Ropeyarn Sunday â€œSea Storiesâ€• and Open Trackbacks

Description

Another opportunity to place your blogging in the eyeballs of my few readersâ€¦..Take a shot, who knows, you might get famous!

Sea storiesâ€¦.A short one. Itâ€™s about people, but itâ€™s about signs.

Ships, quite necessarily, have bulkheads and doors and hatches for the purposes of preventing the spread of fire and flooding. Modern day warships also have a wonderful thing called â€œair conditioning.â€™ Basically, while the average reader understands â€œACâ€• as a creature comfort, yet aboard ship, that machinery is there primarily to keep the electronics cool, so the operating life is long. If you are able to gain some creature comfort as a result of being where the AC is, then itâ€™s a bonus. Modify that with the ships built in the post-Vietnam era allowed for the crew living spaces to be air conditioned, to be nice to the crews.

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Toss in that the AC you encounter in such spaces as Radio Central, the data processing center, transmitter rooms, and Combat Information Centers (CIC) is set to almost arctic condition levels, because the â€œtwidgetâ€• maintainers believe the colder it is, the longer the equipment lives, and ergo, itâ€™s longer between casualties, which then requires lots of work to fix the finicky items. If you read persona accounts of life on ships in the modern era, you will most likely come across accounts of sailors, while deployed to such wonderful vacation spots as the Persian Gulf and the equatorial Indian Ocean regions will add a top layer of a â€œPea Coatâ€• or a foul weather jacket on top of their dungarees to go and stand/sit their watch in Radio, SONAR, or CIC related spaces.

So, to the story. In order to â€œsaveâ€• the cool, you need to maintain the â€œAir Conditioning boundaries,â€• where there are doors and hatches to the outside world, or the below decks engineering spaces. When ships are built, or overhauled, there are usually engraved bakelite plaques, mounted at eye level stating â€œAir Conditioning boundary â€“ Keep Closedâ€• (or words to that effect). Of course, some of the doors are on well traveled paths within the ship and in many cases, it makes sense, like loading stores, or bringing the stuff back from the SERVMART run, to hook or prop the doors open while carrying boxes, etc through the passageway.

Curious how this ends? Click here â€”>

Unfortunately, the doors, despite their warning, professionally posted, get ignored. This produces friction, as the people who work/live in the vicinity of the breached boundaries then get to suffer the indignity of high humidity and temperatures, as well as their equipmentâ€¦..

What happens? The sailors complain up the chain to the Chief Petty Officers, then they complain to the Command Senior/Master Chief, who then shows up at the Executive Officerâ€™s stateroom door, announced with â€œHey, XO, you need to fix something..â€•

You know where it goes. Plan of the Day (POD) notes, verbal haranguing of the Department Heads, who most likely roll their eyes and doodle in their â€œwheel books,â€• pretending to write the important point of making sure the taxpayers equipment is well cared for that the XO just so eloquently discussedâ€¦the result: Open doorways, and an attempt to stop global warming, using the Shipâ€™s well maintained AC Plantsâ€¦



So, how does it get fixed? Some sailor, disgusted with the inability of the chain of command to perform, takes matters into their hands and, grabbing a spare yellow legal pad and a fat marking pen, hand â€œengravesâ€• a new sign: â€œKEEP THE DAMN DOOR CLOSED!â€•

Hung with great care, on an off angle with cellophane tape, surely to clash with the horizontal and vertical order of the surrounding framework, in order to catch the eye by being â€œout of place,â€• gets read, and magically, people cease abusing the work load on the AC Plantsâ€¦.

Maybe, Iâ€™d often think, it was we just got to familiar with the signs and they blended into the background color scheme in our mindâ€™s eye, and it was not about ending global warming after all.

Category

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