

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THREE

ONCE AGAIN DUE TO UNBELIEVABLE RESPONSE FROM YOU GUYS I HAVE PRODUCED ANOTHER NEWSLETTER JUST CHOCK FULL OF NAVAL LANGUAGE AND SAYINGS, BUT FIRST WAS THAT A GREAT PARTY AT THE VFW DURING FLEET WEEK? IF YOU MISSED IT, I HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD EXCUSE. I BELIEVE YOU OWE IT TO THE CHIEFS VISITING AND YOUR ASSOCIATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY EVENTS AS YOU CAN. THANKS TO ALL THAT SHOWED UP. NOW LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE EVENT. WHILE SETTING AT THE BAR WITH ABOUT TWENTY CHIEFS PRESENT MASTER CHIEF ROBERTSON SAID LET'S HAVE A QUIZ ABOUT THE NAVY. GREAT IDEA...

SO, MASTER CHIEF ASKS, WHAT DO YOU CALL A CHIEF'S PEACOCK. TO MY SURPRISE AND MASTER CHIEF THEY ANSWERED REEFER. WELL STICK A FORK IN ME BECAUSE I'M DONE. MASTER CHIEF ALMOST FELL OFF HIS BAR STOOL. AFTER THAT THEY WENT OVER TO FREEDIES ANCHOR INN FOR A COLD ONE.

AND NOW A FEW TERMS YOU MAY KNOW OR NOT

BRIGHTWORK: ON A VESSEL BRIGHTWORK IS THE VARNISHED WOODWORK AN/OR POLISHED METAL
DEEP SIX: A FATHOM, THE UNIT OF MEASUREMENT FOR THE SEA, 6 FEET. SAILORS USED THE TERM TO REFER TO THROWING SOMETHING OVERBOARD AND IT HAS COME TO MEAN GETTING RID OF SOMETHING (DEEP SIX)

FREEZE THE BALLS OFF A BRASS MONKEY: CANNON BALLS WERE PILED ON DECK BESIDE THE CANNON, PYRAMID FASHION AND RETAINED IN A BRASS MONKEY OR RING. IF THE WEATHER WAS VERY COLD THE BRASS RING WOULD CONTRACT FASTER THAN THE IRON CANNON BALLS THUS CAUSING SOME OF THEM TO TOPPLE. FROM THIS, THE EXPRESSION WAS, AND IS TODAY, USED TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING WHICH IS VERY COLD.

AND NOW ONE OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES: WHEN IT IS TOO ROUGH FOR THE CAPTAIN, IT'S JUST RIGHT FOR ME.

BMC(SS) MICHAEL SHORT