Mustin Sailors honor Navy birthday with ceremony

Story and photo by MC2 Devon Dow, *USS Mustin* Public Affairs

GSEC Elmer Balino and ITSN Ricardo Rodriguez, assigned to guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89), cut a ceremonial cake to honor the Navy's 237th birthday on the mess decks during *Mustin*'s Navy Birthday celebration Oct. 12. Mustin is currently on patrol in the western Pacific Ocean.

YELLOW SEA - Guided-missile destroyer *USS Mustin* (DDG 89) held a celebration to honor the Navy's 237th birthday on the mess decks Oct. 12.

During the event, *Mustin* heard words from their Commanding Oficer Cmdr. Joseph Ring, followed by birthday messages from senior Navy leadership read by *Mustin*'s Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Steven Synder.

Mustin then rang a series of ceremonious bells, eight representing the end of the Navy's current birthday year and the ninth, symbolizing the start of the Navy's new year.

"Today is a day to be proud and remember all of those who made the necessary sacrifices to put us in the unique position we are in today as the world's finest Navy, happy birthday Shipmates," Ring said. "Patriots going to sea on ships, serving their country and Shipmates, this is who we are, this is our heritage and it started when the continental congress established our country's Navy. Today you all are here ensuring everyone's right to trade, travel, and do commerce on the open seas."

In keeping with tradition, the oldest and youngest Sailors in attendance cut the Navy birthday cake. Chief Gas Turbine System Technician (Electrical) (SW) Elmer Balino and Information Systems Technician Seaman Ricardo Rodriguez were honored with the duties of cutting the Navy birthday cake, which was prepared by *Mustin*'s culinary specialists.

"I was happy to be apart of the ceremony today," Rodriguez said. "Since joining the Navy I have experienced so much in so little time from recently visiting Malaysia to living and serving forward deployed in Japan. The Navy has a great storied history and I believe for the future, the best is yet to come."

In his message to the fleet, the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, sent his best wishes to Sailors and spoke about past and present Navy contributions.

"This year's celebration of our 237th birthday is highlighted by anniversaries that have defined us as the greatest maritime war-fighting force in history. Across the country, cities held Navy week celebrations for the bicentennial of the War of 1812, which guaranteed our independence and ensured our future," he said. "These events have shown the contrasts of our modest beginnings with the original six frigates at the start of the 19th century to today's 21st century modern fleet."

The Navy traces its origins to Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on Oct. 13, 1775, by authorizing procurement, fitting out, manning and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British army in America.

In 1972, then-Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Elmo Zumwalt authorized recognition of Oct. 13 as the Navy's birthday. The Navy's birthday is intended as a commemoration for members of the active forces, reserves, veterans, retirees and family members. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navywide celebration of the occasion to enhance greater appreciation of our Navy heritage and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.

SECNAV, industry leaders to explore 'The Art of the Long View'

By Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Ray Mabus and other key representatives from Navy, Marine Corps, industry, and the international community will speak at the fourth annual Naval Energy Forum Oct. 17 at the Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington.

This year's theme, "The Art of the Long View," highlights the importance of using energy in a judicious manner to enhance combat capability today and ensure availability of resources for future generations.

Panels and presentations will address progress toward SECNAV's aggressive energy goals and related aspects of U.S. and global energy security.

"Energy is a vital enabler of warfighting. It has been since before the Industrial Revolution, and we continue to recognize that today," said Rear Adm. Kevin Slates, director of the Chief of Naval Operations Energy and Environmental Readiness Division. "The energy forum is a great opportunity for dialogue among energy policy leaders and the participants about our successes to date, solutions in progress, and the vision for the future."

An all-star cast of panelists and speakers will present on various topics including expeditionary energy, energy in acquisition, international impacts, and industry perspectives.

Key speakers include SECNAV, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs, Sharon Burke; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics, Vice Adm. Phil Cullom; Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Lt. Gen. Richard Mills and U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen.

To view the full agenda and register for the event, visit http://www.ndia.org/meetings/3600/Pages/default.aspx.

To learn more about the Navy's energy goals, visit www.greenfleet.dodlive.mil/energy.

Follow event updates on Twitter (@NavalEnergy) and www.facebook.com/NavalEnergy.