

After two military careers, retiree anticipates lobstering

ROCKLAND — Master Chief Jim Kalloch retired from the U.S. Navy April 1, after more than 30 years of active service in the military.

He was honored at a retirement ceremony at Maine Maritime Academy March 28 and commended for his commitment and service by keynote speaker Cmdr. John Fatigate, commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at MMA. Fatigate read letters of commendation and congratulations from President Bush, Sen. Olympia Snow, R-Maine, and Gov. John Baldacci. He also received a Navy Commendation medal at the ceremony.

Kalloch was born in Rockland Sept. 17, 1951. He grew up in Owls Head and attended schools in Owls Head and Rockland. He dropped out of high school Jan. 27, 1970, and joined the Marine Corps, reporting to boot camp at Parris Island, S.C.

He then spent three months at Fort Sherman, Panama, for advanced jungle training. Upon completion of his specialty schools, he was deployed for 22 months in Vietnam as a forward observer, directing artillery, naval gun and air strikes to specific locations that cripple enemy defenses.

After Vietnam, he returned briefly to the states before being redeployed for six months as a peacekeeper in Lebanon. He was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1974.

He served in the USMC reserves and then re-entered the active military in March 1977, this time as a U.S. Navy seaman, reporting for three months of training at U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton, Conn. Upon completion of submarine training, he reported to his first navy command, the *USS Jack*, stationed in New London, Conn. He conducted four major deployments aboard this vessel and earned his submarine warfare qualification.

In April 1981 he reported to Submarine Squadron 16 at Kings Bay, Ga., where his primary responsibilities were to perform evaluations on mechanical systems to prolong the operating abil-



Master Chief James M. Kalloch, U.S. Navy, center, accompanies his daughter, Jacqueline Moyer, during a presentation of a letter of appreciation to his family for their support of his naval service. The citation was read by Cmdr. John Fatigate.

ity of ballistic missile submarines. He served on board the submarines *USS Woodrow Wilson*, *USS Daniel Boone*, *USS Casimir Pulaski*, *USS Sam Rayburn*, *USS Ben Franklin*, *USS Lewis and Clark* and *USS Francis Scott Key*.

In 1984 he transferred to Organization Effectiveness Center in Naples, Italy, for two years. His job there was to find ways to improve the morale and working environment of naval commands throughout the Mediterranean.

In March 1986, he transferred again, to the *USS GATO*, which he said was his favorite career command. He spent the next five and a half years aboard the *GATO*, where his responsibilities initially included managing all mechanical systems, and later, becoming chief of the boat as senior

enlisted member, managing the berthing, training and qualification of a crew of 128 sailors on two major deployments.

In 1991 he transferred to Command Master Chief duty at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, supervising the training and quality of life for more than 985 sailors. In 1994 he transferred to Whidbey Island, Wash., where, as the command master chief, he led the aircraft squadron on two six-month Mediterranean/Indian Ocean cruises while on board the *USS Washington*, where he earned his aviation warfare device.

In 1998, he was again deployed, on a six-month cruise around the world on board the *USS Stennis*. In 1999 he deployed the squadron for five months to northern Italy in support of the air war in Kosovo.

In 1999 he returned to Maine to become the command master chief at Naval Security Group Activity, Winter Harbor, as senior enlisted adviser to 350 personnel stationed there. He played an integral role in the planning and execution of closing the Winter Harbor base.

In July 2002 he reported to MMA, NROTC Unit, where he was command master chief and freshman class adviser. He holds a bachelor of science degree from New Hampshire College and a master's degree in business administration from Regis University.

Kalloch, who is single, will return to his house in Rockland. He said he intends to return to lobstering this summer. He also said he would like to thank everyone from the coastal area for allowing him to serve in the military on their behalf. He feels that this time, representing and protecting the citizens of Maine, has been the proudest time of his life. For this opportunity, he said he is eternally grateful.