



Letter From the Editor

By: CDR Marshall Crockett

Chief, Dept of Public Relations

Welcome to the New Year. This year promises to be even better than the one before with new ideas and new personnel churning like rapids down the Colorado River. Many of you have received the welcome letter from LCDR Boudreau, our Chief Recruiting Officer, and I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities he discusses like Department Service. Being part of a department is the single best way to get involved at Online Starbase.

This edition of the Blue Alert features two new sections that I am sure you will enjoy. Thanks in large part to a great PR staff, we have added a Book Review and a SIMM Update; each written by the leaders of those respective projects. In addition, know that you do not have to be on PR staff to be a Blue Alert contributor. At any time you can PM me with your ideas, articles or feature recommendations. I am still in need of a few personnel in the department including correspondents, web developers and recruiting personnel. The possibilities are endless in the Department of Public Relations Ready to step up? ♦

The Captain/First-Officer Relationship

Part II: Captain Picard & Commander Riker

By: LT Yu'wana

Sr. Correspondent / Feature Writer

One of the most difficult moments between Riker and Picard occurs in the first season, episode "Hide & Q", when Riker is offered the power of Q. Initially, Q warns Picard "Riker will be offered something impossible to refuse! Later, on the planet surface, Q informs Riker he has the power, and Riker, although being suspicious, decides to use it; probably to see if it works, but also to get his friends out of trouble. So first he checks, then he uses it to do good things. They say the road to hell is paved with good intentions!"

Riker is still suspicious and tries to figure out why Q gave him unlimited power, while Q tries to earn Riker's trust. At this point, Riker is still suspicious and able to resist temptation:

Q: ...you see we must know more about this human condition. That's why we've selected you, Riker, to become part of the Q, so that you can bring to us this human need and hunger; that we may understand it.

RIKER: I suppose you mean that as a compliment, Q. Or, maybe it's my limited mind. But, to become a part of you? I don't even like you.

And then Q sets another trap: his friends are killed. Riker gets angry and uses the power to save them and return the crew to the bridge (good intentions, again). At this point his anger and his ego start to grow and the unlimited power begins to control him. Worf charges to meet their enemy. He knocks two down before being bayoneted in the stomach)

WESLEY: Worf! (He dashes to Worf)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter From the Editor
- 2 Officer Profile: CAPT Christian
- 3 The Alternate Reality
- 4 Getting Your Next Pip
- 5 Book Reviews: Demons
- 7 Officer at Large: Drones on Patrol

continued on page 3

Officer Profile

CAPT Christian, Chief of Recreations

By: LT Yu'wanna

Sr. Correspondent / Feature Writer



Name: Christopher McDonald

Age: 26

Position on the Starbase: Chief of Recreations

Location: Reno, Nevada, USA

Hobbies: hmm....I'll have to get back to you on that...

Enjoys: Games, American Football, Golf

Hates: Politicians and spinach

Guilty Pleasures: Chocolate

First Encountered Star Trek: Age 5 with mom.

Other Interesting Facts: I'm a bus driver and do most of my activity through the base with a touch screen cell phone.

How did you and Star Trek meet?

When I was 5 my mom let me see the voyage home, I've been hooked ever since.

Which is the most valuable thing you've learnt from Star Trek?

Peace with fellow humans while difficult to achieve and maintain is still the most rewarding thing.

What is your favorite Star Trek race and why?

Bajorans. They are fiercely passionate about freedom and won't back down from their morals.

Any plans for the future you wish to share with us?
I am in college studying to be a network admin.

The things you like and dislike most about yourself and about other people?

I don't like arrogance and ignorance. It is something I continue to fight within myself.

What do you like most about Online Starbase?

The people, I have good friends here and I love the interaction.

As the Chief of Recreations, what are some of your most critical responsibilities and what challenges have you faced leading the Department?

Well, when I was assigned to this department when it was brand new and disorganized. The challenge was building this dept from the ground up and watching it succeed.

What future plans do you have for Recreations?

I am currently considering hiring a new member to run a game that I am putting in development.

If someone wanted to join Recreations Dept., what type of person are you looking for and what process would they undergo to apply?

I'm looking for someone who maintains a strong activity level and can have lots of fun.

What words of wisdom do you have for new members to OSB that would help them get integrated?

That is simple, Don't be shy. Talk to us and have fun. ❖

*Visit our Public Relations Website
by going to:*

<http://osbpubrel.webs.com/>

Less Known Facts About Captain Kirk

Contributed by LT Yu'wanna

Captain Kirk doesn't cheat Death. He wins fair and square. We can even suspect that Death is afraid of Captain Kirk. Why? Because Death once had a Near-Captain Kirk experience.

The Alternate Reality

By: ENS Nero

Blue Alert Contributor

The alternate reality was the result of a red matter explosion created by Ambassador Spock in 2387. This was done to try and consume the supernova that ended up destroying Romulus.

The Narada, a Romulan mining ship under the command of Captain Nero, was pulled into the black hole, followed by Spock's ship, the Jellyfish. The alterations of this included the captain of the Narada, Nero, emerging in 2333. The first ship he encountered was the U.S.S. Kelvin. Captain Richard Robau was invited aboard and interrogated about the whereabouts of Ambassador Spock. Unfortunately, moments after being informed of the current stardate he was killed. Nero then proceeded to attack the Kelvin.

George Kirk, now placed in command, attacked the Narada by ultimately setting a collision course, thereby saving the evacuating shuttles including the one with his wife and unborn son. This meant that James Kirk grew up without his father and without the ambitions his father gave him in the prime reality. He did however join Starfleet five years later than he had done in the prime reality, after being persuaded by Christopher Pike.

Another alteration was the destruction of Vulcan. In 2358 Nero captured the Jellyfish as it emerged from travel through the black hole. He then marooned Spock on planet Delta Vega. He then used a portion of the red matter to destroy Vulcan and most of its six billion inhabitants, including Amanda Grayson. ❖

History on the Horizon

By: LT Kal-EI

History Section Leader

For those of you who may be unaware, the Online Starbase History Initiative is in full effect. Never before has OSB history been documented. I am Lieutenant Kal-EI, and I have been charged with leading this effort. Thankfully, I am not alone in this effort. I am assisted by Lieutenant Lola Morgana. Together, we are the OSB Department of PR Historians.

Currently, we are compiling every scrap of data relevant to the history of OSB. This includes, but is not limited to, a timeline of important dates and a list of all command and staff officers. Things are coming together nicely, and we are looking forward to publishing as complete a history of this great community as soon as possible.

You can be of great assistance to us in this task. If you have served in a departmental or staff capacity, please let us know. If you can provide dates, that makes it even better. Any other items you feel may be relative are also welcome. A private message to myself or Lieutenant Morgana is the perfect way to submit any information you may have.

I'll leave you with a little taste of what we're working on. Since it was founded in December 2002, OSB has had three commanding officers and seven vice commanders. Our current CO, Rear Admiral Ryan W. Dean, previously served as the Vice Commander before taking the reins himself in Dec 2008. ❖

The Verdict is In

By: LT James T. Kirk

Correspondent

A couple of weeks before the end of the year I was asked by Captain Jade if I could judge the weekly captain contest. I gladly accepted. To begin with it seemed quite easy, but as the week went on and the captions kept on coming, it became harder to judge and pick out the best three.

Now although it sounds easy at first, look then pick three, you would be sadly mistaken. Mainly because of the quite simple fact that after a while, when lots of people have entered, it becomes impossible. Most of the ones I read had both criteria I looked for in a winning caption: be funny and be memorable. In the end after much deliberation I made my decision.

Admiral Dean: 3rd Place

Lt Cdr Boudreau: 2nd Place

Cdr Crockett: 1st Place

Overall judging the captain contest is a fun thing but at times it can be quite difficult. If you want to try your hand at judging the contest, contact Capt Jade and get ready for the toughest decision you'll have to make. ❖

CONGRATULATIONS

The Tribble Hunt was a huge success for OSB: Congrats to Grand Nagus (LCDR) Tangent for his victory!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ARTICLE SUBMISSION FOR BLUE ALERT NEWSLETTER

PLACE: PM TO CDR CROCKETT

TIME: 8 FEB 2010, 2359 OST

Anyone who wants to get published in our next newsletter must have their articles submitted by the 8th of every month.

Getting Your Next Pip

By: LT James T. Kirk
Correspondent

About 4 months ago while I was searching for a site where I could post my views on what I thought about Star Trek I came across this site. After a brief look I instantly loved this site. I joined and never regretted it. One of the first things I did in order to get promoted was began looking around for boards I liked and soon enough I became consistent in posting my views on the different threads. Another thing I did was make sure I looked over the rules and regulations and made sure to follow them. Also as long as you do the above things within one month you will reach the rank of Lieutenant junior grade.

In order to reach the rank of 'full' Lieutenant I did the above things but I also managed to get a 'job' working in the public relations section of the base. This isn't a necessary thing to do in order to be promoted to this grade, but it is a great way to get involved.

When asked, Admiral dean had this to say:

"Get involved by posting and getting to be familiar with OSB. Be consistent in membership participation."

I believe this is true right down to the letter. Post and participate and you will most likely be promoted. ❖

Editor's note: LT Kirk is one of our up and coming correspondents and has really made outstanding headway in the PR dept; a good example for new members looking to get involved. PM him any time.

Picard realizes the danger. "Captain's log, stardate 41591.4. Twelve minutes out from Quadra Sigma Three where the survivors of an underground disaster desperately need our help. Aboard the Enterprise, First Officer William T. Riker needs help nearly as badly. But this is a subject far out of my experience. Out of any human's experience."...and tries to reason with him:

PICARD: Will. How the hell do I advise you? You know the implications as well as I.

RIKER: No one has ever offered to turn me into a god before.

PICARD: What the Q has offered you has got to be close to immortality, Will. They're not lying about controlling space and time. We've seen it in what they can do.

Picard has a point and he is only trying to make Will see what unlimited power is doing to him; but his attitude only attracts Riker's anger. Riker's ego prevents him from seeing that Picard is right and only trying to help.

PICARD: Perhaps they're all remembering that old saying. Power corrupts.

RIKER: And absolute power corrupts absolutely. Do you believe I haven't thought of that, Jean-Luc?

PICARD: And have you noticed how you and I are now on a first name basis? Number One, Will, something has happened already.

When Picard tries to warn Riker again, Q appeals to his ego and tries to convince him that Picard is jealous of his powers. Riker tries to tempt the others by accomplishing their most ardent wishes. Fortunately they see things clearer and refuse the gifts.

It was at this point that things began to unravel for Q in his desire to bring Riker into the realm of the omnipotent. Trust, honor, understanding, friendship, mentorship, followership and, ultimately, leadership from his captain brought 'Number One' back to reality. This continuing analysis of the Captain/First Officer relationship is another great example of the dynamic that builds such a strong bond between these two leaders; a bond that not even immortals can tear asunder. ❖

Book Review: Demons

By: LT Junglebetti

Chair, OSB Book Club

Star Trek novels take on many forms; many are giddy action-adventures, some resemble bodice-rippers, there is even Trek-infused historical fiction such as "Ishmael" by Barbara Hambly. Written in 1986, "Demons" by J.M. Dillard is the first in the TOS Pocket Books series to be a dark thriller. In more recent history, mind control and evil intelligence are a more common theme in the pantheon of Star Trek books.

I would highly recommend this book to established Star Trek fans, but would be bashful about having it examined by a literature professor. The plot stretches a little thin in places and the author conveniently intercedes to bail characters out of unfortunate situations. However, Jeanne Dillard so effectively swept me into the plot's dark whirlwind that I only detected perceivable weaknesses by reading the story a second time.

Anytime I read a Star Trek novel I study the cover carefully; I was immediately suspect of Anitra, a new buxom-looking female character shown holding something that looks like a metallic clam-shaped incense burner while McCoy and Spock stand nearby looking hypnotized. I've noticed an unfortunate tendency for Trek authors to introduce female characters that are just a little too beautiful, a little too smart, a little too witty; a fantasy chick rather than a believable persona. Official and non-official literary critics refer to such characters as "Mary Sue". I found myself wondering if and when Anitra would make the deadly decision to fling herself in harm's way to protect the crew of the Enterprise.

That said/typed, the other new characters are charmingly flawed and enjoyable additions to the expected collection of crew. For a Trek fan who is less than interested in reading more about James T. Kirk, this story is a treasure that makes use of the deep and ongoing friendship/feud between McCoy and Spock. Uhura's character gets to shine out, and Montgomery Scott and Hikaru Sulu are terrifying as instruments of evil. Chekov doesn't get much ink – if I were editing, I'd press for more.

The story opens at an archeological dig riddled with



unexplainable deaths; the concept of murder is more sinister because the archeological team is made up of Vulcans. The evil presence makes its way to planet Vulcan and into Spock's home. The backdrop of the cold, black expanse of outer space, the confines of the Enterprise, and the harsh desert environment of Vulcan are ideal venues for a chilling good vs. evil tale.

This book is out of print, but easy to find online and well worth reading. I look forward to reading more novels by J.M. Dillard. ♦

Update From the SIMM

By: CAPT Daxino Joel

Chief, U.S.S. Phoenix SIMM

The Simm is going well and we are about to start on our first mission from dock. We will be having the briefing first and then start on the mission. We have created mission outlines for the Simm so for each mission we do, everyone will know in which direction we are heading and make it easier for people to post in the way of leading up to the middle and end of the mission. We are still accepting people onto the Simm, you just need to let me know what position you would like to play. Even if I have not thought of a position that should be on there and you would like to play that then ask away and no doubt should be fine. Once we have found a position you want to play, all that is required is to create a Character Biography and then you can post away.

I look forward to hearing from any of you to join the Simm. ♦

What's in a Name? Part III

The Suffix

By: CDR Marshall Crockett

Chief, Dept of Public Relations

Over the past few months, we have looked at the nature of the Starship registry numbers and associated nomenclature to gain a more thorough understanding of why ships are labeled the way they are. From the prefix to the number to the suffix, each has its own significance and therefore its own rationale that makes a starship unique. The final part of this trilogy is the suffix.

One ship, in Star Trek lore, made the suffix famous...the USS Enterprise. I can vividly remember when the shuttle passes over the saucer of the Excelsior following the debate of the Enterprise crew as to which vessel they would be assigned after saving Earth in Star Trek IV. As the distant vessel comes into view with the name USS Enterprise, NCC-1701-A on the hull, Capt Kirk says, "My friends...we've come home." From that point forward the Enterprise was going to live in the context of legends.

All letters from A through E have been used and seen in various Star Trek series as suffixes for the Enterprise. From Capt John Harriman's Enterprise-B to Capt Garrett's Enterprise-C to Capt Picard's Enterprise-D and E, the legend lives on and on. One of the more famous quotes regarding the Enterprise's suffixes comes in the Next Generation episode, "Relics" where Capt Montgomery Scott is at the Holodeck control panel and requests to have created the bridge of the Enterprise, "No bloody A, B, C or D!"

In the books, the Enterprise-J is discussed but it has not made any actual episodic or motion picture screen time. At the end of Star Trek Nemesis, when the Enterprise-E is destroyed, Capt Picard jokes that this will not be the last ship to bear the name; "there are plenty of letters left in the alphabet!"

Some ships have been described 'out of sequence.' Two such examples are the USS Relativity, NCV-474439-G, where we can only assume that there is an A-F previously assigned. Likewise, the USS Yamato that was called NCC-1305-E by Commander Riker when the ship's actual number was NCC-71807 was definitely out of sequence.

In short, the alpha following the number is designed to show lineage and history and should be detailed in logical sequence. This has been the case on many more occasions than it has not.

This concludes the 3-part discussion of the Starship Naming Conventions. Hopefully you have a better understanding of what each part of the registry means. Till next time! ♦



OSB Recruiting

By: LCDR Richard Boudreau

Chief Recruiting Officer

Hello my fellow officers of Online Starbase,

My Name is Lieutenant Commander Richard Boudreau. For those of you who don't know me, I am the Senior Recruiting Officer for the Public Relations Department here at Online Starbase.

I'll give you a little history of my service record here at the starbase. When I first came on board, I started out in the Communications Department (Now The PR Department). Then, I was promoted to Strategic Operations Officer, and moved quickly to Forum Security as Deputy Chief. I moved my way up to Chief of Security shortly thereafter and I very much enjoyed my time as Chief.

I decided to take an extended leave of absence in mid-2009, but after many discussions with the Starbase Commander, Rear Admiral Dean, I decided to make my way back to the corridors of OSB. I decided to take on another important role as Chief Recruiting Officer for the PR Department.

continued on page 7

Officer at Large: Drones on Patrol

By: CDR Marshall Crockett

Chief, Dept of Public Relations

Dateline, Ryzax VII; a class-M planet, by Federation standards, that is not interested in becoming part of the Federation, Romulan Empire, Klingon Empire or any other larger organization that does not directly serve its main global interest: isolationism. Therefore, I absolutely had to check it out.

I was barely able to book passage on a small freighter that claimed to be an "antiquities" vessel...which to me sounded less than honest...but for 800 credits they simply couldn't pass me up! I suppose business is not so good these days...in antiquities! So, with my satchel and a little bit of pocket change I headed off for Ryzax VII.

The freighter was, as I expected, stopped shortly after takeoff, inspected and surprisingly let go by Federation authorities. While the antiquities business may not be good...it certainly is creative!

"Now entering the orbit of Ryzax VII...buckle up!" the captain called over the intercom. Of course, it brought a small smile to my face since the ride so far had been anything other than smooth! Nevertheless, I strapped myself in and prepared for descent.

The next few minutes were very harrowing. Not only did we dip and dive, churn and burn and get tossed to and fro, but we also found ourselves in the middle of a formation of aircraft. The freighter was surrounded and the aircraft were like nothing I had ever seen before. The shape was very triangular but there were no canopies, external engine outlets, or landing gear. It was almost as if we were surrounded by arrowheads that moved at three times the speed of sound. I made a small notation in my notebook and held on as the pilot of our freighter attempted to lose our 'escorts' through the tall peaks on the planet's surface.

There were at least four aircraft that I could tell...at least there were four aircraft that the pilot told me he was trying to 'lose.' After a few minutes of dodging our aggressors, I was called to the bridge. There was one open seat next to the pilot and I was asked to sit there. "I'm not a pilot," I told the captain. "No problem," he said with a smirk. "I'm not much of one either!"

The canyon walls seemed to get taller and taller the farther we flew. Then I looked down and realized the river below was getting wider and wider. Those two facets together could only mean one thing...we were losing altitude. As we dived closer and closer to the river below, the aggressors stood firm and right on our tail. Just when I thought our freighter would be transformed into a makeshift submarine, the captain and I pulled with all our might on the yolks in front of us. The rickety vessel lurched forward and upward, leaving hundred foot tall sprays of water behind us as we avoided the river. Two of our attackers were not so lucky. We reduced our following by half when two of the airplanes crashed into the shallow river and exploded.

"Ha, two down and two to go," the captain said as he zipped back toward the sky.

"What are those things?" I asked. "Sure don't seem normal."

"Computer," the captain said. "Analyze attacking aircraft."

"The aircraft are of the origin, Ryzaxi. Approximate length, 22.3 meters; wingspan, 12.9 meters; maximum speed 3.3 mach; crew complement, zero."

"Zero," the captain said. "Like a ghost ship?"

"A drone," the computer replied. "Armament is approximately twice that of a Federation scout ship."

And, as if almost on cue, two blasts ripped past our bow on the starboard side, detonating on the mountain in front of us and sending rubble cascading into the river below. As the phase blasts continued, our communicator beeped. Without even answering it, an image appeared.

"You are trespassing in Ryzaxan airspace. This is your final warning. Your weapons are no match for us and if you resist, the next shots will not intentionally miss."

As much as I wanted to actually meet someone on the planet to discuss the philosophies of the isolationist theory, I think I got my answer in the form of a practical demonstration. So, in light of this, we decided to continue out of the Ryzax VII atmosphere and out of the system.

So many more things to see and places to go. ♦

One of my main goals as the Chief Recruiting Officer, is to make sure the Officers here are enjoying themselves here on the Starbase and they feel like their opinions matter. I have discussed several ideas of how to keep officers participating with the Chief of the PR Department, Commander Marshall Crockett. Also, my job is to make new officers feel welcome and to make their transition as painless as possible.

The Public Relations main goal is to create positive relations with the officers here on the Starbase, and to create and great rapport with staff members as well. The PR Department continues to grow in leaps and bounds, and I intend to make the PR Department the best Department OSB has.

I look forward to talking to all the new officers, as well as currently serving officers about new ideas, general discussion, and other various topics to create a community that everyone can enjoy.

Thank you for your attention! ♦

Blue Alert Staff

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Personnel and Command

By: RADM Ryan Dean
OSB Commander

The department of command (by extension including the department chiefs) has engaged into 2010 with anticipation of a prosperous new year filled with advancements for the community and many new experiences at Online Starbase. The vice commander and I have authorized a couple of crucial elements which concerns all members.

First, the old silver rank set is no more as we have brought in color-coded division-based rank graphics for 'wear' by all personnel. Profiles have already been updated with the change.

Second, as many have already noticed, we've added much content to OSB layout such as the senior staff and departmental directory. Additionally, the base has been optimized for both "standard" and "widescreen" computer monitors in its graphical and operational layout. What this means is that the page will fit the screen on which the base appears to maximize space and bring the most features at-a-glance as possible upon login.

Concerning promotions, as we grow in numbers (and as departments grow as well) we're looking forward to officer advancement through the OSB ranks and I hope for 2010 to bring many well deserved promotions for our membership. ♦

ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS!!!!

If you were a staff officer in OSB's past, please contact LT Kal-El with your office, dates and historical recollections.

The Blue Alert is a publication created and distributed for the entertainment, education and informational use of its members. All statements and articles herein are the opinions of the author and in no way are to be considered official statements of the Online Starbase command staff or the OSB commander.