

CAPT **John Gerhard**, who is the Executive Officer at the Naval Hospital Beaufort, SC, sent the following photo of three USNA grads who are attached there. John (an orthopedic hand surgeon), LCDR **Pamela L. Krahl '90** (an internal medicine physician), and LT **Bonnie R. Chavez '92** (a psychologist) are supporting the operational forces at MCAS Beaufort and recruit training at MCRD Parris Island.



*The finest medical support that USNA can train (L-R): John Gerhard, Pam Krahl, and Bonnie Chavez.*

#### Class Communication

Betty and **Rick White** are the proud grandparents of Logan Jeffrey Johnson, who was born to Laura (their daughter) and **Jeff Johnson '89** on 8 July 2004. Logan came into the world weighing 8 lbs, 10 oz, and was 22 inches long! Rick says, "Dad, Mom, and Logan are all doing fine, and so are we!" Congratulations to another grandfather in our class.

#### Closing Remarks

Football season is fast approaching, so look for the USNA '77 Balloon on the Blue Side of newly renovated Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium this fall, and support another winning team with your favorite classmates. Hope to see you there! Go Navy!—**Bob Sanderson**

**78** ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: 3%  
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: 75%

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Slow news month....

Continuing with the transitions to civilian life, the most recent addition is **Bruce Carter**. On June 25th, Bruce retired from active service in a ceremony at the Office of Naval Intelligence's Hoyer Auditorium, in the Naval Maritime Intelligence Center in Suitland, MD. Life after the Navy will find Bruce and Donna in New Hampshire.

Leigh and **Marty Drake** [Martin.Drake@osd.mil] have arrived in Washington, DC. Marty is working in the

Pentagon as the Military Assistant to the Director, Defense Research and Engineering. They've bought a new townhouse in the District that allows him a relatively easy Metro commute. I was able to visit Marty in his new digs. He was doing very important Mil Assistant stuff—answering the phones (he was the only guy in the office at that late hour—I'm sure it's really more challenging.) Next time in DC, I told Marty we'd have to get a min-11th Company reunion going as **George Billy, Bart Doroshuk, Dean Marzetta, Bart Buechner** (and soon to be **Tom Crowley**) also live around the District.

Keeping with the "news around the Beltway" theme: Next month **Jay DeLoach** will snap on Rear Admiral shoulder boards, in a ceremony at the Navy Memorial Arleigh and Roberta Burke Auditorium in DC. **Fred Butterfield** reported that on July 1st our class quarterly luncheon at the Pentagon City Mall had an excellent turnout. There were fourteen (14) Classmates at the informal luncheon: **Tim Arcano, Jay DeLoach, Barth Doroshuk, Pete Flynn, Dan Holoubek, Brent Obenour, Deke Philman, Ben Richter, John Weidner, Larry Whitmeyer**, and Fred – plus "first-timers" **Marty Drake, John Kovalcik**, and **Jim Rennie**. John Kovalcik won the prize for having come the farthest (Boston) – but since he was in town on business anyway, Fred waived the presentation of the commemorative T-shirt. The next luncheon (could be this month) might be a joint '78 and '81 luncheon. (Check the website for info.) Fred was going to coordinate with his friend and Class of '81 president, **Jim Ahlgrim**. I'm sure Fred will have to promise to give carry-on to all those in '81 who would attend. Until he locks that in, he's set default date. Fred's penciled-in the next quarterly gathering for Wednesday, September 29, 2004. It'll still be in the Pentagon City Mall food court (at least until a better offer comes across Fred's desk). Fred was looking for help in updating his current list and locating any of our "missing" '78 Classmates from the Capitol area. If you know of anyone just zap Fred an e-mail. (The same applies to our website. Go on in an update your info and help us fill in the list of our missing. Our classmate directory section is

password protected but if you RTFQ and recall that we did have a Plebe summer, you'll be able to remember the password. When all else fails, zap an e-mail to me or our Webmaster, **Rob Cloutier** (rob@calimar.com).) By the way Fred had the e-mails to **John Costello** (john.mcostello@js.pentagon.mil), **Chris Cobb** (cjcobb@mar.med.navy.mil), **Glen Ives** (ivesgr@navair.navy.mil), **Vinnie Bellezza** (bellezava@navair.navy.mil), **Bart Buechner** (barton.buechner@osd.mil), **Ted Null** (TNull@cca-corp.com), **Howard Seeger** (howard.seeger@qwest.com), **Doug Grau** (dgrau@erols.com) and **Dave Guza** (guzade@aol.com). If you guys will set him straight on contact e-mails or let him know you've left the area. That would be helpful.

**Scott Rodgers** (HRodg@aol.com) gave me a quick PIREP on **Tom Crowley's** Change of Command. He was able to make the occasion in conjunction with a little family vacation to Las Vegas for his parents 50th. On the side trip to San Diego for Tom's C of C he also was able to spend time with his little brother. Scott said Tom's farewell speech to the ship was excellent and that he found the whole ceremony very moving. He was glad his daughters got a chance to see one in person. They got a tour of the ship and watched Tom say goodbye to the officers of the ship as he departed—very touching (Scott's sister-in-law was bawling). Besides himself, Scott recalled three classmates who were also in attendance: **John Semcken** came down from LA with his girlfriend; **Faris Farwell** and **Jay Bowling** (both are at the 32nd St. Naval Base). Our Company Officer, Mike Moffatt continued his stellar support of 11th Company as he attended. [I don't know about you guys but we've been quite blessed with a company officer who's been a true Shipmate and friend to us and our '77 company mates, throughout our careers. Here's a public thanks to Mike and his lovely bride, Trish for being there for us— and to those other Company Officers and instructors who been the same to the rest of us!] Scott also saw our '79 11th Company mate, **Jim Sebastian**, talking to Mike. It sounded to Scott like Jim was aboard Boxer too. The Admiral who attended was from '76— RADM **Chris Ames**,

P-3 driver and now the Amphib Squadron CO.

A lot of your reported about the NY Times article in which **Kurt Tidd** (36th company) was giving great quote. But **Marty Thamm** was first! Marty also personalized his report with his recollection that Kurt was a Golden Gloves quality boxer when he came to Navy and that “guess who his Plebe boxing partner was?” He went on to note that “Never having seen boxing gloves before (since I wasn’t an Irish kid growing up in New Jersey), I remember all too well Kurt’s gloves connecting with my face many times.” Well he’s had time to heal now, and in the meantime, Kurt and his forces are doing their best to protect the seaport in Iraq and box any potential threats. Kurt’s the commander of the Fifth Fleet task force that is protecting the Khor Al Amaya and Al Basra Oil Terminals. It’s tough hard business. In an April attack they lost two sailors and a coast guardsman but no serious damage was made to the terminals. Kurt has a lot of firepower if he needs it. According to the Times he can “call into play some 20 ships and 2,000 sailors and other personnel, not to mention helicopters, advanced surveillance equipment and weaponry aboard the platforms themselves.” Sounds pretty strong, but when you consider the area they have to cover “‘exclusion zones’ of 2,000 meters, or more than a mile, around the terminals where traffic is no longer allowed.”; and the amount of vessel traffic, you realize that Kurt probably doesn’t get a lot of restful sleep. In fact he’s quoted as telling his guys “‘Every day I tell them - I say, look, guys, in the grand scheme of things there may be no other place where our armed forces are deployed that has a greater strategic importance,... We can’t win the war here, but we can lose it in a flash,’”. So far he hasn’t lost it. Best wishes for continued success and safety to Kurt and his men – and all the rest of you on post around the world!

**Gary Eisenmann** [eisenmann@adelphia.net] sent an update. As he wrote,

■ “Some of you are already aware that I have changed jobs. I am no longer a slimy consultant. [My editor’s note: We apologize for Gary to all you classmates who are slimy consultants] Actually, I thoroughly enjoyed working with WBB as a slimy consultant. The people were

great; the company has a fantastic culture and excellent values; they do quality work; and the work was interesting and valuable ... I felt I was continuing to contribute to the success of our armed forces. But I really missed facilities management. Having spent so much time in that field, I just couldn’t walk away from it. I still get several facilities-related publications on a regular basis, which made me miss it every time I read one. Will be performing energy management, among other things, for Chugach Mgmt Svcs Inc (an Alaskan Native corporation with facilities management contracts all over the world) ... in direct support to National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA, formerly NIMA). I will eventually be working out of their Dulles area office. But, until my clearance gets updated, I am supposed to work from the Bethesda office... However, my boss understands my aversion to the commute ...and allows me to work from home ... now that is my idea of a good commute. I simply walk down the stairs to the study ...maybe I need to get a laptop and just sit up in bed, grab the laptop off of the night stand and get busy ... the perfect commute! This being a civilian is a little strange ... like a kid in a candy store. ‘WOW, that job looks good ... no wait, maybe that one!’ No more monitor telling me what job I’ll do ... and no orders to keep me there. Very strange, indeed.” ■

Yup, Iceman sometimes it’s like that and other times it’s more like the Forrest Gump kinda box of chocolates, but somebody has either eaten them all or poked their finger through the bottom to see what’s inside.

**John Kovalcik** sent news that Father Fred Murray passed away on June 21, 2004. He was 77 Father Murray “died with his boots on” (in his hotel room) as he was traveling to attend a change of command ceremony for someone from ’81. Many of you may remember Chaplain Murray. He was at USNA from about 1976 through 1980 and spent 26 years in the Navy. John remembered him well as he had relieved Father Bob Connor (“God help the Sox” – who also passed away last fall) at USNA as the Sr. Catholic Chaplain. John got to know most of the priests because as said he “was always in trouble and figured that I

needed help from “the big guy” to get through the “dances” I did before Deke Forbes and ADM Winnefeld.” John “re-discovered” Father Murray in 1995 as he moved his family to Westwood, MA (Boston suburb) and attended their first Sunday Mass at their new parish, St Denis. Father Murray said the Mass and they recognized each other immediately. John said that at the end of the funeral Mass, Father Murray’s final requests were honored — that in addition to the standard “Eternal Father” Hymn, they all sang / mumbled their way through the Boston College Alma Mater, Anchors Aweigh (John knew those words), and Danny Boy. Ahh, a true, Boston Irish sailor to the end.

Wouldn’t you know it—I ask for the gouge on a company I was interested in joining and the source ups and leaves. While I did join Lockheed Martin, **Alex Dimitrew** left. I had my suspicions when I was preparing for a business trip from my Syracuse location to our Moorestown, NJ site. I knew that Alex worked at Moorestown so I looked him up in our global directory. I hoped to link up for lunch—or better yet, a beer. As our scrolled through the alphabetical listing his name was nowhere to be found. Hmmmm, very suspicious indeed. When I got from that trip, I had a voice mail from Alex. He had been looking for me as well but I couldn’t be reached at my old Sikorsky number. That’s he when he discovered my new contact info through our website (See? Here’s another add to update your info!). To make a long story short, Alex was just at a point in his life and career when he needed to make some changes (kind of where I was when I made my switch). Needless to say, he found himself in a good sweets section of that “Candy Store” situation that Gary described earlier. He landed a job with L3 Comm. He and Deb remain in their home in New Jersey and I’m sure the opportunity is a little rosier as well.

Well that’s all I got—or can recall. See you at a home game. In the meantime, send in some mail (letters, e-mail), some photos or some Sea Stories. Until then I’ll be loitering— Launchin’ Spot Four.

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