



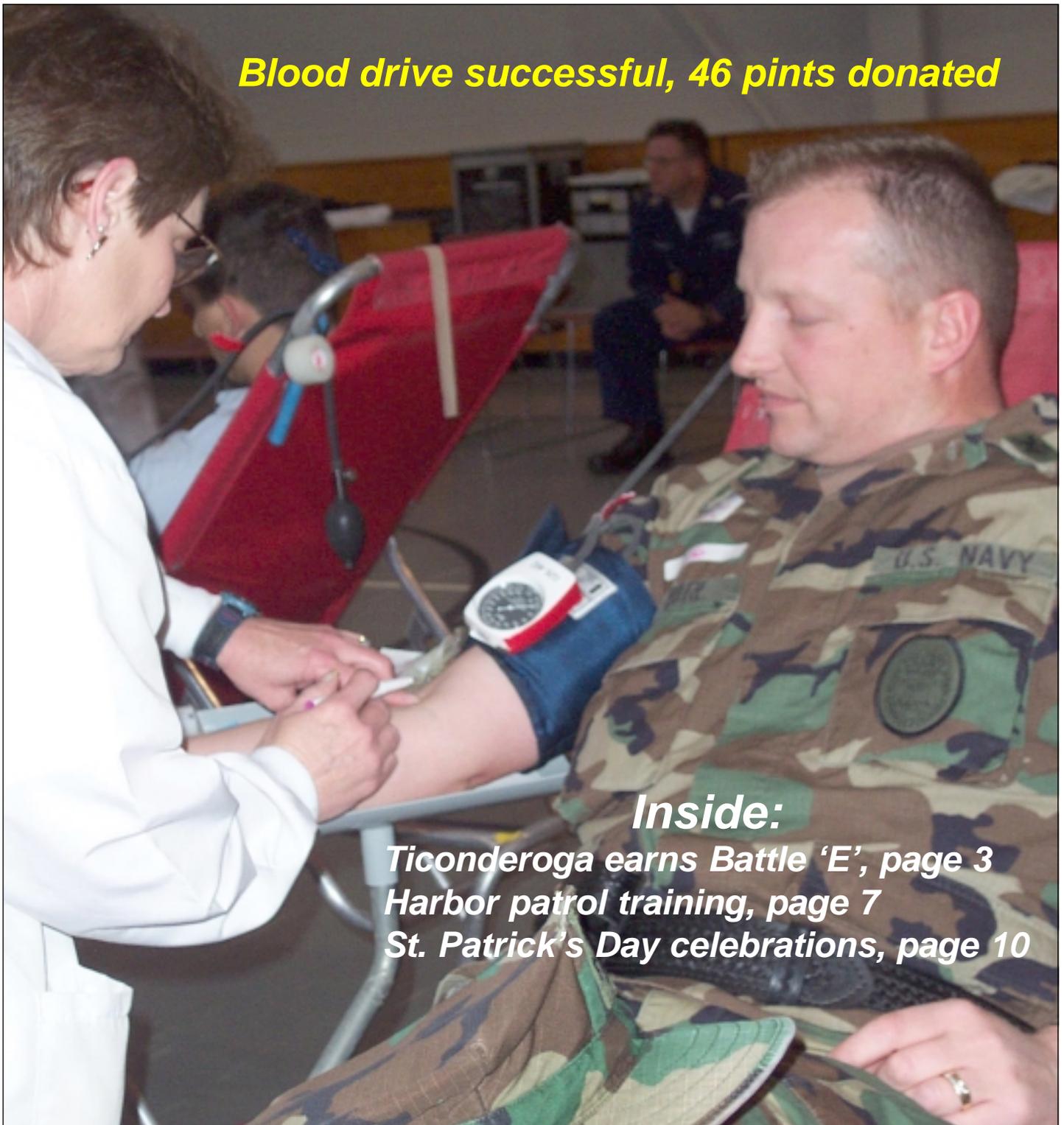
Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown online newspaper

Homeport

Vol. II, No. 02

February 28, 2002

Blood drive successful, 46 pints donated



Inside:

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A word from our Commanders

Retention, discipline, and where they meet

In the past, there have never, with few exceptions, been any required entries in evaluations and fitness reports. In fact, the only one I can think of is the requirement to include how they do as CMS Custodians, in the fitness reports of (usually) communications officers.

That has changed.

Now commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs all have a comment regarding retention statistics included in their fitness reports. Retention (a combination of reenlistment and attrition) is important and these required comments are the certification.

You'd have to be blind to miss the message; retention is a critical issue.

And now the good news. Retention is improving.

Reenlistment in the Atlantic Fleet, for Zone A personnel (basically first-term Sailors) is approaching historic levels. The fleet has gotten the message, and we are putting the right emphasis on making sure that our Sailors have every incentive to stay in the Navy.

Real command involvement exists at every level -- from the commanding officer to the Chief Petty officer to the divisional career counselor. We all want to know, "What can we do or say to get you to stay in the Navy?"

Sometimes, depending on the inter-deployment training cycle, it's an easier job than at others. It's fairly easy to convince people when the ship is operational and you've just completed a port visit to Rio



By Cmdr. Kevin S. Eyer
Commanding Officer
USS Thomas S. Gates

de Janeiro. On the other hand, when a Sailor is in the shipyard, living on a barge in an industrial area, looking at impending LOA, IA and UD...well, it's a bit more difficult to convince him.

Having said that, we're doing the job and we're keeping a lot of very fine Sailors in the fleet.

We should also remember that the Navy isn't for everyone. There will be, inevitably, a number of young people who decide that having served their country for a while, they have other things they wish to do with their lives. I say, more power to them. I understand and support that, and so does the Navy. They've served their country and they deserve our (and our nation's) admiration.

The point is that reenlistment is getting

the attention it so richly deserves and dividends are being realized.

My concern today is attrition, the other part of retention.

Attrition is the percentage of Sailors who do not make it through their first enlistment, for whatever reason. The top five reasons for a person being attrited from the Atlantic Fleet are: drug abuse, misconduct or pattern of misconduct, personality disorder, serious offense and medical.

I am working very hard to reduce attrition in my ship. I know we all are. And, attrition is on the decline - noticeably so since last summer. Right now, it's less than 20 percent.

So, what's the problem? We're discharging fewer and fewer and that must be a good thing, right? My concern is that in driving attrition down, past a given level, we may be placing an unseen burden on our front-line units.

What is the right number for attrition? Is it 20 percent of first termers or should

Continued on page 6

Master Chiefs mentor future sailors

By JOC Rhonda Burke
NTC Great Lakes Public Affairs

GREAT LAKES, Ill. — For the past eight weeks, the 71 members of Recruit Division 087 have had the leadership of more than just their three Recruit Division Commanders. They have also benefited from the guidance of Fleet Command Master Chiefs from Navy Region Southeast, who sponsored the division during their transformation from civilian to Sailor.

Sponsorship of a recruit division is not a new concept at Recruit Training Command, but no command has committed the resources that the Southeast Region did to the sponsorship program.

Led by CNOCM(AW) Philip A. Mauffray, Navy Region Southeast Regional Master Chief, two or more of the Fleet senior enlisted leaders from throughout the region were with the division from day one of training until the recruits passed in review Feb. 8.

Rear Adm. Jan C. Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, served as co-reviewing officer alongside Secretary of the Navy Gordon England, during the division's pass in review.

"I believe the best way for new Sailors to learn about the Navy and what is ex-

pected from them is to be mentored by senior enlisted leaders," Gaudio said. "We have made a commitment to each Sailor and will do all we can to ensure they succeed in the Fleet. The time our Navy Region Southeast Master Chiefs have invested in mentoring these recruits will pay off when these Sailors report to the Fleet for their first duty. They will be ready."

Rear Adm. Ann Rondeau, Commander of Naval Training Center Great Lakes, praised the work of Navy Region Southeast and stressed the importance of the sponsorship program.

"Admiral Gaudio and his senior enlisted leadership took this program to a new level," Rondeau said. "The sponsorship program is a great way to get the Fleet involved in our training methods and our curriculum. The Fleet is our customer, and direct feedback is one of the most effective ways we have of ensuring our customer's needs are being met. Fleet involvement in our programs keeps our training dynamic and relevant."

Master Chief Mauffray, who has nearly 30 years in the Navy, believes that there is no greater reward than working with young Sailors and training them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

"We committed to this sponsorship pro-

Continued on page 14



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

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From our Fleet



Photo by Stacey Byington

The USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) prepares to enter port at Naval Station Pascagoula. The ship was recently recognized by ComNavSurflant as a winner in the 2001 Battle Efficiency and Command Excellence competition.

USS Ticonderoga earns Battle 'E'

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) has been named one of the 'best of the best' in the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet 2001 Battle Efficiency awards competition.

The Battle Efficiency award recognizes sustained superior performance in an operational environment. Eligibility demands day-to-day demonstrated excellence by all hands, in addition to superior achievement during certifications and qualifications conducted throughout the competitive period (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2001).

Another eligibility requirement for the Battle 'E' is that a ship earn a minimum of three of the four individual command excellence awards representing major warfare capability areas: Maritime Warfare

Excellence, Engineering Survivability Excellence, Command and Control Excellence, and Logistic Management Excellence.

In order to qualify for these individual warfare awards, a ship must meet stringent performance requirements during inspections, live weapons-firings and training exercises.

The crew of Ticonderoga was up to the challenge.

For the 14th consecutive year Ticonderoga earned the prestigious Command and Control award, her eighth consecutive Engineering Survivability award, her fourth consecutive Logistic Management award, and her first Maritime Warfare Excellence award.

Additionally, the Ticonderoga was awarded the prestigious 'Green H' unit wellness award for 2001 for superior readiness in health, fitness,

wellness and morale.

"Tico clearly distinguished herself in being awarded the Battle 'E'," said Capt. William Marlowe, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6, which is the parent command of the ships homeported in Pascagoula. "This effort reflects directly on all hands as it involves a superb level of professional performance throughout the competitive cycle and in all warfare areas.

"Very obviously, Tico's crew has put to use the experience and expertise gained during their most recent UNITAS deployment, and in other taskings, including their immediate response to Operation Noble Eagle."

The individual command excellence awards are based on a unit's quality and intensity of underway operations and material readiness.

The Maritime Warfare award pertains to the ship's ability to protect itself and conduct its primary military mission at sea (power projection and sea control). The Engineering/Survivability award recognizes sustained superior performance while conducting shipboard evolutions relating to its main propulsion and damage control. Command and Control reflects the crew's performance relating to matters of command, control and communications, intelligence, electronic warfare, navigation and seamanship. Supply Management recognizes excellence in management of material, financial and personnel resources.

"The crew of Ticonderoga stood alone in 2001 for their combat effectiveness and flexibility," said Cmdr. Glenn

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From our Fleet

Tico earns Battle 'E' ...

Continued from page 3

Zeiders, Ticonderoga's commanding officer. "Ticonderoga deployed earlier than scheduled, filling an emergent requirement. Her five-month deployment in the Eastern Pacific consisted of highly successful counter-drug operations and several international exercises, including Teamwork South, SIFOREX, and UNITAS 42-01.

"Almost immediately after returning home, Ticonderoga was again called to action for homeland defense following Sept. 11, remaining on a 12-hour tether for the remainder of the year."

Zeiders, who just took over command of Ticonderoga the end of January, attributes the ship's success to the crew and the previous commanding officer.

"Ticonderoga's consistently outstanding performance was a testament to the outstanding planning and preparation of my predecessor, Cmdr. Glen Sears," Zeiders said. "It also reflects the unparalleled flexibility, attitude and dedication of every Sailor on board."

Other Pascagoula ships being recognized by ComNavSurfLant are:

* USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51), who earned its 10th consecutive Logistic Management award, ninth Engineering Survivability award, and first Command and Control award.

* USS Yorktown (CG 48), who earned its 12th consecutive Logistic Management award, ninth Command and Control award, and third Engineering Survivability award.

* USS John L. Hall (FFG 32), who earned its eighth consecutive Engineering Survivability award and its fourth Command and Control award.

* USS Stephen W. Groves



Photo by Stacey Byington

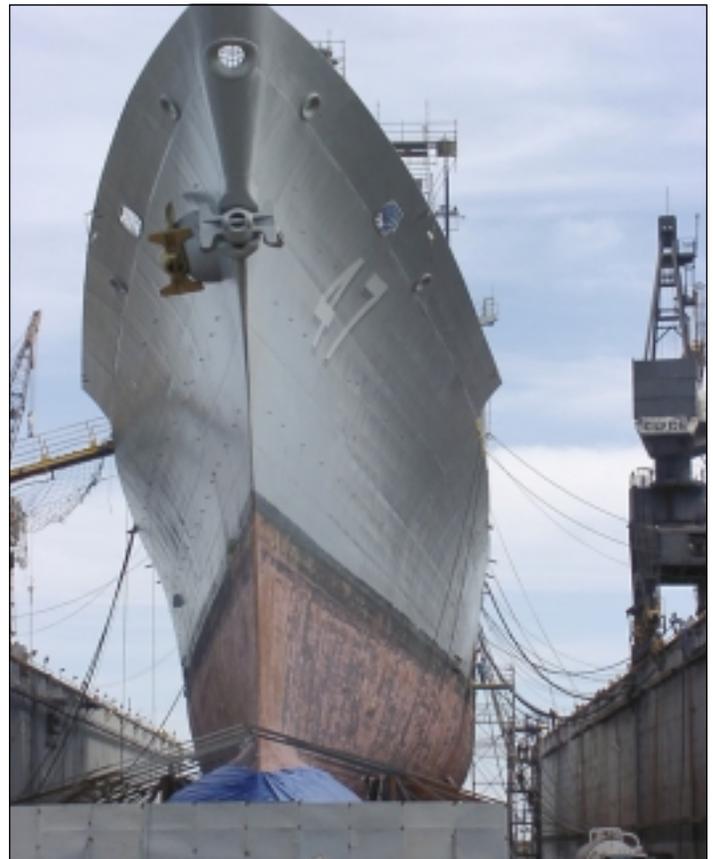
USS Ticonderoga crewmen show off their newly acquired Battle 'E.' The crewmen pictured were instrumental in the evolutions involved in the Battle 'E' competition.

(FFG 29) earned its first Command and Control award.

"Well done to all the winners of these prestigious awards," said Rear Adm. Jay Foley, ComNavSurfLant. "Every member of these crews has distinguished themselves in both operational performance and mission readiness. I am very proud of all of you – way to go!"

The USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) rests in a dry-dock at Bender Shipyard in Mobile, Ala. The Tico is undergoing a regularly scheduled maintenance availability.

Photo by Stacey Byington



From our Fleet



Goodies! -- Members of the staff of Destroyer Squadron SIX open a care package received from a group of middle-schoolers from Maryland Heights, Mo. The 'treat' package is in response to a letter Commodore William Marlowe wrote to the students after he opened a hand-colored flag that was part of a gift to servicemembers traveling through the USO at the Lambert Airport in St. Louis, Mo. The Commodore's letter said in part, "I marveled at the detail and attention paid to the coloring and folding of each flag. The message was truly inspiring. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers."

Photo by Stacey Byington

Decisive underway for Caribbean operations

USCGC Decisive departed its homeport of Naval Station Pascagoula on Jan. 21, for operations in the Caribbean Sea.

In his first weekly electronic newsletter to crewmember family and friends, Cmdr. R. Allen 'Mac' McCullough, brought those at home up to date with what the crew has been doing since it left.

"We're currently in the Caribbean now, patrolling with the 378-foot USCGC Gallatin, which is homeported in Charleston, S.C.," said McCullough. "Decisive and Gallatin will patrol the waters of our assigned operating area together, looking for 'bad guys' and hoping for a good bust -- or two, or six, or 10. Our crews are working together fantastically on joint operations and we are very optimistic that our teamwork will pay off with a reduction of illegal drugs flowing into our country."

One of the highlights of the cutter's departure was that Congressman Gene Taylor (D-Miss.) rode the ship as it left Pascagoula. While on board Congressman Taylor spoke to the crew and presented Sailor of the Year and Sailor of the Quarter awards.

Decisive's Sailor of the Year is YN1 Kurtis Riva. The Sailor of the Quarter is QM2 Jon Simon.

Other Decisive crewmember achievements so far include:

-- ENS John Burns qualified as a daytime and night/low-light helicopter landing signals officer;

-- EM3 Trey Howard qualified as underway engineering auxiliary watchstander;

-- SN Cory Helmerson and SN R.J. Kirbert qualified as an underway helmsman/lookout;

-- BM2 Nick Beacer and SN Ramon Spann qualified as



U.S. Coast Guard Photo

Congressman Gene Taylor (D-Miss.) presents YN1 Kurt Riva with a plaque representing his achievement as USCGC Decisive Sailor of the Quarter.

flight deck tiedown team members;

-- YN1 Kurt Riva qualified as a bridge helicopter control officer;

-- SK1 Tom Ettinger and

SK3 Don Vander-Heyden earned temporary entitlement to the Cutterman's Insignia;

-- EM3 Matt Cobak earned his first Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal.

From our Fleet



Photo by Stacey Byington

The USS Yorktown (CG 48) is guided out of port as it departs Naval Station Pascagoula on a regularly-scheduled deployment. Yorktown and its crew departed Feb. 1.

Retention and discipline, and where they meet ...

Continued from page 2

it be lower, or higher?

Just as some of our Sailors may not reenlist for perfectly good reasons, it seems that, inevitably, some persons we recruited into the Navy are simply not cut out for service life. Despite their best intentions they discover that they are simply not suited to it for one reason or another.

It is true that some Sailors have a harder time adjusting than others, and it is also true that most of them can make it with a bit of help. But, there is a limit to what is reasonable. Some Sailors seem so determined to get out or so fundamentally troubled that keeping

them in is not only impossible, but it exacts a sizeable cost on the unit.

If I keep seeing a Sailor at Mast and decide, despite chain-of-command wishes to keep trying with him, I place an unusual burden on his chief and division officer. They often end up spending excessive amounts of time trying to keep the Sailor on the straight-and-narrow.

Good Sailors may get neglected because the chain-of-command is burdened by the management of the troubled Sailor. That message may hurt the morale of our more dedicated Sailors.

Likewise, if I have a less than aggressive urinalysis program, attrition may drop, but I invite the larger problem of drug abuse. Or, if I ignore the signs of mental distress, I may be putting the Sailor or other Sailors in physical danger.

We must try, but we must also realize that short of revising our reenlistment techniques and standards, there must be a certain percentage of Sailors who simply will not make it through their enlistment. Our challenge is to determine, fleet-wide, what level of attrition is the right level.

Obviously, attrition will never be zero. But how close

to zero can it be without harming the operational effectiveness and morale of our ships and squadrons? I don't know the answer, but I worry about it.

Having said that, it is my belief that the best way to get long-term improvement in attrition statistics would be to apply a much more vigorous filtering process at the recruiting level. I think we can recruit fewer personnel but be much more careful in selecting them. Attrite them at the gate if they have to be attrited.

Shift the responsibility from the front line unit to the supporting commands.

Around the Homeport

Security to assume harbor boat patrol

By JO2 Renee Johnson
Public Affairs Office

Naval Station Pascagoula Security Department will soon assume complete responsibility of the harbor security boat patrol that is currently shared by both Port Operations and Security.

Ever since the arrival of the USS Cole (DDG 67), the patrol boats here were operated by Port Operations, but manned by security personnel, said Lt. David Baker, station Security Officer.

"It was a joint operation," said Baker. "Port Operations did an outstanding job even though they were under-manned. We made it happen as a team."

The purpose of the harbor boat patrol is to provide outer perimeter security for the ships in port, as well as for the ships at Supervisor of Shipbuilding and the USS Cole.

The patrol is manned 24-hours per day, said acting Chief of Police, Ens. Lance Barr, one of a number of reservists who were recalled to the naval station for active duty.

The boat patrol is made up of auxiliary security force volunteers and reservists, who have completed four-weeks of coxswain training conducted by BM1 Fred Roberts Jr., a mobilized reservist.

"Reservists were re-called to active duty and placed in this new organization to bolster and make it a bigger organization," said Barr. "They were trained by Port Operations coxswains who were the guiding force behind the training. One in particular was BM1 Roberts.

"Roberts, a certified boat coxswain, is the boat captain of a 65-foot survey boat. He trained the new guys that came here. Roberts and other Port Operations personnel taught them navigation and boat handling," added Barr. "I under-



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Security and Port Operations personnel currently work together to patrol the waters around Naval Station Pascagoula. Harbor patrol duties will soon be the sole responsibility of the Security Department, once all personnel are trained and prepared to assume that role.

stand the training was pretty intense."

Roberts worked for the Corps of Engineers in Mobile, Ala., prior to his recall from active duty.

"I've been a boat captain for about 25 years," said Roberts. "In fact, my boat ties up right here at the Coast Guard dock.

"My primary purpose as a

training petty officer was to train these people on different aspects of operating the boat. I went over everything from the basics right on up. I covered boat safety, navigation, start-up and shut-down procedures for the boat and the proper procedures for watch turnover," he added.

In addition to the hands-on

training, the four-week course also included an examination.

"This training has been very beneficial to the security personnel here," said Roberts. "They are now better prepared to repel terrorists or other people who might want to cause damage to ships, other military facilities and personnel stationed at Pascagoula."



Recognition-- Sailors from the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) were among the individuals recognized at the quarterly Sailor of the Quarter luncheon sponsored by the Jackson Co. Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon was held at and co-hosted by American Legion Post 160 on Market St. in Pascagoula.

Photo by Stacey Byington

Around the Homeport

Rec aide to intern in Washington, D.C.

By JO2 Renee Johnson
Public Affairs Office

Some people may only dream of working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., but for one Naval Station Pascagoula employee, this dream is coming true.

Rosa Franklin, a recreation aide at Naval Station Pascagoula's gymnasium, has been selected to work in the office of Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., Senate Minority Leader.

Franklin has always known what she wanted in life and took the initiative to get the information she needed to make them happen.

During Sen. Lott's recent visit to Naval Station Pascagoula, Franklin took the opportunity to speak with Lott's field representative, Bill Pope.

"I asked his field representative what I needed to do in order to get an internship in Sen. Lott's office," she said.

Pope advised Franklin to contact the Senator's main office for information.

"I was told I would have to send a letter stating the reasons why I wanted to become an intern, write an essay and complete an application," said Franklin. "I forwarded it to Sen. Lott's main office in Washington D.C."

After two months, "They called me and said I was accepted," said Franklin.

"Sen. Lott tries to select interns from various universities who represent all parts of the state of Mississippi. He wants interns who are interested in government and want to understand how government works," said Lee Youngblood, press secretary for Sen. Lott in Jackson, Miss.

She begins her two-month internship in the nation's capital on June 4.

Franklin will be missed.

"When ever someone needs something, she is there to help.

She is very dependable," said recreation specialist, Tim Neese, Franklin's supervisor. "She will be a great loss to the station."

Franklin, 22, is also a student at University of Southern Mississippi in Gulf Park. She graduates May 11 and will receive a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies. She plans to continue her education and eventually go to law school.

"I have wanted to become a lawyer every since the sixth grade," she said.

In addition to being a full-time student and working full-time at the base gym, Franklin is also currently interning at the office of the Staff Judge Advocate here.

She is enthusiastic and wants to learn all she can about the legal system, said Lt. Jon Jeffreys, the SJA for the station.

"I think it is great she was selected to work in Sen. Lott's office," he added.

Franklin does not mind the demanding schedule she has undertaken, because she knows, one-day, it will all be worth it.

"This is going to have a great impact on my career. I hope one day I can actually work for Congress," she said.

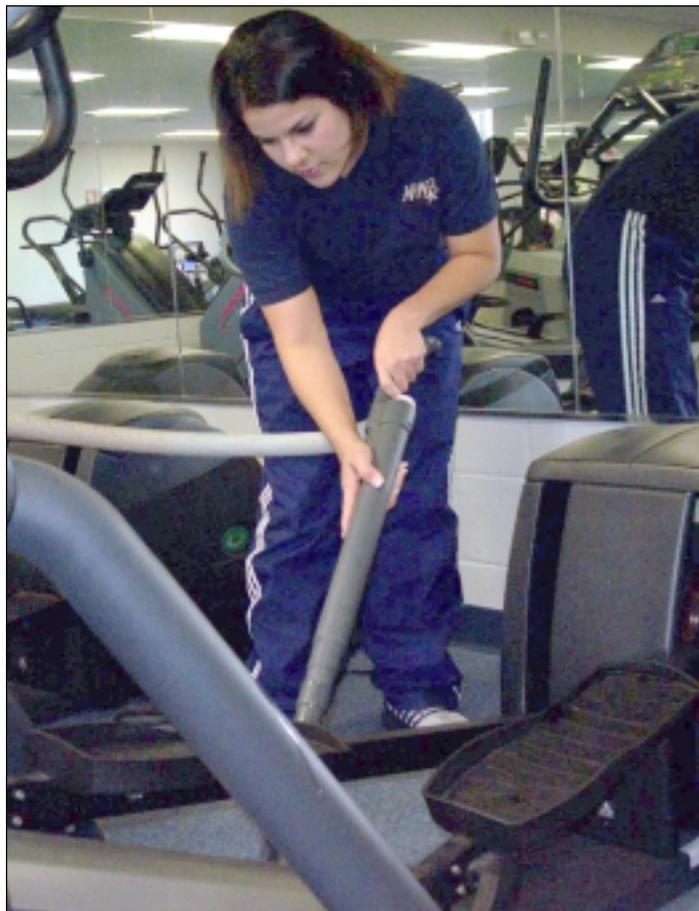


Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Rosa Franklin, a recreation aide at the Naval Station Pascagoula gymnasium, performs a little bit of "house-cleaning." Franklin will be leaving Pascagoula shortly for a two-month internship in the office of Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., Senate Minority Leader, in Washington, D.C.



Farewell -- Naval Station Pascagoula says 'Fair winds and following seas,' to Lt. David Baker. Baker, who was originally the Port Services Officer, and then later the station Security Officer, is being transferred to USS Shreveport (LPD 12), homeported in Norfolk, Va. Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, station commanding officer presents Baker with a command plaque.

Photo by Stacey Byington

Around the Homeport

Enjoy base's wildlife, but don't feed it

By Tom Sarros

Public Works Department

Feeding wild animals is one of the first things that cross our minds when we encounter these creatures. "Isn't he cute?" "Poor thing looks hungry." "Hey, I've got some hotdogs in my room. Wait here little fella'." PO2 I. Lovenature runs back to his room, gets a hotdog, holds it out for his new best friend, and viola!, his new best friend turns into a voracious eating machine.

"Hey, what happened to Mr. Cute and Friendly?"

Well I'll tell ya'.

With just one whiff of the hotdog, he began salivating and getting really excited. "Oh boy, food! Gimme the hotdog!" "Gimme the hotdog!" He rapidly chomps down on the hotdog, but finds the bone ... in PO2 I. Lovenature's finger.

"YEE OW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" That's gonna hurt in the morning!

Surprisingly enough, the bite wound is the least of his worries. Mr. "I'm-gonna-save-the-world-and-all-the-animals-in-it" is now going to be the proud new recipient of a rabies treatment series.

Grandma used to tell us we'd get "28 shots in the stomach over the next 28 days." Well, it's not really that bad ... but ... it ain't gonna be no fun!

Raccoons are a primary carrier of rabies. Rabies is a viral infection that is fatal if not treated immediately after being bitten by a rabid animal. There is no treatment for rabies after symptoms of the disease appear. Although rabies among humans is rare, 40,000 people received rabies post exposure treatment in the United States last year. Once bitten by a potentially rabid animal, a victim must receive the treatment or risk death.

Treatment consists of a regi-



Raccoons, like this one pictured here, are a primary carrier of rabies. Please don't feed any wild animals that can be found on base. Don't be a statistic.

men of a single dose of immune globulin and five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period (days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 28). Count 'em...six big ones. That's gonna smart!!

Not too smart!!

Singing River Island wildlife often wanders onto Naval

Station property. Some critters are cute (raccoons), some are interesting (nutria), and some are plain dangerous (alligators, snakes).

Everyone should make every effort to enjoy the wildlife on the island. Learn about it on the web. Read about it. View

it from a safe distance. Take photographs. But, do not feed it! These animals are quite capable of taking care of themselves. They are also capable of taking a finger, hand, leg, or even a life.

Be careful ... and enjoy!

NAVSTA Pascagoula 'Bravo Zulus'

Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal:
MSCS Calvin Dukes

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal:
MA1 William Kline
MS1 Kevin Albert
MS2 December Smith
GM3 Robert Hamilton

CNRSE Letters of Commendation:
MSC Michael Brown
OS1 Ralph Jones
SH1 Antonio Hopkins
MS2 James Mahr
SK2 Michael Vaughn

SK2 Ronald McCall
STG3 Chaddrick Poole

NAVSTA Letters of Commendation:
GM2 Anthony Jackson
MS2 Zemulist Pontoon
MS1 Fitzgerald Hodge

Other Letters of Commendation:
YN2 Tamara Hollis

25 years Civil Service:
Michael Bobinger

15 years Civil Service:
Genevieve Thompson



Service -- Genevieve Thompson receives a 15-year service certificate.

Homeport People

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at NAVSTA softball complex

Naval Station Pascagoula's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day celebration at the station softball complex on Thursday, March 14.

All area commands are invited to enter a float for the parade, which begins at 11 a.m.

Other activities planned include golf cart races, boxing matches, a leprechaun toss,

strong-man contest, and a "crazy Celtic" game.

There will be food and beer (maybe even green beer), music, bagpipes, and a disk jockey.

Get a chance to win a two-night stay in the presidential suite of an Orlando, Fla., hotel.

The drawing will be held at 3 p.m. Entrants must be present to win.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Well done -- Michael Hall, Supply Department, receives a cash award from Cmdr. Tara LaCavera.



Photo by Stacey Byington

Achievement -- Cmdr. Tara LaCavera presents a Navy Achievement Medal to MS1 Kevin Albert. Albert played a huge part in the accreditation process for the station bachelor quarters.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Congratulations -- Paul Miller, at Public Works, receives a cash award from Cmdr. Tara LaCavera.

About the cover:

MA1 Clinton Huth, with NAVSTA Security, watches as a nurse takes his blood pressure in preparation of drawing blood. Area personnel donated 46 pints of blood during the drive, held in the gymnasium Feb. 21. Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson.

SIMA Happenings

Community partnerships recognized

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Sailors attached to Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula recognize the importance of enhancing the relationship between the Navy for which they work and the communities in which they live. Many of them regularly volunteer off-duty hours to support community activities such as scouting, education, civic groups and service organizations.

SIMA personnel were recently recognized by the Chief of Naval Operations as the first-place winner in the 2000-2001 Navy Community Service Program Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship in the shore category of less than 200 command personnel.

"The significant efforts of SIMA Pascagoula's support of local schools and youth groups, and local and inter-agency partnerships with community assistance programs are an inspiration for others," said Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast.

"Your impressive volunteer efforts have left a positive image of the Navy on your neighbors in your community. You are truly serving America twice."

"Team SIMA Sailors are known on the waterfront and in the local area as professionals who are committed to doing their best," said SIMA Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Victor Rhoades. "SIMA's volunteer efforts provide a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community and instill pride in the commitment given to the local area and its citizens."

One of the programs SIMA volunteers are most proud to be associated with is Camp Bluebird. Camp Bluebird is a spe-



U.S. Navy Photo

Members of SIMA's Chiefs' Mess construct a slide structure at Martin Bluff Elementary School.

cial project sponsored by the Singing River Hospital System held twice a year for adult cancer patients. The camp is held at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Miss., and provides cancer patients and survivors with a meaningful and emotional atmosphere of support. SIMA and Naval Station Pascagoula provide most of the volunteers for the camp.

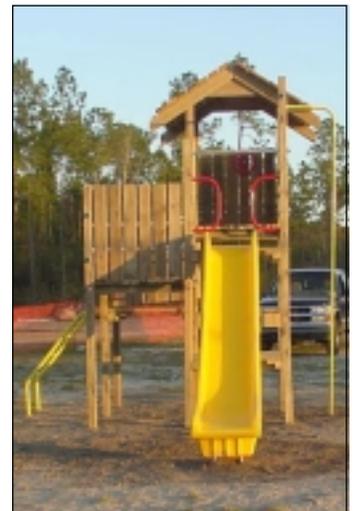
"Our goal is to take care of the patients," said SK2 Rosita Wade, with SIMA's supply department, who is herself a cancer survivor. "I feel like I am giving something back. I had a second chance. I defeated cancer, and so can they."

Other community partnerships that SIMA personnel participate with include Moss

Point, Pecan Park, Castlen, College Park, Singing River and Jackson County elementary schools; the Pascagoula Opportunity Center; American Red Cross; Home of Grace; Salvation Army; March of Dimes; and the Jackson County and Ocean Springs Chambers of Commerce.

"If we can do it," we will," said GSCM(SW) Charles Simpson, SIMA's command master chief. "When you get volunteers from SIMA, you get skilled labor."

During fiscal year 2001, SIMA personnel volunteered more than 5,200 hours, averaging 30.5 hours per volunteer per month, with more than 65 percent of the command involved in community service programs.



U.S. Navy Photo

Several hours later, the finished product, built with skill, and ready for students at Martin Bluff Elementary School.

Navy News

Navy partners with Roush Racing

Navy Racing No. 50 Truck unveiled at Daytona

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy and the Roush Racing team, featuring NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series driver Jon Wood, have teamed up for a racing event at Daytona International Speedway in Florida on Feb. 15.

Wood will be driving a Navy-sponsored truck in the Florida Dodge Dealers 250 at Daytona, to show his appreciation for the men and women fighting for America's freedom in the war against terrorism.

"It is a great honor for me to be able to wear the colors of the U.S. Navy," said Wood. "And, I'm very excited about the Navy's association with our truck program. I am confident about our chances during the 2002 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, and will give them my best effort every time our truck is on the track."

Wood compared his sport to the Navy's rapid response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"The Navy responded so quickly to the terrorism attacks by having ships and warplanes on station thousands of miles away in a matter of hours. It is hard for any of us to comprehend the amount of hard work and sacrifice that went into doing that. I am in awe of their speed and power. The Navy truly operates faster than any truck I've ever raced," said Wood.

"There is so much more involved in racing than just having a fast truck, and likewise there's a lot more to the Navy



U.S. Navy Photo by Ms. Jeri Ezell

The U.S. Navy and the Roush Racing team, featuring NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series driver Jon Wood, have teamed up to sponsor Navy Racing No. 50, a Ford F-150. The truck's new paint job was unveiled during a recent press conference at Daytona International Speedway.

than ships and warplanes," said Capt. J. K. "Jake" Ross, director of the Center for Career Development (CCD). "People win races. Our people accomplish the mission. They represent America's best and brightest who've accelerated their lives by committing to a life of service to this country."

Ross also believes the partnership with Wood is a good one for the Navy because of a unique bond between Sailors and the 20-year-old driver.

"Like Jon, our Sailors are incredibly well-trained and are given a tremendous amount of responsibility at a young age," Ross said.

"Our Sailors and Jon are prepared to make split-second decisions and are part of a winning team. This is going to be an exciting partnership."

The Navy will sponsor the truck during the 2002 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series with Wood as the driver.

The team was unveiled during a recent press conference at Daytona International Speedway at the track's media room. Representatives from the Navy and Roush Racing were on hand for the festivities.

The Navy Racing No. 50 truck, a Ford F-150, will be used by the CCD as a vehicle for motivating and retaining active-duty Sailors and officers. CCD sees this sponsorship as a great vehicle for showcasing Navy opportunities to young men and women, as well as a point of pride for all Sailors and officers.

"I think the Navy-sponsored racing truck is an excel-

lent way to convey the career, travel and educational opportunities that the Navy has to offer," explained Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SS/SW/AW) Jim Herdt.

"The racing truck carries a message to the American people that our Sailors are out there defending freedom, allowing everyone to enjoy this and all our great national pastimes."

Roush Racing is a subsidiary of Roush Industries and operates nine motorsports teams: five in NASCAR Winston Cup with drivers Mark Martin, Jeff Burton, Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, and Greg Biffle; two in the Busch series with Burton and Biffle; and two teams in the Craftsman Truck series with driver Jon Wood.

Military News

Bobsledder wins Olympic gold

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau PAO

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 2002 — A soft-spoken National Guard soldier steered her two-seat bobsled to a gold medal Feb. 19 in the first women's bobsled competition featured in the Olympic Games.

Spc. Jill Bakken, 25, of the Utah Army National Guard and the Army World Class Athlete Program and civilian brakeman-pusher Vonetta Flowers of Alabama drove into the pages of Olympic history.

The unheralded USA-2 duo's two-run total time of 1:37.76 seconds at the Utah Olympic Park beat two German teams that slid to the silver and bronze medals. The better-known USA-1 team of driver Jean Racine and brakeman Gea Johnson finished fifth.

Bakken's the first World Class Athlete Program member ever to win Olympic gold, according to Army officials. Flowers became the first African American ever to win Winter Olympic gold — and during African American History Month. The two are the first Americans to medal in Olympic bobsledding since 1956, when the U.S. men claimed the bronze.

"It's an amazing feeling. We had a lot of fun today," Bakken said afterward. "There was a lot of tough competition, so we definitely had our work cut out for us. The Germans are tough teams to beat. I just knew that I had to put in two solid, clean runs."

The duo had to battle back from injuries. Bakken underwent back surgery and two knee operations in the past four years to earn her shot at gold. Flowers, 28, was a track and field star at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She



U.S. Navy Photo by Preston Keres

Gold medal winners U.S. Army Spc. Jill Bakken (driver) and Vonetta Flowers (brakeman) celebrate their final and gold medal-winning run in the 2002 Winter Olympics women's two-man bobsled event at the Olympic Park in Park City, Utah.

originally wanted to compete in the summer Olympics, but injuries ended that dream. She switched sports and hooked up with Bakken in December.

"I knew we had to have a good start, and I knew we were going to do really well on that," Bakken said. "I was thinking about how I needed to get down the track clean."

It was also a golden moment for two other Army Guard sol-

diers, Spc. Bill Tavares of New York and Sgt. Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour of Vermont. They are women's bobsled team coaches and members of the World Class Athlete Program.

Tavares, head coach, is a three-time Olympian who rode the luge in the 1992 Winter Games. Latour is the driving coach. His grandfather was a bobsled driver for the United States in the 1948 Games.

Tax-exempt automobile registration

In order for servicemembers and/or their family members to obtain tax-exempt status when registering vehicles in the state of Mississippi, please present the following items to the NAVSTA Pascagoula Staff Judge Advocate's office:

- * Active duty military identification card; and
- * Current leave and earnings statement (LES); or
- * 2002 W-2 form.

The active duty member must be stationed/assigned to a military installation or unit in the state of Mississippi by official orders.



Marathon finisher -- Cmdr. Tara LaCavera, commanding officer of Naval Station Pascagoula, crosses the finish line of the Walt Disney Marathon, held recently. She participated in the charity event to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She was the top fundraiser in the event for the society from Mississippi, raising more than \$5,300.



Photo by PH1 Michael Worner, NTC Great Lakes

NCCM(SW) Sha'Reff Rashad (left) of Navy Region Southeast staff cranks out some push-ups with the recruits.

Master chiefs return to boot camp ...

Continued from page 2

gram from day one," Mauffray said. "It's a great way for senior enlisted leaders to learn more about boot camp training today, and it offers them an opportunity to mentor recruits and show them the role of senior enlisted leaders from the beginning of the career."

For many of the Master Chiefs who made the trek from the Southeast Region to Great Lakes, it was their first visit to boot camp since their own graduation.

"I don't think enough people take the time to go back to boot camp and see what the training is like today," said Master Chief Joe Steadley of Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. "They are teaching our Sailors great things here in boot camp, but it is up to the senior leadership in the Fleet to carry on that training once the Sailors are sent to us. That's covenant leadership and it starts at boot camp."

During their visits, the senior enlisted leaders helped prepare the division for inspec-

tions, marched and worked alongside them, participated in physical fitness training beginning at 4:30 a.m., attended classroom sessions, ran the confidence course and Battle Stations, and had the opportunity to sit and talk with recruits during their evening routine.

"Every person who comes to boot camp has goals and dreams," said Master Chief Sha'Reff Rashad of the staff of Navy Region Southeast. "Being able to talk to the recruits and answer their questions was invaluable. Our Master Chiefs included males and females in a number of ratings, all with very different experiences to share. That's important because it shows them they all can succeed, too."

For other mentors, the hands-on experience of participating with the recruits was most meaningful. Senior Chief Storekeeper Joe Pelly, who is assigned to Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, ran the grueling 14-hour battle stations event with the division. A sur-

vivor of the attack on the USS Cole, Pelly said the event gives recruits a realistic experience in battle conditions.

"I think the Cole scenario was the most difficult portion of Battle Stations because it is dark, noisy and the recruits feel disoriented," he said. "I liked the fact that each evolution was based on a historic event that happened to Sailors in the Fleet, and I think that prepares them." Pelly added that many of the young Sailors on the Cole said that the Battle Stations experienced helped them cope in the days following the terrorist attack.

"I think they are learning a heck of a lot more than we did when we went through boot camp," Pelly said. "They learn more about history and the core values, and how they relate to what we do every day in the Fleet."

Master Chief Patricia Nicometo of Personnel Support Activity, Jacksonville, was one of the eight senior enlisted who spent the final full week of

training with the division. She ran the confidence course and observed Battle Stations. A former company commander now in her 29th year of service, Nicometo has seen a great deal of change in the Navy since 1973, and she feels the Fleet sponsorship program brings recruits an added dimension to the boot camp experience.

"They get to see people who have made a career in the Navy and been successful," she said. "They can ask us questions about our careers and our experiences. Each of us started as E-1's, and now we are the leaders. I believe they can relate to that."

The Recruit Division Commanders said they feel having Fleet leaders mentoring their division helps both them and the recruits.

"I think it's a great program. I think it is important for them to assist the recruits and help with specific events such as inspections and training evolutions like Battle Stations," said Machinist's Mate Senior Chief James Bunge, one of the division's recruit division commanders. "The involvement from the Fleet gives them a true picture of what boot camp is like today."

The recruits enjoyed the experience as well, saying the Master Chiefs taught them about the Navy.

"Having the Master Chiefs here really motivated me. They gave us a lot of tips about how to go out to the Fleet and be successful, plus they told us what the Fleet is really like," said Seaman Recruit Benjamin Mitchell, 20, of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. "I think it gave us an advantage over other recruits in training."

Rear Adm. Gaudio said the Southeast Region Master Chiefs intend to "stay connected" to these Sailors to continue their mentorship as they enter the Fleet. The 71 members of Division 087 departed boot camp early this week headed to various "A" Schools around the Fleet.

MWR Activities

Win a beach, ski trip, for running MWR for a day

Navy Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) has developed the 'Sand and Slopes' contest in a continuing effort to show our appreciation to Navy Sailors and their families by providing special events for special people through the "Saluting Sailors and Their Families" program.

Have you ever wanted to run MWR for a day?

How would you do it?

What programs would you offer?

How would you make a difference in fellow shipmates' lives?

Here's your chance!

Enter your MWR program ideas to be one of the lucky 10 winners to receive a combination trip for you and one guest, age 18 or older, to the Whistler Ski Resort, British Columbia, Canada, and the Atlantis Resort, Nassau, Bahamas, April 11-21, 2002.

Here's how to enter.

Submit your MWR program suggestions in a 350- to 500-word essay entitled "If I Ran MWR For A Day." Programs must be practical, legal, fiscally responsible, and most importantly fun!

The contest opens Tuesday, Feb. 26, and runs through Monday, March 18 at www.mwr.navy.mil under the "Saluting Sailors and Their Families" link. All submissions must be received electronically by 9 a.m., Monday, March 18.

Winners will be announced noon, Monday, March 25, via the MWR website.

Please forward any questions to the Sand & Slopes POC at p650d@persnet.navy.mil.

Contest eligibility criteria.

Entrants must be active duty members of the Armed Forces or their immediate family



members; members of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Selected Reserve (SELRES), or their immediate family members; or active duty members of the other Uniformed Services or their family members, serving, stationed, or residing at a Navy installation, station, unit, or ship.

Winning entrants must be 18 years of age on or before April 11, 2002, and possess a valid

active duty identification card or a valid dependent identification card, verified through DEERS, as applicable. Winners of previous Saluting Sailors and Their Families contests are ineligible to win the 'Sand and Slopes' contest. Please visit www.mwr.navy.mil and select "Saluting Sailors and Their Families" to access an official entry form, review official contest rules, and to obtain more information.



Photo by Stacey Byington

Capt. Carl Albury, director of the MWR division on the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel, presents Greta Scheer, NAVSTA Pascagoula's interim MWR director, with a letter of appreciation. Just prior to her arrival in Pascagoula, Ms. Scheer was the interim MWR director at Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Outdoor Recreation has something for everyone

Visit the MWR Outdoor Recreation Center. It has everything you need for your camping and fishing needs.

There are a variety of boats for rent, including 14-ft. v-hulls (15 hp), flat-bottom Carolina skiffs (25 hp), canoes, and trolling motors. All boats come equipped with two paddles, a lock and key, an anchor, boat plug, and life vest for all passengers.

The Tackle Shop has a variety of salt and fresh water tackle for purchase, as well as frozen bait. Fishing poles are also available for rent. Fishing licences are available at the 'resident' rate with a military identification card.

Looking for a weekend getaway? Outdoor Rec also has

pop-up campers complete with air conditioning, electrical hook-up, and plenty of storage space. Campers will sleep up to four adults and two children. For those who might be more adventurous, there are also a selection of tents, sleeping bags, and even mountain bikes. Coleman lanterns and stoves are also available.

For landscaping needs, Outdoor Rec also has lawn mowers, weed-eaters and rototillers for rent. Rug Doctor machines are available with a complete selection of carpet and upholstery cleaning products. Other miscellaneous items for rent include utility trailers, dunking booth, snow cone machine and golf clubs. Call 761-2038 for more information.

MWR Activities

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at MWR cookout, parade

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

Jan. 1 - Apr. 30 -- Admission to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios is free for active duty military, discounts available for family members.

Mar. 2 -- ITT shopping trip to Outlet Mall in Foley, Ala. Transportation cost is \$10. Call 761-2432.

Mar. 2 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on Baton Rouge at 7:35 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 8 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on the Mobile Mystics at 7:35 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 9 -- ITT trip to National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. \$15 fee includes admission and transportation.

R.S.V.P. by Mar. 6. Call 761-2432.

Mar. 10 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on Columbus at 6:05 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 13 -- St. Patrick's Day golf tournament at Southwind Golf Course. Tee time is 1 p.m. Cost for active duty is \$25, all others \$30. Sign-up at gymnasium by Mar. 11. Call 761-2107.

Mar. 14 -- MWR St. Patrick's Day Parade and Cookout. All commands are encouraged to participate. For more information call 761-2432.

Mar. 15 -- Family night at the movies. Feature film is 'Shrek.' 7 p.m. at the gymnasium.

Mar. 19 -- Harlem Globetrotters at the Mobile Civic Center, 7 p.m. For more information, call 251-208-7261.

Mar. 22 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on New Orleans at 7:35 p.m. at the Coast Coli-

seum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 23 -- 3-pitch softball tournament, NAVSTA Pascagoula field. Open to all spring league teams. Sign-up at base gymnasium by Mar. 19. Call 761-2107.

Mar. 23 -- ITT Wolf River canoe trip. \$25 fee includes canoe and transportation. R.S.V.P. by Mar. 19. For more information call 761-2432.

Mar. 23 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on Arkansas at 7:35 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available

through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 28 -- Liberty crawfish boil, 6 p.m. at Cracker Jacks.

Mar. 29 -- Mississippi Sea Wolves take on Baton Rouge at 7:35 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Mar. 30 -- Mississippi Fire Dogs take on Tupelo at 7 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

Tickets for most activities and events are available through the Information, Tickets and Tours office, 761-2432.

Personal Classifieds

FOR SALE: Toolbox with matching cabinet. 60 in. tall, stacked. Cabinet has 3 drawers, w/rollers. Good condition. Both pieces \$50. Call 228-374-5018.

FOR SALE: 13 in. TV/VCR combination w/remote control. Good condition. \$40. Call 228-374-5018.

FOR SALE: 'Winter' upright piano. Sounds great. Some scratches. Includes matching stool. Perfect for beginner. Seller will help deliver to Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, Gautier, Biloxi areas. \$600. Call Lt. Bukoski, (day) 228-761-2051, (evening) 228-875-9403.

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: _____