

## **ALL IN A DAY'S WORK**

By PN2(SCW) David R. Bowman

October is traditionally a time that most people begin thinking of costumes, trick or treating, and watching the leaves turn color and fall to the Earth. For a handful of Americans, and Grenadians, it was a time for giving thanks. Twenty years ago, American military forces were sent to Grenada to rescue medical students and assist in the liberation of Grenada from the People's Revolutionary Government, who had ousted Grenada's first Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy, from power seven months earlier. When the smoke settled and the fighting was over, 19 American soldiers had lost their lives protecting 599 American students and 80 foreign nationals, in order to return a representative government to the country.

As a celebration of the liberation of Grenada, as well as a memorial to the fallen soldiers, St. George University sponsors an annual remembrance ceremony. As the visiting American military force, NMCB ONE's Task Force Grenada personnel were invited to take part in ceremonies and commemorate the lives of the brave men who gave their lives for the sake of faceless strangers. As the resident expert on Color Guard procedures, BU1(SCW) John Poellot selected his crew of four, including CE3 Dan Povkovich, CECN Joseph Bush, UTCN(SCW) Michael Brewster, and EO3 Blake Litogot. With less than three days to prepare, the crew truly had their work cut out for them and as the day approached, it became apparent the group would perform well. "You would not know that these guys have only had three days of practice," stated BU1 Poellot. "They look like they have been doing it for a long time."

The evening of the ceremony those words ring true. The ceremony began with the Grenadian Royal Police Force Band playing their national anthem followed immediately by the passing of the colors and a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. “The Color Guard did an outstanding job,” said LT Anthony Conley, the Task Force Grenada Officer in Charge. “They felt they had one hiccup during a turning movement, but I guarantee no one in the crowd noticed it.” Despite the intermittent rainfall, the Color Guard represented the Navy and NMCB ONE extremely well and received many thanks for their participation in the ceremony from family members and other attendees. For the members of the Color Guard, they realized that they were privileged to take part in such a moving ceremony and it was all in a day’s work.