

Fun Times with Fun Boss

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Joshua Murray



Photo by MCSN Zack Guth

Shawn Reed, USS Gerald R. Ford's (CVN 78) "Fun Boss" watches as Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 3rd Class Parker Brisbee, from Portland, Oregon, assigned to Ford's (CVN 78) air department, participates in a Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) event in the ship's hangar bay.

ATLANTIC OCEAN — Few people aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) have a job title as self-explanatory as Shawn Reed, the ship's Fun Boss.

Organizing everything from command events, underway games, 5Ks on the flight deck and movie nights in the hangar bay, it's Reed's job to bring levity to a stressful and fast-paced work environment.

"I'm the afloat recreation specialist aboard CVN 78, also known as the Fun Boss," said Reed. "My job is basically running MWR (morale, welfare, and recreation), everything from events and command parties to helping with the sports teams, issuing out games and cards, and doing whatever else the crew may be interested in, underway or in port."

Ford's MWR team is comprised of Sailors led by Reed and Retail Services Specialist 1st Class Angel Rosa, from New York, assigned to Ford's supply department. MWR is dedicated to providing the crew with

avenues to entertain themselves and alleviate the pressures that come with living and working on an aircraft carrier.

"We as the MWR team try to improve the quality of life for each Sailor after their long, strenuous day," said Rosa. "We can put that smile on their face and keep morale high. During that period after work we host activities for people to enjoy themselves and decompress."

As the head of MWR aboard the ship, Reed oversees the planning, preparation and implementation of those activities to keep the crew's spirits high.

"Morale is a big thing on the ship," said Reed. "The command recognizes that and is very supportive in letting us use spaces like the hangar bay or flight deck to host events. I'm here to do what Sailors want to do. If there's something we can do and execute and it's beneficial and fun for everybody, we'll do it."

Rosa said a dedication to

brightening the crew's day and dispelling the monotony of shipboard life is the biggest motivator behind the team's hard work.

"What we do to put smiles on everybody's faces shipyard workers, officers, enlisted Sailors, from the Captain on down, none of it would be possible without the team putting in a lot of work, a lot of hours setting up these events," said Rosa.

Reed said that while the job can be challenging, the results are fulfilling.

"My favorite part of the job is just making people happy, giving out prizes, putting smiles on their faces," said Reed. "Because when you're underway, you're away from home, away from family, away from friends, you're away from normal life, and the crew starts to become your family and friends. Any time you can enjoy that onboard, with the grind, it's always a plus."

WOLVERINE OF THE DAY



LS3 MITCHELL FARRELL
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Time in Navy: 4 years, 6 months

Goals

- Make LS2
- Earn his EAWS pin
- Receive his degree in Oceanography from UC Scripps San Diego

Personal Hobbies / Interests:

- Mountain biking
- Sailing

Developed and conducted training to 75 of his shipmates in the OMMS-NG portion of the work center supervisor PQS, sat on 16 boards, resulting in 12 newly qualified Work Center Supervisors this underway.