

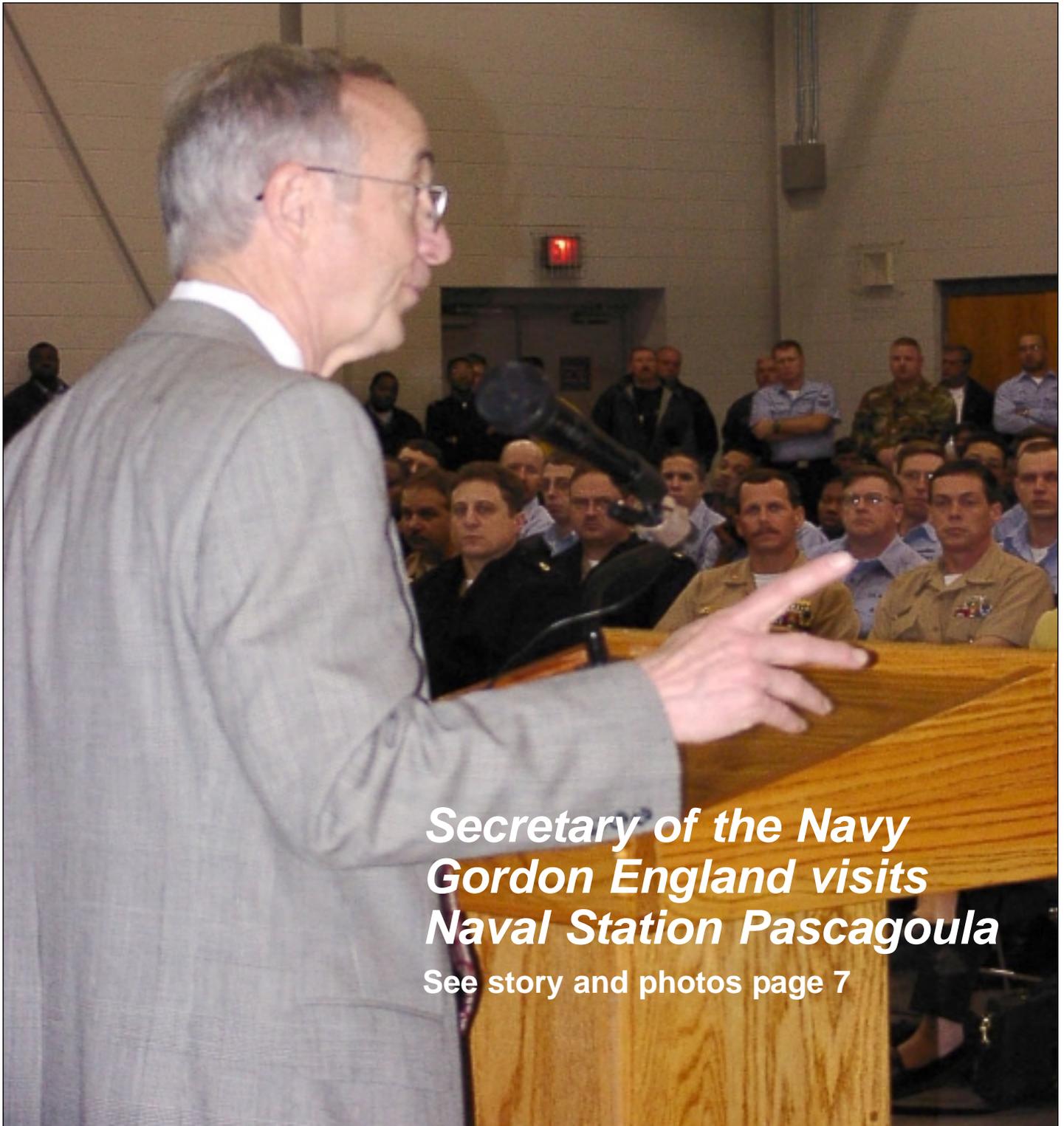


Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

# Homeport

Vol. II, No. 01

January 31, 2002



*Secretary of the Navy  
Gordon England visits  
Naval Station Pascagoula*

See story and photos page 7

A word from our Commanders

# Yorktown getting ready for deployment

As Yorktown prepares to get underway for deployment, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the crew's hard work over the last 16 months of my command. It has certainly been a whirlwind tour.

After five months of dry-dock, followed by nine months completing the inter-deployment training cycle, I am happy to report that Yorktown is "deployment ready."

The ship will be leaving Pascagoula for a regularly scheduled deployment in the beginning of February. We will be operating as part of the U.S. Southern Command — as the flagship during the Caribbean phase of UNITAS and later participating in counter-drug operations. Counter-narcotics is a very important job, even more now than in the past, since the events of Sep. 11. As we well know, drug cartels have long been supporters of terrorist activity throughout the world. We will do our very best to inhibit these ongoing shipments of illegal drugs.

As we depart on deployment, our families can be assured that they remain our greatest commitment. It is not only my job, but also my number one priority as Captain to train Yorktown's Sailors to do their jobs and to return home safely. We have pushed ourselves very hard to be combat ready and I am confident that these last few months have fully prepared us for the upcoming deployment.

The months the ship spent in Bender Shipyards in Mobile, Ala., were certainly hard on the crew, but the modifications



By R.S. Kerno Jr.  
Commanding Officer  
USS Yorktown (CG 48)

and intensive maintenance the ship received most certainly extended the ship's life by seven to 10 years. During that time, however, the ship also experienced a nearly 50 percent turnover of crewmembers. We emerged from the yards as an almost entirely

new ship.

The ensuing inter-deployment training cycle included numerous assessments and inspections, all of which Yorktown completed successfully. The ship was graded above average in every warfare area during the final battle problem, and was given the thumbs-up by Commodore Marlowe, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX, to deploy in February. The support we received from all the commands onboard Naval Station was superb and aided the

ship in completing each inspection with relative ease.

Between inspections, we had many opportunities to participate in unique operations, including a joint exercise with the Air Force called AMALGAM VIRGO, and a joint-surface fire-support exercise with Marines off the coast of Camp LeJeune, N.C.

In August, we completed Group Sail 01-04 with the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) and the USS Doyle (FFG 39) during which we successfully completed a live missile-firing exercise off the coast of Puerto Rico. That time was an excellent opportunity to work in a multi-ship environment, and provided valuable preparation for upcoming UNITAS operations. Yorktown also participated in Operation Noble Eagle by providing air coverage of the Gulf of Mexico to Southeast Air Defense in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

I cannot tell you how proud I am to serve with Yorktown's energetic young  
*Continued on page 17*

## CNO sets course for Navy leaders

By JOC Walter T. Ham IV  
CNO Public Affairs



Adm. Vern Clark  
Chief of Naval Operations

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark recently released CNO Guidance 2002, which applauds the Navy's impressive accomplishments last year and provides specific goals to help win the war on terrorism and make the Navy even better. CNO Guidance 2002 is posted on his Web page at <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno>.

"As we move into 2002, I believe more than ever that it is dedication to causes greater than ourselves that transforms our profession into a calling, and brings honor to the Navy we serve and the uniform we wear," the CNO stated.

Clark expresses gratitude for the progress made on the Navy's "Top Five" priorities (manpower, current readiness, future readiness, quality of service and organizational alignment) in 2001, and he emphasizes that the new guidance is "about the future."

"Even the most aggressive of leaders need guidance to help them focus their efforts," he said.

CNO Guidance 2002, written for ev-

ery leader in the Navy — from LPO to CPO to CO to CNO — stresses the continued importance and time-honored value of leadership in the Navy.

"We expect a great deal from our leaders, from the most senior to the most junior. I will never apologize for that. Our people promise to serve. In return, our Navy provides the opportunity to lead. Some days are victorious; some days are difficult. We do not promise an easy life. Any-

one can lead when the going is easy; it takes strength and character to lead when circumstances are challenging — but the rewards are immense."

In the first point of CNO Guidance 2002, Clark reemphasizes the importance of "the Fleet" and its proven ability to deliver combat credible power to far corners of the globe.

"Presence...Power...Precision. Our Navy's response to the events of 11 September is testimony to the dedicated service of our Sailors. It also underlines the mobility, lethality and reach of naval forces. Most importantly, it shows our dedication to mission accomplishment. We stand ready to fight and win!"

*Continued on page 17*



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

### Homeport

**Commanding Officer** . . . Cmdr. Tara LaCavera  
**Executive Officer** . . . . . Lt.Cmdr. Shri Stroud  
**Public Affairs Officer** . . . . . Stacey Byington  
**Journalist** . . . . . Renee Johnson

Homeport is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families stationed at or around Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content and any supplement is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Naval Station Pascagoula.

Deadline for all routine copy is on or about the 15th of every month. Questions or comments can be directed to the Naval Station Pascagoula Public Affairs Officer. The Homeport staff can be reached at (228) 761-2164 or (228) 761-2019.

## From our Fleet



Photo by Stacey Byington

*The guests of honor at the USS Ticonderoga change of command salute the American flag as the National Anthem is played at the start of the ceremony. From left, Cmdr. Glenn Zeiders, prospective commanding officer; Rear Adm. John Morgan, Commander, Enterprise Battle Group; Cmdr. Glen Sears, Ticonderoga Commanding Officer; Capt. William Marlowe, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX; and Chaplain Randy Williams. More photos on page 4.*

# Zeiders assumes command of Tico

Cmdr. Glenn W. Zeiders III relieved Cmdr. Glen R. Sears II as Commanding Officer USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) in a traditional change of command ceremony at Naval Station Pascagoula at 10 a.m., Jan. 30.

The guest speaker was Rear Adm. John G. Morgan, Commander, Enterprise Battle Group.

Cmdr. Zeiders is a native of Los Angeles, Calif., and was commissioned in 1985.

Sea duty assignments include duty aboard the USS Moosbrugger (DD 980), USS Callaghan (DD 994), and as executive officer of USS Gon-

zalez (DDG 66). Shore duty assignments include the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., from where he graduated with a masters degree in information systems; the staff of *Glen R. Sears II* Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Propulsion Examining Board; the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command; and his most recent as-



signment as NATO training and exercises officer on the staff of Commander, Striking Fleet Atlantic and Commander, Second Fleet.

Cmdr. Zeiders III assumed command of USS Ticonderoga in June 2000.

Under his guidance, the Ticonderoga crew has been operating underway or away from

homeport 70 percent of the time, on two U.S. Southern Command deployments, as well as supporting Homeland Defense for Operation Noble Eagle. During this time his crew has mastered the new "smart ship" engineering control system which will eventually be installed in all 27 cruisers of the Ticonderoga class.

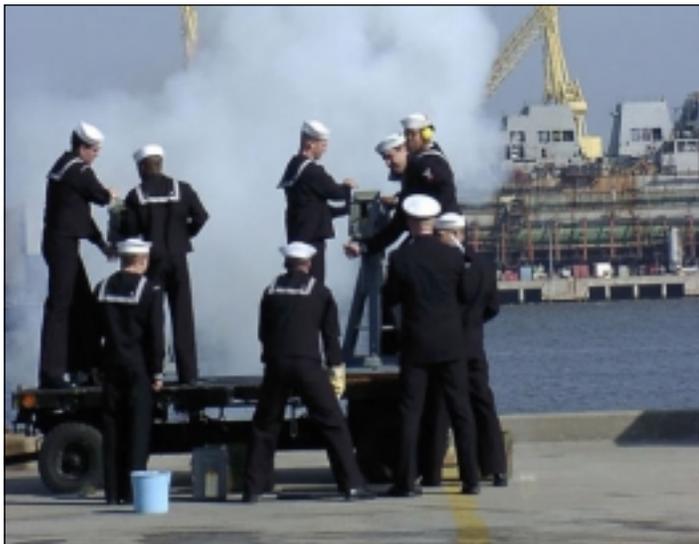
"Cmdr. Sears took a ship that was tied to the pier for 14 months for the "smart ship" installation and quickly had her operating superbly at sea," said Capt. William Marlowe, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX, squadron commander for

*Continued on page 4*

## From our Fleet



***Rear Adm. John Morgan, Commander, Enterprise Battle Group, pins a Legion of Merit medal on Cmdr. Glen Sears, Ticonderoga Commanding Officer, as Capt. William Marlowe, Commander, Destroyer Squadron SIX, looks on.***



***A gun salute is rendered to dignitaries participating in the change of command.***

**Photos by Stacey Byington**

## *Zeiders is Tico's new CO ...*

***Continued from page 3***

the ships homeported at Naval Station Pascagoula. "He masterfully led the ship through numerous inspections and assessments, passing each with flying colors. Additionally, with few training resources available in the Gulf of Mexico, he initiated mutual training opportunities with the Air National Guard, Naval Reserve, Coast Guard, and Air Force units to ensure maximum operational readiness."

Cmdr. Sears commanded Ticonderoga through two Panama Canal transits, and 40 port visits or brief stops outside of homeport, including visits to 10 different countries. He is also responsible for a significant drug interdiction presence in the Eastern Pacific, seizing an estimated \$12 million worth of cocaine, the capture of two "go-fasts," and disrupting the operations of two logistic support vessels.

"Cmdr. Sears brilliantly bal-

anced operational commitments throughout an extremely high-tempo operational period with training, maintenance and administrative requirements," said Marlowe. "He has led his Aegis guided-missile cruiser to excel in every conceivable tasking, clearly demonstrating his operational insight, and tactical and technical expertise."

Originally from Honolulu, Hawaii, Cmdr. Sears enlisted in the Navy in 1977 to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School, and was then accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy, receiving his commission upon graduation in 1982.

Sea duty assignments include tours aboard USS England (CG 22), USS Callaghan (DDG 994), USS Ingersol (DD 990), USS Reeves (CG 24), and as executive officer of USS Shiloh (CG 67).

He leaves Pascagoula to go to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., as a battalion commander.



***Cmdr. Glenn Zeiders, Ticonderoga's new commanding officer, talks with a local reporter following the ceremony.***

From our Fleet

# ***SURFLANT recognizes area Sailors***



***Bravo Zulu! -- Rear Adm. John Foley, Commander, Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, congratulates FC2(SW) James Beahon after pinning a Navy Achievement Medal on him. Beahon, a crewmember on the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), was selected for recognition because he spent countless hours recently maintaining the ship's SPY1 radar system, and has been responsible for coordinating the ship's adopt-a-school program with Martin Bluff Elementary School in Gautier.***

Photo by Stacey Byington

***Well done! -- Yorktown Sailor BM1(SW) Timothy Meadors shakes the hand of Rear Adm. John Foley, Commander, Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, after Foley pinned a Navy Achievement Medal on him in front of the Yorktown crew. Meadors has been selected as the ship, and additionally, the Destroyer Squadron SIX Sailor of the Year. Also receiving a Navy Achievement Medal was YN2 Jason Williams. Williams recently prepared more than 150 command awards over a two-day period, contributing greatly to the crew's morale.***

Photo by Stacey Byington



## From our Fleet

# Ticonderoga spreads cheer at Naval Home

By ENS Sara Bernard  
Ticonderoga Public Affairs

Nine USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) Sailors recently took time out of their busy day to visit residents of the Naval Home in Gulfport, Miss.

The Tico Sailors began their visit with lunch with retired Sailors living in the home. Not only was the food good, but the meal time conversations were enriching, steeped in Naval history and life-long experiences. One Seaman Apprentice had the opportunity to meet the first two Chief Petty Officers ever married while still in the Navy.

The visit was beneficial to both residents and visitors alike in that residents were given an inquisitive audience, and the visitors were able to gain new insights based upon residents past experiences.

After lunch, Naval Home Gulfport's Public Affairs Officer Doug LeMere provided Tico Sailors with an extensive tour of the facilities. The fifth and eighth floors were especially interesting.

The entire fifth floor is lined with Navy memorabilia, focusing especially on World



U.S. Navy Photo

***Crewmen on the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) trade 'war' stories with residents of the Naval Home in Gulfport, Miss.***

War II. The eighth floor housed several paintings done by the residents. Unfortunately, the Tico Sailors were not able to view all of the paintings, as several are

part of a new exhibit being displayed at the O'Keefe-Ohr Museum in Biloxi.

All in all, the visit was a great success, and provided today's active duty Sailors

with a wonderful service right in their own backyard.

Tico Sailors will continue visiting residents at the Naval Home on a monthly basis.

***Missile shot -- An SM-2 missile is fired from the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) during a training exercise on Jan. 19.***

U.S. Navy Photo



## Around the Homeport



Photo by Stacey Byington

*Secretary of the Navy Gordon England shakes the hand of and chats with STG3 Chadrick Poole upon his arrival at Trent Lott Airport in Pascagoula. Poole and several other Naval Station personnel drove the Secretary and his entourage during his visit to the homeport on Jan. 14. Also pictured, from right to left, are MS1 Kevin Albert, MS2 December Smith, PC2 Angela Morgan and OS1 Ralph Jones.*

# SECNAV visits Naval Station

By JO2 Renee Johnson  
Public Affairs Office

The events of Sept. 11 still linger in the minds of men and women in uniform, and was the recent focus of an 'All Hands' with the Secretary of the Navy.

Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon R. England, toured Naval Station Pascagoula on Jan. 24, and spoke to more than 300 military and ci-

vilian personnel at an 'All Hands' call. He spoke about the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, both at the Pentagon and in New York City, and about the Navy's present and future role in the present war against terrorism.

"It was a very emotional time. It's going to be a long campaign. This is not removing a mole; this will be removing a cancer," said England.

"Afghanistan is the first battle of the first war of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is not the end of the war in Afghanistan. This is still the beginning of what will be a very long war," said England.

He praised the United States Navy and the men and women in uniform.

"Our 226-year-old Navy has kept our nation free and has protected our liberties and our

freedom. That tradition continues," said England. "I want to tell you that your Navy is in great shape."

England also spoke very highly of the Commander in Chief.

"I will tell you that we have an absolutely terrific president. We are blessed as a nation and as a Navy to have George Bush as President of the United

*Continued on page 8*

## Around the Homeport



**England also toured SIMA, and chats here with GSCM(SW) Chuck Simpson, SIMA's command master chief, and Lt. Cmdr. Victor Rhoades, SIMA's commanding officer.**

### SECNAV tours station ...

*Continued from page 7*

States," he said.

Many in the audience appreciated the Secretary's words.

"It sounded like he backed the President 100 percent. I also think it is great how he stands by our military," said Vickie Lee, administrative assistant to the Navy College Office.

England reminded everyone in attendance that evil still exists in the world.

"These terrorist groups are around the world and this is literally an evil in the world — an evil unleashed, and unleashed on us Sept. 11," said England.

The Secretary also expressed the importance of having a visible military.

"It is very, very important that we be seen. That's our mission. Our mission is to be seen out there all the time," he said. "We don't want to be stealth, not when we are forward deployed like this. We want to be seen, because there's a message that America is there."

The Secretary also talked briefly about the next round of base closures that has now

been put off until 2005. He didn't give any indication that Pascagoula should feel more threatened than any other station.

"Where we have excellent facilities that provide us value for our naval mission, we're going to continue to keep those bases," said England.

YN1 Ralph Smith, the Admin leading petty officer, agrees with the Secretary on base closures.

"I think we should close bases that we don't need," he said. "Base closures should be based on the need of the military and not politics."

For some, meeting someone so high in the chain of command means a lot. One Sailor expressed how she felt.

"I was so thrilled that he took the time to visit such a small command to say thanks," said YN1 Michele Hubbard, administrative assistant to the fire department.

After speaking at the 'All Hands,' the Secretary was given a tour of the station, USS Ticonderoga (CG 47), USS Yorktown (CG 48), and USS John L. Hall (FFG 32).



**Secretary of the Navy Gordon England talks with Lee Lechleidner, executive director of the USO, during his visit to the station.**

Photos by Stacey Byington



**Capt. Brenda Larkin, Officer in Charge of the Branch Medical Clinic, and Cmdr. Robert Levy, director of the Branch Dental Clinic, escort the Secretary of the Navy around their spaces.**

### About the cover:

**Secretary of the Navy Gordon England addresses a crowd of Sailors and civilians in the station gymnasium during a brief stop here on Jan. 24.**

## Around the Homeport

# Pascagoula celebrates MLK's birthday

By JO2 Renee Johnson  
Public Affairs Office

People all across the country take time in the month of January to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was honored through music and special television programs, during church events and by parades.

Naval Station Pascagoula was no different. Approximately 100 guests participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast Jan. 15, held at the LaFont Inn, in Pascagoula. The breakfast was sponsored by the Supervisor of Shipbuilding Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, Naval Station Pascagoula American Heritage Committee and Defense Contract Audit Agency.

Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, Naval Station Pascagoula's Commanding Officer, welcomed those in attendance.

"This federal holiday has been declared to give each of us an opportunity to celebrate the birth, life and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and his work toward non-violent social change in America and around the world," she said.

"Rather than just treating this day as another 'day off,' use some of that time to learn more about King's fight against social injustice, and to celebrate the equality and freedom that we, as Americans, many times take for granted."

In keeping with the national theme, "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on...Not a day off," the guest speaker, Mrs. Zollie-Price Clayter, spoke about the day which has been dedicated to a man who was admired by many.

"This momentous occasion parallels the many activities being held across the country in observance of this man of greatness, Dr. Martin Luther



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**SK1 Angela Irving, of SIMA, sings a song at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast held Jan. 15 at LaFont Inn.**

King, Jr.," said Clayter.

She said the African American stay in this country has been marked by one injustice after another. "If this struggle has taught us anything, it has taught us that injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere."

Rev. James O. Harris, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in Moss Point, gave the invocation.

The guests were also entertained with a song by SK1 Angela Irving of SIMA. She reminded everyone to "Keep the bad things behind, the good things ahead and strive for a better tomorrow," before singing 'Open my heart' by Yolanda Adams.

"I liked the fact that this was not a program that only black people attended, but people of all nationalities," said Carolyn

Crumpton, administrative assistant at the naval station. "Everyone seemed to have been focused on what the guest speaker had to say and was interested in what Martin Luther King actually did. So, I just enjoyed the unity of not just blacks but of all people of all races."

"I hope that those in attendance walked away with a better understanding of what Dr. King meant to America," said James Fraiser, a SupShip Black History Month committee member. "Dr. King's contributions to America's maturation as a nation were essential and necessary. Dr. King reminded us that in overcoming all the challenges the world has to offer the basic human need for respect is essential for coexistence."

Dr. King's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech expressed his life-long ambition.

"When we let freedom ring — when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Thank God, we are free at last!'"



**Advancements --**  
CMDMC Terrence McIntyre and station CO, Tara LaCavera, pin new chevrons on EO1 Mark Strong, USNR, a member of the station's force protection team. Other Security personnel promoted to their current grade were MA1 Clinton Huth and BM2 Larry Madison.

Photo by Stacey Byington

## Around the Homeport

# Environmental management is important

By Tom Sarros

Public Works Department

Environmental management is the means of conserving, protecting and restoring our environment and natural and cultural resources while accomplishing the military mission.

The Department of the Navy, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations stated, in a Feb. 17, 1993, memorandum, that the Navy is fully committed to strict compliance with all applicable environmental requirements and establishing goals that "go well beyond compliance with existing standards."

To comply with this environmental policy, we need a sound environmental management program that "makes day-to-day environmental management an integral part of, not in addition to, our normal method of doing business throughout the Navy."

The Navy's environmental strategy is to lead in protecting the environment, and in conserving our natural resources for present and future generations. The Navy's envi-



Photo by Stacey Byington

**An alligator lives in the detention pond near the Security building. Please stay away from it. This is a wild creature, and could be hazardous to your safety.**

**Don't be a safety statistic.**

Environmental program consists of the following components:

**Cleanup.** Repairing damage caused by past substance releases and waste disposal practices.

**Compliance.** Ensuring operations meet current federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations.

**Conservation.** Protecting and enhancing the life sustaining quality of our lands and waterways through protection

and conservation of our natural and cultural resources.

**Pollution Prevention.** Reducing pollution at its source and reducing or eliminating the creation of pollutants through increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources.

**Communication.** Communicating the importance of using sound environmental practices in our daily activities.

It is everyone's responsibility to use environmentally sound management processes. This is the key to successfully completing your mission while protecting the environment.

We must also protect the wildlife that live on the station. This includes the alligator that seems to have made his 'home' in the detention pond near the Security building. This alligator eats nutria rats, rabbits, other small furry animals and snakes, and is an important factor in regulating these populations on the station.

Navy personnel have been observed stomping around in the detention pond hoping to get a better look at the alligator. Please, don't do this.

Although the alligator may appear to be docile, laying

around basking in the sun, he is still a wild animal and can be hazardous to humans. Unfortunately when an alligator bites, he just doesn't give a little nip. He clamps his jaw down, holds on tightly then rolls to control his prey. This gator is about six feet long, and weighs anywhere from 100 to 150 pounds. If he bites someone, that person will probably lose whatever appendage the alligator has clamped on to — an arm, hand, leg, etc.

An alligator doesn't know the difference between a dog, small animals, or humans. Additionally, alligators have a very toxic bacteria on their skin which adversely affects humans, almost like an acid that eats human skin when it comes in contact.

Please don't feed the alligator. He can't distinguish between a hot dog and your fingers or hands. This is a wild animal. If it gets used to human contact, it will have to be removed from the station, because it will be more of a danger. If removed from the station, it will likely be destroyed. We must be able to live in harmony with the earth's creatures.

### NAVSTA Pascagoula 'Bravo Zulus'

**Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal:**  
*OS1 Ralph Jones*

**25 years Civil Service:**  
*Ben Barker*

**20 years Civil Service:**  
*Warren M. Johnson*

**10 Years Civil Service:**  
*Danny L. Hubbard*

**Sailor of the Year:**  
*MS1 Kevin L. Albert*

**NAVSTA Letters of Commendation:**  
*MS1 Kevin Albert*  
*OS1 Ralph Jones*

*IT1 Mary Quinones*  
*PC2 Angela M. Morgan*  
*STG3 Chadrick A. Poole*  
*FN Daniel J. Simon*  
*SN Desmond D. Peters*

**CNRSE Letters of Commendation:**  
*EM2 Michael Baugh*  
*EN2 Thomas Coon*  
*BM2 Delando Gabriel*  
*EN2 David Garfield*  
*BM2 Robert Harper*  
*BM2 Shawn Hooks*  
*BM2 R.R. Prudhomm*  
*EN2 Bruce Turner*  
*BM3 Derek Norris*  
*SN Marc Kennel*  
*FN Daniel Simon*

## Around the Homeport

# It's all on sale at the Thrift Store

By **Renee Johnson**  
Public Affairs Office

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society's thrift store, located in Lakeside CBQ is having a sale.

"It is a great resource for Sailors and their families," said Carol-Lee Harshner, who has worked at the NMCRS Thrift Store since it first opened.

The Thrift Store, opened by NMCRS a little over a year ago in the Lakeside barracks complex, will be renovated sometime in March. Prior to the renovations, the store is having a sale. This can only mean one thing, lots of bargains.

The store is stocked with racks of uniform items with prices that Sailors won't find shopping at the Navy-Marine Uniform Support Center.

Where else can you purchase working whites for 50 cents, working blues for \$1, uniform jackets and coats for \$2, and all uniform shoes for 50 cents. All uniform badges are free (while supplies last).

Thrift Store patrons can also purchase street clothes for children and adults.

"You will only pay 10 cents for one bag of civilian clothes," said Harshner. "Some of the stuff still has original price tags on them," she added.

"The thrift store provides an invaluable service for the military and their families living on a budget," said Jeannette Boyd, director of NMCRS Pascagoula Office. She has worked with NMCRS for almost eight years.

"This is our first time here, but we will be back," said Michelle Foltz, a customer at the store. "There are a variety of sizes and types of clothes. It's great! I am really surprised."

All profits from the store go to the NMCRS.

"The money all goes back to



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***Karen Sue Pacifico, center, and Carol-Lee Harshner, right, bag the purchases of a NMCRS Thrift Store customer.***

the Sailors," said Harshner.

"People don't use this resource as much as they should," she added. "I would love to see it used more by the community and to have more volunteers, so we could be open more."

The Thrift Store hours of operation are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. These hours are subject to change once renovations begin.

If more volunteers were willing to work at the store, the store could be open more hours, and would be able to serve more than the current weekly average of 10 to 14 customers. Currently there are only three volunteers.

"I need more volunteers," Harshner stressed. "Child-care and mileage is reimbursable for all volunteers," she added.

"It is very rewarding," said Karen-Sue Pacifico, one of the volunteers at the store.

"I am the ombudsman for

the PCU Shoup (DDG 86) and this gives me an opportunity to help the Sailors,"

During the Lakeside building renovations, only uniform items will be sold at the Thrift Store, and only in emergency situations. Service members interested in purchasing uniform items during that time must go through their Command Master Chief, said Harshner.

"With the renovation that is going to happen, I hope to see more space for the uniforms, because we have so many still in boxes," said Pacifico.

The thrift store accepts donations and has a drop-off box located in the parking lot of Lakeside CBQ and one at the Naval Station as well, said Harshner.

So, if you need uniform items, civilian clothes, shoes, books or toys, stop by the NMCRS' Thrift Store and 'shop until you drop!'



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***CWO3 Bruce Nefferdorf, one of the project supervisors for SupShip at Ingalls Shipyard, looks for extra uniforms for an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. "I'm the Thrift Store's best customer. This is a great way to keep your seabag full," he said.***

## Around the Homeport

# Command climate is up to its members

By Renee Johnson  
Public Affairs Office

Just as a special cuisine requires certain ingredients to make it scrumptiously good, the same goes for every successful command. One of these special ingredients is teamwork.

Teamwork is not genetic nor is it something that can be inherited. Teamwork is learned and must be often practiced. To help teamwork run smooth and effectively, the Navy has developed the Military Equal Opportunity Climate Survey (MEOCS).

"MEOCS is a confidential, command-requested organization development survey focusing on issues of equal opportunity and organizational effectiveness," said ETC(SW) Michael P. Sliger, Navy Region Southeast's Equal Opportunity Advisor. Sliger was in Pascagoula recently to facilitate a MEOCS for the station.

More than 6,000 MEOCS unit-level surveys have been completed for commands in the Navy since 1990, with feedback packages returned to the commanders of those units.

There is a catch. In order for this program to work, Sail-



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***ETC(SW) Michael Sliger, Navy Region Southeast's Equal Opportunity Advisor, was in Pascagoula recently to coordinate MEOCS working groups.***

ors have to give it a chance.

"The command can not fix things for a person if a person does not tell the command what fixes need to be made," said Sliger.

"It's like faith without work," said Religious Program assistant, RP2 Harold Wright. "If you are not willing to follow-up, you will never get anywhere."

"I feel like the MEOCS participation is not just for those who have an issue, but for everyone. This will enable peo-

ple to better understand one another," said Phyllis James, Management Analyst.

"The primary purpose of this program is to afford all people regardless of race, rank, gender, religious belief, etc., their full opportunity to excel and succeed," said Sliger.

One of the first steps of the MEOCS program is for every member of the command to complete a MEOCS survey. These surveys should be done once every year, and lets the command leadership know if particular groups of people feel that there are negative issues effecting them, based on their group (ethnicity, rank, religious beliefs, etc.).

Discussion groups are then arranged to let command members know the results of the survey and to give individuals an opportunity to discuss any adverse findings.

"The only way that I can validate whether the survey results are saying the right thing is if the individuals in the groups agree with it or dispute it," said Sliger.

It is important that command members are open and honest to how they feel to determine if a solution is needed.

"I feel we had enough time to express any concerns or dis-

likes we may have had or experienced," said BM1 Timothy Foster, dockmaster/dock supervisor for Port Operations.

This year's MEOCS at Naval Station Pascagoula revealed there were no defined concerns.

"I did not hear any defined concerns and I did not have enough participation in the skipper-not-present groups to say that people do not trust the skipper," said Sliger. "That tells me, as a command, people trust the CO to make decisions and make resolutions.

"People make mistakes and people have perceptions, but the overall finding is that most people trust the command to make the decisions when issues are brought to the command," Sliger added.

To complete the recipe for a successful command, every individual at that particular command, regardless of the race, rank, religious beliefs, must feel they are an intricate part of the team.

"This is my message to Naval Station Pascagoula, if you have an issue and you are not bringing it to the command, it is not an issue until the command knows about it," said Sliger.

## Safety training increases Sailor effectiveness

By Renee Johnson  
Public Affairs Office

Lt.Cmdr. Parker Swan, Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, Va., recently visited Naval Station Pascagoula and provided Operational Risk Management (ORM) training area Sailors.

Operational Risk Management (ORM) training is a decision-making tool, used by people at all levels to increase operational effectiveness by anticipating hazards and reducing the potential for loss,

thereby increasing the probability of a successful mission.

"Operational Risk Management is important because when we waste \$3.5 billion dollars in five years and 967 Sailors die in that same period, we've got to find something to minimize those losses," said Swan.

"We are the Navy's most valuable assets and if we don't come up with something which we have, ORM, to minimize those losses, we're destroying ourselves."

ORM training is not only geared for those in high level positions.

"Everybody can benefit from this training. It does not make a difference if you are an admiral or the newest E-1 onboard the newest DDG," said Swan. "I benefit from it and I teach it."

"I am the technician representative for Port Operations," said EN2 Tom Coon, work engineer leading petty officer for Port Operations, who attended the training. "This training

opened my eyes more towards safety as far as using cranes and working around cranes. I thought it was very beneficial".

ALMAR 210/97 states, "Applying the ORM process will reduce mishaps, lower injury and property damage costs, provide for more effective use of resources, improve training realism and effectiveness, and improve readiness."

During Swan's visit to Pascagoula, more than 1,000 Sailors received ORM training

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## Homeport's People

**Reenlistment -- EM2 Michael Baugh, left, who works in Port Operations, poses with Lt. Norman Bolger, Port Operations Officer, after reenlisting for another five years. Lt. Bolger was Baugh's reenlisting official.**

Photo by Stacey Byington



**Service award -- Danny Hubbard, below, receives recognition of 10 years of federal service. Presenting the certificate and pin is Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, NAVSTA Commanding Officer.**

Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Reenlistment -- MS2 Lonnie Jones reenlists for four years. Lt. Cmdr. Lacy Bartee is the reenlisting official.**

## SIMA Happenings

# Sailor epitomizes professionalism

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

EM1(SW) Claudelle Rolle-Holmes has been selected as the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Pascagoula, Sailor of the Year.

"Petty Officer Rolle-Holmes epitomizes professionalism in a first class petty officer," said GSCM(SW) Chuck Simpson, SIMA's Command Master Chief. "She will be a welcome member of my Chiefs' Mess."

Rolle-Holmes is a motor-rewind technician who repairs electric motors at SIMA. She makes bearing changes, balances rotors, runs sound analysis and makes operational tests.

"If it has an electric motor in it we fix it," said Rolle-Holmes. "Anything from a .5-horsepower to a 250-horsepower engine."

She attributes her success to involvement in other areas of the command, not just in her repair shop.

"I have the best of both worlds," she said. "Not only have I been able to work in an administrative capacity, but I am also able to do the hands-on work."

She says she always tries to learn things above her pay level.

"I am the only 'blue shirt' production officer," Rolle-Holmes said proudly. Normally division production officer billets are held by CPOs and Warrant Officers.

She also served as the command's career counselor for almost three years, and is a member of the command retention team.

"We just got a rated NC (career counselor) into the command," she said. "For the past couple of years I have been doing that job as well as my regular one."

She believes that being se-



Photo by Stacey Byington

***SIMA's Sailor of the Year, EM1(SW) Claudelle Rolle-Holmes, troubleshoots a 440V connection box, testing for short circuits and other electrical problems.***

lected as Sailor of the Year shows that hard work pays off.

"It's nice to know that you are being recognized for what

you do," she said.

Her advice to juniors striving for success, she says, "Always stay one step ahead of

your paygrade. Keep up with your qualifications, and stay physically fit. Professionalism is a must."

Lt.Cmdr. Victor Rhoades, SIMA's commanding officer, said that Rolle-Holmes' performance has been nothing less than "absolutely magnificent."

"I have had the opportunity to observe her closely in the daily performance of her duties," said Rhoades. "In each and every instance, she has excelled. She consistently displays the maturity, leadership and decision-making skills of a much senior Sailor."

A native of Nassau, Bahamas, Rolle-Holmes enlisted in the Navy in 1984. She has served aboard four ships -- USS Samuel L. Gompers (AD 37), USS Yosemite (AD 18), USS Holland (AS 32), and USS Simon Lake (AS 33).

She has been attached to SIMA since August 1999, and serves as the leading petty officer of the sound analysis and electric motor repair shops, and as the electrical repair division production officer. She coordinates the repair efforts of 18 junior personnel assigned to her division.

"Petty Officer Rolle-Holmes is a hard-charging young 'superstar' who deserves every opportunity the Navy can provide," said Rhoades. "She sets the standard for excellence."

## Safety training increases effectiveness ...

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during the three-day period.

The training consisted of a visual slide presentation and oral discussions by Swan that informed attendees how to identify hazards and assess hazards, make risk decisions, implement controls and proper supervision of safety.

Swan left the group with three important questions: What can go wrong? What can

I do about it? And, if I can't do anything, whom can I tell?

"I tell the crowd that they can use this in any situation, whether on a ship or on shore duty at Naval Station, in your car driving home while on liberty, during a recreation activity, or at a party where beer is served and no one has been assigned as the designated driver," said Swan.

"(The safety training) made you realize the importance of being more cautious and safety conscious when performing tasks that could cause possible injury," said Jo Ann Griffin, housing manager assistant here at Naval Station.

For more information on the safety training, see the Navy Safety Center web site at [www.safetycenter.navy.mil](http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil).

## Military News

# President delivers state of the union

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 2002 — “It is both our responsibility and our privilege to fight freedom’s fight,” President Bush said Jan. 29 during his first State of the Union address.

The United States will dedicate whatever resources it takes to defeat terrorism and make America safe, Bush said to the joint session of Congress at the Capitol.

“As we gather tonight, our nation is at war, our economy is in recession and the civilized world faces unprecedented dangers, yet the state of our Union has never been stronger,” he said.

Bush told the gathered legislators that the United States is committed to a long war against terrorists. And, he said, the United States will work with coalition partners to blunt the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

“All nations should know that America will do what is necessary to ensure our nation’s security,” he said. “I will not wait on events while dangers gather. I will not stand by as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world’s most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world’s most destructive weapons.”

Bush listed the accomplishments of America since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. He said the United States has buried its dead, comforted the victims, begun to rebuild, built a coalition against terror and liberated and fed Afghanistan. He said the United States and its allies have captured, arrested and rid the world of thousands of terrorists.

“The American flag flies again over our embassy in



Photo by Luke Frazza/Pool via Reuters

***President George W. Bush delivers the State of the Union speech at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. He said the ‘war against terror’ is only beginning.***

Kabul. Terrorists who once occupied Afghanistan, now occupy cells in Guantanamo Bay, and terrorist leaders who once urged followers to sacrifice their lives are running for their own,” Bush said.

Bush said he had complete confidence in the men and women of the armed forces. He said U.S. service members “have delivered a message clear to every enemy of the United States, even 7,000 miles away across oceans and continents, on mountaintops and in caves — ‘You will not escape the justice of this nation.’”

The president said U.S. discoveries in Afghanistan “confirmed our worst fears.” U.S. intelligence experts have discovered diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities. They also discovered detailed instructions for making chemical weapons and surveillance maps of U.S. and other cities.

“What we have discovered in Afghanistan,” Bush said, “is that far from ending there, our war against terror is only beginning.” Terror organizations

are around the world and states still offer safe haven and money to these organizations, he said.

He said tens of thousands of “dangerous killers” trained in Afghanistan’s terror training camps. He said the terror school graduates are “now spread around the world like ticking time bombs set to go off without warning.” He said the terrorists view the world as a battlefield, “and we must pursue them wherever they are.”

The United States will remain steadfast, patient and persistent in pursuit in two objectives, he said. First, the United States will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt their plans and bring them to justice. Second, the United States must prevent the terrorists and their state sponsors from developing chemical, biological or nuclear weapons that would threaten the United States and the world, he said.

Bush said while the camps are closed in Afghanistan, camps still exist in a dozen countries. And, he said, a terrorist underworld “including such groups as Hamas, Hez-

zbollah and Islamic Jihad operates in remote deserts and jungles and hides in the centers of large cities.”

He said the United States is working in the Philippines, Bosnia and off the coast of Somalia. “My hope is that all nations will heed our call and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own,” Bush said.

He singled out Pakistan for its stand against terrorism. “But, some governments will be timid in the face of terror,” Bush cautioned. “But make no mistake about it, if they do not act, America will.”

Bush singled out North Korea, Iran and Iraq as regimes that sponsor terrorism and have active chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs.

“States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world. By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger,” he said. “They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the United States.

“In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic.” Given this threat, the United States will work with coalition partners to deny these weapons to these regimes. “We will develop and deploy effective missile defense to protect America and our allies from sudden attack,” Bush said.

He told legislators that the United States must spend more on defense. He said the budget he will present to Congress includes the largest defense spending boost since 1981.

“It costs a lot to fight this war,” Bush said. “We have spent a billion dollars a month

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## Military News

# Rumsfeld visits Camp X-Ray in Cuba

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

U.S. Naval Base, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld flew here Jan. 27, to visit Joint Task Force 160 troops at Camp X-Ray, where 158 Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees are now under U.S. military control.

The U.S. servicemen and women at Camp X-Ray “are doing a first-rate job,” Rumsfeld noted during an afternoon press conference at the facility. “I came down to say ‘thank you,’” he added.

Four U.S. senators accompanied Rumsfeld to Guantanamo: Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye, Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also accompanied Rumsfeld on the trip. A previous congressional delegation visited the camp Jan. 25.

During the flight to Cuba Rumsfeld told reporters he has “absolutely full confidence in the way the detainees are being handled and treated” at Camp X-Ray. U.S. service members pulling duty are performing “a tough job,” the secretary said.

“There has been a lot of confusion and misinformation about what they’re doing down there. These are terrific young men and women doing an excellent job, and I want to tell them that,” Rumsfeld said.

The secretary noted he also wanted to talk to Camp X-Ray’s senior officers about construction plans for additional, more permanent facilities for detainees. Rumsfeld also said he’d speak with members of the International Committee of the Red Cross now visiting the camp.



Photo by J.Scott Applewhite/Pool via Reuters

***U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld greets U.S. Navy SeaBees during his visit to Camp X-Ray, where al-Qaida and Taliban detainees are being held, at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Navy SeaBees are constructing the detention center where the prisoners are housed.***

Rumsfeld told reporters on the flight to Cuba that Taliban and Al Qaeda detainees at the Guantanamo Bay and Kandahar, Afghanistan, facilities “are not POWs” and characterized them instead as “unlawful combatants.” He emphasized the detainees are being treated humanely.

“Don’t forget, he said, “we’re treating these people as if the Geneva Convention applied.”

However, he added, the strict security rules in place at Camp X-Ray are warranted. He called the detainees at Guantanamo “among the most dangerous, best-trained, vicious killers on the face of the earth. This is very, very serious business.”

More than 200 other detainees who are considered less

dangerous than those at Guantanamo are under U.S. control at a facility near Kandahar.

Upon arrival at Guantanamo, Rumsfeld and party traveled to the camp and went inside the detainee compound to speak with guards, medical officers and other support personnel.

Afterward, the group visited other task force troops supporting the detention mission. Marine Corps Maj. Steve Cox, task force spokesman, noted that 1,500 JTF-160 service members have joined the 2,400 troops and families already at Guantanamo before the detention operation began 21 days ago.

The senators and Rumsfeld then held a press conference. All concurred that the detainees were being treated well.

Feinstein said the detainees live better than inmates in some California prisons she’s seen. Stevens and Inouye seemed to suggest that the detainees were getting better treatment than perhaps they deserved.

“This is not an egregious situation,” said Feinstein, noting that the Guantanamo detainees are not being mistreated.

Hutchison said the Joint Task Force 160 troops are doing a good job providing religious materials and medical care to the detainees — the same type of medical care available to U.S. troops and their family members, she noted.

Cox noted the detainees receive three meals a day — in-

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## CNO sets course for Navy leaders ...

*Continued from page 2*

The CNO says that Sailors are the key to mission accomplishment.

"Our Navy needs talented young Americans who want to serve their nation and make a difference. The key words are 'serve' and 'make a difference!' In return for their service, we offer them rich opportunities for leadership and growth."

While Clark was pleased with last year's recruiting efforts and record-breaking retention — it was the best retention year in his 32-year career — he challenges leaders to reach even greater goals in 2002, and he emphasizes the need for a sharper focus on attrition.

"Attrition is our number one manpower challenge. No one joins the Navy to fail, yet too many Sailors do not complete their first enlistment. Concerned, involved leadership is the key to minimizing attrition without sacrificing standards. Leaders must take every measure to help their people prosper and succeed." The CNO says that the Navy will continue to keep its prime focus

**"We did not seek this war, but we will win this war."**

*Adm. Vern Clark,  
Chief of Naval Operations*

on current readiness, while building the Navy of the future.

"Our Navy starts with the Fleet. Everything we do must keep the Fleet ready and make it even better. We must accurately define and continuously validate our requirements, then move aggressively to fully fund those requirements. In doing so, we will ensure the Fleet remains ready to fight and win."

To ensure the Navy remains ready to triumph in future wars, the CNO calls for buying 10 ships and 210 aircraft per year by 2007.

"The FY02 procurement budget is \$10 billion below the

level required to sustain our Navy. We must buy greater numbers of ships and aircraft. To do so, we must balance competing demands of current readiness, procurement, innovation and experimentation to stay at the forefront of military transformation."

Clark also stresses the need for greater innovation and better business practices in the Navy.

"We believe in, and will do everything we can do, to encourage innovation in our Navy. Experimentation is vital to change, and we will embrace innovation and experimentation. We cannot have too many pilot projects underway," the CNO said. "We must become more efficient. We must spend with great care every dollar the taxpayers entrust to us for their defense."

The CNO added that "the best Navy in the world" will continue to improve, even as we fight the war on terrorism.

"We are now at war — and will fight and win the war on terrorism," the CNO said. "We did not seek this war, but we will win this war."

## USS Yorktown ready to go ...

*Continued from page 2*

sailors. Despite the hardships of the ship's schedule in the training cycle and the events of Sept. 11, they have continued to embrace an attitude of hard work and enthusiasm. The outstanding support provided by our families is second to none. Their commitment and dedication to their Sailors on Yorktown has made my job easy and my stay in Pascagoula the most rewarding of my career.

## State of the Union ...

*Continued from page 15*

— over \$30 million a day — and we must be prepared for future operations.

"Afghanistan proved that expensive precision weapons defeat the enemy and spare innocent lives, and we need more of them," he continued. "We need to replace aging aircraft and make our military more agile to put our troops anywhere in the world quickly and safely. Our men and women in uniform deserve the best weapons, the best equipment, the best training — and they also deserve another pay raise."

Bush called on Congress to approve funds designed to prevent another attack or manage the consequences if a terrorist strike should succeed.

"We are protected from attack only by vigorous actions abroad and increased vigilance at home," he said. The budget will double the money devoted to homeland security.

Bush said his administration will focus on four key areas: bioterrorism, emergency response, airport and border security, and improved intelligence.

He said the war has gone well, but it has only just begun. "Whatever it costs to defend our country, we will pay."

## SECDEF visits detainees in Guantanamo ...

*Continued from page 16*

cluding two hot — have medical care, receive Korans and have the opportunity to practice their religion.

"The detainees are not being mistreated," Cox emphasized.

Rumsfeld and the senators noted that they didn't speak to the detainees and the detainees didn't speak to them.

Navy Dr. (Cmdr.) James Gallagher is an eye specialist who said he has treated Guantanamo detainees for old eye injuries, none combat-related. The detainees, he remarked, seem grateful for the medical attention.

Navy Muslim Chaplain (Lt.) Saiful Islam, who called the

detainees to afternoon prayer during Rumsfeld's visit, said he has spoken with some of the detainees.

"They ask me what is going to happen to them," the chaplain said, adding he tells them, "I don't know."

Rumsfeld thanked the troops for their good work at Guantanamo, adding that information provided from interrogations of detainees has helped to prevent terrorist acts.

The defense secretary said it was fortunate that the United States went to Afghanistan and worked with its people "to liberate that country from the Al Qaeda and the Taliban."

"We were able to capture

and detain a large number of people who had been through terrorist training camps and had learned a whole host of skills as to how they could kill innocent people — not how they could kill other soldiers.

... "We've got a good slug of those folks off the street where they can't kill more people," he said.

Rumsfeld told reporters on the plane trip en route to Guantanamo that he would make recommendations to President Bush about the possibility of forming a military organization that would oversee homeland defense operations.

