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U.S. Naval Forces Central Command - U.S. FIFTH Fleet

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## NAVCENT Names Sailors of Quarter

By **JO3 Shawnee McKain**  
*Staff writer*

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/ Commander, U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet recently announced its 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2003 selections for the Senior, Junior and Blue Jacket Sailors of the Quarter.

Cryptologic Technician Communications 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gwendolyn White, a native of Opelousas, La., has been named COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT Senior Sailor of the Quarter.

White, who has served 11 years in the Navy, is Leading Petty Officer for the Intelligence Department. Before reporting to Bahrain, White served at NSGA Pensacola, Fla.

White gives credit for her award to her communications team.

"I worked with a great set of people," she said, "They pushed me to be all I could be."

When she gets to her next duty station, White plans to focus on getting her warfare qualifications and making Chief Petty Officer.

"Don't run away from challenges," White advises, "Just get the job done and ask questions later."

Boatswain's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (SW) Roy Delos Reyes of Vallejo, Calif., was recognized as Junior Sailor of the Quarter. He has been in the Navy nine years and has served as Staff Engraver for COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT since September, 2000. Before coming to Bahrain, he was stationed aboard

*See SOQ- pg. 2*



CTO1 White

## From the Navy to NASCAR and Back Wilson wins 2002 Batchelder Award

By **JO3 Shawnee McKain**  
*Staff writer*

The Navy League of the United States has announced the 2002 Vice Adm. Robert F. Batchelder Award winners and a Commander, 5th Fleet supply officer is among the winners.

Lt. Stephen "Mick" Wilson, the Supply Officer for Naval Special Warfare Unit 3 was named one of four winners out of 84 active duty and 10 reserve officers nominated.

The Navy League originated the Batchelder Award in 1983. It is given annually to those Supply Corps Officers who make significant contributions to the supply readiness of the Navy's operating forces.

"I don't think I would have won this award had I not gotten out of the Navy and come back in after seeing it with a different perspective," Wilson said.

Wilson got that different perspective when he got out of the Navy in 2000 as a junior Lieutenant and went to work for Richard Petty, the

NASCAR driver.

As a young man, he avidly followed the sport and often went to races with his dad.

"When I was growing up, my dad was the regional sales manager for a motor oil company and he traveled quite a bit. He

*See Wilson- pg. 2*



US Navy photo by JO3 Shawnee McKain  
Lt. Mick Wilson, Supply Officer, Naval Special Warfare Unit 3 and 2002 Vice Adm. Robert F. Batchelder, SC, USN, Navy League Award winner discusses supply issues with a member of his team. His NASCAR racing helmet sits prominently on his desk, a reminder of his former life as a member of the Richard Petty Driving Experience.

## Coast Guard Patrol Boats Hold Change-of-Command Ceremony

By **PA3 Kyle N. Niemi**

*U.S. Coast Guard Forces Southwest Asia  
Public Affairs*

Lt. John Gregg relieved Lt. Christopher Barrows as commander of Coast Guard Cutter Wrangell and Lt. Carmen S. DeGeorge relieved Lt. Cmdr. Sean MacKenzie as commander of Cutter Adak during a joint change-of-command ceremony held at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, July 17.

Vice Adm. James Hull, Atlantic Area commander, presided over the ceremony and offered congratulations to the departing com-

manding officers and encouraging words to those reporting for duty.

Both Adak and Wrangell are 110-foot patrol boats. They are homeported in Sandy Hook, N.J., and Portland, Maine, respectively. The cutters have been operating out of the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since the onset of the war.

Their various missions in theater included force protection for landing craft and special forces during the invasion of Iraq, safeguarding mine sweepers as they clear the channels

*See USCG- pg. 3*

**SOQ from front page**

USS Bridge (AOE 10).

Delos Reyes said he found that he had a lot of people depending on him so he didn't have much room for mistakes. He expressed that being in the spotlight and not letting people down was a big reason for his being selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

"Keep working hard," Delos Reyes said, "Strive to be the best and remember those little bits of information you



BM2(SW) Delos Reyes

don't think you'll ever need to know again. They just might come up when you least expect it."

Cryptologic Technician Communications Seaman Derek M. Hageman of Newark, Ohio, was selected as COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT's Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Hageman works in the Intelligence Department where one of his many responsibilities is maintaining a variety of message traffic systems. He has been in the Navy for just under two



CTOSN Hageman

years, and at COMUSNAVCENT/COMFIFTHFLT since February, 2003. Before he came to Bahrain he was stationed at NSGA Naples.

Hageman came to Bahrain with the goal of making a good impression and living up to his personal expectations. His goals include taking college classes and becoming a petty officer.

"Go above and beyond what is expected of you," Hageman said, "Even if someone asks for your help and it doesn't pertain to your job, help them anyway, and always come in squared away."



Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and Commander, U.S. FIFTH Fleet, is **Vice Adm. Timothy J. Keating.**

The Scimitar is an authorized publication for the men, women and families serving overseas in the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command area. The editorial content of The Scimitar is prepared, edited and provided by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. Fifth Fleet Public Affairs Office. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

Questions and comments can be directed to the Public Affairs Office. The Editor of the Scimitar can be reached at 724-510 or 724-027. Stories and input may be submitted via e-mail to: [scimitar@cusnc.navy.mil](mailto:scimitar@cusnc.navy.mil).

**PAO: CDR Hal Pittman**  
**Editor: JO1(SW) Dennis Herring**

**Staff Writers:**  
**JO2 Denny Lester**  
**JO3 Shawnee McKain**  
**JOSN Erica Gardner**

**Staff Photographers:**  
**PH1(AW) Ernest Hunt**  
**PH1(AW) Shane Wallenda**  
**PH2 Veronica Birmingham**  
**PH2 Daniel Lapierre**

**Wilson from front page**

catered to many distributors at NASCAR races, so the only way I was going to be able to see him was to pack my bag and go with him," Wilson said, "So while he was doing that, I would sit and watch the races in awe."

"I always had it in the back of my head that I wanted to work for NASCAR if I ever had the opportunity," Wilson said.

But as it often happens, his plans changed and he found his way into the Navy through a Navy scholarship at The Citadel where he graduated in 1996. He went to flight school, but was medically grounded, and decided on the Supply Corps.

"The Supply Corps was just something that happened to me," Wilson said. "It wasn't something I aspired to do, but it ended up being a blessing."

"I was really looking toward my other aspiration in life, which was working for a race team in NASCAR," Wilson said, "In 2000, I got a call from Petty Enterprises, offering me a job to come up to Atlanta and work for the Richard Petty Driving Experience."

"It was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," he said.

After transferring to the Naval Reserve, Wilson took the job with Petty Enterprises and moved to Atlanta. Within months, he was promoted to Sponsor Relations Manager in Charlotte, N.C. He told himself he would give it a year and see what happened from there.

"I had a great time and moved up to be Richard's public relations guy," Wilson said. "I had all kinds of great experiences."

While he was having fun and doing things he'd only dreamed of before, Wilson thought there was something missing.

"I missed the teamwork, the comrade-

ship, leadership opportunities and travel of the Navy," Wilson said, "I was out of the Navy when the Cole bombing occurred and on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Those events gave me a different perspective on the Navy. I didn't get out because I didn't like it, I got out because I knew I needed to pursue this opportunity with NASCAR and if I didn't, I would regret it."

After thinking long and hard, Wilson put in his paperwork to come back into the Navy. He left Petty Enterprises in July, 2001. Through a course of events, he returned to full active duty in 2002.

He originally had orders to CTF-53 in Bahrain, but those fell through and he was mobilized to NSWU-3 instead.

"It's just one of those things that happen. Just luck of the draw and faith," Wilson said.

Wilson will be receiving the Batchelder Award August 20 at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Ga.

"I would never have won this award if it wasn't for the help of all the people who work with me," Wilson said, "We worked hard during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. We were the main hub for supplies going to Kuwait, Djibouti or anywhere in this area of responsibility. So, it's really not so much an award for me as it is an award for this division."

Going from the Navy to working for the King of NASCAR and back to the Navy, Wilson has had an exciting ride leading up to the Batchelder Award.

"I was able to see the Navy from the outside in, versus being in and not really understanding how much it did mean to me and how lucky we are to be part of an organization such as the United States Navy," Wilson said. "I have a completely different perspective on the Navy now and without that perspective, I don't think I would have had the skill to push forward."



## Command Religious Program Naval Support Activity Bahrain



### Weekly Schedule of Events

**Monday**

1200-Catholic Mass -  
Chaplain's Office annex  
1700-Gospel Choir Practice -  
Chapel/Training Facility

**Tuesday**

1200-Catholic Mass -  
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex  
1830-Gospel Bible Study -  
Chaplain Parker's home

**Wednesday**

1200-Catholic Mass -  
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex  
1700-Gospel Choir Practice -  
Chapel/Training Facility  
1815-Gospel Choir Practice -  
Chapel/Training Facility

**Thursday**

1200-Catholic Mass -  
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex  
1630-1700-Confessions -  
Chapel/Training Center  
1730-Catholic Vigil Mass -  
Chapel/Training Center

**Friday**

0930-Catholic Mass -  
Chapel/Training Center  
0930-Navigator's Bible Study -

Dome's Multi-Purpose Room  
0930-Protestant Children's Friday  
School - (ages 5-14) Youth Center  
0930-Protestant Adult Friday School  
Navy College Classroom #2  
1100-Protestant Worship Service -  
Chapel/Training Center  
1100-Church of Christ Service -  
Chaplain's Office annex  
1130-Gospel Friday School Class -  
Navy College classroom #2  
1300-Gospel Service -  
Chapel/Training Center  
1800-Protestant Friday Evening  
Fellowship - Chaplain Parker's home  
\* Jewish Shabbat Service 2nd  
Friday of each month, Chaplain's  
office Chapel annex

**Saturday**

0900-2nd & 4th Saturday of each  
month, Gospel Men of Wisdom  
Ministry - Oasis, POC Bro. Miller  
1545-Protestant Campaigner's Bible  
Study - Bahrain School room 53,  
POC Ketan

**Sunday**

1200-Catholic Mass -  
Chaplain's Office Chapel annex

1800-Protestant Evening Worship  
Service- Chapel Training Center  
1915-Handbell Choir rehearsal -  
Chapel Training Facility

**Lay Personnel:**

Muslim- CTICM Young  
Church of Christ- SSG Veasey  
International Church of Christ- PH2 Daniel P.  
Lapierre  
Latter Day Saints- CDR Hansen  
Jewish- LTJG Joshua Frey  
**NSA Chaplain Staff:**  
Capt. (Sel.) Parker, Command Chaplain  
Lt. Borger, Catholic Chaplain  
RP1(SW) Jefferson-Brooks  
RP2 Harris  
**NAVCENT Chaplain Staff:**  
Capt. Tidd, Command Chaplain  
Cdr. Parisi, Catholic Chaplain  
RP2 Redfield  
RP2 Mosqueda

*Note:* If you have any questions regarding any of the  
Command Religious Programs,  
please contact our office at 439-4235/4303 or 724-235/303,  
Sunday - Thursday.  
\* Event participation is contingent upon Force Protection  
Conditions\*

**USCG from Front Page**

of Iraqi ports, and the escort of ships carrying humanitarian supplies.

MacKenzie and Barrows were among four Coast Guard patrol boats skippers to receive the Bronze Star in an earlier presentation. The medal is for meritorious achievement in connection with combat operations and has not been awarded to Coast Guard personnel since the Vietnam conflict almost 30 years ago.

DeGeorge will command Adak after completing a tour as operations officer aboard Cutter Campbell, a 270-foot medium-endurance cutter homeported in New Bedford, Mass. MacKenzie will depart for a new post in Coast Guard Congressional Affairs with the Senate Appropriations Committee.

While in command of Adak, MacKenzie and crew were responsible for capturing the first naval prisoners of war at the onset of combat operations.

MacKenzie's Bronze Star citation read that, "he displayed extraordinary determination while recovering enemy prisoners of war during the first night of the conflict, providing valuable intelligence on Iraqi war plans."

MacKenzie said that he leaves this assignment, "knowing what it feels like to be in combat situations." He added that there were periods of high stress that he and his crew endured.

However, he is most proud to have experienced, "the levels of friendship and bonding that can happen when you've gone through that experience with your crew."

"I definitely have some big shoes to fill," DeGeorge said as he congratulated MacKenzie on his prestigious award.

DeGeorge said that the missions could be more dangerous now since the majority of the fighting has stopped and there is no telling who could be a threat or danger to his crew.

DeGeorge said he would do all he could to, "keep the crew safe and try to execute the mission as best we can."

He hopes to, "keep the posture that Mr. MacKenzie has set forth."

Gregg comes to the helm of Wrangell after a tour as a civil engineer at Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit Cleveland. He previously served as the executive officer of Cutter Anacapa, a 110-foot patrol boat homeported in Petersburg, Alaska.

Barrows has been selected to attend

postgraduate studies in Marine Affairs/Living Marine Resources, and will attain a master's degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island.

Some of Wrangell's accomplishments while under Barrow's command include providing safe transit for the first humanitarian assistance ship into the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, the interdiction of over 3,500 metric tons of crude oil being smuggled out of Iraq, and maintaining the integrity of the territorial seas of Iraq upon completion of active combat operations.

The citation awarding the Bronze Star to Barrows cited that, "his impressive skills and unparalleled leadership were demonstrated when escorting the first humanitarian assistance shipping to the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr, ensuring the rapid flow of food and medicine to the people of Iraq."

Barrows said he is just proud to have worked with his crew and of being a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Gregg said, "I hope to maintain the operational excellence that the Wrangell and all Coast Guard forces in the Arabian Gulf have demonstrated until either we complete the Coast Guard's missions or are relieved ourselves."

# NAVCHAPGRU and Military Sealift Command Team Up to Back Load Equipment From Iraq

By PH2 Veronica Birmingham  
Staff writer

PORT SHUEIBA, Kuwait — As combat operations in Iraq drew to a close in May, military leaders were already planning how to withdraw the enormous amount of equipment and material taken into the war zone.

Recently, military units began blazing a trail from Baghdad, down through the Euphrates Valley into Port Shueiba, Kuwait, with thousands of wheeled vehicles, trailers, tanks, steel bridges, bulldozers and general cargo, in a combined military effort to backload equipment out of Iraq.

Like the longhorn wranglers of the Old West, the men and women of the U.S. Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group (NAVCHAPGRU) began corralling the

mammoth metal beasts into a 950-foot floating pen known as USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314).

Even though team members work steady eight hour shifts under the scorching Kuwaiti sun, their resolve is apparent.

"The heat here is intense all the time," said Storekeeper 1st Class (SW) Darl Cord Jr., "But we keep plugging away, because we know the job has to get done." Beyond Cord's sun-bleached eyelashes in his sun-shot eyes brewed a pride and self-respect that showed clearly.

"At times it's hard to see the overall effort, but when we see the Marine's equipment all beat up and riddled with bullet holes, we realize there is a bigger event going on besides what we are doing," said Cord, while kneading his hands, toughened from the effects of rearing and roping a 35-ton tank. "Our little niche we have of loading equipment on this ship fits into the Navy's overall mission in a very vital way. What we do needs to be done in a timely manner. It's small, but it's important."

His job doesn't end with a hard day's labor. At NAVCHAPGRU's homeport in Williamsburg, Va., he is the leading petty officer for the Curriculum Inspectional Standards Office. He is in charge of instructing

active-duty and naval Reserve members of the battalion to become master training specialists. Along with that responsibility, he is also the Master Training Specialist program coordinator.

"We are effective at what we do, because we are highly trained," Cord said.

Their expertise was needed all over the world. Before arriving in Kuwait in December, NAVCHAPGRU provided logistics support during the annual resupply of the National Science Foundation facility in Antarctica.

"I went from absolute cold to absolute heat in the same year," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (AW) Robert Smith. Smith is the hatch team's primary crane operator, and he operates Charlton's twin 110-ton, single

pedestal cranes. He explained that operating a crane is not like operating a forklift. "If you ever used an etch-a-sketch and tried to draw a line at an angle... operating a crane is kind of like that," said Smith.

Neatly organized equipment, like pieces of a puzzle, sat patiently on blistering hot asphalt waiting for the loadmaster to find their rightful place. Forty-foot long CON-EX boxes define the yard, securing a ship-side boundary. From his pod in the crane overlooking the expanse of the yard, Smith gently reared the weary beasts of war into the hull of the ship, where they were met by NAVCHAPGRU Sailors with lashing equipment who secured them to the deckplates of the ship.

Charlton is one of 20 Large, Medium Speed RO/ROs, commonly referred to as roll-on/roll-off ships operated by Military Sealift Command. When not transporting military equipment and supplies, the ship is prepositioned with U.S. military combat

equipment on Diego Garcia. Twenty-nine merchant mariners make up her crew.

"I've been particularly pleased with how well members of NAVCHAPGRU have been working with the crews of the MSC ships, especially the Charlton," said Capt. Tony Heimer, Commander, Afloat Prepositioning Ships Squadron 4. "The active-duty members are a great group of people, working their tails off. Of course, the merchant mariners on Charlton are an impeccable group who have risen to the occasion, making the back load process smooth."

Three hatch teams, working in eight-hour shifts around the clock, can fully load an LMSR's 394,000 square feet of cargo stowage area in about four days. In order to help complete the mission on time, NAVCHAPGRU personnel lived aboard the ship.

"It was much better to stay on the ship because we didn't have to waste a lot of time getting to work," said Seaman Apprentice Joann Sanchez. "I'll miss this ship a lot. The ship is comfortable, and the crew are real nice. I am looking forward to working on loading another USNS ship after this one."

NAVCHAPGRU is homeported in Williamsburg, Va. The active duty unit consists of 266 combat stevedores. They are an expeditionary unit that deploys worldwide in support of maritime cargo operations. They have the secondary mission of training the 12 naval reserve cargo handling training bat-

talions. The unit is divided into independent mission detachments, each one fully capable of deploying as a self-sustaining unit anywhere in the world. NAVCHAPGRU pools members from the Navy community to form a well-rounded unit. Hospital corpsmen, storekeepers and

boatswain's mates are just a few of the Sailor's who make up this unique community. Currently, NAVCHAPGRU is forward deployed to the Arabian Gulf as part of the naval support element in the Central



US Navy photos by PH2 Veronica Birmingham Storekeeper 1st Class (SW) Darl Cord of the U.S. Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group lashes equipment to the deck of USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314).



US Navy photos by PH2 Veronica Birmingham Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Angela Kerr of U.S. Navy Cargo Handling and Port Group lashes gear to the deck of USNS Charlton (T-AKR 314).



**NOW  
SHOWING**

## NSA Paradise Theater

### 25 FRIDAY

1530 The Wedding Singer (PG-13)  
1730 Agent Cody Banks (PG)  
1930 X-Men 2 (PG-13)

### 26 SATURDAY

1530 What a Girl Wants (PG)  
1730 Anger Management (PG-13)  
1930 Deliver us from Eva (R)

### 27 SUNDAY

1730 The Hunted (R)  
1930 Blade (R)

### 28 MONDAY

1730 Bringing Down the House (PG-13)  
1930 Dream Catcher (R)

### 29 TUESDAY

1730 The Wedding Singer (PG-13)  
1930 The Core (PG-13)

### 30 WEDNESDAY

1530 The Hunted (R)  
1730 Agent Cody Banks (PG-13)  
1930 X-Men 2 (PG-13)

### 31 THURSDAY

1530 What a Girl Wants (PG)  
1730 Bringing Down the House (PG-13)  
1930 Blade (R)

**WHAT A GIRL WANTS** (PG) Amanda Bynes & Colin Firth: A free-spirited American, 19 yrs old, who was raised by her equally free-spirited mother in New York, travels to England to try to establish a relationship with her father who turns out to be a prominent political figure unhappily bound by strict social customs that may not survive this unknown, carefree visitor from his past. (105 min)

**THE WEDDING SINGER** (PG-13) Adam Sandler & Drew Barrymore: When the lead singer of a popular, but not-so-good, New Jersey wedding band is abandoned at the alter by his fiancée, his new opinion of marriage almost destroys his career. But when a spunky waitress enlists his help in planning her own wedding, his experience gives him a whole new perspective ...and another chance at happiness. (95 min)

**THE HUNTED** (R) Tommy Lee Jones & Benicio Del Toro: In the green, moss-covered mountains of Oregon, a highly trained Special Forces assassin kills four deer hunters and begins a game of cat & mouse with the only man who can stop him. The one man who taught him everything he knows. But now, even as they face off for the last time, neither is sure who is the hunter & who is the hunted. (94 min)

**DELIVER US FROM EVA** (R) LL Cool J & Gabrielle Union: When the family of an uptight young woman can no longer take her constant meddling in family affairs, they pay a local "Playboy" \$5,000 to date and distract her. At first the plan goes smoothly, but trouble soon returns when the playboy actually falls for her. (105 min)

**BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE** (PG-13) Steve Martin & Queen Latifah: A divorced, straight-laced, uptight attorney who still loves his ex-wife & can't figure out what he did wrong, decides to move on with his life when he is smitten by a brainy, bombshell barrister he's been chatting with online... but his world is about to be turned inside-out because his web mate turns out to be an escaped convict. (105 min)

**DREAMCATCHER** (R) Morgan Freeman & Thomas Jane: Based on the popular novel by Stephen King, four young friends perform a heroic act and are changed forever by the supernatural powers they gain in return. Now, years later, on their annual hunting trip to the Maine woods, they are challenged again when they encounter a deadly alien force attempting to infect and take over our world. (134 min)

**BLADE** (R) Wesley Snipes & Stephen Dorff: Based on the popular comic book super hero and bitten by a Vampire during pregnancy, a woman gives her child a special gift before dying at birth. The soul of a human...the power of an immortal ... and the heart of the hero. Now this half-human, half-vampire legend is out to avenge his mother's death and nothing can stop him. (120min)

**ANGER MANAGEMENT** (PG-13) Adam Sandler & Jack Nicholson: After a misunderstanding escalates out of control a mild-mannered New Yorker is ordered to attend anger management classes run by a doctor whose unorthodox approach to treatment is confrontational and abusive. But the situation gets out of control when the doctor decides to move in and intensify his unique form of therapy. (101min)

**X-MEN 2** (PG 13) Patrick Stewart & Ian McKellen: Based on the Marvel comic book characters, a mutant is drawn closer to his past when the escaped leader helps halt a plot to destroy every other mutant on the planet. (134 min)

**THE CORE** (PG-13) Aaron Eckhart & Hilary Swank: As global natural disasters begin to occur, scientists discover that the Earth's molten core has begun to cool and unless the process is reversed, all life will end when the magnetic fields generated by the spinning core shut down. With time running out and survival at stake, they must try to reunite the very heart of our planet. (137min)

**AGENT CODY BANKS** (PG) Frankie Muniz & Hilary Duff: To his family and friends, Cody banks is a typical teen who loves skateboarding, hates math, and feels like a complete idiot around girls. But Cody's got a secret...he's part of a special CIA youth program and is assigned to befriend a fellow student who the evil organization ERIS. (101min)

#### CHAPGRU- from pg. 4

Command area of responsibility.

"We are one of a kind—NAVCHAPGRU

is the only active duty cargo handling battalion in the Navy," said Cord. With Charlton safely loaded, they knew it would not be long before it got underway. Like the cattle wran-

glers of the Old West, the equipment wrangler's of NAVCHAPGRU basked in the satisfaction of another 96-hour evolution under their belts.