



## Letter From the Editor

**By: CDR Marshall Crockett**  
Chief, Dept of Public Relations

For those of you around the world who do not change your clocks in such a misguided fashion as we do here in many states of the USA, consider yourselves fortunate! Not only is daylight savings time a huge waste, but the two major philosophies for which it was created (add time in the summer for the harvest and extend daylight to save energy in the evenings) are both as useless nowadays as getting an hour less of sleep in mid-March. There are states in the USA that do not abide by the daylight savings and they all seem to be doing just fine. I argue the rest of us would too.

Anyway, Online Starbase does not work in daylight savings time and therefore not much will change except the conversion for those of us who now enjoy sunlight until nearly 1930hrs. Well, look at it this way: if you have to have the sun up two hours after you wake up and go down nearly the time you go to bed, you may as well begin enjoying outdoor sports, experimenting with the different kinds of sunscreen and praying that you are not actually a closet nosferatu. I'll work on my golf game for the next few months and get back with you on my progress! ♦

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## The Captain/First-Officer Relationship

*Part IV: Captain Picard & Commander Riker Continued*

**By: LCDR Yu'wanna**  
Sr. Correspondent / Feature Writer

One of the questions that have bothered TNG fans is why Riker, who had the ambition to become captain by the age of 35, would refuse his own command so many times.

The first ship command turned down was that of USS Drake- a Federation light cruiser. Riker refused this command to become the first officer of the brand new Galaxy class-Enterprise D. Later, during the second season in 2365, the captain of the Aries retired, and Starfleet Command chose William T. Riker to replace the captain. The Aries had recently picked up indications of an intelligent lifeform in the Vega-Omicron sector, but nothing was yet confirmed. In Picard's opinion, Riker was chosen, not for his military proficiency, but for his skill as an explorer and as a diplomat." While most of the people were sure he was going to accept the position, Riker began to have doubts and went to Picard for advice. Picard put the Aries mission in perspective to the Enterprise mission:

RIKER: I'd be a fool to turn that promotion down, wouldn't I?

PICARD: I don't know, and if you're asking me what I think you should do, I don't know that either. I can spell out for you, albeit crudely, what you are choosing between. As the First Officer of the Enterprise you have a position of distinction, prestige, even glamour of a sort. You are the second in command of Starfleet's flagship, but still second in command. Your promotion will transfer you to a relatively insignificant ship in an obscure corner of the galaxy. But it will be your ship, and being who you are, it will soon be vibrant with your

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## Officer Profile

*CDR T. Kerr, OSB Vice Commander*

**By: LCDR Yu'wanna**

Sr. Correspondent / Feature Writer



Name: T.Kerr

Age: Legal to vote, but not to drink...

Position on the Starbase: Vice Commander

Location: Pacific Northwest, USA

Hobbies: Reading, simming, chatting, music

Enjoys: Music, Star Trek, time with friends and colleagues, PT

Hates: Among other things, people chewing with their mouth open...

Guilty Pleasures: Fan fiction, toffee...

First Encountered Star Trek: Summer, early 2000's...

Other Interesting Facts: I am currently at university, have three horses, a kitten, and event.

How did you and Star Trek meet? I ran across a review of it in a special issue of *Movie Magic* magazine, and persuaded my library to purchase the Original Series, then DS9, TNG, and Voyager.

Which is the most valuable thing you've learned from Star Trek? The potential for humanity to reach a level akin to Star Trek's portrayal, and have a society where purpose, competence, self-discipline, mutual respect for differences, principles, and constant striving for personal and social betterment are integral and foremost.

Your favorite Star Trek race and why? No favorite...

Your favorite ST character and why? Captain Kathryn Janeway. Her leadership style certainly could be an example; balance between a commanding presence (while being short in stature) and warmth towards her crew, very good exterior control vs. deep sensitivity,

and being authoritative yet accessible to approach by her crew.

Any plans for the future you wish to share with us? I plan to go on an extended overseas trip, learn several more languages, and work for the United States government.

The things you like and dislike most about yourself and about other people? I dislike my issue of being overly critical of others, and other peoples' disrespect/regard for the regulations. I like my habit of being able to counsel others and make a difference for them, whether I know them well or not...

What do you like most about Online Starbase? The community we have, closeness with my fellow officers, and common love of Star Trek.

How long have you been on the OSB? On what circumstances did you join the Starbase? I have been an officer on OSB since July of 2007. I was looking around the web for good Star Trek sites and found OSB. I also heard about OSB in a Star Trek-themed chatroom I am also a member of, joined OSB, and the rest...

As the Vice Commander of the OSB, what are some of your most critical responsibilities and what challenges have you faced leading the SB? Some of my critical responsibilities are: advising our Commanding Officer on issues, projects, and ideas; mentoring junior (and senior) officers on departmental opportunities and promotions, as well as promotion recommendations. I have faced challenges in helping to lead the Base, in areas of strategic planning to make the Base better and more efficient in its functioning, from a Command perspective.

What future plans do you have for the OSB? Improvement of interaction between the Command staff and non-departmental officers, as well as increasing the size of our community here.

What words of wisdom do you have for new members to OSB that would help them get integrated? Look around the Base, all the various discussions, participate in the fun activities we have around.

Most of all, do NOT be afraid to PM me! ❖

## Why Department Service?

**By: CDR Marshall Crockett**

Chief, Dept of Public Relations

In the ever-challenging game of department service, some succeed and some choose not to play; I, for one, play to win. So what is it? A desire? A calling? A requirement? Or is it so much more?

When I joined the United States Air Force, I was given an opportunity of a lifetime, the chance to lead people as a commissioned officer. It was one of those moments in time that I can look back on and bear witness to the fact that it changed my life. While OSB is not the US military, or any other military for that matter, it has its own unique calling when it comes to serving in a department or actually leading one. It is this unique calling that has me in the position I am in today.

Department service is not for everyone. In fact, there are some who, no matter how long they serve on OSB, will never be in a department. I will argue that those officers will let one of the most enjoyable, educational and motivating avenues of OSB service pass them by. Serving in a department really completes a person's service to the base. Not only will the officer be able to learn some new 'trade', but they will be able to learn valuable skills like working within an online construct, meeting deadlines, setting a schedule, effective communication, managing a team, and leading people.

In only a few months, the three departments on OSB have made huge advances including a re-energized Blue Alert, history and recruiting efforts in Public Relations, moderation and shift leaders in Forum Security and Book Club, Trivia, SIMM and Caption Contests in Recreations. Our three departments have proved their worth ten times over and the ability for a smooth transition between department chiefs (as Security and Communications/PR have done in the past 6 mos.) only accentuates the leadership displayed by those in command.

Service in a department is not required for promotion through Lieutenant Commander, but that is not the time to become initiated to department service. When the promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade is certified, take the next step...send a PM to a department chief and ask how you can get involved. ❖

## History of the Federation

*Part II: An Uneasy Alliance Gives Way to Galactic Power*

**By: LCDR Kai-EI**

Deputy Chief, Dept of Public Relations

In 2154, a new enemy brings together four worlds that would later form the core of the Federation. When a Romulan scout ship begins causing problems, Terrans, Vulcans, Andorians and Tellarites set aside their own personal differences to form a temporary alliance to deal with the threat.

Remaining together, those same four peoples would form the Coalition of Planets just a year later. Soon other races joined the young coalition, some which were the Denobulans, Coridanites, and Rigelians. Many more would follow, and in 2161 just ten years after forming the Coalition of Planets, the United Federation of Planets was born.

Though peaceful and democratic in nature, the Federation soon became a power in the Alpha and Beta Quadrants. However, it wasn't all sunshine and rainbows. There were other imperialistic powers sharing that space, the Romulan Star Empire and the Klingon Empire. The Klingon Empire and the Federation would be enemies for over a century, until the Khitomer Accords were signed in 2293. Afterwards, the Federation enjoyed a period of peaceful exploration.

The Romulans were a different story. While the Klingons had been the primary adversary for the Federation, the Romulans were more low-key. Other enemies would make themselves known over time, like the Cardassians, Breen, Dominion and the Borg. ❖



## CONGRATULATIONS

Hip, Hip HOORAY to all OSB Promotees (eff. 26 Feb 10):

Brawn to LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

Shayle to LIEUTENANT

Cottingham, Kapt~'', Pike, & Spode to LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE

## FORUM SECURITY SHIFTS

You may have noticed that Forum Security has implemented a shift schedule to moderate and observe activity on the base. The shifts and shift leaders are:

Alpha: CDR Greg Campbell, 0800-1600

Bravo: LCDR Kai-EI, 1600-0000

Gamma: LT Foard, 0000-0800

Any questions, ask CDR Dragonlord, Chief of Forum Security

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ARTICLE SUBMISSION FOR BLUE ALERT NEWSLETTER

PLACE: PM TO CDR CROCKETT

TIME: 8 APR 2010, 2359 OST

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

## The Man Trap Review

Part III of III

**By: LT Lola Morgana**

History Officer

As the creature looks around for its next victim, McCoy lies on his bed in his quarters, trying to get some sleep, while Kirk and Spock scan the planet for Crater, so that they can confront him, and possibly find out more about who or what is killing their crewman. After confirming that Crater is the only life form present on the planet, Kirk and Spock decide to beam down to confront him.

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authority, your style, your vision. You know, there really is no substitute for holding the reins."

Ultimately, Riker turned down the position, for what he described as "self-interest. Right now, the best place for me to be is here."

Later, when Picard was assimilated by the Borg, Riker found himself in the position that he'd been avoiding: Captain of a ship and not just any ship, but the Enterprise. Being a captain of a ship was difficult enough, but having to replace Picard-the man who made a legend of the Enterprise- now that was extremely difficult. And this happened in one of the most unfortunate moments in Federation history. At first, Riker felt a little lost without Picard: "I'm sure Captain Picard would have something meaningful and inspirational to say right now. To tell you the truth, I wish he were here, because I'd like to hear it too. I know how difficult this transition has been for all of you. I can take over for him, but I could never replace Captain Picard. Nor would I ever try. Whatever the outcome, I'm sure our efforts in the coming battle will justify his faith in all of us."

Just when Riker was staring at the Captain's chair, asking Picard what he would do, Guinan comes in and explains Riker that his dependence on Picard must finish, for the benefit of the rest of the people.

It is then when Riker feels he's ready to captain the Enterprise as he managed to break the boundary and stand on his own feet. The moment he does that, Riker becomes the captain of the Enterprise, thus managing to use his full potential to save not only humanity, but also Picard. As strange as it may seem, he couldn't save Picard until he was ready to let him go. This way Riker proved to himself and the others his skills as a captain, so there was no need to leave the Enterprise only to prove himself.

After rescuing Picard from the Borg, Picard's respect for Riker grew even stronger:

RIKER: "How much do you remember?"

PICARD: "Everything; including some brilliantly unorthodox strategy from a former first officer of mine."❖

As this is occurring, the creature once again takes on the form of "Nancy," who visits McCoy in his quarters. As "she" is speaking with him, "she" becomes pleased that McCoy has such strong memories of her. While "she" is speaking to McCoy, Yeoman Rand, and Lt. Sulu find the corpse of yet another crewman.

While McCoy sleeps, the creature takes on his form, and reports to the bridge. As this is taking place, Kirk and Spock beam back down to M -113. Crater becomes panicked and tries to fight them off, but he is soon stunned. Finally, Crater reveals the truth about "Nancy." "She" is in fact the last member of a species indigenous to the planet M-113. Nancy Crater (the REAL Nancy Crater) has been killed by the creature over a year ago. He begins to ramble on about how the creature is like the "Earth Buffalo, the last of its kind", and he keeps it alive, as it appears to him in "Nancy's" form, out of "true affection." Just before beaming up, Kirk communicates with the ship, warning Sulu that the creature can assume anyone's shape or form, and orders him to put the ship to "General Quarters 4". Upset, Kirk angry tells Crater that the creature he has been protecting is "killing his people."

With Crater now aboard the Enterprise, Kirk calls a meeting. Those present at the meeting include Spock, and "McCoy" (the creature in his form). While they all suggest ways to eliminate the creature, "McCoy" suggests that they find a way to peacefully capture the creature, revealing to Crater whose form the creature has now assumed.

Kirk finally suggests that Crater identify who the creature is now masquerading as, but he refuses, still bound by some need to protect it. Deciding to use force, Kirk orders that "McCoy" take Crater to Sickbay to administer Truth Serum. Being quite skeptical about the whole situation, Spock insists on following them to Sickbay.

All of a sudden, an Alert from Sickbay begins to sound. Rushing to the Sickbay, Kirk discovers Spock injured, and Crater dead due to the ministrations of the creature. Fortunately for Spock, the creature does not have a taste for Vulcan blood due to different sodium contents.

Assuming the form of "Nancy" yet again, the creature

rushes to McCoy's quarters, hysterically claiming that Kirk and Spock are trying to kill "her" for no reason. Kirk comes rushing in, carrying a phaser and some salt to tempt the creature. McCoy still refuses to believe that "Nancy" is not who she claims to be, and inadvertently enables the creature to hypnotize, and begin to feed off of Kirk, while McCoy clutches a phaser, still unsure about what to do.

Spock then arrives, and begins attacking the creature violently, all the while telling McCoy that if it were really Nancy, it would not be able to withstand such a violent attack from a Vulcan, who has superior strength to a human woman. This finally makes McCoy realize the true nature of the creature, and he fires the phaser. The creature reverts to its true form, a hideous furry vampire-like entity with suction cup like discs on its hands, and a large suction cup like mouth. McCoy continues to fire at the creature, and thus saves Kirk's life.

End of Review

#### Personal Thoughts:

This was the second episode of Trek that I ever saw (after Plato's Stepchildren). It is one of my favorites, because it introduces the characters so well, and endears them to the audience. This was also the episode that made me a fan of McCoy, who, to this day, remains my favorite character. I highly recommend this episode, and it will always be in my top ten favorites. ❖



## Trek Back in Time

**By: LT Matt Foard**  
History Section Leader

Wow, doesn't time just fly by you? It feels like only yesterday that I stumbled upon this great community of Trek and here I am working for PR in the history section. And since its humble beginnings back in 2002, OSB has developed quite a rich history of its own, which we intend to record and share with all of you.

Our ultimate goal is to create a "living" document of OSB facts, dates and awards given. Many of the senior members here helped create and grow this site in its infancy to what it is today. We believe that you should all receive credit for the work you have done to make OSB the number one place for Trek!

A lot of good research has already been done, but there is more to do and we will need all of your help to make this document a reality!

I am honored to be part of this challenge and as a "new-bee" to this site. This will be a journey of discovery for me...getting to know all of you better.

Please - If you have been a former department member or department head and you know the dates in which you served, all I ask is a PM to get you on our wall of honor.

Remember this is a place to recognize all the great things that have happened here at OSB, and even if you're new to OSB, what you do today could go in the history books tomorrow! ♦

*Visit our Public Relations Website  
by going to:*

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

## OSB Writing Contest

**By: CDR Marshall Crockett**  
Chief, Dept of Public Relations

The Public Relations Department is always looking for creative writers. Contest Submission Guidelines are:

**Length:** 750 words maximum

**Deadline:** 8<sup>th</sup> of the following month, 2359 OST; PM CDR Crockett

**Topic:** Finish the starter at the bottom of this section

**Genre:** Any Star Trek genre is acceptable

**Don'ts:** Don't kill off any main characters, have relations between any characters beyond the ones established in ST canon, use foul language, overt sexual innuendo or verbiage, or any other distasteful item not covered here but would make you go, "What? Seriously?"

**MAR TOPIC:** "The away team consisted of the Chief Engineer, two security personnel and the Captain. As they materialized in the great chamber they came face to face with more than fifty armed guards. 'Please lower your weapons,' one of them said."

**WINNER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!!**

## The F.A.Q.s and You!

**By: LT Logan**  
Correspondent

Do you have a question about Promotions or maybe about the Department than you are only one click away from finding out the answers to the basic questions in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which is accessed by clicking the Link up the top right hand corner next to the Enterprise and also the link located down the bottom in the side menu.

In the FAQ you will find the requirements needed to advance in rank eg. To advance to the Rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade from Ensign you need to achieve the Following Requirements (This is according to the FAQ)

1. Approximately 1 month as an ensign.
2. Has been actively and consistently posting in the forums.
3. Demonstrates ability to follow regulations.
4. Department service not required to promote.

Also in the FAQ you will find information about Joining

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# The M-113 Creature

**By: LTJG Khan Noonien Singh**

Correspondent

The M-113 (also known as a Salt Vampire) was the name given to a now extinct creature that once lived on Planet M-113.

The creature stood a little over one and a half meters tall. It had brownish skin with purple highlights. Face had sagging folds, together with the yellow eyes, gave it a saddened appearance. The mouth was a kind of an inverted snout, within which were several sharp teeth. The body was covered in stringy whitish hair. The creature also wore a brown, net like garment and had the proportions of a typical humanoid with two arms and two legs, each hand having three thick fingers.

Each of the three fingers had sucker-like feeding organs. The creature used the extracted salt from its prey; a process that was painful, and left a reddish ring like mottling on the skin. The creature could also ingest pure salt through its mouth.

M-113 were stronger, stronger than Vulcans. A single backhand from one was sufficient enough to stun Spock; by contrast he hit the creature several times with double-handed punches, to no avail.

M-113 were also highly intelligent, capable of carrying on conversations with other intelligent beings. Some form of telepathy enabled them to draw an image from the mind of someone near; this usually of someone trustworthy and appealing. This image in turn enabled the creature to approach its prey easily. At close range, the creature could fascinate or mentally paralyze its prey, preventing it from escaping even if it saw the creature's actual form. The creature could feed equally well in its natural form or while projecting one of these images. When the USS Enterprise's landing party first encountered it, each member saw a different version of Nancy Crater, although they didn't realize it.

The M-113 creature could feed on Humans, but either could not, or did not wish to, feed on Spock. He theorized that his copper-based blood salts were unappealing or not nourishing.

In 2266, the Enterprise visited M-113 for routine

medical checks of the two scientists working there. At that time, they encountered what was, according to Professor Robert Crater, the last of the M-113 creatures. This particular creature evidently saw Humans chiefly as food. As there was no opportunity to question it, it is unclear if this attitude arose from desperation or if it was the natural outlook of the species; either way it proved dangerous.

In 2264 or 2265, it murdered the real Nancy Crater, an act that almost drove Crater to destroy it. In the end, the fact that it was the last of its kind, or perhaps its ability to assume any form, stayed his hand, and he lived with it for a year or more.

At the time the landing party arrived in 2266, the Crater expedition was dangerously low on salt, the creature's natural food. The creature's hunger drove it to murder crewmen Darnell, Sturgeon and Green on the surface of M-113; as Nancy Crater, it blamed Darnell's death on ingestion of a Borgia plant. Impersonating crewman Green, it returned to the Enterprise, where chance saved Yeoman Janice Rand from becoming its next victim. It followed her when she brought Sulu his dinner, and might have murdered both officers except that Beauregard, a curious plant in Sulu's botany collection, scared it off.

An encounter with Uhura, as a crewman drawn from her mind, also proved frustrating for it. Seconds from killing her, it was distracted by Sulu and Rand. It later murdered an engineering technician named Barnhart on Deck 9.

Around this time, Kirk and Spock found Professor Crater on the surface of M-113, and returned to the ship with him. The creature, then impersonating McCoy, sat in on a staff meeting at which it learned that Crater knew how to identify it. Before Crater could reveal (or be made to reveal) how this might be done, the creature murdered him, attempted to feed on Spock (who survived, presumably due to the differing composition of Vulcans' blood salts), and fled to McCoy's quarters. Kirk found it there, and attempted to lure it to him with salt. In the resulting scuffle, it overpowered Kirk and began to feed on him. It wasn't until the creature dropped its hypnotic projection, and Kirk began to scream from the pain of salt extraction, that McCoy shot and killed the creature. ❖

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and serving in a Department. For an example according to the FAQ you will find the following information.

How do I join a department?

1. Reply to open job announcements through a standard application process.
2. Be personally invited by a department chief to join his or her department
3. Contact the starbase vice commander or the department chief to state your interest in department service to get on-file.

You will also find out what awards are given out, lists of who the previous Commanding Officers and Vice Commanding Officers of OSB are and the duties of the staff members from the Starbase Commanding Officer to the Department Chiefs. ❖

## Blue Alert Staff

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CDR T. Kerr  
Vice Commander

CDR Marshall Crockett  
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LCDR Yu'wanna  
Feature Writer

LT Logan  
Correspondent

LT James T. Kirk  
Correspondent

LTJG Khan Noonien Singh  
Correspondent

## Points of Contact

### By: OSB Public Relations

Internal Public Relations Team

Did you join recently? Did you get promoted recently? Want to find unique ways to get involved? Below is a list of points of contact (POC) for your reference.

### PROJECTS/GAMES

USS Phoenix SIMM: CAPT Daxino Joel

Trivia Project Leader: LT Shayle

Caption Contest: CAPT Jade

Writing Contest: CDR Marshall Crockett

Book Club: LT Junglebetti

Blue Alert: CDR Crockett / LCDR Yu'wanna

Forum Games: CAPT Christian

### DEPARTMENTS

Dept of Forum Security: CDR Dragonlord

Dept of Public Relations: CDR Crockett

Dept of Recreations: CAPT Christian

There's so much for you to do here...but it's up to you to take the first step! Welcome aboard! ❖

## ATTENTION ALL OFFICERS!!!!

If you were a staff officer in OSB's past, please contact LT Foard 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.