

Newsletter of the USS BAINBRIDGE *Association* 2nd Quarter of 2023

Message from your President



Charles Gilbert

Ahoy shipmates. We currently have 159 members on our roster. Of those, only 71 have their dues current. We have 28 members that are 1-3 years in arrears. We have 32 members that are 4-10 years in arrears and 28 members that are 11 years and greater in arrears. Our association is losing the battle to stay in existence. Participation in reunions has been lacking. New members joining our association are far and few in between. The paying of the annual dues tells the story. Without the members supporting our association with their payment of dues and purchases of our ships store items, we as an Association will cease to exist. I encourage all of you to make an extra effort to be proactive and pay your dues on an annual basis, and attend our reunions if possible. Your support will keep us viable as an Association. All I ask is your help in keeping your dues current. Please contact Richard Goerner to get the status of your last dues submission and Richard Holloway for the payment of you dues. As always, I am here to assist you with questions or problems that may arise.

In regards to our next reunion, The hotel has been selected and contract signed. The dates of the reunion are: Sunday May 19th until Wednesday May 22nd, 2024. The hotel info is: The Courtyard Norfolk Downtown 520 East Plume Street Norfolk, VA. 23510. The phone number is (757)963-6000. Reservations are being taken by the hotel. Please remember to tell them that you are with the Bainbridge Association group.

Venues available: Harbor cruises from Nauticus, Home of the Battleship Wisconsin. Armed Forces Memorial. MacArthur Center. Town Point Park. Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Remember, The association not longer provides transportation or arrangements of venues. We will provide for the functions conducted inside the hotel only. I have tentatively arranged a tour of the DDG-96, USS Bainbridge during our reunion. As the reunion gets closer, I will firm up our tour with the PAO of the ship.



More ships, squadrons on '96 chopping block

By John Burlage
Times staff writer

WASHINGTON — The aircraft carrier America leads the list of 32 ships and eight aviation squadrons to be decommissioned in fiscal 1996, the Navy has announced.

Homeported in Norfolk, America is scheduled to be decommissioned in September 1996 after completing a Mediterranean deployment in February 1996.

Other ships on the list:

- The nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser Bainbridge, leaving four in the fleet.

- Six guided missile frigates, leaving 27.

- Seven nuclear-powered attack submarines, leaving 18.

- Four destroyer tenders and three submarine tenders, leaving eight.

- Six auxiliary ships.

- Three salvage tugs.

- An oceanographic research vessel.

Squadrons going away:

- Two attack squadrons.

- Two fighter squadrons.

- One fighter attack squadron.

- One carrier airborne early warning squadron.

- One patrol squadron.

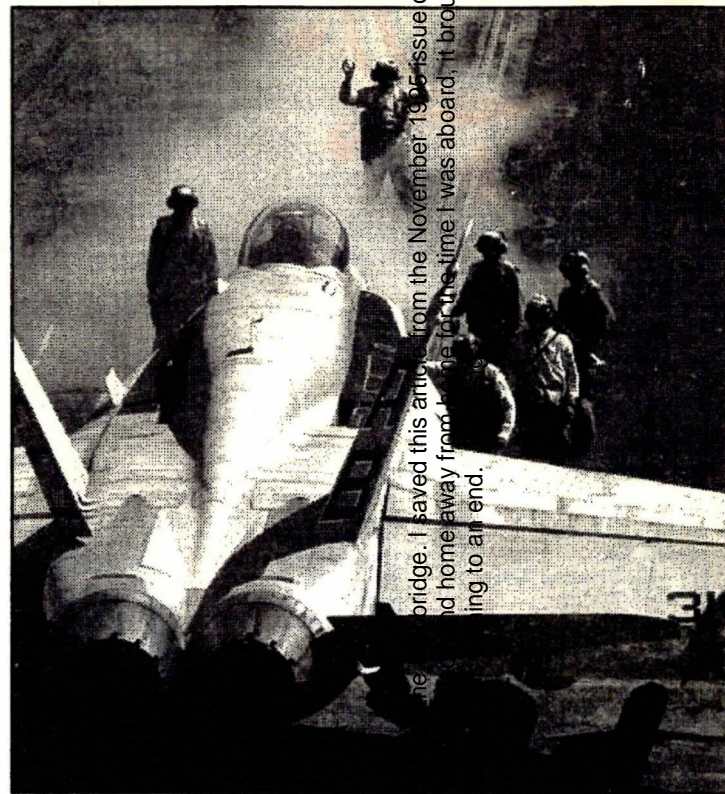
- One helicopter composite squadron.

Saying goodbye

The official list of ships and squadrons to be decommissioned in 1996:

Ship	Current homeport	Date
America (CV 66)	Norfolk	September 96
Bainbridge (CGN 25)	Norfolk	October 95
Flatley (FFG 21)	Pascagoula, Miss.	May 96
Antrim (FFG 20)	Pascagoula	May 96
Gallery (FFG 26)	Pascagoula	June 96
Williams (FFG 24)	Pascagoula	September 96
Copeland (FFG 25)	San Diego	September 96
Mahlon H. Tisdale (FFG 27)	San Diego	September 96
Gato (SSN 615)	Bremerton, Wash.	October 95
Whale (SSN 638)	Bremerton	October 95
Puffer (SSN 652)	Bremerton	October 95
Bergall (SSN 667)	Bremerton	October 95
Flying Fish (SSN 673)	Bremerton	October 95
Bluenish (SSN 675)	Pearl Harbor, Hawaii	February 96
New York City (SSN 696)	Pearl Harbor	February 96
Samuel Gompers (AD 37)	Alameda, Calif.	October 95
Puget Sound (AD 38)	Norfolk	January 96
Yellowstone (AD 41)	Norfolk	January 96
Shenandoah (AD 44)	Norfolk	September 96
Butte (AE 27)	Earle, N.J.	June 96
Kiska (AE 35)	Concord, Calif.	August 96
Roanoke (AOR 7)	Bremerton	October 95
Kalamazoo (AOR 6)	Norfolk	September 96
Holland (AS 32)	Guam	September 96
Dixon (AS 37)	San Diego	December 95
L.Y. Spear (AS 36)	Norfolk	September 96
Edenton (ATS 1)	Norfolk	March 96
Beaufort (ATS 2)	Sasebo	March 96
Brunswick (ATS 3)	Sasebo	March 96
Higgins (TAO 190)	MSC PAC	April 96
Humphreys (TAO 188)	MSC LANT	June 96
Audacious (TAGOS 11)	Norfolk	November 95
HC 2	Norfolk	June 96
VA 95	Whidbey Island	October 95
VA 165	Whidbey Island	September 96
VF 84	Oceana, Va.	October 95
VF 45	Key West, Fla.	March 96
VFA 127	Fallon, Nev.	March 96
VAW 122	Norfolk	March 96
VP to be determined	Atlantic Fleet	March 96

The ammunition ships Butte and Kiska also will transfer to the Military Sealift Command, where they'll take on civilian crews.



On the way out: The aircraft carrier America, now on last deployment, is one of 32 ships to be decommissioned in 1996.

Reuter photo by Mario Laporta

Fumes Kill 3 On Navy Ship

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Two sailors on security patrol "keeled over" dead and a comrade who tried to help them also was killed when they came into contact with fumes from a Freon leak aboard a guided-missile cruiser, the Navy said.

Six other sailors aboard the USS Bainbridge who rushed in to help also were overcome but survived and were hospitalized, the Navy said. A seventh sailor was treated after being overcome while trying to administer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to one of the victims.

THE DEATHS AND INJURIES occurred Monday evening in the forward air-conditioning plant of the Bainbridge, the nation's first guided-missile frigate. The 565-foot-long, 20-year-old vessel was docked at the 32nd Street Naval Station here.

The deaths initially were attributed to cardiac

arrest, although autopsies were planned for today, Navy spokesman Jim McDonough said.

The guards entered the area on patrol about 5:30 p.m. PST and "keeled over," McDonough said. A sailor working part-time for a civilian contractor saw the men pass out and, attempting to rescue them, passed out out himself from the deadly odorless vapor.

THE THREE DIED SHORTLY after arrival at Balboa Naval Hospital, McDonough said.

The seven survivors were in stable condition today at Balboa after a night of observation, he said. The names of the victims were withheld pending notification of relatives.

The Bainbridge has a crew of 470. Its missiles provide defense for carrier battle groups.

Three Die Aboard USS Bainbridge

Investigations into the deaths of three enlisted men aboard the nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser USS Bainbridge Monday continued following the accidental release the refrigerant fluid used in the ship's air conditioning system.

Six Bainbridge crewmen were overcome by the fumes as they attempted to rescue the three victims from a forward air conditioning compartment, according to officials.

Two of the dead men were assigned to the ship while the third, attached to another command, was "moonlighting" for a civilian contractor engaged to work on the ship. The three were not identified pending notification of next of kin.

A spokesman for the Navy's Surface Force said the men were discovered aboard the Bainbridge at 5:15 p.m. They died of cardiac arrest minutes after arrival at Balboa Naval Hospital.

Six Bainbridge crewmembers were overcome by the refrigerant as they attempted to rescue the three downed sailors in the forward air conditioning compartment.

A seventh Navy man, a corpsman assigned to Balboa Naval Hospital, was overcome by refrigerant when he attempted mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on one of the men.

All seven were in stable condition at the hospital last night.

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Bainbridge Deaths....

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Chief Jim McDonough said the two security members were checking the ship compartments when they were overcome by the gas from an apparently ruptured pipeline. The third man, working part time as a refrigeration mechanic, apparently saw the men enter the area and was overcome when he attempted to rescue them.

McDonough said it was not clear why the refrigeration mechanic was aboard the ship. A spokesman for the National City-based firm would not comment on the incident.

The Navy said the deaths and injuries did not involve the ship's two nuclear reactors. Built in Quincy, Mass., the 20-year-old Bainbridge was the first of the

nation's nuclear-powered cruisers. It was assigned to San Diego in 1977, following an overhaul at Bremerton, Wash., shipyards, joining the nuclear-powered Long Beach and Truxton in San Diego.

CAPT John F. Shaw, the ship's commanding officer, said he would name a committee to investigate the incident. The worst accident in San Diego's long relationship with the Navy occurred July 21, 1905, when the gunboat Bennington exploded, killing 60 sailors and injuring 46 others. It was anchored at the foot of H Street near the old ferry landing in San Diego Bay after arriving from Honolulu.

The 8,580-ton, 565-foot Bainbridge, berthed at Pier 3 at the Naval Station, returned from a seven-month deployment to the Indian Ocean.

Tissue From Bainbridge Victims Sent To Bethesda

Investigators probing the Freon gas accident aboard the nuclear-powered cruiser Bainbridge will study the tissues of the three men who died in that accident Monday afternoon as part of their inquiry.

Tissues from the bodies of the three sailors who died in the accident — 26-year-old Joseph A. Durr, 20-year-old Stuard L. Fields and 26-year-old John V. Sullivan — are being sent to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., for examination, a Navy spokesman said.

The Navy on Tuesday sealed off

the compartment in which leaking Freon gas from an air conditioning unit aboard the nuclear-powered cruiser Bainbridge apparently killed three sailors and injured seven others.

The seven men who survived — six Bainbridge crewmen and a medical corpsman from Balboa Naval Hospital — were released from the hospital Tuesday.

The Navy is releasing few details of the incident, which occurred Monday evening in the forward air-conditioning compartment of the 20-year-

old warship, the Navy's first nuclear-propelled guided missile cruiser.

Durr and Fields were Bainbridge engineers, assigned to the ship's sound and security watch. Sullivan was attached to the Navy's Public Works Center in San Diego.

According to a Navy spokesman, Durr and Fields were checking the ship's compartments when they were overcome by Freon, a trade name for a derivative of ethane or methane refrigerant, that had erupted from a ruptured pipeline.

Sullivan, working as a refrigera-

tion mechanic aboard the Bainbridge, apparently saw the two enter the compartment and was stricken by the gas when he tried to rescue them, the spokesman said.

All three died of cardiac arrest minutes after being rushed to Balboa Naval Hospital.

Six other Bainbridge crewmen were overcome by Freon while trying to rescue the three. In addition, a Balboa Hospital corpsman, 25-year-old Larry Flores of Honolulu, was affected while trying to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

USS Bainbridge Association 2023 Sea Stories from various shipmates



You Don't Want to Miss Another Issue

Please ensure that your mailing address and E-mail address is correct on our roster. If it is **not** correct PLEASE submit those kind of changes by mail to:

Richard Goerner 256 Cassingham Lane Boiling Springs, SC. 29316. E-Mail: renreog.r@charter.net

Dues are payable January 1st. of each calendar year. If your dues are not current, submit a check for \$15.00 per year to :

USS Bainbridge Association (C/O Dick Holloway) 9307 Teakwood Lane, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266

Members receiving the newsletter via an email, **will not** receive a hard copy unless requested.

(THE CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE LISTED BELOW)

Please keep your dues & contact information up to date. If you need to check on your dues status or change your contact information, contact Dick Holloway or Richard Goerner.

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Dates aboard the BAINBRIDGE _____ Rank/Rating while Aboard the ship _____ Division _____

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Published by the USS Bainbridge Association

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*Cancelled due to two hurricanes