

The Harpers Ferrian

Harpers Ferry Newsletter - First In Freedom / July 2019



Defending Freedom!

HARPERS FERRY Family,



Commanding Officer,
Cmdr. Janice Pollard

July is typically peak summer conditions, and we have definitely been feeling the heat out here in 5th Fleet! Not only has it been hot, but this area is also known for Southwest Monsoons that bring heavy seas, and high winds that bring blowing sand all the way out to where we operate. Our Sailors and Marines are prepared for the environment and are performing brilliantly in it! In fact, we have been underway for the entire month of July, which is no small feat by itself as it takes a lot of hard work to keep a 25 year old warship running in top condition! Our presence here is critically important to America's strategic mission, and I am so proud of each and every Sailor and Marine, and I know you are as well! Five of our brilliant Sailors committed to continued years of service to our beloved country through reenlistments this month and received a total of \$16,068.59 in tax-free Re-Enlistment Bonuses! Everyone is pushing hard to reach professional and career milestones, many have achieved their ESWS qualification, and I am extremely proud to announce the following qualifications this month: Officer of the Deck Underway: LTJG McGowan Engineering Officer of the Watch: ENC(SW) Figueroa Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer: ENS Harris

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Inside the Mind of an Undesignated Sailor

By Yeoman 2nd Class Valentine Mulango, HFY Public Affairs



Seaman Shanice Brown (left) from Portland, Jamaica steers the ship during an underway replenishment while standing watch as Master Helmsman on the bridge aboard dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49).

Every year civilians enlist through the Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) program which allows them to work at their first permanent duty station without choosing a job and decide on the job they want later. As a result, they are often called Undesignated or PACT Seaman, Fireman or Airman. In 2017, Seaman Shanice Brown from Portland, Jamaica did just that. "I enlisted as a PACT Sailor so I could attend boot camp at the same time as my sister," she said. Brown has demonstrated her greatness by "qualifying as a Master Helmsman and earning her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist insignia," said BMCS Chisholm, before concluding that "she [Brown] is going to succeed no matter what rate [job] she chooses." In early June, Brown got approved for a Personnel Specialist (PS) job designation and official documents are still in the works to bring it to fruition. This is an

opportunity Brown hopes to capitalize on. "I definitely intend to extend my contract to complete my sea tour as a PS and put on my first petty officer chevron."



Issue No. 031

Quote Of The Month

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it."

Mary Engelbreit

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Strait of Hormuz



Sailors man SCAT and Marines man DATF during the transit of the Strait of Hormuz . (Photos by MC3 Strombeck)



Another RAS aboard USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49)
GMSN Morgan Ellis shooting the shot line for a RAS with
USNS Big Horn July 6th, 2019. (Photo by MC3 Strom-
beck)



Flight Quarters! Flight Quarters!
Sailors on the flight deck during flight quarters. (Photo by
MC3 Strombeck)

Did You Know That...

For E6 and E7 advancement the RSCA PMA counts as 51% of your exam score. The goal is to reward talented sailors who show sustained superior performance. Read NAVADMIN 312/18 for more info.

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CO's Angle Cont'd



I also wanted to let you know that I appreciate your patience with our intermittent communications and understanding that we can't share our ship's schedule or specifics about our current operations with friends and family. We are still restricted from accessing any type of social media or web based email accounts, so the shipboard email address is the fastest way to get in contact with your loved one onboard. I also push information to our Ombudsmen, Jessica Erikson and Stacey Diehl, regularly so watch for updates on FB regarding our communications status. They are doing a phenomenal job and we are so thankful for

all the extra time, effort, and care that they put in each day to help our families with a wide range of concerns. Thank you, Ladies! Finally, I am sure many of you saw that BOXER ARG was in the news recently, and you have nothing to worry about. Your Sailors and Marines continue to do what they are highly trained to do—defend America's Freedom and Democracy around the world, and there is no one more ready for anything than the crew of HARPERS FERRY! Remember, our motto is FIRST IN FREEDOM!

All the best,
Janice

This Month in Naval History

JULY 19, 1918

During World War I, USS San Diego sinks off Fire Island, N. Y., by a mine placed by German submarine (U 156). The cruiser sinks in 28 minutes with the loss of six lives and is the only major warship lost by the U.S. in World War I.

Congratulations On Your Reenlistments



EN2 J. Phillips

EM1 W. Nicholson



IT2 R. Morales

The following sailors re-enlisted onboard USS Harpers Ferry in July 2019

EN2 Jacob Phillips

EM1 Wade Nicholson

IT2 Ruben Morales

4th of July Steel Beach



Sailors and Marines come together to serve the crew a delicious meal.



Some fun in the sun during the 4th of July Steel Beach Picnic!



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Sailors Of The Quarter, Apr-Jun 2019



Senior Sailor of the Quarter,
IC1(SW) Nicholas Peperis



Sailor of the Quarter,
LS2(SW) Gerra Calhoun



Junior Sailor of the Quarter,
ET3(SW) Shania Kitchen



Blue Jacket of the Quarter,
SHSN(SW) Lyren Landry

THEY WERE ALL CAUGHT IN ACTION!



Marines on board conduct training on the flight deck.



EN2 Chiles and EN2 Ecot working on a jacket water stand-by pump.



Deck department during boat operations.



FC1 McGuire during Fresh Water Washdown.