Ropeyarn Sunday â€œSea Storiesâ€• and Open Trackbacks

Description

Câ€™monâ€¦someone must be writing good material out thereâ€¦..

Anyhow, while Iâ€™m waiting, hereâ€™s more of the story I left you hanging with from last weekâ€¦

Now, the tables had turned and it was going to be the crew of the USS SEATTLE (AOE-3) that would be holding the other end stick during an intrusion drill. Not to fear, OSC Mac, who had done some work with the SEALs in the South East Asian War Games, was in control. I was still and Ensign in training, so I didnâ€™t comprehend all that was going on. Anyway, the Chief concocted a wonderful plan. Step one was to get three believable â€œintruders.â€•

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- #1: ET2 Mike Krutsch. Disguise? Jeans, flannel shirt, hair pushing the regs. Story? Navy Exchange delivery guy with flowers for the SEATTLE XO.
- #2: OS3 Tom Mazzula. Disguise? Not really, he just wore his dungarees, butâ€¦he had a plastic baggie of â€œgreen vegetable matterâ€• partially hanging out of his pocket.
- #3: OS2 Relph (Iâ€™m not completely sure I have this one right). No disguise either, and nothing special in hand/on his person.

â€œThe Plan:â€• ET2, with a 3â€³x5â€³ card made black with magic marker, covering his red base sticker on the bumper of his personal Vega, drives down the pier (you actually could do that in those days), parking at the foot of the brow. Using his â€œexcuseâ€• of having to deliver the flowers, he would attempt to gain access to the ship. OS3 would, as soon as Mike got almost all the way up the ladder (about 30 feet long), would commence towards the quarterdeck, acting stoned/drunk. As he got the the top of the brow, OS2 Relph would also head aboard the ship. Saturation of the attention of the three watchstanders was the plan, in hopes of getting at least one past the security of the ship.

Wellâ€¦the results were in quickly, once the â€œPlanâ€• was put into motionâ€¦.Krutsch parked right at the foot of the ladder and was hailed from the Quaterdeck. He replied he had flowers (Holding the box high) (oh, yeah, Chief Mac paid for the flowers), and was waved to come up. They never asked for any identification, but then a guy looking kinda drunk was coming up the ladder just now. All attention focused on Mazzula. Mike stood by, then quietly wandered aft on the main deck area and proceed to head for the after superstructure area, where the Executive Officerâ€™s stateroom was. IN the background, imagine the hoots and hollers of the OOD, POOW and Messenger when they â€œcaught a doper!â€• red-handedâ€¦.Ohâ€¦OS2 Relph came up just as the commotion was in full swing and, not being fully questioned, inquired as to what happened. â€œWE just caught this guy!â€• (Holding up baggy of green vegetable matter as proof of the valiant response. Relph siddled off to the side, out of the gaze of the watchstandersâ€¦.

Oh, yesâ€¦I almost forgot. SEATTLE was one of those ships that we could not confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons aboard. Why does that matter? You had to have two response teams on call, the Security Alert Team (SAT) and Backup Alert Force (BAF), who would â€œrespond to intrusion attempts and were 1) armed and 2) trained specifically in the use of â€œlethal forceâ€• rules of

engagement (ROE).

Mike Krutsch made it to the XOâ€™s office/stateroom and, finding no one in the space, left the box of flowers (with included note â€œTHIS IS A BOMBâ€•) on the desk of the Executive Officer of the USS SEATTLE (AOE-3), having never been challenged by any of the crew on his way through the ship, looking like a civilian or over scruffy sailor in â€œcivies.â€• He then wandered back to the Quarterdeck area, at which time, the faces of the watch team went white, realizing they had been penetrated in a most unkind manner. â€œSECURITY ALERT! SECURITY ALERT! QUARTERDECK! AWAY THE SAT! AWAY THE BAF!â€• sounded on the 1MC General Announcing System. Mike, all grins, when asked if he was an intruder, answer â€œYesâ€• (the game rules) and then, realizing, as armed sailors came running, there was someone else unaccounted forâ€¦..

â€œAre you working alone?â€• â€œNo.â€• â€œSECURITY ALERT! SECURITY ALERT!â€¦â€• They finally found OS2 Relph in the forward part of the ship, where he had wandered off to.

Well, they were mightily embarrassed at being humiliated, butâ€¦it was nothing more than payback, with attitude. The Command Duty Officer was obligated to sign three Z-5-O letters, with two having to be indicated that they had been penetrated and failed the drillâ€¦..And, our manliness was feeling more intact, having paid the SEATTLE crew back in spadesâ€¦

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Oh, Chief Mac didnâ€™t just roll over and go back to sleep after this operationâ€¦.come back next Wednesday for the follow on report of sailors in port running drills.

Category

1. "Sea Stories"
2. Humor
3. Military
4. Military History
5. Navy
6. Open Trackbacks
7. Skydiving

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admin