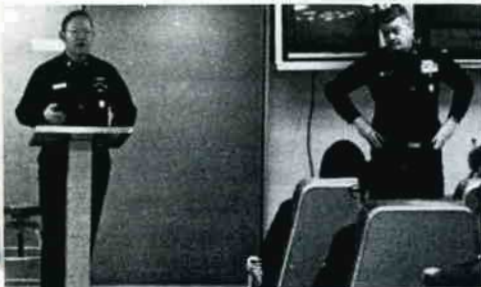




Fleet and Force Master Chiefs Visit NASSAU



BMCM Virgil Jennings, TCMC Frank Lister, and BMCM Bobby Scott relax in Nassau's Wardroom.

Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Virgil Jennings, Nassau's new Command Master Chief, can probably be best described as a "True Navy Professional".

The 38 year Navy veteran has been a Master Chief petty officer longer than many Nassau crewmembers have been in the Navy. His dedication and professionalism show in virtually everything he does and his enthusiasm matches his experience.

On January 29 Master Chief Jennings invited two of his friends to Nassau for a visit: TCMC Frank Lister, Commander in Chief Atlantic Fleet Command

Master Chief and BMCM Bobby Scott, Commander Naval Surface Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet Command Master Chief. The Fleet and Force Master Chiefs spent the day on Nassau visiting the crew, speaking on upcoming changes, and answering a barrage of questions from the Nassau crew.

The two visiting Master Chiefs covered a variety of subjects during their face to face discussions. In the

(Continued on page 2)



TCMC Frank Lister speaks to a group of second and third class petty officers in Nassau's Squadron Ready Room. BMCM Scott (far right) and Nassau Command Master Chief BMCM Virgil Jennings (far left seated) listen in.



Master Chief Lister speaks to Nassau's messmen.



Master Chief Scott in the Nassau Chiefs Mess.

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Wardroom with the ship's officers they concentrated on the quality of new recruits, manpower, and current plans for maintaining the number of ships in the fleet.

Homesteading (keeping people in the same geographic area from shore duty to sea duty) E-8 and E-9 selection boards, and programs to make staying in the Navy for more than twenty years more attractive, were the main subjects in the Chiefs' mess. In the First Class mess interest ran to leadership, increased CHAMPUS benefits, and Non-Commissioned Officer academies.

The ship's messmen were the next group to listen to the two MCPO's. Their interests were in advancement and future pay raises.

The end of the working day was nearing as selected non-rates (E-3 and below), E-4s, and E-5s had their turn. Advancement and pay increases were popular topics with them too, but leadership and responsibilities also attracted their attention.

Perhaps the most discussed topic of the day was also the most controversial: Current Navy plans are directed toward increased professionalism and the reinforcement of good order and discipline within the military service. Some of these initiatives are designed to increase the role and distinctive identity of Navy petty officers. Perhaps the least, but most talked about of these, will be the limiting of the privileges of keeping civilian clothes aboard ship and the growing of beards and mustaches to petty officers and above.

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The USS NASSAU (LHA 4) Commanding Officer is Captain Henry C. Atwood, Jr., USN. The NASSAU Newsletter complies with NPPR P-35. The content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the Department of the Navy.

NASSAU Passes LOE

The Propulsion Examining Board (PEB) certified Nassau as being safe to steam boilers on January 16, 1981.

This milestone was reached through the hard work of Nassau's engineers along with the efforts of many members of ship's company who lent a hand in helping prepare Nassau for the Light Off Examination (LOE).

An LOE is administered to all ships which have undergone major modifications to their engineering plant or are completing a long overhaul period.

There are three phases to an LOE. The first tests watchstanders' level of



A throttleman controls engine rpm's in Nassau's After Engine room while engineers steam the after boiler.

knowledge. Phase two concerns engineering administration, and the third phase is a material inspection.

Having passed the LOE the engineering department has been "steaming" boilers since January 20th in order to maintain the state of readiness achieved during LOE and complete the testing of all associated machinery.

Red Cross Volunteer on Board a First



Red Cross Volunteer Cynthia Latham instructs a Nassau crewman in proper brushing techniques.

A Red Cross volunteer Dental Hygienist currently working on board Nassau is a first, Red Cross officials say.

The volunteer, Mrs. Cynthia A. Latham, has been working on the ship the first day of each week for over a month now and says she expects to continue her weekly visits to the ship until sometime in June whenever the ship is in port.

"To the best of my knowledge this is the first time a Red Cross volunteer has worked on a Tidewater area naval vessel on a regular basis; it's certainly unusual," said Ruth Draper, the station director for the American Red Cross at the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth.

The wife of Nassau Dental Officer, LCDR Peter M. Latham, she has been cleaning teeth, checking for tissue abnormalities, and perhaps most important of all, providing detailed instruction in proper brushing and flossing methods.

"I enjoy helping people and teaching them how to care for their mouths," said the University of Rhode Island graduate, "Most of the people here are young enough that given proper instruction they can correct past brushing and flossing mistakes before they turn into lifetime problems."

Reenlistments



YN2 Joseph Donovan reenlists for four years and a guaranteed assignment to Orlando, Florida. Captain Atwood was the reenlisting officer, also present was YN2 Donovan's fiancée Billie Joe Stephens.

An even dozen members of Nassau's crew reenlisted during the months of December and January.

Of the twelve, half opted for the Guaranteed Reassignment program (GUARD III), two more chose the Selective Training and Reenlistment Incentive Program (STAR) and four more reenlisted for "benefits of rate".

Congratulations to all the Nassau crewmen who reenlisted during December and January.

Guaranteed Reassignment (GUARD III)

ABH3 Rios Cruz	4 years	Phillipines
ABH3 Phillip Carter	4 years	Keflavik, Iceland
YN2 Michael Gipson	4 years	AFEES New Jersey
BM1 Eddie Smith	4 years	USS Galley, Mayport, Florida
AK1 John Shoenight	4 years	Whidbey Island, Washington
YN2 Joseph Donovan	4 years	Orlando, Florida

Selective Training and Reenlistment Incentive Program

ETSN Robert Byrd	6 years	ET "A" and "C" school
OS2 Donald Miller	6 years	OS "C" school

Regular Reenlistments

IS2 Kurt Bradtke	4 years
RM1 Kelly Ringo	6 years
BMC Emmitt Webster	2 years
OS1 Mark Day	6 years

NASSAU Celebrates 6th Birthday of Surface Force

The U.S. Naval Surface Force celebrated its sixth birthday on January 23.

As a member of the force Nassau observed this occasion with an awards ceremony, birthday cake, and by announcing our new Sailor and Petty Officer of the Quarter.

SH2 Charles Stroman was chosen as Nassau's outstanding petty officer, while ABH3 Robert Court was selected as Sailor of the Quarter. (Petty Officer Court was promoted recently. During the three month period covered by the award he was an Airman.)



ABH3 Robert Court, SH2 Charles Stroman, and Captain Atwood help in the cake cutting ceremony as part of the Surface Force Birthday Celebration.

Frockings & Good Conduct Awards

Congratulations to the following Nassau crewmen who were frocked to their current rates:

EN1 Stacey
EW2 Shetler
ABH3 Court
ABH3 Randall
QM2 Johnson
MS2 Vancil

MS1 Arzadon
SM2 Baxter
ASM3 Hoy
OS3 Roberts
ABH3 Bell

ASE2 Johnson
HT3 Alloway
HM3 Olszewski
HT3 Rickerman
HM3 De Pastene

EN2 Bullers
MS3 Blanchette
ABF3 Quintero
HM2 Higgins
QM3 Duel

Five Nassau crewmen received Good Conduct Awards. The Newsletter staff would like to congratulate them for their dedication to duty.

MS3 Weston - 1st award
MS1 Hebron - 3rd award
MS1 Odanga - 4th award

EM2 Burns - 1st award
AS1 Walker - 3rd award

Santa gave his reindeer the day off, choosing instead to fly in on an HSL-30 helicopter for the children's Christmas party.



Christmas Dinner Dance Masters of Ceremonies CWO2 Barney Barr and Chaplain Christopher Young.



NASSAU Christmas Parties



The Nassau Welfare and Recreation Committee sponsored two Christmas parties this past December. On December 8 a crew's dinner dance was held at the NNSY Drydock Club, then on December 20 a joint children's party was held with Helicopter Squadron HSL-30 at their hangar at the Norfolk Naval Base.

The crew's dinner dance was attended by nearly 300 people. Among the evening's highlights were a visit from Santa Claus and the drawings for door prizes. Chaplain (Cdr.) Christopher Young served as the party's master of ceremonies with support from Ship's Secretary CWO2



Barney Barr.

The dinner dance, which lasted from 6 p.m. until midnight was sponsored by the Welfare and Rec committee and organized by a ship's committee of CWO2 Jerry Riddle, Lt Alex Alban, AS1 Thomas Walker, EM1 Froilan Labaco and JO2 Dan Simon.

Nassau's dependent children's Christmas party was a joint effort between Nassau and the members of HSL-30, the helo squadron commanded by former Nassau Air Boss, Cdr. Earle Rogers.



HSL-30 hangar was the site of the party and the enthusiastic children were treated to entertainment by a magician, a clown and, of course, a visit from Santa Claus (who bore a striking resemblance to Nassau's PN1 Charlie Manson). Santa was airlifted in by one of the squadron helicopters. AC1 David Williams acted as party master of ceremonies, aided by Chaplain Young.

The children's party was organized through the joint efforts of HSL-30 and Nassau Wives clubs, with help from Nassau Special Services.



Hail & Farewell

Nassau said good-bye to seven plankowner officers and welcomed five more aboard during a "Hail and Farewell" party held at the Little Creek "O" club on February 7.

Departing were LCDR Bruce Kilmer, AIMD Officer; LCDR Jerry Payne, First Lieutenant; LT Jeff Butts, Weapons Officer; LT Alex Alban, Public Affairs Officer; LTJG Eric Baron, Signals Officer; LTJG Robert Gozum, Food

Services Officer; and CWO2 Jerry Riddle, Assistant AIMD Officer.

The new arrivals are: LCDR Jim Flood, First Lieutenant; LCDR Yee, AIMD Officer; LTJG Ben Yates, CMS Custodian and Assistant Public Affairs Officer; ENS Jim Steelman, Fire Watch Division Officer; CWO4 John Stuedemann, Assistant AIMD Officer; and CWO2 Dave Watson, Food Services Officer.

The Surface Lady

Mrs. Harriet Riddle, Nassau's most experienced Ombudsman, was awarded a COMNAVSURFLANT "Surface Lady" certificate at a recent Nassau farewell party held at the Little Creek Officers Club, also during the ceremony she was made an honorary USS Nassau Plankowner and was presented with a plankowner's plaque listing the span of her ombudsman office.

The certificate honors her contributions of the past 17 months as a Nassau Ombudsman. Mrs. Riddle's contributions have included: maintaining an answering service on her home phone with updated information regarding Nassau's operational schedule, helping establish the ship's Wives Club, and publicizing current information regarding wives seminars, health benefits, and other miscellaneous information. She has also given much of her time and energy in personally assisting wives during times of stress.



Her husband, CWO2 Jerry Riddle, Nassau's Assistant AIMD Officer, has received orders to Jacksonville, Florida, and they were detached in February.

Nassau still has two other ombudsmen; Mrs. Linda Louk, and Mrs. Anita Williams, in addition there is still a Nassau information line available. The new number for this line is: 464-1266.

Admiral's Cup 1980

League championships in softball and bowling along with the highest overall participation rate of any ship in competition helped Nassau capture the Naval Amphibious Base Admiral's Cup championship in the Large Commands afloat division, in this, the ship's first full year of competition. Nassau finished with a total of 350 points, 135 points ahead of our nearest rival, USS Pensacola.

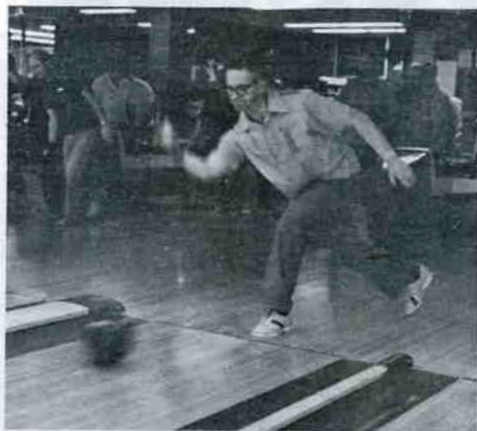
Ship's athletes participated in 16 of 24 events including: swimming, racquet sports, sailing, golf, archery, and flag football along with other individual and team events.

The year long sports competition was open to all afloat commands of the amphibious force.

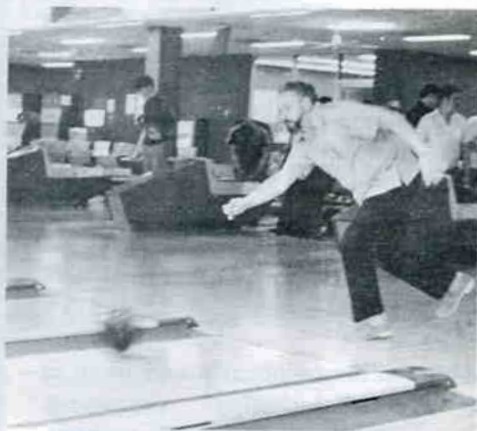


Nassau's championship "A" softball team.

NASSAU Bowlers Top League (Again)



YNC Larry Heather



YNC Curtis Brown

While the 1980 Admiral's Cup competition is now over, little time has been wasted in beginning the 1981 season.

Two sports are already well into their seasons and Nassau teams have done well in both.

One of these sports is bowling and Nassau's top entry in the NAB league has already clinched the league title, additionally Nassau's number two team is engaged in a dogfight for the second place spot.

Nassau "Gold", the league's top team, is being led by three members of the ship's Admin department. CWO2 Barney Barr and YNC Larry Heather are the league's number one and three bowlers and YNC Curtis Brown is holding down the number three spot on the Nassau team.

Other Nassau teams hold positions 8, 10, 13, and 14 in the league as this Newsletter goes to press.



The Nassau Gold Bowling Team (left to right) CWO2 Riddle, CWO2 Barr, YNC Heather, YNC Brown, and QMC Simmons (not shown: AKAA Wilkes, AMH1 Ferguson, EMC Rhodes).

Basketball Team Finishes Second in Base Championship



BM3 Jimmy Compton takes on a pair of PHIBGRU Two defenders for a two point lay-up during Admiral's Cup basketball action.



SHSN Robert Stewart pulls down a rebound during a Nassau-Shreveport match-up.

In 1981 Admiral's Cup basketball competition the Nassau hoopsters finished second in Afloat League competition after winning a 50-49 one-game playoff thriller over the USS Fort Snelling.

The roundballers 15-4 record and second place finish made them eligible for a post season championship playoff.

In the four team double elimination playoff Nassau started out by blitzing the number one shore based team in a 58-37 rout.

In the second game Nassau lost to afloat league nemesis USS Shreveport,

61-51. Down, but not out Nassau faced a rematch with the top shore team, the Marines of LFTC, Little Creek. The Marines, stunned the first time they played Nassau, came out hustling this time and held the lead for most of the game. The last few minutes of the game however, had Nassau written all over them and when the dust had settled the score was 61-58 in favor of Nassau.

The team was now in the finals of the Amphib Base championship, however in order to win they had to defeat USS Shreveport twice. Unfortunately, this was not to be as Shreveport continued their mastery over the Nassau team with a 64-42 victory.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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