

DIRECTOR
PORTFOLIO ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE
STRATEGIC SYSTEMS PROGRAMS
CHANGE OF COMMAND & RETIREMENT



12 JUNE 2026
THE SAIL LOFT
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
WASHINGTON, DC

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

NATIONAL ANTHEM

MUC CORY PARKER, U.S. NAVY BAND

INVOCATION

CHAPLAIN BRENT WAGNER, LIEUTENANT, U.S. NAVY

PROMOTION

VICE ADMIRAL (SEL) DOUGLAS L. WILLIAMS

BY THE HONORABLE WILLIAM F. MAHAN

PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
(RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION)

GUEST SPEAKER REMARKS

REAR ADMIRAL R A (ROBBIE) LAUHLAN

CHIEF STRATEGIC SYSTEMS EXECUTIVE, ROYAL NAVY

KEY NOTE SPEAKER REMARKS

ADMIRAL CHARLES "CHAS" RICHARD, USN (RET)

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS & CERTIFICATES

READING OF ORDERS

REMARKS

VICE ADMIRAL DOUGLAS L. WILLIAMS

VICE ADMIRAL JOHNNY R. WOLFE, JR.

THE WATCH

STGCS EMILY C. NEWTON, U.S. NAVY CEREMONIAL GUARD

BENEDICTION

CHAPLAIN BRENT WAGNER, LIEUTENANT, U.S. NAVY

VADM WOLFE AND FAMILY PIPED ASHORE

DEPARTURE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY

RECEPTION



THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

The Change of Command is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval tradition. The heart of the ceremony is the reading of official orders by the relieving officer and the officer to be relieved. Command passes upon utterance by the relieving officer of the words, "I relieve you, sir." The officer being relieved responds, "I stand relieved." A similar procedure is duplicated hundreds of times daily throughout the navies of the world as each watch officer passes responsibility to his relief in the conduct of each ship's routine. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive. Its purpose is to strengthen that respect of authority which is vital to any military organization. Parading All-Hands at Quarters and public reading of official orders stems from those days when movement of mail and persons was a very slow process, and the ceremony ensured that only duly authorized officers held command and that all aboard were aware of its authenticity.



GUEST SPEAKER



Rear Admiral R A (Robbie) Lauchlan Chief Strategic Systems Executive

Joining the Royal Navy in 1986 as a University Cadet Entrant, he completed initial training at BRNC and at sea before reading for a degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Aberdeen. Following specialist Strategic Weapons training, he joined HMS VIGILANT in build as the Strategic Missile Officer. He then followed the standard sets of sea appointments and shore roles specialising in the delivery of Nuclear Deterrence with the Trident System.

He joined the Naval Staff in January 2011 and a series of staff appointments in London followed including the Trident Desk officer in Nuclear Capability, CBRN Pol and, after promotion to Captain in 2015 as the Deputy Head of Capability for the Nuclear Warhead programme. This included the planning for completion of the NW Capability Sustainment programme and the transition to the Replacement Warhead as well as managing the current stockpile of UK nuclear weapons. His last appointment in London was as the Deputy Head of Nuclear Planning in the newly formed Defence Nuclear Organisation where he was responsible for all aspects of targeting and UK military nuclear collaboration with NATO. A highlight was conducting the military analysis that underpinned the 2021 Integrated Review. He was promoted to Commodore in 2020 to lead the Trident Systems Project Team, part of the Submarine Delivery Agency, delivering the UK Trident major programme as Programme Director. He was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2023 upon appointment as CSSE. In this role he is the UK Project Officer for the Polaris Sales Agreement and SRO for the Trident Programme.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Admiral Charles "Chas" Richard, USN (Ret) Commander, U.S. Strategic Command (2019-2022)

Admiral Charles "Chas" Richard serves as President of IDA, where he directs the activities of more than 1,000 scientists, technologists and analysts.

A distinguished leader and strategist, Admiral Richard served in the U.S. Navy for more than 40 years, culminating in his role as the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command from 2019-2022. In this capacity, he was responsible for the global command and control of all strategic U.S. nuclear forces, overseeing a workforce of over 150,000 personnel focused on strategic deterrence, nuclear operations, and missile defense.

Following retirement in January 2023, Admiral Richard transitioned to academia as the Schlesinger Distinguished Professor at the University of Virginia's Miller Center.

Admiral Richard holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Alabama. He also holds a master's degree in engineering management from the Catholic University of America and a master's degree in national security studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

PRESIDING OFFICER



**The Honorable William F. Mahan
Performing the duties of the
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
(Research, Development and Acquisition)**

In May 2026, Mr. William F. Mahan was appointed to perform the duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development and Acquisition). In this role, he serves as the Department of the Navy's Senior Acquisition Executive and Senior Procurement Executive leading the Department's execution of more than \$100 billion annually in research, development, acquisition, and sustainment funding. His responsibilities include oversight and policy for Navy and Marine Corps research, development, acquisition, and sustainment programs for shipbuilding, aviation, space, weapons, unmanned, and communication systems.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Mahan served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Navy, where he led strategic alignment of Secretariat initiatives and policy implementation across the Navy and Marine Corps.

Before joining the Department of the Navy, Mr. Mahan spent more than twenty years in naval service and the defense industry. He was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of a defense engineering firm that specialized in systems engineering and integration, rapid prototyping, flight testing, and acquisition management. In this role, he led his company's support to the Department of War with expertise in advanced data analytics, technology development, and rapid flight testing to solve complex engineering challenges in our newest and most lethal weapon systems. In support of the Navy, he advised pioneering business processes to quickly and affordably leverage Other Transaction Authorities to rapidly prototype new technologies. He also advised engineering efforts to successfully integrate classified military payloads on commercial space launchers to rapidly test emerging technologies at scale.

Mr. Mahan is a Naval Academy graduate and a former submarine officer who completed five strategic deterrence patrols. He served as a Flag Aide in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and a Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Following active-duty service, he continued to serve in the Navy Reserve and retired as a Commander.

Mr. Mahan holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Naval Academy, a Master of Business Administration from Johns Hopkins University, and a Juris Doctor from George Mason University.



Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr.

Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe is a native of Somerset, Texas. He graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York, in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science in marine systems engineering. He earned a Master of Science in applied physics from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1994 and was selected to transfer to the engineering duty officer community.

At sea and deployed, Wolfe served tours as assistant weapons officer onboard USS Lewis and Clark (SSBN 644) from 1988 to 1992 and as an individual augment deployed to Iraq in 2007 with a forward-based team responsible for construction of courthouses and prisons in support of rebuilding Iraqi government infrastructure.

He has served in several staff and joint assignments, including as the lead systems engineer on a Ballistic Missile Defense Office joint skunkworks project, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico; as the liaison from Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) to the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy Command Control Communications, Computers & Intelligence (C4I); and as a technical investigator for the Columbia Accident Investigation Board where he served as a lead for foam loss testing and orbit impact analysis.

Since becoming an engineering duty officer, Wolfe has served in various roles of increasing importance within SSP including assistant section head for the Fire Control and Guidance Branch; technical division head at SSP's Program Management Office in Sunnyvale, California; deputy chief engineer branch head for Fire Control and Guidance Branch; the nuclear weapons security coordinator and SSGN coordinator; and branch head for Missile Branch. In 2012, Wolfe assumed duties as the technical director and deputy direct reporting program manager for SSP and served in that role until he was promoted to flag officer.

Wolfe promoted to Rear Admiral October 1, 2014, and transferred to the Missile Defense Agency where he was the program executive for Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense.

Wolfe was promoted to vice admiral and assumed the duties as director of the U.S. Navy's Strategic Systems Programs (SSP) in 2018. As Director of SSP, Wolfe leads the Navy's command responsible for Navy Nuclear Weapons Programs which include the Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) Trident II (D5LE) strategic weapon system that makes up the sea-based leg of the nation's nuclear deterrent triad and the Sea-Launched Cruise Missile-Nuclear (SLCM-N) program which was designated a Major Defense Acquisition Program in March 2024. Wolfe also oversees the Navy's Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) program, responsible for designing and developing the sea-based hypersonic strike capability for the warfighter. In addition, Wolfe is assigned as the U.S. project officer for the Polaris Sales Agreement, an agreement between the U.S. and United Kingdom that has been in effect since April 6, 1963, that allows the UK to purchase U.S.-developed submarine launched ballistic missile system to support an independent UK submarine nuclear deterrent force.

Wolfe is also dual-hatted as Echelon I director for Naval Nuclear Weapons Oversight Program (CNO N00NW) which provides regulatory oversight for the Navy Nuclear Deterrence Mission (NNDM) and technical authority on Navy nuclear weapons and Nuclear Weapons systems.

Wolfe's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with gold star, Navy Achievement Medal with three gold stars, Air Force Achievement Medal and various other service awards.



Vice Admiral Douglas L. Williams

Vice Adm. Douglas L. Williams is a native of Baton Rouge, LA. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. As a Surface Warfare Officer, his time at sea included sea tours aboard USS Anchorage (LSD 36) and USS Jarrett (FFG 33). He earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2002, where he was also selected for transfer to the Engineering Duty Officer community.

From 2002 to 2005, he was assigned to the Strategic Weapons Facility, Atlantic in Kings Bay, GA, to begin a career with Strategic Systems Programs (SSP). During this tour, he served in various capacities while earning his Engineering Duty Officer qualification. In 2005, he reported to SSP Headquarters and assumed duties as the Reentry Special Projects Division Head.

In 2008, Williams volunteered for an Individual Augmentee deployment to Djibouti, Africa at the Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa. During his tour, he was selected to act as the liaison to U.S. Naval Commander, Fifth Fleet to coordinate and support Counter Piracy efforts within the region.

In 2009, he returned to SSP Headquarters and served in many positions including the Missile Engineering Section Head, Strategic Navigation Subsystem Branch Head, Fire Control & Guidance Subsystem Branch Head, and the Missile Subsystem Branch Head. In 2017, he assumed the duties as the 18th Technical Director and Deputy Direct Reporting Program Manager for SSP.

In 2022, he was selected to the rank of Rear Admiral (Lower Half) and was assigned as the Director for Test at the Missile Defense Agency where he was responsible for all aspects of planning, designing and execution of the Missile Defense System flight, ground, and cyber testing, and Wargames and Exercises in order to support fielding capabilities to the warfighter.

On August 1, 2023, Williams was selected to serve as the Missile Defense Agency Acting Director for a period of over 5 months and oversaw the Missile Defense Agency's global mission to develop, deliver, and sustain layered capabilities to defend the United States, deployed forces, and allies and partners against missile attacks.

On January 1, 2025, he was promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) and is currently serving the Missile Defense Agency as the Director for Test.

Williams' awards include the Legion of Merit (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal (two awards).





PORTFOLIO ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE STRATEGIC SYSTEMS PROGRAMS DIRECTORS PAST AND PRESENT

Vice Admiral William F. Raborn, USN	05 Dec 1955	26 Feb 1962
Rear Admiral Ignatius J. Galantin, USN	26 Feb 1962	16 Feb 1965
Rear Admiral Levering Smith, USN	16 Feb 1965	14 Nov 1977
Rear Admiral Robert H. Wertheim, USN	14 Nov 1977	01 Nov 1980
Rear Admiral Glenwood Clark Jr., USN	01 Nov 1980	20 Jun 1985
Rear Admiral Kenneth C. Malley, USN	20 Jun 1985	26 Apr 1991
Rear Admiral John T. Mitchell, USN	26 Apr 1991	30 Jun 1994
Rear Admiral Peter Nanos, USN	30 Jun 1994	29 Apr 1998
Rear Admiral John F. Shipway, USN	29 Apr 1998	28 Apr 2000
Rear Admiral Dennis M. Dwyer, USN	28 Apr 2000	17 Jul 2002
Rear Admiral Charles B. Young, USN	17 Jul 2002	10 May 2006
Rear Admiral Stephen E. Johnson, USN	10 May 2006	07 May 2010
Vice Admiral Terry J. Benedict, USN	07 May 2010	04 May 2018
Vice Admiral Johnny R. Wolfe, Jr., USN	04 May 2018	12 June 2026
Vice Admiral Douglas L. Williams, USN	12 June 2026	-

STRATEGIC SYSTEMS PROGRAMS HISTORY

Strategic Systems Programs was created in November 1955 during a time when the entire country was driven with a sense of grave urgency to create a revolutionary ballistic missile system to compete with the Soviet's demonstrated ballistic missile capability. The Special Projects Office and its requirements were given absolute top priority over all other Navy activities. The Secretary of the Navy, along with all succeeding Secretaries, and the Chief of Naval Operations, gave the Director of the Special Projects Office complete authority to accomplish the aims of his plans and held the Director completely responsible for the results.

As a result of the confidence obtained by the legislative branch of government, and the dedication of some 20,000 civilian contractors, within three and a half years from the go ahead of the concept, a completely battle-ready POLARIS submarine fully equipped for action was on patrol. The first POLARIS A-1 missile (named for the North Star) was successfully fired from underwater by USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598) on 20 July 1960 submerged off Cape Canaveral, FL.

The success of the POLARIS A-1 program had proven that the United States Navy, with Strategic Systems Projects at the helm of the nation's submarine ballistic missile program, had created a formidable force, which would later become the Navy's contribution to the combination of strategic deterrent weapons systems known as the TRIAD. The POLARIS program evolved to encompass the development and launching of the POLARIS A-2 missile in October 1961 and the POLARIS A-3 missile in October 1963.

The Navy's Strategic Systems Programs Office next produced the POSEIDON C-3 missile, an improved version of the POLARIS. POSEIDON provided flexibility with the delivery of multiple warheads, widely spaced over a variety of selected targets. POSEIDON submarines terminated their strategic mission in September 1992.

The Navy's Undersea Long-Range Missile System (ULMS) was renamed the TRIDENT program by SECDEF on 16 May 1972. The first TRIDENT I (C4) missile was launched from the USS FRANCIS SCOTT KEY on 10 April 1979. In October 1981 SECDEF directed the Navy to fund an advanced development program for a TRIDENT II (D5) missile with a late 1989 Initial Operational Capability. The TRIDENT II (D5) missile was first launched from USS TENNESSEE on 21 March 1989. The Trident II Strategic Weapons System continues to demonstrate itself as a credible deterrent and meets all the operational requirements established by U.S. Strategic Command. Because of its proven accuracy and reliability, it has recently been life-extended and will serve through the remaining service life of the Ohio and Vanguard-class SSBNs and will serve as the initial outload for the Columbia and Dreadnought-class SSBNs.

The Director, Strategic Systems Programs is also the U.S. Project Officer for the United Kingdom's TRIDENT Program. A small British staff is assigned to Strategic Systems Programs and a U.S. Liaison Officer from Strategic Systems Programs is assigned to duty in the British Ministry of Defence to ensure prompt and effective support of the U.K. programs.

For over 70 years, Strategic Systems Programs has provided the expert design and operational talents that make the Navy's Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine force the world's premier strategic deterrent. Many of the management and operational procedures developed by Strategic Systems Programs are still the standard throughout industry, acquisition, contracting, and oversight programs.

April 6, 2023:



Vice Adm. Wolfe delivers remarks at the Polaris Sales Agreement 60th Anniversary Symposium in London, United Kingdom.

July 17, 2025:



Vice Adm. Wolfe speaks to the Program Management Office Flight Systems workforce at a celebratory event in honor of the 70th anniversary of SSP in Denver, CO.

April 9, 2026:



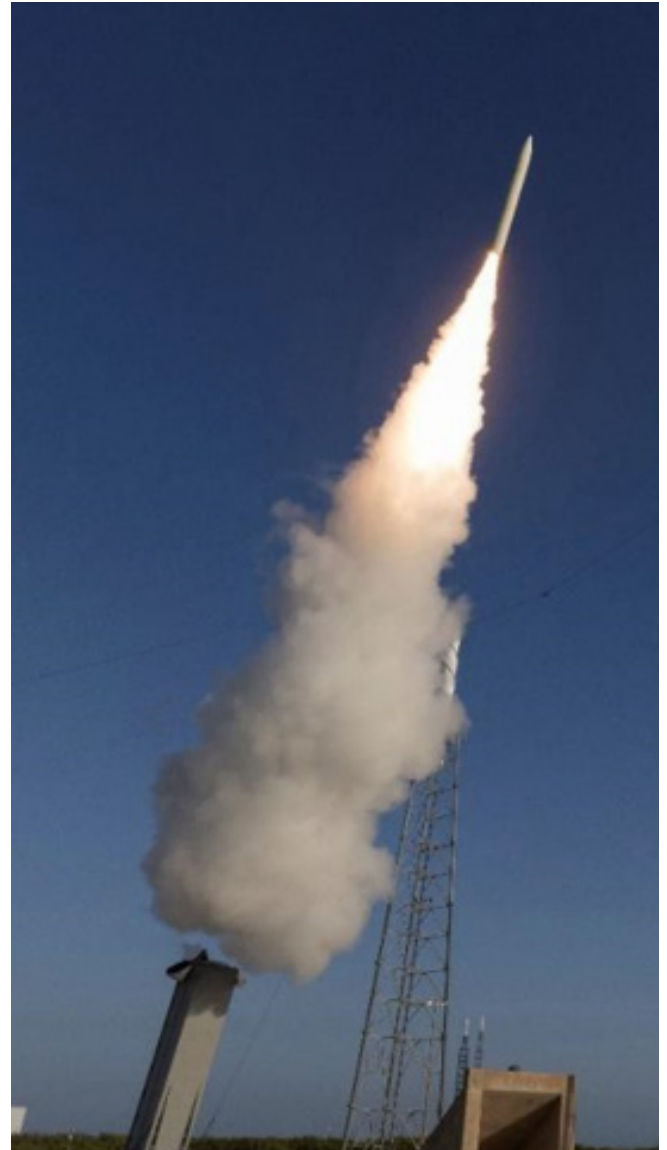
Vice Adm. Wolfe rides in a Mk VI as part of Mk VI testing and fielding efforts in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.

April 23, 2026:



Vice Adm. Wolfe answers questions from children of the workforce at PAE SSP's Bring Your Child to Work Day.

May 2, 2025:



A successful end-to-end flight test of a conventional hypersonic missile from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, FL. This test marked the first launch of the Conventional Prompt Strike (CPS) capability utilizing the Navy's cold-gas launch approach that will be used in Navy sea-based platform fielding.

September 17, 2021:



An unarmed Trident II D5LE missile launches from the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Wyoming (SSBN 742) off the coast of Cape Canaveral, FL, during Demonstration and Shakedown Operation (DASO) 31.

September 15, 2025:



Vice Adm. Wolfe participated in a celebratory event in honor of SSP's 70th anniversary with Program Management Office Shipboard Systems employees in Pittsfield, MA.

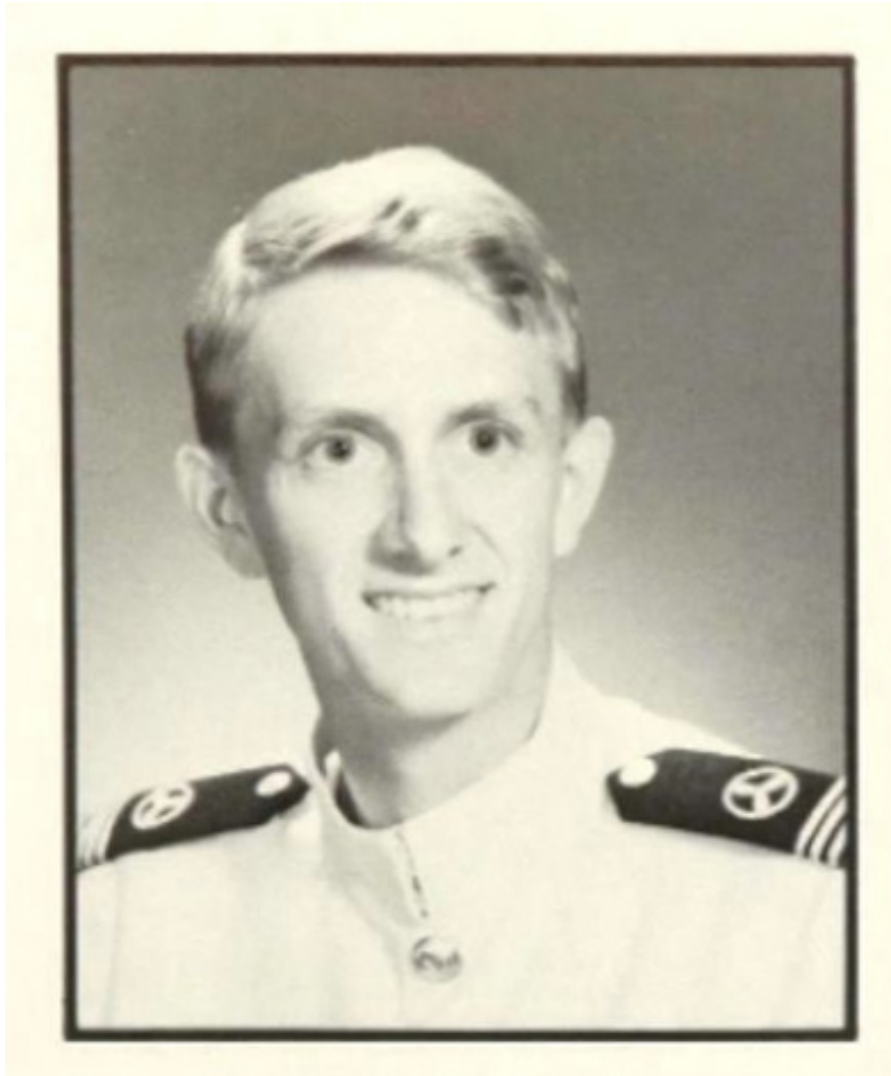
May 21, 2022:



Vice Adm. Wolfe and Lt. Cdr. Mike Sword enjoy a meal-on-the-go!







KING'S POINT ALMA MATER

Oh, Stately, strife born Alma Mater the sound
flows softly at thy feet and sunset strikes across
its waters as silver notes invoke retreat.
Now dim the paths and trees in darkness,
the stars above our way appoint.
We'll sleep secure aboard 'til morning.
God steer thee well, Kings Point!"



THE WATCH

***For thirty-eight years
This sailor has stood the watch
While some of us were in our bunks at night
This sailor stood the watch
While some of us were in school learning our trade
This shipmate stood the watch
Yes.. even before some of us were born into this world
This shipmate stood the watch
In those years when the storm clouds of war were seen
brewing on the horizon of history
This shipmate stood the watch
Many times he would cast an eye ashore and see his
family standing there
Needing his guidance and help
Needing that hand to hold during those hard times
But he still stood the watch
He stood the watch for thirty-eight years
He stood the watch so that we, our families and
our fellow countrymen could sleep soundly in safety,
each and every night
Knowing that a sailor stood the watch
Today we are here to say'
Shipmate... the watch stands relieved
Relieved by those you have Trained, Guided, and Led
Shipmate you stand relieved.. we have the watch..."***