



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

Homeport

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Hall, Ticonderoga return home from deployments

Hall photos on page 6

Story and Tico photos on page 8



A word from our Commanders

Team effort is outstanding here

I would like to take this opportunity to say how pleased I am with the on-going team effort at Pascagoula. We have a very hard-working bunch of Sailors here, and I would like to recognize and mention just a few groups that stand out.

The crews of the USS John L. Hall and the USS Ticonderoga have just returned from deployment, and both crews have done an outstanding job. The Hall returned from a Standing Naval Forces Atlantic deployment, working with U.S. and foreign navies and visiting cities and ports in Northern Europe, and the Ticonderoga just returned from a UNITAS and counter-drug deployment in and around South America.

The USS Stephen W. Groves is preparing for a Group Sail and her regularly scheduled deployment, and in this effort, I must mention the outstanding job that the people in SIMA did to make this happen. They put in a lot of hard work.

More team players include the experts at the Combatant Homeport Engineering Team, who provide specific expertise and training in combat systems for our crews; and the medical and dental personnel at the Branch Clinic, who do a superb job in the area of occupational safety and health, as well as with the large number of medical cases that come their way.

The base CO, Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, is exceptionally supportive, and always a step ahead on every issue dealing with support to our ships and our families. The CO has focused a great deal of effort working with Southeast Region and the local



By Captain William S. Marlowe
Commodore, Destroyer Squadron SIX

agencies on building family housing in this area. That will be the biggest draw in getting people to consider Pascagoula as a good place to relocate for duty.

I also want to mention the Sailors and civilians who work for the Naval Station. There are a number of unsung superstars there who really know

their jobs, and who have put in a tremendous effort to help the crews and provide service to the ships homeported in Pascagoula. These are the people who make sure our ships can go to sea — that they are fueled and have ordnance loaded. These people are the foundation so that when our Sailors go to seas, they know that their families are taken care of.

Specifically, the personnel assigned to the Port Operations are doing a magnificent job. They are always there, responding to contingencies.

Other station people who stand-out include those at MWR. All of the MWR facilities get a great deal of use by all our Sailors, and I know the CyperCafe is a big hit. The new USO also gets a lot of use, and I am sure as the word spreads, it will become very popular.

Since the Fleet and Family Support Center moved on base from the mall in Gautier, we have seen a significant increase of our Sailors exposure to FFSC, and their post-deployment briefings have been a big help, as well. The counselors and staff at FFSC do magnificent work around our Gulf Coast area. Our local Navy Relief Society Office is always standing by to help, and has assisted many of our families at times of unforeseen financial need, or in preparing to receive a

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U.S. Navy Photo

Members belonging to the Pascagoula Senior Citizens Center converse together during a picnic at I.G. Levy Park, hosted by their Good Neighbor hosts, Destroyer Squadron SIX.

Senior citizens are good neighbors

By EMCS(SW) Rockette Miller
DESRON SIX Staff

Following the devastation of hurricane "George," a partnership was created nearly four years ago between the Pascagoula Senior Citizens Center and Destroyer Squadron SIX. Out of this emotional and challenging experience, a bond formed which continues to this day, supporting the needs of the senior citizens of Pascagoula.

The staff of the DESRON is actively involved in outreach to the seniors. The uniformed members who participate lis-

ten to the senior's stories, help them with their physical limitations, and take time to recognize these elderly citizens as vital members of the Gulf Coast society. As the Sailors recognize the hometown folks in the local stores, restaurants, and places of worship, they begin to reap the personal satisfaction associated with their role at the Pascagoula Senior Center.

Service to the senior citizen community is two fold - first, there is the physical need of feeding the seniors well-balanced meals, and secondly, there is the need for social interaction through outings and pro-

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Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

Commanding Officer . . .Cmdr. Tara LaCavera
Executive OfficerLt.Cmdr. Shri Stroud
Public Affairs OfficerStacey Byington

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From our Fleet



U.S. Navy Photo

Officers and crewmen pose on the flight deck of the USS John L. Hall, after successfully qualifying for their Surface Warfare pins.

Nineteen earn surface warfare qualifications

By Lt. Paul Austin
PAO, USS John L. Hall

Nineteen enlisted men and five officers aboard USS John L. Hall (FFG 32) earned their Surface Warfare qualifications during the ship's recent deployment as part of NATO's Standing Naval Forces Atlantic.

The demands of working toward an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist or Surface Warfare Officer qualification are high and achievement of this qualification marks an important milestone in every naval professional's career.

Hall's Commanding Officer, Capt. (sel.) Terry L. Wilson, is proud that his officers and crew were able to earn their qualifications despite the numerous complex exercises and countless hours of tactical scenarios. Their accomplishment not only reflects well on each individual, but on John L. Hall and Destroyer Squadron SIX.

Officers proudly displaying their Surface Warfare Officer qualification pin since the ship departed Pascagoula in March are: Lt. James Long, Lt.j.g. James Farrell, Lt.j.g. Brian Haukom, Lt.j.g. Steven Suhrheinrich, and Lt.j.g. Daniel Truesdell.

Enlisted personnel who

earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare qualification during the same period are: MA1 Robert Schmidt, HT1 Thomas Uss, DC2 Nathan Alberti, BM2 Michael Chatman, SM2 Patrick Fisher, EN2 David Marsh, EN2 Michael Mitchell, FC2 James Parker, GM2 Jason Peugh, FC2 Russell Ransom,

IC2 William Silcox, SH2 Tito Williams, HT3 Robert Bell, ET3 Patrick Dickey, BM3 Markiel Hollins, STG3 Michael Stripling, DCFN Christopher Mau, SN Casey Norman, and HN Edward Palaki. All demonstrated the highest levels of professional knowledge in order to earn their pins.

Pascagoula area Chief Petty Officer selectees

COMDESRON SIX
YNC(SW/AW) Eric Day
LNC(SW) Irene Konig

USS JOHN L HALL (FFG 32)
PCC Rickey L. Mallett
OSC Jerry McNew

USS TICONDEROGA (CG 47)
ETC Dietrich Loudermilk
OSC(SW) William A. Martin
ETC Ephriam Maxwell
OSC(SW) Daniel J. Mercier
ITC Steve L. Wisdom

USS YORKTOWN (CG 48)
STGC Windell S. Atchley
FCC John C. Bagley
ETC Jonathon K. Buchanan

FCC Joel L. Conrad
OSC Matthew D. Correll
STGC Orville W. Hayward
GMC Marvin L. Patterson
ITC Mark C. Rauch, Sr.

USS STEPHEN W GROVES (FFG 29)
OSC Mark S. Hughes
EMC Antonio Lee
STGC William A. Rhine

USS THOMAS S GATES (CG 51)
QMC Charles J. Coleman
ETC James A. Conway
CTOC Felix X. Correa
GSEC Chad K. Hodges
OSC Willie E. Shipp

FCC Gary A. Short
EMC William L. Sones, Jr.
BMC Terence L. Taylor
FCC Adam L. Twigg
GMC Roy C. Winters, Jr.

SUPSHIP
DCC(SW) Richard Collins
MMC(SW) Rickey Davis

SIMA
GSMC(SW) Edmond B. Billington
BMC(SW) Michael L. Marsden
GSMC(SW) Joel W. Shepherd
HTC(SW) Bryan J. Smith
MAC(SW) Donald Hunt

A list of area Naval Reserve CPO selectees is continued on page 13.

Around the Homeport

Smith passes 50 years of federal service

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Mr. Harry Smith, a budget technician in the Financial Storefront of Naval Station Pascagoula has reached a huge milestone in his civil service career – 50 years of federal service.

“Smitty,” as he is affectionately known to his friends and co-workers, spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring from Keesler Air Force Base as a Master Sergeant, and then spent 20 years as a non-appropriated fund employee working as an accountant and retiring a second time from Keesler. He began working at Naval Station Pascagoula shortly after the station began operation in 1991. He has been here every since.

“I joined the Air Force in 1951,” said “Smitty.” “I worked in the radio operations field, then became an instructor, and later an instructor supervisor. I was an E-7 when I retired in 1971.”

After about a two-month break, Smith began what turned into a second 20-year career as a non-appropriated fund employee at Keesler.

“I worked at the gulf course for about a year, then became the fiscal control office manager at Keesler,” Smith said. He later became the chief of accounts control for non-appropriated funds.

His background in financial management came from college courses in accounting he took while he was in the service.

“I learned accounting from the people I worked with,” Smith said.

When he retired the second time from Keesler, Smith decided he would take a shot at civil service employment.

He was hired on at Naval Station Pascagoula as a security clerk shortly before the base was officially opened in 1991. About a year later Smith was selected for the job he currently holds in what was then the base Comptroller’s office. The consolidation into the regionally controlled Financial Storefront took place in 1998.

During his 50 years of federal service, “Smitty” has earned numerous outstanding performance awards, has been selected employee of the quarter, and received a special ser-



Photo by Stacey Byington

Harry Smith, a Naval Station Pascagoula plank owner, and a budget technician with the Financial Storefront office at the station, receives a certificate and pin signifying 50 years of federal service.

vice award in 1999.

“I like to work,” Smith said. “I started working when I was 12 years old.

“I have always worked. I enjoy it.

“As long as I enjoy it, I’ll work as long as I can.”

September is Ombudsman appreciation month

A Navy or Coast Guard Ombudsman is an official command volunteer. The Commanding Officer sets the policy for the Ombudsman. Each Ombudsman works within the guidelines set by the Commanding Officer. September is the month when this vital member of the Navy community receives well-earned praise.

Ombudsmanship is a demanding job. It is not always easy or fun, and it demands a great amount of time. In recognition and appreciation of the Naval Station Pascagoula area Ombudsmen and their extraordinary efforts, Monday,

Sept. 17, has been designated as “Ombudsman Appreciation Day.”

The Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will honor and publicly recognize the unselfish dedication and commitment of these special people. FFSC is hosting a dinner that night at the FFSC for all Ombudsmen, their spouses, and their command points of contact. Contact Ms. Gerri Warden, FFSC Ombudsman Coordinator, at 761-2096 to make reservations.

There are a variety of functions that are performed by an Ombudsman. One of their pri-

mary functions is to serve as a liaison between command families and the command. The Ombudsman is the primary communicator of information between the command and the families.

The Ombudsman’s help in resolving difficulties allows the service member to concentrate on his or her job. Ombudsmen are trained in how to refer individual in need of professional assistance to the appropriate resources.

As a volunteer, selected by the Commanding Officer, the Ombudsman is expected to support the commands mis-

sion, work within the chain of command as directed, maintain confidentiality, and maintain the highest standards of professionalism. The command has a special trust in this person.

Ideally, Ombudsmen are friendly, energetic people who like helping others and enjoy being involved with the family members of a command. Everyone at Naval Station Pascagoula and it’s tenant commands should make sure they say a special “Congratulations, and thank you for all your hard work,” to their command ombudsman during Ombudsman Appreciation Month.

Around the Homeport

Public Works tackles the base mosquito problem



Aedes Sollicitan
Mosquito

As everyone who has been stationed here for any length of time knows, mosquitos are a constant problem throughout the summer season at Naval Station Pascagoula.

The most common mosquito in this area is the *Aedes Sollicitan* mosquito. The gestation period for the *Aedes Sollicitan* mosquito can be anywhere from one to two weeks depending on the weather. Mosquitos hatch after a couple of days after a rain and can live up to several weeks.

Only the females bite and require a blood meal before they can reproduce.

The *Sollicitan* is a strong flier and can migrate up to 15 miles along the coastal salt-water marshes where they breed. They are very aggressive and attack both night and day, and rest in moist vegetation.

There are only a couple of other species of mosquito on Singing River Island, which are smaller and non-aggressive.

To date, there has never been a health threat from any of the types that take up residence on the island. Testing is performed for both Encephalitis and the West Nile Virus by the Jackson County Health Department. The types of mosquitoes here at Pascagoula are not carriers of these diseases.

The types that carry these diseases breed only in sewage areas. When weather conditions are right increased numbers are produced along the coast from the Florida panhandle to the Texas coast. This is called a "major hatch." Once a hatch has taken place it takes about three days to kill enough to gain control.



Photo by Ben Barker

Mike Vice with Mississippi Mosquito Control, Inc., a private contractor subcontracted through the base Public Works department, uses a hand-fogger to help deter mosquitos around the new USO building. Hand-fogging is just one of several different methods used to help combat mosquitos here at Naval Station Pascagoula.

The resources we use include a private contractor, Mississippi Mosquito Control, Inc. and PWC Pensacola Pest Control.

A light trap is used (located on the side of the pavilion at the base ball field) which attracts and catches mosquitoes to determine daily activity rates. These rates determine what control measures are taken.

Fogging operations are called for when the population rates are over the prescribed limits.

Both trucks and hand foggers are used. Fogging trucks no longer just drive the roads but on the base grassy areas where the mosquitoes live. They also started dragging a piece of fence material behind the truck while in the grassy areas to "stir up" the critters and get a maximum kill with the fog. The plane flies as fre-

quently as funding, weather and scheduling will allow.

Additional efforts that can help control the base mosquito population include the following:

- Keep the grassy areas well cut (as much as the contract allows).
- Ensure the drainage ditches are clean to promote optimal runoff (due to be cut again this month).
- Mosquito eating minnows have been placed in our detention ponds and drainage ditches.
- Purple Martin birdhouses are installed around the base.
- Constant monitoring of mosquito populations using dip nets for larvae rates and a light trap for daily counts.
- Use of fogger trucks, hand foggers and plane spraying operations (plane is on a time-share with entire Gulf Coast)
- Larvicide tablets (non-

toxic) are used in all detention ponds and drainage ditches around the island to prohibit hatching

- New technologies are tested (Mosquito Magnet trap, ThermoCell battery-powered repellent, etc).

Individuals who live and work on the base can also help control the base mosquito population:

- Wear light clothing, mosquitoes are attracted to dark colors.
- Use repellent sprays containing Deet (i.e. Deep Woods Off, Cutter, Military Lotion). Skin-So-Soft doesn't work.
- Walk on paved surfaces. Stay out of the grassy (especially wet) areas.
- Wear long-sleeve shirts and pants.
- Check areas around work/shop/buildings for breeding areas (containers that retain water).

Welcome home, USS



Children of USS John L. Hall crewmen eagerly await their fathers' return after five months at sea.



The Hall proudly comes into port displaying a lei fashioned for the ship by family and friends at home in Pascagoula. The lei was delivered to the ship by Naval Station Pascagoula Port Operations personnel by small boat as the ship prepared to take on the pilot to bring them up the channel.

Photos by Stacey Byington
NAVSTA Pascagoula PAO



John L. Hall's commanding officer, Cmdr. Terry Wilson, answers questions from local reporters immediately following the ship's return to homeport.

John L. Hall (FFG 32)



Sailors of USS John L. Hall man the rails as the guided-missile frigate is pushed to the pier at Pascagoula.



Family members surge forward to greet their returning sailors as the ship docks.



Hugs and kisses for everyone in the family help Dad realize he has been missed and is welcomed home.

and a week later, USS

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Two Naval Station Pascagoula-based ships returned home within the past two weeks – the USS John L. Hall (FFG 32), and the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47).

The Hall returned Aug. 21, after completing a five-month Standing Naval forces Atlantic Deployment with NATO forces in the Eastern/Northern Atlantic Ocean.

While on deployment, the Hall represented the United States in four major multi-national exercises: Operation Swordfish, Operation Marvika, Operation Blue Game, and Operation Co-operative Ocean.

Ports of call the ship and its crew visited included Lisbon,

Portugal; Plymouth, England; Aarhus, Denmark; Wilhelmshaven, Germany; Stavanger, Norway; Oslo, Norway; Kiel, Germany; Gdynia, Poland; Klaipeda, Lithuania; Den Helder, the Netherlands; the Azores; and Bermuda.

The Ticonderoga returned Aug. 28, after completing a five-month SOUTHCOM deployment.

During the ship's time away from home, the Ticonderoga supported the Joint Inter-agency Task Force East, conducting counter drug operations off the coast of Columbia, and participated in a number of multi-national evolutions including UNITAS 42-01 Pacific Phase, Teamwork South and a Silent Force exercise.

UNITAS is an annual series

of multinational training exercises and operations conducted by the Navy, Marine Corps, Special Operations and Coast Guard forces with their counterparts from South and Central American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Teamwork South is the largest naval exercise conducted by the Chilean Navy and is designed to strengthen multinational cooperation, understanding and interoperability among the participating naval forces. Silent Force is an undersea warfare training exercise with the Peruvian Navy.

While on deployment, the Ticonderoga also represented

the United States in port visits to Manta, Ecuador; Talara and Callao, Peru; Panama; Antofagasta, Caldera, Coguimbo and Valparaiso, Chili; Malaga, Colombia; and Cozumel, Mexico.

After a brief reunion with family and friends, the crew of the Hall is now preparing for a three-month industrial availability followed by work-ups for her next deployment.

The Ticonderoga will be getting underway for short periods of time during the next few months for operations in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. The ship will then undergo a three-month industrial availability followed by work-ups for her next deployment.

Photos by Stacey Byington
NAVSTA Pascagoula PAO



Sailors man the rails of USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) as it pulls into port following a five-month deployment.

Ticonderoga (CG 47)



Flowers ordered for spouses and other family members are delivered to the Ticonderoga by Naval Station Pascagoula Port Operations crewmen just prior to the ship's arrival in port.



Ticonderoga family members wave to loved ones still on board as the ship is pushed into the pier.



New moms walk up the pier to greet their returning husbands. Four Ticonderoga crewmen became new fathers while the ship was deployed.



A Ticonderoga sailor holds his two-month-old daughter for the first time on the Naval Station Pascagoula pier as the ship docks following a five-month deployment.

SIMA Happenings

SIMA excels in fleet maintenance assessment

Although an assigned grade of satisfactory does not tell the entire story, the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Pascagoula has successfully weathered a very demanding Fleet Maintenance Activity Assessment (FMAA), and has come through with flying colors.

Capt. W. E. Woods Jr., the Commander Naval Surface Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet Force Maintenance Officer, was the senior inspector and lauded the command and its personnel.

"This assessment was a distinct pleasure to conduct," said Woods. "I was impressed with the unanimity of ship and ISIC opinion in evaluating as superior the quality of maintenance support provided by SIMA Pascagoula. Without exception, each customer noted exceptional responsiveness to emergent repair requirements."

An FMAA is a comprehensive annual inspection to ensure that SIMA is providing good support to Pascagoula area ships and other customers, and is holding to the standards and capabilities mandated by higher authority.

In his report of assessment findings, Woods said, "All shops and programs were found to be effective. All discrepancies from the past assessment have been corrected. All projects/in-process work were satisfactory. Twenty-six findings were written against a total of 754 line items and 19 of those were corrected prior to the end of the assessment."

Throughout the four-day assessment, highly skilled SIMA Sailors demonstrated their numerous crafts for the visiting assessment team. They scored a perfect 10 out of 10 projects ranging from HY-80 hull plate patching and weight testing, to hydrostatically testing high pressure steam piping repairs.

Notable improvements include a 30 percent increase in

production work and maintenance management. There were no discrepancies in 13 of 29 specific maintenance areas.

"Each (SIMA customer) cited activity 'command-level' interest and involvement to ensure the proper identification of work scope and pursuit of technically correct resolutions for their jobs," said Woods. "Moreover, each (customer) noted an improvement in the quality of the product they received."

There were 13 members of the assessment team, and each one commended the command on tremendous improvements in capability, technical proficiency, quality assurance and planning.

"The improvements cited since the last assessment are



A SIMA Sailor works in the valve and pump shop

staggering," Woods added, concluding, "Lt.Cmdr. (Victor) Rhodes and the Sailors of SIMA Pascagoula are to be commended for their determi-

nation and success in achieving the ability to provide truly outstanding maintenance support to ships that call Pascagoula home."

Safety is key for Labor Day weekend plans

By Mike Weathers
Safety Specialist

"Enjoy Your Weekend - See You Tuesday."

These words will be repeated by Sailors, Marines and civilian employees everywhere as they leave their commands on this afternoon to enjoy the Labor Day weekend.

Implicit in this farewell is the hope not only to have and enjoyable weekend but also to arrive back alive.

Labor Day marks the end of summer and what many feel is one last fling the good times.

However, trips to the beach, fishing with your buddies and driving on mini vacations aren't without risks.

As relaxing as these activities can be, they are all opportunities for severe injury and, in some cases, death.

Since Memorial Day weekend, 27 Sailors and Marines have died in off-duty traffic and recreational mishaps.

Summer's not over yet. More casualties can be ex-

pected if basic Risk Management precautions are ignored.

Make sure your Labor Day plans include identifying hazards, assessing them and planning corrective actions before you leave to enjoy your choice of recreation.

Risk Management takes the guesswork out of everything you do.

Making the wrong decision while behind the wheel, diving into a pool, or boating can have catastrophic consequences.

If you've ever ran a stop light and suddenly noticed a police car in your rear view mirror with its lights flashing and siren wailing, your heart probably skipped a beat or two and your stomach had that sinking feeling.

You know the one - not much fun, was it?

Like it or not, those blue lights served as a reminder that the decision you made to drive through the light was the wrong decision.

You won't always have them to warn you when you

make other dangerous choices or life-threatening decisions.

There are no blue lights bright enough to stop a person who has jumped head-first into the shallow end of a pool or gone boating in stormy weather without a life jacket.

So often an impromptu decision is the wrong decision. Practicing Risk Management helps you make the right choice, on and off the road.

This Labor Day weekend apply what you know about Risk Management as you make your holiday plans.

Make sure the decisions you make are the right decisions.

If you are a supervisor, at any level, get involved, find out what your people are planning for the weekend. Spend the minimal time required to work with them to identify the risks and abate them

This way when you hear the words "Enjoy your weekend and see you Tuesday," plan to do just that.

Life's a big adventure; don't miss out on any of it.

More from around the Homeport

Senior Chief re-enlists on station water tower

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Senior Chief Builder Matthew Cabral, the leading chief for the Public Works department at Naval Station Pascagoula, went above and beyond the call of duty Wednesday when he re-enlisted for another five years about 120 feet above the Naval Station on the catwalk of the station's water tower. Naval Station Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Tara LaCavera made the climb with Cabral, and was the re-enlisting official.

Cabral, a native of Fairhaven, Mass., who already has 21 years of Navy service, has orders to Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and leaves for his new assignment the end of September. He has been a member of the Naval Station

Pascagoula team since June 1999.

Both climbers were assisted by members of the Naval Station Fire Department. Witnessing the rare climb were members of Cabral's family – his wife, Sherri; his father, Manuel; and his mother, Karen; and approximately 100 co-workers and friends from the station.

"It was great," said Cabral after descending the 120-ft. ladder to the tower's catwalk. "I'm ready for another five years. It (the climb) was something I really wanted to do before I left here."

LaCavera, who says she isn't into heights, said, "It was wonderful up there. You could see for miles. But I'm not sure I want to do it again."

The Navy oath of enlistment was broadcast by microphone to onlookers on the ground.



Photo by Stacey Byington

BUCS Matthew Cabral gets assistance at the top of the station water tower from base fire personnel.

Waterspout causes \$70,000 damage to base buildings

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

A funnel cloud which formed over the Mississippi Sound and came ashore on the south side of Singing River Island and Naval Station Pascagoula on Aug. 7, caused approximately \$70,000 dollars in damage to the base fire station, the base electrical distribution system, recreation equipment at the base's outdoor recreation facility, and to personal and base vehicles. No injuries were reported.

The funnel cloud, which touched down at 12:29 p.m., crossed over the rear parking lot of the base fire station, slightly damaging two emergency vehicles, and tearing off several pieces of the station's metal roofing panels. The metal roofing panels then severed power lines in front of the fire station, interfering with the base's electrical distribution system. Power was out base-



Photo by Stacey Byington

A piece of tin roofing material dangles from a partially severed power line in front of the base fire station after a waterspout briefly touched down.

wide for just under three hours. Base electricians assisted by Mississippi Power personnel restored power to some buildings and the pier area by 3:15 p.m., and full power was restored base-wide by 5 p.m.

Several personal vehicles in the Public Works Department parking lot across from the fire station were damaged by debris and pressure from the funnel cloud. Additionally, outdoor recreation equipment, in-

cluding canoes and small motor boats were damaged by winds created by the funnel cloud. One canoe was lifted and tossed several hundred feet into a clump of trees.

Despite the lack of power and damage to equipment and personal vehicles, at no time was the base closed to normal ingress and egress. Business on the base continued as usual. Two ships were pierside at the time the funnel touched down, but were not impacted other than there was no shore power. The two ships were the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG-29) and USCGC Decisive. The ships are able to operate on their own power. Power was restored to the pier area first, at approximately 2:50 p.m.

Damage estimates to base electrical systems and fire station structure range between \$20,000 - \$25,000, and an estimated \$45,000 in damage was incurred to MWR facilities and its equipment.

Military News

Gen. Myers nominated for JCS chairman

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
 Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Bush announced Friday, Aug. 24, his nomination of Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, 59, to become the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Speaking to reporters at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, Bush added that Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, 55, would succeed Myers as vice chairman. The current JCS chairman, Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, is slated to retire Sept. 30.

Choosing a new JCS chairman is “one of the most important appointments a president can make,” Bush said. The Senate must confirm both nominations.

“Secretary (of Defense Donald) Rumsfeld and I thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future, is Gen. Richard B. Myers,” Bush said.

Bush called Myers, who has served as vice chairman since March 2000, an officer “of steady resolve and determined



Gen. Richard B. Myers

leadership” who “understands that the strengths of America’s armed forces are our people and our technological superiority. “And, we must invest in both,” he added.

Pace “represents a new generation of leadership and military thinking,” Bush said, adding that he has spent “a substantial amount of time” working with both men and “is convinced they are the right people to lead our military into the future.”

The President has tasked

People: “Our most treasured asset”

By **Gordon L. England**
 Secretary of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The following is the text of a message released by the Secretary of the Navy:

As secretary and chief safety officer for the Department of the Navy, I strongly believe that our Sailors, Marines and civilian employees are our most important and valuable resource.

Ultimately, the most advanced ships, aircraft and weapons in the world are of no benefit to our nation without Sailors and Marines.

As we focus on combat capability, we will also stay committed to providing quality of service — the combination of both quality of life and quality

of work — on our ships, our bases and in our communities.

DoD to transform the armed forces into “a 21st-century military that can deter aggression and help us extend peace” well into the new century, Rumsfeld said. That kind of change is difficult and “not undertaken lightly. It takes clarity of vision, and unity of purpose, and it takes leadership. Gen. Dick Myers is such a leader.”

Myers was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, is a former commander of U.S. Space Command, and was the assistant to former JCS Chairman Army Gen. John Shalikashvili. Rumsfeld characterized Myers’ military career as “the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman as the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

Pace, a former deputy commander of U.S. Forces Japan, has extensive experience, having served “from the jungles of southeast Asia to the streets of Mogadishu,” Rumsfeld said. “General Pace has fought the country’s fights, small and

large, and demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for leadership along the way.” He noted that Pace’s “background, expertise and insight” would complement Myers’.

Under the leadership of Myers and Pace “the men and women of the U.S. Armed forces are in fine hands,” Rumsfeld said. The secretary also used the occasion to thank Shelton, the outgoing chairman, for “his outstanding and his courageous service” and professionalism.

Myers said he had learned a great deal under Shelton and was humbled by the nomination. Pace said he and Myers “would work to take great care of the wonderful young men and women who serve this country in uniform.”

Locally, Gen. Myers is slated to be the guest speaker at the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce “Salute to the Military,” on Oct. 22. It will be one of his first speaking engagements outside of Washington, D.C. following his confirmation.



Gordon England

of work — on our ships, our bases and in our communities.

Moving ahead quickly with improvements to military housing and workspaces is another key element in our agenda for the future of our people. In addition to making our work places and communities the best they can be, we will also make them the safest.

I ask that each Sailor, Marine and civilian employee serve as a chief of safety for their organizations and themselves. Simply put, every one of us must ensure the safety of ourselves and of our Sailors,

Marines, civilian and family members — both on and off duty.

If we perform our safety roles with the same passion we dedicate to our combat missions, we will better manage risk, minimize needless injuries and enhance our combat credibility by avoiding needless loss of manpower and equipment due to safety mishaps.

During my tenure, we will ensure that our safety and health policies are clear, realistic and uniformly applied to all members of the Navy and Marine Corps teams. We will measure our progress in the safety arena by a few simple metrics that will be monitored.

Our safety polices will also

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Advancement examinations

The September 2001 Navy-wide E-4/E-5/E-6 advancement examinations will be held for Naval Station Pascagoula and tenant commands on the following dates at the designated places:

E-6: Sept. 6, 7 a.m., at NAVSTA Gymnasium.

E-5: Sept. 13, 7 a.m., at Briscoe Hall.

E-4: Sept. 20, 7 a.m., at Briscoe Hall.

Senior citizens make good neighbors. . .

Continued from page 2

grams. Whether it was war, depression, or loss of life, the personal sacrifices made by this generation still impact us today. Each one of their lives provides a snapshot of the history of this community. The seniors are an integral part of the establishment and graciously give to others, but are sometimes forgotten in their hour of need.

Seniors from as far away as Ocean Springs are transported to Pascagoula with the expressed purpose of participating in the monthly meal service. It is important to note that for a few attending, this is the only truly balanced meal they will get. Furthermore, this luncheon provides them a unique social outlet, an opportunity to talk to others from their gen-

eration, and an occasion to leave their home for a special outing.

Squadron Sailors are also intimately involved with the annual Senior Citizens Prom held every May. Staff members, in full dress uniform, provide transportation to the ball, officiate as Master of Ceremonies and escort the seniors during this gala event. The prom requires the services of at least 20 members of the Squadron.

Other events the Sailors take part in include April's Pascagoula Superintendent of Shipbuilding annual Coronation Ball where 225 seniors to get dressed up, delight in an elegant meal, and share the dance floor with Sailors in full dress uniform; the Mardi Gras Celebration Parade held in

March; the Lippincott festival, conducted at the Lippincott Ranch each year in February; and the Naval Station's Christmas Extravaganza, where live entertainment, dinner, and games allow for excellent photographic opportunities for seniors who wished to be pictured with a Sailor in his or her dress blue uniforms.

Working with the center on a daily basis strengthens ties within the squadron.

The courage of the individual Sailor to step up and draw upon their own personal and professional life experiences breaks down barriers and builds lines of communication.

Due to the Sailor's volunteer domestic engagement at the Senior Center, teamwork and cooperation are instilled and

applied in a variety of settings. The experience of working with the neglected in our society instills pride and honor in our Sailor's lives.

DESRON SIX's next senior citizen event is Sept. 25.

Team effort ...

Continued from page 2

new baby into their families.

And I cannot forget all the help we receive from members of the community. It is truly a team force with everyone working together for a common goal - that of sending our ships on arduous deployments.

We have a great operation here at Pascagoula. But it takes tremendous effort, and no one person can do it alone. Decreased manning and tighter budgets force everyone to do more with less, and everyone has to help out everyone else. The spirit of cooperation among the crews of the ships assigned to Pascagoula, with the assistance of those at the station and the local community, is fabulous. But it takes all of us, the Sailors, chiefs, officers, and civilians.

But I am proud to say we have a terrific team here, and I know that spirit of cooperation will continue.

SECNAV . . .

Continued from page 12

apply to all contractors who conduct business with the Department of the Navy, and to anyone who enters DoN properties, including all ships, aircraft, bases and housing.

You have my solemn pledge to do my best as the Department of Navy's chief safety officer, but we will only achieve our best if every member of the DoN team carries out their duty as chiefs of safety responsibly. Semper fi and sail Safe!

Wills, legal assistance available from SJA

Lt. Jon Jefferys
Staff Judge Advocate

The Staff Judge Advocate's office at Naval Station Pascagoula has limited services available.

Our hours of operation are: SJA - 7:30-11:30 a.m., and 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; Command Legalman - 9 a.m.-noon, and 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

On a walk-in basis, we can help Sailors and their depen-

dents with processing of household goods claims, notary services, letters of domicile/residence (tax exemption), and powers of attorney. Anyone needing a tax exemption letter must bring a current leave and earnings statement or a 2000 W-2 form and their military identification card.

Appointments for wills can be made for Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon., however, a will information packet (which can be obtained from the legal information display rack outside the SJA's offices) should be completed before any will appointment is made.

Legal assistance appointments can be made on a case-by-case basis. Please call to schedule an appointment and be prepared for your appointments (collect and bring all documentation concerning your case). The SJA does not represent service members in civilian court, but can provide general advice about procedures.

The SJA's office does not provide income tax services. Tax forms and income tax assistance is provided by the base's Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC). For more information on this service, call (228) 761-2561.

Other legal assistance for ongoing and more complex issues (divorces, adoptions, etc.) please contact one of the following to make an appointment.

-- Navy Legal Service Office (NLSO) Det, Gulfport: (228) 871-2620, DSN 868-2620.

-- Keesler Air Force Base, Bldg. 701, rm. 227: (228) 377-3510, DSN 597-3510. Keesler also sees people on a walk-in basis on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 - 10 a.m., and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 3 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with the Naval Station Pascagoula SJA's office, please call (228) 761-2372, DSN 358-2372. Our offices are located in Bldg. 10, rms. 223 and 224.

Selectees . . .

Continued from page 3

Reserve CPO Selectees
USS STEPHEN W. GROVES (FFG 29)
HMC(SW) Thomas Gilham
ITC(SW) Jammie McKnight
DCC Charles Curreri
BMC(SW) Mark Turner

RESERVE DESRON SIX DET
ETC(SW) Aubrey Davis
SKC(SW) Phillip White

ARGIMA (Mobile, Ala.)
DCC(SW) Chelbi Cole
DCC Ron Turner

MWR activities

Get tickets for upcoming area festivals at ITT office

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department has a wide range of activities and events planned for the month of September. They include:

Sept. 1 -- Chautauqua at Beauvoir, a celebration of culture and history of the Gulf Coast. Entry fee is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.75 for active duty, \$4.75 for students. MWR transportation is \$5.

Sept. 6 -- Fall softball league begins. Games are held on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, beginning at 8 p.m.

Sept. 7 -- Take a three-day weekend trip to Wild Adventures amusement park in Valdosta, Ga. Contact Noelle at 761-2293.

Sept. 8 -- The Blues and Heritage Festival at the Jackson County Fairgrounds in Pascagoula is always a big favorite. 11 a.m. Call 761-5493.

Sept. 11 -- Last day to purchase tickets from ITT for the

Saints vs. 49ers. Game is Sept. 16. Call 761-2432.

Sept. 14 and 15 -- Lorrie Morgan and Sammy Kershaw in concert at the Biloxi Grand Theater. Call TicketMaster.

Sept. 15 -- Horseback riding at Fairall Farms in Milton, Fla. \$225 fee includes lunch, transportation, and horseback riding. Sign-up no later than Sept. 10. For more information call 761-2293.

Sept. 15 -- Biloxi Seafood Festival. Transportation provided by MWR for \$5.

Sept. 16 -- New Orleans Saints take on the San Francisco 49ers at the New Orleans Superdome at noon.

Sept. 21 -- George Benson in concert at the Biloxi Grand Theater. Call TicketMaster.

Sept. 22 -- Go tubing and canoeing at Adventures Unlimited in Milton, Fla. \$30 cost includes lunch and transportation. Sign-up not later than Sept. 10.

Sept. 28 -- Wynona in con-

cert at the Biloxi Grand Theater. Call TicketMaster.

Sept. 29 -- Biloxi Oktoberfest. Transportation provided by MWR for \$5. Sign-up not later than Sept. 25.

Sept. 29 -- Lonestar in concert at the Biloxi Grand Theater. Call TicketMaster.

Tickets for most activities and events are available through the Information, Tickets and Tours office, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The telephone number is 761-2432. ITT also has tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Jazzland, Six Flags, Busch Gardens, Sea World, the Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium.

The Sports and Fitness Center at the gymnasium is open seven days a week and holidays. The telephone number is 761-2107. The Sports and Fitness Center also has group cycling Monday through Thursday from 7:15 - 8 a.m.; lap swimming in the base pool is

Monday through Friday from 6 - 8 a.m., and then again from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; open swim is available Monday through Thursday from 1 - 7 p.m., on Friday from 1 - 4 p.m., and on weekends and holidays from noon to 5 p.m. Water aerobics is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Personal Classifieds

FOR SALE: 1999 Honda 750C Magna motorcycle. Bought new from dealer in May. 1,100 miles. Price includes helmet, two shields. Warranty. \$7,000. Call STGC Miller, x2137 (wk), 696-9243 (hm), 990-0489 (cell).

FOR RENT or SALE: Hickory House Executive Home, \$172,000. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1.75 acres, 2,200 sq. ft., 3-car garage, \$1,200 per month. Contact EMCS Miller at 761-3374 (wk).

Form to use for personal classified advertisements

Advertising in the Personal Classifieds is restricted to active duty and retired military, their dependents and civilian employees assigned to the fleet concentration area around Naval Station Pascagoula.

This is a free service provided by the staff of the NAVSTA Pascagoula Public Affairs Office to help qualified personnel dispose of unwanted personal articles. Service ads such as sharing rides to and from work, lost and found items, and garage sales will be accepted.

Ads pertaining to gun sales will not be accepted. Animal or pet sales will be accepted only if the animals are offered free.

No advertisements will be accepted by phone. Faxed ads will be accepted at (228) 761-2087, but they must be completed on the attached form.

Name: _____ Rank/Grade: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Organization: _____
 Signature: _____ Date submitted: _____