Hope all made it home safe and sound. Calm seas and smooth sailing will do. Far a happy New Year.

Thanks for allowing me to work in progress, hopefully informative and sometimes a little fun you can laugh at my mistakes or anyone who has anything to add to the letter send it to me.

January, February, March 2018

Will 397

GRAY

USS Wiltail DE/DER 397

Weepin Willie

February 9 9 1 1

3 4 9 1
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
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 Cmrdr. Bryce Benson.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson, Cmrdr. 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.
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

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 presump-
tion of innocence.

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Article Keywords: ACX Crystal, Adm. Phil Davidson, CNO Adm. John Richardson, Surface Forces, US 7th Fleet, US Fleet Forces, US Fleet Forces Command, USS Fitzgerald, USS John McCain

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