

USS Wilhoite DE/DER 397

WEEPIN WILLIE

January February March

WILL 2018 DO

SHIPMATES

HOPE ALL MADE IT HOME SAFE AND
HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS AND SO
FAR A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

1ST THANKS FOR ALLOWING ME TO
DO THIS NEWSLETTER, IT WILL BE A
WORK IN PROGRESS. HOPEFULLY
INFORMATIVE AND SOMETIMES A
LITTLE FUN (YOU CAN LAUGH AT
MY MISTAKES) ANYONE WHO HAS
ANYTHING TO ADD TO THE LETTER

SEND IT TO ME.

CALM SEAS AN SMOOTH SAILING

GRAY



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l e t t e r

Dear Wilhoite Shipmates,

I wanted to update you on our reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**The dates will be Monday, Oct 8. thru Thursday, Oct 11th.
Our hotel is MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul N.E,
Albuquerque, NM. Our room rate is \$90.00 a night.**

As most of you know, Liz resigned & I have taken the wheel, I mean helm. I have talked to the Sales Rep at the hotel and he is more than willing to help make our stay enjoyable. John & I plan on visiting Albuquerque in April and finalize our plans.

This reunion will be a little different than the one in the pasts mainly because the one attraction I wanted you to see is only on Thursday evening. I know that is normally our banquet night but I have plans for something a little different. Please bear with me. It is my goal to keep the costs as low as possible.

I asked our secretary, Bob Gray, to include my letter in the newsletter. I want you to feel free to call me if you have any questions at all & I am open to any and all suggestions.

I am so looking forward to the reunion. I know it's not close to the ocean and we will not be seeing naval vessels but I really think you will enjoy this.

**Thank you,
Connie Mauldin**

**(405) 354-9204
cporetrn@cox.net**

Minutes of our Business meeting
October 4, 2017
Akron, Ohio

Those in attendance were the following: John Mauldin, Ray Rott, Steve Gergens, Bob Gray, Bill Endter, Tom Morrissey, Frank Roche, Bill Owens, Ray and Mark Candor, James Knight, Ross Thompson and Mike Alcorn.

The meeting was brought to order by President Tom Morrissey.

Minutes from 2016 was read by Elisabeth Kimball. She also stated that she was going to have to resign. They were accepted as read.

Treasurer report was given by Frank Roche. Bob Gray, moved that the Treasurer report be accepted and Bill Endter seconded it. It carried.

They were accepted as read.

Tom asked for reports from officers:

President: Tom said he did not have much to report

Vice President: Not present

Secretary and Treasurer already gave reports

Chaplain: ?

Historian: Bill said he was still working on history of the
USS Wilhoite

Old Business: Connie Mauldin gave a report on Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is working on tours. The hotel is Elegante'. The room is \$90.00 night with your choice of an upgrade of different prices. It was also discussed on having hosting again, and this was tabled.

New Business: A motion was made by Bill Endter and Bob Gray seconded it that the By-Laws stand and it was approved.

Discussion on where to have 2019 from Cindy Thompson about coming to Michigan, Liz for West Coast, Bob Gray, Mississippi and Frank Roche wanted something about Navy and water. It was decided by majority to go to West Coast.

Had election of officers and they are:

President Tom Morrissey

Frank Roche made a motion to keep Tom Morrissey as President

John Mauldin seconded the motion, it carried.

Vice President Lee Robinson

Motion was made by Mike Alcorn and seconded by John Caldwell to keep Lee Robinson as Vice President it carried.

All in favor of the remaining offices for

Treasurer Frank Roche

Secretary Bob Gray

Majority okayed these two offices.

Mrs. Geri Frederkisen donated a book that will be auctioned off at the banquet.

Adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Elisabeth Kimball
Secretary

Aittala
Anderson
Alcorn
Anderson
Aument
Bunker
Candor
Carlisle
Ellis
Caron
Caldwell
Compton
Cramer
Cusato
Dougher
Derry
Dougher, Jr
Dutchuk
Eertmoed
Ercek
Frederiksen
Gergens
Gray
Huff
Hackenberg
Hagee
Horch
Hydro
Huml
Intemann
Jensen
Johnson
Kaczmarski
Knight
Long

Gene
Peter
Mike
Henry
Carolyn
Rita
Raymond
Fred
Rupert
Bob
John
Ed
Peter
Paul
Tom
Dave
Gerald
John
Donald
Ron
Geri
Steve
Bob
Roland L
Rich
Charles
Linda
John
Vincent
Gary
Keith
Robert
Julius
James
Leroy

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Mason
Marley
Haerling
Mc Murr
McFadden
McKenna
Murphy
O'Quin

Owens
Papenfus
Parker
Payne
Price
Payson
Rice
Ringel
Robinson
Roche
Rott
Scheeder
Shanahan, Jr.
Smith
Strickland
Thompson
Throm
Torriglia
Valiant
West
West
Wiseman
Wolner
Worden
Yonkofski

William
Ray A.
Robert C
James
Charles
Eugene
Obie
Edward

William
William
David
Gary
Earl
David
Robert
Richard
Lee
Frank
Raymond
Dick
John
Raymond
Gene
Ross
Larry
Paul
Vernon
Tom
William
Leonard
Charles
Charles
Ben



USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) stands by before it is loaded onto the heavy lift transport vessel MV Transshelf. Transshelf will transport Fitzgerald to Pascagoula, Mississippi to complete repairs. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class William McCann/Released)

THE PENTAGON – Navy leadership has issued more punishments to sailors involved in the two fatal collisions in the Western Pacific, senior service officials told USNI News on Thursday.

The service held six non-judicial punishment hearings in Yokosuka, Japan, on Jan. 25 related to the collisions of guided-missile destroyers USS *Fitzgerald* (DDG-62) and USS *John S. McCain* (DDG-56). The head of Naval Reactors Adm. James F. Caldwell oversaw the hearings. He was appointed in October as the Consolidated Disposition Authority tasked to oversee additional accountability actions following the two collisions in which 17 sailors were killed.

Four sailors were issued non-judicial punishments as a result of the hearings in Japan.

Caldwell found then-*Fitzgerald* executive officer Cmdr. Sean Babbitt and command master chief CMC Brice Baldwin guilty of dereliction of duty that resulted in the June 17, 2017,

collision of the coast of Japan that killed seven sailors. Both were issued a punitive letter of reprimands.

Babbitt and Baldwin were removed from their positions on the destroyer in mid-August along with *Fitzgerald* commander Cmdr. Bryce Benson.



Cmdr. Bryce Benson, Cmdr. Sean Babbitt and CMC Brice Baldwin were removed from their positions on USS Fitzgerald

“In another case involving a [*Fitzgerald*] officer, Caldwell reconsidered a previous finding

of guilt and set aside the action based on his review,” read a statement from the service provided to USNI News.

Caldwell also oversaw three NJP hearings for one officer and two enlisted sailors aboard *McCain* on allegations related to the Aug. 21, 2017, collision of *McCain* and a merchant tanker off the coast of Singapore.

“Caldwell dismissed the NJP charges against one officer and one enlisted [crew] member. The second enlisted member was found guilty of violating Article 92 (dereliction in the performance of duties) of the [Uniform Code of Military Justice],” read the statement from the service.

“The member was awarded a punitive letter of reprimand, forfeiture of a half month’s pay for two months and reduction in rate to the next inferior paygrade. The forfeiture of pay and reduction in rate were suspended for a period of six months.”

In total, 17 sailors have been issued non-judicial punishment on charges related to the two collisions.

In addition to announcing the NJP hearings, the service gave the dates for the Article 32 preliminary hearings for negligent homicide, dereliction of duty and hazarding a ship charges for the former commander and three sailors on *Fitzgerald* and the former commander of *McCain*.

Former *McCain* CO Cmdr. Alfredo J. Sanchez will appear before a military judge at the Washington Navy Yard on March 6. Former *Fitzgerald* CO Benson will appear on March 7, and three *Fitzgerald* officers will appear on March 8 in a joint hearing, according to the statement.

Caldwell is expected to take additional accountability actions related to the collisions, according to the service.

Previously announced accountability actions include removing Vice Adm. Tom Rowden from his position as the head of naval surface forces earlier than his planned Feb. 2 retirement date.



Cmdr. Alfredo J. Sanchez. US Navy Photo

Capt. Jeffery Bennett, commodore of the Japan-based Destroyer Squadron 15 to which both ships belonged; the Japan-based task force commander, Rear Adm. Charles Williams; and the commander of U.S. 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, were all removed from their positions.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Scott Swift announced his **earlier-than-expected retirement in late September.**

While ongoing actions are still possible for sailors involved with the collisions, the Navy had previously

stated that additional accountability actions beyond the senior leaders already disciplined were not likely.

“The CDA did find that sufficient and adequate actions have been taken against officers higher up in the chain of command,” Navy **spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Dan Day told USNI News in a statement on Jan. 17.**

“The actions taken thus far have been firm but fair at all levels of the chain of command.”

The following is the complete Feb. 1, 2018 statement provided to USNI News.

WASHINGTON — Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Bill Moran designated Adm. Frank Caldwell as the Consolidated Disposition Authority (CDA) on Oct. 30, 2017, to re-

view accountability actions in relation to USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain collisions, and to take additional administrative or disciplinary actions as appropriate.

To date, in addition to the measures already taken, Caldwell has held six additional non-judicial punishment (NJP) hearings in Yokosuka, Japan, on January 25.

For USS Fitzgerald, the executive officer, command master chief and one officer were found guilty at NJP for violating Article 92 (dereliction in the performance of duties) of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Each was given a punitive letter of reprimand. And in another case involving an officer, Caldwell reconsidered a previous finding of guilt and set aside the action based on his review.

For USS John S. McCain, one officer and two enlisted members received NJP hearings during which Caldwell dismissed the NJP charges against one officer and one enlisted member. The second enlisted member was found guilty of violating Article 92 (dereliction in the performance of duties) of the UCMJ. The member was awarded a punitive letter of reprimand, forfeiture of 1/2 month's pay for two months and reduction in rate to the next inferior paygrade. The forfeiture of pay and reduction in rate were suspended for a period of six months.

Additional CDA actions are pending. As appropriate, information will be available when action is complete. This is required to ensure a fair, thorough and equitable process and that members are afforded their rights.

The CDA has also appointed Preliminary Hearing Officers and scheduled Article 32 hearings to review evidence supporting alleged UCMJ violations against USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain crew members.

The hearings are scheduled to take place at the Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., on the dates as follows:

March 6, 2018: commanding officer, USS John S. McCain

March 7, 2018: commanding officer, USS Fitzgerald

March 8, 2018: Joint hearing on three officers of the USS Fitzgerald

The scheduled hearings are subject to change and will be posted on the regularly sched-

uled public docket issued by Naval District Washington, available at <https://www.cnid.navy.mil/regions/ndw/om/northern-judicial-court.html>.

An Article 32 hearing does not reflect a determination of guilt or innocence related to any offenses. All individuals alleged to have committed misconduct are entitled to a presumption of innocence.



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About Sam LaGrone

Sam LaGrone is the editor of USNI News. He has covered legislation, acquisition and operations for the Sea Services since 2009 and spent time underway with the U.S. Navy,

NAVY'S NEW FEMALE LIVING QUARTERS REGULATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY IS NOW ASSIGNING FEMALES TO QUARTERS IN A SEPARATE PRIVATE "OFF LIMITS" AREA ON ALL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.

WHILE ADDRESSING ALL AT PEARL HARBOR, CINCPAC ADVISED,

FEMALE SLEEPING QUARTERS WILL BE "OUT OF BOUNDS" FOR ALL MALES.

ANYONE CAUGHT BREAKING THIS RULE WOULD BE FINED \$50.00 FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE ADMIRAL CONTINUED "ANYONE CAUGHT BREAKING THIS RULE THE SECOND TIME WILL BE FINED \$150.00

BEING CAUGHT THE THIRD TIME WILL COST YOU A FINE OF \$500.00.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?

AT THIS POINT, YOUNG NAVAL AVIATOR ASSIGNED TO A FIGHTER SQUADRON ON BOARD STOOD UP IN THE CROWD AND INQUIRED:

"ADMIRAL, HOW MUCH IS A SEASON PASS "

AIRDALES!!!!!!

SMOOTH SAILING

ANCHOR AWEIGH

AND FINALLY

I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS THOUGHT:

WE WERE ONCE BIG AND BURLY SAILORS AS ROUGH AND TOUGH AS THEY
COME:

BUT, NOW AT OUR AGE YOU CAN BE ASSURED OF ONE THING:

WHEN YOUR 3-4 YR OLD GRAND DAUGHTER HANDS YOU THE RECIEVER
TO A TOY PHONE YOU CAN TAKE BETS THAT YOU WILL ANSWER IT AND
HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH WHOEVER IS ON THE LINE.

ANYONE WHO HAS ANYTHING THAT THEY MAY WANT PUT IN THE NEWS
LETTER PLEASE FORWARD IT TO ME FOR THE NEXT ONE.
ONLY 2 REQUIREMENTS 1. KEEP IT CLEAN AND I WOULD PREFER THAT IT

BE KEPT **NAVY**