



PIRATES OF THE PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

1ST QTR
2013

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS KIDD (DDG 100)

CDR VARELA TAKES COMMAND OF USS KIDD

Commanding Officer
CDR Gabriel Varela

Executive Officer
CDR T J Zerr

Command Master Chief
CMDCM (SW/AW) Thomas
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Pirates of the Pacific
Newsletter is a command
published newsletter for
our crew and their
families. We strongly
encourage your
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The Change of Command Ceremony is an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It formally restates to the officers and crew of the command the continuity of authority within. The crew of the USS KIDD (DDG 100) and over 100 friends, family and fellow service members gathered at Naval Base San Diego to send off Commanding Officer CDR Jennifer Ellinger on a fond farewell and welcome CDR Gabriel Varela as the new Commanding Officer of the ship. CDR Ellinger crossed the brow one last time as she began her transition to her next assignment as Chief Staff Officer, LCS SQUADRON ONE. CDR Ellinger served as the KIDD's Executive Officer from 2010 to 2011 and took charge as CO in June of 2011. She saw KIDD through a deployment to the Seventh and Fifth Fleet areas of responsibility and numerous exercises. Under her leadership, KIDD earned many awards and accolades including the esteemed Battle 'E' Efficiency Award three years in a row. Guest speaker, RADM (SEL) Cynthia Thebaud, Chief Operating Officer, Naval Education and Training Command, with whom CDR Ellinger served with on the USS DECATUR (DDG 73), remarked how proud she was to see CDR Ellinger achieve so much and congratulated her on all her success onboard KIDD.

CDR Varela checked onboard KIDD as Executive Officer in June of 2011. He assumed duties as her Commanding Officer and will be leading the crew known as "The Pirates of the Pacific". CDR Ellinger and CDR Varela understand well, the CAPTAIN of a Navy ship binds their responsibility, authority and accountability to the dedication of all Sailors serving onboard. Joseph Conrad once said, "In each ship, there is one man who, in the hours of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one alone who is ultimately responsible for safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire and morale of the ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the Ship." Fair winds and following seas CDR Ellinger, and Godspeed CDR Varela as you take the reins of this mighty Navy vessel.



CDR Ellinger & CDR Varela share a laugh over the "Cutting of the Cake" after the ceremony.



LCDR Blakistone and The KIDD Krew look on during the Change of Command Ceremony.



THE PIRATES OF THE PACIFIC CARRY ON DISTINCT NAVAL LEGACY

Unbeknownst to many in the United States Navy, there is one Naval vessel in all of the Fleet which carries a distinct and unique authorization - the permission to fly the Jolly Roger, the traditional flag of pirates. This honor belongs solely to the ships named after RADM Isaac Kidd. The black flag emblazoned with a skull and crossbones underneath is seen often in movies or pictures atop the mast of the ship of plundering marauders, and while KIDD Sailors are no terrors of the high seas, there is pride in having the ability to fly the Jolly Roger as a reminder of their namesake's history and sacrifice.

USS KIDD (DD 661) was the first Naval Vessel to be named after Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, Sr. who was killed aboard his flagship, USS ARIZONA (BB 39) during the surprise attack on the American Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. KIDD's first voyage was one of some notoriety. Under command of CDR Allan Roby, the destroyer moved across New York Harbor for delivery to the Brooklyn Naval Shipyards... flying the skull and crossbones of the Jolly Roger high from the foremast. The crew of the KIDD had quickly adopted the pirate Captain Kidd as their mascot and had also painted the famed buccaneer's image high on the forward smokestack. Not wishing to dishonor the ship's namesake, however, the crew obtained permission from Mrs. Inez Kidd, widow of RADM Kidd, first. The Admiral's nickname at the Naval Academy had been "Cap", as in Captain Kidd, and had gone by this nickname his entire life. So, on the crew's behalf, Mrs. Kidd obtained the official permission from the powers-that-be in the Navy for them to paint the pirate on the stack and fly the Jolly Roger. The KIDD would become the only vessel in the history of the United States Navy to be granted the authority to fly the flag of piracy. Subsequently, the Sailors of DD 661 were known to rescue downed aviators in the Pacific Ocean during World War II and return them to their aircraft carrier, for a hefty ransom of ice cream first of course.

As the third ship to bear RADM Kidd's name, USS KIDD (DDG 100) continues the tradition of this legacy and flies the Jolly Roger proudly and with distinction, lest any other ships wonder who we are – the Pirates of the Pacific.

KIDD ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME ABOARD

SN ALVARADO, ETSN BALEN, FN DAVIS, CTRSA DODDS, HMC ETEN, CTT3 JANICKI, OS3 KLEIN, SN KNOLLA, OSSA MARTINEZ, LT ROBB,

re-enlistments

SH3 BERNADOTTE, FC3 GRINDLE, CTR1 RAMIREZ, QM3 LIU

Ldo/cwo selection

BMC HAM - LDO

ET1 WILLIAMS - LDO

RETIREMENTS

GSE1 MICHAEL EATON

OSC GONZALES

NEW KIDD KREW FAMILY

CTT3 GREEN – KIANA (JAN 24)

STG2 CARRILLO – CADEN (13 MAR)

USS KIDD IN PORT HUENEME

NCIS STAR, PRODUCER VISITS KIDD SAILORS IN PORT HUENEME



XO, CMC, Mark Harmon, CO, Producer Mark Horowitz (left-right) on KIDD forecastle.

MARCH 5, 2013 – Hit CBS action-crime-drama TV show *NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigative Service* has been on the air for the last 10 years and utilizes near real-life scenarios and environments to illustrate each story. Recently, the cast and crew were in Port Hueneme onboard decommissioned ship USS Paul F. Foster (DD-964), shooting scenes for their latest episode, and the USS Kidd (DDG 100) was treated with a special visit from NCIS team leader Special Agent Leroy Jethro Gibbs, also known as actor Mark Harmon and the show's executive producer Mark Horowitz. Captain of the Kidd, CDR Gabriel Varela, along with Executive Officer, CDR T.J. Zerr and Command Master Chief Thomas Lintz, invited Mr. Harmon and Mr. Horowitz to come onboard the destroyer to give them a tour and meet some of the crew. Many Sailors onboard stuck around after working hours to get a glimpse of the NCIS stars and get some pictures too. "I am a huge fan of the show; it was so awesome to meet Gibbs!" stated Electronics Technician 2nd Class Merrilee Palmer. "He is the first celebrity I have ever met." Mr. Harmon signed some autographs, met with the Deck Division at their afternoon muster, and posed for pictures with senior leadership who donned nifty, NCIS-themed ball caps, a part of a gift exchange for USS KIDD caps.

GOAT LOCKER FINALLY WIN OVER WARDROOM

While in Port Hueneme, the Chiefs' Mess and Wardroom squared off in a friendly softball game in the late afternoon on March 5, 2013. In the first inning, the Chiefs took a huge lead earning 10 runs. Every Chief at bat hit a piece of everything Officer's pitcher ENS Eric Bachtel threw at them. At his turn at-bat, CTRC(SW/IDW) Andrew Rountree hit a small grounder out past the short stop only to come up with a 2-run in-field homer after three errors by the Officers defense.

In the second inning, the O's started to show some signs of life with ENS David Galiyas, ENS Jeffrey Collins, and LTJG Shaun Page scoring three runs for the Wardroom, but the Chiefs showed they were not to be deterred and bumped their score up by two more runs with HTC(SW) Christopher Clark hitting an out-of-the-park home run. At the top of the 4th inning, newcomer to the KIDD, LT Douglas Robb brought in another run for the Officer Team bringing the score to 15-4 Chiefs. BMC(SW/AW) Donald Ham, recently selected as a LDO Candidate, was hi-jacked from the Chiefs side by the CO, CDR Gabriel Varela, to switch-hit for the O's. "If you strike out though, that's going against the Chiefs!" the Captain called from the dug-out.

The Goat Locker came out swinging to finish the Wardroom off, earning 5 more runs to call the game 20-4. "The Officer's vs Chief's Softball "Practice" Game was a great opportunity for the Officers to work on our basic fundamentals and for the Chiefs to have the opportunity to get outside and work out. We threw some easy balls so they can get their muscles and joints working again. We are looking forward to the official softball game here in the future," said LTJG Rene Hyun, Officer's Team Captain.



Chiefs and Officers turn their heads toward the fence as CTC(SW/IDW/AW) Kyle Derby hits one deep center field.

KIDD MWR TAKES CREW TO MAGIC MOUNTAIN



SN Stigge, OSSN Nye, OS2 Rodriguez, ETSN Jenuwine, and CSSN Franco-Ramirez (left-right) prepare to be spun high in the sky on the Wonder Woman Lasso of Truth ride.

March 3, 2013 – Sixty-four Sailors from the USS KIDD headed to the city of Valencia to visit Six Flags Magic Mountain for a day of fun in the sun. The Command Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Team organized a trip for the crew with discount tickets and transportation provided so the Sailors could enjoy a low-cost trip to some of the best roller-coaster rides on the West Coast. "It was fun, cheap, and we were able to spend the whole day there," said Seaman Kurt Rickenbaugh. Some Sailors tested their mettle on some of the classic rides such as the 85-mph Goliath and Batman: The Ride, while others went to the extreme partaking on the thrill attraction 400 feet in the air on the Drop of Doom and the Sling Shot, zipping through the air on what was essentially a long rubber band at intense speeds. "It was way more intense than normal roller coasters. My stomach was almost out of my body! We nose-dived so fast then swooped up at the end like a super-hero." explained Information Svstems Technician 2nd Class Shena

USS KIDD REFLECTS ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February 10, 2013 -- Every February, we take time to remember the rich heritage and culture of African-Americans and their contributions to our great Nation. The Heritage Committee onboard USS KIDD (DDG 100) regaled their Shipmates with an informative presentation on Black History Month, reflecting on the Department of Defense 2013 theme of "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and The March on Washington", and highlighting notable African-American Sailors past and present. LS1(SW/AW) Simeon Alonzo, CTM1(IDW) Theresa Buitron, BM2 Jesper Doly, PS2(SW) Luncy Jeter, and HM3 Nasheska Stephens led the presentation for the crew.

"What I found most interesting in working on this presentation was the impact made by Black Americans, not only in the Navy, but in all the Armed Services. These people faced many levels of injustice and disenfranchisement in this country, yet they still signed up to serve their Nation and rose through the ranks, even though they were also persecuted while in uniform. They laid the foundation for someone like me to come in and excel and made it better for others to achieve great things. It's just amazing to think about," remarked PS2 Jeter.

"I am proud of our Sailors involved in this presentation for enlightening the crew with a sense of history and further insight of African Americans in our nation and who have served our country," remarked KIDD Commanding Officer, CDR Varela.



CHOOSE YOUR RATE...

Spotlight on Damage Controlman (DC)



In 1948, the Damage Controlman rating was established as a consolidation of several different rates, including fire fighting specialists, carpenter's mate, and painters. DC men prepare the ship's damage control equipment, ship stability, fire fighting gear, fire prevention, and chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) warfare defense systems. DC men are known for being the "Jack of all Trades."

Damage Controlmen make emergency repairs to decks, structures, and hulls in the event of a casualty. They are the subject matter experts when it comes to firefighting, flooding, and CBR attacks and are relied heavily within the Repair Lockers. The Ship's Fire Marshall is normally a DC man, and is essential to training, protecting, and saving the ship. whether in-port or out to sea.

So what do you really do??

"First to Arrive! Train to Survive!" – DCC Garcia
"We live where the Devil dances!" – DC1 Phelen
"Damage Controlmen... never give up, never give in, fight till you lose...or fight till you win!" – DC2 Center
"If it's meant to be, it's up to me!" – DCFN Wright

WORK HARD...



EN2 Beltran, BMSN Jackson, and GM3 Ogradnick man the RHIB during ATFP Drills. They were praised as “an expert crew!”



The Deck Division prepares for their MOB-S Inspection, with the expert leadership of ENS (SEL) Ham.

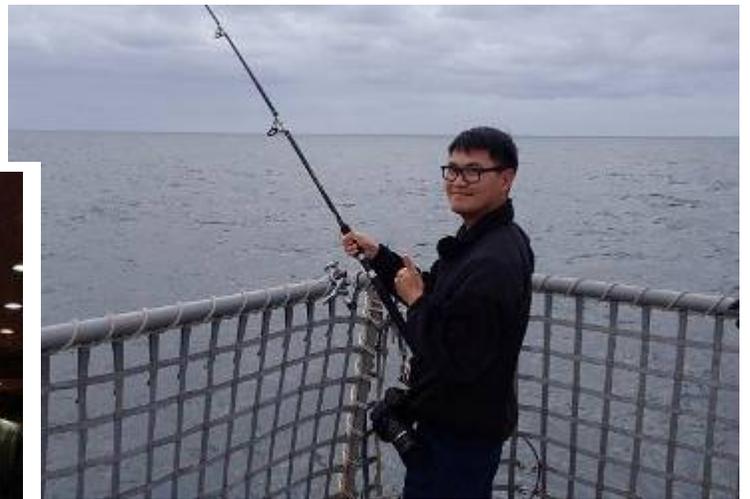


From the RHIB during an Anti-Terrorism drill, USS KIDD (DDG 100) prepares for its AT 1.4 assessment and its upcoming deployment.



HMC Eten applies a training bandage to LTJG Harry, demonstrating to duty section 4, the proper way to care for a facial wound.

play HARD.



KIDD GOES HOLLYWOOD

CAST AND CREW OF 'OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN' PAYS USS KIDD A VISIT

16 March 2013 – Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) Theatre provided an opportunity for Sailors to catch a sneak preview of Millennium Films' newest blockbuster *Olympus Has Fallen* and some members of the cast and crew came down to meet the awaiting spectators. Luckily for crew members of the USS KIDD (DDG 100), the actors and director of the film provided an extra special treat by coming onboard to meet and greet, take pictures, and get a tour of the warship. Director Antoine Fuqua (*Training Day, Shooter*), and actors Aaron Eckhart (*The Dark Knight, Thank You for Smoking*), Gerard Butler (*Law Abiding Citizen, 300*), and Rick Yune (*The Fast and the Furious, Die Another Day*) walked around the decks meeting KIDD Sailors and learning more about their war fighting mission. "I was excited when CAPT Smith (Commanding Officer of NBSD) came by and told me we were going to be hosting the cast and crew of the movie. KIDD was happy to show these Hollywood celebrities our ship and meet our Sailors. I appreciate them extending their gratitude to our Navy and its servicemen and women," said KIDD Commanding Officer CDR Gabe Varela. They even posed for some pictures:



Top (left): Rick Yune, Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart pose with crew and family members. Top (right): Aaron Eckhart, Antoine Fuqua, BM2 Gallegos, and Gerard Butler on the Foc'sle.



Left: CDR Varela and wife, pose with Gerard Butler, CAPT Smith, and Antoine Fuqua. Above: BM2 Gallegos introduces Gerard Butler and Antoine Fuqua to his daughter, Valerie. Right: FCC Rodriguez, LSC Griffus, and ENS Killinger entertain Gerard Butler on the mess decks.

