2016 Has concluded, a New Year with New Opportunities has begun. Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year Shipmates!

May the dawn of this New Year, bring new joys for you... May your new year be blessed with peace, prosperity and happiness too!

Happy New Year!

The Dates are set: Phoenix, AZ September 13th thru Sept. 17th. Start making plans! More information in future Mastheads!
Helm of PHIBRON 11 Changes Hands

SASEBO, Japan (Jan. 9, 2017) Capt. George B. Doyon, left, relieves Capt. Marvin E. Thompson as commander of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 11 during a change of command ceremony aboard amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). The ship is forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan, providing rapid-response capability in the event of a regional contingency or natural disaster. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeanette Mullinax/Released)
Year end 2016

Dear Shipmate,

It is my hope that the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays were a time of joy with family and friends; that the spirit of happiness and love surrounded you and your home. Carol and I send anew the season's greetings with our wish that life is good to you. Happy and Healthy New Year!!

Winter has hit some sections of the Country with an early brutal force. If you’re in those particular sections of the Country, I pray you and your loved ones remain safe and are careful when traveling.

January also brings the annual request for your dues payment (It didn’t take me long to get into the Association’s business mode, did it?) If you’re in the annual payment schedule, your dues are due now. If in the two year pay period, your dues may be scheduled as well. You can expect to hear from Membership Secretary/Treasurer, Wes Brubacher, requesting prompt payment. Having the funds at the first of the year helps with the task of budget creation for 2017. When mailing your check, please carefully note the spelling of Wes’ home town—GEYSERVILLE.

As our new year begins, the Association has a need to fill two administration positions:

Master-at-Arms (vacated by James Burns)....Unofficial responsibilities include maintaining decorum during the Annual Meetings and tolling the Ship’s Bell for the End of Watch ceremony at the Annual Meeting; and,

Historian (vacated by Catherine Anders)....Retains all of the Association’s historical material, print and otherwise, and receives similar historical items and information from shipmates and/or shipmates’ families. (Currently, I am in possession of the 12”X16”X8” carton containing existing material—ready for shipping).

Any shipmate and/or spouse interested in serving in these positions, please contact me by telephone.

Jumping ahead, vice president Dave Long, Reunion Chairman, has established our 2017 Reunion dates and site in Phoenix...the Doubletree Hotel, Wednesday, September 13 to Sunday, September 17. The room rate is an astonishingly low (for a Doubletree) $99 per night. Now, I have good news and I have bad news: Bad first....there are strict State regulations and penalties which prevent us from having our “normal” Hospitality Room. We knew we were going to encounter this problem sooner or later. Sooner is here! It will force us into “plan B” — purchasing drinks from the hotel bar. Drinks can be carried from the bar to our planned “social room”. The good news...breakfasts are free and there is a free airport shuttle. More details will be coming...registration, banquet meals, tours...in the next edition of The Masthead. ‘til then, you can make your hotel reservations right now! See you in Phoenix!!

Yours in service,

Ray Zall
“Mister President, the Navy Will Not Let You Down”
Cuban Missile Crisis Naval History

By: Tom Allen

October 23, 2012 11:55 AM • Updated: February 5, 2013 9:07 PM

Naval History Magazine October, 2012

From manning quarantine lines to flying reconnaissance missions to preparing for an invasion, the U.S. Navy played instrumental roles during the Cuban Missile Crisis 50 years ago.

(continued from 3rd quarter masthead)

The president sat at the head of a conference table in the cabinet Room. As the briefing began, he touched a hidden switch under the table, activating a tape recorder. After CIA officers presented their intelligence briefing, Secretary of State Dean Rusk went through the implications of a Cuba with Soviet missiles and then said, “I do think we have to set in motion a chain of events that will eliminate this base.”

This was the beginning of the first meeting of what would be called the excomm, which consisted of members of the National Security council and other government officials to whom Kennedy turned for advice, including his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy. (eventually excomm would become the label for numerous high-level crisis meetings.)

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara introduced “some possible military alternatives,” especially the idea of “an air strike against these installations . . . plus the airfields plus the aircraft . . . plus all potential nuclear storage sites.” The word “nuclear” was uttered a dozen more times during the meeting.

McNamara deferred to General Maxwell Taylor, chairman of the Joint chiefs of Staff, who outlined potential military actions. After “we have destroyed as many of these offensive weapons as possible,” he said, “we should, should prevent any more coming in, which means a naval blockade.”

The Navy, in fact, had a contingency plan that had been developed in the wake of the bay of Pigs disaster. The Joint chiefs of Staff, believing Cuba would continue to be a potential cold War flashpoint, had directed Admiral Robert L. Dennison, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic command, to develop what became OPLAN 312. It laid out three possible moves against Cuba: a strike against a single type of target, such as a SAM site; an attack on all sites of a specific type; and a massive air attack followed by an invasion. Later revisions of the plan proposed the deployment of about 100,000 troops and hundreds of ships.

Coincidentally, a large U.S. naval force was in the Caribbean for an annual amphibious-landing exercise. Three Marine battalion landing teams were to storm the beach on Vieques Island, east of the Puerto Rican mainland, and wrest it from an imaginary dictator given the not very subtle name “Ortsac” (spell it backward). Antisubmarine-warfare (ASW) exercises also were scheduled, putting more ships and aircraft into the Caribbean. Admiral George W. Anderson, chief of Naval Operations, told all fleet commanders to be ready to order as many ships to sea as possible on a 24-hour notice. The Joint Chiefs ordered the strengthening of air defenses in the southeastern United States, and Air Force bases and shore-based Navy and Marine Corps squadrons prepared for a possible invasion of Cuba.
Chief of Naval Operations Admiral George Anderson was responsible for planning the Naval quarantine of Cuba as well as preparing for possible invasion of that Country.

Later Anderson clashed with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara over the blockade’s enforcement. Naval Institute Photo Archive

On Thursday, 18 October, while the Navy was preparing for a blockade or an invasion, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko called on Kennedy, who had publicly warned Khrushchev not to arm Cuba with offensive weapons. Gromyko insisted that Soviet aid to Cuba was defensive and did not threaten the United States. Kennedy, without revealing what the U-2 had discovered, merely reiterated his warning. “The President,” said a CIA officer, “knew what Khrushchev was doing in Cuba, and Soviet officials did not know he knew.” 19

Friday, 19 October, “was a day of preparation for some form of military action,” according to Admiral Anderson's post-crisis report. “At 0830Q [Q designates Eastern Standard Time], a message went out from the Chief of Naval Personnel to District Commandants and the Chief of Naval Air Reserve Training alerting them to the possibility of recalling Reservists . . . All Navy and Marine Corps aircraft and squadrons not required for air defense, reconnaissance, or ASW surveillance were ordered relocated because of overcrowding at Florida bases.” Anderson ended his day working on the legal and logistical issues involved for a sea blockade of Cuba. 20

By Sunday, 21 October, a blockade proclamation was ready for the president, who would use the document as the basis for a speech about the crisis. During an afternoon meeting, ExComm members went over a draft. Secretary of State Rusk suggested that “blockade” be replaced by “quarantine” because the latter “avoids comparison with the Berlin blockade,” the Soviet attempt in 1948–49 to block Allied access to the divided city. Kennedy agreed. 21

Although “blockade” had changed to “quarantine,” Anderson did not change his proposed rules of engagement. A destroyer intercepting a ship approaching the quarantine line was to hoist a signal flag or a blinking light to transmit the international code K (meaning, you are to stop at once) or ON (you are to heave to at once). Each destroyer on the line would have on board a Russian speaker. 22

Anderson said he would allow Navy ships to enforce the quarantine by firing a warning shot across the bow of a defiant ship, and if that did not work, the ship's rudder would be disabled, presumably by a well-aimed shot. When Kennedy said the vessel might be unintentionally sunk, Anderson replied that a ship could be disabled and stay afloat. 23

As the meeting was ending, President Kennedy went out of his way to give special recognition to the man who would be running the quarantine, Anderson. “Well, Admiral, it looks as though this is up to the Navy,” he said.

“Mr. President,” the CNO replied, “the Navy will not let you down.” 24

(Final transcription of these historical events will continue in the next Masthead)
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on these extraordinary ships in service to their country whether in times of war or peace.

Members and Non Members reported deceased since 09/30/2016

William E Swing RD1 J Div. 49-52
Passed November 28th 2016

Dean Renwand
USS Blue Ridge WW2 VETERAN
Passed December 4th 2016

Jerry Levine EM3 E Div. 58-60
Passed July 24th 2016

Sponge of Augustine Meyer,
Nadine Meyer, life member
Passed November 2016

Report for heavenly duty.

New Member
Roy Mark Sgt Marcom Det.
65-67 Currently living in Thailand.
Welcome aboard!

Reminder: If you have personal remembrances from your time on the Mighty Mac. That you wish to share, please send them to me for consideration in the MASTHEAD.

Mike DeBol Editor
to:archangel.debol51@gmail.com

Thank You

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**USS Mount McKinley Association Financial Statement Year End 2016**

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USS Mount McKinley Association Financial Statement Year End 2016
Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson go on a camping trip. After a good dinner, they retire for the night, and go to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes wakes up and nudges his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

"I see millions and millions of stars, Holmes" exclaims Watson.

"And what do you deduce from that?"

Watson ponders for a minute.

"Well, astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful, and that we are a small and insignificant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?"

And Holmes said: “Watson you idiot it means somebody stole our tent!”

________________________________________________________________

A man asks a farmer near a field, “Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:23 train.”

The farmer says, “Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you’ll even catch the 4:11 one.”

My wife’s cooking is so bad we usually pray after our food.

Q. What’s the worst thing about being lonely?

A. Playing Frisbee

It is so cold outside I saw a politician with his hands in his own pockets. (Ba-bum!)

Pessimist: "Things just can't get any worse!"

Optimist: "Nah, of course they can!"
USS Mt McKinley Association Our Purpose:
To Promote Patriotism and Camaraderie among those who served on board the USS Mt McKinley during that ship’s 25 years and 10 months active service to the U.S. Navy from May 1st 1944 to (commissioned) to March 26th 1970 (de-commissioned)

Phoenix, Arizona our next Reunion location!