~ USS MARVIN SHIELDS ~
SHIP 13
History and the Coin
PART #1

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CHALLENGE COIN

For the
USS Marvin Shields
Ship-13

Topic/Chapter:

Chapter 1, The 3 minute challenge coin history .................................................................

Chapter 2, The history, importance, and the coin game rules............................................

Chapter 3, The meaning of the front of the USS Marvin Shields (Ship-13) challenge coin ....

Chapter 4, The meaning of the back of the USS Marvin Shields (Ship-13) challenge coin ....
Chapter 1
THE 3 MINUTE
CHALLENGE COIN HISTORY

For the
USS Marvin Shields
Ship-13
The USS Marvin Shields Ship-13:

- The USS Marvin Shields (Ship 13) was commissioned April 16th, 2004.
- She was the 4th ship (barracks) to be built at RTC Great Lakes. The ship (barracks) can accommodate 12 recruit divisions of 1056 recruits, with a contingency surge capacity of 18 recruit divisions of 1512 recruits.
- This barracks is named after the Knox-class frigate (FF-1066) which served from 1971 to 1992. The ship was named after the only Seabee Medal of Honor winner Construction Mechanic 3rd class (CM3) Marvin Shields.
- Shields was the first U.S. Navy Sailor to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Vietnam.
- The USS Marvin Shields was originally launched as DE-1066 when it was commissioned on April 10th, 1971. She was reclassified as a frigate and became FF-1066.
- She was decommissioned and stricken from the Navy Register on January 11th, 1995.
- She was transferred to Mexico, and renamed Mariano Abasolo (FF-212) and entered active service in the Mexican Navy on November 23rd, 1998.
Chapter 2
THE HISTORY, IMPORTANCE, AND THE COIN GAME RULES

For the USS Marvin Shields Ship-13
World War I
During World War 1, American volunteers from all parts of the country filled the newly formed flying squadrons. Some were wealthy scion attending colleges such as Yale and Harvard who quit in mid-term to join the war.

In one squadron, a wealthy lieutenant ordered medallions struck in solid bronze and presented them to his unit. One young pilot placed the medallion in a small leather pouch that he wore about his neck. Shortly after acquiring the medallions, the pilot’s aircraft was severely damaged by ground fire. He was forced to land behind enemy lines and was immediately captured by a German patrol. In order to discourage his escape, the Germans took all of his personal identification except for the small pouch around his neck.

In the meantime, he was taken to a small French town near the front. Taking advantage of a bombardment that night, he escaped. However, he was without personal identification. He succeeded in avoiding German patrols by donning civilian attire and reached the front lines. With great difficulty, he crossed no man’s land. Eventually, he stumbled onto a French outpost. Unfortunately, saboteurs had plagued the French in the sector. They sometimes masqueraded as civilians and wore civilian clothes. Not recognizing the young pilot’s American accent, the French thought him to be a saboteur and made ready to execute him. He had no identification to prove his allegiance, but he did have his leather pouch containing the medallion. They delayed his execution long enough for him to confirm his identity. Instead of shooting him they gave him a bottle of wine.

Back at his squadron, it became tradition to ensure that all members carried their medallion or coin at all times. This was accomplished through challenge in the following manner- a challenger would ask to see the medallion. If the challenged could not produce a medallion, they were required to buy a drink of choice for the member who challenged them. If the challenged member produced a medallion, then the challenging member was required to pay for the drink.

This tradition continued on throughout the war and for many years after the war while surviving members of the squadron were still alive. The men and women sailors proudly continue this tradition.
The Challenge Coin Importance

- To reward sailors for doing “Outstanding” work, the CO of most commands will reward the military member. In the old days the reward could be as simple as extra liberty.
- The next normal progression would be a “Letter of Commendation” which is written recognition usually from the Command Officer of the military members organization. The “Letter of Commendation” is nice but it doesn’t offer much except when personal evaluations are due. However, if the “Letter of Commendation” is signed by a “Flag” officer (an Admiral), then it will earn advancement points which gives the military member a slight edge over their contemporaries when taking their advancement test.
- If the work is “above and beyond” what is normally seen in most sailors, then medals are in order. The medals can normally range from “Navy Achievement Medals (NAM’s), to, “Navy Commendation Medals” (NCM’s). The NCM’s are the “top dog”. They are a really high award that are not handed out that often.
- The Navy needed something that could be meaningful to the sailor, that could be given in situations higher than LOC, but below NAM’s and NCM’s. This is where the Challenge Coins meet the requirement. The Command Officer will recognize the sailor by “coining” them. Being “coined” is an honor. The Challenge Coin to most sailors is more important than any medal or “paper” award. It is something that most sailors cherish.
- Sailors will always carry their challenge coin with them at all times. If a sailor is out with his other shipmates they could be “challenged”. What this means is a sailor will tap the counter with their challenge coin which indicates that all members must produce their own challenge coin. If you don’t have yours, then you are buying the sodas or beer. If all members display their coins, then the challenger is required to buy. This is when the sailors will “show off” their coin’s beauty.
- Being a new sailor, you cannot earn a Challenge coin in boot camp. So the only way you can get one is to buy one. The problem is there is no coin that represent the various “ships” while the sailor was in boot camp. This is where PIRGifts and USNGifts come in. We have produced a Challenge coin to fill that void. We are a start up company to fill the needs of sailors. Our coins were developed by a sailor, for a sailor. Our coins have a meaning behind them, and we tell that story. Your sailor will cherish their coin. It will be an item that other sailors will ask “Where did you get that?”
- One thing that is missing from every sailor’s “shadow box” when they retire is a Challenge coin from boot camp. Again, the reason is that you can’t earn them there. So every sailor’s shadow box has a void. It’s a empty spot that now can be filled by PIRGifts and USNGifts. We can be found on Ebay. Just type your ships name “USS Marvin Shields” and the number “Ship 13”.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO A SAILOR?
THE CHALLENGE COIN GAME RULES

The Challenge Coin Game Rules:

1. Rules of the coin game must be given or explained to all new coin holders.
2. The coin MUST be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than 4 steps to produce it.
3. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for a single drink or a round of drinks.
4. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drinks (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold onto your coin. Once the offender (coinless challengee) has bought the drink or round, they can't be challenged again.
5. If all that are challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy the drinks for all respondents. This too can be expensive, so challenge wisely.
6. Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to another in response to a challenge. If a person gives their coin to another, that person can now keep the coin -- it's theirs!!! However, if a person places the coin down and another person picks it up to examine it, that is not considered giving and the examiner is honor-bound to place the coin back where they got it. The examiner can't challenge while they hold another's coin. After negotiating a "reasonable" ransom", the examiner must return the member's coin.
7. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity -- losing a coin and not replacing it doesn't relieve a member of his or her responsibilities. This is especially true if your fellow shipmates know that you traditionally carry a coin.
8. The coin should be controlled at all times. Giving a coin to just anyone is like opening a fraternity to just anyone. It is an honor to be given a coin, let's keep it that way. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.
9. No holes may be drilled in a coin.
10. The above rules apply to anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin, has a purchased coin, or who is known to be a previous coin holder.
Most “civilians” remain clueless as to what they witnessed even though it happened right in front of them – seeing nothing more than a stone-faced soldier, Marine, or Sailor at attention quietly facing a commanding officer, politician, or at best a nation’s President, before reaching out firmly to shake hands.

To watch a “challenge coin” being passed from one person to another is to witness the equivalent of “the secret handshake.” Starting and ending as quickly as a bullet, the ritual is performed out in plain sight and almost always in the presence of others.
And just like that the longstanding military tradition of giving away a “challenge coin” is over in the blink of an eye. A small, shiny medallion riding inside the palm of one hand and seamlessly ending up in the other; similar to the practice of slipping the folded $20 dollar bill to the maitre d’ on date night.
THE "SECRET" CHALLENGE COINS HAND SHAKE
all services are exactly the same

THE "SECRET" hand shake is easy...

Here’s how...
Place coin in hand, and slowly rotate your hand until the one who’s presenting is on top

Once the coin is transferred, the military member returns to “ATTENTION” (military command)
Chapter 3
THE FOC’SLE (FRONT)

The Meaning of the Recruit Training Command (RTC) Great Lakes Crest
The meaning of the fouled anchor:
The anchor represents the naval tradition spirit and style of loyalty and righteousness.

The fouled anchor as a naval insignia got its start as the seal of the Lord Howard of Effingham. He was the Lord Admiral of England at the time of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588. During this period their personal seal of the great officer of state was adopted as the seal of his office. The fouled anchor still remains the official seal of the Lord High Admiral of Great Britain. When this office became part of the present Board of Admiralty, the seal was retained on buttons, official seals, and cap badges. The Navy’s adoption of this symbol and many other customs can be directly attributed to the influence of the British Naval tradition. The fouled anchor is among them.

It is the emblem of the Rate of Chief Petty Officer of the United States Navy. It symbolizes the trials and tribulations that every Chief Petty Officer must endure on a daily basis.
The Meaning of the Stars:

- There are 50 stars on the RTC crest, each representing the 50 states of our great nation.
The Meaning of the Book:

- The open book symbolize learning, knowledge, and training.
- It’s unwritten pages represents the quest for the unknown knowledge you are about to receive.
- This chapter was left blank for you. You are about to begin writing your own chapter in this book.
The Rifle

The Meaning of the Rifle:

- The rifle is a Springfield model 1903A3. This weapon represents the new Navy. The U.S. Navy honor guard uses the Model 1903A3 rifle during their ceremonies. It is interesting to know that years after the Model 1903A3 was retired from actual service as a standard arm issued to troops, the most prestigious military ceremonial units in the free world are still armed with the "03 Springfield". As far as the bayonet, it is an M1905 model used as a close-quarters battle weapon.
The Meaning of the Cutlass:

- This has very important meaning to a enlisted sailor, so we will go into some detail about it.

- Don't confuse a sword (used only by Naval Officers) with a cutlass. A cutlass is a weapon that is used by Enlisted sailors. It is only 32 inches long, with a 26-inch blade that has a slight upward curve.

- A cutlass is a heavy weapon designed for breaking things. It has a pointed tip and a blood groove on the side of the blade, it could be used as a thrusting weapon. They always have a unsharpened blade, and it would have always been kept that way.
The Meaning of the Cutlass: (cont)

- The cutlass represents the enlisted force, swords represents the officer force. The cutlass shown in the RTC symbol is a model M1861. Yes, it was made in the year 1861 during the civil war. This is where the Navy brings history into their symbol. It makes you think of the pirates and the wooden ship era. A total of 22,000 of these M1861 models were made for the U.S. Navy by Ames Manufacturing, making it the largest cutlass production run in Navy history. This model is the basis for the stainless steel cutlasses used today at Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Great Lakes, IL, by Recruit Petty Officer In Charge (RPOC).

- Not until World War I would the Navy redesign the cutlass; no one is sure why it was changed.

- The M1917 model is a black-metal version of the cutlass, just under 30 inches long with a nearly 25-inch blade that also sports a blood groove and pointed end.
The Meaning of the Cutlass: (cont)

• Just over 2,000 of them were procured after the outbreak of World War I, though they went largely un-issued. It's not as pretty as the M1861 design, but they were still on some older ships during World War II.

• The cutlass was finally removed from the Navy's list of authorized weapons in 1949 because the need for close-in weapons had declined as naval battles became the standoff gun duels of World War II.

• Two Civil War sailors were given the Medal of Honor for exceptional gallantry in storming the Confederate Fort Fisher in North Carolina, armed only with a cutlass and a pistol, a fact noted in each sailor's medal citation.

They were:
The Meaning of the Cutlass: (cont)

- **Name:** Albert Burton
- **Date of event:** January 14, 1865
- **Rate:** Seaman
- **Born:** 1838
- **Place of Birth:** England
- **Where enlisted:** New York
- **Citation:** Served on board the USS *Wabash* in the assault on Fort Fisher, 15 Jan 1865. Advancing gallantly through the severe enemy fire while armed only with a revolver and cutlass which made it impossible to return the fire at that range, Burton succeeded in reaching the angle of the fort and going on, to be one of the few who entered the fort. When the rest of the body of men to his rear was forced to retreat under a devastating fire, he was forced to withdraw through lack of support, and to seek the shelter of one of the mounds near the stockade from which point he succeeded in regaining the safety of his ship.
The Meaning of the Cutlass: (cont)

- Name: Louis C. Shepard
- Date of event: January 14, 1865
- Rate: Ordinary Seaman
- Born: 1843
- Place of Birth: Ohio
- Where enlisted: Ohio
- Citation: Served as seaman on board the USS *Wabash* in the assault on Fort Fisher, 15 Jan 1865. Advancing gallantly through severe enemy fire while armed only with a revolver and cutlass which made it impossible to return the fire at that range, Shepard succeeded in reaching the angle of the fort and going on, to be one of the few who entered the fort. When the rest of the body of men to his rear was forced to retreat under a devastating fire, he was forced to withdraw through lack of support and to seek the shelter of one of the mounds near the stockade from which point he succeeded in regaining the safety of his ship.
The Meaning of the Cutlass: (cont)

- The M1861 cutlass is truly a beautiful design, and you will probably notice it often after reading this. Later on in your new sailors career, they will more than likely earn their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) pin. This pin is basically for true sailors (not airmen or submarine sailors). ESWS means that you are trained and fully qualified on all Battlestations on the ship. Once you pass your oral board, then you are awarded your ESWS pin, which is called your "Cutlasses". It's an honor to have them.

Here is a picture of them:
The meaning of why they are crossed:

- The cutlass and rifle are crossed to represent the old historic Navy, along with the birth of the new “cutting edge” modern Navy.
The meaning of why they are facing up:

- Weapons pointing upward historically indicate battle or conflict or the readiness for battle or conflict. They are "raised at the ready".

- Weapons pointing downward represent peace, rest or the end of conflict. It implies the fight is over. You will notice this on military gravestones to show that you are deceased.
At sea aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) - During a special Memorial Day Service, U.S. Marine Corps infantry equipment comprised of helmets, rifles, boots, and personal I.D. tags, or “dog tags,” stand in a ceremonial formation on the ship’s flight deck. The memorial remembers the 23 Marines assigned to 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2d MEB) who paid the ultimate sacrifice during combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, while remembering all who have fallen in previous conflicts. More than 1,000 Sailors and Marines were present during the ceremony.
The meaning of the line (rope):
- Round line represents the symbol of team work and continuation.

The meaning of the blue background:
- Background blue represents the Navy ambitions to control the blue water.
The meaning of the signal flags:

• You will notice that the Recruit Training Command symbol contains three flags. These flags have a meaning.

• Even in these days of radio and satellite communications, the U.S. Navy uses the international alphabet flags, numeral pennants, numeral flags, and special flags and pennants for visual signaling. These signal flags are used to communicate while maintaining radio silence.

• Navy Signalmen transmit messages by hoisting a flag or a series of flags on a halyard. Each side of the ship has halyards and a "flag bag", containing a full set of signal flags. Signals unique to the Navy are used when communicating with other U.S. Navy or allied forces. When communicating with all other vessels, the International Code of Signals is used. The code/answer pennant precedes all signals in international code.

• Now your test...
CAN YOU FIGURE IT OUT?

How do you figure it out?:

- Using the dictionary information on flags on the next page, see if you can figure it out. Use the 1st letter for each flag. Example: Golf = G

   = __  = __  = __

- Answers will be at the end of this chapter, but you still have another test to do, SO NO PEEKING YET.....

   continue on.....
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phonetic Pronunciation</th>
<th>Navy Meaning</th>
<th>International Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Alfa</td>
<td>AL-fah</td>
<td>I have a diver down, keep well clear at slow speed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Bravo</td>
<td>BRAH-vo</td>
<td>I am taking in, discharging, or carrying dangerous cargo.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Charlie</td>
<td>CHAR-lee</td>
<td>&quot;Yes&quot; or &quot;affirmative&quot;.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>DELL-tah</td>
<td>I am maneuvering with difficulty; keep clear.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Echo</td>
<td>ECK-oh</td>
<td>I am directing my course to starboard.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Foxtrot</td>
<td>FOKS-trot</td>
<td>I am disabled; communicate with me. On aircraft carriers: Flight Operations underway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td><img src="image7" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>GOLF</td>
<td>I require a pilot.</td>
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<td><img src="image8" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>hoh-TELL</td>
<td>I have a pilot on board.</td>
<td></td>
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<td><img src="image9" alt="Flag Icon" /></td>
<td>India</td>
<td>IN-dee-ah</td>
<td>Coming alongside.</td>
<td>I am directing my course to port.</td>
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<td>Navy Meaning</td>
<td>International Meaning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Juliet</td>
<td>JEW-lee-ett</td>
<td>I am on fire and have dangerous cargo; keep clear.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kilo</td>
<td>KEY-loh</td>
<td>I wish to communicate with you.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>LEE-mah</td>
<td>You should stop your vessel immediately.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike</td>
<td>MIKE</td>
<td>My vessel is stopped; making no way.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>no-VEM-bur</td>
<td>No or negative.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oscar</td>
<td>OSS-kur</td>
<td>Man overboard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Papa</td>
<td>pah-PAH</td>
<td>All personnel return to ship; proceeding to sea (Inport).</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Quebec</td>
<td>kay-BECK</td>
<td>Boat recall; all boats return to ship.</td>
<td>Ship meets health regs; request clearance into port.</td>
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<td>Romeo</td>
<td>ROH-me-oh</td>
<td>Preparing to replenish (At sea). Ready duty ship (Inport).</td>
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<td>Navy Meaning</td>
<td>International Meaning</td>
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<td>Sierra</td>
<td>see-AIR-ah</td>
<td>Conducting flag hoist drill.</td>
<td>Moving astern.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tango</td>
<td>TANG-go</td>
<td>Do not pass ahead of me.</td>
<td>Keep clear; engaged in trawling.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Uniform</td>
<td>YOU-nee-form</td>
<td>You are running into danger.</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Victor</td>
<td>VIK-tah</td>
<td>I require assistance.</td>
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<td>Whiskey</td>
<td>WISS-kee</td>
<td>I require medical assistance.</td>
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<td>Xray</td>
<td>ECKS-ray</td>
<td>Stop carrying out your intentions and watch for my signals.</td>
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<td>Yankee</td>
<td>YANG-kee</td>
<td>Ship has visual communications duty.</td>
<td>I am dragging anchor.</td>
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<td>Zulu</td>
<td>ZOO-loo</td>
<td>I require a tug.</td>
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<td>WUN</td>
<td>Numeral one.</td>
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<td>SEV-en</td>
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<td>AIT</td>
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<td>Nine</td>
<td>NIN-er</td>
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<td>ZEE-roh</td>
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<td>PEN-ant NIN-er</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Code/Answer</td>
<td>Code or Answer</td>
<td>Flag that follows is from the International Code of Signals.</td>
<td>Message is understood. Also, numeric decimal point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First substitute</td>
<td>First sub</td>
<td>Absence of flag officer or unit commander (import).</td>
<td>Substitute for the first flag in this hoist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second substitute</td>
<td>Second sub</td>
<td>Absence of chief of staff (import).</td>
<td>Substitute for the second flag in this hoist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third substitute</td>
<td>Third sub</td>
<td>Absence of commanding officer (import)</td>
<td>Substitute for the third flag in this hoist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fourth substitute</td>
<td>Fourth sub</td>
<td>Absence of civil or military official whose flag is flying on this ship.</td>
<td>Substitute for the fourth flag in this hoist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOODBYE HAIR...

The next slide shows more flags, but I wanted you to see the "before" picture.
What does it say?:

- The Flags on the wall spell something. Can you figure it out?
  Remember, the dictionary is above.
- The answer will be on the next page.
Did you get it?:

- It says “R T C” for Recruit Training Command
- It says: “Y Exchange” for Navy Exchange (the NAV is not showing in picture)
Please continue with other PDF file “part 2 of 2”
Ok, since you didn’t read on the last page that says to go to the other PDF file

Let’s look at the cool coin
CM3 Marvin Shields (ship-13) from
PIRGifts.com
The barrack at Great Lakes, USS Marvin Shields (ship-13), was named after the Knox-Class frigate (FF-1066) which served from 1971 to 1992.

The ship's namesake, Constructionman 3rd Class Marvin G. Shields, was the first Sailor decorated during the Vietnam war and the first to earn the Medal of Honor. Petty Officer Shields was killed in action at Dong Xoai, where his unit came under a massive, intense, sustained attack. He repeatedly risked his life to keep his fellow Americans supplied with ammunition and to return fire for several hours. Though wounded twice, he carried another Seabee to safety and continued to return fire. In that time he also volunteered to assist his commander in destroying an enemy machine gun emplacement, saving many lives. He was mortally wounded while returning to his defensive position.

Ship - 13 at RTC Great Lakes was the 4th barracks (ship) built. It was commissioned on April 16th, 2004.

This coin is the 7th in the Navy Boot Camp series...
WHERE DO I BUY THE CHALLENGE COIN?

We proudly sell the Recruit Training Command (RTC) coin on Ebay.

- We are a start up company. Bear with us, as we get larger.
- This coin was developed for a sailor, by a sailor.
- To find us on Ebay, just search your sailor’s Ship’s Name, number, and the word “coin”:
  Example: USS Marvin Shields Ship 13 coin
PIRGifts.com is a strong supporter of the U.S. Navy and NavyDEP.com. A portion of their profits helps NavyDEP.com, which supports future sailor prepare for boot camp. We love the Navy, and we hope you do too....

- Help us in also supporting
  - www.uniquememorymakers.com
  - www.cherishedaromas.com

The below challenge coin can be purchased at PIRGifts.com
God bless all sailors... May they sleep good tonight!

US sailors at the Great Lakes Naval Trai
US sailors at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station sleeping in their hammocks.

Oct 28, 1940