

# MCM CREW PERSISTENT ALWAYS FIRST



December, 2011

*Always First* is MCM Crew Persistent's monthly newsletter, intended to keep friends and family of MCM Crew Persistent abreast of the daily life of the crew on the USS Scout while on deployment in Bahrain.

## Letter from the Commanding Officer LCDR Victor Sheldon

Happy Holidays to all the family and friends of Crew PERSISTENT! Hopefully you all enjoy the first edition of our monthly Newsletter. In addition to the MCM Crew PERSISTENT Facebook page, we hope to use this newsletter do a better job of keeping everyone informed of the progressing deployment. With more than one month of deployment behind us, the crew has done an outstanding job taking ownership of USS SCOUT and getting her ready to come out of the dry dock and be ready for tasking and operations.



This month, the crew has been busy preparing the ship for a Light-Off Assessment as well as working on training and qualifications that will lead to a Safe to Operate Verification assessment in January. Both of these upcoming inspections will help ensure the crew is ready and prepared for sustained operations at sea through the rest of deployment. Additionally, we have had the opportunity to reflect on the heritage of our Navy twice this month. On December 7th, we held a short and somber ceremony in the base of the dry dock, under the bow of the ship, to remember the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor, 70 years ago. The second occasion, held on December 15th was a celebration to mark the 21st anniversary of the commissioning of USS SCOUT. Both occasions helped to remind us of the hard work and sacrifices of the men and women of the Navy who have gone before us. The ceremonies helped to motivate us to do our best each and every day in order to preserve the legacy of our past and improve the future of the Navy.

As Christmas is fast approaching, you are all in our thoughts. We all wish that we could be home to enjoy the San Diego weather and holiday cheer. Separation during this holiday is especially challenging and I realize the sacrifices you all make as families during deployments are tremendous. I personally want to thank each and every one of you for the never ending support that you give to the men of Crew PERSISTENT. Without your support, the hard work our Sailors do each and every day in the service of our great Country, would not be possible. I sincerely hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and wish everyone a great 2012.

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I am a United States Sailor.

I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me.

I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world.

I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment.

I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

### Points of Contact:

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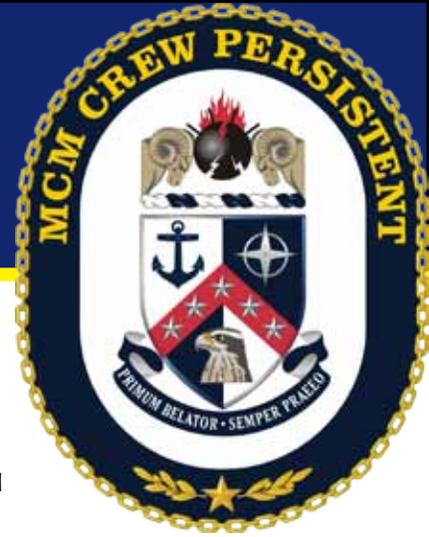
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## From the Executive Officer LCDR Nathan Wemett

After a long flight and an excellent turnover from CREW DOMINANT, we assumed the responsibility for USS SCOUT in BASREC Shipyard to complete the drydocking. Even though the ship will remain in the shipyards until the end of January, the crew has done a great job picking up where DOMINANT left off and has taken full ownership for bringing SCOUT back to operations. The daily schedule has been written to support training and qualifications to help prepare for Light Off Assessment and Safe to Operate Verification, two milestone events to exercise the crew and material condition to close out the shipyard availability.

Although we miss home and family, Bahrain has become our second home, and MWR events have helped to provide sports and leisure activities for all hands to enjoy. NSA hosted a free Turkey Feast for Thanksgiving and planning is in progress to celebrate Christmas and New Years. We wish all the families back home a happy holidays and although we cannot be there in person, we hope we are there in your hearts.



just as proud of our actions and know we represent them with pride, dignity and rectitude.

Saturdays are spent together on base with the support of MWR. Our outstanding MWR committee hosts a weekly gathering around the grill with music and friendly competitive sporting events. To date we have played flag football, volleyball, dodge ball and soft ball with next week bringing in a game of kick ball.

Our mail is flowing so keep it coming. There is no better way to brighten a deployed Sailors day then for him to receive letters, pictures, kid's drawings or art projects and care packages from home. I know we may live in the day of email and Facebook but do not sell short the impact a personal hand written letter can have on a persons day. The crews mailing address is listed under the points of contact section on this newsletter.

Stay informed while we are deployed. Utilize the resources listed under the Ombudsman's section and keep in touch with her. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call her or contact the command. Until next month, keep in touch and Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## From the Command Senior Chief Senior Chief Richard Mengel

If you blinked you missed it, the first month of deployment has passed and it did so in a hurry. The crew wasted no time establishing their selves in USS Scout (MCM 8) and has without a doubt set high standards and lofty goals for this deployment. All hands are actively engaged in seeing our ship through the yard period and set back to sea clearing the way for the Fleet.

Shipmates' taking care of Shipmates has been the norm with the crew. I have never been part of a team so dedicated to each other both at work and on liberty. I am extremely proud of the manner in which our crew carries themselves and looks out for each other. Our friends and families can be



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## MCM Crew Persistent's Ombudsman Kristine Chavez

The Navy Family Ombudsman Program promotes healthy, self-reliant families. Why the word Ombudsman? The word Ombudsman originated in Scandinavian countries and referred to safeguarding the rights of citizens. Today the concept of the Ombudsman is widely utilized in the fields of government, business and healthcare.

### History

In 1970, Admiral E.R. Zumwalt, Jr. then Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), created the Navy Family Ombudsman Program to improve communication between commands and the families of Sailors who served in them.

In 2006, Admiral Michael G. Mullen, CNO, re-emphasized the importance of the program and signed an updated instruction, highlighting the requirement that all Navy families have access to a Navy Family Ombudsman.

### Ombudsman Roles

The Ombudsman is a volunteer, appointed by the commanding officer, to serve as an information link between command leadership and Navy families. Ombudsmen are trained to disseminate information both up and down the chain of command, including official Department of the Navy and command information, command climate issues, local quality of life (QOL) improvement opportunities, and "good deals" around the community.

They also provide resource referrals when needed. They are instrumental in resolving family issues before the issues require extensive command attention. The command ombudsman program is shaped largely by the commanding officer's perceived needs of his/her command. The command ombudsman is appointed by and works under the guidance of the commanding officer who determines the priorities of the program, the roles and relationships of those involved in it, and the type and level of support it will receive.

## Resources

**American Red Cross:** Sends communications on behalf of family members who are facing emergencies or other important events to members of the U.S. Armed Forces serving all over the world. These communications are delivered around-the-clock, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Armed Services YMCA:** ASYMCA runs more than 150 programs around the world to ease the burden of the families of junior-enlisted military personnel.

**Chaplain Care:** Navy Chaplain Corps Vision: "Mission ready Sailors and Marines, and their families, demonstrating spiritual, moral and ethical maturity supported by the innovative delivery of religious ministry and compassionate pastoral care."

**Defense Finance and Accounting System:** Ensures the delivery of efficient, exceptional quality pay and financial information.

**Military OneSource:** Available by phone or online, free services are provided by the Department of Defense for active-duty, Guard, Reserve service members, and their families.

**Navy Legal Services Office:** Provides solutions to legal issues involving military operations, organization, and personnel.

**Navy Knowledge Online:** Navy's knowledge portal, enabling Navy/USMC education, training and professional growth management for personnel throughout the fleet.

**Navy Operational Stress Control:** Recognizing how well you are navigating the stress in your life is an important indicator of your health and mission readiness.

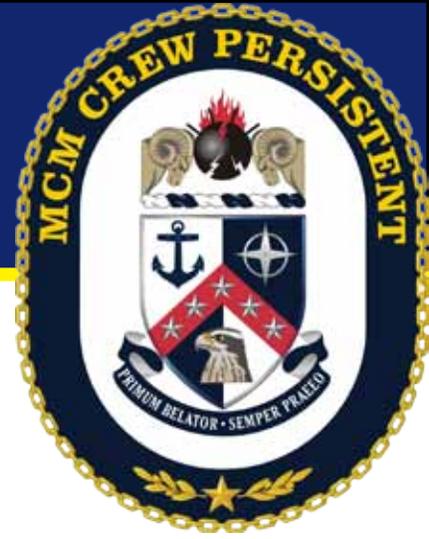
**Naval Services Family Line:** Navy Family volunteers who believe in sharing their experiences as military spouses. Free publications are also available.

**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society:** Nonprofit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational, and other assistance to Sailors, family members and survivors. Counseling, loans, grants, various services, and referral to other community resources are available.

**Operation Purple:** The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple camps are a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the Nation's youngest heroes.

**TRICARE:** Health care program serving active duty service members, National Guard and Reserve members, retirees, their families, survivors and certain former spouses worldwide.

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## Pearl Harbor Rememberance Day

On December 7th, MCM Crew Persistent gathered to remember the lives lost during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor seventy years ago.



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## Birthday of the USS Scout

December 15th marked 21 years since the USS Scout was commissioned. The crew celebrated this milestone by sharing a cake, as well as honoring Chief Baker for re-enlisting.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our recently advanced Shipmates:

- EN2 Bartley
- MN2 Wiley
- MN2 Miller
- CS3 Boyce
- QM3 Roman
- MN3 Sauerland
- EN3 Wilkins

