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CHANGE OF COMMAND TRADITION

Naval ceremonies antedate the Christian Era. Common dangers and shared victories tend to the creation of brotherhood, and in none is it closer than that of the naval profession where men are bound by common traditions, shared practices, and ancient customs. The Navy, an organization of explicit discipline, lends itself to the perpetuation of the more venerated customs, heroic traditions and dignified ceremonies such as that which we are witnessing today.

The ceremonies, customs and traditions of our modern Navy draw their origin from ancient customs and laws of the sea begun in historic times by seafaring men and gradually merged into the British Naval Regulations in effect at the time of the American Revolution. The effect these old customs have had in the formulation of naval regulations is a marked example of the influence of tested usage.

John Adams, who compiled the first rules for Regulation of the Navy in the United Colonies and thus set a precedent for future provisions, used as his guide the instructions and regulations of the British Admiralty, themselves a product of time honored traditions and custom. It was under the direction of these that the Father of the U.S. Navy, John Paul Jones, a born British subject, gave our Navy its earliest traditions of heroism and victory. The traditions and customs have prevailed in the years since then. Some have become law. A short lived attempt after World War II to do away with some of the time honored customs conducive to smartness and discipline fortunately did not prevail. The highest praise that can be paid a Navyman is that he lived and worked according to the highest traditions of the U.S. naval service. Eternal credit is due of those who never underestimated the immeasurable value of Naval traditions, customs, and ceremonies the spiritual cement in a naval organization.

The Change of Command Ceremony you witness today is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy Regulations, but rather is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval tradition. It is a custom wholly naval without an equivalent counterpart in the Army or Air Force. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive - designated to strengthen the respect for authority which is vital to any military organization. Parading all hands at quarters and public reading of official orders stems from those days when movement of mail and persons was a very slow process. This procedure was designated to insure only duly authorized officers held command and that all aboard were aware of its authenticity.

The heart of the ceremony is the formal reading of official orders by the relieving officer, and the officer to be relieved. Command passes upon utterance by the relieving officer, "I relieve you, sir!" The officer being relieved responds, "I stand relieved!" This simple procedure is duplicated hundreds of times daily throughout the navies of the world as each watch officer passes responsibility to his relief in the conduct of each ship's routine.

The strength and supremacy of today's Navy stems in large measure from the observance of customs and traditions, each founded on need, each contributing its share to stability, combat effectiveness, and smooth transfer of authority. This simple ceremony passing authority and responsibility to yet another fine officer reflects the dedication of free men serving their nation proudly.

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF USS KISKA (AE-35)

CAPT JERRED R. ROCKWOOD..... 1972-74
CDR ROBERT L. TONEY 1974-76
CDR ROBERT P. FUSCALDO..... 1976-79
CAPT. FRANK E. CLARK 1979-81
CDR ALEXANDER G. BALIAN 1981-82
CDR LEO M. PIVONKA..... 1982-



PROGRAM

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES
IN THE
CEREMONIAL AREA

PARADE THE COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

POST THE COLORS

INVOCATION
CAPTAIN LESTER L. WESTLING, CHC, USN

REMARKS BY
CAPTAIN CHARLES K. HUTCHINSON, USN
COMMANDER SERVICE SQUADRON THREE

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS BY
COMMANDER ALEXANDER G. BALIAN, USN

COMMANDER LEO M. PIVONKA, USN
READS ORDERS AND RELIEVES
COMMANDER ALEXANDER G. BALIAN, USN
AS COMMANDING OFFICER, USS KISKA (AE35)

PROGRAM

COMMANDER PIVONKA
REPORTS FOR DUTY TO
COMMANDER SERVICE SQUADRON THREE

REMARKS BY
COMMANDER LEO M. PIVONKA

PRESENTATION OF COMMISSIONING PENNANT TO
COMMANDER BALIAN
BY
MSCM CAMILO ASUNCION, USN
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

BENEDICTION
CAPTAIN LESTER L. WESTLING, CHC, USN

OFFICIAL PARTY DEPARTS THE CEREMONIAL AREA

RETIRE THE COLORS
RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW ONBOARD USS KISKA (AE35)



COMMANDER ALEXANDER G. BALIAN UNITED STATES NAVY

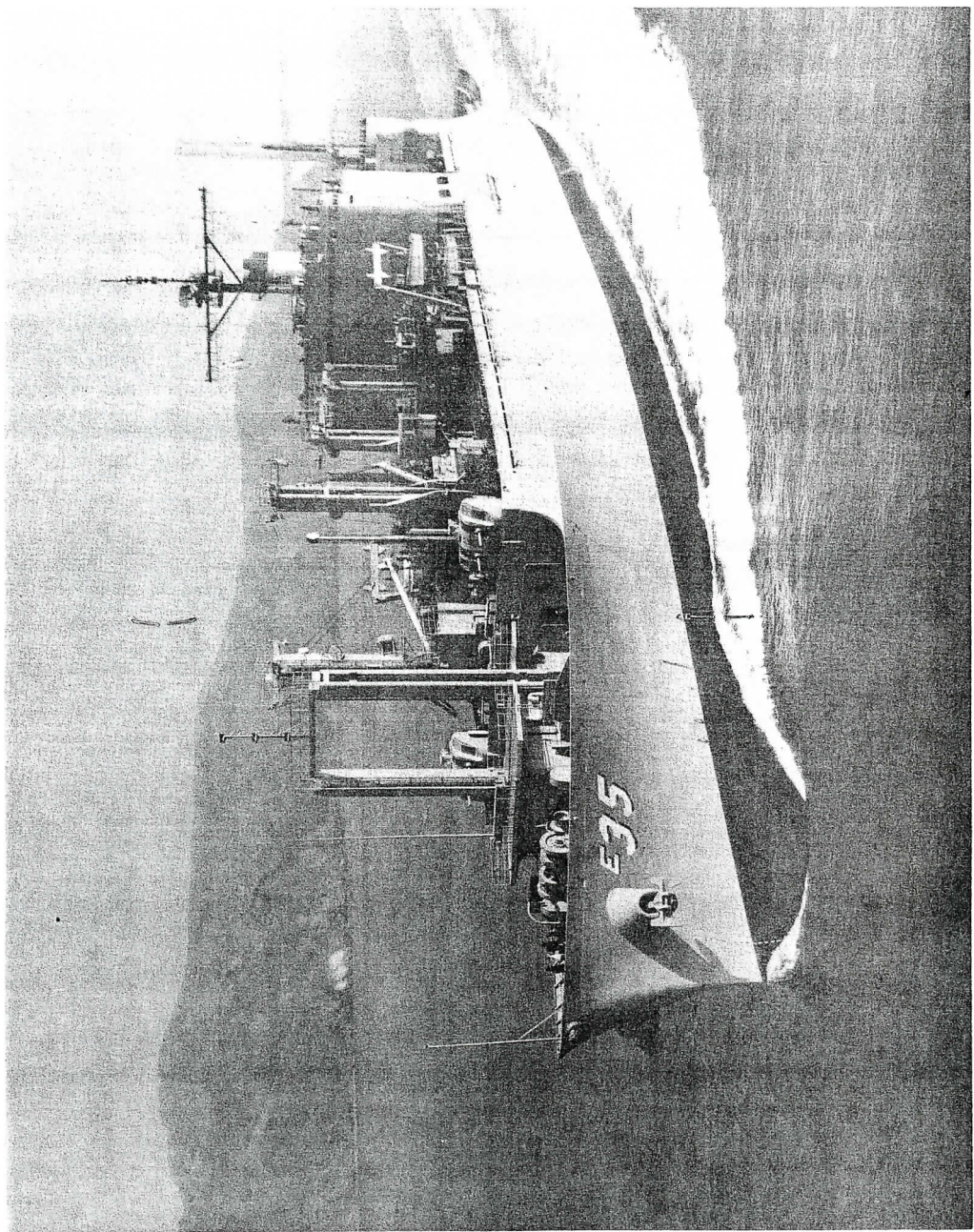
Commander Alexander G. Balian was born in South Gate, California in 1940. He attended the University of California at Los Angeles from which he graduated with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He received his commission from the Naval Officer Candidate School in 1963.

He first served in the aircraft carrier USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33) operating out of Long Beach and in the Western Pacific. In 1965, he was assigned to the pre-commissioning detail of BOAT SQUADRON ONE, San Diego, as a SWIFT Boat Officer in Charge. Subsequently, from 1966 to 1967, he was assigned as Officer in Charge of PCF-36 and PCF-41 and conducted combat patrols in the rivers and coastal areas of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. While awaiting his class at Naval Destroyer School, he was assigned to the destroyer escort USS COURTNEY (DE-1021) operating out of Newport and in the Mediterranean Sea and Northern Atlantic. Upon completion of Naval Destroyer School in 1968, he was assigned as Weapons Officer on the destroyer USS ORLECK (DD-886) homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, and employed in Naval gunfire support operations in Vietnam. He then attended the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and graduated with a M.S. Degree in Communications Management. He was assigned as Communications Officer for Commander, Middle East Force operating out of Bahrain and in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean areas. In 1974 he attended the Naval War College and graduated from the College of Naval Command and Staff in 1975. Subsequently, he served as Executive Officer in the ammunition ship USS MOUNT BAKER (AE-34) homeported in Charleston and employed in two deployments to the Mediterranean Sea. He completed his Surface Warfare Command Qualification in 1977 and subsequently completed a tour of duty in Washington, D.C. at Commander, Naval Telecommunications Command, where he served as Head, Systems Plans Division and Head, Terminal Facilities Division.

On October 1979 Commander Balian assumed command of USS KILAUEA (AE-26) homeported in Concord and immediately deployed to the Western Pacific as the first ammunition ship in support of the Indian Ocean Battle Groups during recent Indian Ocean contingency operations. Subsequent to this deployment, in October 1980, Commander Balian decommissioned USS KILAUEA (AE-26) and turned her over to Commander, Military Sealift Command. He was then assigned to Commander, Service Squadron THREE Staff while awaiting a follow-on sea command tour as Commanding Officer, USS KISKA (AE-35).

In April 1981, Commander Balian assumed command of USS KISKA (AE-35) and conducted operations in EASTPAC until March 1982. Subsequently, he deployed to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean where USS KISKA (AE-35) provided services in support of Indian Ocean Battle Group ECHO.

Commander Balian is married to the former Anne Elizabeth Ledoux of Newport, Rhode Island. They presently reside at Mare Island with their two daughters: Elizabeth Anne, age 16 and Renee Leigh, age 11.





COMMANDER LEO M. PIVONKA, UNITED STATES NAVY

Commander Leo Michael Pivonka was born in La Crosse, Kansas on May 23, 1940. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics and in 1964 received his commission from the Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island.

His first assignment was as Damage Control Assistant and Main Propulsion Assistant aboard USS COLAHAN (DD-658) homeported in Long Beach, California. Upon decommissioning of USS COLAHAN in May 1965 he reported to USS CHICAGO (CG-11) where he served as Repair Officer during operations in the Eastern Pacific and in the Gulf of Tonkin off the coast of Vietnam. From 1967 to 1969 he attended the Naval Postgraduate school in Monterey where he graduated with honors with a Masters Degree in Computer Sciences. In 1970, after completing a tour as Automatic Data Processing Officer on the staff of Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, Commander Pivonka was assigned as a Computer Systems Analyst at the Naval Command Systems Support Activity, Washington, D.C.

Commander Pivonka served as Aide and Flag Secretary to Commander Naval Surface Group, Western Pacific in Sasebo, Japan and Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines from 1974 to 1976. Subsequently, he completed a tour as First Lieutenant in USS MILWAUKEE (AOR-2), which was homeported in Norfolk, Virginia and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and to Northern Europe. After a tour as Director of the Fleet Support Division of the Navy Regional Data Automation Center Norfolk, he reported in August 1980 as Executive Officer of USS MARS (AFS-1), which was deployed to the Indian Ocean. He was relieved as Executive Officer of USS MARS in April 1982 after completing a second deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Commander Pivonka is married to the former Gretchen Ann Hedegard of Modesto, California. They reside with their two sons, Nicholas and Christopher, on Yerba Buena Island, San Francisco, California.

WARDROOM

LCDR WILLIAM T. MCCAIN.....EXECUTIVE OFFICER
LT JAMES S. TOWNSUPPLY OFFICER
LT KELLY K. KLEINOPERATIONS OFFICER
LT VAL E. LIPPA.....ENGINEER OFFICER
LT WILLIAM L. DOBBINS.....CIC/EMO
LTJG TIMOTHY J. CUMMINSDAMAGE CONTROL ASST.
LTJG MICHAEL H. PRECHTCOMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
LTJG FRED E. STITH.....FIRST LIEUTENANT
ENS LEON V. JONES.....DISBURSING OFFICER
ENS ROBERT H. HALBERT.....NAVIGATOR
ENS DENNIS K. KOERNER2ND DIV. OFFICER
ENS KEVIN J. MALOY.....1ST DIV. OFFICER
CWO3 JOSEPH C. FORD.....ORDNANCE OFFICER
CWO3 ROBERT M. OLIVER.....A AND E DIV. OFFICER
CWO2 RALPH L. MCWHIRTERMAIN PROPULSION ASST
CWO2 WILLIAM T. TAYLORSHIP'S BOATSWAIN

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

MSCM CAMILO G. ASUNCION — COMMAND MASTER CHIEF
RMCS PAUL J. LEMCOOL
BMCS DANIEL E. SHEEHAN
EMCS CLIFFORD G. BOYD
HMC DAVID A. MCMATH
ETC JOHN S. TAYLOR
SMC HERBERT W. KENWAY
PNS JAMES R. KING
BMC RICKY L. CARR
MSC JOSE L. CO
MMC FLORENTINO D. DULDULAO
GMGC PAUL H. STONE
BTC DENTON E. CRULL
ETC MARTIN G. LEWIS
QMC JOHN R. BAILEY
SKC OBERMARK M. BUTOY
EMC ALEJO S. CAYANAN

THE PRESTIGE, PRIVILEGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND

by Joseph Conrad

Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, — but it is so.

A ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protected and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest, time honored title of the seafaring world - "CAPTAIN."

USS KISKA (AE-35) SHIP'S STATISTICS

Length Overall	564 Feet
Maximum Beam	81 Feet
Maximum Draft	28 Feet
Displacement	18,088 Tons
Speed	Excess of 22 Knots
Number of Screws	One
Propulsion	Geared Steam Turbines
Shaft Horsepower	22,000
Replenishment Stations	Seven
Armament	Two 3"/50 cal. Twin Mounts
Complement	17 Officers/338 Enlisted



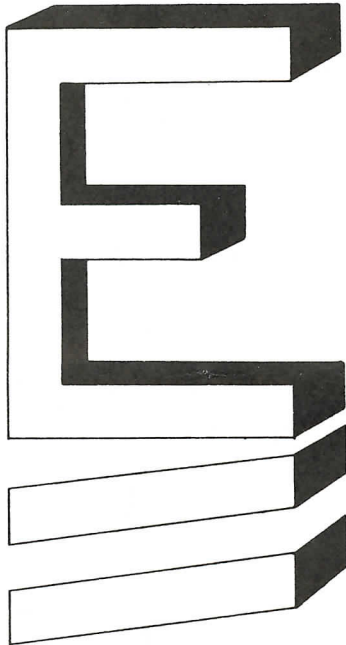
THE SHIP'S INSIGNIA

The ship's insignia employs representation from several sources. The blue sky and gold stars are adopted from the Alaska state flag. The Alaska state flag consists of a solid blue background with the seven stars of the big dipper representing the principal gold mining areas and the North Star representing the state of Alaska's northern most position relative to the other states. To the mariner the North Star has for centuries served as a guiding light for safe navigation. The mountain is representative of Mount Kiska, a dormant volcano rising to 3,996 feet on the island of Kiska, one of the Aleutian Islands. Kiska island was occupied by 10,000 Japanese troops in World War II and was the scene of an amphibious landing by United States and Canadian troops on 15 August 1943.

The silhouette is the USS KISKA underway, signifying her readiness to carry out her assigned mission anywhere in the world during peace or war.

USS KISKA AE 35

PRIDE AND PROFESSIONALISM



BATTLE EFFICIENCY



THIRD CONSECUTIVE AWARD