words, he knew it was true. That phaser hole through the door would turn out to be Rankin's – the five-minute analysis on the burn hadn't come back because there wasn't one. Martinez, yawning: Fleet rank A2 in computers, up all night cracking the colonist database. The smashed pictures, the collateral damage – the thoroughness not of revenge, but of a cover-up. *Hell, they were still carrying out equipment when I got here.*

And Zamki – Rankin must have tried to get him to hand over the colonists' information. *Attacked by their own security men – no wonder they cut themselves off the grid.*

"Go ahead and enter the code so we can finish this."

George cleared his throat. "I don't think that's a good idea."

Rankin stared. "What?"

"There's more going on here than the Zamkis in their panic room. I think –"

"Sit down, George."

"We need to talk about this list."

Rankin stepped back, protecting the datapadd. George paused, arms outstretched. "Where did you –"

Rankin pulled a phaser from his pocket. He sighed. "George, sit down."

George complied.

Rankin backed to the door and closed it, the phaser deadly steady. "You should have just put in the code. You could have been back in bed with Winona by now."

George stared from the pistol to Rankin. "What is this, a coup? Promoting yourself to governor?"

"No, not me. I wouldn't want the job."

"Then why are you doing this?"

Rankin's smile disappeared. "It's not obvious to you?" George shook his head. "Look around you. Our people are starving. Our medical supplies are almost gone. This colony was built to support about five thousand people, and instead we have eight thousand. This was inevitable."

"The original settlement was built for five thousand, but we always planned to grow," said George. "The farms would have produced enough for everyone, but the blight –"

"How do we know one of them didn't bring it with them?" growled Rankin. "They brought everything else – Centauri flush, kassaba fever, the Denebian flu."

"Dave," George said, "You know they didn't bring the blight. It's native here. The flu? Everybody brought their own crap. The Centauris got our common cold, for God's sake."

Rankin wasn't listening. "I had to wait to see the doc behind three people who didn't even speak Standard.

They had to go find a translator before anybody could be helped. A *translator*. My kid can't get a math tutor because all the teachers have to spend extra hours teaching aliens to read! Is that the kind of world we came here for?"

George's eyes drifted.

"You know what I found in the records? Zamki didn't even require full documentation from these scumbags. We don't know if they're killers or criminals. There could be murderers on your street, George. Right next to Winona and the boys. It's past time we did something about it. Someone ought to get rid of them all. They had no right to be –"

George rammed his foot into Rankin's groin.

Rankin doubled, struggling to bring the phaser to bear. George batted it away. Rankin tried to fight back, but George easily forced the older man into a blood choke.

"Now you listen to me," George growled, "Who did you send the list to?"

Rankin tried to pull away.

"Come on, Rankin." George squeezed his bicep against Rankin's carotid artery. "Give me a name."

Rankin gasped. George relaxed his hold. "K—Kodos."

"Who the hell is Kodos?"

Rankin thrashed, trying to escape. George merely flexed his muscle, cutting off the blood to Rankin's brain. In a moment, Rankin passed out.

George dropped Rankin to the floor like a sack of potatoes. He had reviewed the names of every colonist that came to Tarsus IV, and he had never heard of a Kodos. A *pseudonym*?

He recovered the phaser and datapadd and scanned the list – the Kirks weren't on it. He permitted himself a short sigh of relief.

The best exit route, he decided, was out the window and straight to the speeder. He checked the window – the other officers were gone. He prepared to jump.

Someone ought to get rid of them all.

George paused thoughtfully, then turned and fired at Rankin on heavy stun for good measure. He hopped from the ledge, bounded into a forward somersault, and sprinted for the speeder. To his relief, no one followed.

The engine brayed as he shifted into high gear. *Message from Thomas Leighton Sr. Urgent*, said the dashboard. He pulled onto a side street to read it. A list of names appeared, sickeningly familiar.

George, asked Leighton, *what's this all about?*

George whipped the speeder back to the main road. The chronometer read 0813. He punched the comm. "George Kirk to Winona Kirk."

Winona's voice was a whisper. "I'm here, sweetheart."

"Honey, listen to me. Stay in the house, okay? Keep the security system on and don't open the door for anyone, even one of my officers. Got it?"

"Yes, George. But why?"

"No time to explain. Just stay inside and keep the boys with you!"

"Okay..."

"Gotta go, honey. I love you."

"Love you, too."

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He hit the comm again. "George Kirk to Eddie Brackwell. Eddie, please respond."

Four blocks whizzed past before the link came to life. "Brackwell here," said a sleepy voice. "What's going on, George?"

"Ed. I'll be there in two minutes. Go fire up your pod right now." George thanked his lucky stars for Eddie Brackwell. A retired pilot from the Federation Merchant Marine, he was a team player and a good neighbor. He was also a habitual tinkerer. He'd built a two-seat flyer for he and his wife to go sightseeing, but offered the craft to dust the crops when the blight struck. As a third-wave colonist, George knew Eddie would never side with the xenophobes. Besides, a check of the datapadd confirmed the Brackwells were on the list.

He skidded to a stop on the street. Eddie, gray hair contrasting sharply with his dark skin, had readied the *Lady Relda* for flight. George leapt from the speeder. "Ready to go?"

"Go where?"

"Checked your messages lately?"

"Yeah," said Eddie. He sat down in the cockpit. "Told me and Relda to go to the Armstrong School at eight-thirty. That where we're headed?"

The message from the Leightons had said the Cochrane School, across town. George frowned. Armstrong was closer. "Yes. Relda's not going, is she?"

"Wouldn't make it even if she wanted to."

"Okay. How much fuel do you have?"

"Plenty. Haven't been out in weeks."

Within moments, they were aloft. George peered out. On every street, hundreds of colonists shuffled toward

the school. "You know, George," Eddie interrupted his thoughts, "I didn't ask why you needed my help. But I wouldn't mind a few details."

George wasn't sure where to start. "Someone is trying to make a power grab," he began. "There are traitors amongst the security force – they're using the second- and third-wave colonists as scapegoats. They're willing to – hell, Ed, I'm not sure what they're about to do. But I've got to try to stop them."

"Third wave... Really."

George nodded.

"Alright, then. How close do you want to get?"

George clapped Ed on the shoulder. "About a hundred meters...?"

The sun was at their backs, casting a heavy shadow on the colonists. George opened his porthole. "Go back to your homes!" he shouted. Several colonists heard, but none heeded him.

He opened a general communications channel. "Attention all colonists! Do not, I repeat, do not attend the assemblies this morning! Stay in your homes. Do not open your doors to security personnel!"

The colonists below looked up, confused, but continued toward the school.

"You're reaching the ones at home," Eddie encouraged. "Keep going."

George repeated the message and yelled out the window again, but no one listened. The crowd was growing; the lawn was almost full. "This isn't working," he cried.

Eddie put the craft in a long circuit of the school. George could see four officers forming a perimeter around the colonists. The last holes in the crowd were filling. Through the

opened ports, the two men heard the public address system begin to grumble. "Closer," said George. "Can we tune into that broadcast? Thanks."

"As you all know, our food supplies are gone. The granaries are empty. The remaining replicators cannot produce enough food to feed us all. No ship answered our distress call. Therefore, I have no choice but to take drastic action to ensure the survival of our colony..."

George leaned out his port. He recognized the formation the four men were creating: it was to avoid friendly fire.

"Ed! They're about to start firing!" He pulled out his phaser and checked the setting: heavy stun. He boosted himself out the window. "Can you give me a low pass around the field? About ten meters up?"

"George, she's not really a fighter – "

"Can you do it?"

"We'll find out!"

"Had this excess population not been in residence, our supplies would have been enough to sustain us – the colonists who went through the correct channels in order to get here."

George popped the hatch. "As close as you dare, Ed!"

The shuttle plunged toward the ground, a wake erupting in the grass before it. Leaves burst upward. A woman's red scarf sang across the field as Eddie banked to starboard.

"I have no alternative but to sentence you to death. Your execution is so ordered."

The crowd screamed in fear, certain that the *Lady Relda* was the instrument of their destruction. All eyes were in front, but the gunners

aimed from behind.

The first phaser beam leapt into the crowd. Four people disappeared. More beams gushed forth.

George sighted down the phaser and fired four short bursts. *Stunned. Clean miss. Hit but still moving. Stunned.*

He took a deep breath as the shuttle swept up and out of range. The colonists stampeded down the hill and into the street. The second man fired after them, erasing people from his path. The third man was tracking the shuttle.

"Down! Down!" George shouted.

Eddie pushed controls to maximum. A phaser bolt flared overhead as the little ship righted itself just above the grass. Eddie swerved George back in line with their opponent.

He aimed and held the trigger. A red stripe surged across the field, catching the guard squarely in the chest. George found the last guard on one knee, still firing. One last shot brought him down.

He collapsed into his seat, images of dying colonists burning his vision. "Can we make it to Cochrane School?" he asked.

Eddie nudged the shuttle upward in response.

George stared out the window. Colonists swarmed through the streets. Many fell; few stopped to help.

George reached for the comm. "Attention colonists," he said. "This is Lieutenant George Kirk. There has – there has been violence at the assemblies." His voice cracked. "Stay in your homes. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not open your doors to security personnel. Please stand by." He closed the channel.

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The board pinged with an incoming message. "Lieutenant George Kirk!" howled a familiar voice. "Dad! Are you there?"

"Let me do it!" cried a second.

"Boys!" George bellowed, angry and grateful at the same time. "What the hell are you doing? Get off this channel!"

"We're trapped!" yelled George Jr. "We're in the bunker under the school. There are eight of us —"

"They're dead!" yelled Jim. "They're all dead. Everybody at the assembly. The guards started firing, and —"

"Junior, Jim," said George sternly, "Calm down. Are you in the emergency shelter?"

"Yes, sir," they chorused.

"I need you to stay there, where you're safe. Do not leave the bunker until I tell you to. Is that understood?"

"Yes, sir."

"Good." A small rivulet of relief spilled over George. As an afterthought, he added, "Later, you can explain why you're not home with your mother. Kirk out."

In the shelter, Jim turned to his brother. "Are we in trouble?" Another incoming message sounded. A commanding female voice said, "Jaspreet to Kirk. What the hell is going on?"

"Jaspreet!" George cried, relieved. "Where are you?"

"Azevedo and I just passed Fourth and E Street." The two junior officers lived with their families on a side street next to the Cochrane School. "We heard phaser fire and ran to investigate. Sir, I saw Crispin gunning people down in cold blood. And he wasn't the only one."

"I know. There's been an attempted coup. Security forces compromised. We need to lock this situation down, fast. Are any of you armed?"

There was a pause. Officers of their rank were not authorized to keep phasers in their homes. "Dammit, this is no time to worry about regulations," George bellowed.

"Sir! We have two weapons," said Azevedo. "One phaser and one laser pistol."

"Did you say, laser pistol?" Laser weapons were ancestors to the modern phaser, but far less humane — they were infamous for cutting through flesh like butter.

"Aye, sir. It's an antique. My grandfather gave it to me."

"Does it shoot?"

"Aye, sir."

"God bless your grandfather," said George. The comm blinked with another incoming message. "Stand by."

"McDougal to Kirk," interrupted another officer, a third-wave colonist. "I've got a group of civilians pinned down by phaser fire on L Street near the Migration Office. My phaser's almost out, sir. We need the cavalry."

George linked the two channels. "Give me your exact coordinates." Numbers flickered onto Eddie's panel. "How many civvies and shooters?"

"Six civilians, three shooters. Sir, Rankin is one of them."

"Jaspreet, you three head for McDougal's position near the Migration Office." He repeated the coordinates. "I'll meet you there. Kirk out."

Eddie silently changed course. George said, "Drop me behind the

library. I'll circle through the sculpture garden."

"Seemed to me like flying was working pretty well."

"It was." George sighed. "Ed, I can't order you, so I'll only ask. Can you track down Kodos' shuttle? I hate to put you in more danger, but —"

"If it hadn't been for you, Relda and I might have died this morning, too. I'll find him. Count on it."

Within moments, Ed landed the shuttle at the library. "Here, George." He opened a panel and handed over a portable communicator. "Good luck."

"Thanks, Ed. You too."

George bolted as the Lady Relda took to the air. He dove from sculpture to sculpture, watching for the source of the phaser fire. McDougal shouted something and was answered by a barrage from ahead and left. George dropped behind an eight-foot abstract piece and peeked through one of its holes.

McDougal and his group were trapped on George's side of the street about ten meters down, hiding in the deep-set entrance to the library. Rankin was across the street on the Migration Office steps, flanked by Wallace and Burke. Farther down the street on Rankin's side, Jaspreet and Azevedo crouched behind a parked speeder. Jaspreet gave George a quick salute; George motioned for her to target Wallace while he targeted Burke. *On my mark*, he motioned.

"Come on out, McDougal," Rankin called. "We'll go easy on you."

Never," McDougal responded.

"Why risk your neck for them? They're the reason we starved. You know it; you saw it from the inside,

just like the rest of us." Wallace inched to the right, trying to get a better shot at the group.

"I took an oath to protect these people. So did you!"

George gave Jaspreet a countdown. *Five, four, three...*

"Not at the expense of my wife and kids. I—"

George and Jaspreet fired. Wallace and Burke dropped instantly. Rankin leapt backward onto the small landing, pointing his phaser in all directions.

"It's over, Rankin," yelled George. "Put the phaser down."

"Kirk?" Rankin wedged himself in the corner next to the door, shadows hiding his face. "I should have killed you when I had the chance."

"Drop the phaser."

"And if I do?" said Rankin. "Let you take me into custody—spend the rest of my days on some backwater penal planet? Not a chance."

"Dave," George said gently, "I know you love your wife and kids. You wanted to help them, protect them. Drop the phaser now, and I can still help you. You could go to a rehabilitation center, not a penal colony."

Rankin laughed cruelly. "A rehab center? I'm not insane, George. I know exactly what I'm doing." He walked slowly into the sunlight, phaser pointing to the sky.

"Drop the phaser, Dave."

Rankin smiled.

George clenched his teeth. It was whisper-soft in his ears: a tiny, tiny whine. *Oh no.* "No!"

Rankin walked resolutely toward

McDougal and the civilians. The whine grew louder: his phaser was set to overload. The explosion would take them all out—Rankin, civilians, officers, and probably half the library and Migration Office.

“McDougal! Fire!”

There was an impotent click. “I’m out!”

George popped from his hiding place and fired; Jaspreet followed his lead. Rankin tumbled to the ground, the phaser bouncing from his hand. The whine was close to a scream.

“Run! Run!” yelled George. He raced down the street, hoping the others obeyed. He leapt behind a parked speeder and waited for the explosion.

Instead, a banshee screech cut the air and his ears, then abruptly stopped. Somewhere, a Tarsus bird twittered.

George leaned hesitantly around the speeder. Azevedo stood over Rankin’s body, the antique pistol in his hand. A crater about the size of a dinner plate opened where the phaser had fallen, a tendril of smoke curling into the morning. The younger man stared at the laser pistol.

“Azevedo!” George called, running back. “Did you just shoot that thing?”

“Sir,” he said dazedly, “Uh—Yes. Sir. I suppose I did.”

George couldn’t help it – he laughed. Jaspreet joined him. “God bless your grandfather, son. Bless him.”

“Yes, sir!”

George blew out a long breath. “Alright, hotshot. Help me get these men secured. Jaspreet – go after McDougal, see if those colonists need medical attention.” He straightened. “We’ve got a lot of work to do.” Over the next twelve hours, George Kirk and the four officers grew their

ranks to a dozen, then twenty, then almost fifty trustworthy colonists. They swept one end of the colony to the other, capturing the last of the conspirators.

Teams spread through the city to help the survivors. One team coaxed the Zamkis from their panic room, scared and tired but unharmed. In addition to the Kirk boys and the others at the Cochrane School – including Tom, who had not been discovered under the bleachers – the colonists rejoiced to find more survivors. In the bowels of the Medical Center, eight people had crammed into an isolation chamber; the starship-grade metals that kept virulent diseases from escaping had also kept their attackers at bay. Outside the colony’s Capitol Building, a young man wrested a phaser from one of the guards and killed two more before going down. His bravery allowed eighteen people to escape.

Only at Armstrong School were there more than a handful of survivors. Almost three hundred and fifty people made it out alive.

Eddie Brackwell was also a hero; he found Kodos in flight south of the city, attempting to rendezvous with other conspirators. Kodos turned the tables on Eddie, chasing him into the southern mountains. With the *Lady Relda* badly damaged, Eddie let loose the last of his fungus-killing dust, plunging Kodos into a green haze. Kodos, disoriented, crashed into the mountainside. The would-be governor’s body was burned beyond recognition. George’s theories on Kodos’ identity remained just that – theories.

At the final count, nearly four thousand people died during the brief reign of Kodos, the Executioner.
* * *

George Kirk led the team that opened the shelter at Cochrane School. His sons were waiting for him. They didn’t come running like they used to

– neither boy had energy for that – but they still crashed into their father with roughhouse affection. The three Kirks clutched each other like parts of the same atom.

“Junior, Jim,” George whispered, kissing each boy’s sandy head. He drew back, looking into their grinning faces. Similar reunions were occurring all around them.

“Dad,” began Jim, “I’m so sorry, I can explain everything.”

George chuckled. “If I had a credit for every time I’d heard that, I could retire.”

“It was all his idea,” added Sam helpfully.

“Why is it that my older son always goes along with the plotting of the younger?” Sam blushed. “You need to set an example for this youngster.”

“There’s no need for name-calling –” Jim stopped. The room was

suddenly silent.

Everyone turned to Jaspreet. A communicator tumbled from her hand.

George rose, still holding the boys’ shoulders. “Lipika? What is it?”

Her lip trembled. “Sir – that was Governor Zamki. He – he wanted to tell you –” She wiped her eyes with the back of her hand. “Sir, a rescue ship will be here in ten hours.”

“Rescue ship?” someone asked.

“Yes. A Vulcan ship heard our distress call. They have replicators and medical supplies. They’re – they’re on their way.”

Everyone cheered but George. Something collapsed inside him.

He pressed his sons to his chest. Hot tears poured down his cheeks. “My boys,” he choked. “My boys.”

STARFLEET Dispatch: Wizard World Convention

by *Commodore Beau T Thacker*

The USS Azrael attended Wizard World convention in New Orleans on January 29- 30, 2011. Lt jg. Patterson and I ran into my friend Aaron Douglas of Battlestar Galactica upon arrival. He agreed to stop by our fan table later on Saturday for a quick chat and picture. We set up our fan table next to the USS Corsair and Star One Delta. People began coming in and looking at such items as the Delorian from Back to the Future and the old Mystery machine. You could have pictures taken inside these vehicles. We displayed various items from Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, Star Wars and some Robotect toys on our table. We solicited donations for

our charity Children’s Hospital. We gave away free items for donations. LT jg. Patterson ended up collecting over 60 names of people interested in Star Trek Chapters with about 50 names going to the new Chapter forming in the New Orleans area. LT JG. Patterson, New Exec officer Cmdr Myers and his son Cadet Myers, LT jg. Lejeune, Lt Cmdr Everett, Lt. Everett, his wife and I enjoyed the many different guest stars including Walter Koenig of TOS. There was an inside Mardi Gras parade from the Star Wars crew and the 501st held a huge fundraiser collecting over \$2000.00 for a boy in a wheelchair. There were Vampires and more including Ghostbusters and monsters. All in all a busy day.



NAME: JOHN DEYOUNG
RANK: LIEUTENANT, JUNIOR GRADE
SHIP: *USS CHICAGO* NCC-75011
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22-12-1157

USS Chicago Celebrates Four Years

The USS Chicago NCC-75011 held its monthly meeting on Sunday, January 16 at Zone Comics shop in Homewood, IL. The day also marked the Starfleet chapter's four year anniversary. The celebration included Klingon Blood Wine, Romulan Ale, cheese and crackers, and chocolate brownies that would make Counselor Troi hop over Riker to get to! Along with the festivities, the meeting's agenda included chapter business and event announcements.

This very informal get together consisted of several crew members who discussed Trek and shared views on the new Doctor Who, personal anecdotes, technology and various other subjects. They debated rumors and speculations about what the Trek sequel, planned for a June 29, 2012 release. Speculation is that Paramount wants the next movie to be done in 3D. Abrams said in an interview with NY Mag's Vulture Blog that it would all depend on the script, but also mentioned that he was not a big fan of the concept.

Another rumor floating around about the upcoming sequel is that a certain popular genetically enhanced Trek villain would be making his return to wreak havoc on the young James T. Kirk (Chris Pine). In contrast, some members of USS Chicago have heard that idea was scraped and the new premise would mainly focus on Klingons. Yet, according to TrekMovie.com, "the script is still being worked on." So in essence, no one really knows what they might come up with as far as storyline much less who the main villain will be.

During the formal meeting, ideas and goals for the chapter were presented. One suggestion members considered was assembling costumes and props for new or current members. The ideal design for

the uniforms would have the same look as The Next Generation/DS9 attire. No word yet as to what props would be constructed or when this project would take place. Zone Comics owner, Captain O.T. Puente, mentioned he had already begun work on his pulse rifle for the ship.

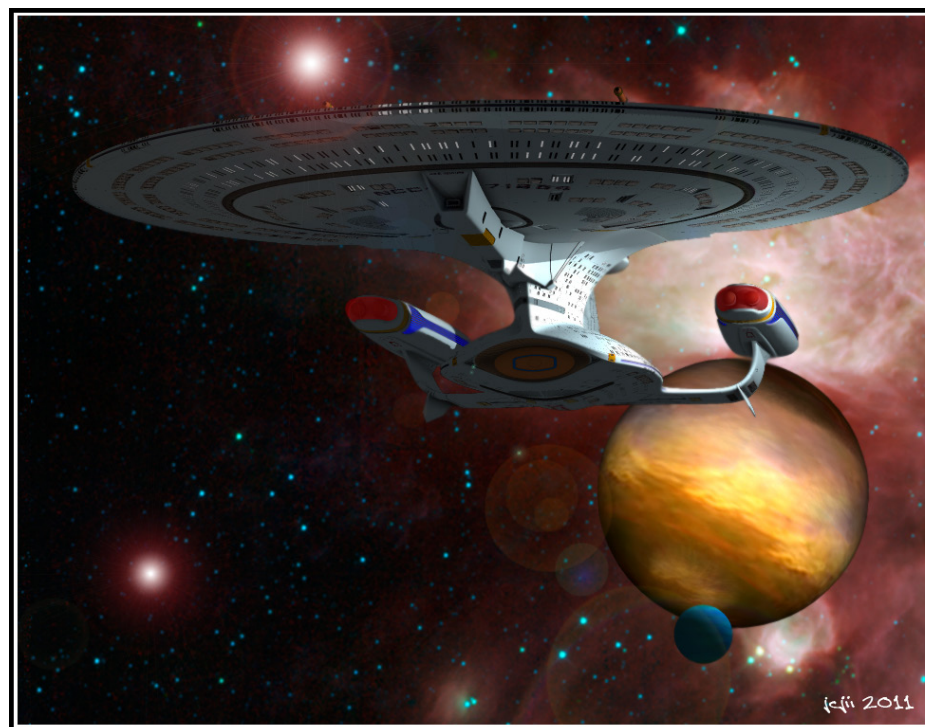
Another plan brought to the table was the possibility of a paintball outing this summer. Along with the crew of the USS Chicago, the group from Gotham's Finest would also be on hand to join in on the sport. Gotham's Finest is another cosplay organization

who also gives back to the community while immersing themselves in their favorite comic book personae. The paintball excursion would not be a competition between the two teams, but rather a mixture of camaraderie and fun as each team would consist of members of both organizations.

The evening also involved welcoming a new inductee into the group and recognizing promotions. New recruit Brandon Szarmach received the first pip to his uniform to be promoted to the rank of Ensign Junior Grade. Your humble correspondent, Ensign

John DeYoung was not only a first time attendee to the chapter but was also promoted to Lt. Junior Grade. The sudden promotion was due to the contribution Ensign DeYoung made to the organization, a Star Trek version of How to Host a Mystery game, which would be used for an upcoming event. The game was well received by Captain Jay Hurd. Once all the formalities were over, it was time for blood wine and celebration. Fun was had by all as each member hoped that the USS Chicago would continue to soar for four more years and beyond to Live Long and Prosper.

Arts Fleet



MISSION COMPLETE BY COL JAMES C JONES II

ENTERPRISE-D REFIT - ORIGINAL ENTERPRISE-D
BY PROLOGIC9 AND SUBSEQUENT BUILDS BY
EREMITICWOLF AND MATTYMANX
PERMISSION GRANTED BY EULA
PLANETS - BY BOVI (MYTHICAL LEGENDS) -
PERMISSION GRANTED BY EULA
BACKGROUND - SYSTEM PIA13448 - NASA
RENDERED IN POSER PRO 2010
POSTWORK IN PHOTOSHOT CS3
COMPLETED WORK BY JAMES C JONES II



NAME: THOMAS GORMAN
 RANK: LIEUTENANT
 POSITION: SPECIAL SECURITY DIVISION AGENT
 SHIP: *USS STORM* NCC-1694
 REGION: 7, NEW YORK (USA)

07-26-4961

A History of a Ship Named "Storm"

The Starship *U.S.S. Storm* follows in a line of history after other great ships named *Storm*. The following is a chronology of those ships, named in fiction, throughout the ages within the chronology of *Star Trek*.

One of the fighting Brigantine within Peter the Great of Russia's fleet, that battles with the Swedish Navy within the 17th Century. Mounting 16 cannons (8 on each side) this ship sailed more like a Merchant vessel of the time but with only 80 crew members than the standard 100 like the Merchant. Peter the Great was renowned for his ship building skills and is credited with single-handedly building his fleet's flagship.

In the mid 18th Century, the British adopted the name, *Storm*, for one of its third-rate Man-O-War. Serving as a "Ship of the Line" for the Royal Navy,



17TH CENTURY RUSSIAN BRIGANTINE "STORM"



18TH CENTURY BRITISH MAN-O-WAR "STORM"

her 80 guns saw campaigns in North Africa, East Indies, Mediterranean, and the coast of North America. She lived out her days in obscurity as just another ship of the line for his Majesty the King.

Named after its 18th Century predecessor, the Royal Cruiser *HMS Storm* served with the North Sea Fleet protecting the straits between Scotland and the Orkney Islands during the First World War. She saw action when a squadron of German U-Boats tried to mine the straits and was caught by the Mine-Sweeping Fleet of the United States Navy during autumn of 1917. The *HMS Storm* was used as the lead battery in sinking four of the U-Boats.

The rest of the 20th Century did not see the name *Storm* listed as any nation's ship. It was not until the middle of the 2020's that a ship was commissioned *Storm*, serving in the European Union's Naval Task force as a first strike vessel. Its mission

was to protect vessels against attacking Pirate vessels during the Eugenic Wars.

The S.S. *Storm* was named in honor of the preceding ship *EUV Storm* that was destroyed in an attack by six pirate vessels while protecting a group of passenger liners along the coast of East Africa. She destroyed five of the pirate ships before sinking herself. The S.S. *Storm* served as a long-range military sleeper ship until she was decommissioned due to the advent of warp travel.

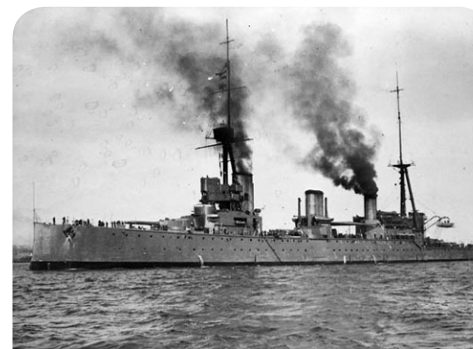
The Human/Romulan war was humanity's first interstellar conflict after more than forty years of total peace. Thus, while the Romulans began the war with a well-tested fleet of purpose designed combat vessels, the Humans where trying to hold them back with converted merchant vessels augmented by the occasional ship bought from an alien government. From the first day of the war, it was obvious that a new class of warships was needed; ships that were larger, faster and more powerful than any which had preceded them. Work began at a feverish pace early in 2156, and by mid-2158, the first of the new Daedalus class was launched.



DAEDALUS CLASS USS STORM, CIRCA 2158

Primarily a combat vessel, the class was fitted with four laser cannons of the heaviest type in service and a magazine of twenty-four fusion missiles. Combined with her high-speed and enhanced shield capacity, the Daedalus was considered equal to any four Romulan warships. In service they proved exemplary, rapidly acquiring a fearsome reputation on the front lines. By 2159 the rapidly growing Daedalus fleet had turned the tide in the war, and by the end of that year, they were routinely striking deep into Romulan home territory. The Romulans, faced with a war now fought almost wholly on their own territory, sued for peace in 2160.

The first of the Daedalus class vessels reached the end of its hull life in 2188. Initially it was planned to conduct a major overhaul on the hulls of the ships to extend their lives a further twenty years, but with a lessening in tensions during this period it was decided that Starfleet needed fewer heavily armed ships in service. The number of Daedalus class ships was allowed to gradually fall as ships reached the end of their hull life and retired. Initially it was planned to retire the cruiser type altogether in favor of large numbers of smaller, more maneuverable vessels.



WWI-ERA ROYAL CRUISER HMS STORM

History of the USS Storm, Continued



CONSTELLATION CLASS USS STORM, CIRCA 2245

But in the end it was decided to put most of the Daedalus fleet into mothballs against possible future need. The last one hundred ships were placed in storage in 2196, with the *USS Storm* being that last ship.

Perhaps the most famous class of vessel in Starfleet history, the Constitution class was a legend in its own time. When launched, the *U.S.S. Constitution* set a new standard of excellence in almost every applicable field - she was simultaneously the fastest ship, most advanced exploration platform and most powerful combat vessel in known space. The four hundred and thirty crew members of the *U.S.S. Storm* enjoyed a standard of crew accommodation unknown on other vessels of the period, while the diplomatic facilities rivaled those of all but the most elaborate Starbases.

Quickly following the *Constitution* in 2245 was the rest of the Constitution class starships. During her years of service life the *Storm* explored countless new worlds, making first contact with many species and helped in expanding the Federation's knowledge of the territories surrounding it hugely. Like her sister starships, the *U.S.S. Storm* also served as a mighty deterrent to both the Klingons and Romulans, several times taking part in combat actions which helped determined the fate of the entire Federation if not the Alpha Quadrant itself.

Note: The current operational era of the USS Storm is set between Star Trek the Wrath of Khan and Star Trek the Search for Spock.



03-37-9881



NAME: REED BATES
RANK: FLEET CAPTAIN
POSITION: STARFLEET SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR
OTHER POSITIONS: REGIONAL COORDINATOR, R3
SHIP: *USS ARK ANGEL* NCC-1889
REGION: 3, TEXAS (USA)

Need Money for College?

STARFLEET's got a Scholarship for you! Want to be a doctor or nurse so you can say, "He's Dead, Jim" and know for sure? Want to be an engineer like Scotty and beam me up? How about learning to put on performances in 10-Forward for all your friends? There is a scholarship for everyone.

How about becoming a Communications officer because sometimes the universal translator breaks down, so you might need to translate from Rihannsu to Tamarian and back into Federation

Standard. Well, you might need to learn that in college. Love to take care of wounded animals and even targ's are your best friend? Would you rather work Security and prevent a galactic war? How about learning to teach all of these topics? Or would you like to be like Jake Sisko and write about the universe around you? Don't forget, we even have a Scholarship if you want to learn to do business like a Ferengi. And, finally, if none of these sound interesting, there's always the miscellaneous one, the Space Explorers' Memorial Scholarship.

All you have to do is be a member of STARFLEET for a year, fill out an Application by the due date of June 30, and send it in with the required documents. For all the details, please see our website at: <http://scholarship.sfi.org/>

If you have any questions, please email the STARFLEET Scholarship Director at scholarships@sfi.org

Reed Bates, Fleet Captain
Scholarship Director

Star Trek Wakeup Call

The fabric of space time bent ever so slightly this morning as Science Fiction and present day intersected as the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery mission STS 133 were awaked by a communiqué from Captain Kirk of the Starship Enterprise.

"Space, the final frontier. These have been the voyages of the space shuttle Discovery.

Her 30 year mission: To seek out new science.

To build new outposts.

To bring nations together on the final frontier.

To boldly go, and do, what no spacecraft has done before," Kirk said over the "Theme from Star Trek."

In actuality William Shatner reprised his role as James T. Kirk, the fictional captain of the Starship Enterprise to wake up the crew of the space shuttle Discovery at 3:23 a.m. ET, This is the

spacecraft's final scheduled mission. It has made 39 flights and 13 journeys to the International Space Station.

The space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to land at Florida's Kennedy Space Center shortly before noon Wednesday -- one day later than originally scheduled. The nearly three-decade shuttle program is scheduled to end later this year.

There has been a long history between the Shuttle program and Star Trek and even though we could not get the toy Enterprise in space at least there is a Star Trek related ending to this historic mission. Thanks to all who participated in the STARFLEET'S & Star Leagues projects to fly a toy Enterprise on the last shuttle mission & the Well wishes card for these final flights of the Space Shuttle.

Also thanks to NASA for including

Star Trek Theme in their shuttle wakeup call, phone poll.

With Deepest Regard
Carnell

Captain Carnell Eubanks
U.S.S. Star League
Archivist / Historian
SCC 24999

Special Thanks to CNN
for original story





NAME: DAVID SLADKY
RANK: CAPTAIN
POSITION: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: USS STORM NCC-1694
REGION: 7, NEW JERSEY (USA)



07-38-4961

USS Storm Launch Party



MEMBERS OF THE USS STORM SURROUND THEIR CO, CAPT DAVID SLADKY (GOLD SHIRT), AND XO LGEN LARRY NEIGUT (WHITE UNIFORM).

block away. (Trivia note: Bob Vosseller was my first commanding officer on the USS Challenger, back in 1991).

Bob showed up with his entourage and my Chief Engineer showed up shortly thereafter. We sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle and for the door prize. The buffet was set up and soon we had about 25 people, with calls from Mike Sladky, Ken Kadin and Neil Buster, a cameo by my Security Chief, and surprise calls from the Commander and Vice-Commander of STARFLEET.

I had a wonderful time playing pool and we even picked up a new member. At

this time I would like to thank Teresa Trees and Marybeth Simkins for organizing the event and getting a great deal on the food and the location, James Paxson, Jr. for donating 1/3 of the money for the event, and Wally the bartender for holding the whole thing together. Also congratulations to Marybeth for winning the door prize of an operational new movie phaser, and Wally's brother who won \$29 in the 50/50.

I hope to have more of these events in the future, and am happy to have a great crew to help me with this and future events!

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CAPT DAVID SLADKY, CO, USS STORM; ADM BOB VOSELLER, CO, USS CHALLENGER; LGEN LARRY NEIGUT, XO, USS STORM.



As the first major event and/or party held by the USS STORM ever, I had much trepidation that anyone would show up, then the day before the weather forecaster called for snow and a few of our out-lying members called to say they were not going to make it. So I was sure that it was going to be just me, my Communications Officer and my Chief Medical officer.

As I sat in the Captains quarters (my bedroom), I waited for a call from my XO Larry, he was going to loan me a Gold Shirt for the event so I could be in a genuine Captain's uniform. Then the phone rang—people were at the party wondering where I was. Only I could be late for the party I was throwing.

I got a call from Larry and he told me he was waiting for a shuttle to pick him up. At the time I figured he was just being poetic, but 20 minutes later Larry had not showed up. I called him back and found out he really was waiting for a shuttle and the darn thing had not showed up! (Where is a shuttlecraft conductor when you need one?)

Once Larry showed up and I was in uniform, we made our way over to the Grand Fromage Bar and Grill and I was happy to see ten crew members had already showed up. With my Yeoman at my side, I started greeting the people who were there, and got a call from Bob Vosseller that he was only about a

STARFLEET Short Story Contest 2011

Are you an aspiring Star Trek fan fiction author? Do you enjoy writing Star Trek fan fiction and would like to share your work with your friends in STARFLEET? Well, now you can!

Back by popular demand is the Short Story Contest! So many of you had a great time with it in 2009 & 2010 that we decided to make it happen again in 2011 and give all of our budding authors a chance to share their work.

The Guest Judge for the 2011 STARFLEET Short Story Contest will be none other than accomplished novelist, short story author, screenwriter, and comic book writer Peter David.

Mr. David's work includes both comic books and novels, such as Imzadi, and co-creating the New Frontier series. His other novels include film adaptations, media tie-ins, and original works, such as the Apropos of Nothing and Knight Life series. His television work includes series such as Babylon 5 and children's television series such as Ben 10: Alien Force and Space Cases, which Mr. David co-created

The rules of the contest are pretty similar to what they were last year. As a reminder, here are the rules:

1. All submissions must be original works written by the submitting author.
2. The author must be a current member in good standing of STARFLEET, The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. and will need to provide his/her name and SCC number upon request for membership validation.
3. Authors may use a pseudonym, however, the entrant must provide his/her true name and SCC number upon request.
4. "Please read", "Untitled", etc. are not acceptable titles or summaries.
5. Submissions can not have been previously published or submitted for publication electronically or via any other medium.
6. Submissions must be 7,500 words or less.
7. Submissions must be received by 12:00am Eastern, June 1, 2010. Items received after 12:00 am Eastern, June 1, 2010 will remain available for reading on the site, but are excluded from judging.
8. Submissions will be reviewed by the Annual Campaign Short Story Contest Staff.
9. Five short stories will be selected by our panel of judges for final rating by our Guest Judge, Peter David.
10. Submissions may be printed in the STARFLEET Communiqué (CQ) and/or online via STARFLEET lists which may be read by children; as such, submissions must be rated PG and must not contain profanity or graphic descriptions of sexual acts - the submission must be deemed acceptable on North American television networks during the 8:00 pm Prime Time slot. While violence can be part of the story, horrendously gory violence may decrease an entrant's likelihood of being selected as a winner.
11. By entering, contestants retain the rights to their submissions, however, they grant STARFLEET permission to reprint their work in the CQ (with minor editorial spelling corrections, as necessary) and in possible fanzine publications.
12. Contestants agree to allow STARFLEET to use portions of their submissions in any promotional materials which may be produced (such as E-Mail or flyers).
13. Winning entrants agree to provide STARFLEET with a photograph of themselves to use when publishing their submission, however, writers can request their image not be used.
14. Only one entry per member. Multiple entries will result in the author being contacted and verifying which single entry they wish to have judged.
15. Submissions found to be in violation of these rules may be removed and the author's account suspended at the discretion of the site administrators and/or moderators. The site administrators reserve the right to modify these rules as needed.



Submissions are going to be accepted at the all-new STARFLEET Fiction Archive, available on the World Wide Web at: <http://fiction.sfi.org/>

Entries are NOT limited solely to the existing characters of Star Trek. If you would like to broaden your entry with your own character base, you are more than welcome to do that.

So, all you budding authors, get your imaginations going, start writing, and don't forget to **submit your entry by midnight Eastern on June 1st, 2011!**



NAME: JAMES C JONES II
RANK: COLONEL
POSITION: DIRECTOR, STARFLEET OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
SHIP: USS NCC-71840
REGION: 4, CALIFORNIA (USA)
WEBSITE: HTTP://SFOEP.ORG

Helping Others by Helping Yourself

It's 4:00 am - Flood, Tornado, Hurricane, Earthquake, Nuclear cloud. You have to get out. Now!

Pretty scary scenarios. It can happen and it has happened. The question is, "Are you ready?" Seriously. Are you?

I just completed my Community Emergency Response Team training, CERT for short, March 2011. I'd like to share some information about CERT and a little of my training with you.

The CERT program has been around since 1985. It was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD). The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 validated the need for training civilians to meet immediate needs after ANY disaster. After the Mexico City earthquake untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. It's important to remember that during times of emergencies people will step up and do what's needed to help others. Something also to remember — of all those untrained volunteers that unselfishly stepped in to help, about 100 lost their lives. Why? Lack of training.

CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a catastrophic disaster. Emergency services personnel will not be able to help everyone immediately. By being CERT trained you can make a difference when it's your time to step up and help.

I'd like to toss out one more bit of information. After an emergency, first responders (generally, the Fire Department, Law Enforcement, and others) must ascertain their ability to provide help: individual check,

equipment check, building check, and vehicle check. The Fire Department will start a Jurisdiction Survey when they've completed their immediate station check. An Engine will roll out and drive to its assigned jurisdiction. The Captain will note everything during that first pass — and they will not stop until the survey is done. The survey takes about 30-plus minutes. That's an additional 30 minutes after an emergency you won't see them. In fact, depending on how extensive the damage is, it may be hours before you see a first responder. A bit of sobering information is that you may be the first responder — with or without training.

So, what did I learn?

The CERT program, as it is now, has been adopted and expanded to cover all hazards. Since 1993, communities in 28 States and Puerto Rico conduct CERT training. The New York City CERT team recently sent 12-CERT Trainers to Haiti to teach its citizens the essentials of Emergency Response.

There are nine units taught in the program, and depending on where you live certain types of disasters are emphasized. For California, we focused on fires, earthquakes, and flooding.

The units are:

Disaster Preparedness
Fire Safety
Disaster Medical Operations Part 1
Disaster Medical Operations Part 2
Light Search And Rescue Operations

CERT Organizations
Disaster Psychology
Terrorism and CERT
Course Review and Disaster Simulation

Out of the above units, the most beneficial I thought were Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Light Search And Rescue Operations, and the Disaster Simulation.

Disaster Preparedness has been one of my focuses since the inception of the STARFLEET Office of Emergency Preparedness. It is a subject which everyone should, at the very least, think about. It's a subject easy to understand

intellectually, but not easy to implement.

Fire Safety was an eye-opener. Not only do you learn different types of fires, you learn how they start, how they react to

water, how fast they spread, and how to put them out. There's a hands-on exercise in putting out a "small" fire - about the size of an office chair.

Light Search and Rescue gives you insight into what professional Search and Rescue teams do. There's valuable information on conducting Searches and Rescues as well as what to do after you search.

And of course, the Disaster Simulation puts all the training together. Not only do you "play" a victim, but you also take part in being part of a CERT Operations Unit. The utter chaos of a disaster, even when simulated, makes you appreciate the training put into a First Responder.

So, now what?

Training. When that emergency hits the Fire Department, Police, and Ambulances will not be there. If not for hours, then days. As G.I. Joe would say - "Knowledge is half the battle."

I encourage ALL members to consider becoming CERT trained. You don't have to do it for your community. You don't have to do it for neighbors. You should do it for yourself and your family.

For more information on CERT: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>

You can always email me with questions on CERT and Emergency Preparedness. I'll be more than happy to answering your questions and concerns as well as getting you pointed in the right direction.

My email address is: director@sfoep.org

If you're interested in becoming an EPL (Emergency Preparedness Liaison) just send me your name, SCC#, region and chapter name (if you belong to one).

Additional links:

Disaster Simulation Photos: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/simulation-photos.shtm>

CERT Training Videos: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/videos/>

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/faq.shtm>



REGION 3 WANTS YOU!

Region 3 Wants YOU! To attend our Summit. All members are invited to swing into the Radisson Hotel in Lubbock, Texas for Region 3's Annual Summit, June 10-12, 2011.

This year's theme is World War II and the Swing Era of the 1940's. There are many things to do in Lubbock before, during, and after the Summit as well as the fun and camaraderie of the entire STARFLEET family getting together.

Thursday evening start off by going to an old-fashioned drive-in movie outdoors with the USS Lone Star crew (weather permitting, of course). Friday's activities may start off with a round of golf in the 2nd Annual Region 3 Golf Tournament, then on to a wine tour at Llano Estacado Winery, cocktail hour back at the Radisson, dinner with the Marines of the SFMC's 3rd Brigade, and topping off the night with room parties and a dip in the hot tub.

Saturday starts the main Summit events with Opening Ceremonies, lunch provided by the USS Lone Star with hot dogs and hamburgers (yes, free for all attendees) with all the trimming, panels (some usual, some not so usual), followed by cocktail hour in the Atrium Bar, then on to the Awards Banquet where we'll find out who the Big award winners are for the "of the Year" awards. That's not all for Saturday night! After the Awards are announced, there will be the Region's Final Mission where we will pay honor to those who have fallen in the past year. We'll then start the charity auction, dance, casino night, room parties and more hot-tubbing.

Sunday morning we'll have the CO/XO's breakfast, then our annual CCO meeting, and closing ceremonies. For anyone staying after noon, we'll have lunch, nap, and then have the dead dog party. (In Oklahoma in 2010, it was called the "Daisy Dog Party," but we don't have a dog named Daisy.)

For all Region 3 Summit information: <http://region3.org/summit/>

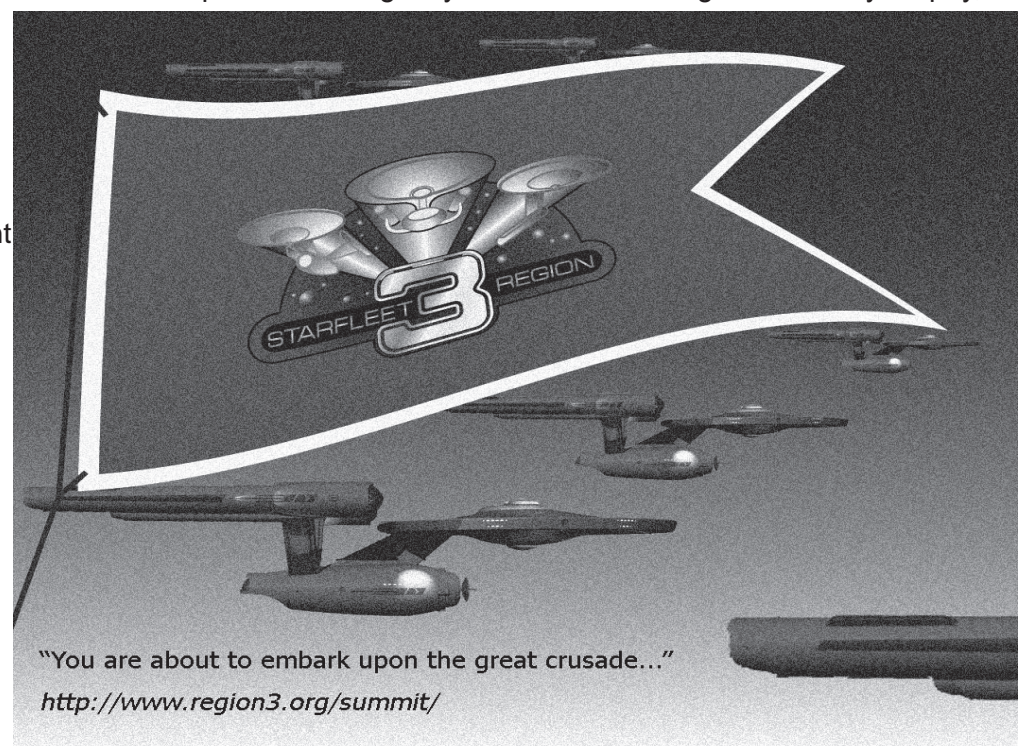
Adult Registration is only \$20 for Adults, and that includes most activities for all 3 days of Summit, plus the Saturday lunch provided for free by the USS Lone Star. The Youth (3-12) and Kids prices include children's programming, two dinners, and the lunch from the Lone Star.

Friday Night 3rd Brigade Dress Mess includes a choice of Chicken Breast with Chipotle Sauce or Grilled Sirloin. The Saturday Night Awards Banquet includes a choice of Santa Fe Chicken and New York Strip Steak. Both banquets meals are accompanied by the usual suspects: Tossed Salad, Sides, Iced Tea, Water, and Coffee with Dessert. Both banquets are \$25.00 each and that includes your tip.

The Summit 2011 charity is the Muscular Dystrophy Association. MDA is the nonprofit health agency dedicated to curing muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases by funding worldwide research. The Association also provides comprehensive health care and support services, advocacy and education.

Come a day or two early and stay a day or two more. There are many activities to do in Lubbock, like visiting a museum, where there are several, including the Buddy Holly Museum or the Silent Wings Museum.

We look forward to seeing you in Lubbock. Let the Invasion Begin.





NAME: BRUCE O'BRIEN
RANK: BRIGADIER GENERAL
POSITION: COMMANDANT, SFMC
OTHER POSITIONS: COMMANDING OFFICER
SHIP: *USS SOUTHERN CROSS* NCC-83550
REGION: 11, AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

1142-55-36



State of the SFMC

It is very amazing for us to realize that the "new" GS has been in place for only a few weeks. If someone had told us that it had been three months or more, I for one would have accepted that unquestioned. So much activity seems to be happening all around us and so far, all of it has been good! We sure hope that continues...

The GS has now settled into their roles and all Commands are busily working away on the various (and many) projects that are either in place, or are being bought together. We said we would hit the road running, and that is exactly what we are doing - although to be honest, perhaps we are trying a little too hard to do too much at once. The GS discussion list has been running hot for weeks now as I am sure all participants and observers to that list can attest to. Topics have been wide-ranging and important to the both the structure of the SFMC in general and to the establishment of incentives and programs that this GS are working through - some of which is reported thus:

Communications

We stated at the outset that it would be our intention to ensure communication channels at all levels were open, activated and utilized. I can assure you that from my viewpoint, this has indeed been very much the case. The number of mails and messages received to and from all Commands has been great and with it the degree of inter-communication between the GS Commands, Brigades, Units and individual Marines is very high. This is as it should be and I would hope, and really expect, to see this continue.

We will only continue to develop and be

strong as an organization by the level of open and honest communication that transpires, so please keep it up. I would expect that the proper use of communication via the CoC will ensure that we are all doing our jobs to the best of our ability - but more importantly than that, it is the simple fact of us all talking to each other that will help keep the Corps strong.

I would take the opportunity while on this subject to thank all the personal messages of good-will I have received from those wishing me well in this new role. That personal touch from people I have really only ever 'met' through correspondence or who only may know me by name is something that I take very personally and I am truly pleased to receive them.

Staffing & Volunteers

Most of the key roles with General Staff Commands' offices have now been filled - but I am aware of a few important vacancies here and there that still, or will, require filling. If any Marine is looking to further their career path in the SFMC, or perhaps has an interest that activity within one or other of the SFMC Commands may be able to satisfy, then I urge you to look, or make inquiry. If you are unsure if your skills, experience or interest may suit the various advertised positions you see available, this too should not preclude you from making your offer or interest to serve your fellow marines, and again, I urge you to make inquiry.

To assist with the raft of volunteers that stepped forward in January (in particular), there has been established the office of the Volunteer Coordinator - which is currently

run by the DCOFORCECOM. So if you have a desire to offer up your services - no matter what that may be - it is strongly suggested that you drop Colonel James a line, or get in touch with the COFORCECOM to find out more. They will be most keen to hear from you I assure you.

Rank Billets

Some weeks ago, there had been a fair bit of discussion on the Corps list with regards to rank billets - most especially that of the office of Commandant. In general terms, the question had been raised that the appointment to certain senior positions within the Corps should bring with it an 'automatic' rise in rank to a certain level.

Allowing for the various and most passionate viewpoints that have been expressed, the GS took the subject as something that required definitive and detailed discussion, so that a carefully adjudged decision could be made by us on the matter.

There followed several days of intense and very robust debate on the subject matter in which many various viewpoints were highlighted, investigated and talked of. By the end of our discussions, it was made quite clear that this GS was opposed to there being any change to current policy in this regard, based upon several important principles. Some of these included the fact that the current system and policy is working well and generally suits the requirements of the SFMC; the fact that while we may mirror the structure of our ranking system on that of current military, that there is no legal obligations that would require such changes; and the

fact that many of our "career" enlisted Marines would be possibly put into and "awkward" position regarding their rank if they were appointed to one of these roles - all contributed to the final outcome and decision.

So, I can again confirm the announcement that it is the formal decision of this GS that there will be no change to the current rank policy as discussed and we will continue to support the excellent premise that billet trumps rank. After all, we have been appointed to these positions based on our perceived ability to do the job and one star, no star or four stars will make no difference to that whatsoever.

Commandants Campaign and Wilderness Challenge

Questions have also been raised on both these great incentives. Please be advised of the following: it is our intention that the programs that made up the Commandant's Campaigns of previous years will simply continue. This means that participation in the Toys for Tots and Special Olympics by way of example will just roll over into this year as well. If there are any other special projects that anyone may wish to raise as possible inclusion, please get in touch through the usual channels.

To date, the SFMC Wilderness Challenges have been run most competently and extremely efficiently by the SFMC Wilderness Challenge Committee. This too will continue exactly as before and any Brigade wishing to participate in one of these programs should make inquiry through FORCECOM who will direct them to the right area.

State of the SFMC, Continued

SFMC Awards

0743-24-81

Some of you may have heard of the closure of the web-based company, The Hock Shop. These people supplied all the special award ribbons in use by the SFMC and their closure is a bit of a blow to us. However, the SFMC Quartermaster has done an excellent job in immediately looking for a replacement supplier (or suppliers as the case may be). Fortunately, we hold some good stocks of most of our ribbons and see no need for any concern as to supply. However, it MAY be required that long term, we will not be able to replace some awards with the exact ribbon as is used currently. This too should not cause any concern as in the event that we are forced to change any of our award designs, the existing design will be acceptable for wear anyway.

In our research into 'replacement

suppliers', while we have found several who should be able to slip into the void created, we will have to face the fact that the day of our 'low cost' ribbons has ended - as it is highly probable that future awards will come at a higher price. Naturally, we will be attempting to keep cost as low as possible but you will eventually see the demise of the 85 cent ribbons in our store. A reminder on this topic however- there is NO need for any concern at all on our ribbon awards or supply. We will keep you all reliably informed on all and any developments as they occur.

Nebula Award Nominations

I would like to just take some time to discuss nominations for our most prestigious awards - those of the Gold or Silver Nebula.

As these awards honor those marines

who have will have performed an action of serious, probably heroic and of personal risk, it is critically and most crucially important that ANY nomination submitted for either of these awards is accompanied by as much detailing as is possible. The GS is required to fully investigate and rule on each nomination and as these awards are the top honors presented by the SFMC (the Gold Nebula is the SFMC equivalent to the Medal of Honor or Victoria Cross), we are therefore required to insure our judgment is sound, cautious, accurate and above all, befitting the actions of the nominee. Thus we do implore any nominator to make sure that they are providing us with the very best opportunity to enable us to recognize what will likely be heroic actions in life-threatening situations and pass an award to the individual concerned, by making sure that the 'i's' and 't's' are well and truly taken care of. Attach

as much detail as you can - witness statements; newspaper clippings - anything at all that will help us to carry out our duty responsibly and simply.

After all - be assured that we really do want to make such presentation and thereby give these people the recognition their acts deserves. I suggest that you carefully study the awards nomination procedure on the SFMC database before sending any submission to us.

Finally a question... When is an SFMC Marine not a Marine? And the answer is "Never". Once a member of the Corps, always a member of the Corps. Make sure to keep those communication channels well and truly open and please continue enjoying your membership in our Corps. And if you have the time - spread the love - recruit someone!

SERGEANT MAJOR, SFMC

Report from the Sergeant Major, SFMC

Greetings

Marines!

0543-37-47

Welcome back to the booth in the back in the corner in the dark of the local NCO club, where the meetings open in the traditional manner (Jacks or better, nothing wild but Top) and we often join in the NCO's Prayer (Oh <Insert Supreme Power of your choice>, NOW what?).

One of the responsibilities of the SGM SFMC is maintaining the NCO Chain of Support by recruiting and retaining enlisted Marines. One handicap to that effort is that nobody seems to know how many enlisted members the SFMC has now, let alone how many it had at some point in the past. So, it is a bit difficult to know whether I am effectively doing that part of my job.

Enter Brigadier General Norm DeRoux, OIC of the 5th BDE, who took it upon himself to include the numbers of enlisted members in each unit of

his brigade in his February report, and make sure that I got a copy. So, for at least one brigade of the SFMC, I finally have some hard numbers to report, and use as a baseline.

In the 5th BDE, 39 of the 120 Marines shown on their February report are enlisted. Breaking it down by unit, some have no enlisted members and some have half their rosters in the enlisted ranks, for an average of 23 percent enlisted members in each unit. If we consider only the units that HAVE enlisted members, the average jumps to 35 percent. Or to put it more simply, units in the 5th BDE that have enlisted members have, on average, 14 Marines, and 5 of those are enlisted.

Another very interesting number jumps out at me from the data. In the 5th BDE, there is a pretty strong relationship between the number of active vs reserve Marines in a unit, and the number of enlisted members.

On average, the number of enlisted members is about 70 percent of the total number of Active members. Whether this is a quirk or a trend that indicates enlisted members of the SFMC are most likely to be Active is something that will require more data.

Of course, every brigade is different, and it would be foolish to apply the numbers from just one to the Corps as a whole. As I write this, Colonel Jari James, DCOFORCECOM, is working on getting me more data as the February reports come in, and I hope to be able to report soon on the actual percentage of enlisted members in the SFMC as a whole. My thanks to both COL James and BGEN DeRoux for their assistance and initiative in providing me with this information.

Another area of responsibility I have is encouraging and supporting community service efforts throughout the Corps. We live in uncertain

times, from flooding and earthquakes Down Under that directly affect our members in the 11th BDE to economic constraints that affect so many of us here in the US in the form of reduced governmental services. No effort you can make is too small when it comes to giving back to your community. Keep up the good work, Marines, and please let me know about the contributions you make in terms of time and effort so I can share them with the rest of the Corps.

One project that I have added to my own "To Do" list is compiling all of the History Reports that have become such a popular part of my monthly State of the NCO Corps reports into one document and making it available for interested parties. I have set a deadline of this year's IC/IM to make that happen.

One thing I would like to address in this report is a persistent rumor

Report from the SGM, Continued

0744-47-16

concerning me personally. On many occasions, I can answer a question quickly and with complete confidence simply by going to written policy and citing it. For the record, I do NOT sleep with a copy of the MFM under my pillow, and I do NOT have it committed to memory. I simply have a copy of the current MFM (and the associated Policy Manual) on my computer, a rough familiarity with what is in each section, and the knowledge that Acrobat Reader has a Search function that lets me find things pretty quickly when I need to. Why, yes, Marines, that IS a hint. Always be sure, though, that you have the LATEST edition of a particular reference, be it the MFM or the SFI Membership Handbook.

Now, sometimes The Book may not be particularly clear on something, or there may even be what you perceive to be an error, or even a common or garden variety typo that should be cleared up. In

that case, feel free to contact the GS and get it straightened out.

You can contact the SFMC General Staff with any questions or concerns you have. The email addresses are ALL on the SFMC web page, and their doors are always open. Your questions and input are always welcome and needed. And, if you are not sure of which particular member of the GS is best equipped to deal with your question or comment, I can assure you that no matter which one you send it to, they will make sure it gets to the right person.

Finally, let's take a look at Top's History Lesson. One phenomenon that we see from time to time is that of the "reverse mustang" where an SFMC officer resigns their commission and becomes an enlisted member of the Corps. Some folks wonder how realistic that is. Well, in 1915, 2LT William Scurry of the Australian Citizens Forces (their Army

Reserve), who had come up through the ranks, resigned his commission and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force as a Private in the 7th Battalion to fight in World War One.

Arriving at Gallipoli right about the time the Powers That Be decided to evacuate the beaches there, Scurry, now a lance corporal, helped come up with an ingenious but simple invention that allowed the evacuation to proceed without tipping off the enemy. Using two tin cans, the upper dripping water into the lower, he created the "self firing rifle". When the water in the lower can reached the proper level, the weight pulled the trigger, and sporadic rifle fire from the ANZAC trenches gave the illusion that they were still manned, keeping the enemy off the backs of the troops quietly withdrawing. For his brilliant improvisation, Scurry received the Distinguished Conduct Medal and Mentioned in Dispatches (an award signifying he was officially

written up in praise for his actions.)

Scurry was also promoted to sergeant, and then later, became an officer again, coming full circle and beyond as he finished WW One as a captain in charge of a mortar battery. In that role, he won the Military Cross. In World War Two, he reenlisted, and was in charge of a detention camp, finally rising to the rank of Major.

But his place in history is that of Lance Corporal Scurry, inventor of the self firing rifle that saved so many lives at Gallipoli, a mustang who became a reverse mustang, and then a mustang again.

Semper Fi!

MMSGT Jerome A. "Hawk" Stoddard
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Report from the CO TRACOM

1244-12-47

Marines,

Due to the lateness of the January report, this February report may be a bit light on data. At this time, the TRACOM HQ Staff is preparing to begin a program which will not only ensure that the SFMCA courses offered are up to date, but also that HQ has adequate and complete copies of all SFMCA materials on hand in a secondary storage site.

Contacting TRACOM:
http://sfmca.sfi-sfmc.org/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=79

Student Reminder:

Students, it is of vital importance that you make certain that each and every field in the Course Request Form is filled out properly. If you select the correct course but select the incorrect school your request will go to the

wrong address. Your request will likely be delayed in being processed.

Student Awards for January:

These were already announced by Brigadier General Scott Anderson, but I wanted to be certain that these fine marines have an extra opportunity to see their names in print.

TRACOM Student of the Month

E. Jerry Beaulieu, USS Ares, 15th BDE: 8 courses completed, 4 with Distinction and 3 with Honors

TRACOM Student of the Month (Runner-up)

Russell Ruhland, USS DaVinci, 2nd BDE: 9 courses completed, 4 with Distinction and 1 with Honors

Cadet TRACOM Student of the Month

Preston Rogers, Unassigned, 6th BDE: 2 courses completed, 1 with

Distinction and 1 with Honors

Cadet TRACOM Student of the Month (Runner-up)

Anya Walker, USS Dakota, 1st BDE: 1 course completed, with Distinction

Marine Unit Readiness Program (MURP)

Aerospace
631st MSG - Fighting Ospreys

Support
740th MSG - Black Diamonds

TRACOM Student Awards

Initial Entry Training Award (PD-10)

Reed Bates
Melissa Fear
Amie Greist
Donna Jarrett
Linda McLaughlin
Geoffrey Pimentel
David Porter
Efrain Quihuis

Michael Seim
Owen Swart
James Trainham

Marine Proficiency Ribbon (PD-12)
Charles Robinson

Professional Development Award (PD-20/OTS)

Marcus Easterly
Charles Robinson

Leadership Qualification Badge with Silver Wreath (LD-10)

Franklin Newman
George Pimentel

Leadership Qualification Badge with Gold Wreath (LD-20)

Jim Hutley
Franklin Newman

Academic Excellence Award

Tracy Clark (MD-30 HONORS)
Larry French (SU-30 HONORS)

Report from the CO FORCECOM



Kia ora, Ladies, Gentlemen, and Cadets of the Corps.

This past month has certainly been busy. I have awarded the Legion of Arms to a couple of well deserving Marines to thank them for their service to their country's Armed Forces. They are Colonel Brian Allen of the 234 MSG on the *USS Oklahoma* and LT Charles Robinson of the 212th MSG on the *USS Jaresh-Inyo*. One of the things we have been working on was getting the rules for the reading challenge clarified and so here are the rules for the SFMC Reading Challenge.

The STARFLEET Marine Corps Reading Challenge is a friendly contest conducted by FORCECOM of the STARFLEET Marine Corps to encourage reading at all ages. Members of the SFMC read as many books as they can in a certain set period of time and compete in categories such as most pages read by a single marine (Adult/Cadet), Marine Strike Group (Adult/Cadet), and Brigade (Adult/Cadet). To participate all a marine has to do is read books and report them to their MSG OIC for inclusion in their by-monthly reports. This information is then passed up the chain of command to COFORCECOM. For more details including eligibility and submission requirements please see the section below.

The Details

Who runs this contest?: FORCECOM of the STARFLEET Marine Corps runs this contest with the consent of the STARFLEET Marine Corps General Staff.

Contest period: COFORCECOM determines the start and end dates for the contest. Normally the contest runs from STARFLEET International Conference to STARFLEET International Conference. However this can change. Any changes in the contest period must be published at least six (6) months in advance in the Attention on Deck! Extra, Attention on Deck!, and the Corps email list. Please note that this contest may be discontinued at any time by COFORCECOM or the SFMC Commandant.

Contest Eligibility: Any and all

marines of all ages in good standing in STARFLEET: The International Star Trek Fan Association Inc., and STARFLEET Marine Corps may participate. Cadets (as outlined in the SFMC Cadet Manual) may participate in this challenge; however they compete against other Cadets and not adults.

All submissions must be made through the chain-of-command; direct submissions to FORCECOM will automatically be discarded. To be considered an eligible submission all the following information must appear on a Brigade's report to FORCECOM for each marine:

- 1) Marine's full name
- 2) Marine's SCC number
- 3) Marine's age (for Cadets)
- 4) Title of Book
- 5) Author of Book
- 6) Page count
- 7) ISBN number or publishers information

Failure to include all the above information will result in that submission being discarded. COFORCECOM is not responsible for any lost or incomplete submissions.

Contest Eligible Material: Books in the genres of fiction, non-fiction, mystery, sci-fi, thriller, romance, etc... are eligible and can be either in printed or electronic form (Kindle, Nook, PDF, etc...). Books and materials such as newspapers, magazines, comic books, cook books, and other such books are not eligible. Audio Books can only be used if the participant has a physical impairment or condition (blindness, dyslexia, etc...) which prevents them from reading a printed book. Marines using audio books must include the same information as a printed book. Page counts for audio books are determined by using the page count from the latest printed edition of the audio book in question.

Note: There is no category for Battalions since many Brigades choose not to use them.

Contest Winners: Adult and Cadet winners are chosen in categories for;

- 1) Most pages read by a single marine: Winners are determined

by adding up all of an individual's reported number of pages read.

2) Most pages read by a Marine Strike Group (MSG): Winners are determined by taking the total number of reported pages read by a MSG and dividing that number by the total number of marines on that MSG's roster on the contest end date. This averaged number is then compared to other MSG's numbers and the winner is the MSG with the highest average number of pages read.

3) Most pages read by a Brigade (BDE): Winners are determined by taking the total number of reported pages read by a BDE and dividing that number by the total number of marines on that BDE's roster on the contest end date. This averaged number is then compared to other BDE's numbers and the winner is the BDE with the highest average number of pages read.

Contest Awards and Prizes: Any contest awards and prizes awarded to winners are determined by the STARFLEET Marine Corps General Staff.

It has been decided that since it is a Challenge that the Individual winner of the SFMC Reading Challenge will win a SFMC Challenge coin.

For the Unit and the Brigade Level Winners they will receive a Reading Challenge streamer.

I would encourage all Marines out there to participate in the Reading challenge.

Something suggested to me once it could be used by a unit to challenge another unit, or you could have a battalion in one brigade challenge another battalion in that brigade.

Just remember, it is all for fun and reading improves your mind and your general fund of knowledge.

If you ever have any questions about starting a marine unit or about marine awards or unit reporting or the reading challenge please email me

Yours in service to the corps

John Kiwi Kane
Master Gunnery Sergeant, SFMC

Commanding
Officer, Forces
Command
forcecom@sfi-
sfmc.org

TRACOM Rpt, Cont.

Franklin Newman (OD-30 HONORS)
Charles Robinson (AE-30 HONORS)
Zebariah Young (NCO-30 HONORS)

Aerospace Wings Device (AE-25 or 30)
John Caverly
Dennis Jones

Infantry Advanced Device (IN-20)
George Pimentel

Medical Caduceus Device (MD-30)
Tracy Clark
Tina Davis

Mecha Cape Device (ME-20)
Mark Anderson
Josiah Smiddy

Parachutist Wings Device (SO-13)
Michael Krogh

Special Operations Device (SO-30)
Jill Tipton

Final Note:

It's getting close to Summit/Muster season again and with that we get closer and closer to IC/IM. Last year we introduced Team Delta which is awarded to both students of extremely high merit and persons making contributions of extreme value to the SFMC by way of TRACOM. I want to take the opportunity to remind students that in order to qualify for consideration for Team Delta as a student, you must have completed a 30 or 60 level term paper project which, in the opinion of the particular Branch Director, shows a very thorough understanding of the subject branch and a deep insight into the topic discussed.

Thanks.

LGN Michael McGowan
COTRACOM

Report from the CO INFOCOM

0744-47-16

Well the weather here at the Data Warfare Center is going from one extreme to another. One day it is 32 degrees and snowing with 8 inches on the ground and then the next it is 61 degrees. I really need to talk to the weather service about setting up some good weather around here. Now as you all know INFOCOM now has a new DCO, Brigadier Michael Timko III. Michael has been working as the Editor for Attention on Deck! Extra for the past couple of years and has proven himself to be reliable and an asset to INFOCOM. Even though Michael is the new DCO he will continue to work as the editor

for Attention on Deck! Extra. I look forward to working with Michael in his new capacity as DCO.

In my last article I talked about what I wanted to do with INFOCOM. As with any plans things tend to have to be reevaluated and priorities shifted. As of today I have not been able to anything much more than some preliminary work on SFMC forums and moving the SFMC websites to their own account. However I have started work on setting up an RPG list. Hopefully that will go live in the near future. After that I plan to tackle the other two items that I mentioned

in my last post.

Staffing

Volunteers are always welcome. If you have experience in programming, Joomla, video editing, publications, graphics, etc..., please send your SFMC resume and a small portfolio of your work to infocom@sfi-sfmc.org.

Need help with your group's website?

If there is any Unit, Battalion, or Brigade that needs help in setting up a website or fixing one please feel free to contact me and I'll be

more than happy to see what I can do to help. Be sure to have an idea as to some of the site basics (what information is to be on the site, what you want the site to do for you, etc...) as it will help me help you.

Remember that I do maintain an open door policy so if any member has questions regarding the SFMC, INFOCOM, etc..., please do not hesitate to contact me at infocom@sfi-sfmc.org.

MGN Sean Niemeyer
COINFOCOM

DEPUTY COMMANDANT, SFMC



NAME: MARK ANBINDER
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REGION: 7, NEW YORK (USA)

1244-12-47



Breaking Bread, A Centuries-Old Tradition

People ask occasionally why we bother getting together in person every year for STARFLEET's International Conference, when the official business meeting that's required could just as easily -- and much less expensively -- be accomplished via Skype or some other online tool. For me, the reality is that the formal meetings are just an excuse, and the opportunity to gather for shared meals is the real point of the IC.

That's at least as true of the relatively recent tradition of the STARFLEET Marine Corps Dress Mess, a dinner hosted at each IC by the Commandant of the Corps for the last several years. Bringing together not just SFMC members but lots of non-Marine members of STARFLEET, the Dress Mess has proven to be a real winner.

What's one reason for this success? I think a big factor is that, as mentioned above, everyone has



STARFLEET MEMBERS DRESS UP FOR THE ANNUAL SFMC DRESS MESS, IN GREENSBORO AT IC'09.

PHOTO BY GEN. MARK H. ANBINDER.

felt welcome. This quintessentially Marine event has included a growing number of STARFLEET members who aren't Marines, and has thus acted as a bridge. (Having Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise at the dinner in 2009 didn't hurt.)

STARFLEET banquets are always an excuse to dress up just a bit, and the SFMC Dress Mess is no exception. Attendees typically wear their fanciest uniforms or semiformal civilian attire.

The SFMC Dress Mess Manual,

available for download from the SFMC web site at www.sfi-sfmc.org, offers lots of tips for planning your own Dress Mess, including scripts, drink recipes, and history of the tradition.

It has its beginnings in 18th Century British military custom, and our Dress Mess is largely based on early 20th Century USMC events. Of course, friends and comrades dining together is a tradition that goes back centuries, if not millennia.

If you've never been to an SFMC Dress Mess, I'd encourage you to join us at the earliest opportunity, such as this summer's IC. If you have, invite your fellow chapter members to join you at the next one. Planning your own brigade or battalion muster? Download the SFMC Dress Mess Manual and think about hosting your own.

1244-12-47

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0247-04-20



Visit the STARFLEET Quartermaster!

I've gotten a lot of requests for dark polos, and so I've ordered a new supply in navy blue (sizes small to 2XL) and black (in 3XL). I should have them ready to ship in about two weeks. Like our previous polos, these are the same high-quality craftsmanship, enlarged logo, and ten year unlimited guarantee — a great deal, and only \$24 for all sizes.



The STARFLEET flags are selling well, and with regional summit season approaching, now is the time to get one! A full 4 feet by 6 feet, suitable for outdoor use, these full-color STARFLEET logo flags will grab everyone's attention wherever you take them. At only \$40, they are ten bucks cheaper than the last STARFLEET flags we had, and they were small and single color.



At the other end of the business are some items we've had for a long time that we're running low on and are ready to close out. The STARFLEET book lights, lighted keychains, and flashing lapel pins are about sold out, and they've been in stock quite a while so the batteries they were shipped with are pretty much expired. So, I've knocked the prices on these items down to \$4 — get yours before they're gone!



I'm continuing to receive logos for the new STARFLEET Spreadshirt store, where you can submit your group or event logo so we can sell whatever items you want with your logo on them. Preferred format is a PNG with 'transparent background' format (and if anyone out there is a photoshop whiz who could help me convert some existing logos to that format and spec, please contact me privately).

And don't forget the existing STARFLEET Spreadshirt store, at: <http://STARFLEET.spreadshirt.com/> where you can get dozens of different items in many colors, sizes and designs. If you want a t-shirt, bag, sweatshirt, pin, laptop bag, bathrobe, umbrella or scarf with the STARFLEET logo, this is your place to shop!



As always, we're searching for more items that you would be interested in buying with the STARFLEET brand on it, and we have a voting page on the QM site where you can vote for the items we've already featured. Check it out at http://qm.sfi.org/index.php?a=viewCat&catId=12&sortBy=name&sort_order=low

Please feel free to forward this email to any other interested lists or people. Thanks for reading!

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