



the Almanac

"I have not yet begun to fight!" USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD 6

February 28, 2012

Food Service Attendant CRANKING One Sailor's firsthand account

Story and photos by MC2 (AW) Frank Andrews

The job of a food service attendant, or FSA, referred to by Sailors as "cranking", provides an irreplaceable service that all ranks benefit from. They assist culinary specialists with food serving and numerous daily tasks, from washing thousands of dishes, to taking out thousands of pound of garbage after each meal.

Immediately upon setting foot into the S-2 galley, I heard through the raucousness a loud distant laughing voice proclaim. "I am the way the truth and the light of this galley. I'm a morale booster!" and instantly knew I had found my story.

"He is one of the funniest guys to crank with," said Electronics Technician Seaman Zachary Crisp, a former FSA. "He'll bust out in song. When we were in the deep sink last underway, it was interesting, to say the least. He definitely made washing dishes not so bad."

Meet the song singing, self proclaiming morale booster, Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler Airman (AW) Zebulon Petties, a food service attendant with Supply Department's S-2 division (enlisted galley).

Originally from Memphis, Tenn. Petties has a knack for computers. He earned an associate's degree in computer science and worked as a computer technician for Apple, Inc. Despite a successful two years with the company, he wasn't satisfied and sought out new possibilities in the Navy.

"I wanted more. I wanted to travel and go back to school so I considered the military," said Petties. "Plus I wanted to grow my resume and the military looks good on a resume." Petties has been on FSA duty for almost three months and brings his own personal touch to the job.

"I always come in with a sunny attitude and try and increase morale and have fun," said Petties. "You know you want to make the experience as good as possible. You can't come in here mad. You got to smile about it. It's only temporary. You just got to take the good with the bad."

(Continued...)



Aviation Boatswain's Mate Handler Airman (AW) Zebulon Petties leans on a broom while describing his experiences about being a food service attendant on Bonhomme Richard's enlisted mess decks. Petties has been temporarily assigned to S-2 division for nearly 3-months and will soon rejoin Air Department.

THE ALMANAC

(...Continued)

With only five days left with S-2 before returning to Air Department's V-1 division, Petties is now looking back and ahead.

"In my honest opinion, cranking makes you a better person for your division and it gives you more patience. You get a taste of what it's like to feed the crew. When you come down here you respect the mess decks and don't just throw your food anywhere. You have way more respect for those



S-2 Division's food service attendants take a break from their duties and gather for a group photo minutes before the start of lunch.

guys that make your meal because you get a taste of what they go through and it's not all hard work. You get to have fun every now and then" said Petties.

Petties has two years remaining on his enlisted contract and says he plans to make the most out of it.

"I just want to make some rank and see if I can ride it out. Maybe possibly do 20. So far I like it. It pays the bills and you get to travel plus you have great benefits."

Movie Schedule Tuesday, Feb. 28



CH. 2 Command Information --- CH. 5 AFN Sports
CH. 6 AFN News --- CH. 7 AFN Prime

ch.3

0600-1800 Raiders of the Lost Ark
0800-2000 Indiana Jones Temple
1000-2200 Major League
1200-0000 Hot Shot
1400-0200 Conan the Barbarian
1600-Chariots of the Fire

ch.4

0600-1830 Back to the Future
0800-2030 Caddyshack
1000-2230 Blade Runner
1200-0030 Hot Tub Time Machine
1400-0230 Twins
1600-Tron Legacy

ch.8

0600-1800 Airplane
0800-2000 Iron Man 2
1000-2200 Indiana Jones:
Last Crusade
1200-0000 The Big Year
1400-0200 Harry Potter:
Half Blood Prince
1600-Despicable Me



USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD-6) Public Affairs/ Media Division

Public Affairs Officer

MCCS(SW) Joe Kane

Editor

MC2(AW) Frank Andrews



PAO STAFF

MC1(SW) Kurt Riggs
MC1(SW) Duke Richardson
MC3 Marcus Stanley
MC3 Katherine Barkley
MC3(SW) Jacob Wiley
MCSN Nathan Lang

Commanding Officer

Capt. Charles E. Litchfield

Executive Officer

Capt. Joker L. Jenkins

Command Master Chief

CMDCM(SW/AW) Ted Verschueren