

Note from the Commodore:

Dear Friends and Family,

We are doing just fine at Kandahar Air Field in southern Afghanistan, and at our other locations. We are also in a great mood as we reach the mid-point of our deployment, and enjoy our own Over-the-Hump Party!

The overarching point of our mission is to ensure that “never again will terrorists attack the United States or our allies from Afghanistan soil!” To accomplish this we must defeat the insurgents, facilitate confidence by the Afghan people in the legitimate government of Afghanistan, and develop the Afghan National Army and Afghan Police so they can provide security on their own. Our coalition is making steady progress at achieving these goals. Our Nation must keep its resolve!

The 30th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) leads Task Force FORAGER, comprised of all theater engineers in the southern half of the country. Working daily with us in our Task Force are two Army route clearance battalions, one Army construction battalion, one unit of Army Mine Detection Dogs, several teams of Army firefighters, two Air Force engineering squadrons, and two



CAPT Bret Muilenburg

COMMODORE

SEABEE Battalions (NMCB 1 and 4). We love working with the engineers of the other services as they are all motivated and professional. Each unit brings its own expertise to our Task Force.

We also work closely with many other nations to include Australia, Great Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, Romania, and of course, Afghanistan! Our role with the Afghan National Army is to teach them how to run their own engineer commands modeled after our own. We do this by conducting training such as firefighting and equipment main-

tenance, performing construction together, and conducting missions together such as clearing roads of IEDs. It is rewarding to see Afghan engineers becoming more independent and confident.

The President has announced a reduction of 30,000 US troops in Afghanistan by October of 2012. We will likely see fewer SEABEES deployed over here in the future as part of these reductions.

I'm proud to serve alongside your courageous and talented family members. We think of you constantly and appreciate your service at home. I thank you for your ever present love and support!

Captain Bret Muilenburg
Commodore, 30th NCR and Task
Force FORAGER



Petty Officer in the FORAGER spotLight

EA3(SCW) Meyer



What are your deployment goals?

My ultimate goal is to survive this country one more time. Professionally, another chevron on the collar device would be nice. I can hope. I would like to at minimum finish my PQS sign-offs for the NCR specific SCWS section and possibly go through my board. Personally, I am taking two college classes and I would like to pass those with at minimum a “B” and enroll in another class or two. Physically, I have the desire to push myself to reach the 1000 lb club.

To whom do you owe your success and why?

I don't know what this “success” is that you speak of. I am a six year E-4 in the military. If there is anything that has come into my life in any shape form or fashion, I believe it was done so by God. I believe everything is put into my path as either a challenge or reward and I need to overcome and earn anything in life. These life experiences test your true self and mold your character that makes us who we are.

If you could do anything else, what would it be?

Be a superhero? I don't have this answer to life yet. Whatever is clever at the moment.

What are your words to live by?

“I do not regret the things I have done, but those I did not do.” Empire Records (1995, Film)

Why did you join the Navy?

This is a loaded question. Please feel free to omit or make changes as necessary. To start off my grandfather (paternal) joined the Navy during WWII days after Pearl Harbor, my grandfather (maternal) was retired US Air Force and my father is a retired Master Sergeant from the US Air Force. I had a lot of military influence growing up. However, all through high school I had no desire to join the military. It wasn't until after my first year of college at Western Carolina University ended that my family couldn't afford my tuition. I was denied for supplemental funds from grants and scholarships so I joined the work force at Eller & Owens Furniture. I was shortly removed from under my parents' house and proceeded to live in a motel. As I reassessed my situation, the military was the best option I had to go to school, become financially stable, become part of a greater cause, and travel the world. The Navy was my chance to improve myself and I took full advantage of it.

Describe your job:

At the THIRTIETH NCR during this Afghanistan tour, I am the R35 Future Operations Clerk. As the clerk, I assist in managing prospective projects for Regional Command – South through the work induction process. This process involves ensuring all prerequisites for submitting the project information is complete at our Work Review Request Meeting (WRRM) before going to the Joint Facilities Utilization Board (JFUB) for final approval. When not engaged with the work involved with the WRRM, I assist other entities with Computer Automated Drawings (CAD) for designs on various projects.

What are your hobbies? When not deployed, I enjoy shooting pool honing my geometry skills and playing disc golf at Lake Casitas, Ojai, CA. I enjoy anything outdoors to include canyon hiking, camping, volleyball and other activities at the beach, and improving my physical fitness.

If you would like to see someone featured in our spotlight section of the newsletter, please let us

know. Write me at

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