

A History of the Supply Department at the Presidential Retreat, Camp David

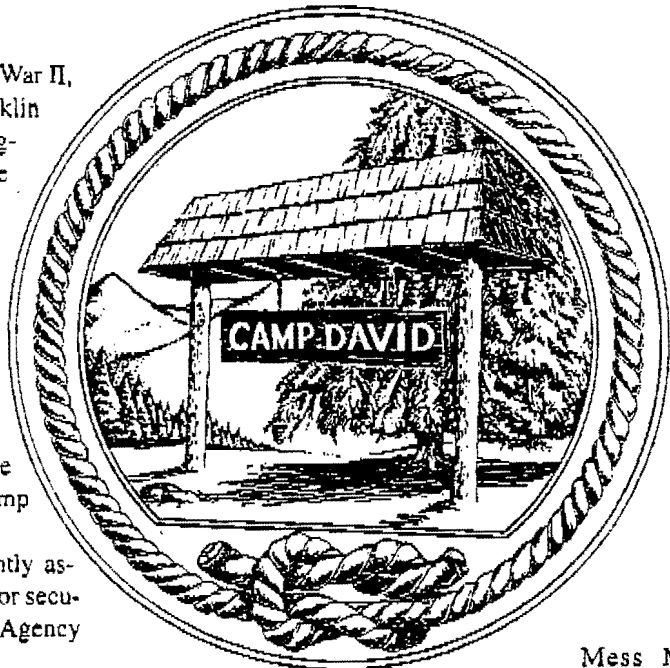
By Lieutenant Patrick McClanahan, SC, USN

During the months following America's entry into World War II, officials in Washington, following the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, searched the countryside surrounding Washington for an area that would be suitable for the President to use as a Retreat.

In 1942, President Roosevelt established the Presidential Retreat tucked away in the Catoctin Mountains and named it "Shangri-La." President Roosevelt directed the Navy to provide messing services at "Shangri-La" and that Navy stewards from his yacht USS WILLIAMSBURG operate the facility.

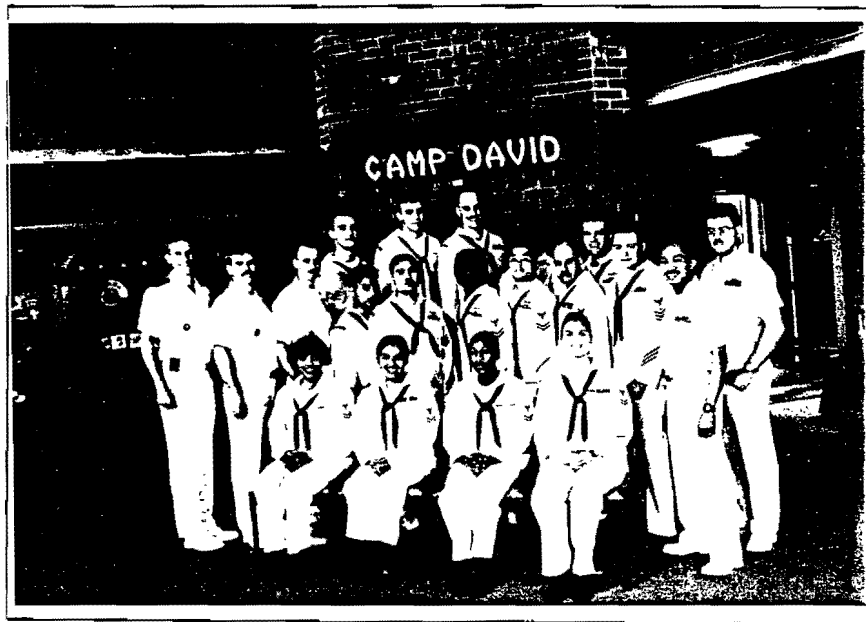
On 20 January 1953, Dwight D. Eisenhower took office as the President of the United States and continued to use the Catoctin Mountain Retreat. He renamed the compound "Camp David" after his grandson, David Eisenhower.

Camp David is a naval installation staffed by permanently assigned naval personnel, including a complement of Marines for security and a contingent of the White House Communications Agency for communications support.



Mess Management Specialists continue to serve the President, First Family and guests while operating a general mess for Camp David crew members. In the early 1970s Storekeepers were assigned to manage stock control and procurement. In 1978, Ship's Servicemen were assigned to manage the Shangri-La All Hands Club and operate the barbershop and laundry. The first Supply Officer was assigned to Camp David in 1986.

Camp David has provided an ideal setting for productive discussions between United States Presidents and 44 foreign leaders. It continues to offer one of the last bastions of true privacy and relaxation for the President and First Family.



The Camp David Supply Department includes (front row, left to right) MS2 Earaina Hahn, MS2 Maria Morris, MS2 Cleo Burke, SH2(SW) Connie Calhoun, (second row) LT Patrick McClanahan, MSCS(SW/AW) Kenneth Nall, SKC(SW) Ronald Schlecht, MS3 Jonathan Villanueva, SK1(AW) Apollo Bala, MS2(SW) Benny Brockington, SK2(SW) Kenneth Shepherd, SH2 Juan Garza, MS1 Steven Kiehl, MSC(SW/AW) Medina, MSC(SS) Marty Mongiello, (third row) MSSN Raymon Keefauver, MSSA Daniel Romeril, SK2 Daniel Gleason, MSSN Marlin Cox, MS2(SS) Kevin Thompson.

LT Patrick McClanahan served as Disbursing Officer onboard USS DOWNS (FF1070) and Supply Officer onboard USS OUELLET (FF1077). He has been Supply Officer at Camp David since 1994.