

NAVY POSTALS SERVICE HAS STORY



PCCS(SW/AW) CRAIG HOULETTE

The Beginning

- May 27, 1908

As a result of an Act of Congress
Federal Law is established that
allows shipboard Post Offices

- June 27, 1908

US Navy General Order No. 74
established Ship Post Offices

The Beginning

*US Navy
General Order No. 74 (excerpt)*

That enlisted men of the United States Navy may, upon selection by the Secretary of the Navy, be designated by the Post Office Department as "navy mail clerks" and "assistant navy mail clerks," who shall be authorized to receive and open all pouches and sacks of mail, to receive matter for transmission in the mails, to receipt for registered matter (keeping an accurate record thereof), to keep and have for sale an adequate supply of postage stamps, to make up and dispatch mails, and other postal duties as may be authorized by the Postmaster-General, all in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the commanding officer of the vessel or of the squadron to which the vessel is attached.

The Beginning

The Oath

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully perform all the duties required of me, and abstain from everything forbidden by the laws in relation to the establishment of post-offices, and post-roads within the United States; and that I will honestly and truly account for and pay over any money belonging to the said United States which may come into my possession or control. So help me, God.

WWII

MailMan Rating (MaM)

- As a result of WWII The MailMan Rate was in 1942 created with an (M) designation assigned to mail clerks.
- Men and women from civilian post offices were enlisted under this rating.
- 1943 the first Navy postal schools were established for enlisted personnel at San Diego, CA; Norfolk, VA; and Sampson, NY.



WWII

Post Office Crew Handled 3,000,000 items During Christmas Rush Excerpt Sampson . NY News

The Sampson Post Office has taken the double load of holiday mail in stride, working overtime to distribute three million letters and packages which have been received at the station in the last two weeks. In addition, a million and a half pieces of mail have been sent from the station. Lieut. James N. Towns, USNR, Postal Officer, said that the peak was reached on Wednesday. He said the post office staff has been working evenings on parcel post, and that the whole staff worked last Sunday. The normal complement of 115 mail specialists has been augmented by seventy student from the Postal School, who have pitched in to handle the load.

An indication of the burden placed on the staff, Lieut. Towns pointed out that during a normal week less than 1,500,000 pieces of mail, both incoming and outgoing, are handled, whereas during the week of 20 December, over 2,400,000 pieces passed through the building

WWII

Fleet Post Office

San Francisco

Commissioned May 1, 1942

- Addresses managed: 33,000
- Pounds of mail handled (1945)
- **1,083,164,30** lbs !



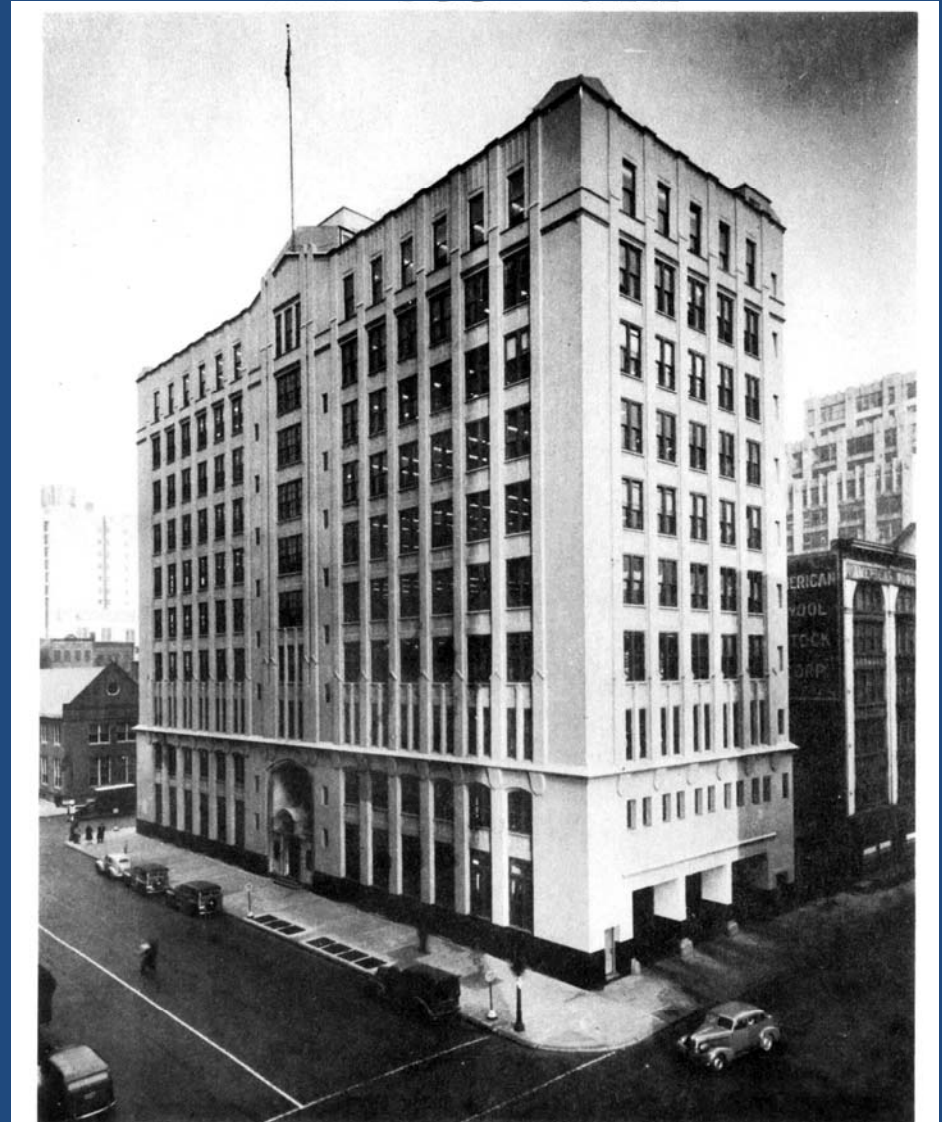
FPO SAN FRANCISCO



WWII

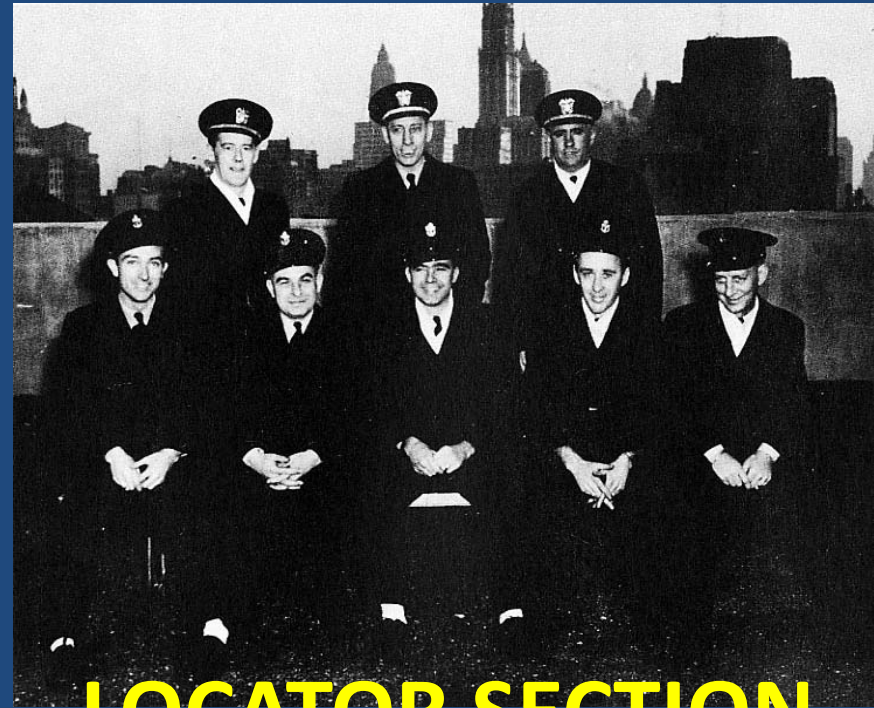
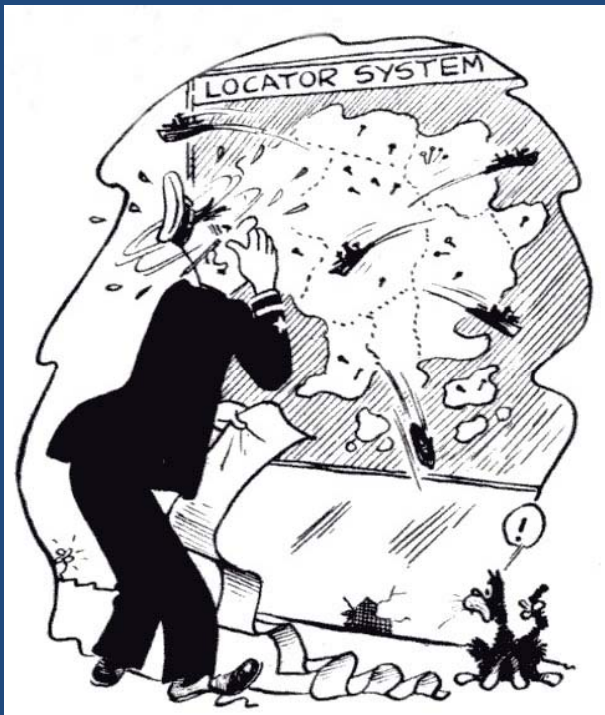
**United States Navy
Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.**

March 1946



WWII

**FPO
New York**



LOCATOR SECTION

- Routed mail for 22,000 Naval addresses



PARCEL POST SECTION





**Coconut mailed from the
Philippines by a Seabee 1944
(WWII)**

By the end of WWII there were
17,000 men and women serving
in the Navy Postal Service



The Next Era

1944 - 1948

In 1944 the MailMan Rating was renamed Mail Clerk (MC) and the Cancellation Bar Rating Symbol appeared for the first time



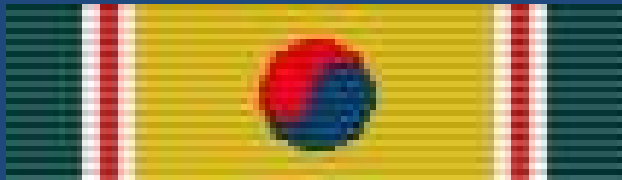
Teleman 1948-1959

- 1948 the Mail Clerk

Rate was merged with the
Radioman (Telegrapher) RMT
Rating



Korean War 1950-1953



Korean War 1950-1953

Mail Call
USS MISSOURI
1950
North Korean
Coast



Teleman in the Korean War

- By the end of May 1949 there were approximately 800 sailors serving as Telemen (Mail clerk)
- Telemen (M) operated 314 shipboard post offices and 44 shore post offices
- Increased demand for Mailmen during the Korean conflict led to the Teleman (M) rating being placed on the critical rating list
- The Naval Reserve had to be called to man the post offices afloat.

Korean War

**UNDERWAY
REPLENISHMENT
NORTH KOREAN
COAST**



MAIL CALL
MAIL CALL



The End Of An Era

1957



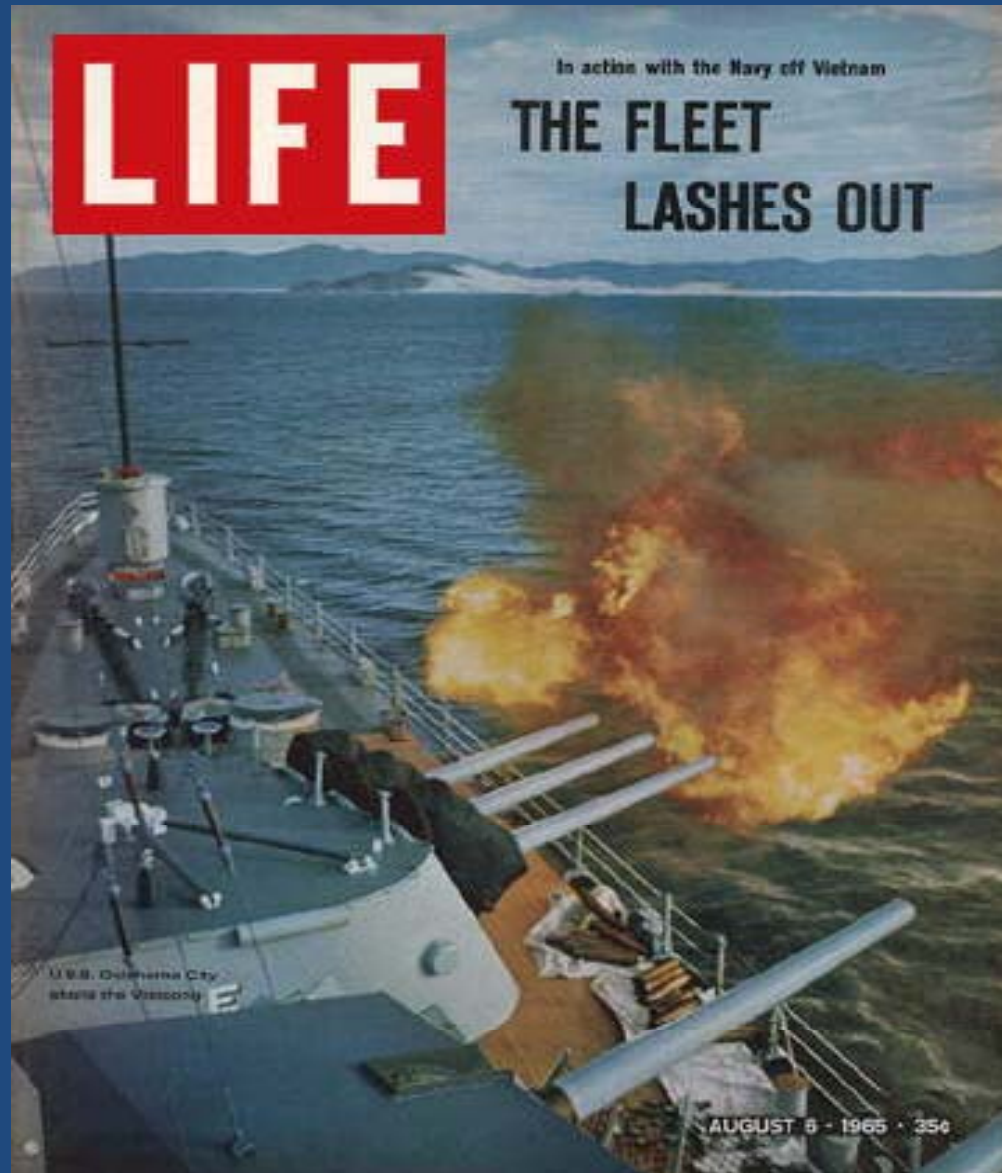
- The Teleman rating was disestablished and absorbed into the Yeoman and Radioman ratings
- Telemen (M) were converted to Yeomen and all Navy postal duties were taken by this rating
- This posed many problems for the Navy Postal Service and led to the call for a separate postal rating

1960

- A call went out to the fleet asking for volunteers to convert to a new postal rating
- In October of 1960 the rating was established a list was published containing the 644 names of those selected.
- This list consisted of personnel who had been Navy mail clerks, either as Telemen or from other ratings.
- The rating of Postal Clerk was born

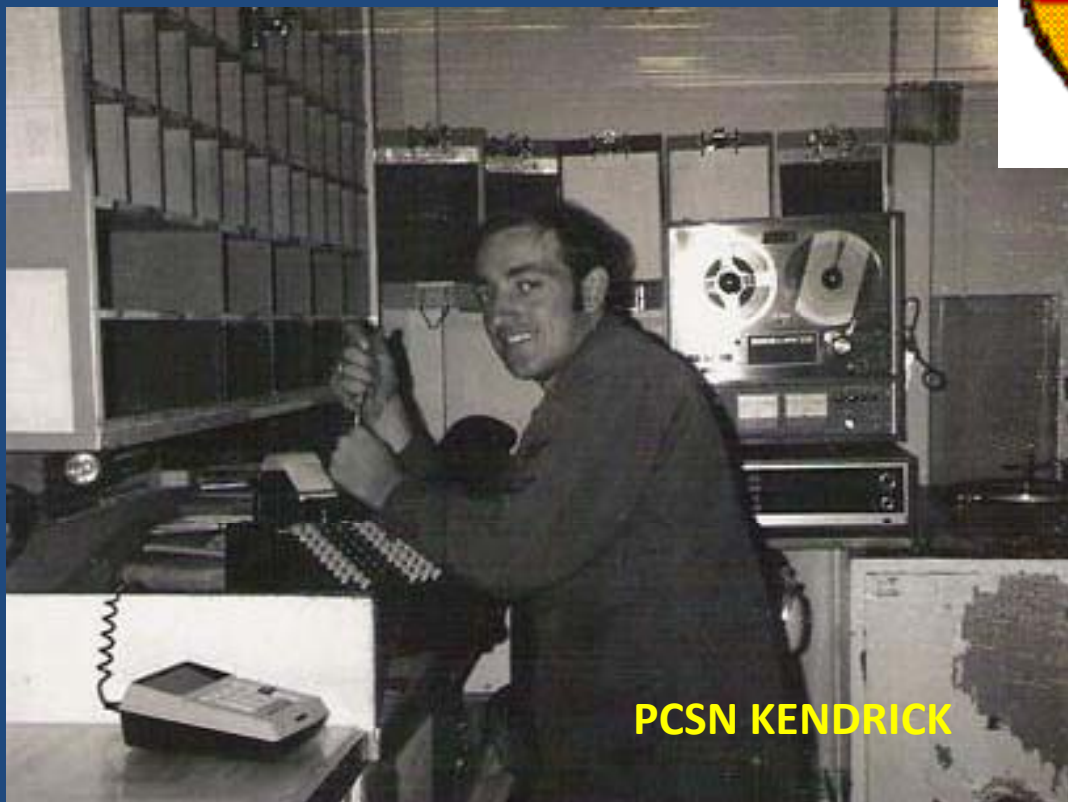


Vietnam Era



USS MAUNAKEA (AE-22)

December 1971



PCSN KENDRICK

Vietnam Era

Excerpt from Tom Glickman's memoirs
River Patrol Force (TF 116)
November 1967 – November 1968



In order to get Christmas letters to the patients in a timely manner, the postal clerk delivered mail as soon as it was received at the hospital instead of their usual once a day deliveries. The clerk delivering mail to our ward wore a Santa Claus suit. We noticed that as the day wore on Santa seemed to be getting merrier and merrier. It was obvious that he had a bottle or people were giving him drinks. At mid-afternoon, a conventionally dressed postal clerk came through the ward looking for Santa. They eventually found him passed out on top of a hooch. I can imagine what he must have felt like, dressed in that hot suit, sound asleep and broiling in the sun.

Mail Delivery

USS Hawkins (DD-873), 1967

Gulf of Tonkin



WELCOME TO
THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

and the



ANNAPOLIS BOQ/BEQ

'Saigon's Innkeeper'

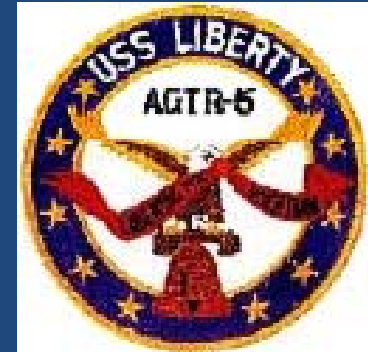
A COMPONENT OF

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SAIGON

VietnamGear.com

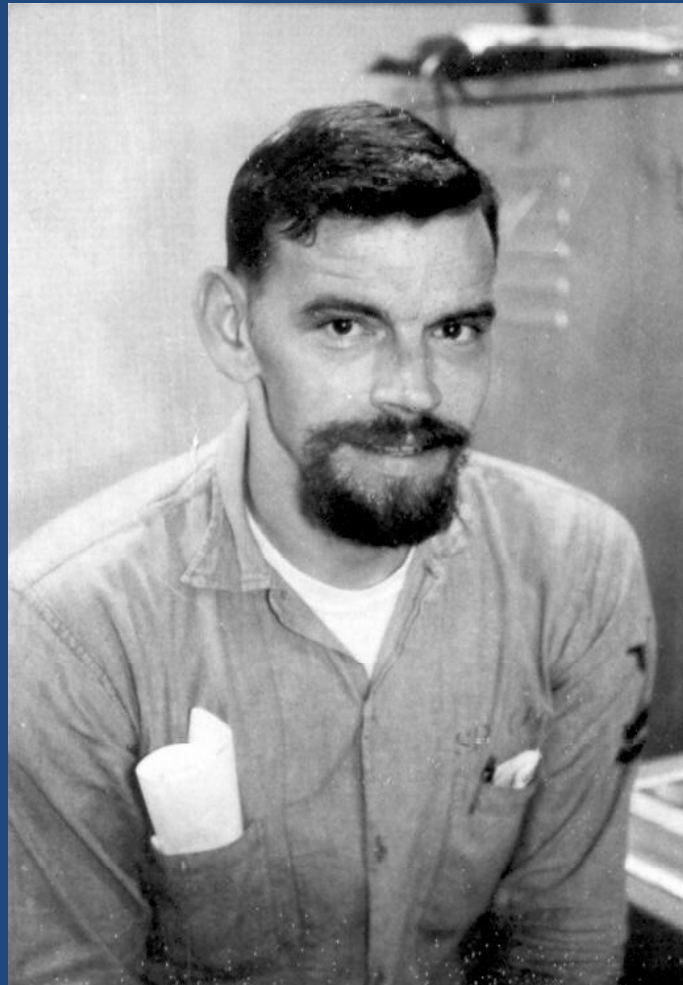


USS LIBERTY



After observing USS *Liberty* for more than nine hours with almost hourly aircraft over flights and radar tracking, the air and naval forces of Israel attacked the ship in international waters. Thirty four Americans were killed in the attack and another 174 were wounded. The ship, a \$40-million dollar state-of-the-art signals intelligence platform, was later declared unsalvageable and sold for scrap.

John "P.C." Spicher -- 1937 - 1967



**PC2 Spicher was
one of the casualties**

Postal Clerk A School 1968

San Diego



Desert Shield / Desert Storm

2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991



Desert Storm



Crew members aboard the guided missile cruiser USS WORDEN (CG-18) prepare to deliver outgoing mail to the aircrew of a helicopter during operation Desert Shield.



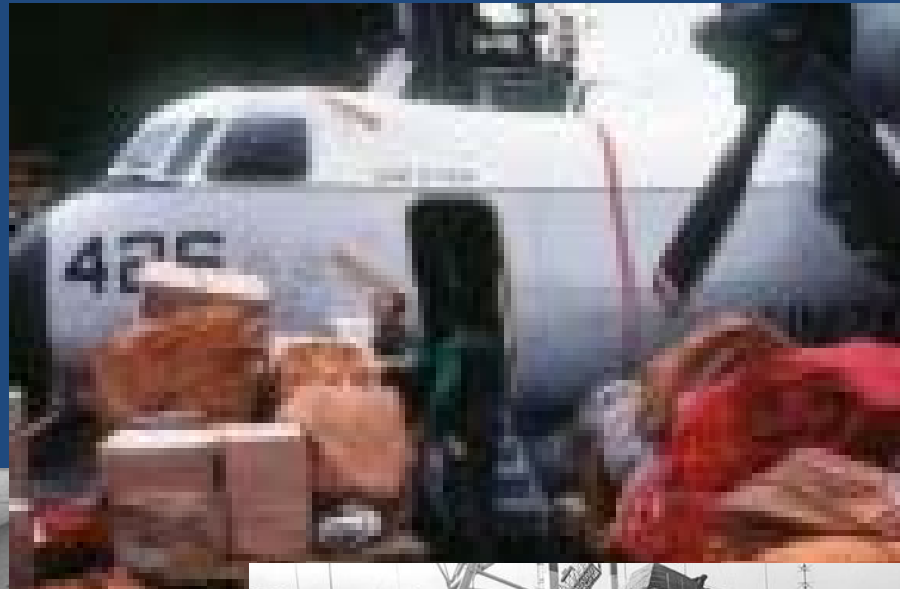


USS WISCONSIN BB-64

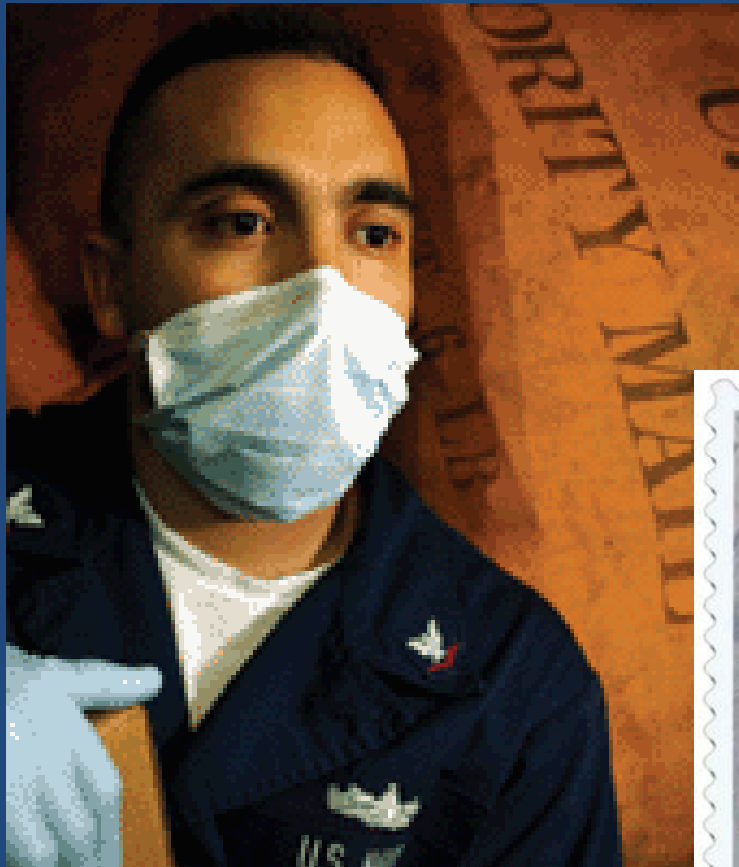




USS MIDWAY CV 41



9-11-2001



Operation Enduring Freedom Operation Iraqi Freedom



Small boat mail transfer
Northern Arabian Gulf

Postal Clerk 1st Class (SW) James Boyce fires the MK-38 25MM machine gun at a target during a small caliber assault team (SCAT) live fire exercise aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5).



PC's on the Job OIF /OEF



PC2 Franklin delivers mail to Soldiers at Stationed at JTF GTMO in support of detainee operations

PCC Tony Zarate supervises mail call Aboard USS Bonhomme Richard while conducting maritime operations in 5th Fleet



PC's on the Job OIF /OEF



PCCS Houlette handling Mail aboard USS GW while operating in NAG.



Postal Clerks handling Mail at FMC Yokohama

October 1, 2009

- The Postal Clerk rating is realigned and merged with the Store Keeper rating to establish the new Logistics Specialist (LS) Rating.



Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

