

## THE PRESTIGE AND THE BURDEN OF COMMAND

Only a seaman realizes to what great extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to understand. But it is so!

A ship at sea is a distinct world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility, and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire, and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; never-the-less, Command is the spur which has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is the duty which most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world . . . Captain!



The story of **MILLER'S** deployment with the Standing Naval Force Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT) will be unique. The uniqueness is created by the amount and nature of operations performed, the liberty ports visited and the ships with whom we sailed. On our return from this deployment each man on the **MILLER** may rightly say he has been tested in the toughest of company and competition and each man richly deserves to say he committed himself well. The commitment was at sea and ashore, with both equally and professionally fulfilled.

We have worked hard and played hard during our six months with NATO. For most of us this has been a "once in a life time" deployment, regrettably never to occur again. The successes enjoyed are the result of sustained superior performances by all in keeping with "**MILLER** Does It Right".

I am exceptionally proud to have served as your Commanding Officer. **THANK YOU.**

With best wishes

R.V. Gamba  
CDR USN  
Commanding Officer