



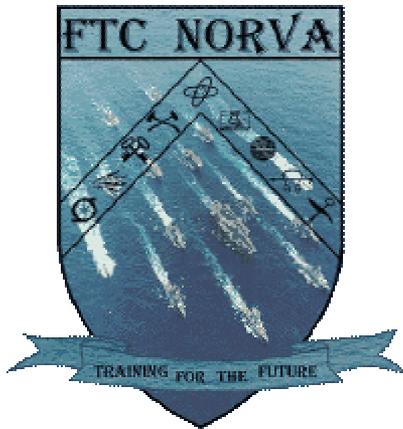
## RETIREMENT CEREMONY

for

**Chief Fire Controlman  
(Surface Warfare)  
Dennis Alexander Fain**



**December 7, 2000**



**Fleet Training Center  
9549 Bainbridge Avenue  
Norfolk, VA 23511**

# **Program**

**Master of Ceremonies:  
ETCS(SW) James Dallas**

**Arrival of Official Party**

**National Anthem**

**Invocation  
Brother Hilary Mettes**

**Guest Speaker  
LCDR Scott C. Colton**

**Presentation of Certificates, Awards, Shadow Box, and Plaque  
CAPT Fred S. Bertsch III  
LCDR Scott C. Colton  
FCC(SW) Kevin Barks  
ETC(SW) Corbin**

**Presentations to Chief Fain's Family**

**Presentation of Retirement Flag,  
and Passing of the Flag Ceremony**

**Remarks  
FCC(SW) Dennis Fain**

**Benediction  
Brother Hilary Mettes**

**“The Watch”  
ET1 Hubert**

**Piping Over The Side**

**Reception**

## Biography

Dennis Fain was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, while his father was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base. In typical military fashion, he was raised in many locations, including Texas, Rhode Island, Maryland, Turkey, and Tennessee. After moving to Falls Church, VA, he graduated from George Mason High School and lived there until joining the Navy at age 21.

Dennis went through Boot Camp, and more snow than he cared to, in Great Lakes, Illinois. He then attended Basic Electronics and Electricity school and Fire Control Technician "A" school there at Service School Command. It was shortly after Boot Camp that he married Gladys Manrique, and she joined him in Illinois.

Next was the move to the Norfolk/Virginia Beach area for more schooling at Dam Neck, finally arriving on his first ship, USS Coontz (DDG-40), where he worked his way up from Radar Technician to Division Leading Petty Officer. Coontz deployed to Operation Urgent Fury (the invasion of Grenada), followed by a Mediterranean Cruise, much of it spent off the coast of Beirut. He then transferred to Guided Missiles School, Dam Neck, VA, to teach the Terrier Guided Missile Radar System AN/SPG-55B. This was followed by a transfer, to USS Preble (DDG-46) where he was assigned as Leading Chief of 5<sup>th</sup> Division, in charge of the Terrier Missile Radar System Crews. The Preble deployed to the Persian Gulf area for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and then completed a Mediterranean Cruise before returning to Norfolk to be decommissioned. Chief Fain was sent to additional schools for the Close-In-Weapon-System (CIWS) and the Mk 86 Gun Fire Control System, he then transferred to USS Josephus Daniels (CG-27) as Leading Chief of the Gunnery Division. The ship promptly deployed to Bosnia with the NATO forces for operations Deny Flight, Provide Promise, and Sharp Guard. When the Preble returned to Norfolk, Chief Fain helped decommission the ship, then reported to Combat Systems Training Group as a trainer for Anti-air Warfare and Combat System Training Teams, but was soon assigned to ADP Officer, LAN Administrator and Command Database Programmer when they found out that he knew and enjoyed computers. It was like when the fox threw Brer Rabbit into the briar patch – he was perfectly at home.

Chief Fain's last tour of duty was at Fleet Training Center, Norfolk VA, as Branch Head and Lead Instructor for the Miniature/Microminiature (2M) Electronics Repair Courses, the AN/USM-646 computerized electronics troubleshooting system, and the Fiber Optics repair course. During this rewarding tour, he traveled extensively, training instructors and setting up new AN/USM-646 schools in Florida, California, Washington, Hawaii and Japan.

## **Some Naval traditions, terms and trivia associated with today's retirement ceremony...**

### **National Anthem; Star-Spangled Banner**

During rendition of the national anthem when the flag is displayed, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should render the military salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there.

### **Chief Petty Officers**

An Executive order issued by President Benjamin Harrison dated 25 February 1893 and issued as General order No. 409, gave a pay scale for Navy enlisted men. It was divided into rates and listed Chiefs Petty Officers. The Executive Order listed Chief Petty Officers as a distinct rate for the first time and it was to take effect on 01 April 1893. It appears that this is the date on which the Chief Petty Officer rate was actually established.

### **Passing the Flag Ceremony**

This is a special presentation of the retirement flag. The flag is passed from a sailor of the most junior pay grade held by the retiring service member, through the most senior. The passing of the flag through the different pay grades symbolically represents the many years of faithful, dedicated service to the Navy, and to the United States of America.

### **Boatswain's Pipe**

This pipe, which is the emblem of the boatswain and his mates, has an ancient and interesting history. On the ancient row-galleys, the "bos'n" used his pipe to "call the stroke." Since its shrill tune could be heard above most of the activity on board, it was used to signal various happenings such as work knock-off, meals, and the boarding of officials. So essential was this signaling device to the well-being of the ship, that it became a badge of office and honor in the British and American Navies, and it is still in use today.

## **Piping over the side**

Even though today's ceremony is not being held on a ship, the symbolic departure from the ship, for the last time, is carried out nonetheless. During this ceremony, the side boys will flank the "gangway" while the retiring member departs, accompanied by the Boatswain's whistle, and the salutes of the side boys. This ceremonial farewell is often extended to family members as well, as strength and support of a sailor's family is monumentally important in the completion of a successful Naval career.

## **Did you know...?**



The flag of the United States, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

The dignified cremation of the American flag is carried out by a number of organizations, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and various military fraternal organizations. As an example, the following is part of the American Legion's flag retirement ceremony:

"A Flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk. Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great; but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for—a free Nation of free men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of Justice, Freedom and Democracy."

"Let these faded Flags of our Country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites and their places be taken by bright new Flags of the same size and kind, and let no grave of our soldier or sailor dead be unhonored and unmarked. Sergeant-at-Arms, assemble the Color Guard, escort the detail bearing the Flags and destroy these Flags by burning. The members shall stand at attention."

## POW/MIA



You may have noticed a small table, where a place has been prepared, but no one has been seated at the table. It is for other comrades in arms - those who have gone before us in the service of our nation and haven't returned.

The military caste is filled with symbolism and this table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our fraternal organization are missing in action. They're commonly referred to as prisoners of war and missing in action. They're unable to be with us today and so we remember them.

The table set for one is small, symbolizing the frailty of one alone against their oppressors. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions, to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who keep the faith awaiting their return. The yellow ribbon tied so prominently around the vase is reminiscent of the yellow ribbon worn upon the lapels and breasts of the thousands, who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate to remind us of their bitter fate and there is salt in the plate symbolic of the tears shed by those who wait.

The glass is inverted, they cannot toast with us today.

The chair is empty, they are not here.

I ask you to render a toast with me to pay tribute to the sacrifices made for us by those who can not be with us today, those who have given us freedom, knowledge, and life itself.

A TOAST: To our missing comrades.

## Pearl Harbor Day

Today, December 7, 2000, is the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor. The attack started at 7:55 AM and lasted nearly two hours. Over 2400 servicemen were lost that day. Each year, members of the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association meet to commemorate the event, and honor their brave comrades that were injured or killed in the attack. The ceremonies start at 7:55 AM Pearl Harbor time, or 12:55 PM Norfolk time. Today's ceremony will be at Little Creek Amphibious Base. Please take a moment to send a silent prayer from your heart, and a whispered "thank you" to the survivors and their families, as well as the families of those killed or wounded. Then pause to think about those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in other wars, and those who've lost their lives through acts of terrorism as well. Freedom is not free – payments have been made, and the price has always been high. It is still being paid for every day.

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**Special thanks to the following participants,  
for making this a truly special ceremony:**

**Ceremony Coordinator:** FCC Barks

**Master of Ceremonies:** ETCS Dallas

**Guest Speaker:** LCDR Scott C. Colton

**Invocation/Benediction:** Brother Hilary Mettes

**Usher:** ETC Cheryl Dwiggins

**Read "The Watch":** ET1 Hubert

**Video Camera:** ET1 Jerue, **Still Camera:** ET1 Berg

**Music:** ET1 Roark

**Sideboys:** ETC Anderson, ETC Bodge, ETC Doyle,  
ETC Chewing, ETC Hayes, ETC Mobley, FCC Barks (alternate)

**Passing-of-the-flag Ceremony:**

**Coordinator:** ETC Mobley, E-7: FCC Barks,

E-6: FC1 Richburg, E-5: EW2 Pfingsten,

E-4: IT3 Carver, E-3: SN Ford,

**Flag Bearer:** SSGT DeGrasse

