

NOVEMBER

the

Dauntless Digest

Sin Miedo ~ Without Fear



From the ombudsmen

We are enthusiastic about taking on the ombudsman position and look forward to helping in anyway we can to make your time stationed on the Dauntless a more pleasant experience. We are excited to introduce the new monthly newsletter. We are hoping to get everyone more involved by keeping you informed with everything going on with the Dauntless as well as monthly events.

Sincerely,
Carey Vorholt & Natalie Lyons

Save the Date!

Zoofari
Nov 14 at 11AM
Bayou Wildlife
Park adventure
in Alvin. \$7.00
per person.

Thanksgiving
Nov 26 at 2PM
Turkey dinner at
Valerie Andrew's
home. Bring a tasty
side dish.

Cookie Exchange
Dec 11 at 6PM
Christmas cookie
exchange at Carey
Vorholt's home

Dauntless Facts

- 210 ft medium endurance cutter in the "Reliance" class
- Commissioned in 1968
- Was visited by President Ronald Regan on November 17, 1982
- Has appeared in 2 movies
- Was first to arrive and served as on-scene commander for the *Challenger* disaster



Message from Dauntless CO

Hello Family, Friends and shipmates of DAUNTLESS.

It gives me great pleasure to open up this first of many regular installments of the DAUNTLESS Newsletter. While it seems as if it were only yesterday that we held the change of command, time has actually flown quickly, and we are finally getting our ship back from the Coast Guard Yard. The Yard had done a commendable job in preserving and upgrading our "Old Girl" but there is still a great deal of work to be done, and our guys have been hitting it hard and moving us ever closer to our goal: mission readiness. All in all, it has been a time of sweeping change, an exciting time that has tested our skills and patience, helping us become a stronger team and make real progress.

I'd like to start out with a big, hearty thanks to Theresa Smith, YN1 Jeff Smith's spouse who has served as our ship's ombudsman for the past year. Theresa has done a great job in serving as the vital link between the command and the families, through some very trying events, and all the while has managed to balance her duties at home taking care of Jeff and her two young boys, Kaeden and Ben, while juggling college full time. With all those demands on her time, Theresa has recently decided it was time to step down as Ombudsman, and after a brief search, I am happy to announce that Natalie Lyons, spouse of MK3 Jonathan Lyons and Carey Vorholt, spouse of MKC Michael Vorholt, have volunteered to step up as co-ombudsmans. I had a chance to sit down and talk to Natalie and Carey and get a feel for some initiatives they would like to start in the coming months. I was deeply impressed with all the great ideas they are generating and was hard pressed to keep up with them. What tremendous energy! I am confident that our families are in great hands while we are away, and sincerely thank Theresa for her past service, as well as Carey and Natalie for taking the reins and quickly accelerating the program.

As far as what's up for us, I can sum it up in a nutshell. The Ghosts of HHG-Moves Past are giving all us guys who have missed so many family moves a chance to understand how hard our ladies work! Groups of DAUNTLESS crew have been arriving in Baltimore, and are, with great stamina and patience, completely cleaning DAUNTLESS to our high standards, unloading almost 10 tractor trailer trucks worth of property inventory and properly stowing it in our ship's holds. Each crew member is also tidying up their own berthing space, unloading their personal effects and uniforms, and making their "homes" habitable. Finally, we are also going over every inch of the ship and all work done by the Yard to ensure that each job was done right, and that everything works the way it is supposed to. Some notable contributions are ET1 Zuiderduin's running battle with the ship's loudhailer system, phones, televisions and all other manner of assorted gear. BM3 Chad Kelly has been aggressively trying to put the pilothouse back in order. DC1 Montero has been a man-possessed...every time I turn around he is fixing something else. DC2 Garza, newly reported, is leading a band of Damage Control specialists around the ship, making sure all our fire extinguishers, emergency breathing devices and flood suppression tools are in the right place, operable and ready for use if needed. There has been a steady stream of help putting the Cabin in order, and I'm overlooking literally thousands of other crucial tasks. If your hubby sounds tired when you talk to him, I can attest that it is well-earned fatigue in his voice.

I'll close with a very brief anecdote: my good friend CDR Buck McClure is the Commanding Officer of the Legacy Support and Sustainment Unit, the command at the Yard who takes each cutter coming into the MEP program (Coast Guard jargon for our Yard period), painstakingly works with the Yard leadership and workers to ensure that the work passes muster, and then hands the ship back over to the command and crew at the end. On 14 October, 2009, he and I signed the paperwork to place DAUNTLESS back in commission, under the vigilant guardianship of the assigned officers and crew. He and the entire staff here have been incredibly impressed with the work ethic, professionalism and energy of the DAUNTLESS crew and that DAUNTLESS' MEP turn-over has been the smoothest one yet. There are many ingredients that go into a championship performance. One of the biggest is knowing that our loved ones at home are safe and well-cared for while we are away doing the mission. I thank each and every one of you for your sacrifice, patience and strength. We truly couldn't do our jobs without you. Please enjoy this edition of the Newsletter and if you have ideas on how to make it better, please let Natalie and Carey know. Thanks!!

CDR Jim Andrews, CO DAUNTLESS ~ Sin Miedo



A Family's Coast Guard Experience

By Ashleigh Leppo

We got our start with Coast Guard this June when my husband shipped off to Cape May.

My son and I walked

around our house for a few days on tenterhooks. It all seemed so surreal; surely Daddy would walk in from work soon and prove that this was all some drawn out fantasy. We stayed in this dream-like state until I received my first letter. I read the few lines scribbled out in what must have been very dark quarters, or simply written by an exhausted hand. Xander and I must have read that letter fifteen times just walking back to the house. Daddy's okay and he's going to be home sooner than we thought! Four days later I received a phone call from Steve. You know that odd flip you used to get when your husband walked into a room and you were still dating (read not washing his underwear)? It was just like that! He told me that he'd broken his neck and was waiting on medical to decide if they were going to keep him. I cannot even begin to describe the inner turmoil that exists with knowing someone you love is hurt and you are reduced to a silly voice on the phone trying to sound upbeat about a broken neck. It took nearly a month before Medical actually cleared him to return to his regularly scheduled training, during which time Steve was among the few proud progenitors of H1N1 at Cape May. Xander began acting out and I thanked God daily for the strength not to leave him on someone else's doorstep with a note pinned to his collar. At the end of three full months Steve came home. He was so strange! I could not believe my husband actually scraped his plate clean when he finished eating. His clothes were all kept neat. Don't worry, that's apparently temporary. I almost moved back home to Daddy while Steve was away. It all started one summer evening as Xander and I were preparing for bed. The television in the family room turned itself to full volume. Now I turned to blame the boy who was innocently staring at me. I tried to blame the cats, but they were asleep on my bed. I tried the remote control and the Television laughed at me by then playing with the brightness of the screen. Admittedly I freaked

out a bit. I turned the TV off and I put shoes on my son and as we were leaving the house the TV turned itself back on. I got in the car and dialed my friend, who is an electrical wizard. I begged him to tell me there was a sane reason my TV was freaking out and that I did not have poltergeist activity. He gave me some things to try, so I ran back into the house...the TV was playing with the volume now. Not one thing he'd advised worked. So I called the man who can fix anything. Daddy said I had a poltergeist and I told him that if I did I was moving in with him. He recanted, saying something about diapers and child accoutrements. In the end it took purchasing a new television to exorcize the demon in my family room. Thus far we have had no possessed electronic devices but who knows what will occur by the end of this passage, my computer is making funny noises occasionally. Our orders were for Galveston, which was beautiful since we'd lived in Houston for almost two years. We found our house on the island and excitedly began moving procedures. The moving company did not finish our order. The day we were supposed to move we waited and waited and they never showed. Very quickly we switched gears and I called everyone I had said hello to in the past year and begged for help. We're blessed with friends and family who are very supportive and the move "plan b" went off without a hitch. We pulled off our move in two days and had a few extra days to waste on the island being silly. My husband was set to appear for his first day, I suppose it is orientation, and he showed up bright and early. He had two first days actually as his first official day of duty was Labor Day and no one was on base. When we finally got him to work, and they let him stay, we learned that he'd be leaving again soon. At this point, I'll admit I thought about breaking his neck again so that they couldn't take him. I decided three months away was probably a little better than ten years of jail time. Tomorrow morning Xander and I will be up and driving to the airport to say good-bye to Steve again. I haven't had a chance to meet anyone aside from some lovely internet conversations. I look forward to getting to know all of you and remain, despite the obvious attempts on my husband's life, excited for what the Coast Guard has in store for the Leppos.

Dauntless Families

Jon (MK3) and Natalie Lyons

We have been part of the Coast Guard family for 7 years now. So far, we have really enjoyed being stationed here in Texas. We have a son, Brennen- 18 months, who keeps us busy and very entertained. We recently found out we are expecting another little one due in June! We are thrilled about our growing family. Natalie works as a cardiovascular ultrasound tech.



Michael (MKC) and Carey Vorholt

We have 5 children (Allen, 14; Emma, 11; Jessi, 7; Matt and Nick, 6) and have spent 9, out of 13, years with the Coast Guard on Kodiak Island, Alaska where we enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping and hiking. Our Texas adventure has proven interesting and challenging, but we're enjoying it. We're an active, outdoor family that frequently travels and stays busy with children's extra-curricular activities. Carey is a master's student with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

James (CO) and Valerie Andrews

The adventure began in 1995 when Jim married Valerie straight out of nursing school. They have lived in many different states that include: Rhode Island, Maine, Virginia (X2), Florida, Connecticut, and Texas. During those years they have had the opportunity to do some really great things. They made an appearance on Haunted Lighthouses of America while residing in Owls Head Lighthouse in Maine, evacuated for many hurricanes, toured the west wing of the White House, snorkeled in the clear waters of the Florida Keys, and made great friends along the way. They have two children: Megan, 10; and Jimmy, 8. When they aren't moving, the Andrews' Family enjoys reading, bike riding, crafting, trying new things, and cooking.



Care Package Address

Commanding Officer
CGC DAUNTLESS
(attn: insert crewmember name here)
3000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, TX 77553

We are showcasing a few Dauntless families each month and are currently seeking volunteers for the December newsletter. If you are interested, please email Carey at Vorholt@att.net or Natalie at nattiblyons@aol.com.

Staying Connected During a Patrol

From www.marriedtothearmy.com

1. Pick a star before he leaves so you can look up at that star and tell each other good night.
2. Fill his bags and things he's taking with him with notes from you or little bags with notes inside that say they're filled with hugs or kisses. He can do the same for you.
3. Buy two of the same book and read it together while he's gone. This will also give you something to talk about it when he calls (on the off chance that you run out of things to say).
4. Decide to learn something new together. For instance, you could both decide to learn a foreign language. Buy the books or tapes and learn the language together. You can practice on phone calls and emails.
5. Start a daily journal and every month exchange journals with each other.
6. Write a story together over email. This could be a simple story or maybe even a fantasy for the both of you. Write a paragraph, send it to him, he adds a paragraph, sends it back to you and so on.
7. Have a contest to see who can send the funniest cards or letters.
8. Each of you can choose a special date or vacation for when he returns. Keep it secret but send each other clues about it. Be creative in your clues – they don't necessarily have to be written clues.
9. If you scrapbook, send him disposable cameras to take pictures for you to scrap. You can present the completed book to him when he returns. Make sure he gives you descriptions for your pictures. Note: Be sure this does not violate his unit's OPSEC guidelines.
10. Before he leaves, make sure he leaves you lots of messages. "My husband leaves me voice messages on our answering machine and my cell phone. He also leaves a handwritten letter and a text message on my cell phone. No matter where I am, I always have access to his voice or a note from him".
11. If you're brave enough, write steamy letters or emails to him. If you just can't bring yourself to do the actual writing, visit www.pillowmail.com. It's free and they'll do the writing for you!
12. Communicate often through whatever means you have available to you whether it's the mail, email, internet chat or packages. Let each other know you're thinking of each other.
13. Read online devotionals together. Two online devotionals are Military Ministry's "*Excellent or Praiseworthy*" (EorP) and FamilyLife's "*Moments Together for Couples*". EorP posts on Mondays and Thursday nights, and has questions at the end of each posting which you can share. "*Moments Together for Couples*" posts each day and also has questions to share. Just go to www.familylife.com and click under Quick Links to Daily Devotional.

Did you know.....

....Baybrook Mall stores offer military discounts

- Aeropostle 10%
- Apple- depends on the amount spent
- Auntie Anne's Pretzels 10%
- Charlotte Russe 10%
- Champs 20%
- Express/Express Men 10%
- Finish Line 20%
- Foot/Lady/Kids Foot Locker 20%
- Great American Cookie Co 10%
- Hot Topic 10% for Active Duty only
- Spencers Gifts 10%
- Visible Changes 10%

....local restaurants offer military discounts

- Lowes 10%
- BJ's Resturant and Brewery 10%
- Outback 50% for Active Duty in uniform only

• <http://www.herosalute.com/cavatx/overview.html>

Caught on camera



November Dates to Celebrate

- 12 – Michael and Carey Vorholt’s 15th Anniversary
- 18 - George and Tammy Becerra’s 15th Aniversary
- 15 – Sofia Garza turns 5
- 25 – Natalie Lyon’s Birthday