



# U.S. NAVY

**STAND TALL, STAND PROUD, STAND TOGETHER**

# CEREMONIAL GUARD

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## CO'S CORNER

Dear Guard Family,

Warmer temps and higher humidity means summer is here in Washington, D.C. That also means the Ceremonial Guard is in the midst of our busy season. Hard at work, your Guardsmen have been actively representing the Navy in ceremonies all over the National Capital Region and across the country.

June 20 was one of our busiest days yet and your Sailors stepped up to the challenge reinforcing their commitment to excellence. The day began with an arrival ceremony in honor of the CNO's counterpart from Israel at the Washington Navy Yard. It was also on this day the casket bearers welcomed home our seven fallen Shipmates from USS Fitzgerald by conducting their dignified transfers at Dover AFB.

The command also conducted a full schedule of funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. The day ended with our second COTA performance of the season. The long hours and effort put in by your Guardsmen to accomplish all that had to be done that day truly exemplified their resolve, resiliency, and professionalism.

We had the pleasure of hosting many of you for our annual Family Day on June 30. For those of you able to attend, I hope you enjoyed your time at the Guard. We absolutely loved having you here! We are already looking forward to next year's event. As always, we thank you for your continued support of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard.

Ronel Reyes, Commander, USN  
Commanding Officer



Cmdr. Ronel Reyes,  
Commanding Officer

## FROM THE DECKPLATES

Hello Ceremonial Guard Family,

What an amazing few months it has been since our last newsletter was published. As the Captain illustrated we have been very busy throughout the National Capitol Region representing you and your family with distinction and honor. It is truly amazing to watch what your loved ones are capable of doing day after day.

I want to take a moment to introduce you to our Ombudsman, Mr. Rick Gaines. As the Ombudsman, Mr. Gaines is the official liaison between the Commanding Officer (CO) and family members. If you have questions or concerns about your Guardsman or what the Guard is up to and are having difficulty getting answers Mr. Gaines can help. In the case of an emergency the Ombudsman is also the person the CO will communicate with on the status of the Command. In turn Mr. Gaines will communicate with all families on his contact list. If you have not met Mr. Gaines, please send him an email at [usncg.jbab.ombudsman@gmail.com](mailto:usncg.jbab.ombudsman@gmail.com) or a call at 904-307-5245 to say hello and add you family to his contact list. With this and any other topic if you have any questions please feel free to call me at 202-433-0078.

If you did not get the opportunity to join us during family day, please know you are always welcome at the Ceremonial Guard. I view our Command as a family and your Guardsman as my sisters and brothers in arms. As such, our house is your house. Please take the opportunity to visit your Sailor while they are stationed here in our Capitol. When you do please come by and say hello, I want to meet the families that did such an amazing job raising these awesome young citizens.

Hooyah!!!  
CMC



CMDCM Michael Fluent  
Command Master Chief



USNCG Sailors march in a parade.



USNCG Sailors march in a parade.



USNCG Sailors conduct a cannon shoot at the Navy Yard.



USNCG drill team performs during a Washington Wizards basketball game.

## USNCG Welcomes Home Fallen Shipmates

Story by: MC2 Brandon Parker



Participants of the Dignified Transfer for the USS Fitzgerald.

Sailors assigned to the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Guard (USNCG) performed a dignified transfer (DT) at Dover Air Force Base, June 20, for the Sailors who perished on board the guided missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62).

USS Fitzgerald had a collision casualty with merchant container ship MV ACX Crystal June 17th.

A dignified transfer involves a team of casket bearers who carry the casket of fallen Sailors off of the aircraft when it lands on U.S. soil. Command Senior Chief Ryan King, leading chief petty officer of Bravo Company oversees the ceremony.

“My involvement with the DT, is to mentally prepare the carry team for repatriating the remains back to the United States to their families,” said King.

“I ensure that the remains are moved on the aircraft to a position of carry prior to transfer and that the flag that is draped on his each transfer case is in exemplary condition for that service member. Additionally, I provide them an in-depth brief and rehearsal of the ceremony itself.

To the Sailors at USNCG a DT is considered among the most solemn and honorable of tasks. For Culinary Specialist Seaman Derrick Kahapea, casket bearer for Bravo Company, this particular ceremony was especially somber.

“I talked to Senior Chief (King) about my brother being on the ship, said Kahapea. “He thought it would be the best for me to do it, not just for my brother but for

the fallen shipmates. I’m glad my brother was alright, but I wish everyone made it out.”

Kahapea wasn’t the only participant with connections to the Fitzgerald as the ship was King’s first duty station.

“With the service that I had onboard that ship and the successes that I had there, knowing that those Sailors worked on the same deck plate as I have, it felt as if the Fitzgerald were on that C-17 and I was back on the deck plates with those Sailors,” said King. “I know the crew on that ship is very tight knit. Due to being forward deployed, it was an emotional strain to see those Sailors there and knowing what they went through. At the same time the dignity and the respect that the casket bearers provided them is the same dignity and respect the Fitzgerald earned when it was commissioned 1995.”

“After learning about the DT, Gunner’s Mate 3rd Class Jordan Kahapea, a member of the Fitzgerald’s crew, said to Derrick Kahapea, his brother how he felt about his shipmates.

“Hey if you want to say something about this group of guys, tell them that they cared a lot about who they worked with and about their job,” said Jordan Kahapea. “They did it to the best of their power and were strong through thick and thin. They were brothers of mine, and yours as well. Pray they have made it through the night and on their journey up, and that we have the watch now.”

# Family Day



USNCG Sailors pose with children during a community outreach event.



USNCG Sailors physically train at the National Mall.



USNCG Sailors conduct a funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.



USNCG Sailors rehearse prior to a funeral.

# “We Carry Them, Because They Carried Us”

## Second Quarter Awardees

### Top Qualifications

**Squad Leader:**

ABEAN Martin  
AN Vancampen  
SN Cruzlong  
FN Hill

**Casket Bearers:**

SN Holloman  
SN Maiden  
SN Miller  
AN Salinas  
SN Edwards

**Firing Party:**

FN Wideman  
SN Weaver

**Drill Team:**

HTFN Medina  
GM3 Reed

**Colors:**

SN Santacruz

### Full Honors Qualifications

GM3 Reed

SN Klebe

SN Billups

FN Hill

AN Lott

AN Sherwood

SN Smith

SN Burton

SN Cruzlong

SN Edwards

SN Ingram

SN Bailey

SN Rios

SN Scott

SN Grow

SN Reid

SN Reed

AD3 Hiebner

SN Vancampen

SN Levine

SN Salkeld

SN Wang

SN Velazquez

Junior Sailor of the Quarter  
2nd Quarter CY 2017



Engineman 3rd Class  
Arelys Cruzrivera

Blue Jacket of the Quarter  
2nd Quarter CY 2017



Seaman Kameron Salinas