

Rapid Fire

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Special points of interest:

- Meet the Crew: Lt. Brandi Warren
- Story: Dakota & the Roughnecks
- Rising Star 19

Welcome Back!

Hey there!

Welcome back to Rapid Fire, the newsletter for the STARFLEET International chapter, the USS Dakota. Its been a couple of months, and as usual we've all been up to no good- getting awards and recognition and just plain doing "stuff".

In this new issue, we're going to detail all the happenings of the crew in the past few months. As well as future events. In addition, we're also going to add some new sections. Crew Bios (although if we do RJ's its going to be pretty short, and quite frankly, all he's managed to say yet is "mama" and "dada".) We're also going to be adding a crew story section. This issue is going to feature Chapter 1 of Gunny Walker's

Captain's Brief

COMMUNICATIONS OPEN

Attention to the words of your Captain.

Good afternoon Dakota,

As of this missive we are approximately 2 and a half months from completion of our shakedown. I wanted to say how very hard everyone ha worked to make this shakedown run very smoothly.



"Dakota and the Roughnecks". I would love to have other people contribute stories. Gunny's stuff is great, but the more material we have from different folks, the more flavorful the Rapid Fire can be. And really, do you

Our crew has achieved great recognition and awards for being a shuttle still in dry-dock. You should be proud of yourselves.

This week I will be putting together the final paperwork to set forth our status as a full vessel in Starfleet. The XO and myself are planning to have the commissioning party here at our home in Gastonia

want me to just drone on and on for filler? I think not :)

As always, please let me know what you think of this issue. What would you like to see added? What would you like to see different? If you'd prefer to see my editorial at the end of the letter- then hey, let me know. This is your newsletter! If you think we should do special issues (like change the colors) for certain events- let me know, all input is more than welcome.

Please feel free to contact me at celtica23 AT yahoo DOT com with any updates, additions, changes or corrections.

-PFC Mari Rivers

on January 1 2011. If you can think of ideas for food stuffs, drinks, etc, or we can take up a collections for pizzas' we can do that as well.

This is all about you folks, not the XO not me, but you.

Those individuals who have worked very hard behinds the

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(Continued from page 1)
scenes to keep stuff on track,
I thank you.

Once we commission to a full
ship, our real job starts. To
maintain an active base of
operation throughout the
year. That means activities,
continued recruitment, and
possibly further fundraisers
for trips abroad.

Again, I wish to thank you for
all of the hard work that every-
one has been doing during
these past 7 months to make
our shuttle known amongst
the brass of StarFleet. They
will be watching us when we
commission to see what we

can do. So let's show them!

Cmdr Cindy Jenkins

COMMUNICATIONS CLOSED.



A word from Gunny..

Unfortunately, Gunny Walker
caught a bug while attending
an SCA event recently and is
currently
out sick
this week.
Due to his
illness and
time con-
straints on
getting
some of the
articles out,
he was
unable to



get us a letter for this issue of
Rapid Fire.
Please send him your
best wishes for a speedy
recovery. Please keep
reading and sending all
your updates on test re-
sults and reading status
to TOP Sgt. Christianson.
Also, if you have any
questions about what
courses to take at Star-
fleet Academy, please
contact the TOP.



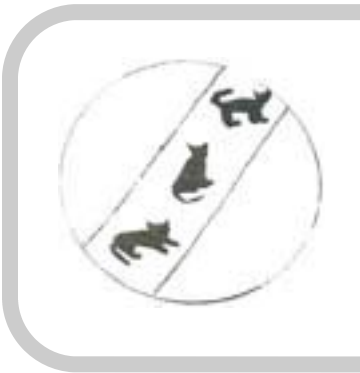
Small Arms Fire

Hello everybody,
Just wanted to say hi. I hope
your all having a good time.
We just turned in book cred-
its for this month and I say
"Great Job" to all who turned
in books. Shame on me, I did
not.:(Keep Reading Every-
one.!) I've created a logo for
Marine Cadets. It is only a
rough draft so please tell me
what you think.
I've decided to start a word of
the month. This month's word
is hard but very funny. It is:

hippomonstrosesquippedalio-
phobia!!!!!! Ha Ha Ha !!!!! How
long did it take you to read
that word? I expect you to
know what it means and how
to spell it. There WILL be a
test. Ha Ha Ha...just kidding.
Yes, hippomonstroses-
quippedaliophobia is a real
word. Don't believe me look it
up. Hippomonstrosesquipped-
alio-phobia is medically de-
fined as " The fear of long
words" L-O-L . That's just
ridiculous.

What if this happened?
Patient: Dr. I think have a fear
of long words.
Doctor: Ah! Yes! You have
Hippomonstrosesquippedalio-
phobia.
Patient:AHHHHHHH!!!!!!
Anyway I hope that made you
laugh a little

Thanks everyone,
MCC Victoria Gahrman



Rising Star 19

Rising Star 19 will be taking place October 22-23, 2010 at Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia. Ordinarily, you might just see a blurb about this in upcoming events. However, this is an important event for our ship.

The USS Yeager is the parent ship from which the Dakota shuttle launched. Not only that, but some of our members are former Yeager members and Rising Star Staff. Captain Cindy Jenkins has held a variety of positions within the Rising Star staff, including, but not limited to security and guest relations. PFC Mari Rivers helped out in the dealer's room when she lived in VA and PFC Meg Maibus helps out with Rising Star

almost every year.

Captain Jenkins has been with Rising Star and the Yeager so long, that she helped out when this con was



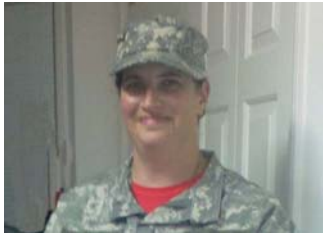
still known as RoVaCon many, many years ago. So, let's show some support to the Yeager and Rising Star. Especially since they've given us

the honor as being listed as a co-sponsor and we have lots of friends and family up there.

If you need more info, please feel free to post to the yahoo group or contact the Captain. You may even be able to get the con-block rate on hotel rooms if you hurry. Contact Bob Cook at [rwcook AT juno DOT com](mailto:rwcook@juno DOT com) about rooms.

If you would like to know more about the guests and activities, please check out their website at:

<http://www.rising-star.org/>



Meet the Crew: Lt. Brandi Warren

Lt. Brandi Warren is a 42 year old mother of one whose interests cover a broad range. Some of her more recent hobbies other than being a member of Starfleet include Medieval Re-enactment, online gaming, Ghost hunting, hiking, backpacking and attending Sci-Fi conventions. She is an avid reader though she finds it

hard to find the time to relax with a good book. She has recently developed a love for Paintball as she has participated in tactical training with the 173rd Marine Unit currently on board the USS Dakota.

As the Tactical Officer on board the ship, she is in charge of security and acting as the Liaison between the

Marine Unit and Starfleet. She has, as of yet, resisted the Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant's attempts to convert her to a full fledge Marine. She enjoys her post as a Starfleet Lieutenant. She is looking forward to attending events as a group with both the Starfleet crew and its attached Marines.

Show of support: (forwarded by the Captain)

Please consider joining the crew of the U.S.S. Star League in wishing the crew of STS-134, the final flight of the Space Shuttle Transport System, by adding your chapter's signatures to a "best wishes" card (good luck card) currently being assembled by the Star League's crew. Once completed, the card will be sent to the commander and crew of the space shuttle

Endeavor STS-134 about one month prior to their historic mission which will end this era of manned flight. The Shuttle program began with ties to Star Trek, so let us show them that we still care.

About the card:

The card that we are putting together has a suggested format as follows... Pages will be standard 8.5" x 11 paper. All chapters' and

departments' greetings will be assembled into one notebook by the crew of the Star League. The card/notebook's cover will be artwork supplied by Carnell Eubanks, the Star League's archivist. It will be an image of an American flag made from real clouds and stars with the shuttle arching across the stripes into the star field. *Continued pg. 6...*

Dakota and the Roughnecks Chapter 1 Episode 1

written by Gunny Dan Walker

Location: Star base 375, Cardassian Border Fleet base Stardate: 53768.21

International Bistro – Deck 3

Lt Commander Warren Jenkins, newly reassigned from the USS Walkabout, sits quietly reading and enjoying a cup of tea, in a small bistro.

Around him sit a combination of fleet officers and civilians that lived and worked on the station. Ever sense the victory over the Dominion forces 18months ago, life here had returned to a semi-normal state. People came and went carrying on with a renewed sense of purpose with 9th Fleet based out of DS9 and the reconstructed 1st Fleet basing here as a reserve conditions in the sector of space had improved greatly, commerce had returned and abandoned colonies were being re-populated with a promise from STARFLEET to be on guard like never before. Behind him a couple spoke softly, a cheerfulness that could be considered infectious to some flowed.

With a start the officer sputtered into his tea and turned to look at the couple. "Forgive me for eavesdropping but trying to find a way to join the million mile high club in one of the weapons stations may be considered a bad idea... "His eyes twinkled in mischief as their faces blanked with worry...

"We hadn't said anything about.... What you mentioned, how did you know?" the woman leaned over and asked softly now visibly embarrassed.

Smiling Commander Jenkins leaned over to her "I am half Betazid, and some times we just know"

The woman chuckled and shook her head "Fear not, you have got us now too worried to even think about it now, but thank you for your politeness."

"All part of the service ma'am."

Fleet Operations Tactical Information Center

Briefing room – Deck 5

Rear Admiral Lane sat in discussion with a pair of staffers at the end of a long table that ran the length of the room, also in attendance were the Captains of over a half a dozen ships with their first officers waited around the room for the meeting to come to order.

Relaxing at the foot of the table sat Commodore Jerry Conner, with him a very agitated and uncomfortable officer sits.

"Come on Calpernica, quit fidgeting." The Commodore's tone was amused.

"Aye sir, I will fidget less" the Lieutenant spoke with a half choked grunt.

It was so like the Commodore to pop surprises on his crew, and this was a doozy.

She silently sighed to herself and tried not to look worried, but with so much brass in the room something had to be up and the Commodore wasn't giving an inch on it. A bell sounded softly and the Admiral looked up at the gathered officers.

"If everyone would be seated we will get this briefing over with and get you all back to your ships." Reaching for a PADD from one of her staffers Admiral Lane took a moment to collect her thoughts. "First on the list is the redeployment of Taskforce 11 to over look the area of re-colonization. As of now we have 10 ships assigned to that sector and as of now we only have 6 in

*"All part of the service
ma'am"*



Chapter 1 episode 1 continued

active service. The remaining four are now here at Star base 375 with skeleton crews awaiting their alignment of command officers."



The Admiral looked down the table at the junior officers present and smiled briefly.

"Second on the agenda is the reported Cardassian activity that has been creeping up through channels, we think it maybe Orion's using Cardassian equipment to stir up unrest and allow them more chances at the shipping lanes that have been reopened in the last 3 months."

She took a moment to have a drink from a coffee mug in front of her and continued.

"Lastly is the arrival of the SFMC 1st Brigade it has been rebuilt and re-equipped and will be spread throughout the zone of control for 1st Fleet, we are also assigning individual MSG's to ships to act as needed on threats that may be more than ships security can handle.

There will be more on that later"

Lieutenant Calpernica Rhapsody, current serving Tactical Officer and Chief of Security of the USS Yeager suddenly became very interested in the conversation. Her role would be to liaison between the marines and the crew of the ship if the Yeager was to receive an assigned MSG, her head turned to the CO next to her and she whispered.

"Did you know anything about this before we got here? And is that why it was so important to get me here when I was off shift?" her voice was soft but accusatory as this could have been handled by the current duty officer in her department.

"To answer your questions, Yes, Yes, and shush."

With a quiet grumble she turned back to face the Admiral and continued listening.

"With manpower stretched thin across the sector STARFLEET has come through in a pinch and scraped up 4 more ships for 1st Fleet. 1 Centaur Class Frigate USS Gazelle, 2 Norway Class Frigates Hanson and Fife, and 1 Akira Class Cruiser the Dakota."

Again the Admirals gaze ran over the few junior officers about the table.

"Well then let's get this over with." She turned to the staffer on her right and nodded. The Captain stood with a PADD in his hand and cleared his voice.

"Attention to Orders!" came from his mouth and with years of training the entire room from Admiral to Ensign stood to attention.

"Dated this Stardate, from FLEETOPSCOM, STARBASE 375. To Lt. C Rhapsody USS Yeager. You are hereby directed and ordered with utmost haste to the USS Dakota, Akira Class Battle cruiser and take command at your most earliest convince. This posting also confers the promotion to the rank of Commander"

Calpernica turned her head a moment to listen to the declaration of orders and then everything went kind of blank...and blurry. In her mind that little voice inside suddenly screamed "What did he just say?"

Two decks above in the small Bistro, Lt Commander Jenkins sat up and looked about the small section of tables that extended out into the common area of the deck, he shook his head slightly as if he had just heard the scream of some wild woman in his head. But as he looked about outside of the coming and going of light civilian traffic it was just him? "Blimey, what was that?" he spoke out loud to himself, reaching up to rub the side of his head. He sighed and continued to drink his tea, noting he had roughly 30 min before he had to report to Fleet Operations for his reassignment.

To be continued.....

"Well then, let's get this over with."



You can find out more at:
<http://www.ussdakota.org/>

A Show of support continued...

Suggested format::

First page—A crew photo, ship art work, or your ship’s logo... or a combination of all three.

Second Page—A brief greeting and well wishes to the crew of the shuttle on the upcoming flight, under which your crew/ chapter begins adding their signatures.

As many signature pages can be added as needed/desired. Once a chapter has completed collecting their chapter’s crew and friends’ signatures, please mail the completed pages to:

Good Luck Card
C/O Carnell Eubanks
563 Hillman Street
Warrenville,
SC 29851

Pages will need to be received by January 2nd to allow time for assembly of the card and still have time for shipping to NASA Public Relations prior to the flight.

On behalf of the U.S.S. Star League, thank you for your time and consideration.



If you have any questions or would like to confirm your participation, please email me at darkon1 AT atlanticbb DOT net

Sincerely,
Carnell Eubanks
U.S.S. Star League

Upcoming Events

Sunday October 24th, 2010:
Paintball at Black River site in Angier NC

at Black River site in Angier NC
(Paintball is scheduled every 2 weeks)

field State College in Bluefield , WVa.

Sunday November 7th,
2010: Paintball



October 22nd– October 24th,
2010: Rising Star 19 at Blue-



<http://www.rising-star.org/>

Awards and Recognition

Promotions :

Private Joy Newkam to:
Private First Class

Birthdays :

Sgt Carl Christianson:
July 16th
Cadet Anya Walker
Aug. 7th
Ensign James ‘Ackbar’ Morrow:
Aug. 31
Corporal Tammy Walker:
Sept. 16th

PFC Mari Rivers:
Sept. 22nd
Commander Warren Jenkins
Oct. 1st
MMSGT John “Kiwi” Kane:
Oct. 17th
Ensign Paul Rivers:
Oct. 22nd

Awards :

(A belated mention):
Gunny Sgt Walker won the NCO of the year award (2009-2010)

Cadet CPL Tori Gahrman won the Region 1 Silver Star. The silver Star is presented to members that have graduated in the top 10% of their class. Tori recently graduated from Junior High.

