

From the Sandbox...

(almost)

# The Oscar Observer



August/September 2012

Volume 1

## The Captain's Corner

CAPT Chuck Rink



The OSCAR rotation for NAVELSG has been spun up and trained. The training has been both dynamic and effective in achieving the goal of all Sailors being prepared to go forward. The OSCAR rotation is ready, because of the focus and determination of every officer, chief and enlisted member that make up the OSCAR team. This team is a unique blend of active duty and reservists that will go forward to serve our great country. I am honored to have the privilege to lead this professional group of men and women to the Middle East. I look forward to working

closely with every member. Going forward isn't just the Sailor being properly trained, but it includes the family members left behind being properly prepared.

Our Sailors have an important mission to accomplish. They must be mission focused, safety conscientious and work at a high tempo. In addition, the environment they have to work in can be over 120°F and drop down as low as 19°F. Because of the outstanding support provided by their families, our Sailors can achieve the mission goals set before them. It is a hard task to allow a loved one to deploy and require the family left behind to handle everything. Navy families have been supporting their loved ones for centuries and they continue to maintain the home front. To the families of our deploying Sailors Thank You for all the support and understanding you provide your Sailor going forward. Lastly, we are all blessed to live in the greatest country in history and to be a part of the most powerful Navy in the world. The citizens of the United States owe their freedom to the many men and women who have served and currently serve in the military, and the military families who supported and currently support them. Each of you should be grateful to live in such a great country, be proud of the tremendous contribution the Navy provides in protecting our freedoms and realize your outstanding contributions to the Navy. Thank you for your service. Thank your families for their support. May God bless all of us with a successful mission and the safe return of each and every one of us.

## In Hahm's Way

CDR Jimmy Hahm



As we are preparing ourselves to assume the role of NAVELSG FWD OSCAR in just a few weeks, I am very satisfied with the level of talent and effort in our group. We come from 15 different units spread out across 9 states as reservists and also include the active duty Air Cargo company from NCHB-1 (ACD-5). We may be from different units and locations, but we have come together as one cohesive unit: OSCAR. We should always keep in mind that we are ONE team, ONE fight!

Many of our officers and sailors have put many hours (after TEU training) to get up to speed in their respective departments. I'd like to thank NAVELSG for the many after working hours spent in ensuring OSCAR personnel are properly trained. I also would like to thank NOVEMBER for their responsiveness and engagement with us in the early turn over process that has already begun. NOVEMBER's help in early engagement with us is critical in getting off to a good start to our tour. With all the hard work and leadership from all of the department heads and support from all of our sailors, OSCAR is ready!

Finally, I'd like to thank our families and shipmates who are remaining behind to ensure our personal/professional affairs are in order. We can go forward with our minds at ease due to their support and sacrifice at home and in our units.

## CMC Corner

CMDCM Scott Quamme



Sailors Come Together

I want to extend greetings to each and everyone one of you that have a loved one serving the cause for Operation Enduring Freedom. These Sailors have come together from around the country. They have all been called to duty to support the Global War on Terrorism. The Sailors are comprised of enlisted and officer ranks. For some, this is their first recall and for many it is their second, third and even fourth recall to active duty. We have a wide array of talent that has come together to form the NAVELSG FWD OSCAR Team.

The days have been filled with watch standing duties, continual training and mission readiness needs. I have to commend each and every one of our Sailors and you, their families, for the never ending support toward accomplishing our mission. Everyone is committed to the cause; working toward a common goal.

It has been a great pleasure for me to get to know your Sailors on a personal and professional level. The talents, professionalism and pride

that they display is a great asset that will enable us to complete our mission safely. Simply put, we will do you and the Navy proud. I, for one, am grateful to have so many hard charging individuals to work with and am glad to have them as part of the Expeditionary Support Services (ESS) Team; working to support Customs Inspections; Air Cargo Support for Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps in support of Operation Enduring Freedom throughout the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility.

My job as the Command Master Chief is to ensure that each and every one of our Sailors is taken care of. I'm referred to as the Senior Enlisted Leader to the Commanding Officer on any enlisted issues. It is my goal to insure that they have the leadership, direction, guidance and resources to succeed in their position within the command as well as being able to take care of you, their families, during this deployment.

Support groups that can assist in giving help and direction on issues that come up as we are away are provided for families needing such assistance. A great resource is at [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil). Our Command Ombudsman Mrs. Carolyn Templin, her email address is [nelr2ombudsman@yahoo.com](mailto:nelr2ombudsman@yahoo.com) along with the individual unit Ombudsman's are a great source on getting information to those that need it. Please feel free to enlist their help if the need arises. Our Command Ombudsman has a direct line to the Commanding Officer on any issues that might come up. She can assist in making this time of separation away from your loved ones, go smoothly.

Thank you for your sacrifice and your continued support.

## Thank You For Your Support



CMDCM Scott Quamme and CSC Robert Massey present USO Staff Member Phil Ferrante at the Richmond International Airport in Richmond, VA with a plaque for outstanding service. Mr. Ferrante's team was instrumental in supporting the administrative needs of more than 200 sailors in Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Seven during their recent Unit Level Training Readiness Assessment at the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex.

CMDCM Quamme and CSC Massey have moved on from NCHB 7 to new assignments, but made time during their pre-deployment preparations to show their appreciation for the support provided by the USO.

The USO operates more than 160 locations around the world. From Okinawa to Afghanistan, Korea to Kuwait, centers provide a touch of home no matter where our troops serve. In 2011, troops and their families visited USO Centers more than 8 million times.

The plaque in the photo reads as follows:

USO Richmond, VA Airport

In Recognition for your Outstanding Support to Navy Cargo handling Battalion SEVEN (NCHB-7) during Our Unit Level Training Readiness Assessment (ULTRA) April 2012

Thanks for a Job Well Done!!!

## Sailor in the Spotlight: ACD

### CS1(SW) Scott Webb

*Note from the Editor: With this first newsletter, we're introducing several articles that we intend to repeat in each of our future newsletters. This is one of those articles. "Sailor in the Spotlight" articles are intended to introduce you to some of our OSCAR Sailors and what they are doing during this deployment. Since our Sailors are scattered all over the Area of Responsibility (AOR), we'll spotlight a Sailor from each area. Our first Sailor is with our Air Cargo Detachment (ACD).*

*For those of you unfamiliar with the Navy's rank designations, the parts of CS1(SW) mean the following:*

*CS - Culinary Specialist*

*1 - first class petty officer (i.e. an E-6)*

*SW - surface warfare qualified*

**Hometown:** Garden City, KS

**Unit:** Navy Cargo Handling Battalion One (NCHB1)

**Date Joined the Navy:** May 1999

**Brief description of your Navy job:** I'm a squad leader for a 12 man squad within Air Cargo Detachment Five (ACD5) which is made up of members from NCHB1's Air Cargo Company

**Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy?** MS1 Murdock (*Culinary Specialists used to be known as Mess Management Specialists or MS.*) taught me a lot about leadership. He insisted that we be professional in everything that we did; very by-the-book, but he also really knew his people. I really learned my leadership style from him.

**What do you enjoy most about the Navy?** I love to learn recipes or techniques from local chefs anywhere the Navy sends me. It gives me the opportunity broaden my abilities within my specialty.

**What do you think has been your most significant contribution to the Navy, NAVELSG, etc....?** My team won the first ever "Galley Wars" at Fleet Week in Fort Lauderdale, FL. "Galley Wars" is sort of like "Iron Chef" for the

Navy's Culinary Specialists. We had a blast and learned a lot; it was awesome.

**Do you have an interesting, touching or funny story during your career that you would like to share with us?** I was on the USS Forrest Sherman while we were conducting Counter Piracy operations off of Somalia in 2011. We were tasked to board a Military Sealift Command vessel at about 2 o'clock in the morning. The crew was out of drinking water and had begun to collect urine in canvas bowls just in case they became desperate later on. Our brand new boarding officer came aboard with the team as we began searching the vessel and toppled one of them. You can image followed.

**Current hobbies:** Weight lifting and experimental meat smoking. I work with my uncle to try to come up with new flavor profiles in smoked meats.

## Sailor in the Spotlight: ESS

### EO1 Giampaolo Bordonaro



EO1 Bordonaro was selected for this month's "Sailor in the Spotlight" because he consistently went above and beyond to support his shipmates as we prepared for this deployment. He demonstrated his outstanding administrative and training expertise in addition to his exceptional

abilities within his rating.

**Hometown:** Jacksonville, FL

**NOSC:** Jacksonville

**Unit:** Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Eleven (NCHB-11)

**Date Joined the Navy:** 27 NOV 1995

**Brief description of your Navy job:** Equipment Operator and License Examiner

**Brief description of your civilian job:** Crane Technician for Florida Handling Systems where I repair overhead cranes.

**Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy?** EMC Kuehner was a good old salty Chief and I want to pattern my leadership style after his.

**What do you enjoy most about the Navy?** Everything! I love the camaraderie, learning new skills and all of the new experiences.

**Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy:** Dubai. A new culture, new land...it's beautiful.

**What do you think has been your most significant contribution to the Navy, NAVELSG, etc....?** My technical expertise as an equipment operator.

**Do you have an interesting, touching or funny story during your career that you would like to share with us?** During an all hands meeting in 2001, an airman referred to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) as Chief. Boy is that an understatement.

**What motivated you to share your family suicide experience with your shipmates?** I just wanted others to be aware so that they wouldn't suffer the same experience that I did.

**Current hobbies:** Riding motorcycle, soccer, fishing with my wife and Formula 1 Racing.

## Sailor in the Spotlight: TEU

GM1(SS) Mark O'Kelley



Although GM1(SS) O'Kelley is not attached to OSCAR, his contributions had a profound impact on getting us ready to deploy. GM1 is a reservist himself who is mobilized as an instructor at the Training and Evaluation Unit (TEU). Thank you, GM1, for your dedication and hard work.

**Hometown:** Watkinsville, GA

**NOSC:** Atlanta

**Unit:** MESRON12 DET E

**Date Joined the Navy:** 04NOV84

**Brief description of your Navy job:** Currently working as an weapons instructor at NAVELSG TEU.

**Brief description of your civilian job:** Work for the United States Postal Service as a Sales Associate/Customer Service Supervisor.

**Who has been your biggest influence since joining the Navy?** There are so many great Chiefs and Officers that have crossed my path over the years that I don't know that I could pick one. I have loved working with so many of them.

**What do you enjoy most about the Navy?** Helping my shipmates; the camaraderie. Being

an instructor has been one of the most fulfilling roles of my career.

**Most interesting place visited since joining the Navy:** All of the Middle East, love it.

**What do you think has been your most significant contribution to the Navy, NAVELSG, etc....?** Helping Sailors, that thought they couldn't do the task. Showing them, they could, and become successful at it.

**Do you have an interesting, touching or funny story during your career that you would like to share with us?** There have been many. I am truly humbled by the response I get from this command and the ones in transit (positive). My goal has always been to be a light to those in need, and being an instructor as allowed that to happen. Meeting all the Sailors, and sharing a laugh or two. Sometimes I feel like I could write a book....

**Current hobbies:** I restore old Ford Mustangs, riding my Motorcycle, hunting, fishing, and my family...

## Our Mascot

We'd like to introduce you to Chief Oscar; you probably recognize him from his previous occupation on Sesame Street. We'll be documenting his adventures in the coming months.



From The Sandbox...

From The Sandbox...



## TRAINING TIME FOR TEAM OSCAR

The Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) consists of more than 3,300 personnel assigned to five regional regiments and 11 battalions located throughout the United States. Their headquarters is at the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex in Williamsburg, Va.

NAVELSG consists of:

- A full-time active duty, civilian, and selected reserve headquarters staff.
- 1 Training and Evaluation Unit (TEU)
- 5 Navy Expeditionary Logistics Regiments (NELRs)
- 11 Navy Cargo Handling Battalions (NCHBs)

The Training and Evaluation Unit (TEU) is responsible for training the most capable and adaptable expeditionary logistics units in the world. They have developed the most rigorous courses possible, designed around realistic scenarios to prepare for the most relevant ex-

peditionary logistics challenges. They use hard earned experience in both the active and reserve units to develop and deliver technical and military training as well as an effective readiness assessment process.

Since 2004, the TEU has been tasked with preparing two rotations per year for the NAVELSG forward mission at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The photos in this newsletter illustrate the four main courses that OSCAR rotation completed during their 4 weeks of training at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Cheatham Annex Williamsburg, VA. Our training included the following courses:

- 1) Humvee Emergency Egress Training (HEET)
- 2) Army Combat Life Saver (ACLS)
- 3) Weapons Familiarization and Navy Weapons Qualification Course
- 4) Chemical Biological Radiological Defense (CBRD)

### Small Arms Qualification



Captain Rink addressing the troops at the range.

Loading magazines...



From The Sandbox...

From The Sandbox...



Zeroing the weapon.



Lieutenants Goins and Frasier waiting to shoot

Our expert shooter, LTJG Holbrook



On the firing line...



From The Sandbox...

From The Sandbox...

# CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL DEFENSE



Master Chief Quamme cleaning his gas mask during CBRD training.



QM1 Durham testing out his gas mask before putting it on and performing an operational check.

BU1(SCW) Hooper instructs LTJG Holbrook how to don personal protective gear.



QMC Renier and HMC Sbraccia demonstrate teamwork during our CBRD classroom training. Go Navy Chiefs!!!!

From The Sandbox...

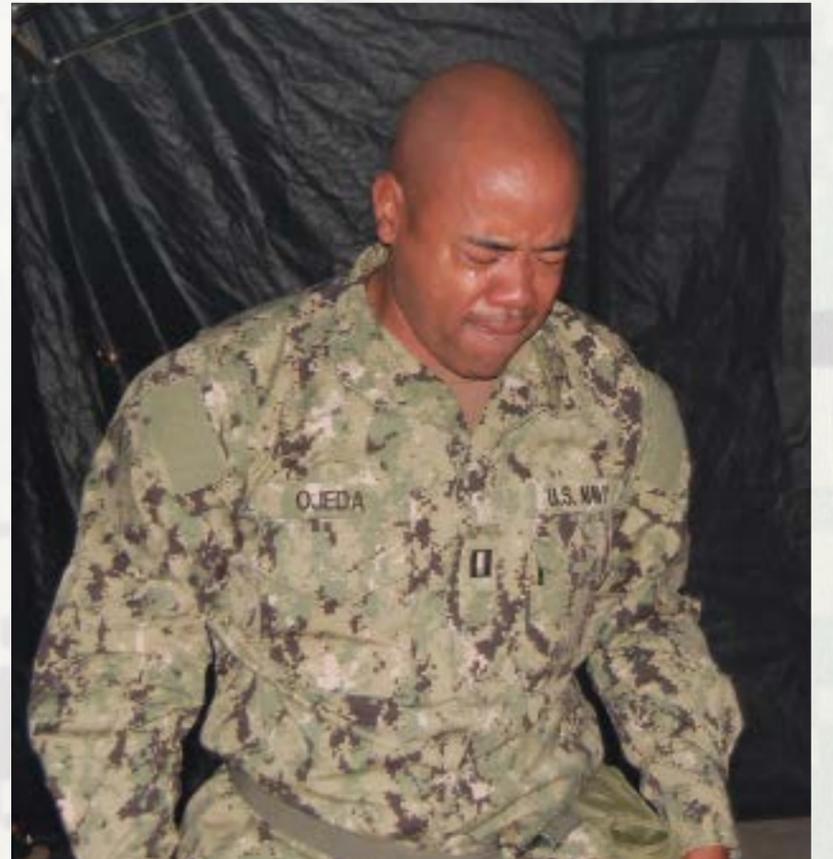
From The Sandbox...



Touch guys don't need a gas mask...even when doing pushups in the gas chamber.



Proving that the masks work...



...maybe I should have kept the mask on.





ARE YOU TALKING TO ME?????  
No, CDR Foster it wasn't me :-)

# ADVANCED COMBAT LIFESAVER TRAINING

From The Sandbox...

MR3 Jordan practices treating a tension pneumothorax (collapsed lung).



IT1 Ritchie learns how to apply a tourniquet.



From The Sandbox...



Working together to move a wounded warrior onto a stretcher for evacuation.



Our team springs into action during the practical exam.



From The Sandbox...



From The Sandbox...

# CREW SERVED WEAPONS TRAINING



MR3 "Rambo" Jordan taking care of business

BM1 Bishop lighting it up!



From The Sandbox...

From The Sandbox...

# HMMV EMERGENCY EGRESS TRAINING

From The Sandbox...



This doesn't look so bad...



From The Sandbox...



Mount up!

From The Sandbox...



No problem, we're ready!



WHOOOOAAAA!!!!



Does falling out count as egress?



From The Sandbox...

## The OSCAR Logo

The colors of the logo are “Navy Blue and Gold” and the red and gold from the “Oscar” signal flag. The fellow in the eight point cover in the center of the logo is an oscar fish. So much for the oscar overkill. The eight point cover worn by the fish is a NWU Type-III cover like those that our Sailor’s will wear during the deployment. He’s holding onto an M240 machine gun and is surrounded by symbols that represent the departments in which our Sailors

will provide support while deployed: medical, transportation, cargo, information technology, supply, administration, and command and control. The expeditionary warfare device above Oscar represents the expeditionary nature of our mission. The contingency operation under which we will operate (Operation Enduring Freedom) and the years during which we will be deployed are next to Oscar. The unit names and the countries in which we will be working are around the rim.



From The Sandbox...