

“Port/Stbd Watches” Means No Rest to Vets of NavEx

Standing port and starboard watches is usually thought of as a punishment; it certainly is not standard procedure on **RUSH**. However, during the Navy

Exercises most of the crew found themselves standing 6 hours on and 6 hours off watch. The bridge team, radio, CIC, and Sonar had to maintain a

higher readiness due to the demands of the exercises, but the engineers were still able to stand 3 section watches as most of the drills did not directly involve them.

Besides the obvious fact that the watches were exhausting, crew members found at times it was hard to stay alert for a full six hours. This was especially true in CIC where the sheer number of bodies and the warm weather in the vicinity of Hawaii made the space almost unbearable. The coke machine became an essential stop for the watchstanders, and the escape scuttle was open much of the time. People learned to entertain themselves to stay awake, and though some of the humor was a bit bizarre, like the periscope raised out of the scuttle in CIC, it all served to make the time go faster.

The daily routine totally changed. Instead of the familiar Bos'n's pipe jarring people out of the rack at 0630, reveille was briskly held at 0500. The cooks met the challenge though and served the morning meal from 0530 to 0730.

