



MEMBER ORIGINS IN



**THE ROYAL
MANTICORAN NAVY**

The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association

Compiled by
The Bureau of Planning



2020 Edition

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Distributed by



A book by
THE ROYAL MANTICORAN NAVY

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Foreward

*This collection of stories was gathered in 2018 from members of **The Royal Manticoran Navy: The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association**. It all started when one member, Lady New Essex (Diane Bulkeley), made a post on the official Facebook Page for the fan club telling a story about how she came to be a member of the organization. It snowballed from there, other members started chiming in with their stories and soon even the First Lord of the Admiralty, Martin Lessem, and his Grace David Weber joined in. This is the first of what we hope will be many volumes to come. We all joined TRMN for different reasons but discovered when we got here that we are many branches, one family. To all my fellow members, thank you for being who you are and making TRMN what it is to me personally.*

In Service,

*Cheryl M Krause, GCE, KDR, MC
Rear Admiral of the Red, RMN
Second Space Lord
Baroness New Hastings*

David Weber

Well, I can honestly say that MY association with the TRMN DID begin (in a manner of speaking) with the very first book in the series.

In more concrete and immediate terms, it began one day in 2009, when this fellow who'd been talking with Ad Astra Games contacted me with this notion of creating an official Honor Harrington fan club in the US. I'd already been talking with Jan Kotouč in the Czech Republic about an Honor Harrington fan group, which he had organized as HMS *Phantom*, but this Lessem fellow had really big ideas about a formally organized and licensed fan organization. More than that, he really sounded like he thought he could pull it off! Nonsense of course, but then again...

Be darned if I didn't actually think he might make it work, despite all the obstacles. He just... struck me that way. Some of you may have met him, so you probably know what I'm talking about.

Anyway, that was in 2009, and if you fast-forward a year or so to early 2011, he actually pulled it off. In February of that year, a new fan organization formally launched — **The Royal Manticoran Navy: The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association**, which is a real mouthful. Which is why we call it the TRMN, instead.

You pin diminutive nicknames on people and things that are especially important to you, and the TRMN — all of you — are especially important to Sharon and me. I don't know how many of you have seen the movie *The Shack* or read the book, but in it God, who loves all of Her children (if you haven't seen it you really need to) is fond of saying “I am exceptionally fond” of those who are currently living up to Her standards.

Well, Sharon and I are “exceptionally fond” of all you guys. Yes, there are occasional food fights. Welcome to the real world, and welcome to family dynamics. But there is such a sense of friendship, of being there for one another. And Sharon and I could not conceivably have been adopted by a nicer, more caring bunch of people. I've said it before, if my books can be important enough to inspire a fan organization built and peopled by human beings as exceptional as you guys are, then I must be doing something right.

Thank you for being who you are.

Michael Romero

I joined just under five years ago. Mike Hunnicutt, one of my best friends in real life and one that helped me form one of the most awesome Klingon groups out there, encouraged me to join TRMN

right after I'd had an exceedingly bad (including a full on nervous breakdown) experience in command of an SFI chapter with a lame duck command staff on top of an inactive crew. Mike had been encouraged to join TRMN and develop new chapters in Virginia, and he wanted me to be part of his crew.

I told him I'd read the books (the first two were free on Amazon at the time), and join the club to hang out, but that's it. I was sick of fan group leadership, and other than being the Helmsman of HMS *Devastation* DD-44, I was NOT looking to get involved.

Then I started meeting some of the people involved through Facebook and a few in person. Our local chapter started growing like a weed (watered with good navy rum, of course), and quickly spun off HMS *Vengeance*. I took a chance and stepped into a leadership role as Boatswain (helping keep the upstart Lieutenant SG White from going full "Marty Pascal"), but I was going to stay enlisted forever, dang it! Feeling comfortable getting involved, I took on a BuTrain instructor billet as Missile Tech Instructor, since that didn't involve condemnation to the officer ranks. (Ask James, Laura, or Christa, once you join the Bureau, you can never leave except for a senior government position.) Third Fleet was also growing by leaps and bounds, and HMS *Vengeance* soon gave way to HMS *Agamemnon*, and I stepped into the FSMCPO role. Almost guarantees you life as an enlisted man, right?

Wrong.

Much to the lament of SMCPON Coonradt, in the summer of 2015, I decided I wanted to launch my own chapter, and play up the Age of Sail roots of the Honorverse. After talking with BuShips and digging through the Hornblower novels, HMS *Atropos* CL-257 was born. I met more great people, and the chapter boomed to BC strength within a few months, and we became HMS *Atropos* BC-363. We were fortunate that BuShips had the *Atropos* listed as both Light and Battlecruisers in canon...I keep telling people that it was Fate, but so few people get the joke. In addition, people kept putting me in charge of things...I became CO of BatCruDiv311, and then Task Group 31.1. On the BuTrain side I was growing as well...leading seven schools as the SIA TSC Tactical Department Chair before becoming the 6SL's Chief of Staff and the War College Commandant.

I had to pass War College on when I tried a semester of online classes to begin working toward a Master's Degree (still need to win the lottery to make it happen), but not so long ago became the SIA Senior Officer Instructor. Most recently, following in the able footsteps of two of the dudes that made TRMN in this area so compelling, Daniel Walker and Joseph Lawrence Lyons, I am now in command of Third Fleet. I had to give up the white beret about eight months ago, but Brian Burnham has kept HMS *Atropos* going strong,

and her crew is the best any flag officer could ask for.

I'm really looking forward to the next five years in TRMN and am grateful for more people than I can tag here for making this the best fan group experience I've ever had.

Oh, and because David and Sharon Rice-Weber [got] me hooked on the books, I literally have a new direction in my career and if the folks at Naval History Magazine are able to find the artwork to go with my admittedly obscure topic, I will soon be a published naval historian. Fancy that.

Reece Guisse

As usual, I did not start with the first book in the series. I picked up Honor of the Queen from my local used bookstore in BFE, NorCal. This was...2005? Somewhere in there. I spent the next few years scouring that store for every David Weber book I could find. Eventually, I had to resort to desperate measures...I had to buy them new.

When I moved to South Carolina in 2013 to assist my aging mother, I was without friends and a bit depressed - a recurring condition. That's when I heard about HonorCon. It was to be held in Greenville, only a few hours away the week I heard about it. With only a little encouragement, I was off!

I met some great people there - Martyn Griffiths, Phil Clayton and his wife Angela S. Clayton and many, many others. Random strangers who wanted to go out to dinner and to talk about the Weber books...it was an amazing time. While there I signed up for TRMN...and spent the next 8 months in the holding station because I'd never joined a fan club before and knew not the first thing.

Not all was lost, though. I was invited to several Game Days in and around Greenville. I got to re-meet (I'm the WORST with names and sometimes faces) some great people, including a certain vertically challenged red head named Sharon and her three children. I wasn't until the next HonorCon (this time in Raleigh, NC) that I found out that Sharon was married to (gasp!) David Weber!!

During the following year I came to know, and to my astonishment, be known by, David, Himself. It has been my great pleasure to [be] associated with TRMN, the Webers, the Claytons, Steven Firestine, the Staublys and so very many other fine people. For five years now, TRMN has been the place I go to find friends and companionship. Thank you, each and every one of you.

Even Kiwi.

No, my eyes are not watering. I have no idea what you are talking about. Go away.

Patrick McKinnion

So around 2012, a friend up in BC (I believe it was Cary Anne Conder) and I were discussing Star Wars fandom like the 501st and Rebel Legion, and somehow a reference to The Royal Manticoran Navy came up. (I thought Cary mentioned it, she thinks I mentioned it. So, it goes...) Seemed like people were trying to gather enough members to start a group in the Pacific Northwest, so I figured I would join and be a warm body for their membership numbers. Somehow Camin Keplinger Bradbury and our daughter Mhari ended up members too.

Then I got bored and started taking some tests. And some more. And even more...

Around that time, Timothy Monk was trying to start a local group, HMS *Truculent*. I showed up, talked, and in due time ended up as an Ensign and the communications officer on the Truc [*HMS Truculent*].

Then, while taking the Sick Berth Attendant courses, I submitted a warrant project that was basically “What does Dr. Montoya have in his medical kit?” James Friedline first asked me what my certification and medical credentials were, then asked “do you want to teach this? Long story short, I found myself a (Surgeon) Lt. Commander and the head of the Saganami Island Academy’s Medical Department. I was also handling regional coordinator for BuSup at the same time.

And I continued to take tests.

A year later, and the Truc had a table at Norwescon. One ship became two, and then four and then....

Before VCON 39 in 2014, I was approached to be CO of a new ship comprising Northern Washington and the Olympia Peninsula. And so, HMS *Andromeda* was commissioned at VCON with David Weber attending the commissioning. I gave up my BuSup hat, and then in 2015 decided to let someone else run Medical tests.

At OryCon in 2016 I was made Captain of the List on top of everything else.

In 2017 I had a series of serious personal issues hit. My ship and friends were supportive, but I made the decision towards the end of 2017 to leave command of the Andy [*HMS Andromeda*]. Soon after I made that Choice, James D Sena approached me about transferring to the Republic of Haven and starting their Naval Academy. I agreed, and after the Change of Command for *Andromeda* at Norwescon 2018, I transferred, and I’ve since then been handling the startup of the Republic of Haven Naval Academy as its first Commandant.

I’ve been a member now for over six years.

I’ve met some good people along the way. Elizabeth Davis, Jenni Merrifield, Jennifer Wen-Lung Pearson, Crystal West, Kris Lancaster,

Scott A. Akers and his wife Dawn Lee-Akers, David Weber and his wife Sharon Rice-Weber, Tom Coonradt and his wife Christina Coonradt, and many, many others.

It's been an interesting trip so far. Some bad apples here and there, but overwhelmingly positive and cool people. I'm glad I got involved.

Zach White

I was working registration for a small Tidewater area (VA) anime con called Neko - it was an annual gig that I'd done for the volunteer hours since arriving in VA in 2011. A rather excitable man in a black jumpsuit and beret came through my registration line, struck up a conversation with me, and handed me a flyer for something called "The Royal Manticoran Navy." I had seen one or two other people in the black jumpsuits and berets walking around the convention center - but as we were pretty swamped (it was a Saturday morning) I set the flyer aside and didn't remember it until I was cleaning out my pockets to do laundry that night.

Being a sucker for military cosplay - I went to the website that was on the flyer and to the Facebook page of the ship, HMS *Devastation*. I was intrigued by the "Free to join" thing - and even more intrigued by the "No Membership Dues" thing - I had considered being part of SFI at the time, but I was not about that membership dues life....this is funny because anyone that knows me knows that I have probably spent more money on uniforms and other expenses associated with this club to pay for a SFI membership *many* times over - lol.

In my defense it seemed like a good idea at the time though - lol.

Further inspection of the origins of the fan club divined for me that the book series it was based on was something called the Honor Harrington series - which when I saw the cover I immediately recognized as the book that had "that chick with the weird cat thing on her shoulder" on the cover. I was familiar with the books by sight - but had previously dismissed the series over the cover art....yes, I know...BUT I rectified my mistake and was instantly hooked.

Anyways - I called up the skipper of the *Devastation* and inquired about being a midshipman (no judging - we were all new once) and he enlightened me on how the ranks went etc. etc.

Long story short - before too long, after spending about a month as a S3C, I found myself a Lt (SG) and XO of another destroyer, HMS *Vengeance*, DD-11. Those were much simpler times, and honestly some of my fondest memories in TRMN.

I immediately roped in my then wife, my friend Tony, and my friend Misty.

The rest as they say is “history.”

Sadly, for one reason or another, the people with whom I first served in this org are no longer a part of the organization. From that core group of people I first interacted with, only Michael Romero and Misty White (who is around because she outranks me and I convinced her to marry me) remain - and I am thankful to Mike in particular for being one of the first people in this org that I considered a friend and a mentor.

There are too many people to name that have had an impact on me positively in this organization - and hopefully I have had an impact (for the better) on some people here as well. I know I can seem to be somewhat straight forward online, and suffer from a distinct inability to sugar coat things - but I'm not the asshole that some people think I am - talk to me in person - I'm nice -I promise.

I'm almost to my 5 year mark in this great organization - and despite all the occasional drama that seems to come with being in positions towards the top of this org - I wouldn't trade my time here for anything, or the friendships that I have made, or the things that I have experienced.

I consider all of you part of my extended family - extended, somewhat dysfunctional family.

Megan Cochran

In February of this year, I found a group of friends in a completely different organization that have become essentially my family. They joked about our pack in the game we were playing, Werewolf the Apocalypse, and said “The only condition we have for you joining our pack is that you also join our book club. We meet once a month for food and board games,” and without missing a beat I responded, “You had me at food.”

I started learning about this club they were in, called the Royal Manticoran Navy, and it intrigued me. I started reading the books and fell in love with the characters, concept, and story. Having not even been in the club for three months, I decided to accompany my friends and their ship, HMS *Wolf*, to MantiCon, and it was one of the greatest experiences. I feel so welcomed by this organization and I have been enjoying the amount of depth and thought put into everything. My shipmates, my pack, are my family, and thanks to them I have discovered so many new things about myself and how much I really needed them.

Without the TRMN, I wouldn't be as happy as I am now, and I wouldn't have some of the most important people in my life.

And all this in maybe five months. It's only up from here.

George Farmer

I picked up the first few Honor Harrington books and had read them all. At the time I was living on the East coast and had been attending a “Small convention known as Shore Leave” every July. The year was 2007 I went to Shore Leave that year as usual. I was walking through the hall where they had the autograph lines and tables set up. I was waiting to get into one of the stars speaking and I can’t remember who it was. As I got to the ballroom, I saw a table for a new fan group based on the books I had read to that date and loved. I stopped by to find out what it would take to join. I had been a member of SFI and was not looking forward to having to pay a yearly due. Much to my surprise I was told it was free. I immediately signed up. I was given a TRMN lanyard and a small pamphlet. A few weeks later I received in the mail my membership card and wouldn’t you know it I was the 61st person to join this wonderful group. For a couple of years, I did do much cause there wasn’t a chapter where I lived. Then one day someone emailed me and asked me to help them build a ship. I agreed and joined the marines. From there I have moved up in the org from just an enlisted marine to an officer when they split the ship and needed an officer for the roster. I then moved to AZ and started my second MarDet on the ship out here. Then I joined BuTrain as an instructor in the RMMCTC. The then commandant asked that I step up as his XO. I took up the challenge. Together with help we built the RMMCTC to what it is today. Now I am the commandant of the RMMCTC. I hope to continue to build the academy.

Chris Thompson

It was July 2013, and I suddenly found free time to go to a convention. Many of my local friends suggested Convergence, in Bloomington, MN so I decided to go there.

Upon entering I was impressed by the massive number of people in the cosplay. (I had first cosplayed as Chad from the anime series Bleach in 2006, so was not new to the concept.)

When wandering around the cabanas during the day, I stepped into a room that had some computers set up, connected to the TV playing an at the time unfamiliar game. Artemis was what it’s called, and it looked relatively straightforward. That was when I first met Don Hackett, Jill McTavish, and learned of the group called The Royal Manticoran Navy. They also filled me in on this book series by David Weber.

Later that night, I went by that same party room to see Bill Lochen doing his well-known and famous Pod Rolling routine. I had one and was hooked on the group with what they do, and how they operate. I remember having talked and walked with Jill for the better part of the day and saw that the group was very active in the volunteering of the convention.

Needless to say, during that night, Drew Drentlaw was assisting with sign-ups and I decided to give it a try.

It wasn't long before I was Petty Officer, and I started making cosplay uniforms almost right off the bat. I went to the HonorCon in Greenville, SC, and met David in person. I was amazed at how good of a conversationalist he was, and how he very much enjoyed hanging out with his fans.

It wasn't long before I found myself getting a case of what I now know as "helium Hand" and vaguely remember talking to Jill, Don, and Brian Dale Horton about Artemis. The conversation started with, "Gee, wouldn't it be cool if..."

That was, and probably is the biggest undertaking our local groups within the organization have taken on. What we called HMS *Artemis* became the talk of the town, quite literally. Convergence was able to finagle a public space for our, at the time, one setup and we got extremely positive reception by the locals. Now we have two fully immersive setups that turn that conference room into two fully functional and immersive bridge simulators, ceilings, reactive lights, flooring, custom consoles, seating and all. We run it at Convergence for four days, seeing around 600 people throughout. This is quite possibly one of my favorite aspects, seeing the volunteers assist guests, and seeing new friendships being made at many of the sessions within the bridge crews, many of whom have not known each other prior to the session.

Later, I was asked if I would be interested in being an officer on HMS *Valkyrie*. I took the offer and was also soon pushed into becoming RMN shipbuilder for the Bureau of Ships. That moved on to Chief of Staff, then later, Deputy Third Space Lord. I was the CO of *Valkyrie* for a very short time, but I was happy to have been considered suitable for a command role.

Within that Bureau, I worked with another military veteran, John Roberts, and Michael D. Garcia, both of whom I consider to be a great friends and solid mentors. I've learned a lot about how chapters were made and maintained, and how to work with the members in the creation of new chapters.

Throughout my time, I have also come to know many of our brothers and sisters in the Czech Republic. Jan Kotouč has been a very good friend, and a fun guest to have around during the times we had MantiCon. I am happy to have the international connections

there, and with Martyn Griffiths and company in the UK.

This organization means a lot to me, and I wish it to continue on at a healthy place. People have helped one another out, willing to help financially, or to simply provide a place to stay for a couple months, to simple moral support. I enjoy having talked to and made friends within the organization from all walks of life, and all sorts of political and social backgrounds. This organization is the common ground that we all use to celebrate not just the works of David Weber, but fandom in general.

There are people I have missed in my past, but that doesn't detract from their influence on my participation in this organization. If I didn't call you by name, I am still thinking of all of you while I write this, and you can guaran-damn-tee that I am thinking all positives.

You all are what make this organization great, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Jaime Spedden

I enjoy jumping on bandwagons, so I'll throw my origin in the group out there too...

I got into the books in 2005. My parents owned a thrift store and I found all the Honorverse books that were out at that point together in a milk crate. The cover for *Flag in Exile* was the one with Honor dual-wielding katanas and I was intrigued that what appeared to be the same series had stuff like that as well as the military sci-fi aspect. I read them out of order but enjoyed it. I worked for *Borders* at the time and *At All Costs* was the first one I picked up new and have been doing it since.

I found TRMN on complete accident. I was making a custom playmat for *Magic: The Gathering*. I found one of the French covers by Genkkis and asked to use that. Then looked to see if the RMN had its own emblem. In finding that, I found the group.

I joined in 2013. I was offered joining the South Dakota ship or the Iowa ship since there wasn't one in Nebraska. Since the Iowa one was one away from getting a MARDET and I was a Marine, I joined the Iowa ship. I was on it for only a couple months when Cindy Jeffers and John Neitz convinced me to get some friends together and start my own ship.

We've gone from a LAC to a DD to a CL to a BC and now an SD. The other Nebraska ship spun off from my ship. And I've helped people starting ships in other parts of 6th Fleet. I'm not as active as I could be, but my work schedule is pure chaos. I like to help where I can and just do what I'm able to do.

The people in TRMN have become my family over the years.

We've had a lot of fun. I got to meet David Weber at a local con. That was awesome. Was also the largest gathering of 6th Fleet ships at the time. Managed to help get at least one person from every Oklahoma ship up here. That was an awesome weekend.

Tammy Schoonover

So, back in 2013, I got invited (along with my husband Damon) to a 'private' party by John Roberts at StarFest 2013. John had known both of us for a decade and wanted to invite us to this party for an Honor Harrington group he was in. My husband had the first 4 books, and I'd seen them on the bookshelf, but had never read them in the previous 8 years. John handed me a free copy of *On Basilisk Station*, I read the back of the book and thought it sounded interesting. John knew the Captain of the HMS *Enterprise* was there, so he invited the two of us to join up with them. We went over and sat down and talked to the CO and her husband while I signed up. When my husband was signing up, he was interrupted by the CO's husband when he recognized my husband's name. It turned out that the *Enterprise* CO and her husband were friends we had lost contact with about 8 years before, right before Damon and I had gotten married. And so, we joined up with then Captain (JG) Diane Bulkeley and were immediately bumped to Lt. JG and given work to do. It has been a wonderful roller coaster ride ever since! I now Captain the Big E, my husband is my Bosun, and Diane's now the Second Space Lord... makes me wonder what the next 5 years will bring!!! I've had a blast getting to meet David and Sharon and love all the new friends and family I've gained in the Fleet.

Misty White

So back in 2013 I had this friend named Zach White who invited me to a convention in Williamsburg VA... seriously we were just friends no other feelings at that time... I shared a room with him, Michael Honeycutt, Zach's ex Amber, our other friend Tony Henry, and David M Sanders... it was an awesome time. They were all part of this David Weber fan club and I helped video an awards ceremony they had... I also met Gerry Martin, Michael Romero, and Alan Provo... they all seemed like a fun crowd and I was a sci-fi fan and so they asked me to join and I said not until I read the book so I went home after the con and read *OBS* and I was hooked. I joined the next day. A couple years later and I married my Friend (Zach) and David Weber and his lovely wife Sharon came to our wedding because it

was basically his fault that Zach and I ended up together (thank you! I owe you everything for helping my best friend and I realize there could be more through our discussions of the Honorverse and sci-fi) finally got to meet Mr. Weber at DragonCon that year (2014?) when Zach and I were his handlers and the rest is history!

Mark Polanis

My origin story is simple. Daniel Walker needed bodies for an organization I'd never heard of about a book series I'd never heard of, back in 2011. So, I joined up. A couple years later and several tests in with the wiki I actually decided to see what the fuss was about, picked up OBS and got instantly hooked. I knew I'd found a good author to support when I finally met David face to face. He and his wife have been amazingly wonderful people now I've captained three vessels of my own, worked for BuTrain, and am semi-retired on a ship in eighth fleet, enjoying the org

Betty Punkert

Origin Story: Back around 2001 or so, one of my exes bought me a copy of *On Basilisk Station*, slapped his inner elbow, and joked "first hit's free". When the *War of Honor* hardcover came out, I bought it so I could get the CDs and read the rest. (Shout out to The Fifth Imperium and their Baen Free CD mirror here...) Then I burned the CD for a bunch of my friends, since you could do that. Legally even. Because Jim Baen got that whole loss leader thing, as did Eric Flint (given them a digital copy and they'll want a real one to make notes in and get signed - I would never have read Eric or John Ringo for that matter without those promo CDs - but I digress). Cosplay Honor at a local convention when David Mattingly is a guest (2008). Anyhow, jump forward a couple of years (2012) and I see a leaflet for the TRMN at my FLGS. I sign up but can't figure it all out, so my membership sits dormant until one of the people I loaned said CD to in about 2003 starts a chapter in our fair windy city. *LOL!* At which point I decided I better figure out what the heck to do with this membership thing. So, I got people to start explaining the course system and actually started participating and joined the gajillion Facebook groups and stuff like that.

James Sena

My origin story is a bit different. Around 2002 I asked on the SCA Kingdom of An Tir mailing list about science fiction books people might recommend. 3 authors were mentioned - Elizabeth Moon, Lois McMaster Bujold, and David Weber. I had already read the Starfire books, so I ordered *On Basilisk Station*. I quickly got caught up in the series, and then in 2007 one of the first things I saw on my new Facebook account was a picture of a woman in RMN Service Dress Uniform. I thought to myself “Self - a Honor Harrington Fan Club would be awesome! I don’t know about that officer stuff though.”

Fast Forward to 2013 and Mir Plemmons (Who I knew because we were both Chirurgeons and WOAWs in the SCA) mentioned he had just joined TRMN and was part of the PNW chapter, HMS *Truculent*. Finally in March of 2014 I joined, originally on HMSS *Greenwich* (Captain Michael Paquette commanding at the time) Michael saw how fast I was blowing through tests, having finished Corpsman D, SBA D and Coxswain D in 2 weeks of joining, and he promoted me to Petty Officer 2nd Class, with the billet of EMS Pinnacle Pilot. On my birthday in April I transferred to *Truculent*, and then Easter Weekend I went to my first Con (Norwescon). My enlisted days were over, except I didn’t know it.

At Norwescon I met Scott A. Akers, Timothy Monk, Patrick McKinnion, Cian Witherspoon and Jess Allen, and my fate was sealed, though I didn’t know it. Tim suggested TRMN really needed a Portland OR chapter, and suggested Cian and I could start a Pinnacle there. An hour or so later Tim came back and said “How about a LAC?”. Ok great I thought! Then we started talking Command crew, and pretty soon it was “Great you can be the CO, Cian the XO and Jess the Bosun of our new Destroyer” Destroyer? I thought we were talking a LAC! And as the numbers grew over the weekend we went “OK CL. OK CA. until finally we had 13 members which was a BC. And thus I, a mere PO2 all of a sudden was staring at Captain JG and a Battlecruiser command - HMS *Black Rose*. Funny thing - our commissioning paperwork says *Agamemnon*-class, but in the books *Black Rose* is pretty clearly a *Reliant*.

Fast forward 3 months and now I was the newly designated DCO of Tenth Fleet and a Flag Officer. Wow that went fast! Then to prove it wasn’t done, 3 months later (October 2014) I also had a Squadron - Batcruron 96 with 4 BCs. (The CL HMS *Kamerling* came later.)

Thought about the fan club some more. Was thinking about SFI, too, but this one was free. Decided to join.

Chose GSN, got assigned number 1205, got sent various electronic things that I still have.

Started taking tests, and then-wife made fun of me.

Made some friends, too. Started out with Master-at-Arms since I had experience in law enforcement's corrections side. Went well.

Time passed. Then-wife became ex-wife, details unspecified. I continued on, without snide remarks about taking tests.

Read more, resuming writing, which was something I found I loved in college (Thanks, Mrs. Robinson! *Wizard's Apostasy* is dedicated to her) and kept reading. I think somewhere here I found Bahzell and Merlin.

There were other Baen authors, of course, thanks to that CD I found. I enjoyed them, too.

So here I am, Grayson from the first moment I joined. I have many Tests given unto me, starting from birth. Literally. I was born at juuuuuust under 5 months and under two pounds. My Test started quickly. There have been others.

I'm still here. Still reading. Still saying to myself, "hmmmmmm." Still Grayson. Still a fan.

Only one other thing to say.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you Grayson, the Keys, the Sword, and the Tester!

Mark Gledhill

Story time is it. Well I might as well share. I'm younger than most as I'm only 30 so I started reading David thanks to a friend in the mid-2000. Started with either *Empire of Ashes* or Prince Roger series and I can't remember. I first really got into the Honorverse when I got *The Shadows of Saganami* from the discount table at Chapters where it the hardback cost me about five dollars. I realized it was part of a biggest series and start reading the books. I can't remember the details on how I found the TRMN, but I joined back in 2011 (July so ticking close to 7 years) and left it at that. Well starting on 7/2/12 I got an email from a Timothy Monk asking in a wanted to be a member of ship-based Seattle/Tacoma area with members from BC attached. Given the distance I was a member in name only. However, I did the first four enlisted course and the steward one and decided to RP as Steward given my love of Mac. Well things tick along, and I've been with my University Life until 2014. I got back into taking courses and got about 54 done in 2 or 3 months. I also got promoted during

this time to a Petty Officer 2nd Class, I think. Well in 2014 I found that David Weber would be attending VCON over in Vancouver and managed to get over. I was all nerves since not only was it my First ever con, but I also am on the Autism spectrum (Asperger's) and I was unsure of what would happen for me. Well the TRMN people there were great, and I meet many of them for the first time and who names are too many to tag in a post. Not only did I have the chance to get a book signed by David, but I also got to have a Dinner with him and his wife. It is still one of the highlights for me after all these years. During VCON I also got my first award for service to the club and had my first case of Helium hand and volunteered to be the Bosun for the First Ship in British Columbia as I had the exams done and wanted to give back. Well as others have said things got interesting but in February of 2015, we launched HMS *Callisto*. Let's just say that 2015 was an interesting period for me as I joined IMNA as the first Warrant Officer Instructor in April. After joining BuTrain I saw that we did not have much Accessibility and pushed for us to have better support since I had experience from how my University did it. This led to the formation of the Accessibility Department in November of 2015 and the choice to become an officer and leave behind being a bosun. 2016 to present however is for another story.

Tom Coonradt

Band wagon time for ol' Coony. I started reading David Weber back in the 90s somewhere with *Honor among Enemies*. It was neat because I was able to figure out much of the story without knowing the back story. Now, I have always been an avid reader. I read the Lord of the Rings for the first time at 6 years old. I have now over 8000 titles on my shelves. David quickly rose to be my penultimate favorite author.

As to Fandom. Well that is trickier. I made my first attempt to join organized fandom in 1996ish when I went to Eugene Oregon to a Star Trek Convention with Marina Sirtis. I had dressed as a Ferengi and made my own DS9 uniform from scratch. I was totally pleased with it. I even got Marina to rub my ears for a photo. She laughed knowing full well what it meant but did it anyhow. When I tried to join SFI I was told in no uncertain terms I was not welcome. That whole story is found on my fb bio.

In 2011 I saw an ad of all things on FB advertising this club, So I joined as member 315. And was promptly lost. Until Tim Monk contacted me stating he was starting a local chapter. After initially joining and taking an exam I wanted to be deeper involved. That is

where I made my first real friend in the Club, Mark West. I loved that guy. He was funny, kind and the most reluctant officer this club would ever see. I never met him, but I cried the day he passed. He got me involved as an instructor for the academy. I ended up being the enlisted instructor for a great many new members. I graded thousands of exams. I *loved* the interaction I had with the newer members and loved the role I played in enhancing the fan experience for them by introducing concepts like what inspired David Weber's works. I only reluctantly left that role when I was offered a job as the SMCPON.

But during that time as SMCPON I was able to continue interacting with many many people. I was able to answer questions, give advice, lend a listening ear, and give encouragement whenever I could. I was also able to witness *amazing* things! A group of people literally saving a suicidal member's life!! Members sending people to check on someone whose Girlfriend was going to the hospital while he was stuck at MantiCon! I had a member open his house and family to me when I flew to Salt Lake City for an emergency interview. I have seen love from most members of this org. And I see it still today. Are we perfect? Nope, not even a little. There are some members who are more enamored of their rank and titles than in helping others find an enhanced fan experience. But for the most part the people here are genuine real people. Wonderful people, and a group of people I have accepted as family. And Sharon Weber has made herself one of the Hearts and Souls of this family. She is accessible, always has a kind word to say, is right there for an amazing number of new members to say welcome! Usually one of the first to say congrats. This org introduced me to *her*. I always loved David for his works, but I grew to *love* her for her spirit, and the joy I saw her take with the fans and their love for the Webers.

I am glad to remain part of this family. I love the interactions I have with most everyone. And I hope to continue so for a great many years. So that when a young guy comes to a con with a homemade uniform, and a desire to belong, I can do what was denied me, and welcome them with open arms and say *you belong here*.

Jenni Merrifield

In 2010 I was the president of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA), the non-profit association that puts on VCON in the Vancouver, BC, Canada area. I was already a fan of David's Honor books and Bahzel books and, at some point that year, I learned that I'd missed an opportunity to meet David Weber in Vancouver when he was here for a reading, but also that he'd apparently really loved

his visit and said he'd love to come back.

WCSFA normally votes in the Chair for a particular VCON event at the AGM in the year before, so about 18 months in advance of the event dates. At this point, the chair for VCON 36 in October 2011 has already been elected and has asked me and one other individual to serve as his Co-Vice Chairs. So, I found a way to contact David to find out if he might be available for VCON 36. It is then that I learn he would *love* to come but is already booked at the time of our event in both 2011 AND 2012, but that he's still available in 2013 and 2014

Now, It is usually WCSFA's policy that it is entirely up to the executive for a particular event to decide who to invite as Guests of Honor, but this is an opportunity I don't want to miss, so I bring a motion before the WCSFA board to allow me, as WCSFA President, to officially invite David to be a GoH at an event a few years in the future even though it would mean whoever was elected as VCON Chair that year will have one GoH predetermined. After much discussion and debate, the motion passed - although it was NOT unanimous. By the time this happened, much later in 2010, David had also been booked our weekend in 2013, so I ended up making arrangements to have him attend as Author GoH at VCON 39 in 2014.

Cut forward to the WCSFA AGM in early 2013 - I'd been wanting to try my hand as VCON Chair and with David already confirmed, I ran for the position and was elected. Cut forward again to the spring of 2014, and I receive an email from one Patrick McKinnion that explains he lives in Washington state and is a member of "The Royal Manticoran Navy" David Weber/Honorverse fan association and would like to know if we had any flyers he could pick up to take to Norwescon that year. We had postcards and he said that, as he travelled up this way frequently, he would stop by to pick some up on the weekend if I didn't mind. Which he did, and also gave me a TRMN patch and a lanyard as a gift. Having the URL I checked out the TRMN website, decided to join, got the welcome package and then ... didn't do anything more because I was too busy planning VCON!

VCON 39 came and not only did I get to meet David but also a huge contingent of members from Tenth Fleet who travelled up to meet him too. They were all amazing people and I was especially excited to learn that there were actually a few Canadians in the mix and that there was some talk about forming a ship in BC - and I said I'd certainly be interested in joining the crew if one did form. I also learned about the training exams, which I'd somehow overlooked originally, so I decided to officially transfer from Greenwich to the Truculent also switching from RMN to GSN and then started working on some courses.

Then the person who had agreed to be CO of the new BC to be formed in BC "disappeared" (i.e., stopped responding to email, etc.

from the presumptive XO, Cary Anne Conder, and Chief William Underhill). Soon, they were chatting with me on FB about the situation, selling me the sad story and, eventually, metaphorically batting their lost, soulful eyes at me until I, the softhearted creature that I am, capitulated, allowing them to “Shanghai” me into being CO for the soon-to-be-established ship even though I’d only actually finished the first naval exam at that point!

And then, on Feb 28, 2015, the HMS *Callisto* - the first TRMN ship in Western Canada - was launched, CAPT Jenni Merrifield, Commanding.

Cindy Jeffers

I’d been reading these books by a guy named David Weber on my Palm, as Baen had books in palm format. I found out he was going to be a guest at a convention in Des Moines, and wondered if there was a fan club...cause they would have more access to the author than others at the convention. I found this page for something called TRMN, saw it was free, and joined on my birthday in 2013.

Later that day I got a phone call from some guy named John Neitz welcoming me to the group, letting me know about the academy, and asking if I’d like to be on the *Invincible* since there wasn’t a ship in Iowa. He let me know about the other two members in central Iowa, and how to contact them. Three weeks later, I was the CO of LAC-007 *Tiberius*. The CO of the *Invincible*, Elisa Randall, had a beret flash sent to me by her supply person, Bob Gartner.

A couple months later was DemiCon. I finally met many of the people I’d been talking to online, as Second Fleet sent about 50 people. Besides David Weber, Tom Pope and Chris Weuve were also there, and there was a limited release of *House of Steel*. John let those of us learning SITS from Jon Stout know the books had arrived, so we paused to buy our copies. I got several autographs.

It was quite an “engulfing” weekend!

After that weekend, with many more members, we upgraded to the HMS *Starcrest* (whose captain’s last name was Jeffers in the books, not Cindy, but still) I spent four years as the CO of the various Iowa ships, helped a few people leave and start their own ships, played in BuTrain for a couple years, then started helping in BuPlan, and finally had my arm almost dislocated to give up the joy of being a ship CO and become a Space Lord’s Deputy.

Who knows what the next years will bring, and how many more people I will get to know through this organization?

N Emelio Desalvo

In 1995 I was browsing the SF section of the Feltrinelli International Bookshop.

At the bottom of the shelf there was this book, *On Basilisk Station*.

“Strange, this sounds like military SF...”

I get it from the shelf and start reading the blurb.

“Why the bookshop has not burned it?”

Note, I am not characterizing Feltrinelli as communists, at the time they did that themselves, the founder, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, killed himself in 1972 by mishandling the explosive he was going to use to drop a power trellis to cause a blackout in Milano, to bring forward the Soviet Revolution in Italy.

And OBS was not a book he would have approved, even if that was the period when the bookshop was starting to buy the uniforms from Sheep Clothing Co.

Returning to me, the blurb made it sound really good, but that was when I was reading the Hornblower and Bolitho books, so when I opened it and found the dedication to C.S. Forester, it was *love!*

I bought it and started reading it on the train home, and almost missed my station.

Then I went to Amazon.com, discovered that there were four other books, and ordered them (or maybe it was B&N).

The I found out that the Mad Wizard was going to Future Fantasy in Palo Alto for a signing, and reordered all the five books again (and at MantiCon 2018 he did not sign them again, he simply re-dated them...)

I liked the books so much that when the \$2.99 of *On Basilisk Station* came out, I bought a box, added a label reading: “Read this book, then pass it forward to someone else.” I forgot to ask: “Who are you, where do you live, and how much did you like the book?”

In 2012 I crossed the TRMN, and joined, and after a few months of confusion on how it worked, I joined the Good Ship *Glory*.

In 2016 was my first MantiCon, meeting a lot of good people I only had met on FB, and in 2018, at my second MantiCon, I met at last Sharon.

I think there was also David, somewhere...

Laura Lochen

Hahaha! My story is pretty easy... John Neitz knew I was a big DW fan because we both talked about the HH books. Then I get this call from John in Aug. 2011 and he says...” Hey, you’re a big Honor

Harrington fan too, right?!" Well, there is a fan club, and it's free! I signed up, you should too" so I did. Next thing I know, John and I have a ship, HMS *Merlin*, and a crew, and we wander on up to this little Fargo Con where David Weber is supposed to be the GoH. We meet David and Sharon Rice-Weber and the rest is history! It was a fun time...now John and I are both VADMs and obviously share Rob Marshall's case of helium hand syndrome!

Sean Niemeyer

Ten years ago, on a dark and stormy night, a figure dressed all in black knocked on my front door. Upon opening the door, a black beret bearing a red pentagon with a gold rampant manticore patch was thrust into my hand. The figure turned to return to the dark rainy night from whence it came, but as it did, a deep voice emanated from it. "Welcome to the Royal Manticoran Navy and service to her majesty, the Queen of Manticore." Ok, so I embellished the events surrounding how I joined The Royal Manticoran Navy. It sounded much better than Martin called me and asked me to design a website for new fan group he was starting. I found myself wading my way into the Honorverse. Actually, it was more like diving headfirst into a very deep pool. In short order I had read every Honorverse book that had been published at that time.

When I signed up, I was assigned the membership number of 16. For the first few years, TRMN was slow to grow, but then something started to happen. Growth started to pick up and it hasn't really slowed down since. TRMN is now assigning membership numbers in the 5000 range. In some ways that is hard to comprehend. It is also quite awesome to think that there are over 5000 other people out there that share my interest in the Honorverse. It is also awesome to see how the organization has been received by fandom in general and how it has built a good reputation. That has allowed this organization to do so much more than ever imagined.

TRMN was formed by individuals who had many years of experience in fandom and other fan organizations. The goal was to take the lessons learned in those organizations and apply them to the running of TRMN. From the start, some TRMN's goals were to de-escalate issues and to reduce and contain the drama as much as possible. When TRMN was a much smaller organization, those goals were fairly easy to accomplish. Of course, as an organization grows it becomes exponentially harder to meet those goals. For the most part, the organization has done very well, but there are times where it fails. It would be very naive to expect that 5000+ individuals would get along all the time. We all come from different walks of life,

with different life experience. Those all mold us into very different people. However, while each of us is different, we have one thing in common, the love of the Honorverse.

That love and shared interest have brought all of us together into what has become an extended family for many. TRMN has a different feel than other fan organizations out there. I have seen members open their doors to other members in their times of need without a second thought. I have seen members band together to support a common cause. Whether it be to support big cats, disabled veterans, or to support a gravely ill young member, the members of TRMN have used the Honorverse to come together and try to make this world a slightly better place. Of course, the millions of dollars (I'm not exaggerating here) in donations that that TRMN's members have raised over the past ten years isn't the whole story. The members also get together to have fun. Gaming, museum trips, conventions, parties, and movies, are just some of the other activities that TRMN's members partake in together.

If one examines TRMN, one would see that TRMN acts and behaves like a very large extended family. The members may not all get along all the time, but the same is true for any large family. There will be drama. There will be disagreements. This organization, just like a family, only works if we as members work together to address the underlying issues that cause the drama and disagreements. Shouting at the top of one's lungs from a soapbox on the street corner may seem to get a response, but in the end, more than likely it won't fix the underlying issue. If we all work together, we can fix those issues. The leadership and the members at large need to work together to address any issues that do arise. Some issues may be fixed rather quickly, but there are some fixes that may take some time to implement.

We are all here because of our shared interest and love of the Honorverse. We need to really work together to realize the true potential of TRMN. Over the last 10 years, working together, we have taken this organization from a small group of people to a worldwide organization of over 5000 members. Imagine what the next 10 years could bring if we continue to work together. The sky is truly the limit.

Shaun Stipes

Ok, I will tell mine. Even though it is not that interesting. I discovered the Honorverse at my local public library while I was homeless. Fortunately, the library system in Knoxville is very good at getting all of the books in a series. Wolfed them down from *Basilisk* to *Mission* in about 3 weeks. A few years later (my fortunes having

improved by then) I stumbled upon a reference to the main website and was overjoyed to sign up.

Doss Buckalew

I have a Barnes & Noble employee to thank for my TRMN journey. While browsing at a store one day in 2010, he just happened to ask the usual “can I help you find anything?” It’s been eight years now, but somehow whatever I answered led to him suggesting some book called *On Basilisk Station*. Sure. Why not? Of course, I was hooked.

One day, while surfing the ‘net (as one does), I came across another fan group and thought, “I wonder if one exists for the Honor Harrington books?” It did. I joined.

While I didn’t get (and remain) truly active until the summer of 2016, I am glad I did. I have met and “work” with many great people from all around the world. We joke, we gripe, we share... And we do all of those things with Honor. Well, most of the time, I hope.

Suffice it to say, I’m glad to have found the group. Glad I finally got truly involved. And I certainly hope I can remain involved for years to come.

Charles Prael

Origin stories, eh? Well, way back in the 1990s, I was reading a fair bit of SF, because I needed decompression from gearing up to run the 1993 Worldcon. Was fairly heavily involved in SF Bay Area conrunning fandom. And at some point, in the summer of 93, I stumbled across this relatively new writer named David Weber. And voraciously sucked up pretty much everything. The Starfire books, *Mutineer’s Moon*, and a couple of Horatio Hornblower-influenced SFnal books about a female starship captain (yes, I’d read *all* of the Hornblower books as a kid. Repeatedly. Along with, well, a lot more.)

Anyway, so I like the series, kept picking up things as they came out... and along right after 9/11, I wound up hanging out on Baen’s Bar. Wherein I met an odd, wonderful, etc. crowd. John Ringo, and later his wife Miriam (I remember when they were first dating, and... anyway), Eric Flint, and his just-published 1632 book (yes, got sucked into THAT in a big way...and discovered while I can write

professionally for days, fiction is not my thing). Miles Vorkosigan, who is and remains a bit of a touchstone...and lo and behold, David Weber was there. Cool. We hung out, we chatted, I wound up on one of his Honorverse book covers along with a friend.

Well, a year or three later (probably ~2007 or so), David's coming out on a signing tour, and we put together a private after-signing reception at a friend's house (from whence came the infamous bruschetta "just put that over here" story - MY bruschetta, not some restaurant), and instructions to make sure David got back to his hotel in SF (we were in San Jose, an hour away) in time to get some sleep for his morning interview. Which led to a very charming discussion at O dark 30 about kids (this was when the girls were about to come over AND Sharon was pregnant, so date from that), IVF, incipient parenting, and much more. Even got him there in time to get a few hours shut eye.

I'd heard about TRMN getting off the ground, but...honestly, just didn't have *time*. Until last summer when some friends from SMS *Scharnhorst* dragooned me in. Since our unofficial motto is "Overachievers R Us", I... blitzed things a bit. Which gets us to today, where I'm MAA for *Scharnhorst*, run the RMMC Staff School (and have designs on it... heheh) and... we'll see where things go.

JD Winterborn

Origins... Long story and in a couple parts. It started at the first Congregate I attended, promoting Hull Breach. I ran into Dan walker and several other TRMN people. They played a demo of my game... And then all but dragged a vendor over and got him to buy into my game. (Walt's still carries the game, too) Still, I didn't join the org then.

A few years later... Congregate again. By this time, I had read OBS and more besides. Another enthusiastic captain told me of the RMMC... Which appealed to both my wife and I, both being children of USMC fathers. Better still... There were donuts. Next thing you know; we were part of the MARDET.

David Gunter

Origin: Well, mine isn't overly exciting really. I had read several of the books a few years ago and really enjoyed them - the writing, the science, the plot, the strong female characters, all of it. I have been friends with Daniel Walker and Cindy Epard for years and I

was vaguely aware that they were involved in some sort of fan organization. It came up in conversation with Cindy in 2015 or 2016 and I decided to give it a try. After taking some tests and showing I had a knack for math-like things, I was approached to take an instructor role in BuTrain for the Helmsman course series. That led me to IMNA TSC in BuTrain where I wrote the various astrogation courses. And, well, that led to being the Chief of Staff for IMNA TSC; we'll see where it goes next. I've met some fantastic people in TRMN. I'm glad I joined and look forward to doing this for a good while yet.

Dave Weiner

I found TRMN back in Sep of 2012. I had read all the books up to that point and was a fan of David's work, so when I found the fan club and found that it was free... well, I jumped in. And then promptly did nothing for almost 2 years. Fast forward to early 2014, and in some SCA groups that I belong to, I start hearing about all these SCA friends of mine that are all in the same TRMN chapter, HMS *Black Rose*. Well, that got my attention, and I transferred from the *Katherine Mayhew* to the *Black Rose* and started taking tests. When April of 2014 rolled around, the SCA went in a direction that I didn't care for. I had obtained the highest award for service that you can get in the SCA, the Order of the Pelican. I had fought against changes in the SCA that I thought were wrong for over a year, but in April of 2014, the SCA's Board of Directors took the organization in that direction anyway. So here I was, a bored Pelican looking for something to do... Next thing I know, James D Sena, the CO of the *Black Rose* at that time, put me in touch with Peter Howdeshell, the CO of the *Excalibur*, which was close to me. I went to one of their activities and well, these were my people. I soon transferred from the *Black Rose* to the *Excalibur*. And well, I had this idea about spinning up a pinnacle. Pete pointed out that the crew requirements for a DD weren't that much more than a pinnacle, and suggested that I talk with Mike Henigan, Kelly Hilliard and Hans Sprenkle, then on the *Gaheris*. One thing led to another, and I ended up in command of the *Gaheris* in, I think, late September. And then I got the "elevated" access to the old database. You guys remember the old database, don't you? That's when I started saying to myself "Oh no, this will not do. No, this will not do at all" and started pestering the Third Fleet CO at the time, Daniel Walker to "make me a meeting. I can fix this!". Plus, I started recruiting. Then I got this email from a guy named... Oh, I don't know, what was it? Oh yea, Bob Bulkeley, telling me that they had already started on a redesign project, and would I be interested? If my memory is correct, by the time HonorCon 2014 rolled around, I had recruited enough people

that not only did we commission the *Achilles*, but we split off enough crew from the *Gaheris* to commission the *Princess Samantha* as well as keep enough crew that Hans took command of the *Gaheris* again! And during closing ceremonies, I made that oh so rash proclamation that the new database would be ready by the 1st of the year. Foolish me. I think you all know the rest of the story.

Stephen Schonewolf

I had heard of the Honor Harrington novels years before on a podcast when I was in China. When I got back stateside, I looked for the novels, but wasn't able to stumble on them in the bookstore.

A year later I was in Charlotte at ConCarolinas because I had heard that George RR Martin was there. Then there were a bunch of people in spiffy uniforms. So, I followed them and asked, and bought the first five books from the bookseller in the dealer's room. The next year at ConCarolinas I'd worked myself up the courage to join, and I've been having fun with the people here since.

Dan Connelly

I've been on the fence about writing my TRMN story. On one hand, I don't really consider myself a "TRMN Success" like some of the folks who have written these. Still, for every star that burns bright, there are millions of others whose light is still travelling to reach us.

For myself, I started on my Honorverse journey in 2005 when Gunny Suzie recommended David Weber as an author to me. I rapidly devoured all of the books up to that point, and I even got David to sign my copy of *Echoes* when he was on tour promoting *War of Honor*. Flash forward half of a decade and TRMN has started getting off of the ground, and once again Gunny Suzie comes around telling me that there's a new club for the Honorverse. My first question, with undisguised horror, "What, like that Starfleet thing you were doing?!"

Her reply was, "No, we very much don't want to embrace that degree of back-biting and infighting. We want to make an inclusive club, that's founded on principles of community and leadership."

Well, I was sold, and I threw myself at the process. Early on I signed on with the Graysons because that's the way I always envisioned my own persona in the Honorverse. Then the Academy put out a call asking for help with technical specialty exams. I knew a

few things about a few things, so I pitched in. Before I knew it, I was a GSN officer on HMS *Heracles*, and pitching in all over the place... mostly arguing to keep things as simple as possible and keep us at our roots of community and leadership.

After a while I moved to the East Coast for work, and around that time Home Fleet was looking for folks to lend a hand on staff, so I pitched in with Convention planning there. After a while, the opportunity popped up to spin off a chapter, and from there GNS *Erastus*, the second Grayson “meeting” chapter was formed, with Father John reluctantly roped in as CO, and myself as the exec.

It’s been an exciting seven years with you folks, and there are a lot of names of folks that I’ve had so much fun working with that I didn’t drop. I hope that we keep growing, and that we can keep our core principles of community and leadership at heart. So far, we’ve been doing wonderfully.

Larissa Lichty

I bought OBS years and years ago, with the barest awareness that it was first in a series. I almost passed it on several times, but then would re-read and say something to the effect of “Honor’s pretty cool, *and treecats treecats treecats I want one*, and look Horace Harkness and nifty aliens” and keep the book.

Finally, I was wandering the internet and signed up for the TRMN because it looked pretty cool, and I had a better understanding of the universe after my time in the USMC. I was attending/volunteering at AwesomeCon in DC the next weekend and poked around the tables until I found the one where SITS was on display, and HMS *Heracles* and HMS *Hector* members made me feel welcome, tried to sign me up again, gave me my first advance pay, and tried to explain SITS gameplay. If TRMN hadn’t had that table, I might not have become as active as I am.

Since joining I have progressed steadily through exams and rank. I am finding my comfort level of involvement and activeness, and I really enjoy everyone I’ve gotten to know on our division’s ships. I’ve learned a lot from everyone I’ve met and have had cause to do a lot of learning. I’m looking forward to playing SITS more and spending more time with my ship, squadron, and division.

Jeffrey Webb

Sherman, set the Way Back Machine for... well... way back. I have been, and always shall be, a military sci-fi geek. In 1995 I founded

a Battletech club called the Caladan Highland Dragoons. We were family, dice were rolled, and games were played, and members had in-universe personae with ribbons and ranks and the whole nine yards. When I got married, it was in the regimental uniform of the Highland Dragoons.

We discovered Starfleet at that time and got heavily involved. During this time, I discovered the first HH paperback through an SFI friend of mine and it was everything I loved about military sci-fi. We continued to be involved in 'Fleet until 2008, when the culture clash between our chapter and SFI wore me down- we were "too military" and apparently Gene would have hated us.

So, we went independent. The Royal Dragoon Guards were now once again a standalone Battletech organization, doing things our way and having fun doing it. We had a great campaign spanning years with seventeen players and backstories we still talk about today. As things evolved, we branched out into different games and picked up some new members. That's when we discovered TRMN.

TRMN was a natural fit for us. Gaming? There's the Marksmanship program. Military theme? Yup, it's right there in the books. Many of us were serving in the Texas State Guard at the time, so we decided to buck convention and become Soldiers in Her Majesty's Army. Bivouac Shorncliffe was born. But one small thing- we were told we couldn't be "Royal" Dragoons because that distinction needed to be earned.

We resolved to be the Army unit that set the example. We Drill twice a month- our term for meetings. Our Annual Training is North Texas RPG Con, from which we just returned, raising \$150 for Big Cat through \$1 re-rolls and a raffle. We go on Gulf Deployment, where we do some gaming and recruiting aboard a cruise ship out of Galveston. We host International Tabletop Game Day at the local college each year. We helped create and tweak the Army Marksmanship Program that has recently been adopted by the entire organization- a program designed to be inclusive of every game of every kind so that no one is left out. There are now second-generation Dragoons, whose parents were among the members of the CHD way back in the 90s. The first members of the Queen's Own Regiment came out of what was by that time Fort Shorncliffe, which had been joined by the first Home Guard unit, Sandgate Castle, under the command of 1LT(HG) Dr. Dennis Sustare. We then became the first Regimental Combat Team in the Army, and at that time we were told we'd earned our designation "Royal."

My journey culminated recently in being named to the peerage- which surprised the hell out of me. I had no idea anyone at the top was even paying attention to the little Army posts down in Texas except Cumberland Moor and Blacksburg. We were separated from

the rest of TRMN by our service choice (Army can't participate in Navy/MC Challenges, for instance) and by geography. We figured along with the ships of TG 61.1; we'd have to forge our own TRMN community. But I/we didn't realize we were being noticed a lot more than we thought. And when I was named a Baron, my RDG family reached back into our history and told the powers that be that I should be Baron of New Caladan. Full circle, and when I found out there was someone nearby chopping a lot of onions.

TRMN has been a place where I fit in to my niche right away. Friends have joined because they love the Honorverse, others because they love gaming. We spread the love of both to our members and use gaming to expand our ranks. We don't do recruiting tables- we do recruiting game rooms. I have officers and NCOs at Regiment, Shorncliffe and Sandgate that are my chosen family, my tribe, my Ohana. We've got people in Galveston, and the errant Dragoon or two in OKC, Hawaii and Maryland.

That's how I got into TRMN, and why I stay. That's what drives the Royal Dragoon Guards - TRMN's family atmosphere, military sci-fi structure, and the ability to roll lots of funny dice and blow stuff up real good. I love being a Dragoon in Her Majesty's Army.

New Caldan signing off.

Don Eggert

I've told an abbreviated version of this story to a few folks, but my entry into this world seems a bit different than some of the others (with credit due to a recipient not yet mentioned), so I'll share it with everyone.

From October 2006 to March 2008, I served on National Guard active duty in Las Cruces, New Mexico supporting the Southwest Border security mission. One weekend early on in the mission I was a few miles down the road in El Paso, TX -- shopping in the post exchange at Fort Bliss.

The Fort Bliss PX had a small book section, and I read like crazy, so I stopped to browse for a bit. There was about a shelf's worth of science fiction paperbacks. As I perused the covers and read the back-cover blurbs, I stumbled on a Baen book that caught my attention. The cover art popped, and the blurb sounded interesting. The best part was the price -- once I saw it was only \$2.99, I figured the book would be worth it even it was only mediocre.

Jim Baen, publishing wizard, set the hook hard that day and reeled me in for life. His ploy is completely understandable... essentially just a retail version of the Baen Free Library -- when you know you have an author and series that are compelling, you just need to find

the unsuspecting reader (an Army PX is a good place for military sci fi), put the first book of a series in front of him or her (not so much competition on those shelves), and offer a little motivation like an irresistible price (60% less than everything else).

I was that unsuspecting reader, and the book was, of course, *On Basilisk Station*. After reading the book in just a few days, I got to play catch up throughout the spring and summer of 2007 thanks to some great used bookstores. More than once, I read a book over the course of a few nights or a weekend. And it wasn't too long after that before I was buying all the books new, adding the 20th anniversary editions to my collection, and reading other Baen authors (David Drake, John Ringo, Travis Taylor, and more).

As soon as I read OBS, I started looking online to see if there were any plans for an Honorverse movie and discovered Baen's Bar. I was never active there, but it showed me that lots of other people felt the way I did. And I remember clearly that even then, though I'd only read OBS, I thought it would be just amazing if I could ever meet David Weber in person to tell him how much I liked his work.

Fast forward to July 2011. Recently returned from Iraq, I stumbled into the TRMN web presence while looking for Honorverse updates. Up until that point, I had no real clue about fandoms, and had never been part of any fan organization whatsoever. Nevertheless, I immediately joined TRMN as member #240, assigned to HMSS *Greenwich*. In 2012, after returning from my next deployment to Kosovo, I transferred to Timothy Bailey's first ship in Milwaukee, HMS *Galahad*. In 2013, after my last overseas assignment in Germany was complete, several of the Madison folks split off from its successor, HMS *Musashi*, to form our own ship -- I was assigned as the Bosun of HMS *Gawain*.

In 2013, I'd never been to a convention, and had never seriously considered attending one. Cosplay wasn't a thing in my world. I knew they existed, thanks to Trekkies, but it wasn't something I'd ever do. David's work made that attitude obsolete. The Honorverse had such a strong pull that I couldn't resist meeting with the Twin Cities crews and joining them for DemiCon in Des Moines. DemiCon was the first time I met David in person -- I didn't just get to shake his hand and tell him I was a fan, I actually got to share a dinner with him, his wife, and a bunch of other like-minded fans. Mind blown.

Five years later, the rest (like finding lifelong friends, with all the fun, drama, and emotion that ensues), as they say, is history.

Robert Trinitie

Origins: Mine is still pretty short at this point. Although it might

not read that way.

Have a friend Mir who is the captain of the HMS *Truculent*. Who figured since I had just gotten off of a 3.5-year couple days a week - couple weekends a month leadership stint in another hobby group, thought I needed to join a new one. Now that I had decompressed some and theoretically had spare time. My reply was, well maybe later.... LOL

Started reading the books when I had the opportunity. Just to find out if I wanted to do this or not. Still have a ways to go there.

Then, I got sucked into it indirectly. (well played you all. well played) There are a couple celebrities I look like and I occasionally dress up as one or both of them at cons. In this case I was dressed as a certain television star and was photographed wearing a white beret while in costume. I still remember Mr. Weber's face when he first saw me as "captain" kangaroo. (Not *quite* sure of what he thought at the time. Still don't quite know.) Figured I did not want another leadership position for a while. Plus, since I dreamed up some "wonderful" Schick, I went into the intelligence branch and am slowly taking tests when I have the time and gathering costume stuff while looking for adult supervision with sewing machines. Also, as many different ship and division patches as I can get my hands on and pay for. (part of the cunning plan)

Thom Coyne

Origin: My introduction into the Harrington universe is a bit convoluted, sometime in the mid 90's a roommate was reading a book with what looked like Michael Jackson with a gun on the cover. Years later I picked up *The Armageddon Inheritance*. When I finished, I started buying more Weber books. I found *Flag in Exile* and when I found it was in a series I was thrilled. If my roommate had been reading any other Weber book, I wouldn't have wasted all those years.

Rick Waterson

Was Vice Chair of a Chicago Con in 1997 the theme was Scots in Space and our GOH was this guy named David Weber. I had never read any of his work but after spending an hour talking to David, I zoomed to the Dealer's Room and grabbed a copy of *Honor Among Enemies*. I was hooked. Went out and got everything published to date. Since then I have been a die-hard David Weber fan, devouring everything he's written.

In 2016, HMS *Demon* was launched and the TRMN came to our convention. When I saw the folks in the snappy black uniforms, I knew that here was a fan group I would like so I joined on the spot.

Christopher Baar

Well, I guess I'll participate in story time. Back when I was living in Chicago, I was running a GURPS game in the vein of Chrono Trigger. Characters could be from any time period, and I gave the players discretion to make the determination. One player combines the concept of Prince Roger from the *Empire of Man* with the tech from the Honorverse, describing all of it to me, and showing me the diagrams from the books.

This interested me, so I did a bit more digging. Back then, they had the first two books directly on the website, so I would read them, at home and at work when I was on break or it wasn't busy. And I was hooked.

Come forward many years. I have an interest in cosplaying and in uniforms from various settings. A couple of years ago I saw on one of the various pages I belong to on Facebook someone in RMN uniform. I had made a comment that I need one. Both Zach White and Misty White replied to me about it, and I was informed of the existence of the TRMN and joined up then. I've let my testing slack, but now that I have graduated with my Master's Degree I'll have more time for that, since I still have the plan of establishing a new ship down here in South Florida. And here we are.

Lori Bonilla

I don't really like people and I don't enjoy military stories, so I think that says something big about the quality of what we have here.

My dad gave me his old Kindle once he got a new one, and he left only the Honor Harrington books on it because he thought I would enjoy them. He described them as sci-fi space military and I cringed slightly at the military part but figured they were already there and free so I should give them a try. Well, I got hooked. A female character who was created as person first rather than as a woman first?! It's a long novel series?! It is a rich, detailed world with some good science behind it?! Sign. Me. Up. In fact, I loved the series so much I deleted the versions my dad gave me and rebought every book because I wanted the author to have my money.

Somehow, in Google searching, I ran across MantiCon. I swore I would go and meet the few others who also enjoy the series. For

two, or three (?) years, I didn't make it to the con. Then I noticed it was put on by the official fan club. What??? There is a fan club! It isn't just me but a whole group? I looked into and was skeptical and unsure, but it was the part about learning leadership that tipped me into signing up overstaying my hermitted self. I figured it would be useful experience in expanding my job skills. It has turned into something more.

I joined Nov 2016 and was contacted by Task Group staff in August 2017 about my interests and wants regarding the org and it's been quite a ride since! I have learned if you want it and work for it, it's yours as quickly as you want it. I've learned maybe I'm not as ornery as I think. I've also learned I have a lot to offer in skills, in tutoring, in patience, in planning, and more; as well as learning I have a long way to go in other areas like patience and pacing myself.

I did finally make it to MantiCon this year, where I met Sharon, and got a picture with her and David, and watched them both be attentive and gracious to every single person they dealt with, wow! TRMN gave me my TG family, they are amazing and have brought much love and laughter into my life. Despite being a fandom newb and getting into drama, TRMN has made a mark on my soul and I'm only starting to realize its importance to me. So, cheers and in honor of the queen!

Shawn Merrow

I first read *On Basilisk Station* in the late 90's. I liked it but decided to wait a few years for the author to finish the series (waits for laughter to stop).

In 2013, I almost died from sepsis. I vowed to change a number of things about my life. I'm disabled and let it make a hermit of me. I strove to lose weight and get back out into the world.

2015, Read *On Basilisk Station* again, but again did not start the series.

2016, RadCon Doug Staudt an old friend talked me into joining the TRMN and the HMS *Eardsidh Kamerling*. The make more friends achievement was unlocked. I was rather unsure about the testing thing as it had been a long time since high school. I passed and got hooked on taking them. I also finally started reading the whole series. Taking my new confidence, I enrolled at Columbia Basin College.

2017, At most planned to be a 2nd Lt. for the RMMC, did an unexpected detour to being an instructor for the new World Civilization Course and then Provost for Mannheim University with the unexpected promotion to Colonel.

2018, I'm enjoying being part of BuTrain and working with some great people. I'm very happy to have the chance to pay it back for what it has given me.

I can say without a doubt that the quality of my life has improved immensely since I joined the TRMN and thanks to everyone for that.

Dale Imbleau

Origins: I started reading the books long before I found the fan club. I had just finished the Rick Shelley mercenary series and was looking for a military sci-fi book of the same genre. My first Honor Harrington was *Honor of the Queen* which I found at Powell's City of Books in April of 2013. I followed that closely with *On Basilisk Station*. I didn't find the fan group until November by accident while I was looking for other books by David Weber. Like many who join online without meeting up with members of the club, my membership languished on the forgotten decks of the holding chapter in my case it was the GNS *Katherine Mayhew*. I have no doubt that there it would have remained except for James D Sena's email to me asking me if I was interested in joining the HMS *Black Rose*. We corresponded over the space of the summer and I suggested that there was enough of a membership in the Portland, Oregon area that we should get a meeting going. The first meeting was in September for 2014 consisted of myself, Thomas Lee, Cian Witherspoon, Jess Allen, Crystal West and Lira Walking. It was noisy but the pizza was good. They persuaded me that I needed to attend OryCon that year. I actually met James D Sena, James Jones, Patrick McKinnion and Jacob Engstrom. This was my first sci-fi convention ever and I unsure of myself, but I felt welcome among these new friends. It was there that it was suggested that I might be Captain of the HMS *Black Rose* if I chose to put in the effort. Six months later, I had met Tim Zahn, attended RustyCon, helped launch the HMS *Helen* from the members of the HMS *Black Rose*, and was confirmed as the Captain of the HMS *Black Rose*. It would be two years in that position when I finally got my chance to meet David Weber. But for all the folks I have met, my feeling of family has grown larger. From the start of six people at the meeting we have grown to 20 to 30 people per meeting which happens monthly. We currently have two writers on our ship. As for myself, I am now the Chief of Staff for Tenth Fleet and I am looking forward to the next new great adventure with the fine people I have met.

Philip Wohlrab

How did I end up here? Oh, yeah, that's right I got shanghaied by Jason Cordova to be his XO when he formed the HMS *Wolverine* back in 2013. She was a fine ship, but my calling has always been in a different direction, and so when I found out we could form IAN ships I got together with some friends and went about putting one together. We thought we might have enough interest for a destroyer but ended up recruiting a Super Dreadnought's worth of crew, so the SMS *Scharnhorst* became a thing.

A few years later and I got involved with the project to get an academy off the ground for the IAN, and while that is an ongoing process, the hands it has passed into are more than capable of seeing it through. Instead, and quite unexpectedly, I found myself leading the IAN. We have grown from our humble beginnings with just a handful of ships and spacers, into a respectable number of members, and more ships on the way!

But I wouldn't be here today, if it weren't for the Barnes and Noble in Roanoke Virginia. It was there that I picked up *On Basilisk Station* nearly 20 years ago, and I have been hooked ever since.

Jerry Johnson

My origin story, huh? OK

Long ago, no divisions existed between humans, animals and spirits. All things of the earth, sky and water were connected, and all beings could pass freely between them. The Raven was a trickster full of supernatural power. He stole the sun from his grandfather Nassahkeeyahlh and made the moon and the stars with it.... No, wait, too early.

I have been a lifelong voracious reader, especially of science fiction and Sailing navy fiction. I believe the second actual book I read as a child was an Asimov.

In 2012, I was staffing a major training event with another scouter I knew casually, Tom Coonradt. We got chatting about other interests, and science fiction came up. I mentioned to Tom that I had really gotten hooked on a series that reminded me of Horatio Hornblower in space (I read OBS when it first came out). 3 hours later I finally got to say another word. So, at age 65, when I got home that evening, I joined TRMN.

The HMS *Truculent* was the only ship in my area, so I joined. I had never been a member of a fan organization or a gamer, so a lot of

the activities were kind of strange to me. When the HMS *Andromeda* was formed, I was one of the keel plate owners. I took a few exams, but wasn't all that interested in more, so I stopped when I finished all the enlisted ones. I never expected to be anything but an enlisted member, maybe even an E5 someday. In 2015, Tom and Patrick cornered me at Norwescon and explained that Tom had to get rid of one of his hats, so would I be the Bosun. Sure, I wanted to help Tom, what could go wrong? I was learning a few things and trying to help make the *Andromeda* a strong chapter. Then, in 2017, Patrick started having a lot of personal problems and announced he was going to have to step down as CO. I said I would be happy to test up so I could serve as XO when the current XO took over. Kris is carrying a full load at UW, so that didn't work for him. No one else in the chapter was able/willing to step up. I agreed to take the CO position if others would give me a lot of support. Then I took 13 exams in six weeks. So here I am. Six months ago I couldn't even spell CO, now I am one.

I have met many wonderful people and had some very interesting times since I joined. Actually, meeting and talking with David Weber at OryCon was a high point. The in-fights are the low points. I do wish some folks would learn a little more about managing change and servant leadership. Nevertheless, this is a fun activity for an old fart to be involved in. I intend to keep at it.

Paul W. Cashman

Ahhh, my origin story...

I got started with the Honorverse books around 1998 and devoured all the ones that had been printed. I loved 'em since they reminded me of Horatio Hornblower or Capt. Jack Aubrey in space. (Turns out David W. has read the former, but not the latter.) Sometime later, I introduced my then-roommate Adam Davis to the books.

Many years later I became aware of TRMN as director of fan-tables at DragonCon because I was contacted about a table (I think by the FLA himself). I thought it was great that a fan club existed for those Honor books I still loved. I also knew, from running the international fan club for SFF author Michael Moorcock way back when, that it isn't a picnic to manage one.

A few years later I was handling fan-tables for AnachroCon here and TRMN wanted a table there as well. I discovered that Mike Henigan and Houston "Leonardo DaVinci" McPherson, both of whom I knew and respected, were already members of the club...and then I discovered (or maybe RE-remembered) that my old roommate Adam Davis was also a member, so I thought "I really HAVE to join. These

are all people I like and respect, and it would be coming full circle since it's MY fault Adam read the books in the first place."

So, I joined up as crew in HMC *Achilles* back in 2015. Three years later and I've got an astrogation billet as a Lt.(sg), and I've earned my Officers' Space Warfare Pin.

Christopher A. Bayonet

Origin Stories...

I was born on the planet on Krypton...No wait I was bitten by a radioactive book... Yea that's it ...

(Seriously Though)

I was sitting at the rescue squad pulling a 24+ Hour Shift and taking classes at Starfleet Academy (SFI) while talking to Brian Chappell via Facebook about something and he mentioned TRMN. And my curiosity was piqued, this was 2012. So, I joined to take classes at Saganami Island (anyone who runs rescue can tell you LOTS of downtime).

Well I was mostly inactive those first few years due to real life taking an odd course here or there. Then Michael Timko asks me around 2015 if I ever heard of TRMN. I said, "I think I'm a member" and we formed MARDET Imperator. Took a bunch more courses then about last year we formed the GNSLAC *Crescent Moon* and then upgrade to the GNS *Hector Ferelli*.

In that time, I have reconnected with old friends (Angela Sanders and David M Sanders) - Ask her about the Teapot of the Northeast ...

Made some new friends (too many to count or list)

Believe it or not (I'm walking on air ... I never thought I could feel so free) I actually started reading the books (and graphic novels) because of the tests through TRMN. And it has been a WONDERFUL read.

Christa Brolley

Origin story: Well, I started reading the books when they first came out, in 1993 was it, when I was active duty in the AF. I used to have all the hardbacks. Somewhere in there life became too busy to read (I blame law school) and I stopped getting the hard backs (which were eventually all donated as I was tired of carting books around for each move). It was in early 2014 that I remembered the books and saw how many more there were and started reading again. Somehow, I found the Evergreen Studio/Tales of Honor website that had a link to TRMN. I was like huh, that is interesting but I'm not

doing that. I kept thinking about it and was like, well, it is free, so why not join and check it out. So, I joined HMSS *Greenwich*, as there was no Northern VA ship. I got an email from the *Greenwich* CO, Captain Michael Paquette welcoming me and recommending I join HMS *Rigel* in PA as that was the closest ship to Northern VA. (Turns out Mike lived in Northern VA too.). After the transfer was effected, which was not easy back then, I was in China at a business aviation convention when the CO, then Captain Ed Wandall emails me to welcome me to *Rigel* and I remember a funny email exchange as Ed is in the same industry as I and thought I was pulling a joke on him. I thought - huh, this can't be all bad, both Mike and Ed seemed like pretty good guys (and they are, I've been lucky to work with and for both of them). Well that was all it took, some friendly email exchange and a nice welcome. I started taking some exams ... went to some game days held at the new Deputy First Fleet COs house, RADM Eric Schulman, went to my first Dragon Con and volunteered to help out 3rd Fleet's table during that crazy year that David and Sharon were there, became the First Fleet Flag Lieutenant (to then First Fleet CO Eric Schulman), went to HonorCon and helped out again, and got convinced by Eric and Mike to start a local Northern VA ship, became the Flag Captain to then CO Mike Paquette. Somewhere in there I also became the Chief of Staff to the TSC Commandant, Eric Schulman, and that was my first step into BuTrain. For a while I was a ship CO, expanding our ship class to get to a BC as we continued to grow our local chapter. I also continued to be involved in BuTrain, getting to know the 6SL at the time James Friedline, and Deputy 6SL Laura Lochen as I helped out. I moved up to take over TSC as Eric moved up ... and well ... from there we get to where I am now, Deputy 6SL to Laura Lochen. The people I met as I started really helped get me involved and made me feel welcome. They truly became friends over the internet before we'd ever met in person (and luckily, I've been able to meet many of them in person!). They welcomed me and what I brought to the table. I found this crazy group of people that "work" for fun, because what we do in BuTrain is nothing short of work, regardless of what you think. I found my tribe. Who'd have thought 4 years ago I'd be where I am today in TRMN. (Really, 4 years? Wow!). No idea where I'll be in 4 years, but I hope I am still here with you all. I love you all!!

Rowan Wagstaff–Weston

Since the bandwagon is passing, I may as well jump on.

In 2005, I had just finished reading David Feintuch's Hope Nation series. Being in the mood for more Napoleonic Sci-fi, I remembered

the recommendation from a member of Warped (self-described as a University drinking society with a Sci-fi problem) and picked up *On Basilisk Station* from the local bookshop. I was hooked... within about a year I'd gone as far as *Shadow of Victory*, but none of the bookstores had a copy of *War of Honor* (this was in the days when Amazon was a river... or possibly a frigate). I eventually managed to find a copy and carry on after moving back home to Yorkshire, then found TRMN while looking for when the next book was out on Google. I joined in 2013, and then fell into a variety of roles almost by default (Astrogation instructor, then XO, then CO). The first RMN member I met in person was then-captain Griffiths, in a pub in Birmingham where he handed over a bag of BuSup orders he'd brought back from MantiCon in a manner reminiscent of a drug deal... Since then, I've met a selection of UK members and made some good friends!

Cheryl Krause

Origins: I was invited to a holiday party at a friend's house. Little did I know that the rest of the party guests were part of a fan organization that my friend was a member of. We had a great time visiting, playing games, and (of course) firing patterns of missile pods. That night I met John Neitz, Christina Neitz, Bill Lochen, Laura Lochen, Emily Herron, Jill McTavish, Drew Drentlaw and a bunch of other awesome people.

I had never read the books, never heard of David Weber (sorry David), and never been a part of fandom. I started hanging out with the group at various events and activities and each time I saw them they would encourage me to join.

In 2013 I decided to attend this convention they were all going to - CONvergence. I figured if I was going to do this, I might as well go all in and joined the organization at the end of June 2013. Having been around the folks from 2nd Fleet for 2 years, I knew the website info, so I just went and signed up without telling anyone.

The look on Bill Lochen's face was priceless when he called for a spacer to help with something during party room set up and I responded with "Yes Chief" (I'd been through enough of his pod presentations to know better than to call him Sir).

To say that I was amazed at the sheer number of people and the cosplay is the understatement of the year. I spent most of my time that weekend helping in the party room, but also got to meet Martin A. Lessem and Scott A. Akers and visit with members who had come up from Iowa including Cindy Jeffers.

What struck me from the first moment I met the folks at the holiday party was how much they were like a big family - and coming

from a big family myself, that was pretty appealing - they all played together, but they also did good things together like charity work and they took care of each other.

Shortly after I joined, my marriage fell apart and I was looking for a place to live. Emily Herron, who was a member of my ship and someone who I knew but didn't know well, opened her home to me and my pup Riley when we had no place to go. THIS is the kind of thing that makes this organization special, we have this thing (the Honorverse) in common and I believe the series draws a certain type of person to its fandom. I have seen in my time here in the org more people taking care of people they don't even know for no other reason than they needed help.

Brad Lee

My turn for my TRMN story I guess...

I first saw TRMN back in 2012 at ConCarolinas when I was there with the 501st, thought the uniforms were pretty cool. Unfortunately, I was more involved with the 501st that weekend since I had just gotten my Tie Pilot costume done a few weeks before and was anxious to work the 501st table and events, especially considering Tim Zahn was there.

Fast-forward to 2013, again at ConCarolinas, and that year I was working security and came upon TRMN Third Fleet and HMS *Drake* members again as I was making my rounds. Stopped and chatted for a bit, got a free copy of OBS (which I still need to finish lol!) and filled out an app and was officially part of the crew, as confused as I was lol!

A few months later in December 2013, still a fresh Spacer 3/C, I reached out to Tom Coonradt, whom at that time was the Chief of Staff to the Commandant for SIA, and mentioned I was interested in the Communications Instructor position given my professional and ham radio background. He sent me over to Eric Schulman, at that time the Dean of the SIA TSC, who got me slotted into that spot after I created the original Communications Technician exams.

I did that for about 6 months, and then I attended HonorCon 2014 and met Robert J Jackson, Kevin Horner, Peter Gordon, and Heather Selbe with the RMA. I learned that the RMA was looking to expand, and I offered to help them with some web hosting and administration services since I was already doing the same for Third Fleet and a couple of 501st groups. So, I changed uniforms and became the ODCSINTEL.

Some more personnel changes in RMA happened and I moved back under the BuTrain umbrella as ODCSTRA to help expand

KR1MA -- which should be reopened at the end of the month btw, if not sooner.

Jump ahead again to 2016, and at that year's HonorCon I believe was when the forums were announced as starting to be put together. I had run several forums on various platforms for about 10 years at that point and knew I could definitely be of use. So, come March of last year (yes, it's only been 18 months with the forums / OMG we've had the forums for a year and a half!) I got on a conference call with Dave Weiner and AJ Olsen and got picked up as the Forum Administrator and I love it, as I do this awesome group. I've been a part of many fan clubs and groups over the years, and I must say the quality of the membership base here, and also the excellent opportunities to learn about and excel in leadership, is second to none, and personally why I think we are one of the most unique and best clubs out there.

Jackie Ashcraft Snedden

Origin story- I was in my local library and one of the books on display was OBS. It caught my eye with the woman in this dark uniform with the gold bars going across it holding this creature. I decided to check it out and I loved reading the story. After that I went to the bookstore and found the next three books and read through them. Then came the wait for David Weber to write more. I would buy the books as soon as they came out and shared them with my buddy at work Curt Reynolds. I had never been part of any fan club before- never went to a sci-fi convention although I thought that might be something fun to do. I had been to the Motor City Comic Com and the people watching was great- all these people dressed up as various characters. I knew of Baen's website and David's and would check them to see when the next book was due out. One time checking it I saw that there was going to be this convention called HonorCon to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the publishing of OBS. I had recently retired, and I loved the series, so I thought- yeah, I am going to go to this! After buying my ticket and looking to see if anyone sold a uniform I could get to wear at the convention, I came across the links for TRMN. I joined up and went to the holding station because the only chapters I saw were in the UP of MI or Windsor, Ont and I lived just north of Detroit and there was this border thing. I got a nice welcoming letter from John Neitz who guided me to the chapter in Windsor- HMLAC *Highlanders Pride* and advised that there were MI folks too. Following John's suggestions, I began taking the exams and had a good time with most of them. When I arrived at HonorCon, I felt a bit lost because I did not know anyone and had never been at convention before. John Neitz spotted me and said, "We have to

talk”. That was it. Our chapter has grown from a 4 person LAC to a 34-person Battlecruiser HMS *Ajax* and we are looking at creating another battle cruiser as soon as we can bend enough elbows on a few folks to get those tests in.

Mitch Dunn

Origins: I was first introduced to HH back in the early 90’s by Lt Pournelle who was an officer on my ship in San Diego. He also introduced me to the local SCA Chapter, as I guess he grew up that way. This was just prior to the Hardback of *Short Victorious War* hit the shelves, I think. His father died last September, and I lit a candle for him.

I continued in both the SCA, as well as every HH book that David produced. I’ve procured the first 2 to 4 books for several people over the decades, and even got the first two, of both HH as well as the first two Ascendant books for one of the SFI Clubs in Kenniwick Washington.

I chatted with probably hundreds of people over the years, to and including one Scott Akers. We both thought that a fan club on the series would be an awesome idea. Then sometime in 2013 I found out that it had been founded. So, I sent an email to Scott and asked... “Scott? Was there something you wanted to tell me man?” LoL his reaction was so precious that I forgave him immediately.

Fast forward five years later, and I’m still the XO on the Finest Ship in the Fleet! It is, and you will not convince me otherwise. The HMS *Black Rose* is very active, and our crew is indeed a family.

In addition to thanking David for the series and providing us all with the Honorverse as a whole. I would also like to thank Sharon, who takes time to interact with so many of us, that she has just as much become one of the family. I’ll never forget the first time I met them. They sat right in front of me at OryCon, and Sharon did a hack slash knighting.

I would also like to thank Allyson Johnson, as I have all books available on audible, and she has spoken in my ears every night that I work. I listen to books for 10 to 12 hours a night, and as such, because of her work, I’ve re listened to the entire series several times.

And lastly, I thank the 10th Fleet, and my precious *Black Rose*. You are a part of my family, and I appreciate you all.

TJ Allen

Well if we go way back to when the big bang happened... but let’s

move forward to my time with TRMN.

I was friends with Daniel Walker and knew him from SFI. I talked to him and he mentioned about this group he does and asked me to join up. I joined and went to my first HonorCon here in Raleigh, NC. It was fun and I met people like David Weber, Sharon Rice-Weber, Jonny Minion, and others. I thought I would have a field day and even worked as Shore Patrol at HonorCon.

I got into taking the courses and enjoyed them. I even started working as Deputy Provost Marshal. I then moved to helping BuSup under Brandi Hinson and then moved to working with Steph Taylor-Morgan in BuPers and now under Kim Niemeyer.

I enjoy my time here. I still deal with the squabbles of other fandom and have expanded to others. I do not think I would trade in any of the experience I have had in the Fandom. And people like Diane Bulkeley, Martin A. Lessem, Les Rickard, and others making me feel like family, I think I will stay.

Alise Timmel

Oh dear, I guess since others are doing this. CQ and I should do this as well. Hope it does not bore too much.

When I was in college, I had a group of friends who had a variety of likes. To see through their eyes a bit, I tried to taste each of their likes by trying them out myself. Unfortunately reading was the hardest for me at the time with my coursework until student teaching where teachers were expected to read as well as the students during a short period of the day.

Of course, my first pick was Honor Harrington, which my one friend loved. He wore his Harrington shirt a lot and the quote quite intrigued. Coupled that with his email address that included a certain treecats name and I was tied by the invisible string of fate. Oh, how I was forever bound to it. Upon the third chapter, I had to stop at the Barnes and Noble again to get three more of the books.

One graduation and illness later, my friends, with the exception of the three that live farthest away from me, went on with their lives and left me with my books. It became very lonely and I wasn't getting used to the stress of being home again, so I delve in other hobbies of mine. One of them was making moving things. In this case, it was a puppet. He had six limbs and bled. His name would be CQ and he became my friend.

A boyfriend later, and with CQ ever close to me, I decided to cosplay Stephanie Harrington for Katsucon. He got a few notices, but I think he wanted more. In college, I had found sites for the TRMN and HonorCon, but I was too nervous to join and the con was too far,

but now with a boyfriend, the trip was possible now. After comments about what I should do with the extra materials I had from my first cosplay, I made a treecat dress for myself and a fire suit for CQ as a flip to my original cosplay then packed myself the long ride.

Though the boyfriend didn't last the trip, I gained so much more. I guess it partly started when CQ didn't get into the hotel without getting me in trouble. After a few fb posts to a later friend named Gerry Martin, I joined a group in the ConSuite to fill packets, an event I could start no later HonorCon without. That is how I was warmly welcomed within and called out on my true-sized furball. I gained other friends such as Jonny Minion during this con and Jack Warren took me by the arm to the computer to sign up. By the end of the con, I was "one of us"

As strange luck always gets me, I never hit a holding ship. I was put on a random ship and spent the last day of the con getting me switched to a ship near me. I soon found myself on the HMS *Rigel* which, little did I know, would later become my ship... I always thought I was just going to be a stray in the corner as I always was even in my own family. Regardless, I was held tightly in.

To my mother's horror, I started to travel much more, including solo trips to HonorCon. I went to the farthest stretches on the ship's area of operation and then, when the ship split, past it. I finally had all these warm people near me. I met Christa Brolley, Ed Wandall, Jon Stout, Russell Selkirk, just to name a few. And they wanted to see me and CQ. I was home... I had a home!

And it got better. I was thrown into BuTrain and met more. Suddenly, my chat windows contained Lohengrin Pérez Cañón, Andrea Austin, Rudy Ault, Justin Grays just to name a few of all that I loved.

Though recent events had given me a severe blow both inside and outside the organization, I still love you all. Even with my stress overtaking me, I am still happy to be here and pray soon, to keep seeing you. Sorry for my much longer rant but thank you. Thank you for a forever home and scratches behind the ears. Bleeks!

Robert J Jackson

I am a traveler of Space and Time and have been so for almost longer than I can remember. I am more than the sum of my experiences. A man of blended heritage, a husband, an adopted son, a father, a grandfather, a cop, a living historian, a lover of music and science fiction, an aspiring writer, a fencer, a target shooter, a horseback rider.

I have known adventures, seen places and been to places most

people will never see – Life in the Roman Empire, France during the reign of Louis XIII and XIV, Salem Village, the Seven Years War, the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, Lexington and Concord, sailing aboard the USS Constitution, Battles in the American Civil War, the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Battles of the Second World War.

I've been Off world and back... frontiers! Aboard Federation starships as well as serving both Kingdom and Crown. I've seen it, felt it...!

My journey in the Honorverse began decades ago with the reading of the "On Basilisk Station". As a Military Sci-fi fan, I had read the stories of Drake (Hammer's Slammers), Pournelle (Falkenberg's Legion), White/Weber (Starfire) and then other stuff from this guy Weber (Dahak, etc., too numerous to note) and finally OBS. And we were off and running with this.

Fast forward some 20ish years to 2010 when one of my oldest friends - Scott A. Akers - called me up and asked if I read the Honor Harrington Series, to which I said 'of course'. He then went on to gloat about how he was working with a consulting group for David's tech and science for the series called BuNine. I told him I was happy for him <hear the sarcasm>.

Then he told me they were putting together a companion book for the series and were looking for someone to write some material for the Army segment. Having read the books, I remembered the vague references to the Army, but that was it. I thought that sounded really cool and said sure, give me the details. Next thing I know, there is a Non-Disclosure Agreement in my email box from Tom Pope for me to sign, and I'm officially a member of BuNine. He also mentioned a fan club for the series. Now he and I had "served" a number of years in another sci-fi fan club as ground pounders for a different Fleet. We had both left for different circumstances, but I figured if he mentioned it, then it must be okay. So, I said sure, give me the details for them. And thus RMN-0073-10 was born.

Details have faded a bit over the years, but I think it was sometime in 2011 that I was invited down to Greenville, SC to meet with the BuNine crew and start the process of putting my materials together. I had a portfolio of materials to use as background as I had been writing sci-fi stories with my wife for years. We had actually met in a sci-fi writing group back in the early AOL days.

So, I arrived in Greenville, SC in the evening and who should meet me there, but Her Grace, Lady Sharon, Duchess New Montana to pick me up (in her minivan) and take me to the hotel where the rest of BuNine was staying. Intros made (and I met our beloved FLA again - we'd served together in the same other Fleet) and then we were looking for chow. Go figure.

The next days are also sorta of a blur now, but I recall all of us going to a church (I think) to set around and go over who was doing what. I am rarely intimidated by anything, but the guys in BuNine are high-tech wizards, with an amazing array of interests, experience and training. And the high-tech science (the c-speed of laser beams, etc.) were daunting to the poor guy there to write the mere ground pounder material. Scary stuff. I was also honored to be invited to the Weber's house, meet the kids, have lunch, see David's writing house, go shooting at a local gun range (did we go to dinner?) and generally have a great time. And then the real work began.

Writing for a novel is an interesting task. So many words to be done by the Author and then each section assigned their own word count by the contributing writer. Write, submit, change this/that/the other, rewrite/resubmit/rinse and repeat. Uniforms details (that was a fun discussion), Army motto, flag design, beret flash design, equipment, transport, etc. Lots of stuff to write and rewrite, until finally it's done and off to the Publisher. And then one day "House of Steel" is released to celebrate 20-year anniversary.

Oh, did I mention that during this time, I was also a member of The Royal Manticoran Navy: The Official Honor Harrington Fan Association? Scott had inducted me in that as I mentioned above. I figured that with our shared history of ground pounders I'd be in the Royal Marines. I was oh so wrong. I found myself in the Royal Manticoran Army. I suppose that was fortunate since I had just spent a year or so giving them some form and function. And not only was I "in" the RMA, I was also the Marshal of the Army. Oh dear.

I won't bore you with the details of the last 5 years, but I wanted to especially thank several members who were instrumental in making the RMA more than just the red-headed step children of the Star Kingdom - Kevin Horner, Peter Gordon, John Stump, Heather Selbe, Brad Lee and

Nicola Hawke. These folks are the best and a true asset not only for the RMA, but for TRMN as a whole.

I retired from active service as the MotA at the end of 2016, having completed almost all of my plans for the RMA. I now serve Her Majesty's Government as Lord Speaker of the House of Lords. Another challenge (it can be like herding cats). Thanks to my Deputy Speaker - Lady Christa Brolley - for helping me with the herding.

Thank you to everyone else I formerly and currently work with. It's been quite the ride. And a special thanks to David Weber for letting us in his Honorverse.

Erik Plossl

Since we're on the topic of when people joined, here's my story...

Back in high school, probably '94, but it could have been late '93, I had a friend who I hung out with a lot. He was an avid reader and nearly always seemed to have a book in hand (even when he shouldn't have). He stopped me in the hall one day and told me about this book that he said I had to read. At the time, he had me hooked on the Drizzt novels, so I didn't take him up on it at the time. That book was *On Basilisk Station*. How foolish I was...

Fast forward to maybe as early as 2009, probably more like 2012-13. I hadn't thought about that book at all in the ensuing years. In the meantime, my friend had moved away with his mother and I had lost touch with him. Around '09, however, I finally got together with my wife. We had met back in '05 or '06 but hadn't really gotten together at the time due to other reasons. Either way, one day when I was looking for something to read, she handed me this book with a woman on the cover and suggested that I should read it. She had indicated that it was space (at the time, I was working with the Space track at DragonCon, so this was a good idea) military sci-fi (well, I liked that). So, I decided to try it and see. I think we all know the result of that.

In 2014, Maegan Nash Plossl and I attended DragonCon, as usual. I had been reading the books and really enjoying them. As I was a volunteer, I had been spending most of my time in the Space track room, but on Saturday (I think), she pulled me out of there and wanted me to go do something with her during some of my scheduled downtime. Kim Whaley was part of the Space track as well and joined us in going wandering between shifts. Somehow, we ended up finding that David Weber was there and doing a book signing in the basement of the Marriott, so, since we all three liked the books, we decided to go over there. Unfortunately, they didn't happen to have books available to buy on the spot (or maybe fortunately, I'm not sure). When we got there, we saw a bunch of people (I have since learned at least some of their names, Zach White in particular) running around in uniforms from the Honorverse, and this seemed cool to me. I think Zach was in a white uniform suit, but I could be wrong there. Either way, I remember having been able to talk with a couple of other members of the org at that time and having said hi and shaken David's hand, or something like that, since I didn't have anything for him to sign. My wife had him sign her D*Con badge. The three of us decided right then and there that we wanted to be in a chapter, and I decided I wanted to be a CO.

From the signing, we went over to the TRMN fan table and signed

up on the sheet on the table. At the time, we thought that this would get us all signed up and into the org. That said, I thought someone at the table had said something about needing to sign up online, so I went back over the following day and was told that they would be getting the sign-up sheet to someone who would add us, but that I should definitely go to the website to sign up as that would be faster. I did so that night. My wife waited to be added, but eventually (around the 22nd of September) she signed up via the website as well. Kim waited until a little later than that. Either way, we all signed up and joined the HMS *Excalibur*, at the time commanded by Peter Howdeshell. I took the lead and started with the exams, since I had spoken with Pete and he recommended getting the tests done to get the necessary rank. As I was doing the exams, I made the mistake(?) of mentioning to the instructor of the first couple of enlisted exams that if they needed any sort of help, please let me know. I think this was because of the turnaround time I had on a couple of them. In March of 2015, I became the new junior enlisted instructor for the RMN academy. Shortly after that, I also became the CO of the HMS *Ancile*, a brand-new light cruiser. I worked hard on the Enlisted exams and found myself becoming the Sr. Enlisted instructor and the department head in fairly short order. A few months later, I was talking with Dave Weiner about something else and ended up getting tapped to join BuComm as a junior coder for the MEDUSA project. I regret that I haven't really been as big a help with respect to that as I wanted to be, but these things happen. Either way, it has been fun, and I expect it will continue to be.

Kim Whaley

I had been reading the series since it was started 25 years ago being an avid Fantasy/Science Fiction reader as a teen. Likely my dad told me about the series. At the meeting with David Weber that Dragon Con in 2014, I had him sign my badge too. I didn't know about the online joining until later in the year (new job and recovering from house fire earlier that year) and so officially joined 1/2/15. We started the HMS *Ancile* and I did the tests as I could since. Work is still predominant so a little behind on reading some books in the series but plan on continuing catching up on that during the reading challenge. Perhaps get more involved with the cons as I can as I had attended MantiCon 2018 and plan on attending SphinxCon 2018.

Megan Davidson

Long origin story short: A boy I liked gave me a book to read, the book was *Honor of the Queen*. I married that boy and had a daughter with him who we named Honor. A mutual friend noticed our daughter's name and asked if we were fans. The answer was yes. We found out about TRMN, and I joined because of Timothy Monk. Then at Norwescon I met Tom Coonradt and Scott A. Akers who encouraged me to take a more active role in the fan club. I made lots of awesome friends within the organization. The end.

Brian Chappell

So.... 2011 my friend and brother from another mother John Kane was talking about this fan club and asked me about it. He explained that the NC chapter HMS *Chaos* under Daniel Walker was looking for members and asked if I wanted to join. I had never heard of Honor Harrington and had a faint recollection for David Weber from attending ConCarolinas over the years. Being a military sci-fi fan, I thought Why Not. I joined and in no time, Daniel was noticing my leadership ability... in other words, I am a sucker and what I thought would be my laid-back fandom with no responsibilities turned in to launching a BC HMS *Excalibur* and lots and lots of test and reading these amazing books. Before I knew it, I was upgrading to a SD(p) HMS *Imperator* and commanding a Battle Cruiser Division. I enjoyed my time in the Navy but being a ground pounder at heart I resigned my Navy standing and transferred to the RMA. Peter Gordon and Heather Selbe have kept me busy serving as first the Adjutant to DCOSOP and promoted later to DCOSOPS. Looking forward to the next chapter in the TRMN and in Honorverse.

Hope to see everyone in March for Fantasci in Raleigh and the following June at ConCarolinas in Charlotte.

John Perkins–Woeck

Origin story, so when I was stationed in Guam I went to the library on base me being into sci-fi and military novels ended up finding *On Basilisk Station* read the book and fell in love with it this was in 2011 fast forward a few years rereading books came across the TRMN on the web and joined the Truculent but didn't hear anything so I assumed that the club had broken down then a few years later I ended up signing back into the TRMN to notice that I was

now on the ship HMS *Andromeda* then out of the blue I get an email from a certain person named Tom Coonradt explaining to me what things were ended up going to Norwescon and met a lot of wonderful people like Tom, his wife Christina Coonradt, Patrick McKinnion, James D Sena and everyone else from then on I felt like I belonged.

Jesse Krug

Let's see, hmm, my start with the Honorverse...

For me, this was around Christmas 1998, and the first HH book I got then was *Honor Among Enemies*. For a while, that was my ONLY HH book. I read that book so many times, I wore the book down to the glue! I, of course, eventually started getting more of the book series on my own. Wound up skipping a couple of books and got the hardback edition of *Echoes of Honor* a few years later, and eventually just about all of them, in paper and hardback.

Ok, enough of my early history. Skipping a few years to 2013 and Shore Leave 35. I was looking around the bottom level of what was then called the Hunt Valley Inn, scanning the tables a bit (in-between autograph lines), when I saw this table with Honorverse stuff on it. I went to take a good look at it, and lo and behold, a fan club based on the books I've read.

I didn't join the fan club right away, as I wanted to do my due diligence and see what it was about. (That and I had misplaced the booklet with the web address on it! <eep!>). I officially joined a year later, just after SL 36. Joined a week too late though seeing as how the ship I just joined (and am still a member of, HMS *Heracles*) had a meeting that I just missed. Figured I'd introduce myself to the captain, so I then emailed him (then-Captain Kratzer).

By the time I was finally able to attend a meeting (at a helicopter museum in PA November 2014), I had pretty much breezed through the enlisted test, and had requested my first Officer's exam. I decided to go ahead and commission around the New Year 2015, which eventually happened at Shore Leave 37. Tip for those who are considering commissioning: learn how to DUCK! (Kidding, not by much! At least my six-legged companion Bastet didn't shred the now-Fleet CO on that one).

I've been growing in the Honorverse ever since. Maybe not in testing like some people who love to test, but in documenting via photography (and the occasional video) almost since I signed on to a lot of the places I've been to with fellow members. This still goes on today, almost 4 years later. And I plan to keep it up for longer!

Russell Selkirk

I've always been an avid reader, particularly of sci-fi. Back before there was free access to the internet and well before any sort of net-commerce was around you used to *need* to go to bookstores to lurk around the fantasy and sci-fi section to see if anything new and interesting was out. So, in the early 90s I picked up a copy of OBS in my local Walden's, and thought I was just picking up another space opera novel...

Boy was I wrong. I had after that intro began haunting the bookstores every month or so waiting for my next fix of Honor and company just as much as any from Jordan's WoT, or Martin's, etc.

At the time I was a member of a 'Starfleet Marine' organization (pre-SFI at the time) and thought it would be pretty awesome if we could have one for the Honorverse, but I knew nothing about even trying to organize something like that. Ten-fifteen years later I saw that there was a fan club for Honor fans, but I decided not to join at that time because it had membership dues, and I was already paying dues to be in another club and on a tight budget. BUT only a few year later I had heard from a fellow that was in both organizations (Ed Wandall) that it was now free, and I jumped at the chance to be a part of it.

I've been a member for over four years now, met a great number of incredible people, some of them in the real world even, and while I can't go to conventions like I used to 15-25 years ago, I still feel like this is one of the best fan organizations I have stumbled across in my 25+ years of being an active member in more than one group. Not that the others were 'bad' mind you, but this one seems to remain tight knit and like family over time.

Samirah Johnstone

Hmmm, my origin story. I had heard about the books a long time before I actually read them. I was a Star Wars nerd who had been very involved in both the 501st and Rebel Legion at one time, but I kind of ignored the Honorverse for a while (yes, you may pummel me with nerf implements to your satisfaction for that).

That being said, I was an avid fan of the 1632 universe of Eric Flint and my two favorite books in the series were co-written by David Weber so...when I came back from working overseas on a film, I found myself in a household with friends...and a whole library of books, including all of the Honorverse books to that point. So, I

started to read them and got hooked.

Fast forward to late 2014, I saw something online about TRMN... and I spent a few months deciding whether I wanted to join or not. Finally, right after my birthday in February, I decided to join and signed up via the website. Within a day, I had an email from the Aggie's super bosun at the time Michael Romero and a few days later met up with Tomas De Montroig who helped me get my beret and all.

Then when Admiral Romero decided to leave the land of enlisted, shortly afterwards I was approached to be the bosun of the HMS *Agamemnon*...and from there became a BuTrain instructor and now in my present guise.

Of course, my favorite memory I think was Mysticcon 2017 when I got David's autograph on my *House of Steel* and Sharon Rice-Weber got so excited to wish me a Happy Birthday! I love the camaraderie in the group, and just hope to continue that. So that is that...

Martyn Griffiths

Seems everyone is logging their start in TRMN, so here is mine.

I stated reading David's books back in the early 80's it was the discovery of a new book by him, it was OBS in hardback.

It was in 2010 I flew over for DragonCon and was in a favored watering hole when I saw a familiar uniform. I asked if they were TRMN and was informed they were Cosplayers and I could find the clubs fan table in the Hyatt. So, of I toddled and met Martin A. Lessem and Kit Warren. Back then it was paper application, but I had an email address from Martin so sent a request for email application, shortly after I became the UK's first member. I have managed to attend a number of Cons such as DragonCon, Shore Leave, HonorCon and MantiCon where I was not only welcomed but made to feel part of a family. I have met many people since I joined and trying to list them all would take too long.

All I can say to you all is thank you for including me your TRMN family.

Kate Regina

So there I was...

An avid reader, especially of sci-fi/fantasy, and my public library on the way as I walked home from junior high. Nearly every day at the library led me to find the books, the first five Honor books published and out for me to devour. I continued to follow the series, grateful for a mascot in my anti-coffee crusade. (Hot Chocolate for

the win!)

Fast forward roughly a decade and a half to 2013 when I first caught wind of TRMN. However, I was turned away by the fact that no ships were exactly nearby. (Hello...Fishkill is boonies to Long Islanders)

Then while working a local con in 2016, I noticed a Royal Manticoran panel starting it off. I chanced taking a seat (being one of the only ones in the audience who actually read the books) and was introduced to John Rebori, Rachel Nevins, Zach Perkins, Michael Ciaravella (with Andre Tessier as the ringer in the audience) We got to talking afterwards at the HMS *Penelope's* table in between con duties and joined by the end of the day. (There's actual a pic of me kneeling at the table registering on our FB)

I jumped in with both feet, beating the 5-month goal to complete the SWP set by John (did it in 2) and was soon randomly contacted to be a bosun of a new ship. This turned into a simpler change of command of the *Penelope* surrounded by the likes of Martin A. Lessem and Christa Brolley onboard the HMS *Intrepid* and the rest is history.

Wesley Twitchell

My path here is a bit meandering, and so is my story.

Back in 2002 or so, my girlfriend stopped by a yard sale and picked up a few books she'd thought I'd be interested in.

Four of them were by some 'David Weber', and when I went to read them, I found that they were something like books 3, 4, 7, and 8 in the series. Well damn. Guess I'll have to look for the first one to start. So, they got shelved for a while.

In 2004-5?, this same author was going to be the writer GOH for our local con, so I remembered that I needed to find that first book and get some insight to the guy, since I was on the ConCom and moving upward. I got distracted by another series, and so they were yet put on hold.

Unfortunately, due to problems with the hotel, the convention that year was almost cancelled. It turned into a one-day event to keep things going and I was somehow tapped to contact this gentleman and let him know what was going [on].

I had the most wonderful conversation with him on the phone. The con was doing an alternating theme of Fantasy vs Sci-Fi, so I first was going to see if he would be available in two years. But the dates would be right around his daughter's birthday, so he had to decline. I got to hear about some of the trials involving them and learn just how much love he had for the fight him and Sharon went through

for them.

Few years later down the road, I needed something to read, and being a bit more fluid, picked up the first two books so I would have a fair chunk to go through. That was about 2009-10, and in about two months, I bought and read everything available in the Honorverse at that time.

About two years ago, I was at a con and there was a fan table there for TRMN. “hey, I know those books!” “you mean there’s a whole fan group? sign me up!”

I’ve mostly lurked since then, as kids, school, and then work have kept me busy, but it has been great going along for the ride!

Elizabeth Cant

In about 2005 I mistakenly took a book out of my local library, I had meant to pick up something by the Late Anne McCaffery, but the book I in fact picked had mis-shelved. It turns out that this book was to change my list of favorite Authors forever, the name of the book *The Honor of the Queen*. I found myself hooked and went to the library for more they didn’t have all the books at that point in time of the series so I found myself haunting second hand book shops charity shops and as money was tight at the time places like Waterstones (am UK Based) last. In 2011 I came across a fb page for the TRMN, I followed the instructions and enlisted. The rest as they say is history, I met the now Steadholder Pittman later that same year and we worked to build up the first UK chapter. I have had the greatest pleasure watching Steadholder Pittman and Steadholder Maelstrom aboard GNS *Albion* and Steadholder Maelstrom? Your cubby and particular brand of washing powder are waiting for you.

Chris Jacklin

I think my first exposure to Honor Harrington was somewhere in 2005-2006. My history teacher was head of a games club, and we’d frequently talk sci-fi during low points in class. He had recommended them to me. I didn’t have any fancy smartphone at the time, so I went and checked it out at the library. For my uninitiated mind, I found myself lost in some of the concepts of the universe, and I think I made it a quarter of the way through the first book before I gave up. Fast forward a few years into the future, not sure when, but I had had my first smartphone with the Amazon Kindle app. For whatever reason I was inclined to give the books another chance, and thanks

to (long press the word for its definition) and a more mature mind, I fell in love with a new sci fi universe. Though I admit, I still have trouble keeping track of characters at times, these books can get pretty deep, for me anyways. I discovered the fan org. By chance through a Google Search for something unrelated and thought, why not? Lol. Anyways, that's my story.

Andrea Austin

In a sense, my Origin story starts further back.

I'd seen the Honor Harrington novels back around 2004-2006 when I worked part-time at a B&N. Given that military sci-fi wasn't my thing, I didn't give them a lot of thought.

Fast-forward a number of years. It was early September 2016. Having moved back home in early 2013, I'd spent over three and a half years mostly isolated. I had no vehicle, and I lived in an area with no public transit, so I had to rely on others to get me around. That made it hard to attend events and meet people, and it was showing. I heard about TRMN from a member in 2015, but I wasn't in a place to join or be any level of active. Finally, September of 2016, I learned I was getting a vehicle, ending that long period of almost total isolation.

Once I got my wheels under me, I got to thinking about joining TRMN. I'd thought about joining a chapter that was closer to me, but after talking with Ote MacOdo (whom I'd met at BayCon 2016) I decided to join the Randolph Candleless.

Within two months of joining, a job position opened up. A Commodore Robert Demkiw was looking for an assistant for the Office of the Order of Queen Elizabeth. I swear, I have never seen two people jump faster to recommend me for a position than my Skipper and my Bosun did. Needless to say, I got the position, and began a close working relationship with Robert, one that continues with me serving as Flag Lt. of Victoria Station.

Because he was also Commandant of IMNA at that time, he asked if I would like a role as his Yeoman. I accepted, and that got my foot in the door meeting the awesome folks with BuTrain and the various schools. It was here that I met awesome people like Alise Timmel, Lohengrin Pérez Cañón, Justin Grays, Jamey Salsberg, Megan Davidson, and many others.

Not least among these was meeting Rudy Ault. He and I got to talking away from the BuTrain chats, found we got along, and July 19th will mark one year as an official couple. I couldn't have met him without TRMN, and I'm so happy I found such a great partner in such a surprising manner.

TRMN has allowed me to enjoy roles I never had the chance to really explore. In addition to my duties with the OQE, I am also able to plan conventions and utilize the Honorverse as inspiration for my art. I was so thrilled my Skipper was able to take a gift to David Weber and Sharon Rice-Weber from me, a glass piece that I had created when I took Glassblowing last spring. I'm happy with this world he has created for us to play in, and I hope for many more years of enjoyment from it.

(And maybe one day I'll forgive David for killing off Paul Tankersley. Maybe...)

Jim Sprouse

My start with the Honorverse?? As best I can recall, found a copy of *On Basilisk Station* in the ship's library aboard USS Constellation during my WESTPAC of 1995. Kept up with the series on and off as I could find them in libraries and bookstores over the years. Made my biggest jump in catching up when I found a hardbound copy of one of the books with one of those Baen Free Library CD-ROMs in it, which had something like the first dozen or so of the books on it. Have to admit, I'm still a ways behind the times on the series. (Bad bosun!!! No donut!!!)

As far as the TRMN, can't recall exactly where and when I heard about it. Might have been from William and Robin (Reyne), as I knew them in the SCA, but I don't recall. Hemmed and hawed about joining for a while, as I wasn't sure I really had the time and resources to get into it, and the nearest ships were a ways away, but in late December of 2014 I finally took the plunge and "enlisted", with an assignment to HMS *Heracles*. Merry Christmas, TRMN, your present was a somewhat gimpy, sometimes grumpy, always sarcastic, and only partially house-trained squid of the Airedale persuasion, LOL.

Then, not quite a year later, Jim Kratzer (captain of *Heracles*, at the time) approached me about taking on the Bosun position, as the current bosun, Sandy, was soon to be commissioned into the officer ranks. So, right along with attending my first con (FairPoint 2016), Sandy got her ensign bars and I became the new Bosun.

Now, here I am, two years later. I've had a lot of fun doing stuff with First Fleet (including a couple of trips to AwesomeCon, woohoo!!), and we're grooming *my* replacement, and then I'll have to see what comes next.

Dannielle Blaze

I've only recently joined TRMN but been an Honorverse fan since 2011. Why? Well, I was helping to run Eastercon 2011 (Illustrious) and was Mr. Weber's guest liaison.

He was really nice, said some very interesting things about his work, so I decided to pick up one of the books. On Mr. Weber's personal recommendation, I actually began with *The Honor of the Queen*, which I bought in the dealer's hall at that very convention, and Mr. Weber was kind enough to sign for me.

I loved it, so quickly devoured the rest of the series.

My friends Misha and Sarah were already members of TRMN, so when I saw a recruitment station at the 2018 Eastercon, I decided to take the plunge.

So, hello! I hope I enjoy being a member of this fine organization.

Michael J. Simmons

My start with the Honorverse series is something of a confusing mess. I was talking here on Facebook in a thread and it devolved into wanting to read something new as I had read everything else in my collection including all my Tom Clancy books. A person commented to me that he was David Weber though it didn't have his name, but I decided what the hell and gave it a read. From there I met Dan Spence and others of the Royal Manticoran Navy and found myself now a part of this wonderful group of people and a whole new series of books to read and I have read them all.

Artis Aboltins

My first contact with Honorverse was a Russian language version of "Honor of the queen" at some point in 2003 or so. After that I started looking for originals and reading, and eventually made it to David's site, forums and a link to TRMN site from one of discussion threads... (actually, from Safehold related discussion, as I recall). So, I joined but remained pretty inactive for a time, then decided to take some exams and, long story short, ended up joining BuTrain as Personnelman instructor, eventually moving to IMNA. And here I am, considering what to do next...

Cian Witherspoon

So, in about in 2010 or so, I borrowed my brothers copy of OBS. Then *Honor of The Queen*. And then you get the idea.

Fast forward to about 2011/2012, and I'm dinking around online, looking up something, and I discover the group.

Free fan club? Sign me up!

So, no sh- whoops, wrong story start. My first con was Norwescon 3... something, staffing the table with the rest of HMS *Truculent* BC-593 while volunteering for the con (turns I get bored at conventions I'm not working), meeting Jess Allen (and then we started dating), Patrick McKinnion, Timothy Monk, Scott A. Akers, Chester, Camin Keplinger Bradbury, Mhari, and many other forms of chopped liver. (Which apparently includes Tom Coonradt!)

And then I wrote Amber's List, so they punished me by trying to make me an officer as XO of HMS *Black Rose* (BC-520). And that didn't stick, mostly due to life issues.

Officer material? Really? Have you read the list?

Bruce Zimmerman

Well, where to begin my part of the Origin story., *scratching head thru the beret...*Ah yes. As Martin Lessem said it started in 2006, not long after he read OBS, he said to me, "You like good Sci-Fi, and Naval at that right?" Nodding my head in agreement, he told me about the great new book series from David Weber and suggested I read it. Well, went out and bought OBS, and took two weeks to chew thru it, and then immediately went out and bought the next two or three novels. Next when Martin and I met up at his condo, which was near Devon, PA; we sat and talked about the books, while his cats stalked around and Nimitz the fur ball came to cuddle with me. The question asked was, "Why isn't there a fan club for this series" neither of us had an answer till we both blurted out, "Why don't we start one"

Not sure who got the jinx on whom, but we started planning and scheming, our first thought was to work on getting the blessing from Mr. Weber as soon as we can. Second was to use the Jayne's manuals from AdAstra and contact them as well as far as basing uniforms and such from them and do it all legal like; that was Martins territory. Then we tried to figure out whom to get involved from the beginning, Martin knew someone who was willing to head up the Army, Martin to be FLA, and Admiral of the Fleet, I was asked to take the reigns as Second Lord of the Admiralty and be Marshal of the Corps. Excited we set of into unknown territory; would AdAstra work with us?,

would David Weber want to make us official?, would there be others out there that are fans and want to join?

So, Martin and I, and others he had finagled to join started to discuss having the first Official/Unofficial meeting of TRMN at Shore Leave in 2007. All the while as I was busting ass working as an EMT, Martin started looking into the legal side of things, we even tried to get things going in Second Life, abandoned due to the crappy nature of SL. Then came Shore Leave with me and Martin sharing a room, where he handed me my ID card with RMN-0002-07 on it. Then we had the Meeting that Saturday, to both our surprises, there were about 50 to 60 people there, we discussed the ideas, showed the website, talked about how we wanted to be different from all others, etc. etc. Yaya I am rambling.

Then in 2010 I had to step back from being as active as I wanted due to some RL personal and family needs, but always checking the site every so often. Then in Dec of 2013 I felt able enough to be active again, wanting very much to continue as part of an idea dreamed up by Martin and myself. Found I needed to register on the website and then was handed a new number 1718-13... *shrugs*...and found out how much it had grown in just the two years following becoming legally official. I found a home with good people on the HMS *Vengeance* which then became the HMS *Agamemnon*. And I have continued to watch the growth of the organization, and always wanting to do more than sit around. I have met some great people face to face, and thru chatting.

All I really can say is I look forward to getting to meet more of you face to face over the future years, a Big THANK YOU AND AWESOME JOB to those who have worked hard to get us to where we are today Over 5K and growing, WOW what a big family, hope to see y'all soon, again THANK YOU, THANK YOU THANK YOU Everyone, or perhaps. "David Weber bless everyone, and Thanks for the Honorverse."

Diane Bulkeley

In 2010 Bob and I joined this new little club called TRMN. We had, in all honesty, given up on fandom all together until we got to know the long-term goals of this new club. It was exactly what we were going for. *Family*.

So, we joined this ship in Denver and went from there. A short time later my Husband became the 4SL and I was the skipper of the HMS *Enterprise*. We started to build the friends and family network we have always wanted. Parties and conventions flowed as we watched this association grow quickly. Next thing we knew we had 200 members, then 300, then 400. It was awesome to watch, and we

still haven't stopped growing.

Okay, I could tell you all the fun stories, but I feel this needs to be short and to the point.

As of late we have been torn, with huge amounts of infighting. This is probably due to real life stresses that we all seem to be going through right now. People also will not get off the political screaming.

Folks, no matter what your real-life politics are, we have no room for it in our space away from real life. I play in this world to get away from the real-world crap we are all dealing with. It's a hot mess out there right now and I don't think any of us need to drown in it. That is why we have this place to play. This is why we have our TRMN Family. Ohana!

I have seen with my own two eyes and heard with my own ears some more than disturbing things as of late and I know this is NOT what we are about. We do not scream at each other over some political views in the real world. We do not use people's words out of context for our own agendas. We do not tear each other down. We don't dress each other down in a hostile manner to inflate our egos. We don't cuss at each other! Those who do should probably move on to a different world to play in. These are all things that myself and many others have seen and are deeply unhappy about. We all are. This must end.

We are *Family*. Yes, like family we will not always get along. It will not always be peaches and cream. But let's be honest here with ourselves, this is out of control and we need to end this ASAP.

I have watched members save other members lives. I have watched families start because of TRMN. My kids have grown up in TRMN. I have seen shy people come out of their shells for the first time thanks to TRMN and its members. I watched super depressed people smile for the first time in years thanks to TRMN's family. I have watched thousands of dollars go to charities thanks to TRMN. I love this club and its members even when we don't agree on things. I respect all of your opinions and value them. WE all do. But peoples' words and dishonorable actions lately have really been extremely harsh and mean.

Right now, we need to team up and stop the trolls and their negative behavior. It will take all of us to change the atmosphere back to the mellow family-type atmosphere again. We must work together to lift each other up. We must stand united. I am asking everyone to please, please, take a step back and remember why we are here.

I challenge everyone to practice empathy, compassion, courteousness, concern and active listening when dealing with any fellow member. Help them, empower them, lift them up. Be the leaders I know you all are. Don't jump to conclusions, just ask

questions and gather info. Be compassionate to your fellow TRMN folks. Be courteous to your fellow human beings. That is all anyone can ask for.

Ed Cook

I'd imagine that most members are here because of the books. Me? I haven't even read the books, except for *On Basilisk Station*. The reason I'm here is because of the people.

I was a regular attendee of CONvergence in Minneapolis from 2006 to 2014. My friends and I, mostly members of the 501st Legion, run the Mos Icee Cantina, one of the longest running room parties at CONvergence. This is where I met Sonia Wolf, Bill Lochen, and John Neitz.

TRMN held an awards ceremony in the garden court at CONvergence one year. I remember sitting on our party room balcony during the day, watching the ceremony, and thinking "I have no clue what's going on here, but this is pretty cool." Later that night, I rolled pods in the TRMN party room, John introduced me to Martin Lessem, and a good time was had. The details are fuzzy, but I'm pretty sure that's the night I also met the woman who would become my wife. But that's a story for another time.

A year or so later, I moved back home to Louisiana. Sonia and his wife at the time were visiting me on vacation, and he and I started talking about TRMN. I still didn't know much about it, other than they wore snazzy uniforms and got tangible awards for things. The way he put it was "It's like the 501st, but for a book series." At this point, I still thought it was a local Minnesota organization. Later on that summer, I was out watching a baseball game with some of my new 501st Legion garrison mates (namely Ashley Nichols and Steven Rosenthal) and TRMN was mentioned. Turns out my new friends were the CO and XO of the local chapter that I didn't even know existed. So, we got to talking, and they asked if I was interested in joining. I said "I gotta be honest, I've never read the books. I know next to nothing about the group. But I like hanging out with you guys, we have fun, so why the hell not?"

I went home that night and ordered a beret, and had a patch sewn on it in time for Mechacon the next week, which was the HMS *Barbarossa's* first convention. For getting my beret together so quickly for the convention, I earned my Mentioned in Dispatches stripe. Over the next four years, I made so many memories. I became the ship's Gunner, which, due to a typo, got changed to Funner. I made over 350 missile pods in one night and earned a QBM for it. I helped our ship earn several awards for our room parties. I earned

a commission and became XO of the ship. I've traveled all along the Gulf coast, recruiting for TRMN. I helped bring a suit of Marine power armor to MantiCon. My ship is my family. A dysfunctional family sometimes, but family nonetheless.



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