

COMMODORE COCKFIELD, COMMODORE SOMERS, COMMODORE PEERENBOOM,
COMMODORE BURKE, COMMODORE CHADWICK, FORMER MULLINNIX COMMANDING
OFFICERS, ^{CAPT SKORUPSKI} DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
MULLINNIX, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR ADDING TO THIS CEREMONY
WITH YOUR PRESENCE AS THE LAST 931 CLASS DESTROYER IN ACTIVE
SERVICE IS DECOMMISSIONED.

IN APPROACHING THE TASK OF INACTIVATING MULLINNIX FOR SAFE
STORAGE I WAS ASSISTED BY VALUED ADVICE FROM TWO FORMER SQUADRON
MATES; CDR DENNIS TSUKALAS, FORMERLY CO OF EX-USS FORREST SHERMAN
AND CDR BOB JONES, FORMERLY CO OF EX-USS DAVIS. ADDITIONALLY,
FIRM SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FROM THE STAFF OF DESTROYER SQUADRON
FOUR WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE. TO EACH OF YOU, MY THANKS.

AS MOST OF YOU CAN IMAGINE, OR PERSONALLY ATTEST TO,
PREPARING A SHIP FOR DECOMMISSIONING IS NOT A "FUN" PROJECT.
ACCORDINGLY, I DETERMINED EARLY ON IN THE PROCESS THAT I WOULD
HAVE TO FOCUS MY ATTENTION ON THE MORE HUMOROUS AND SATISFYING
ASPECTS OF THE JOB IN ORDER TO RETAIN ANY SEMBLANCE OF SANITY OR
SENSE OF HUMOR.

INTERESTING ENOUGH, I WAS ABLE TO DISCOVER SEVERAL THINGS
THAT MET THOSE NEEDS AND I WOULD LIKE TO RELATE THEM AT THIS
TIME.

ON THE HUMOROUS SIDE WAS THE SIGHT ON THE FANTAIL EVERY MORNING AFTER THE SHIP WAS MADE AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF DISPOSABLE EQUIPMENT. IMAGINE IF YOU WILL A COLONY OF ARMY ANTS, EACH WAIVING A MULTI-COPIED TRANSFER DOCUMENT ASKING FOR EVERYTHING FROM THE SEAT ON THE CAPTAIN'S TOILET TO EVERY MAJOR PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN RADIO CENTRAL. SORRY WE COULDN'T ACCOMODATE EVERYONE, BUT I WILL ASSIGN HIGH MARKS TO ALL CONCERNED FOR INGENUITY IN FORMULATING THEIR REQUESTS.

IN TERMS OF SATISFACTION THERE WERE SEVERAL FACETS OF THE DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS WHICH LEFT ME WITH A GOOD FEELING. FIRST WAS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EVERY PIECE OF EQUIPMENT TRANSFERRED FROM MULLINNIX TO ANOTHER SHIP ADDED TO THE OVERALL COMBAT READINESS OF THE RECEIVING SHIP AND, THEREFORE, THE NAVY.

SECOND WAS THE PLEASURE OF HAVING THE HONOR TO SERVE AS THE LAST COMMANDING OFFICER OF A SHIP AND CREW WHICH HAS PROVIDED DISTINQUISHED SERVICE THROUGHOUT MY ENTIRE TOUR. FROM THE ACCOLADES GAINED FOR PERFORMANCE ON OUR MOST RECENT DEPLOYMENT TO QUALIFICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTED TODAY. BRAVO ZULU TO THE OFFICERS AND CREW. YOU DESERVE THE RECOGNITION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

THIRD AND LAST WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEMPLATE JUST WHAT MULLINNIX HAS DONE FOR THE NAVY AND OUR COUNTRY DURING 25 YEARS AND 5 MONTHS OF COMMISSIONED SERVICE. DURING THAT PERIOD, APPROXIMATELY 200 OFFICER AND 4,600 ENLISTED PERSONNEL HAVE

SERVED THIS SHIP AND THEIR COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH ALL OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOT CHOSEN TO MAKE THE NAVY A CAREER, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS GROWN AND MATURED IN THEIR OWN WAY, THEREBY MAKING THEM MORE CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS AND ULTIMATELY BETTER CITIZENS.

IT WAS WITH THESE THOUGHTS IN MIND THAT I WAS ABLE TO APPROACH THE DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS AND PREPARE FOR, WHAT FOR ME, WOULD OTHERWISE BE A SOMEWHAT SOMBER OCCASSION.

AS WE PROCEED TO DECOMMISSION THIS SHIP, THE LAST ACTIVE SHIP OF ITS CLASS, MULLINNIX WILL BE SENDING HER LAST CREW, 300 WELL TRAINED AND HIGHLY MOTIVATED PEOPLE, TO OTHER SHIPS AND STATIONS WHERE THE SPIRIT AND ATTITUDE ENGENDERED ONBOARD WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW.

MULLINNIX, I SALUTE YOU FOR THE LEGACY WHICH YOU AND OTHERS OF YOUR CLASS HAVE PROVIDED FOR OUR NAVY AND OUR COUNTRY,

THANK YOU.

BMC JONES: (Picks up Ensign, Jack, and Commissioning Pennant from the Quarterdeck, and then proceeds to speaker stand to make presentation to the Captain, ~~and then the Commissioning Pennant and Colors have been hauled down.~~ "Very well." (CDR SCHMIDT hands Colors and Pennants to CDR DEW.)

CDR SCHMIDT: (Takes Colors and Commissioning Pennant from the ship during his command tour." (BMC JONES presents framed pennant to CDR SCHMIDT)

CDR SMITH: "The last Commissioning Pennant and Colors flown from the USS MULLINNIX will be forwarded to the Naval Archives for safe keeping. Boatswain's Mate Chief JONES will now present the Commissioning Pennant from the ship during his command tour." (BMC JONES presents framed pennant to CDR SCHMIDT)

CDR SCHMIDT: "Executive Officer, debark the crew and secure the watch."

CDR SMITH: (Salutes) "Aye, aye, Sir. Ship's Company left, right face, Ship's Company debark the ship." (Band plays "Anchors Aweigh". OOD has watch team in ranks on Quarterdeck, makes last entry into log and signs out. OOD last man to debark ship)

CDR SMITH: (Salutes) "Sir, the crew has been debarked and the watch secured." (To CDR SCHMIDT)

CDR SCHMIDT: (Turns to NAVSTA representative and reports that MULLINNIX has been decommissioned: "Sir, the USS MULLINNIX has been decommissioned and is ready for turnover.")

COMNAVBASE REPRESENTATIVE: (Accepts custody: "I accept custody of the Ex-USS MULLINNIX.

CDR SMITH: "Ladies and gentlemen please rise. Chaplain Bass will deliver the Benediction."

BENEDICTION

CDR SMITH: "Guests please be seated until the official party departs. Guests and crew are cordially invited to attend the reception in the Enlisted Dining Facility on APL 29. Berthed immediately forward of the ship." (Band plays "Anchors Aweigh" while the official party departs (Captain Peerenboom, CDR SCHMIDT))
"Ship's Company, Parade Rest."