



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

# Homeport

Vol. III, No. 03

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Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

A word from our Commanders

# Navy leadership tells Congress "We are ready!"

By JOC Walter Ham  
CNOPAO

WASHINGTON (NNS) — When the top leaders from the Navy and Marine Corps recently testified on Capitol Hill, their message to Congress was loud and clear: their team is combat ready.

Acting Secretary of the Navy Hansford T. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark and Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Michael Hagee testified before the House Armed Services Committee during the Department of the Navy posture hearing recently.

"Today, approximately 60 percent of our ships are underway, including six deployed carrier battle groups, and 63 percent of our Marine operating forces are forward deployed," Johnson said. "Our Navy Marine Corps team is well trained, highly motivated, and ready to meet the call from our nation."

The CNO said retention and manning successes have enabled the Navy to "surge" forces to where they're needed, and he thanked the Congress for the investments they've made in readiness.

"Since 1968 when I joined the Navy, I have never seen the Navy as ready as it is today. It's a capable, persistent, combat force. It represents the return on investment that you in the Congress, speaking for the American people, have made in our readiness. And we are grateful," Clark said.



By Adm. Vern Clark  
Chief of Naval Operations

"I also want to thank you for the exceptional support that you have provided to our Sailors, our most cherished resource, the brave men and women that we call upon in this country to represent us and the values that we believe in," Clark added.

Hagee told the representatives about some of the Navy Marine Corp team's many deployments around the world in support of the global war on terrorism.

"Along with our sister services, the Navy-Marine Corps team continues to play a key role in the global war on terrorism and in the establishment of stability and security in many of the world's trouble spots," Hagee said. "Marines, both active and Reserve, are operating side-by-side with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, NGOs (non-government organizations), diplomats and many others, in di-

verse locations from Afghanistan, to the Arabian Gulf, the Horn of Africa, Turkey, the Georgian Republic, Colombia, Guantanamo Bay and the Philippines."

Johnson thanked the Congress for its continued support of the Navy Marine Corps team and the families who support it.

"The Navy Marine Corps team's successes reflect the strong and sustained support by the Congress, as well as those on the homefront, our dedicated civilian (and) contract employees and the great American mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and children who support the forward deployed defenders of freedom," he said. "We're eternally grateful for all the hard work and sacrifices they and all of our supporters are making."

The CNO said that the Navy Marine Corps team is ready to respond, if called.

"Your Navy, the nation's Navy, is ready. It is combat ready. It is forward deployed. It is on scene," Clark said. "The young men and women in your nation's Navy are serving with great distinction."

## Johnson assumes SECNAV duties

Greetings.

On February 7, 2003, the President named me Acting Secretary of the Navy. Our Navy and Marine Corps team has a remarkable history of service and dedication to our nation, and I am honored and proud to serve as your Secretary.



By Hansford T. Johnson  
Secretary of the Navy, Acting

The President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense have noted that this is a time of great consequence for our country. Fortunately, our department has been blessed with the great leadership of Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England and Under Secretary Susan M. Livingstone during these historic times. We salute these two great Americans for their service and vision as they leave the department of the Navy and look forward to meeting The challenges that still face our Navy- Marine Corps team.

The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Clark, and the Commandant of the

Marine Corps, General Hagee, and I pledge to keep the Navy and Marine Corps at the forward edge of our military's transformation and focused on our combat capability. We will focus on our preparations to carry out our mission and equipping our men and women in uniform with the tools they need to fight and win.

To each of you who dedicate your lives to protect and serve our nation, I pledge my greatest efforts to improving your quality of workplace as well as your quality of life. The leadership team will work to ensure that you are prepared and equipped to accomplish your mission. We are positive that these investments, as they have for 227 years, will pay great dividends for America.

Together, we will meet every challenge. It is my honor to serve you. Semper fidelis and sail proud!



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

## Homeport

Commanding Officer . . . . CDR Terry Rea  
Executive Officer . . . . LCDR Shri Stroud  
Public Affairs Officer . . . Stacey Byington  
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## From our Fleet

# Rainer assumes command of Gates

By Stacey Byington  
NAVSTA Pascagoula PAO

CDR Richard A. Rainer Jr. relieved CDR Kevin S. Eyer as Commanding Officer of USS Thomas S. Gates (CG-51) in a traditional change of command ceremony at Naval Station Pascagoula on Feb. 14.

CDR Rainer reports to the Gates after earning a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

A native of Niagara Falls, N.Y., he earned his commission in the U.S. Navy upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in 1985. His sea duty assignments include tours aboard the USS Horne (CG 30) as electrical and communications officer; the USS Independence (CV 62) as a carrier readiness improvement program volunteer assigned to the operations department; the USS Philippine Sea (CG 58) as weapons control and combat systems officer; on the staff of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 2 as flag secretary and assistant chief of staff for administration and manpower management; the USS Gettysburg (CG 64) as Executive Officer; and then on the staff of Destroyer Squadron 26 as Chief Staff Officer.

During these tours he participated in six overseas deployments, counter drug operations, Baltic Sea operations, and was part of operations Provide Comfort, Sharp Guard, Deny Flight and Southern Watch.

Shore duty assignments include a tour as a Naval Science instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy, and under instruction at George Washington University where he earned a Master of Science Degree in Management Information Systems.

CDR Eyer assumed com-



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***CDR Richard Rainer Jr. assumes command of USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) from CDR Kevin Eyer. CDR Eyer leaves Pascagoula for duty on the staff of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 3.***

mand of USS Thomas S. Gates in June 2001.

Under his guidance, the Gates crew has been operating underway or away from homeport 65 percent of the time, on several short exercises, a U.S. Southern Command deployment, and to support Homeland Defense for Operation Noble Eagle. CDR Eyer commanded Gates through two Panama Canal transits, and 16 port visits or brief stops outside of homeport, including visits to many different countries. He is responsible for a significant drug interdiction presence in the Eastern Pacific, seizing an estimated \$400 million worth of cocaine.

CDR Eyer leaves Pascagoula for Everett, Wash., where he will be assigned to the staff of Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 3.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***USS Thomas S. Gates command master chief, CDMC(SW) Dennis Harper, presents outgoing commanding officer, CDR Kevin Eyer, with the ship's commissioning pennant.***

## From our Fleet

# Decisive returns home after yard period

By LTJG Jamie Pendergrass  
USCGC Decisive PAO

USCGC Decisive (WMEC 629) returned to her homeport of Pascagoula, Miss., on March 4, after a two-month dry-dock availability at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Md.

This was her first dry-dock availability since the cutter was re-commissioned in October 1998. Dry-dock work included several large maintenance items including overhaul of the anchors and anchor chain, rudders, small boat davits, various propulsion machinery and the helicopter landing grid on the flight deck. Decisive's exterior was also sandblasted and repaired.

In addition to scheduled maintenance, two new pieces of equipment were installed to bring Decisive into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. First, the old evaporator, capable of producing 3,000 gallons of fresh water per day, was replaced by a reverse-osmosis desalination plant with an output of 5,000 gallons of fresh water per day. The cutter's antiquated alarm system was replaced with a significantly more advanced



U.S. Coast Guard photo

*USCGC Decisive gets some needed maintenance work at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Md. The repairs included sandblasting and painting of the cutter's exterior surfaces.*

fire and smoke detection system.

While in the yard, crewmembers enjoyed liberty in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Washington, D.C., and surrounding areas. Many crewmembers visited and toured our nation's capitol for the first time. However, after trudging through the more than 30 inches of snow that accumulated in February, crewmembers were eager to return home to Pascagoula.

The Decisive is a 210-ft. medium endurance cutter commanded by CDR Kurt A. Van Horn. The ship's company consists of 12 officers and 72 enlisted crewmembers.

During the yard period, Decisive held a retirement ceremony for YN1 Kurtis Riva, who served in the Coast Guard for more than 20 years. YN1 Riva received the Coast Guard Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement while serving as the independent duty Yeoman in USCGC Decisive from March 2000 to February 2003. Petty Officer Riva also earned his permanent cutterman's pin, signifying more than five years of sea service.

## Hall Sailor dies on liberty

By COMUSNAVSO PAO

Manta, ECUADOR (NNS) — A USS John L. Hall (FFG 32) Sailor died at Rodriguez Zambrano General Hospital in Manta, Ecuador, of injuries suffered while on liberty.

Dead is Seaman Ariel Morataya, 21, a Los Angeles native who was an operations specialist aboard the ship. Morataya was the son of Erio and Gregoria Morataya, also of Los Angeles.

Morataya was pronounced dead the morning of Feb. 4 at the hospital where he was

transported by the local authorities. The Manta police reported they found the Sailor injured and without identification.

The Sailor initially was determined to be missing after the ship conducted an all hands muster of its personnel in anticipation of getting underway at the conclusion of the port visit, which began Feb 1.

USS John L. Hall is deployed to the Southern Command area of responsibility.

An investigation is underway into the circumstances surrounding the death.



Photo by Stacey Byington

## Yorktown earns coveted Battle 'E'

The 2002 Battle Efficiency awards were announced recently by the Commander, Naval Surface Forces, VADM Timothy LaFleur. USS Yorktown (CG 48) was the winner for Destroyer Squadron 6.

Yorktown also earned its

fourth Engineering/Survivability (ENG) Excellence Award, its 10th Command, Control, Communications and Information Warfare (CC) Excellence Award, and its 13th Supply Management (SM) Excellence Award.

## Around the Homeport



U.S. Navy photo

*LCDR Lacy Bartee, NAVSTA Pascagoula's Supply Officer, and MSCS(SW/AW) Calvin Dukes, NAVSTA Pascagoula's combined bachelor housing officer, accept the coveted Adm. Elmo Zumwalt Award for bachelor housing excellence. The award was presented recently at Opryland in Nashville, Tenn. Also pictured, from left to right, are: RADM Christopher Cole, Director, Ashore Readiness Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations; Trecela Boyne, Lakeside Housekeeping; Cecelia Balaye, Lakeside Housekeeping; Gina Wells, Lakeside Housekeeping; Jo Ann Calvin, NAVSTA Pascagoula Executive Housekeeper; Mary Kay Walley, Lakeside Front Desk Representative; Delores McCoy, NAVSTA Pascagoula NAFI Business Manager; MSC(SW) Kevin Albert; Wesley Clark, NAVSTA Pascagoula Combined Bachelor Housing Manager; and CAPT Thomas Liedke Jr. Director of Housing, Naval Facilities Engineering Command. Naval Station Pascagoula was among a record 32 commands recognized this year for bachelor housing excellence. MSCM (SW) Eric Gaines, the validation inspector for NAVSTA Pascagoula said, "The Zumwalt Award is about quality of life for our Sailors. Activities that qualify for this prestigious award can be justifiably proud of what they are doing for quality of life, retention, and readiness."*

## Barracks staff receive Zumwalt award

**By Public Affairs Office Staff**

Hard work, dedication, and sheer determination have paid off for the staff of the Combined Bachelor Housing complex for Naval Station Pascagoula, going from no rating three years ago to a five-star accreditation today.

Attaining a five-star rating in both permanent party operations and transient operations means that Naval Station Pascagoula also receives the ADM Elmo Zumwalt award for

bachelor housing excellence — a feat achieved last year by only 16 of the 84 bachelor quarters complexes Navywide. The 2002 Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Award for Bachelor Housing Excellence was presented to Naval Station Pascagoula representatives on Jan. 23 at Opryland in Nashville, Tenn., in front of more than 450 Navy Bachelor Housing representatives from around the world.

Sailors living in CBH Pascagoula are the big winners, however, because they are the

benefactors of "the significant quality of life provided to all residents and guests."

Naval Station Pascagoula has two bachelor quarters sites — one off Chicot Road (Lakeside), and another on Singing River Island. The Lakeside complex has 295 rooms with 500 beds, and the island barracks has 100 rooms/beds.

"There were several areas that were particularly noteworthy," said Thomas Liedke, director of housing for the Naval Facilities Engineering Com-

mand, which oversees all Navy bachelor quarters, in his award letter. "Management and staff are well-trained, professional and customer oriented. Facilities management and housekeeping throughout bachelor housing are excellent."

Each staff member had a role in making the facility what it is today.

"It was a team effort," said Dukes. "Everybody was involved, from the housekeepers and custodial workers to the front desk clerks."

## Around the Homeport

# CNRSE visits NAVSTA Pascagoula

The Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), RADM Annette Brown, visited NAVSTA Pascagoula on Feb. 18.

RADM Brown serves as one of three Navy regional coordinators on the East Coast, setting policy and providing the leadership and continuity necessary to sustain the highest quality, combat-ready force. CNRSE leads the combined efforts of 14 commands and activities which support our operational fleet units in the southeastern United States and the Caribbean.

As a subordinate of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, CNRSE serves as the immediate superior in command of nine operational and five support commands, including: Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.; Naval Station Mayport, Fla.; Naval Air Facility Key West, Fla.; Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.; Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Miss.; Naval Station Pascagoula, Miss.; Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla.; Navy

Dental Center, Southeast; Human Resource Office Jacksonville, Fla.; Public Works Center Jacksonville, Fla.; and Naval Weapons Station Charleston, S.C.

RADM Brown also serves as the Navy's regional planning agent, regional environmental and public affairs coordinator and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency liaison, as well as the casualty assistance calls officer in the eight southeastern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, and the Caribbean, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

She assumed command in October 2002 and was in the Pascagoula area familiarizing herself with the Gulf Coast region.

In addition to meeting all NAVSTA Pascagoula department heads, and addressing all hands at the Learning Resource Center, RADM Brown received a windshield tour of the station, with stops at the Branch Medical and Dental Clinics, the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, and Destroyer Squadron 6.

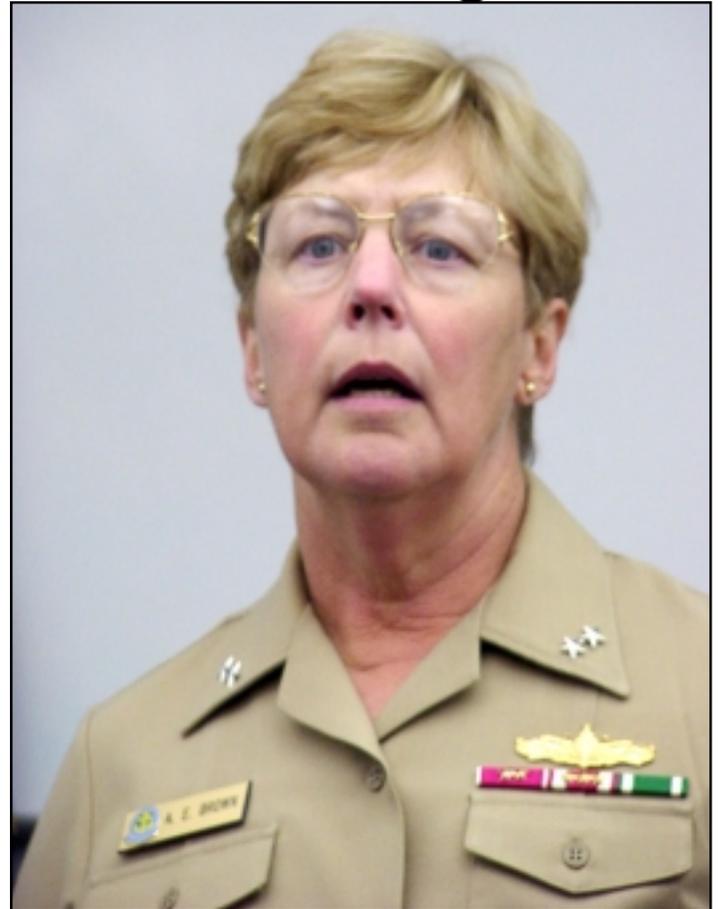


Photo by Stacey Byington

**RADM Annette Brown, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, addresses NAVSTA Pascagoula personnel at an 'all hands' briefing.**

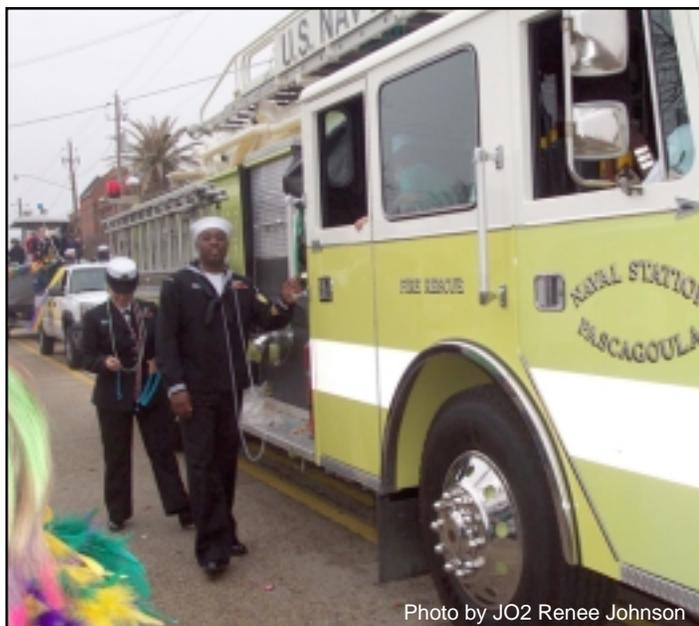


Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Mardi Gras Parade -- EN1(SW) Curtis Davis, Security Department, and MS3(SCW) Misty McMasters, Combined Bachelor Quarters, walk alongside the NAVSTA Pascagoula fire engine which was participating in Pascagoula Mardi Gras Parade on March 1. More than 50 people from NAVSTA and other area commands took part in the parade, walking beside floats to keep young children from getting crushed beneath heavy wheels, and riding individual floats, tossing beads and other Mardi Gras accessories.**

### About the cover:

**GMC3(SW) Charlie Mouse, left, and GM2 John Clark, both from the Naval Station Pascagoula Weapons Department, ride one of the NAVSTA security boats in the Pascagoula Mardi Gras Parade.**

## Around the Homeport

**Pistol training --** Electrician's Mate Second Class Christopher Jacobs, who works in the SIMA tool issue shop, practices shooting a 9mm pistol at the Gulfport Police Department rifle range. Jacobs was among 17 Sailors who recently completed NAVSTA Pascagoula Auxiliary Security Force training. ASF provides manpower, when necessary, to supplement the station's normal security force. The Sailors are trained in base security procedures and personal protection.

Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Black History Month lunch --** Maxine Lawson-Conway looks over the crowd as she spoke about the important people that played a role in Black history.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Retirement --** BM2(SW) Thelma Matthews is piped ashore after 20 years of service, escorted by her fiancé, Derreck Cook, and her two children. Matthews, who worked for the NAVSTA Security Department, retired from the Navy on Feb. 28. She had been stationed here since April 1998.

## Around the Homeport

# Volunteer contributes 7,000 hours to NMCRS

By JO2 Renee Johnson  
NAVSTA Public Affairs

Many may have heard the old cliché, 'It is better to give than it is to receive.'

This is not just a cliché to Ann Salisbury. The Gautier, Miss., woman was recently recognized for contributing more than 7,000 volunteer hours to the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) in Pascagoula, Miss.

At age 65, Ann Salisbury has committed herself and her time to giving to the families of area military personnel through crocheting. She and 13 other volunteers were recently the honorees at a luncheon sponsored by NMCRS where they each volunteer their talents.

"I have always been a housewife and I have been crocheting since I first got married," said Salisbury, who has been married for 47 years.

"Ann's unfailing support and devotion has been an inspiration to all those around her," said Karen Essary, director of NMCRS in Pascagoula. "Her efforts as a crocheter for the NMCRS Junior Seabag program have gone a long way in providing this special gift to



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

***Ann Salisbury drops off 14 baby layettes at the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Office in Pascagoula, giving them to Sherry Cabral, NMCRS area chairman of layettes. For every 20 layettes a volunteer crochets or knits, he or she is credited with 1000 hours of service.***

many expecting parents."

Booties, baby bottle covers, bonnets, mittens and sweaters are among the items that Salisbury crochets.

For some, having enough time to do just the bare essentials is a hard enough task, but not for Salisbury who has been volunteering her time at NMCRS since 1996 and has enjoyed every minute. If the 7,000 hours was equated to a 40-hour work-week, with 52 weeks in a year, then Salisbury has been crocheting baby layettes for 3.5 years.

"I just enjoy helping people," said Salisbury with a smile. "When I crochet and give my stuff away, it makes me feel real good. It makes me feel like I am worthwhile."

Salisbury said a lot of what she does was because of the inspiration she received from a friend, Mary Smith who died

in 1996.

"At the time, she was 95, and she inspired me so much. She was always enthused about what she did," said Salisbury. "She was always so happy."

Recent health problems sometime make it difficult for Salisbury to do what she loves.

"I have been real sick. This past November I spent 28 days in the hospital. I couldn't do anything," said Salisbury, who was hospitalized for heart problems.

"It's okay because I can sit while I crochet and still get around enough to go visit people. It's not going to keep me down yet," she added.

Salisbury said she could not have made it without her sister Iris King, 71, also a volunteer with NMCRS.

"She is a good person and a very hard worker," said Salisbury. "She came to spend the

night with me about 46 years ago and never left."

Salisbury says she receives much of her giving spirit from God.

"The Lord keeps me going. I have a good church that I attend, Bethel Missionary Baptist church in Gautier," she said. "I have a good pastor, Larry McVeay. "When ever I receive an award for my volunteer work, Brother Larry announces it in church."

"Of course he picks on me about the Sailors. He says I'm running after them Sailors," she laughed.

Salisbury feels there is nothing more important in life than to help other people.

"I don't have to live in a fancy home, drive a fancy car, or have fancy stuff," she said. "I already have that in heaven. So I don't need it here. I'm content here."



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson  
***Ann Salisbury shows off the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society bracelet which represents more than 7,000 volunteer hours with the society.***

## Around the Homeport



**Prayer breakfast --** More than 100 people from various commands at Naval Station Pascagoula took part in the National Prayer Breakfast held at the USO on Feb. 6. The theme of the day's activities was 'One Nation Under God.' Special guests included remarks by Mayor Joe Cole, Mayor of Pascagoula; choral arrangements by the Pascagoula High School choir; and Bible readings by Cheryl Ayler and Jeff Isabel. The Pascagoula High School NJROTC unit provided the color guard.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Promotion --** Melanie Moreland pins Lieutenant Junior Grade bars on her husband, LTJG Doug Moreland, NAVSTA Pascagoula's Weapons officer. LTJG Moreland was promoted at CO's Call held Jan. 30.



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Service award --** CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA Pascagoula commanding officer, presents Lonnie Cryer, Assistant Fire Chief, with a certificate and pin representing 30 years of federal service. Carolyn Crumpton was recognized in the same ceremony for 25 years of federal service.

### NAVSTA Pascagoula 'Bravo Zulus'

Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal:  
FC1(SW) Nicholas Petric

## Around the Homeport



**Leadership --** The 2003 Leadership Jackson County class poses for a group photo just prior to touring USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51). The group was touring the station and the ship as part of their 'Industrial Day.' The leadership class trains emerging business and community leaders and provides community awareness programs, and is sponsored by the Jackson County and Ocean Springs Chambers of Commerce.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

**Appreciation--** Geraldine Warden, right, FFSC Ombudsman coordinator, poses with Carolyn McCorvey, FFSC director, after being presented with a NAVSTA Pascagoula Letter of Appreciation. Warden received the letter for her exceptional efforts in support of the Critical Incident Stress Management workshops hosted by FFSC.



Photo by MS1(SW) Walter Coghlan

**Re-enlistment --** OS3 Desmond Peters is congratulated by MSC(SW) Rodney Shelton after re-enlisting in the U.S. Navy for 6 years. Peters, who has been on limited duty working at the Lakeside bachelor housing complex, is being returned to full duty and will be transferring to USS John L. Hall (FFG 32).

### NAVSTA Pascagoula 'Bravo Zulus'

**Flag Letter of Appreciation:**  
BM3Lenox Lewis

**Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal:**  
MSCS(SW/AW) Calvin Dukes

## Navy, Military News

# TRICARE mail-order pharmacy begins March 1

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— Beginning March 1, the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) program replaces the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) program as the prescription mail order pharmacy benefit for Department of Defense military health system beneficiaries. The TRICARE pharmacy benefit and co-payments remain the same - only the program name and benefit manager have changed.

Express Scripts Inc., a benefit prescription manager in the United States, is the new TMOP benefit manager. To be eligible for the new pharmacy benefit, the sponsor and family member must both be enrolled and eligible in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Members of the National Guard and Reserve and their family members are also eligible for TMOP if the sponsor is on federal (Title 10 or Title 32) active-duty orders for more than 30 days, and their DEERS information is up-to-date. TRICARE eligibility for sponsors and family members is effective on the date of activation on the sponsors' orders.

"Under TRICARE, beneficiaries have three options for filling their prescriptions. They can use a military treatment facility, a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, or TMOP," said Army Col. William Davies, director of DoD pharmacy programs.

Prescription medications filled under TMOP cost \$3 for a 90-day supply for generic medications, and \$9 for a 90-day supply for most brand-name medications. Prescriptions filled using a retail network pharmacy cost \$3 for a 30-day generic supply and \$9 for a 30-day supply for most brand-name medications.

"We want beneficiaries who have long-term medication needs to consider using the



Photo by Stacey Byington

***A Hospital Corpsman fills a prescription at the Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula. TRICARE beneficiaries who have long-term medication needs should consider using the mail order program where they can receive up to a 90-day supply of medication for a single co-payment.***

mail order program. It provides up to a 90-day supply of most medications for a single co-payment, whereas they only receive a 30-day supply for a single co-payment in the retail network pharmacy system," Davies said.

Before a prescription can be filled, each beneficiary must complete a one-time Express Scripts registration form and return it to Express Scripts for processing. The registration form is available online at [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com), or

may be picked up at any military treatment facility or regional service center.

The TMOP registration form, new prescription and payment (by credit card, check or money order) should be returned to the address provided on the registration form. The beneficiary's name; the sponsor's Social Security number, address and telephone number; and the provider's name, address and telephone should be clearly written on each prescription submitted. Express

Scripts can mail prescriptions to any U. S. postal address or APO/FPO address (except a private foreign address) overseas. Sponsors and family members assigned to an embassy without an APO or FPO address must use their official Washington, D.C. embassy address to receive prescription medications. Prescriptions for beneficiaries residing overseas must be prescribed by providers who are licensed to practice in the United States.

Deliveries for locations within the United States require approximately 5 to 7 days to process. Additional time may be required for prescription medications delivered overseas.

Beneficiaries covered by a pharmacy benefit under other health insurance (OHI) may only use TMOP if their OHI does not cover the medication they need, or if the pharmacy benefit under the OHI plan has been exhausted. If the medication required is covered under TMOP, Express Scripts will fill the prescription, as long as the beneficiary has no other pharmacy benefit available or until the beneficiary's pharmacy benefit is renewed under the OHI.

Beneficiaries may check the status of their new or refill prescription orders anytime at [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com) or by calling toll free, 866 DOD-TMOP (866-363-8667). Active-duty sponsors may verify or update DEERS information for themselves or their family members by contacting or visiting their local military identification (ID) card issuing facility. Sponsors may locate the nearest military personnel office or ID card facility on the DEERS Web site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/) to verify DEERS eligibility. Sponsors may also verify DEERS eligibility by calling DEERS toll free at (800)-538-9552.

## MWR Activities

# Medical Corpsman wins ITT vacation package

By JO2 Renee Johnson  
NAVSTA Public Affairs

Imagine being the winner of an all-expense-paid seven-day vacation with \$1,000 spending money.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class Roderick Lewis, Pass and Liaison Representative for Naval Station Pascagoula Branch Medical Clinic does not have to dream about or imagine it. All he has to do is pack his bags and head for the door.

Just by writing his name and command information, Lewis has become the proud winner of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreations (MWR) Armed Forces Valentine's Vacation trip.

"I really went over to the MWR building to do my taxes," said Lewis. "When I saw the box for the drawing, Ruth (Rotton, ITT manager) asked me if I wanted to enter, and I said sure, maybe I might win. So, I filled out the form."

Wouldn't you know it — he did win! Lewis was among the more than 200 active duty entries for the contest from all the commands in the area.

"When the MWR people



MWR photo

***HM2 Roderick Lewis, Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula, holds up the paperwork he received for his Valentine Vacation. His biggest decision now is where to go, and who to take.***

came over to the clinic and told me in front of all my peers that I had won, I was pretty much shocked and speechless," said Lewis. "I was smiling the whole time."

With all the places to choose from, Lewis is still deciding where he plans to vacation.

"I am trying to narrow it

down. I have in mind Jamaica, Bahamas, Greece, or Spain," said Lewis who plans to take his trip in July. "I would really like to go to Jamaica."

As Lewis is not married, the hard part will be deciding who to take with him.

"I'm trying to narrow that down too, because all of a sud-

den, I have a lot of friends."

He has some advise for those who shy away from these sort of opportunities because they feel they don't have the winning touch.

"It doesn't hurt to try," said Lewis. "You never know, you could win. It could be your lucky day."

## Family adventure contest celebrates family

By Robin Hillier Miles  
Navy MWRPAO

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) has developed a contest to celebrate Military Family Month. As part of MWR's Saluting Sailors and Their Families initiative, the "Operation Family Adventure" contest will give Navy families the opportunity to submit a two minute or less video of their family doing what it does best — being resourceful, using its imagination, working together as a team and having fun.

Twenty-five winning fami-

lies will then attend the regional portion of the contest at one of five locations in

May and June 2003. The regional portion of this contest consists of age specific outdoor activities for all family members. "Our outdoor recreation professionals are busy creating fun, interesting activities and skill tests for the families," said David Griffin, MWR outdoor recreation specialist.

The top family from each



region then goes on to compete in the ultimate adventure in Hawaii during Thanksgiving week 2003. "Part of the fun is not knowing exactly what to expect — like the reality-based television shows that Americans are glued to on a nightly basis," said Griffin.

"The first order of the day is to decide what you want to do and say in your video submission," said Cheryl Anderson, MWR special events coordinator. "Write a script or 'wing it,' use props or just yourselves, let an adult narrate or allow a child to do all the talking. Whatever you wish to do as a family can be submit-

ted. It just can't be longer than two minutes, must be on a VHS tape, and most importantly, it has to be in the judges' hands by March 14, 2003!"

More information and entry forms to be sent with your video submission are available on the Web at [www.mwr.navy.mil](http://www.mwr.navy.mil) (Saluting Sailors & Their Families link) or at your local MWR department.

The goal of Navy MWR's Saluting Sailors and Their Families initiative is to wow Sailors and their families with new and innovative programs and create MWR ambassadors.

As Anderson said, "You'll never win if you don't enter!"

## MWR Activities

# NASCAR on the big screen at CrackerJack's

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

### New Saturday hours at Crackerjack's 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Lakeside residents, you'll be glad to know that CrackerJack's is now open on Saturdays. Send out for food no longer. Also, CrackerJack's is the perfect place for Saturday afternoon gatherings.

### Paintball March 5, 12, 19, 26 Paintball Field

Challenge your friends to join you for an adventure on the Paintball Field. For only \$10 you get protective clothing, gun and 200 paintballs. Call 761-2293 or 761-2038 to reserve the field.

### NASCAR on the big screen March 9 CrackerJack's

Catch the Atlanta 500 on the big screen. Make CrackerJack's your pit stop for the 2003 NASCAR Season. CrackerJack's opens at 11 a.m. on Sunday.



### 30-and-over Basketball coaches meeting March 12, Noon Sports/Fitness Center

Dig out your most comfortable pair of sneakers and get ready to take it to the hoop. Attend this meeting and get the

information you need to field a team in the league. Earn Captain's Cup points for your command.



### Movie and a steak March 12, 6:30 p.m. at the USO

Treat yourself to a plump and juicy steak and all the trimmings for only \$7.50, and while you feast, enjoy a new-release full-length video movie. The Liberty program and the USO have teamed up to bring you this affordable and entertaining dining experience.



### St. Patrick's Day Golf Tournament March 13, Noon Location TBA

Legend has it that St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland. This annual event brings the Pascagoula Navy community and friends together for an afternoon of competitive fun on the fairways. Lunch is served prior to the noon shotgun start. Format is 4-person scramble. For more information call the Sports and Fitness Center at 761-2107.

### Liberty Program Crawfish and a movie March 13 in front of Skeeter's

How many ways are there to eat a mudbug? What's your technique? Come out and show us. Don't miss it, an evening of cracking the shells of Cajun crawfish, plus a movie under the stars. It's free.

### Food City 500 on the big screen March 16 CrackerJack's

Follow the NASCAR circuit at CrackerJack's, which opens at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

### St. Patrick's Day March 17, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Café

The Liberty Program will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a movie and a treat. The only way to know what the treat is, is to be there.



### Pot o' Gold Pool Tournament March 17, 7 p.m. CrackerJack's

Chalk up your cue stick and go for the 'gold.' There is a pot on the line and you want to take it home. This double-elimination tournament is open to all recreation center patrons. No entry fee required.

### Softball coaches meeting March 18, Noon Sports/Fitness Center

Believe it or not, spring is here. Send a team representative to this meeting. Earn Captain's Cup points for your command.

### NCAA Men's Basketball on the big screen March 18, 20, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30

NCAA basketball competition heats up in March, and we will feature every exciting moment from the tip-off of the opening round of the playoffs to the national championship. If you want a place where you and your friends can 'hoot and holler' for your favorite schools, you found it.



### 3-Pitch Softball Tournament March 22 NAVSTA Softball Field

Let's play ball. This tournament kicks off the 2003 softball season. All teams signed up for the Spring Softball League are eligible to participate. A trophy will be awarded to the tournament winner. Registration is free.

Tickets for most activities and events are available through the Information, Tickets and Tours office, 761-2432. ITT also has tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Jazzland, Six Flags, Busch Gardens, Sea World, the Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium.

The Sports and Fitness Center at the gymnasium is open seven days a week and holidays. The telephone number is 761-2107.