The TRFB strategic plan focuses on three main objectives: implementation of innovation, and improved technology wherever reality. It aligns with our organizational goals, encouraging the improve upon the TRFB mission and bring the TRFB vision to through 2024, which builds upon the foundation of past strategic I recently approved the Strategic Plan for calendar year 2021 TRFB for your efforts in improving SSBN maintenance in the Last month I attended the Submarine Squadron 17 change of command where the outgoing Commodore specifically thanked TRFB for your efforts in improving SSBN maintenance in the Pacific Northwest. He was impressed with your workmanship, dedication, and willingness to work as a team to get our SSBNs out of availability on time and in a material condition ready to support the mission. I recently approved the Strategic Plan for calendar year 2021 through 2024, which builds upon the foundation of past strategic plans. The Strategic Plan’s primary focus is to continually improve upon the TRFB mission and bring the TRFB vision to reality. It aligns with our organizational goals, encouraging the implementation of innovation, and improved technology wherever possible to achieve timely maintenance requirements now and in the future. The TRFB strategic plan focuses on three main objectives: Improve SSBN Availability Performance. Continue to make TRFB the most desirable place to work. Shape the future of SSBN Maintenance. The success of this Strategic Plan requires commitment and participation by every TRFB team member. Please strive to incorporate these goals into all activities over the next few years. Encourage you to look for ways each day to make progress on these initiatives in your department and in your duties. Take the three goals and convert them to a first-person perspective. Consider how you personally can positively impact these areas within your role, for example: I will continue to make TRFB the most desirable place to work by taking pride in my work, mentoring others, treating others with respect, taking advantage of opportunities for professional development and sharing the great things about TRFB with my family, friends and colleagues. I will help shape the future of SSBN Maintenance by making changes within my authority and bringing my creative and innovative ideas to my supervisor for consideration. Lastly, the Defense Organizational Climate Survey (DEOCS) will be offered from Feb. 22 to March 15, 2021. This is a TRFB Bangor specific survey, it is a voluntary and confidential opportunity to provide feedback on the TRFB workplace. Insights from the survey will help me and the leadership team plan and take action to improve the health and climate of the command. My goal is 80% participation. Please take the time to share your perspective – your voice matters! Every teammate here – military and civilian – plays a vital role in contributing to the TRFB mission. Thank you for bringing your best to Team TRFB each and every day.

In Memorial

Chae Stewart

The TRFB family mourns the loss of Non Destructive Test (NDT) Examiner Supervisor II (General Foreman) Chae Stewart from Quality Assurance (Code 630), who passed away on Dec. 21, 2020. Chae was born in South Korea, and came to the United States when he was 13 years old. He learned English as a second language and was raised in California. He began working at TRFB in 1999 and was a long time civil servant with 21 years at TRFB (all in NDT Shop 9A) and as a prime employee at Mare Island Naval Shipyard - totaling 35 years of federal service. Chae is survived by his wife, Donna and two adult sons, Royce and Ryan. He was very active in youth sports, coaching his boys and other kids in baseball and soccer for many years. He was well known across the waterfront for his shop’s work with the NDT inspections on the Missouri-class battleships (BB-63). Chae was a key player in his NDT section and in his community. He was a very gentle, kind soul who will be greatly missed by all those who worked alongside him.

TRFB News Briefs

Special Emphasis Program (SEP) Volunteer Opportunity

TRFB is seeking a coordinator for the SEP Hispanic Employment Program. If interested, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity office at Jennifer.chaparro@navy.mil.

Parking Lot Closure, Mid-Feb. to April 30

The parking lot across from the lower Alpine parking lot will be closed from mid-February to April 30 for construction.

TRFB News Briefs

Edgar Benson will be stepping in for Pam Fernan as Trident Facility Bangor’s TRFB Quality Assurance (QA) Director after her retirement Feb. 27. Edgar Benson will be stepping in for Pam Fernan as Trident Facility Bangor’s TRFB Quality Assurance (QA) Director after her retirement Feb. 27. TRFB Announces New QA Director

By Mass Communication Specialist Chief Rebecca Ives

Trident Refit Facility Bangor Public Affairs

SILVERDALE, Wash. (Jan. 20, 2021) – Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) announces a new Quality Assurance (QA) Director Edgar Benson, following the retirement of Pam Fernan, which is scheduled for Feb. 27. Benson, a native of Poulsohu, Washington, started working for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PSNS & IMF) as a chemist in 2003. He was promoted to a supervisor position in 2010 and then transferred to TRFB’s Scientific Services Lab in 2015. He has been working as the Deputy QA Director since 2019. “This position is a huge responsibility. It’s important to understand the big picture and understand that every decision we make every day affects that big picture,” said Benson. “There are a lot of decisions to be made that have major consequences.” The QA Department is responsible for certification of controlled work, inspections, radiation safety, audits, critiques, assessment, nondestructive test, scientific services, and QA training. There are five divisions working to ensure all the ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) TRFB maintains meet all the submarine safety standards (SUBSAFE) and other technical requirements. They maintain all the certifications for the submarines through tests, inspections, and reviews. The QA Department is comprised of 155 personnel (107 civilians and 48 military), divided amongst the assessment, certification, nondestructive test, scientific services, and training divisions.

Benson plans to use his experience in the chemistry lab in his new position. “My background is in systems management and the chemistry lab, so I have a different perspective on managing quality that I hope will benefit the QA department,” said Benson. “As QA, I strive to foster an environment for workers that will empower them to make decisions for the right reasons and to make a workplace that people want to come to.” Benson will be taking over for Fernan, who has been the QA Director since 2019. Fernan, a native of Bremerton, Washington, started her career as a typist at PSNS & IMF in 1988. She began at TRFB in 2006 as a General Foreman and was promoted to Quality Assurance Manager and Deputy SUBSAFE Director in 2008. In 2015, QA became its own department and she was appointed Deputy QA Director. Throughout her career she has been a champion for women in the command. “Retiring is bittersweet,” said Fernan. “We have a phenomenal team at TRFB. Edgar is smart and a people person. I know I am leaving the department in good hands.” According to Fernan, after retirement, she will be traveling and may eventually sell her home and move someplace warmer. “Pam has been instrumental in getting us (TRFB) where we are. She is an amazing person,” said Benson. “It’ll be sad to see her go, but … she has earned her retirement.”
Congratulations FY 2021 Chief Petty Officers!

HTC James Avery, Ft. Worth, TX
MMAC J.D. Burke, Benicia, CA
GSMC Josiah Bunch, Chanute, KS
ETVC Nicholas Callands, Plainfield, NJ
MMC Matthew Collins, Warrenton, OR
MMAC Russell Drost, Silverdale, WA
NDC Thomas Gerace, Chesapeake, VA
MMC Benjamin Gicheru, Nairobi, Kenya
MMC Noel Gonzaga, Costa Mesa, CA
HTC Bryan Jackson, Scappoose, OR
MMC Nina Rivera, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
MMC William Robacker, Quincy, IL
HTC Derek Rody, Lafayette, IN
MTC Arlie Southard, Sandy, OR
MMC Austin Tussey, St. John, IN
STSC Edmund Villasana, Athens, TX

Left page: Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) and Naval Underwater Warfare Center (NUWC) Keyport’s new Chief Petty Officers stand at attention during the Fiscal Year ‘21 Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony at the Olympic Lodge on Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Jan. 29 (top). TRFB and NUWC’s Chief Petty Officers march into the CPO Pinning Ceremony (left). Hull Maintenance Technician Chief Derek Rody is pinned by his son (right). This page (top to bottom): Electronics Technician (Navigation) Chief Nicholas Callands is pinned by his daughter and wife, Tylandra; Machinist Mate Chief William Robacker is pinned by his father, William Robacker; Machinist Mate Chief Matthew Collins is pinned by his wife, Kayla; Chief vessels and covers lined up for ceremony.

CPO Pinning continued on page 6

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ian Kinkead/released
CPO Pinning continued from page 5

Left page (top to bottom): Hull Maintenance Technician Chief James Avery and his wife, Satoko; Machinist Mate Chief Benjamin Gicheru is pinned by his friend, Alan Onsa Ramne; Missile Technician Chief Arlie Southard is pinned by his wife, Diana; Chief Noel Gonzaga is pinned by his mentor, Senior Chief Robert Diaz. This page (clockwise): Sonar Technician (Submarine) Chief Edmund Villasana poses with his wife, Jennifer, and son, Edmund T. Villasana, Jr.; Gas Turbine Systems Technician (Mechanical) Chief Jason Burk is pinned by his wife, Brenda, and daughter, Chrystal; Hull Maintenance Technician Chief Bryan Jackson is pinned by his wife, Kerri, and Machinist Mate (Nuclear) Chief Bandon Sleeper; Machinist Mate (Auxiliary) Chief Russell Drost is capped by his sponsor, Chief Matt Baker; Machinist Mate Chief Austin Tunney poses with his wife, Amee, and sons, Emmett, Navy Diver Chief Thomas Garace III, Naval Underwater Warfare Center Kegorst, poses with his wife, Amanda, and his father, retired Senior Chief Thomas Garace II; Machinist Mate Chief Nina Rivera is capped by her husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Frank Rivera, in the presence of his sons, Dante and Frank, Jr.

Refit Review
MISSION
To support our nation’s strategic deterrent by repairing, incrementally overhauling and modernizing Pacific Fleet SSBNs during refits.

VISION
We are a highly capable and responsive maintenance command supporting the Pacific SSBN Fleet with professional, skilled and dedicated people.

OBJECTIVES
- Improve SSBN availability performance
- Make our command the most desirable place to work
- Shape the future of SSBN maintenance