



Fist of the Fleet Association

a non profit 501 (c) (19) military organization

NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Preserving the Past Providing for Today

Promoting the Future

HOLIDAY EDITION

By: Jerry "Ricochet" Fritze

Once again the Season of Hope is upon us. And as of right now Hope is fulfilled, for *Lincoln* is finally pointed east. But, even at her best speed it is still some weeks before they can cross half the globe, and stand-in to San Diego Bay. Holiday greetings will be long over, but to a sailor home from a long and wearying cruise the only words that matter are "Stand Down!" Then it's off to home, family and friends, and a *merry* homecoming it will be. Christmas and New Year's aboard will be warm with these thoughts, spent in the comfort of mariners and aviators, seafarers all, who shared the long hours and hard work with scant relief and time ashore. But such is the nature of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood of the Sea and it has not changed through the millennia. Whether going about the maritime affairs of their nations, or the naval missions they are called upon to serve in, Sailors throughout the world rely on their brethren to help see them through to port again. They share a deep and abiding love for the sea, of its majesty and mysteries, of its power and its glory. And should great Neptune rise in tempest or Mars call them forth to war they will meet both with the same steely-eyed resolve as those ancients of Rome, Carthage or Greece once did. They carry the legacy with them each day of their lives. Honor these, our Brothers and Sisters, this Christmas.

A Holiday in the middle of the week can be a chore, and I'm sure that like many of you Michelle and I will have at least *two* Christmases as the kids will be here for a few days, going home to Green Bay on Christmas Eve (They don't have any choice: *no one* is allowed in our house that night). Then we can put all the hustle and hurry behind us and take the night in peaceful silence; talking as always of what has passed this year, and what we will plan for the next. And somewhere, in the lights and carols, in the food, wine and quiet moments we'll look at each other and smile realizing as we do each year that when, near the end of our hopes long ago, we found each other. From love hope is born, and reborn each year, and that's the true message of Christmas. Be full-sharing in your love this year, and every year.

~ AE-3 Jerry "Ricochet" Fritze ~

Fist of the Fleet Apr '75 - Jun '78



Mission Statement

Perpetuate the history of Naval Aviation Squadrons VT-17, VA-6B, VA-65, VA-25 and VFA-25,

Remember deceased veterans and comfort their survivors,

Conduct charitable and educational programs,

Foster and participate in activities of patriotic nature,

Assist current active squadron members, and

Provide assistance to family members in times of emergency.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me start by wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. It's a grand time in Park City with terrific snow and skiing as we celebrate a Merry Christmas with the family and close friends. Much has been happening in recent times, including some base work for **Fist 2020**, a reunion that will be a big show with the squadron in attendance after a God awful long cruise in the Arabian Sea. As a reminder, **Fist 2020** will be held **September 10-13, 2020** in conjunction with Tailhook 2020 in Reno, NV at the The Nugget Casino and Hotel, we'll have room reservation and other important information in the next newsletter. We are hard at work, with a talented IT team led by Julie Chalker, transferring the membership database to a digital app for easy upkeep, communication and for RSVPs to events like the upcoming reunion. We've also learned that the squadron has named the Sailor of the Year and the winner of the Harry Jones Award; congratulations to AZ1 Tyler Newell and Lt. Gerald Anderson. Read more about them in the following article. and welcome them home later this year.

Now here's some keen trivia to keep you on your toes and win your next drink at the bar!!

1. Every nation has sovereign control of its airspace, to what altitude does this sovereignty extend?
2. Which state typically experiences the most days of thunderstorm activity during the three winter months?
3. And True or False? The African eagle can swoop at more than 100 mph and aerodynamically brake to a full stop in only 20 feet.

While we're giving congratulations allow me to congratulate NAVY football on an outstanding win over Army, 31-7 and the award of the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy; I imagine a White House visit will be in order.

Finally, to the trivia questions.

1. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 defines where sovereignty ends and outer space begins. This is regarded to be 100 kilometers (328,000 feet msl), also referred to as the Karman line, above which the control surfaces of an aircraft are considered ineffective.
2. Louisiana is the winner, averaging at least 10 days of thunderstorm activity during the winter. Florida is the big leader during the summer months, when it averages more than 50 days of activity.
3. Oh, this is so TRUE. Now imagine the deceleration required to land an aircraft at 100 mph and then brake to a full stop in 20

feet and only one-third of a second. Kinda' makes an arrested landing seem tame by comparison. Can any of you physics majors calculate the G force involved in that full stop?

Time to sign off. My best wishes for a safe and speedy transit home for all of you at sea.

John "Chalks" Chalker
President, FOFA

OFFICERS
President: John Chalker
7802 Glenwild Drive
Park City UT
Cell 619-922-4207
Email jchalker@lmcapital.com
Vice President: John Leslie
205 Bluebird Lane
Saint Augustine FL 32080
Tel 904-233-4712
Email leslie_john@bellsouth.net
Secretary: Tom Vaughn
11302 Hwy 84 Unit 10
Shallowater TX 79363
Tel 806-928-7559
Email vaughntv@sptc.net
Treasurer, CFO: Chuck Webster
2441 Lock B Road North
Clarksville TN 37043
Tel 605-380-5827
Email cwebster@nrcvtv.com
Sergeant at Arms/PR: Bob Schreiber
949 Crystal Park Blvd.
Clifford Township PA 18407
Tel: 570-780-4356
Email robert.a.schreiber@echoes.net
Member at Large: Al Gorthy
9134 W 131st Pl
Overland Park KS 66213
913-681-9026
Email algorthy@gmail.com



Blue Notes



Blues select first F-35B Pilot for 2020 season.



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Frank Zastoupil will bring with him a unique background when he joins the U.S. Navy Blue Angels next year.

Zastoupil, one of six new officers selected for the 2020 team earlier this month, will be the first aviator from the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter squadron to fly with the elite fighter jet demonstration team.

The Kingwood, Texas, native is currently assigned to Fighter Attack Training Squadron 501 in Beaufort, South Carolina. He previously demonstrated the capabilities of the F-35B, the newest and most advanced aircraft flown by the Marines, at air shows around the country.

SKIPPER'S CORNER

This year the squadron celebrates the holiday season by escaping the grasp of the 5th Fleet AOR as Truman finally relieved us. Collectively the Fist of the Fleet and our air wing brethren maintained presence operations for seven months in either the North Arabian Sea or the Arabian Gulf. I must admit that I did not see that coming when we pulled away from the pier in Norfolk on the first of April. The illusions of operating in the far north near Oslo or engaging in Freedom of Navigation operations in 7th Fleet dried up in the Middle East desert off Oman. Regardless, all Fist can be justifiably proud of the work done holding the line against our adversaries in the Central Command AOR.

Being deployed during the Holiday Season, I would like to share a Sailor's Twas the Night Before Christmas. I came across this rhyme years ago during the first Christmas I was deployed, and I have shared it every Holiday Season since. I wish I could give the author credit where credit is due, but to this day I have not discovered who wrote it.

Twas the night before Christmas, the ship was out steaming, Sailors stood watch while others were dreaming. They lived in a crowd with racks tight and small, in an 80-man berthing, cramped one and all.

I had come down the stack with presents to give, and to see inside just who might perhaps live.

I looked all about, a strange sight did I see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stockings were hung, shined boots close at hand, on the bulkhead hung pictures of a far distant land.

They had medals and badges and awards of all kind, and a sober thought came into my mind.

For this place was different, so dark and so dreary, I had found the house of a Sailor, once I saw clearly.

A Sailor lay sleeping, silent and alone, curled up in a rack and dreaming of home.

The face was so gentle, the room squared away, this was the United States Sailor today.

This was the hero I saw on TV, defending our country so we could be free.

I realized the families that I would visit this night, owed their lives to these Sailors lay willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate on Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom each day of the year, because of the Sailor, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.

The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The Sailor awakened and I heard a calm voice, "Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice.

Defending the seas all days of the year, so others may live and be free with no fear."

I thought for a moment, what a difficult road, to live a life guided by honor and code.

After all it's Christmas Eve and the ship's underway. But freedom isn't free, and it's sailors who pay.

Sailors say to our country "be free and sleep tight, no harm will come, not on my watch and not on this night."

The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours, so silent, so still, I watched as the Sailor shivered from the night's cold chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight.

The Sailor rolled over and with a voice strong and sure, commanded, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas, and All is Secure!" -

Anonymous

Merry Christmas Fist of the Fleet Association!

CDR David Dartez

Commanding Officer VFA-25

FROM THE COCKPIT:

By: LT Chris "Meathole" Honeycutt

The Gulf of Oman was home for the ABRAHAM LINCOLN during nearly eight months of deployment as we maintained a ready posture in the North Arabian Sea, prepared to respond to any potential Iranian aggression in theatre. As a brief change of pace, November brought about a Strait of Hormuz transit and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE tasking, demonstrating once again the US Navy sails where it wants, when it wants. The ready room hit the books to prepare for the upcoming challenge. Without fail, the Fist of the Fleet continued to uphold the highest standard of execution in CVW-7 with professional intercepts of Iranian maritime patrol aircraft, and delivered ordnance on target, on time when called upon.

For myself, the most exciting flight I had in the Arabian Gulf occurred on a defensive counter air (DCA) mission with my wingman, LT Marvin "ICE-P" Chen. Although still working through my Strike Fighter Weapons and Tactics (SFWT) Level III syllabus to earn my combat section lead qualification, Skipper Dartez entrusted me to lead the DCA (under ICE-P's supervision of course). The flight began like most DCAs: checking in with our controller and setting a counter rotating cap. "Picture clean" was starting to sound like a broken record as we reached the midpoint of our vul. Then, with a heightened intensity from our controller's voice, we were given information for a contact that was pointed towards the ship – the asset we were tasked to protect. My heart rate accelerated as I acknowledged the direction to prosecute this intercept. We both correlated our sensors on the target and brought the throttles up. I passed ICE-P a flow heading as we heated up the intercept while carefully negotiating the strict air space limitations. As our closure continued to increase, ICE-P and I were working our radar and on board sensors attempting to ascertain who we were prosecuting. As we approached ten miles from the target we heard, "Do not, I repeat DO NOT intercept this aircraft!" The voice inflection from the controller raised the hairs on the back of my neck and I adjusted our geometry accordingly. Moments later, the target slowed and descended below a low cloud layer preventing a visual ID (VID) from our ATFLIR. The target continued to drag away from us back towards Farsi Island and we were given new cap instructions



by our controller. The rest of the flight was uneventful and we recovered with two OK 3-wire passes. For a Fist nugget, it was a pretty exciting day!

Following a very fun port call in Bahrain, the Fist of the Fleet ready room is hard at work studying the new challenges we will face in the Pacific Theater. While we continue to fight the “get-home-itis” on what will be a record setting deployment, we thank the Fist of the Fleet Association and all our loved one’s back home for the constant support during our time away. We look forward to sharing more sea stories, embellished and otherwise, at the reunion in Reno next year! Damn Proud to be a Fist!

FROM THE HANGER DECK: AZ1 (AW) TYLER NEWELL 2019 SAILOR OF THE YEAR

Happy Holidays to all Fists past and present, wherever you may be. Family members and VFA-25 crew received the unwelcomed holiday gift this season of two extensions. To keep our spirits high, the crew is keeping the holiday cheer alive by decorating their spaces. This is largely due to support from all the family members back home for sending out Holiday décor. AEs and PRs went old school by cutting out paper snowflakes, Line Shack has the garland up around the TV, Admin has the twinkling lights, and Maintenance Control has three little Christmas trees along with a Merry Christmas sign that makes sure everyone who visits the Fist of the Fleet are in the Holiday mood. The maintenance crew has been in a great mood since decorating, well everybody except Maintenance Master Chief. He is Grinch this year, but the AZs are making sure his heart is as big as it is throughout the year. Thank you for the loving support from the family members for sending out all the decorations.



After being on a deployment that has been extended twice, you could imagine what a Sailor might be looking forward to when we return to home. Some things might include, not sleeping in a 6ft by 2ft rack, not wearing leather boots all day; every day, and eating anything other than chicken. What I am looking forward to is the quietness of not being around 5,000 Sailors on a 5-acre plot, waking up to my daughters giggling because of a game they are playing, and going on a vacation with my wife. At this point in deployment, all of us onboard are staying focused on the mission, and doing what is required to get home safe. With the support from home and the guidance from leadership, VFA-25 is on track to complete the 2019 deployment in a Fist'em fashion. All of which will contribute to getting that much needed downtime once we're home.

From the hangar bay, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!



Have you paid your 2020 Dues?

Annual Dues: \$25/YR

Life Time Dues \$200

Mail dues to Financial Officer:

Chuck Webster 2441 Lock B Road North Clarksville TN 37043

Only Voting Members have access to the Directory

Become a Voting Member!

Visit the Base Exchange at

www.fistofthefleet.org

Hot Buttered Rum



Not everyone has a taste for rum—the tropical liquor made from molasses and other sugarcane byproducts. And yet, there is something supremely appealing about rum when it comes attached to the words “hot” and “buttered.” It immediately conjures snowy nights and blazing fires, plates of sugar-dusted cookies and the sound of sleigh bells in the distance. Rum is produced primarily in the Caribbean and Colonists began importing it and soon moved on to setting up distilleries in the Northeast so they could make their own from cheap imported molasses. So how did it get to be the key ingredient in a classic winter cocktail? Hot buttered rum, also known as a hot toddy, has a long history in the U.S. In fact, it predates the republic. The drink has its origins in Europe, where hot, spiced alcohol-spiked beverages have for centuries been used to fortify souls against bitterly cold winters. When the British Royal Navy captured Jamaica in 1655, rum replaced brandy as the sailors’ daily ration. In the United States the drink has a venerable history which dates back to colonial days. During that time many families had their own individual recipes, and early Americans believed rum to be nutritious and a strengthener of the body. Hot buttered rum is made by combining rum, butter, hot water or cider, a sweetener, and various spices (usually cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves).

In *How to Mix Drinks: Or, The Bon-vivant's Companion*, mid-19th-century bartender Jerry Thomas provides two recipes (No. 207 and 208, p. 80) for hot rum drinks. The first is called Hot Spiced Rum. The recipe calls for sugar, Jamaica rum, cloves, allspice, butter, and hot water. The second is simply called Hot Rum, and the recipe is the same as for Hot Spiced Rum but omits the spices. In their stead a bit of nutmeg is grated over the top of the drink.

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
- Pinch salt
- 3/4 cup spiced rum
- 2 cups boiling water
- 4 sticks cinnamon, for garnish

Directions:

1. Using an electric mixer, beat the brown sugar, butter, honey, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and salt in a medium bowl until blended and smooth. Transfer the mixture to a 4-cup (or larger) measuring cup. Add the rum and then 2 cups of boiling water. Stir until the butter mixture dissolves. Divide the buttered rum among 4 mugs. Garnish with the cinnamon sticks and serve.

I tried this recipe, and cut it in half. It was supposed to make two servings but only filled a single glass mug. If you're going to serve more than two adults you can double it and put everyone in a “right jolly mood” for the evening. I used Admiral Nelson’s Spiced Rum, and don’t worry if your not “exact” with the additional spices called for and a bit extra falls in. In the serving mug the butter will separate and come to the top and there is *no need* for any topping such as whipped cream. (You will need to reheat the mixture prior to serving. Use microwave safe mugs and nuke ‘em for about 30 sec.)

Nollaig Chridheil



FIST OF THE FLEET 2019 RECOGNITION AWARDS

Plane Captain of the Year

AD3 (AW) ELIJAH M. WILLIAMS
Aviation Machinist Mate



Third Class Petty Officer Williams was born in Greenville, SC on 23 Jan '97. He graduated from Easley High School in Greenville, SC in May of '16. He joined the Navy under the Delayed Entry Program, and reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes for Recruit Basic Training on 2 May 2017.

On 24 Jun '17, he checked into "A" School in Pensacola, FL, where he learned how to become an Aviation Machinist Mate. On 11 Aug '17, Petty Officer Williams reported to CNATTU Lemoore, for his "C" school until 28 Sept '17. On 29 Sept '17, Petty Officer Williams checked into VFA-25, Fist of the Fleet, where he reported to the line division and swiftly earned his plane captain qualification, well ahead of the prescribed timeline. On 16 Nov '18, Petty Officer Williams was advanced to a PO-3.

While stationed at VFA-25, he was embarked onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN for TSTA, COMPTUEX, and the 2019 around the world deployment. During the Deployment, AD3 quickly established himself as the "go-to" Plane Captain in the line shack mentoring junior Sailors in the safe launch and recovery and inspection of "Fist of the Fleet" aircraft. His hard work and dedication helped him earn Plane Captain of the Month for Apr '19, Plane Captain of the 3rd Quarter award for 2019, and his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist qualification.

Sailor of the Year

AZ1(AW) TYLER L. NEWELL
Aviation Maintenance Administrationman
Leading Petty Officer



First Class Petty Officer Tyler L. Newell was born and raised in Larned, Kansas. He joined the US Navy in Jun '03.

Upon completion of basic training, he reported to Pensacola, Florida to attend the U.S. Navy's apprenticeship program.

Petty Officer Newell's first sea tour began in Jan '04 when he reported to VS-33 stationed in North Island, CA. It was at VS-33 that he struck Airframe Structural Mechanic. During his first sea tour, he was re-designated as an Aviation Maintenance Administrationman and advanced to PO-3. In late 2005, after the decommissioning of VS-33, Petty Officer Newell was transferred to VFA-113 in Lemoore CA. It was at VFA 113 where he would initially qualify on the F/A-18 platform and advanced the rank of PO-2. Following his sea duty tour, he was assigned to shore duty at Fleet Readiness Center, Lemoore CA in Jun '08 where he served as work center supervisor in 400 division. In 2011, he reported to an overseas tour at HSM-37 Kaneohe, HI where he deployed four times while attached to the Expeditionary Squadron and advanced to the rank of PO-1. In 2015, he reported to Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATC), Learning Site Meridian, MS. While at NATC, he taught "A" School for the Aviation Maintenance Administrationman rating, and qualified as a Master Training Specialist. In Jun '18, he reported to his current assignment the Fist of the Fleet, where he currently serves as the Maintenance Control Leading Petty Officer. His personal awards include one Navy Commendation medal, five Navy Achievement Medals, and various unit and campaign awards.

Petty Officer Newell is married to his wife Amanda and has two daughters named Caroline and Blythe.

Fist of the Year

AO2 (AW)
MICHAEL E. TURNER
Aviation Ordnanceman



Second Class Petty Officer Turner was born in Colorado Springs, CO on 19

Sept '81. He graduated from Douglas County High School in Castle Rock, CO in May 2000. He joined the Navy under the Delayed Entry Program, and reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes for Recruit Basic Training on 11 Jun '14.

On 9 Aug '14, he checked into "A" School in Pensacola, FL, where he learned how to become an AO. On Nov '14, Petty Officer Turner reported to VFA-25 for a month waiting to class-up for his "C" in Lemoore, CA. He processed to CNATTU Lemoore on 17 Dec until 30 Jan '15.

On 30 Jan '15 Petty Officer Turner returned back the Fist of the Fleet, where he reported to the line division and swiftly earned his plane captain qualification, well ahead of the prescribed timeline. From 16 Nov '15 until 13 Jul '16, he went on his first deployment onboard the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN. On 16 Jul '17, Petty Officer Turner was advanced to a PO-3.

Upon reporting to the ordnance work center, he quickly established himself as the "go-to" Aviation Ordnanceman where he was instrumental during the 2018 Conventional Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection (CWTPPI). On 16 Oct '18, he was advanced to PO-2. His superb leadership directly resulted in the flawless execution of weapon inspections, aircraft preparations, uploading and arming procedures resulting in a score of 780 out of 800 points receiving an "On track" for his programs. Additionally, his contributions in all ordnance related programs contributed to the command being awarded the Commander Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Scott F. Kirby award for ordnance excellence, and the Boola Boola award for air to air missile proficiency. On 30 Mar '19, he embarked onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN for the 2019 around the world deployment. Petty Officer Turner's decorations include two Navy Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medal, two Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, as well as earning numerous campaign awards throughout his career.

Bluejacket of the Year

CS3(AW) JOCKAILE J. BURNSIDE
Culinary Specialist

Third Class Petty Officer Burnside was born in Cleveland, North Carolina on 5 Oct '94. After graduating High School in Cleveland NC, he attended College at Wingate University before joining the military. He joined the Navy under the Delayed Entry Program, and reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes for Recruit Basic Training on 8 Feb '16.

On 23 Apr '16, he checked into "CS A" at FT Lee Virginia, where he learned how to be a Culinary Specialist. On 10 June 2016, Petty Officer Burnside reported to TPD waiting on VFA-25 to return from their 2015-2016 deployment. On 12 Jul '16 Petty Officer Burnside reported to the Fist of the Fleet, where he reported to the NAS Lemoore Galley and Cargo. While at the NAS Lemoore Galley, CS3 provided daily meal preparation, meal planning, and sanitization. While working in Cargo, he received, inventoried, and distributed daily food requests, ensuring proper accountability and A+ food quality.

On 2 Mar '17, CS3 married Kortney and adopted her son Kayden as his own. On 9 Apr '17, his son Kamdyn was born. While stationed at VFA-25, he was embarked onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN for TSTA, COMPTUEX, and the 2019 around the world deployment and advanced to PO-3. During the deployment, CS3 worked in the forward and aft galley, where he received two Culinary Specialist of the Month for May and June 2019. CS3 Burnside was hand selected to work in Cargo, where he was assigned to the Instant Response Team, where he transferred 3,500 pallets and assisted in eight replenishments at sea.

His personal awards include one Flag of Commendation and various unit and campaign awards. Petty Officer Burnside is married to his wife Kortney and has two sons named Kayden and Kamdyn.



The Fist of the Fleet Association
presents the

**LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) HARRY D. JONES
MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

to

**LIEUTENANT GERALD ANDERSON
UNITED STATES NAVY**

For service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES WHILE SERVING AS ASSISTANT OPERATIONS OFFICER FROM DECEMBER 2018 TO DECEMBER 2019, LEADING TO HIS SELECTION AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE LTJG HARRY JONES MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE. LIEUTENANT "SOUL PATCH" ANDERSON UPHELD THE ESPRIT DE CORPS THAT HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE FIST OF THE FLEET. A POLISHED AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICER, HE EMBODIED THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF HARRY JONES AND ALL ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF VT-17, BOTH ON THE GROUND AND IN THE AIR. HIS TACTICAL ABILITY AND GENUINE CONCERN FOR HIS SAILORS IS EMBLEMATIC OF THE ETHOS THAT OUR PREDECESSORS LIVED BY. A DEVOTED LEADER, HIS CONTRIBUTION AS ASSISTANT OPERATIONS OFFICER ENABLED THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF 1,700 SORTIES ENCOMPASSING 3,145 FLIGHT HOURS OVER THE COURSE OF A TEN MONTH COMBAT DEPLOYMENT – THE LONGEST OF ANY U.S. NUCLEAR POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIER. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE UNWAIVERING SUPPORT OF COMMANDER, US CENTRAL COMMAND TASKING, INCLUDING OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL AND OPERATION INHERINT RESOLVE, WHERE FIST OF THE FLEET EXECUTED 148 COMBAT SORTIES WITH A 100% COMBAT SORTIE COMPLETION RATE. THROUGH HIS EXCEPTIONAL PROFESSIONALISM AND SELFLESS DEVOTION TO DUTY, LIEUTENANT ANDERSON REFLECTED CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND MAINTAINED THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE FIST OF THE FLEET.



JOHN CHALKER
President
Fist of the Fleet Association

The Raging Sea

G. Fritze 12/04/2018

From the cloud-wracked sky fell the sleet and rain hard upon our deck
Whilst ever strove the ship in storm lest we fetched-up to be wrecked.

And howling came the wind that keened and moaned aloft
That mingled with the cries of men now wailing hard, now weeping soft.
High the spume and spray was flung as our bow pitched through the waves
And the thunder cracked about our ears; in the masts, the lightening played.

Yet ever true our course we held through the storm of sea and wind:

West by North the harbor lies and the safety there within.

And upon the far horizon the lighthouse beckons bright
Until in wave and trough again we are swallowed by the night.

But, Lo! Now look, a star appears up in the shredded sky,
And quickly dies the sea and wind and rain that filled our eyes.
The ship she sprightly rights herself, we race to make more sail,
Then below for a well-earned meal and full, strong glass of ale.
And on the morrow port we make as I take the Captain's hand
"Sir", say I, "Home at last though for a while I would not believe."

"Mate", said he, "You've a lot to learn.

There's naught to fear on Christmas Eve."



NEXT TIME IN FISTORY: AIR DEFENSES PART 2: SA-2

VT-17

VA-6B

VA-65

VA-25

VFA-25

PAGE 8