



THE SAND PAPER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MCM CREW CONFLICT

"PEACE ALWAYS FOLLOWS CONFLICT"

APRIL 2011

ARABIAN GAUNTLET!!!!!!

Shortly after arriving in theater, MCM CREW CONFLICT was tasked to participate in Arabian Gauntlet, a coalition exercise with the British and Pakistani Navies. During this exercise, we completed close-quarters ship maneuvers, a crew served weapons gun shoot, several days of mine hunting and Mine Neutralization Vehicle flights, and a PHOTO-EX which included all participating ships. With everyday presenting a new challenge and learning to overcome each obstacle, including language barriers, fatigue, and equipment casualties, we successfully executed a nearly flawless underway. Our mission in FIFTH FLEET is to maintain presence in the Middle East, but also build proficiency in mine warfare operations to ensure forces are ready when called upon. Arabian Gauntlet provided an excellent opportunity to build our proficiency while building stronger ties with our coalition partners.



HT1 (SW) ALFREDO CALHOUN REENLISTS



Another proud moment in one Sailor's career has come around again: Re-Enlistment. There comes a point in every Sailor's career where they must decide whether they want to stay in for the long haul or get out of the Navy. For HT1 Calhoun, he chose to serve another term. HT1 has been a proud member of our crew for over a year and has been the go-to-guy for repairs on many combat and engineering systems on board. On behalf of the crew, we congratulate him on his choice to stay Navy and thank him for his continued, honorable service.

OPERATIONS

As you know, on a minesweeper the main focus is of course minesweeping and hunting. For the Sailors in Combat and Deck, they

have their work cut out for them. Between exercises and troubleshooting equipment, you would think none of them sleep. Backed by a new Operations Leading Petty Officer, MN1 Lichford, the Operations Department has been a driving force over the past month in Bahrain. Over the past month, the department has collectively spent hundreds of hours minehunting with the sonar, flown the Mine Neutralization Vehicle approximately 40 times, and completed over a dozen mine sweeps and anchorages. Bravo Zulu!

ENGINEERING

As we all know, ships are only as good as their engineers, because without them, the ship cannot leave the pier. Since arriving on USS ARDENT, our Engineering Department has worked long hours to ensure proper operation of all our main engines, damage control equipment, and electrical systems. Recently, DC1 Bottorf was named as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter and IC2 Aronhalt was named Junior



Sailor of the Quarter for January to March 2011. As the coordinator for the Damage Control Training Team and the ship's expert in DC

readiness, DC1 most definitely earned this award. Since arriving two years ago to MCM CREW CONFLICT, IC2 Aronhalt has been a driving force in repairing phone lines and completing tedious electrical wiring repairs to the engines and generators. Despite the long hours he spends at work, IC2 still manages to stay in excellent physical shape and performs exceptionally well as the command's only Search and Rescue Swimmer. Congratulations to both DC1 Bottorf and IC2 Aronhalt!



SUPPLY

With INSURV on the horizon, the Supply Department has been busy ensuring the proper tools, parts, and materials are on hand. In addition to spending a lot of money, Supply also maintains crew morale by preparing nutritious meals for the crew and ensuring coffee is always brewing. Before we pull into port after every underway, S2 Division spends numerous hours baking brownies, cookies and cinnamon buns for the crew's ice cream socials. Recently, CSSN Xiao was named the Bluejacket of the Quarter for

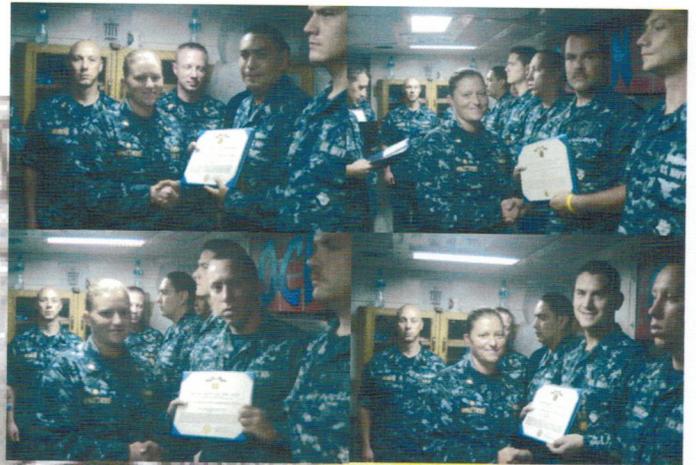
January to March 2011, for his consistent positive attitude, outstanding customer service, and strong work ethic. Congrats, X-Man!

NAV/ADMIN

Balancing Sailors' pay, receiving new members, and rewriting command instructions has kept PSC Zdrojowy and YN1 Brown busy over the past few weeks. NAV/ADMIN has welcomed a new Quartermaster to the department: QM2(SW) Lane. QM2 is off to a running start, tenaciously attacking his Quartermaster of the Watch and DC qualifications.



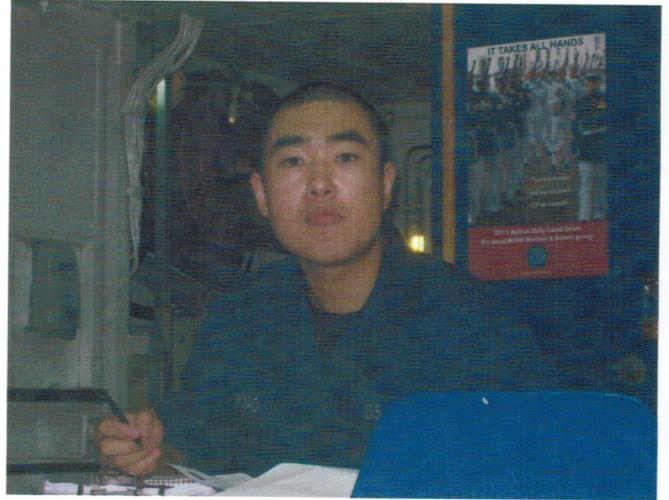
AWARDS DAY!



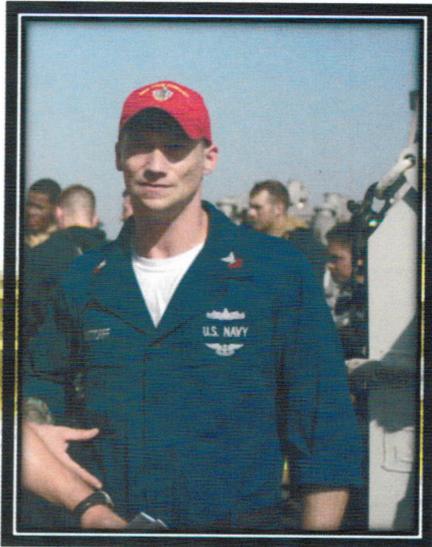
Pictured above, starting from top left and moving clockwise, CS1 Martinez and CS3 Reinert were awarded the Navy Achievement Medal (NAM) for their hard work and outstanding performance in S2 Division during CONFLICT's Supply Management Certification in March 2011. ET3 Henry received a NAM for his meticulous attention to detail and dedication during CONFLICT's 3M Certification in February 2011. MN3 Andreyewski was awarded a NAM for the numerous off duty hours he volunteered to ensure the HAZMAT Locker and Program were inspection ready for SMC. Also, Letters of Commendation were presented to CSSN Xiao, MNSN Daigle, and MNSN

Steed for their hard work to ensure S2 Division was prepared for SMC. Numerous engineers were awarded Letters of Appreciation from MCM CREW LEADER's Commanding Officer for an outstanding job in assisting CREW LEADER to pass their ULTRA-E inspection. The Sailors awarded included DC1 Botorff, EN2 Reumont, EN1 Shultz, EM1 Paulo, IC2 Aronhalt, EN2 Koenning, EN3 Chavez, ENFN McCabe, and ENFA Millerup.

BLUE JACKET OF THE QUARTER



SENIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The crew survived our first month in Bahrain. Over the past few weeks, our underway time nearly matched the amount of days spent underway during our six months in San Diego. Despite a challenging schedule, multiple equipment casualties, and rising temperatures, the crew's performance has been exceptional.

Thanks to the family and friends for their continued support and patience. Our Sailors are able to perform their jobs because of your hard work and cooperation at home.

JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



Please continue to stay in touch through our Facebook pages and the Ombudsman.

AND IN CLOSING, FROM THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER...

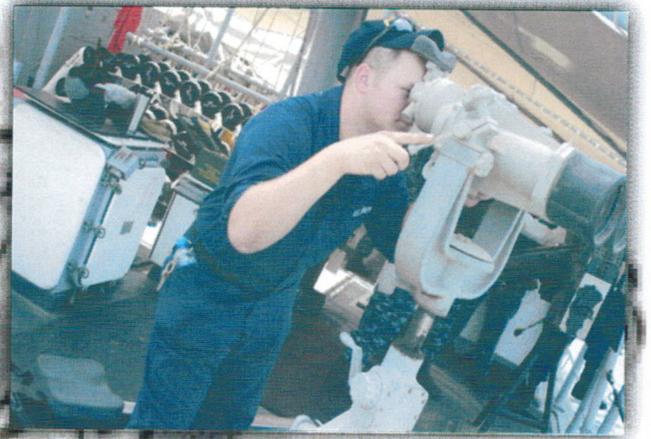
A "FEW" WORDS FROM THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



As we press into our second month of deployment; I couldn't be prouder of these Sailors. They are continually turning the impossible into possible. They are all giving their best each and every day, enabling CREW CONFLICT to complete every mission we are tasked to complete.

I know it is hard to be separated from your loved ones and the extra responsibility you each must have. Please know that the safety of your loved ones through this deployment is our top priority.

Yet another deployment has come around. We send our best to the friends and families back home. As always, please contact me with any questions, feedback, or suggestions through the MCM CREW CONFLICT Facebook page or my ship email account at PAO@mcm12.navy.mil. The Crew CONFLICT Families Facebook page is still managed by the command Ombudsman, Mrs. Debra Guerrero.



USS CHIEF (MCM-14)



USS PIONEER (MCM-9)



USS ARDENT (MCM-12)

