

Mayport Remembers Stark Attack

From Staff

NS Mayport will host a USS Stark memorial ceremony on May 15 at Mayport's Memorial Park. The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. and guest speaker for this year's event is retired Capt. John Mitchell, commanding officer of NS Mayport from February 1987-January 1989.

On May 17, 1987, while on patrol in the Arabian Gulf, 37 Sailors died when two Iraqi missiles struck USS Stark. Despite the severe damage inflicted, the heroic efforts of Stark's crew saved the ship. Stark was decommissioned at Mayport in 1999. In order to preserve the tradition once the ship

was retired, the Naval Order of the United States, North Florida Commandery, assumed sponsorship for the memorial service.

Several members of the 1987 crew of Stark will attend the service. The service will feature accounts of some of the events that occurred following the attack, both aboard ship and here in Mayport, from crew and volunteers who worked to provide information and support services to the families of crew members.

Mayport's Memorial Park was established Aug. 1, 1987, with the dedication of the Stark monument.