



# THE GRYPHON'S BEAK

The Official Second Fleet Newsletter

Vol 3 Number 5



## Flag Sends

This newsletter almost didn't happen.

As we have spent the last month (or more) in a holding pattern of isolation, I have had a lot of motivation issues. Specifically, not having any. It sucks. And I was all prepared to send out an email apologizing for the lack of newsletter, and chalking it up as another COVID-19 casualty.

But that isn't something I find acceptable.

It may be old-fashioned, but at my core, I believe that 'I don't feel like it' is not an acceptable excuse. When I accepted this role, it wasn't to be FCO when I felt like it, or when it was easy, but to do this when it wasn't easy, when I didn't feel up to it. So here we are.

I do want to talk a bit about the second step – what comes next. As we are entering May, it is going to be harder and harder to keep people invested in staying home. We are seeing states begin to ease restrictions as well. In the mix of all this, the term 'herd immunity' is getting tossed about. I want to look at that, and see about explaining how it works, and why relying on it is, perhaps, not the wise choice.

To start with, what is herd immunity? Herd immunity is the condition achieved when a sufficient percentage of the population is immune to a disease (naturally or via vaccination) that one sick person isn't able to spread the disease in a meaningful manner. Thus, those not immune are protected by the prevalence of immune peoples.

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Do you want to have your ship or your ship's activities featured in the next newsletter? Just send a writeup of what's happening or the word you need to get out, and we'll get that added into the next edition!

Let's get those stories in, and make this the must-read newsletter for everything Gryphon Fleet!

# Comings & Goings

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To: All Officers, Enlisted, and Civilians in the Grand Alliance  
From: Martin A. Lessem, KSK, GCR, GCE, SC, DSO, CGM,  
Admiral of the Fleet, First Lord of the Admiralty, Grand  
Duke Lynx, Duke, New Scania  
Re: Period of Mourning for Countess Neu Odenwaldkreis

These messages are always hard to write, because they touch so deeply upon all of us. Earlier today we learned of the passing of Lady Gloria J. Thomas-Friedline, the Countess of Neu Odenwaldkreis. At this time of mourning, I wish The Royal Manticoran Navy to stand with Earl Neu Odenwaldkreis and provide him our support as the family we are.

Additionally, I am ordering all running lights for all ships and stations dimmed, and all flags at installations lowered to half-mast, regardless of branch, for the next 30 days.

I am sure Earl Neu Odenwaldkreis appreciates any condolences you wish to send him personally as well.

Martin Lessem, KSK, GCR, GCE, SC, DSO, CGM  
Admiral of the Fleet RMN  
First Lord of the Admiralty  
Grand Duke, Lynx  
Duke, New Scania

## 1SL YouTube

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If you haven't yet, check out the 1SL's YouTube channel. The channel features interviews with several Space Lords, and Fleet COs. All Fleet COs will be included (I did mine, it isn't posted yet) soon!

### BuPlan Directive 2004-02

Congratulation to Bruce Crews, HMS Beowulf, on appointment to the position of Yeoman for the Office of Marketing, Branding, and Art within the Bureau of Planning. As a result of his new position and duties, he is hereby promoted to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class, RMN.

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### BuShips Directive 2004-08

Congratulations to Davi Munroe, HMS Javelin, on his appointment to Bosun, relieving Chief Petty Officer Jim Erikson, RMN, and his brevet to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, RMN.

Flag joins BuShips in thanking outgoing Bosun Chief Petty Officer Jim Erikson for his service.

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With the approval of the Sixth Space Lord, effective 20 April, 2020 the Sphinx Forestry Service will now be called the Sphinx Forestry Academy (SFA). The head of the Academy will hold the title of Headmaster.

## Intel Agents Needed

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If you check out the list on the next page, you might see some conventions missing! Want to help make sure that Fleet and BuPlan have the most updated information?

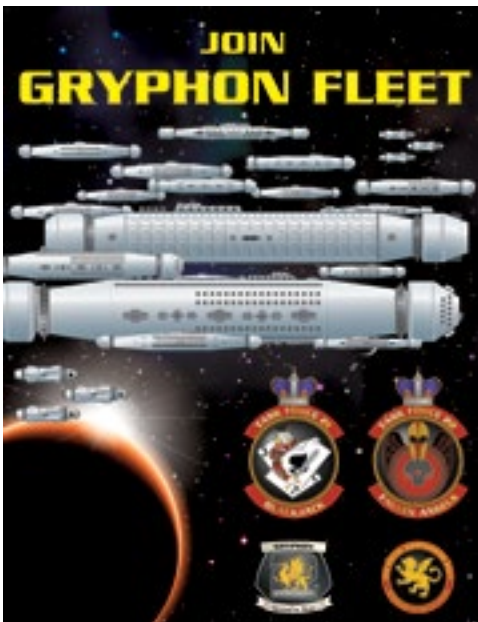
Join Intelligence today! As an Intel Agent, you help make sure every convention in your area is marked, so we have a complete picture of what's happening! And yes, you even get issued a trench coat and shades\* if you wish. Whatever gets you in the Intel mood!

Drop an email to [co@gryphonfleet.org](mailto:co@gryphonfleet.org) to get started!

\*Trench coats and shades not included, issue gear is metaphorical.

# Upcoming Events

Midwest Comic Book Association			Nerdin Out Con	
Roseville, MN	May 16 – 17	Rochester, MN	August 8 – 9	
Anime Central				
Rosemont, IL	May 21 – 23	Columbus, OH	August 14 – 16	
AniMinneapolis				
Minneapolis, MN	May 22 – 24	Columbus, OH	<b>NASFIC</b>	August 20 – 23
County Pop-Con				
Grayslake, IL	May 23	Minneapolis, MN	<b>ConVergence</b>	August 20 – 23
Metropolis Superman Celebration				
Metropolis, IL	June 11 – 14	Sandusky, OH	Colossalcon	September 2 – 6
OMG!Con				
Owensboro, KY	June 11 – 13	St. Cloud, MN	LionCon	September 19 – 20
Dokidokon				
Kalamazoo, MI	July 24 – 26	Columbus, OH	Origins Game Fair	October 7 – 11
Indiana Comic Convention				
Indianapolis, IN	June 26 – 28	Mt. Sterling, OH	Ice & Fire Con	October 29 – November 1
Get Geek'd Expo				
Lansing, MI	July 18 – 19	Grand Rapids, MI	Grand Rapids Comic-Con	November 13 – 15
Gen Con				
Indianapolis, IN	July 30 – Aug 2	Lombard, IL	<b>WindyCon</b>	November 13 – 15



**HMLAC Banturon is hosting a May the 4th Be with You, and we are watching Solo: A Star Wars Story 7pm on Netflix Party, invite code will be announced via Facebook and Discord Servers.**

Fleet events listed in **bold**. Admiralty in ***bold-italic***.  
Events canceled due to restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 are crossed out – many will need you to attend next year to keep going! Please consider buying memberships, or refusing refunds, when you are able.

Please send all events to [co@gryphonfleet.org](mailto:co@gryphonfleet.org), and reference Upcoming Event: in the subject line!

# Wound Stripe Award Criteria Variance

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## AWARD VARIANCE ANNOUNCEMENT

1703–20

Office of the Judge Advocate General, as part of the  
Office of the First Lord of the Admiralty

The purpose of the Wound Stripe is to encourage the donation of blood at Admiralty House and Fleet events, as donated blood is almost always needed by medical organizations. In the current pandemic blood is especially needed, and the opportunities to donate officially are shrinking due to cancellations.

The First Lord of the Admiralty has therefore agreed to the following temporary variance to the requirements for the Wound Stripe:

All blood donations between 0000 hours 18 March 2020 (EST) and 1159 hours 31 May 2020 (EST) shall count as a donation at an Admiralty House or Fleet event for the purposes of the Wound Stripe.

This variance means that any TRMN member who has NOT been awarded the Wound Stripe previously and donates during the timeframe listed above will be eligible for being awarded the Wound Stripe. Any member who HAS been previously awarded the Wound Stripe may count this as one (1) of the three (3) required donations at Admiralty House or Fleet events in order to receive subsequent

awards of the Wound Stripe.

Documentation must be submitted in order to receive the Wound Stripe showing the date and location of the donation (please redact any Personally Identifiable Information). Each Fleet is requested to collect the information and submit it to the BuPers award department in batches rather than members submitting directly.

If pandemic circumstances and convention cancellations are still ongoing as of 31 May 2020, the FLA retains the authority to review or extend this variance.

Any questions, comments, or rants should be directed to the Judge Advocate General at JAG@trmn.org.

Matthew W. Parker QCB KSK KE PMDSA SC OG  
Rear Admiral of the Red, RMN  
Judge Advocate General, TRMN  
Earl, Camera Stellata

With the approval of:

Martin Lessem, KSK, GCR, GCE, SC, DSO, CGM  
Admiral of the Fleet, RMN  
First Lord of the Admiralty  
Grand Duke, Lynx  
Duke, New Scania

## Blood Drive Form

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Per the above, we have a tracking form for donations.

To qualify you must log these donations at our tracking form: <https://forms.gle/cqWHBjQcZqnFb7Uq6>

Donations not logged will not be eligible for award under this variance, thanks!

Acceptable proof is required – a selfie as you donate, a certificate from the recipient agency, something to show the donation happened.

# Flag Sends *continued*

How does that work in the real world? Well, that takes some science.

Communicability of diseases is expressed as  $R_0$ , the basic reproduction number. This is used to express the expected number of cases directly generated by one case in a population where all individuals are susceptible to infection (like COVID-19). Seasonal flu has an  $R_0$  of between 0.9–2.1. COVID-19 is estimated at 1.4–5.7. This means that one person will infect 1–2 people with the flu, but 1–5 people with COVID-19. By way of comparison, 1 person with measles will infect (an a non-immune population) 12–18 people.

So, the higher the  $R_0$  number, the more virulent the disease.

The herd immunity threshold (HIT) scales to the  $R_0$  number. The higher  $R_0$ , the more immune people you need to attain herd immunity. So, to attain the herd immunity threshold, you need 92% – 95% immunity for measles. For the flu, maybe 25%.

For COVID-19, the estimates range between 27% and 74%. This is one of the hard parts about novel viruses – the unknowns are pretty unknown. So, what that means is you need, for sake of argument let's average these, 50% of the population immune. And there can't be a vaccine until, at the earliest, April of 2021. Which means we can only achieve herd immunity if some 165,501,325 people get sick.

Illinois has a case death rate over 5%. At that rate, that's 8,275,066 fatalities. Obviously, that is a wild estimate based on my state's experience (yours will vary), an average to get the HIT, and nothing weird happening. Kind of horror-show, isn't it?

That even assumes that antibodies generated by having had the disease confer immunity (which is, actually, a safe assumption based on other corona-type viruses).

I would not rely on herd immunity to protect me, personally.

Your community will vary – we have seen how the disease is expressing differently in different places. There is no one right answer. I am not trying to tell you how to respond, merely providing some information on a topic that is

getting a lot of discussion recently.

In related news, Monday, April 27th, a judge in Coal County, IL, ruled that the governor had exceeded his authority in extending the state stay-at-home order until the end of May, and issued a stay. What does that mean? Basically, the Illinois constitution is explicitly clear about declared states of emergency – you get 30 days. I expect the General Assembly will act to extend that power in this case, but for now, that has not happened.

That is a lot of explanation for this next bit. When your state does reopen, I ask that if you have been working in the public during the shut-down, that you consider taking some time before jumping right back into things. My wife, for example, works in a hospital lab, and will be doing COVID-19 tests (not as her main thing, but will be doing it). I won't be getting together with folk for a bit as a safety measure. Obviously, I cannot order that. But I can ask that you consider your possible exposure, and risk, and think about others before joining in group activities.

We are going to get through this – it's only been a month, and will, hopefully, only be another month or two. Three months is totally survivable – our ancestors survived so much worse with so much less.

Please keep in touch with each other, your chapter and echelon leaders, and your non-TRMN friends and family. The lack of personal contact is hard on us all, and we owe it to ourselves and each other to mitigate that as much as we are able.

I'll see you once this is over!





# April Honors

## AWARDS



### Queen's Bravery Medal

RADM Sherman DAY, RMN

HMS Demon



### Manticoran Reserve Service Medal

1LT Thomas C. PAUKSTIS Jr, RMMC

MARDET Demon



### Conspicuous Bravery Medal

S2C Lisa Ann WIEDEMANN, RMN

HMS Demon



### Good Conduct Medal

CIVILIAN Kathryn CUCCHIARELLA, SFC

HMS Invincible

LCPL Kayla CURTISS, RMMC

MARDET Valkyrie

S1C Sondra DECKER, RMN

HMS Demon

S1C Anthony DISTEL, RMN

HMS Enterprise

S1C Audery HANTZ, RMN

GSNLAC Lilla Bjorn

SCPO Patrick HOUSEMAN, RMN

HMS Ajax

S1C Morgan KOLLIN, RMN

HMS Enterprise

CPO Vanessa LANDRY, RMN

HMS Demon

PO2 Katie LAWRENCE, RMN

HMS Valkyrie

PO1 Jeff LECOURIS, RMN

HMLAC Scythe

S1C Joseph MADDEN, RMN

HMS Demon

PO1 Lee MCKINNIS, RMN

HMS Demon

S1C Matt MCMILLAN, RMN

HMS Valkyrie

CIVILIAN Sophia MILLER, SFC

HMS Valkyrie

S1C James O'CONNELL, RMN

HMS Ajax

S1C Randal SCHEIB, RMN

HMS Demon

S1C Sonja SHELTON, RMN

GSNLAC Lilla Bjorn

S1C Rebecca TESTERMAN, RMN

HMS Galahad

LCPL Dan ZIMLICH, RMMC

MARDET Valkyrie



### Havenite Operational Service Medal Virtual Uniform Party

CIVILIAN Kayla AUDET, SFC

HMS Enterprise

RADM Wayne BRUNS, RMN

HMS Invincible

VADM Diane K BULKELEY, RMN

HMS Enterprise

Lieutenant SG Aaron Joseph BUTT, RHN

HMS Death Claw

S2C Bruce William CREWS, RMN

HMS Beowulf

CDR Richard Aaron DAVENPORT, GSN

HMS Death Claw

S3C Morgan K DAVID, RMN

HMS Demon

CPO Christina R DOANE, RMN

HMS Beowulf

LTCDR Debra FLIGOR, RMN

HMS Hotspur

CAPT Larry Dale FRENCH Sr, RMMC

MARDET Demon

CAPTSG Rex HOOD Jr, RMN

HMLAC Scythe

CAPTJG Gordon KLEIN-LEBBINK, RMN

HMS Ajax

CAPTSG Zachary MCCAULEY, RMN

HMS Valkyrie

CAPTSG Paladin Douglas MEYER, RMN

HMS Merlin

CAPTJG James Mike MOYER, RMN

HMS Death Claw

S1C Davi N MUNROE, RMN

HMS Javelin

PO2 Jeffrey Dale RANDALL, RMN

HMS Death Claw

PO1 Amanda RITTHALER, RMN

HMLAC Scythe

CDR Richard James SAMS, RMN

HMS Merlin

CAPTSG Jackie SNEDDEN, RMN

HMS Enterprise

MCPO Cory SNEDDEN, RMN

HMS Enterprise

CDR Ziggi THOMPSON, RMN

HMS Javelin

SMCPO Kevin WALSH, RMN

HMS Hotspur

FKpt David J WESTOVER, IAN

HMS Beowulf



### Manticoran Combat Action Medal

#### 8th Award

CDR Richard Aaron DAVENPORT, GSN

HMS Death Claw

#### 5th Award

CAPT Larry Dale FRENCH Sr, RMMC

MARDET Demon

#### 4th Award

MCPO Jeffrey John HUGHES, RMN

HMLAC Banturon

# April Honors

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## AWARDS



### Civilian Pin - Chartered Staff Member

CDR Richard Aaron DAVENPORT, GSN  
CDRE Justin Edward GRAYS, GSN

HMS Death Claw  
HMS Valkyrie



### Civilian Pin - Accredited Staff Member

CDR Richard Aaron DAVENPORT, GSN

HMS Death Claw



# April Honors

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## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations are extended to the following members on the occasion of their promotions as noted.

### Board Promotions

Timothy Bailey, RMN, HMS Musashi, to Captain, Senior Grade  
Richard Davenport, GSN, HMS Death Claw, to Captain  
Sherman Day, RMN, HMS Demon, to Rear Admiral of the Red  
Rick Matheny, RMN, HMS Invincible, to Captain, Senior Grade

### HMS Demon

- Marc Malnekoff to Spacer 1st Class, effective 11 April, 2020
- Jeffrey Schuler to Spacer 1st Class, effective 11 April, 2020
- Morgan David to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 19 April, 2020
- Dylan Renyo to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 19 April, 2020
- James Dobbs to Analyst, effective 19 April, 2020

### HMS Enterprise

- Robin Brail to Spacer 2nd Class, effective 3 April, 2020

### HMS Galahad

- Rey Cordero to Petty Officer 2nd Class, effective 11 April, 2020

### HMS Helen

- Jack Oswald-Warren to Crewman Spacer 1st Class, effective 19 April, 2020
- Scott Walkotten to Platoon Sergeant, effective 27 April, 2020

### HMS Javelin

- Beth A Freund to Spacer 1st Class, effective 25 April, 2020
- Alexis M Freund to Spacer 1st Class, effective 25 April, 2020

### HMS Musashi

- Damon Graham to Gunner's Mate 2nd Class, effective 1 April, 2020

# Fleet Command & Staff Contacts

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## **Fleet Commander**

Rear Admiral of the Red Geoff Strayer

co@gryphonfleet.org

## **Deputy Fleet Commander**

VACANT

## **Fleet Bosun**

SMCPO Kevin Walsh

bosun@2ndfleet.trmn.org

## **Chief of Staff**

Captain SG Zach McCauley

cos@gryphonfleet.org

## **Flag Captain**

Captain JG Christina Swanson

co@hmsgryphon.trmn.org

## **JAG Ombudsman**

Captain Larry French, Sr., RMMC

ombudsman@2ndfleet.trmn.org

## **Legalman**

CPO Christina R Doane

legalman@2ndfleet.trmn.org

## **Intelligence Specialist**

Lieutenant Commander David Oliver Kling

intel@2ndfleet.trmn.org

## **Personnel Officer**

Captain SG Jamey Salsberg

## **Training Officer**

SCPO Derek Sauls

bosun@hmsgryphon.trmn.org

## **Range Officer**

SMCPO Kevin Walsh

marksmanship@2ndfleet.trmn.org

## **RMACS Liaison**

Captain JG Christina Swanson

ascl@gryphonfleet.org





# 2nd Fleet Order of Battle

## Task Force 21

### LAC Wing 30

HMLAC Gungnir  
HMLAC Superior

Willmar, MN  
Duluth, MN

### Task Group 21.1

HMS Imperatrix (SD-457)  
HMS Invincible (SD-455)  
HMS Valkyrie (SD-355)  
*Destroyer Squadron 265*  
HMS Javelin (DD-264)  
HMS Lodestone (DD-64)  
HMS Merlin (CA-270)  
HMS Hellhound (DD-446)  
HMS Juno (BC-726)  
HMS Leonidas (BC-584)

Minneapolis, MN  
Plymouth, MN  
Minneapolis, MN  
  
Big Lake, MN  
Elk River, MN  
St. Cloud, MN  
St. Paul, MN  
Willmar, MN  
Grand Forks, ND

### Task Group 21.2

HMS Borzoi (DD-438)  
HMS Gawain (DD-481)  
HMS Musashi (BC-775)

River Falls, WI  
Madison, WI  
Milwaukee, WI

## Task Force 22

### LAC Wing 62

GSNLAC Lilla Björn  
HMLAC Banturon  
HMLAC Scythe

Marquette, MI  
Muncie, IN  
Portage, Indiana

### Task Group 22.1

HMS Apollo (CL-80)  
HMS Demon (CLAC-62)  
HMS Gryphon (SD-153)  
HMS Hotspur (DD-02)  
HMS Samurai (CL-356)  
HMS Wolfhound (DD-437)

Lafayette, IN  
Hammond, IN  
Indianapolis, IN  
Rantoul, IL  
Goshen, IN  
Mt. Prospect, IL

### Task Group 22.2

*Cruiser Division 711*  
HMS Death Claw (CA-437)  
HMS Hexapuma (CA-412)  
HMS Sabrepike (CA-417)  
HMS Galahad (DD-478)

Cincinnati, OH  
Mount Vernon, IN  
Franklin, OH  
Columbus, OH

### Task Group 22.3

HMS Ajax (BC-545)  
HMS Beowulf (BC-739)  
HMS Enterprise (BC-480)  
HMS Helen (BC-570)

Windsor, Ontario  
Lansing, MI  
Rochester Hills, MI  
Fruitport, MI

*Remember – all command triads can be reached by emailing [co@, xo@](mailto:co@hmsfearless.trmn.org) or [bosun@](mailto:bosun@hmsfearless.trmn.org) shipname(with the HMS).trmn.org!  
(example: [co@hmsfearless.trmn.org](mailto:co@hmsfearless.trmn.org))*



# Echelon Command Contacts

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## **Task Force 21**

Rear Admiral of the Red Wayne Bruns

co@tf21.trmn.org

## **Task Group 21.1**

Captain (SG) Jill McTavish

co@hmsvalkyrie.trmn.org

## **Destroyer Squadron 265**

Captain (SG) Paladin Meyer

co@desron265.trmn.org

## **Task Group 21.2**

Captain (JG) Timothy Bailey

co@hmsmusashi.trmn.org

## **Task Force 22**

Commodore Justin Dupras

co@tf22.trmn.org

## **Task Group 22.1**

Captain (SG) Michael Flanagan

co@hmshotspur.trmn.org

## **Task Group 22.2**

Captain (SG) Jimmy Nelson

co@hmshexapuma.trmn.org

## **Cruiser Division 711**

Captain (JG) Kevin Johnson

co@hmsdeathclaw.trmn.org

## **Task Group 22.3**

Captain (SG) Jackie Snedden

co@hmsenterprise.trmn.org

