

Press release (17 Aug 05): Commanding Officer who fired Chaplain receives Navy's highest community service award for Chaplain's program.

Norfolk, VA (www.persuade.tv): The Naval Chief of Chaplains has selected and awarded the Navy's highest community service award in a small ship category, the 2004 Good Neighbor Flagship Award, to USS ANZIO and Captain James Carr, the same Commanding Officer who fired his junior chaplain who led that ship's community service program.

“Captain Carr just received this award from the Chief of Chaplains, for having the best volunteer ship in the Navy, but his duties precluded him from volunteering with us, instead he privately criticized my volunteers for not being model Sailors, and drummed many of them out of the Navy for ‘discipline problems,’ ” said Chaplain Klingenschmitt, who organized, led, and personally attended nearly all the ship's community service events.

Klingenschmitt was relieved of duty, transferred ashore, given a downgraded fitness evaluation, and given an unfavorable recommendation for continuation on active duty, after Carr disapproved of one of his optionally-attended sermons in the base chapel.

ANZIO was also selected Navy-wide runner-up for their “adopt-a-school” mentoring program, the 2004 Personal Excellence Flagship Award.

“Our Sailors deserve all the credit, for their countless volunteer hours, feeding the homeless every Friday, mentoring children every Wednesday, and their many volunteer projects overseas” said Klingenschmitt. “Not only did they serve their country full-time, but they spent their off-duty time caring for the poor. You can tell our motivation wasn't to win medals or awards.”

Unconfirmed reports suggest Captain Carr will receive a personal medal, the Legion of Merit, on 19 August at a public ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk, and promotion to an important shore command, setting up his selection to Rear Admiral later this year.

Klingenschmitt, however, was denied the customary commendation medal given to most officers, despite his wartime service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and leading the Navy's best volunteer program.

Carr also disciplined the Chaplain for requesting Kosher meals to feed a hungry Jewish Sailor who later lost 17 pounds, and because the Chaplain declined to support mandatory-attendance quotas to a pro-gay church.

Unless a Navy judge next month overturns the negative job recommendation Carr gave Klingenschmitt, the Naval Chief of Chaplains will not renew Klingenschmitt's contract, ending his career suddenly after 14 years of good fitness reports.

The Naval Chief of Chaplains, Rear Admiral Lou Iasello, has yet to comment on Klingenschmitt's case.

Email sent by Captain Carr to his XO and Chaplain Klingenschmitt criticizing volunteers for not being model Sailors (next page):

-----Original Message-----

From: Carr, James CAPT
Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2004 10:47 AM
To: XO
Cc: CHAPS
Subject: Volunteer Award

My only reservation with the volunteer award selectees is that two of the three folks we chose to give this award to are not highly thought of in the ship.

Does not help the CO/Chaplain recruiting effort because it undermines the desire to reach for this recognition.

CO

18 of Chaplain's (under-recognized) award-winning volunteers...these Sailors directly helped ANZIO win the Navy's highest volunteerism award, serving the poor on their own off-duty time... yet each was also personally disciplined or discharged by Capt. Carr:

***SN Huey Plunkett**
***FCSN Paul Cayer**
***SHSN Greg Shaw**
***STGSN Jake McDonald**
***SKSN Greg Henderson**
***SN Jason Mayle**
FCSN Sky McEntire
***CTTSN Chris Badgerow**
***GM3 Matt Wilkinson**
***SN Jered Hodges** ←←←Quoted by Ward Sanderson in Daily Press article, text below...
FC3 Joe Gonzales
***CS3 Joe Brown**
***GM3 Chris Campbell**
CS3 Bradley Brown
TM3 Josh Oliver
SR Nathan Rauch
***CS3 David Thompson**
YN2 David Kimball

*** 12 are no longer in the Navy.**

Clip from Daily Press Article by Ward Sanderson, 1 May 2005 (see www.persuade.tv):

...One former Anzio sailor said Klingenschmitt had a reputation both for going to bat for sailors and for religious zeal.

"I've seen him politically hurt himself by reaching out to me and politically hurt himself by reaching out to others," said 24-year-old Jered Hodges, who received a medical discharge from the Navy in March due to depression. "The most I've heard a sailor say about him is, 'That chaplain is very religious.' But I don't think a chaplain would find that demeaning at all."

Hodges had seen Klingenschmitt for counseling but was told by a lieutenant to avoid the chaplain. "That I thought was strange," Hodges said. "I was personally reprimanded for volunteering for any program that the chaplain had."

Hodges said Klingenschmitt was the only person who would listen to him. "He tried very hard to help me with my problem," he said. "He was attacked for helping me."

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Photo of Chaplain Klingenschmitt and nine ANZIO Sailors feeding the homeless at the Union Mission (8 of these 10 were later disciplined by Capt Carr, including the Chaplain).



“He was numbered among the transgressors... for he advocated for the transgressors.”
Isaiah 53:12

The Pharisees complained, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners’?”
Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”
Luke 5:30-31

Photo of Captain Carr, Chaplain Klingenschmitt, and three ANZIO Sailors receiving 2004 Volunteer Hampton Roads local community service award from an Admiral and Civic Leader (three of the four volunteers were later disciplined by Captain Carr):



Two years of descriptive award nominations, listing ANZIO’s many volunteer accomplishments (next four pages):

Military Group Nominee: USS ANZIO (CG-68)

In 2003, ANZIO sailors gave 594 times, totaling 547 hours and \$32,068, helping 576 people.

The 380 sailors onboard USS ANZIO made great community service contributions in 2003. ANZIO not only defended America by completing a six-month war-time deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Persian Gulf (launching tomahawk missiles into Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom), but they also volunteered hundreds of hours and gave thousands of dollars to charities, both overseas and in the Hampton Roads area.



In May, eight ANZIO sailors forsook a day of liberty in Sicily to volunteer at the “Sisters of Cappucine Children’s School” in Priolo, donating 8 hours of labor each (64 hours total), doing yardwork, cleaning the school by washing windows, chandeliers, and floors, and playing with children from broken homes.



In June, seven ANZIO sailors gave up a day of liberty in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, to volunteer at a Drug-Rehab Youth Center. They spent 8 hours each, (56 hours total) painting and cleaning the facilities, furthering the program’s efforts to get teenagers off the streets and off addictive drugs, by enhancing their environment and reducing their labor expenses.



In September through December, USS ANZIO continued our weekly “adopt-a-school” program (every Wednesday) with Chesterfield Academy Elementary School in Norfolk, a partnership honored yearly since 1995. This fall, 23 ANZIO sailors volunteered in the classroom for 3 hours each (69 hours total), helping children in grades K-2 learn to read.



In October through December, ANZIO began another weekly partnership (every Friday) with the Union Mission in Norfolk, volunteering to cook, clean, and serve food to homeless people. 29 sailors volunteered 6 hours each (174 hours total). Navy cooks prepare full meals every Friday (instead of the usual soup) which increases both morale and attendance at the mission, and our recent cleaning efforts helped their kitchen pass a key health inspection.



14 ANZIO sailors also volunteered to give blood at the American Red Cross blood drive.

Military Group Nominee: USS ANZIO (CG-68)



For Thanksgiving, ANZIO sailors partnered with wives from their Family Support Group to collect donated food, and create “Turkey Baskets” for families in need. Fifteen volunteers donated two hours each (30 hours total), and dozens of sailors donated over 500 pounds of food (valued over \$500), which fed 17 families.



In December, ANZIO sailors sponsored a toy drive for children at The Dwelling Place shelter for homeless families. Seventy sailors donated 140 hours, shopping and wrapping 70 gifts for underprivileged children (valued over \$700), ensuring their Christmas was a happy one.



260 ANZIO sailors gave \$18,114 to the Combined Federal Campaign in 2003 (well-exceeding our command goal of \$14,500). This team effort funded hundreds of national non-profit charities. Another 168 ANZIO sailors gave \$12,754 to Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, helping Navy families facing financial hardship.

USS ANZIO COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2003				
PROJECT	VOLUNTEERS	HOURS	PEOPLE IMPACTED	DOLLARS GIVEN
SISTERS OF CAPPUCINE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL	8	64	100	--
PALMA DRUG REHAB YOUTH CENTER	7	56	100	--
CHESTERFIELD ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	23	69	100	--
UNION MISSION HOMELESS SHELTER	29	174	175	--
AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	14	14	14	--
THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE	15	30	17	\$500
CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION-DWELLING PLACE	70	140	70	\$700
NAVY MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY	168	--	???	\$12,754
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN	260	--	???	\$18,114
TOTALS	594	547	576	\$32,068

In 2003, ANZIO sailors gave 594 times, totaling 547 hours and \$32,068, helping 576 people.

Why do we give? We're learning to be more concerned with others' welfare than our own. By partnering with those in the community who also serve others, like the Union Mission, Chesterfield Academy, American Red Cross, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Combined Federal Campaign, The Dwelling Place, Palma Drug Rehab Youth Center, and Priolo Sisters of Cappucine, our sailors can multiply the effectiveness of existing non-profit programs, and help improve people's lives.

USS ANZIO respectfully requests your consideration for the 2004 Hampton Roads Volunteer Achievement Award given to a military group. Thank you for your consideration.

Military Group Nominee: USS ANZIO (CG-68)

In 2004, the 380 Sailors of USS ANZIO gave 774 times, over 3000 hours, over \$31,000, helping over 281,000 people. Eleven ways ANZIO gave are described following.



All school year long (every Wednesday inport), USS ANZIO continued our weekly “adopt-a-school” program with Chesterfield Academy Elementary School in Norfolk, a partnership honored yearly since 1995. This year ANZIO Sailors volunteered 30 times, over 116 hours in the classroom, helping children in grades K-2 learn to read.



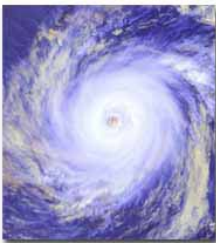
All year long (every Friday inport), USS ANZIO continued their weekly partnership with the Union Mission in Norfolk, volunteering to cook, clean, and serve food to homeless people. This year Sailors volunteered 196 times, over 1000 hours. Navy cooks prepare full meals (instead of the usual soup) which increases both morale and attendance at the mission, and our cleaning efforts help their kitchen pass key health inspections.



In May, nineteen ANZIO Sailors forsook a day of liberty in New York City during Fleet Week '04, to partner with “Operation Public Color” and paint two inner city schools. Bronx 216 and Brooklyn School of Journalism both got fresh paint, and children interacted with Sailors who taught about serving their country in more ways than one.



In October, ten ANZIO Sailors gave up a day of liberty in Scotland, to volunteer at a Nature Preserve, building a 600-foot gravel path to improve access for children and the elderly. Next year over 250,000 visitors will walk on the path we created, greatly enhancing public awareness of environmental conservation, and fostering an appreciation of outdoor exercise and fitness.



In September, five ANZIO Sailors went to Florida for two weeks to help Hurricane Relief efforts with the American Red Cross. They spent over 300 hours each (1,500 hours total) and helped perhaps 30,000 Florida residents with food preparation and supplies distribution.



85 ANZIO Sailors voluntarily gave blood at four American Red Cross blood drives sponsored on the ship.

Military Group Nominee: USS ANZIO (CG-68)



In October, 143 ANZIO Sailors gave \$8,637 to Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, helping Navy families facing financial hardship.



Combined Federal Campaign

In November, 190 ANZIO Sailors gave \$21,425 to the Combined Federal Campaign in 2004 (exceeding 2003 giving 18%). This team effort funded hundreds of national non-profit charities.



For Thanksgiving, ANZIO Sailors partnered with wives from their Family Support Group to assemble "Turkey Baskets" for families in need. 40 volunteers donated two hours each (80 hours total), and dozens of Sailors gave money or food (500 pounds of food valued over \$845), which fed 20 junior ranking Sailors' families.



In December, eight ANZIO Sailors assisted a city-project by painting a house for a low-income family in Savannah, Georgia. Mrs. McCray is pictured here with the ANZIO Sailors who painted her home.



Also in December, eight ANZIO Sailors volunteered a Saturday morning with the Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program, and 40 more ANZIO Sailors donated toys, helping 150 low-income children celebrate Christmas.

USS ANZIO COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT FOR 2004

PROJECT	VOLUNTEERS	HOURS	PEOPLE IMPACTED	DOLLARS GIVEN
CHESTERFIELD ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	30	116	100	--
UNION MISSION HOMELESS SHELTER	196	1,044	175	--
NYC FLEET WEEK, PAINTED TWO SCHOOLS	19	114	1,000	--
SCOTLAND, BUILT PATH TO NATURE PRESERVE	10	50	250,000	--
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	85	85	85	--
RED CROSS FLORIDA HURRICANE RELIEF	5	1,500	30,000	--
THANKSGIVING TURKEY DRIVE	40	80	140	\$845
SAVANNAH CITY PROJECT: PAINT A HOUSE	8	56	3	--
MARINE CORPS TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE	48	48	150	\$400
NAVY MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY	143	--	???	\$ 8,637
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN	190	--	???	\$21,425
TOTALS	774	3,093	281,653	\$31,307