

Bataan Speaking



Membership News

Applause! Applause!

News has reached us on deck that we have a new member. He is WILLIAM CRAVELLO from Tulsa, OK. He served aboard ship from 1943-1944 QM/3 N. Div.



In Memoriam

WILLIAM C. MATZELL 85 William served on board from the beginning as part of the commissioning crew. He earned Yeoman 2nd working in the XO's Office.

Don Short (active member)

Mike Sullivan (active member)

Harvey Welcome (non-active)

Thank You!!!!

“Is Everybody Happy?” Those were the words of John Timpe as we boarded our busses each day. John did a superb job in organizing our reunion in Savannah, GA. John, please know that the Association appreciates your work.

Upcoming Events

REUNION -- MAY, 2009

The Reunion for May, 2009 will be in Tulsa, OK. Here is the information that we have available thus far from Allen Lamont - our host.

The shipmates and their guests will be lodging at the Embassy Suites in Tulsa OK.. May 13-16, 2009. The Memorial Service is set for May 14 with a luncheon to follow. A Days Tour in Claremore is scheduled. Activities for May 15th are in progress.

Allen reports that there are three (3) sites for those shipmates traveling with their R.V.s. He can help you with particulars if you contact him at

Allen Lamont
21625 -S -4110 Road
Claremore, OK 74019

Telephone:1-918-341-1883

And Now a Word from the Treasurer:

Please check your address label on this newsletter. If there is an (06) behind your name this is an indication that your dues are paid through May 2006, and this will be the last newsletter you receive unless you pay your dues.

If you wish to send dues, please make the check payable to the USS Bataan Association and mail to Wayland Havig, Treasurer, 7018 N. Howell St., Davenport, IA 52806-1233. Dues are still \$15.00 a year.



The Origin of the "Patch"



The Tower and the Three Stars are taken directly for the Coat of Arms of the Republic of the Philippines. This Coat of Arms can be found on one of the bronze plaques mounted on the quarterdeck. In our Coat of Arms, the Tower signifies STRENGTH and STABILITY, and the three Stars signify our three guiding principles: PATRIOTICISM, HONOR AND DUTY. These were the guiding principles of the men who defended BATAAN so gallantly after the Japanese sneak attack on the Philippines in 1941. The Naval Aviation wings are self-explanatory, since the shield is a time-honored symbol of seafaring men. So there we have it. If you remember what each of the symbols stands for, then put them all together, you will find that our Coat of Arms says

"THE USS BATAAN IS A SEA-GOING UNIT OF NAVAL AVIATION WHICH IS GUIDED BY THREE CARNAL PRINCIPLES AND IS THEREFORE A TOWER OF STRENGTH."

--Thank you Sando for this submission

Bataan Update and Hurricane Gustav

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Christina M. Shaw

ABOARD USS BATAAN, At sea (NNS) -- The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) departed Naval Station Norfolk Sept. 2 for HURREX 08-002 to demonstrate at-sea readiness for disaster response.

It will give Bataan a chance to demonstrate their ability to respond to humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief needs during the 2008 hurricane season.

"This will be a valuable time for us at sea, and we'll stay out as long as we need to," said Capt. Rick Snyder, Bataan's commanding officer.

Nearly 1,100 Sailors make up Bataan's crew, and Snyder believes their "big hearts" may be even more important than the state-of-the-art equipment and capabilities that makes the ship an ideal platform for disaster-relief operations.

"The Sailors are all great Americans who are ready to take care of other Americans, that's probably the best asset we have," said Snyder.

During the course of the exercise, the ship and embarked commands will test their ability to coordinate and perform search and rescue operations, evacuations and provide medical care.

The coordination among all units involved was tested immediately when Commander, U.S. Second Fleet directed the short-notice underway to commence the exercise.

(continued from previous column)

"Bataan is like a well-oiled machine," said Capt. Jack Sotherland, Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group commodore. "Everybody was notified; they recalled their personnel, and we went ahead and made it happen."

Bataan Sailors proved themselves during real-world events just three years earlier. The ship was on station in the Gulf of Mexico Aug. 20, 2005, and was the first Navy ship on scene after Katrina, a category 4 hurricane, made landfall.

The crew went right to work and spent 19 days supporting the relief efforts by moving more than 1,600 people to safety and delivering more than 160,000 pounds of supplies to the Gulf Coast states.

"We moved food, water and neonatal materials to the area, because everything was bad," said Storekeeper First Class (SW/AW) Antonio Gillespie, stock control leading petty officer. "This time, all the ships and commands got together to coordinate who needs to be where in order to be on site in a more timely fashion."

Embarked squadrons for the exercise include equipment and personnel from Commander, Amphibious Squadron Two; Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 22, Tactical Squadron 21, Fleet Surgical Team Six, Assault Craft Unit Two and Four and Beachmaster Unit Two.

Bataan is the fifth ship of the Navy's Wasp-class ships. She was commissioned Sept. 20, 1997, and is the second U.S. Navy warship to bear the name.

A Note from the Editor:

I am deeply indebted to the help of Sando Cosenza, Jim Ward, Dick Weaver, Wayland Havig and Ken Morris. The email correspondence that has been timely shows this "new guy" the love they have for this organization. Please help keep the Newsletter healthy by sending any news that you have to Jack Schmidt

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