

MCM 1 FY12-Q1 WINTER NEWSLETTER

THE IRON HERALD

U.S. NAVY

WINTER 2011

USS AVENGER... BACK IN THE WATER AND SAILING INTO THE HOLIDAYS!

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DISTINGUISHED AVENGER SAILORS

- Sailor of the Year: PS1 (SW) Sorenson
- Junior Sailor of the Year: DC1 (SW) Thomas
- Blue Jacket of the Year: MN3 (SW) Cedeno
- Sailor of the Qtr: PS1 (SW) Sorenson
- Junior Sailor of the Qtr: MN3 (SW) Riffle
- Blue Jacket of the Qtr: EN3 Dondonay

The USS AVENGER (MCM 1) exited Dry Dock Number 2 in Sasebo, Japan on November 22nd for a valiant return to I-9W, having completed the docking portion of Docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA). Millions of dollars went toward bringing the ship back up and back to life with repairs, new equipment, and a shiny new coat of paint.

Says LTJG Yelverton, "AVENGER sailors are currently working diligently around the clock to ensure that the ship is full up around and ready for tasking. Everyone on board has been motivated and working toward that common goal ever since the brow touched down on I-9W." And LTJG Yelverton is definitely right.

AVENGER Sailors are no stranger to a long day of hard work, but, as MNSN Perez-mendoza points out, it all starts with a good meal, "It's great to be cooking again; everyone seemed so excited for breakfast on the mess decks when it opened for the first time after a few months... I'm glad to see everyone working on a full stomach."

Speaking of full stomachs, our special guest Santa Claus decided to drop by this year's AVENGER Christmas Party, taking place Friday, December 2nd. Bringing families together for the first time since the Change of Command took place, Commanding Officer LCDR Patrick Sullivan announced the formation of the Family Readiness Group (FRG).

Having successfully completed Sea Trials and Light Off Assessment, everything seems to be falling into place for AVENGER. As there are no harder working, more qualified, and more willing Sailors than the crew of AVENGER, EMCS(SW) Griffon points out, "every day is an easy day! HOOYAH!"

Bottom Left: LCDR Patrick J. Sullivan, Commanding Officer of the USS AVENGER, and LCDR Todd Penrod, Executive Officer of the USS AVENGER, take one final look at the ship prior to the flooding of dry dock on 21NOV2011.

Bottom Right: ADM Scott Jones stops by USS AVENGER (MCM-1) to congratulate the crew on a successful Dry Docking Period.



FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Happy New Year to all of you and your families. AVENGER has an exciting and busy year in 2012 and I am looking forward to all that it has in store for our crew and families. The Family Readiness Group has been established which will afford the AVE family many opportunities to support each other and the crew as we execute our exciting schedule. In the near future we will have a pre-deployment meeting for all crew members and families to provide information regarding personal and professional preparations that should be made prior to deployment. I look forward to seeing all of you there and will answer any questions you may have. Finally, I thank you for your continued support for your sailor and for AVENGER. Sea duty overseas is not easy. Not for the sailors and not for the families. I greatly appreciate your efforts and sacrifices.



LCDR Patrick J. Sulli-



FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As this is my first opportunity to contribute to our newsletter, let me first say thank you to the entire crew and their families for welcoming me aboard. Proud to be here and very humbled by the opportunity to serve the crew as their Executive Officer. As we make our way through the holiday period, I would just ask each of you to take time to reflect on what a great year AVENGER had and think about ways to make 2012 a better year. For some, that means earning a warfare qualification and for others it means advancing to the next higher paygrade. Whatever your 2012 challenges and goals are, strive to meet each one and look for new ones to conquer! I am excited about the prospects of newly formed AVENGER Family Readiness Group...we appreciate their quick work in forming up and look forward to seeing them in action. My wife Sharon and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, a prosperous New Year and many successes in the coming months.



LCDR Todd Penrod

SENIOR'S TWO CENTS



"HELLO AVENGER FAMILY" I would first like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous Holiday Season. The ship is coming together well and I know at times it can be a little frustrating yet I can assure every Sailor aboard Avenger is giving 100% to ensure our ship is operationally safe and sound. 2011 has been a great year, we have seen shipmates advance to the next paygrade, we have welcomed new family members and friends, we have seen shipmates depart and new shipmates arrive, we have established the Avenger FRG team and last but certainly not least we have grown as a team that has a common goal of achieving success. I wish you all the best for the rest of 2011 and continued success for 2012.



EMCS(SW) Carlos Grif-

Christmas Party!



Top Right: LCDR Patrick J. Sullivan, Commanding Officer of the USS AVENGER, addressing the crew, their friends, and their families at the Christmas Party, on 02DEC2011; it was here that the announcement came out about the family readiness group.

Middle Top: LCDR Todd Penrod, Executive Officer of the USS AVENGER, shows those who were willing to challenge him how to bowl.

Middle Bottom: EN2 Marcos Gonzales and his family, enjoying a quiet moment at the Christmas Party.

Bottom Left: AVENGER Friends and Family gather around as Santa Claus comes to town.

Bottom Right: PS1(SW) Sorenson wins the raffle and gets a very special gift from Santa, a brand new XBOX360!!



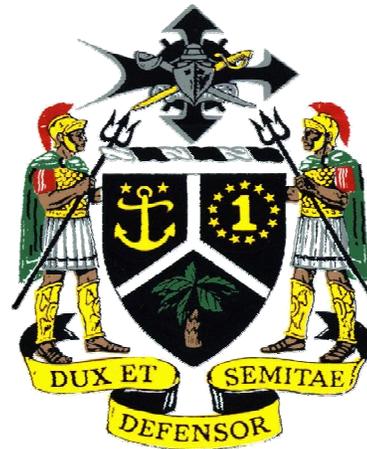
COMMAND RE-ENLISTMENTS & ADVANCEMENTS

USS AVENGER (MCM-1) CONGRATULATES THOSE WHO HAVE RE-ENLISTED THIS QUARTER.



CS3(SW) CHRIS CONO

*OS2(SW)
RICHARD
VIERS*



A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO EM2(SW) JON LUGO, THROUGH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION WAS CAPPED TO THE RANK OF PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS.





Top Left: Nothing is more important to a Sailor than advancing their career; Congratulations to the Frockees! Pictured from left to right: MN3(SW) Cedeno, EN3(SW) Dondonay, IC2(SW) Torres, IC1(SW) Diaz, DC1(SW) Thomas, EM2(SW) Buswell, and EN3 Parker.

Top Right: LCDR Patrick J. Sullivan, Commanding Officer of the USS AVENGER, congratulates EN3 Parker as he is frocked to the rank of Petty Officer.

Middle: MN3(SW) Cedeno, IC2(SW) Torres, and EN3(SW) Dondonay laugh as the frocking ceremony came to a close.

Bottom Left: EMCS(SW) Griffin addresses the Frockees prior to the beginning of the ceremony.

Bottom Right: LCDR Patrick J. Sullivan, Commanding Officer of the USS AVENGER, congratulates DC1(SW) Thomas.



AVENGER FRG NEWS

BY: ENS ANTHONY NEWVALL

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On 13DEC2011, (MCM-1) USS AVENGER stood up the Family Readiness Group, a new way to keep families together for a new Command. The FRG creates a new link in the chain, a way for sailors, and families of sailors, to stay informed on the happenings, challenges, and triumphs of those who serve onboard, and those who patiently await their loved ones' return. The Commanding Officer, LCDR Patrick J. Sullivan, the executive officer, LCDR Todd Penrod, and the Command Senior Chief, EMCS(SW) Carlos Griffin, were on hand to welcome in all who were interested in getting more involved with the Command. "It went well, we had a great turn out of family members," said LCDR Penrod. Want to join but didn't get a chance to stop in at the meeting on 13DEC? Contact our Ombudsman, Mrs. Jamie Denton, at ombudsmanmcm1@hotmail.com for details on how to join today!

BOTTOM LEFT: LCDR SULLIVAN, COMMANDING OFFICER, USS AVENGER (MCM-1), ADDRESSES THE NEWLY DEVELOPED FAMILY READINESS GROUP.

BOTTOM RIGHT: LITTLE LIAM GARRETT SMILES FOR THE CAMERA WHILE HIS MOTHER, RASHELL GARRETT, LISTENS TO THE INFORMATION PUT OUT DURING THE FIRST MEETING.



QUESTIONS, CONCERNS,
COMMENTS?

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USS AVENGER

D U X E X D E F E N S O R S E M I T A E