



Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

Vol. III, No. 04

April 1, 2003

Inside:

Hall returns, page 3

ID cards being issued, page 5

Prenatal care, page 8



Photo by Stacey Byington

From our Fleet

USS John L. Hall returns to Pascagoula

By Stacey Byington
NAVSTA Pascagoula PAO

After six months away from its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula, USS John L. Hall (FFG 32) is returning home March 18. The guided-missile frigate has completed a successful routine deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility, where they engaged in the detection and monitoring of counter drug activities.

As part of the Joint Inter-Agency Task Force, East team, the Hall participated in the interdiction of drug traffickers in the eastern Pacific, along with deployed U.S. Navy ships from Naval Surface Group 2 and U.S. Coast Guard units. John L. Hall departed Pascagoula on Oct. 10.

The Hall, also known as the "Vikings of Assault," and its commanding officer, CDR Thomas A Flisk, Jr., brought the war on drugs into the backyards of the drug cartels themselves. On patrol almost 80 percent of the deployment, the officers and crew of Hall covered more than 1.4 million square miles of the Pacific Ocean in pursuit of cigarette-type racing boats (known as "go-fasts") and monitored the small fishing vessels that operate as their logistical support vessels.

Long periods at sea were punctuated by high-speed chases across hundreds of miles of open water as "go-fasts" sped away, trying to out-run the ship. Teamed with an SH-60B Sea Hawk helicopter from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron (HSL) 48, known as the "Ringmasters," stationed in Mayport, Fla., the Hall made life miserable for smugglers. Throughout the deployment, the team of John L. Hall, HSL 48 Det 2, and the embarked USCG law enforcement detachment (LE-



Photo by Stacey Byington

Sailors rush to greet their spouses, family and friends as the USS John L. Hall (FFG 32) docks at Naval Station Pascagoula. The Hall has been deployed for the past six months in the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

DET) would stop, board and seize boats engaged in illegal narcotic-smuggling activity.

John L. Hall directly seized or assisted in the seizure of more than 16,000 pounds of illegal drugs. Additionally, five "go-fast" speedboats were put out of commission, either from being sunk by the smugglers themselves or by being confiscated by law enforcement officials aboard Hall.

"Counter Drug Operations is a team sport," said Flisk. "We couldn't do the job without our superb helicopter detachment and law enforcement detachment working as an integrated team with the ship."

The crew of Hall recognized the importance of their mission in the Southern Command area of responsibility.

"Overall, I believe it was a successful cruise, and I think

we managed to accomplish something worthwhile out here," said LTJG Phillip Ho-

ward, from San Diego, Calif. "Until this cruise, I hadn't re-

Continued on page 12



Photo by Stacey Byington

More than 4,000 pounds of cocaine are offloaded from the USS John L. Hall after the ship returned to Pascagoula. The Hall is responsible for confiscating more than 16,000 pounds of illegal drugs.

From our Fleet

Yorktown earns DESRON 6 'Battle E'

By ENS **Audry Oxley**
USS Yorktown PAO

The Commander, Naval Surface Forces announced USS YORKTOWN won the 2002 Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6 Battle Efficiency "E" Award for consistently performing at peak levels on March 3.

This is the 12th Battle "E" for Yorktown. The ship's crew was specifically commended for its performance as flagship for Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6 during UNITAS Caribbean Phase. UNITAS is the Latin word for unity, and is an annual gathering of South American armies, navies, special operations teams and air wings and their American counterparts to conduct joint operations. The ship also received additional praise for operations during two hurricane sorties, a major drug seizure during their most recent counter drug operations deployment, a new fleet maintenance, material, management (3M) certification standard, and several successful weapons firing exercises.

Yorktown's performance during the ship's February – June 2002 counter drug and UNITAS deployment set her apart from stiff fleet wide competition. During the UNITAS phase of deployment Yorktown enjoyed the honor of being the first ship ever to conduct underway replenishment with the newly commissioned Venezuelan ship Ciudad Bolivar (T 81). The ship also hosted a reception in port Curacao, Netherlands Antilles for President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela after the replenishment.

UNITAS provided opportunities for several Yorktown sailors to work with sailors from other countries by embarking on their ships to learn the procedures and protocol of our South American partners'

navies. On one occasion the sailors assisted with repairs to torpedo tubes on the Mexican warship Arm Abasolo, thus allowing the Arm Abasolo to participate fully in bilateral exercises. The ship was routinely chosen to serve as the lead ship for a nine-ship exercise during UNITAS. In this role the sailors of Yorktown were tasked with coordinating the maneuvering tactics of nine ships and organizing daily communication, and ship-handling drills.

The pinnacle moment of Yorktown's deployment came with the successful detection and seizure of the fishing vessel Punta Del Este' laden with six metric tons of cocaine worth an estimated street value of \$118 million dollars.

USS Boone rescues 160 Ecuadorians

By **COMNAVSOPAO**

ABOARD USS BOONE, At Sea (NNS) — While conducting counter-drug operations in the eastern Pacific Ocean recently, USS Boone (FFG 28) spotted a small fishing boat displaying no navigation lights and making no headway.

Officer of the Deck FC2 Elton Evatt was vigilant in his duties and responsibilities, as he reported the vessel as dead in the water with something appearing amiss.

"I definitely wanted to investigate this contact," he said to his conning officer.

The ship closed in for a better look at the mysterious vessel.

Evatt's actions were the beginning of a four-day saga, which ended with the rescue of 160 Ecuadorian nationals.

With little fresh water aboard and a broken main engine, the men, women and children aboard this wayward vessel, later identified as F/V Challenger, were stranded on a 60-foot fishing vessel.

Once back from deployment, the sailors of Yorktown continued their effort in maintaining the readiness of the ship by focusing on training and scheduled maintenance. A scheduled maintenance assessment was upgraded to a maintenance certification and the ship set a new fleet standard by receiving an overall score of 99.52 percent which is the highest score in the fleet to date.

The entire crew had a part in Yorktown's success. 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. Yorktown is also a 2002 Golden Anchor Award winner for excellence in repeatedly retaining high numbers of sailors, and the 2002 Green "H" for excellence in health promotion. The sailors were also recognized for their commitment to the local community for their efforts in the Adopt-a-Highway Program and the Personal Excellence Program at Trent Lott Middle and Central Elementary Schools.

Yorktown's crew's performance in 2002 proved that pier side or underway, in foreign or domestic waters, operating alone or with a group of ships, no matter the mission, Yorktown stands ready to answer the call.

After obtaining permission from the chain of command, Boone Sailors and Coast Guardsman from the embarked law enforcement detachment (LEDET) began transferring the Ecuadorians from Challenger to Boone. Once the passengers were aboard, they were provided with blankets and a hot meal.

"As in most cases like this, the passengers were ready to leave their stranded vessel," said the LEDET officer in charge, Coast Guard Lt.j.g. Heyward Silcox. "They had run out of food and water and realized that their best option was to debark when we gave them the opportunity. When the boarding team was alongside, the passengers began gathering their belongings to leave before we even offered."

Once the passengers transferred to their ship, Boone and Coast Guard-trained personnel conducted an inspection of the vessel.

Their discoveries were alarming. The main engine compartment was flooded with

nearly 4,000 gallons of water. The wooden-sided vessel was quickly losing watertight integrity. The living conditions were inhumane and unacceptable for 160 people.

As the passengers were safely brought aboard Boone, Commanding Officer Cmdr. W.L. Towns was directed by his chain of command to sink the vessel, which while afloat posed a hazard to navigation to other vessels on the high seas.

Over the next four days, until the Ecuadorians were repatriated to their home country, the Sailors and Coast Guardsmen on Boone provided the care and feeding for 160 people.

Boone's medical department conducted medical screenings to determine if any of the Ecuadorians were sick or injured. The supply department answered the call by providing three hot meals a day, fresh water and blankets. The repair division rigged an ingenious toilet facility on the forecabin complete with flushing water and total privacy.

Around the Homeport

Mobile unit issues ID cards at Pascagoula

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The Navy's Common Access Card (CAC) Mobile Issuance Facility has been visiting Naval Station Pascagoula for the past couple of weeks, and will continue to do so through April 18.

Lab personnel are issuing CAC cards to all active duty military, DoD civil service and non-appropriated fund (NAF) employees.

"We have been fairly busy in the first three days we have been in operation," said Kevin Baker, the site security manager on March 20. "We have seen 350 people in three days."

Baker said that NAVSTA Pascagoula was the second site where the mobile unit has been used. The trailer is located between the Learning Resource Center and the Branch Medical Clinic. Inside there are six workstations, and the people at the workstations are local hires.

"The process takes about eight minutes on a good day," said Baker. "It depends on the conductivity between our workstations and the servers they are connected to in Wisconsin, Denver, and Chambersburg, Penn."

Operating hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The CAC is now the mandated standard identification card for all military, civilian, eligible foreign national and many contractor personnel. It features "smart card" technology — a computer chip that enables specific information about the cardholders and establishes positive digital electronic identification through the use of public key infrastructure (PKI), bar codes and a magnetic stripe.

According to Rob Carey, director of the Department of the Navy Smart Card Office



Photo by Stacey Byington

Phyllis James, center, trades in her old government civilian identification card for the new, computerized Common Access Card (CAC), required for all active duty military, DoD civilians, non-appropriated fund employees and certain government contractor employees by Oct. 1, 2003.

(DONSCO), in the future the card will allow encryption of e-mail, digital signatures, access to secure Web sites and the use of a number of new Navy applications.

"We are not only issuing a new ID card, we are issuing a card that acts as a computer," Carey said. "This card is your passport to the e-world."

Individual stations will be able to choose what features of the card to use. According to Carey, the big push for CAC within the Navy is to support the security features of the Navy Marine Corp Intranet (NMCI). After CAC is issued Navywide, the technology will be used to improve business processes, information assurance, mission effectiveness and quality of life.

The CAC features three

forms of technology: the magnetic strip, the bar code and the computer chip.

"As we migrate into a chip-based environment the need for the current magnetic strip and bar code will diminish," Carey said.

He added that, as chip technology develops, the Navy plans to use the CAC card as an access token to data, not as a storage card.

To receive a CAC at the mobile lab at NAVSTA Pascagoula, military personnel will surrender their green ID card. Civil service employees will surrender their current OPNAV 55 or 56 form, their current ID card. NAF personnel must complete a DD Form 1172-2, and have it signed by their command representative. The mobile facility does not have the

capability to issue CACs to personnel requiring paygrade changes, dependent or retiree ID cards, or update DEERS.

Commands scheduled the first week in April include personnel from SUPSHIP, Coast Guard Station Pascagoula, DCAA Pascagoula and PCU Pinckney. Commands scheduled April 7-11 include the Branch Medical and Dental Clinics, and the crews of the USS John L. Hall, USS Thomas S. Gates, and the USCGC Decisive. Personnel who were unable to get their new CAC during their command's normally scheduled time can join other stragglers Apr. 14 - 18.

All active duty, DoD civilians, NAF, and contractor employees will be required to have CACs by the end of September this year.

Around the Homeport

Upcoming 'Kids Fair' is fun for all ages

By JO2 Renee Johnson
NAVSTA Public Affairs

Fun! Fun! Fun! That's what the Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) at Naval Station Pascagoula has planned for all area military children at this year's 'Kid's Fair.' The second annual 'Kid's Fair' will be held in the recreation area behind the Lakeside Inn, the Navy's area combined bachelor housing complex on Chicot Road in Pascagoula, Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The time has come once again to commemorate the military child. April is also the month that promotes child abuse prevention.

'Celebrating our future heroes' is the theme for this year's fair which is free for all children who are family members of active duty military including those National Guardsmen recalled to active duty, retirees, and DoD civilian employees.

Tug-of-war, water-balloon toss, bunny hop, and a sack race are just a few of the planned afternoon activities. There will be games, prizes, and entertainment everyone can enjoy. Also, there will be an Easter egg hunt for children aged 14 and under.

This will not just be two hours of games, but also a time for children and their parents to learn and receive important information from various booths that will be set up.

"We are planning to have personnel from the Jackson County Sheriff's Department there to do fingerprinting," said Carol-Lee Harshner, the 'Kids Fair' activity coordinator at FFSC. We will also have representatives from the Committee against Needless Deaths in Youth (CANDY) to talk about car seatbelt safety."

The Kid's Fair will be a great opportunity for anyone who



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Officer Virgil Moore, with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, fingerprints a young girl, as others wait in line at the NAVSTA Pascagoula's first annual "Kid's Fair," held in April 2002.

enjoys volunteering their time and being involved with youth activities.

"What I am trying to do is get each command here to sponsor food, prizes, an activity, or a booth for the afternoon," said Harshner, who is also the point of contact for anyone interested in volunteering. "We really need volunteers and for the commands to pitch in."

No need to decide what to prepare for lunch either because there will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks available at a reasonable price.

Those who are involved with making this year's 'Kid's

Fair' a spectacular event, make it very obvious that they were both excited and looking forward to the event.

"This is the joint effort of the three departments — the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Department, Child Development Homes, and FFSC," said Johnnette Wilkerson, the clinical supervisor at FFSC. "It's all three departments sharing equally in the planning and the execution of the event."

Wilkerson says children need to know that they are valued and appreciated. The Kid's Fair helps do that.

"I think that even if you

don't have children, going out and assisting with one of the booths will be great fun," added Wilkerson. "Where else can you take your children for two hours, turn them loose in a basically safe place, and not have it cost you an arm and a leg. They can run, jump, get dunked in the dunking booth, and maybe even win a prize just for having fun."

'Kid's Fair'

When: Saturday, Apr. 12, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Recreation area of Lakeside Inn, Chicot Road, Pascagoula

Around the Homeport

Military working dog teams 'detect and deter'

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

One of the assets utilized by Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pascagoula to help defend its resources and to help enforce military laws and regulations is its Military Working Dog (MWD) teams. MWD teams supplement and enhance the capabilities of the station security force, enabling them to perform their mission more effectively, and, in many cases, with significant savings in manpower, time and money.

Naval Station Pascagoula has two MWD handlers, MA1 (SW) Martin Clifford and MA1(SW) Elizabeth Koehler, and one dog, a 6-year-old Dutch Shepherd named Marco. Marco is a patrol/detector dog.

In addition to routine patrol duties, patrol dogs are also used for intruder detection, tracking, and in listening or observation posts. Patrol/drug detector and patrol/explosive detective dogs have the capability to detect drugs or explosives that a person working alone would be unable to locate.

"All dogs come from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas," said Koehler, who has been in the Navy a little more than 8 years. "That's where they train both the dogs and the handlers. Then the dogs and handlers are sent to the Fleet, though not necessarily together."

She said that there are different types of dogs for different types of missions.

"It is up to the handler to train the dog in the specific needs of the duty station where they are assigned," said Koehler, who reported to NAVSTA Pascagoula in April 2002.

A typical day in the life of Naval Station Pascagoula's MWD team revolves around training. They spend about 90 percent of their time training



Photo by Stacey Byington

MWD Marco and handler MA1(SW) Elizabeth Koehler search for contraband in a vehicle aboard Naval Station Pascagoula.

to keep the dog and the handler proficient. Their job is to 'detect and deter.'

"The success of the dog is based on the expertise of the handler," said Koehler. "Each dog is supposed to be trained to obtain higher levels of patrol and detection. It is the handler's responsibility to maintain the dog's current levels of proficiency and strive to increase that proficiency."

MWD handlers are also required to maintain current qualifications in law enforcement/physical security and military knowledge.

"We are definitely a team," says Koehler. "When the dog performs the task that you have been training so hard at,

that makes it all worthwhile. You do your part and the dog does his."

Clifford was a sonar technician in the Navy assigned to the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) in Pascagoula before converting to the Master-at-Arms rating. After training in Texas, he reported to NAVSTA Pascagoula in December 2001.

"I have learned a lot more than I ever dreamed possible," said Clifford. "Dogs are a lot smarter than humans give them credit for."

He says that 70 percent of a dog's world relates to the smells around him and that dogs can distinguish the different smells that make up a particular item.

With a dog, military security personnel have a better chance of keeping narcotics and explosives away from military members and their families.

"A dog can make all the difference as psychological deterrent," said Clifford. "We save lives. That makes all the work worth it."

NAVSTA Pascagoula's MWD team is a tremendous psychological deterrent to potential violators and is used in all areas of the station. They are an integral part of the station's crime prevention program and support community-oriented policing activities.

"We provide support to all
Continued on page 12

Around the Homeport

Prenatal care available at Medical Clinic

By JO2 Renee Johnson
Public Affairs Office

Keesler Air Force Base's Medical Center is no longer the only facility at which obstetric care can be received. Active duty military and their family members now have the option to receive prenatal care at Naval Station Pascagoula Branch Medical Clinic.

"Now patients have the option to come here or go to Keesler for their care," said LCDR Dondria Smith-Hollies, the clinic nurse at Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula.

Up until February of this year, all prenatal routine obstetrical care and lab work was done at Keesler.

"We can provide prenatal care here, but patients will still deliver at Keesler," said LCDR Teresa Foster, MC, senior medical officer at Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula.

This new level of care was brought about because of the enthusiasm of clinic staff members who want to better serve local Navy personnel and their family members.

"It was a desire to maintain my skills and better serve the local population," said Foster. "My commander, (CDR Daniel Frederick, Officer in Charge of Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula) and I felt strongly that routine obstetrical care was needed here on base and would help eliminate patients having to drive to Keesler for a 10 minute OB/GYN appointment"

In order to integrate this new service, small changes were initiated.

"Keesler had to agree that we were capable of taking care of routine obstetrics, which I'm credentialed to do," said Foster. "The rest of it was system changes. We had to have the facilities in place to be able to counsel these patients."

Some of those changes in-



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

LCDR Teresa Foster, MC, senior medical officer at Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula checks the heartbeat of Marcie Deckard's baby, as the soon-to-be mother listens along. The clinic at Pascagoula is now offering prenatal care to qualifying area mothers-to-be. Deckard and other mothers say the care is a good alternative to going to Keesler Air Force Base.

clude new equipment.

"We are expecting a new ultra-sound machine and new dopplers to listen to baby heart tones," said Foster.

Teamwork between Keesler and the Branch Medical Clinic is an important ingredient to ensure the success of the newly provided services.

"Communication between us and Keesler also had to improve," said Foster. "We had to make sure Keesler received their paperwork at appropriate times during the patients' pregnancies because if complications do occur, patients would then be referred to Keesler."

Unfortunately, for some, there is no choice as to where they receive their prenatal care.

"We are referring patients with any chronic illness, diabetes, hypertension, toxemia, a history of pre-term labor, unexplained bleeding during a pre-

vious pregnancy and those who require medication or close monitoring of an obstetrician, to Keesler," said Smith-Hollies.

Both medical facilities benefit from the new arrangement.

"I met with Keesler's OB/GYN department head, Lt.Col. Alan Christensen (commander of obstetrics and gynecology at Keesler), who agreed this was a wonderful idea that would better serve Navy patients," said Foster. "It also helps them out."

Additional training was also necessary.

"Keesler is using the new Department of Defense clinical practice guidelines and they wanted to make sure that we were following the same procedures," said Foster. "So, I had to do a little bit of reading to ensure we were in compliance to the DOD guidelines."

Having patients walk out the door and feel that they have received the best possible care is the goal of the clinic.

"Customer satisfaction is where we are trying to go," said Smith-Hollies. "If we can provide women a calm and a more stress-free prenatal care environment, then we will have less complications. People will do what they are supposed to do, be compliant to the doctors orders, and have less negative outcomes when it comes to delivering babies."

Having the same doctor that followed a patient throughout a pregnancy deliver their baby just adds to a more personal relationship between doctor and patient.

"It makes me feel more comfortable knowing that I have the same doctor," said Kimberly Wallace, one of

Continued on page 12

Around the Homeport



Photo by JO2 Renee Johnson

Sailors of the Year -- Sailors pose after being recognized for their accomplishment of being selected as Sailors of the Year for their individual commands. From left, HT1(SW/AW) Michael Richardson, SIMA; IT1(SW) Emerson Mason, Destroyer Squadron 6; HM1(SW/AW) Eddie Couillard, Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula; MS1(SW) Walter Coghlan, Naval Station Pascagoula; and CTC1(SW) John Caraballo, USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51). The Sailors and their spouses were honored at a dinner at the USO, jointly sponsored by Naval Station Pascagoula and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. Also contributing to the success of the evening were First Command, the Pas-Point Council of the Navy League of the United States, the Navy Exchange, and MWR.

NAVSTA in competition for Bronze Hammer Award

By Stacey Byington
NAVSTA Public Affairs Office

Naval Station Pascagoula has been selected as the Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) nominee for the Navy Self-Help Bronze Hammer Award in the category of small activity, no CBU (Construction Battalion Unit) in the immediate area.

The Bronze Hammer Award recognizes installations that make outstanding contributions to improvement of their bases through the effective use

of local self-help resources.

"Naval Station Pascagoula maintains a strong self-help program, and we're very proud of our accomplishments this year," said NAVSTA Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea. "Along with completing several significant projects, we responded to gapped shop billets and a growing maintenance backlog by directing many of our routine service calls to self-help for completion by First Lieutenant Division personnel.

NAVSTA saved more than

\$182,000 in maintenance labor in FY 2002, and almost \$163,000 in Seabee labor costs. Total labor savings is estimated at approximately \$380,000.

"NAVSTA Pascagoula demonstrates its dedication to the Self-Help program through commitment of funds and efficient management of projects," said ET1(SW) Daniel Bryan, NAVSTA's Self-Help coordinator.

"There can be no question that the activities nominated have developed self-help programs that make outstanding

contributions to improve the Naval Shore Establishment," said Rear Adm. Annette Brown, CNRSE. "Through dedication to improvement, innovative leadership and command-wide support, these activities have demonstrated their commitment to excellence and deserve this recognition."

NAVSTA Pascagoula is now competing with other U.S. Atlantic Fleet commands in the same category, and if it passes that hurdle, eventually at the Chief of Naval Operations level.

Around the Homeport

Grand opening -- PC2 Angela Morgan, NAVSTA Pascagoula's Junior Sailor of the Year, and David Maxwell, MWR's Liberty Coordinator, cut the ribbon officially opening the new CrackerJack's -- the single sailor recreation center at Lakeside Inn, the Navy's combined bachelor housing complex in Pascagoula. Sailors can play pool, watch their favorite sporting events on a big screen TV, or five other smaller TVs, or play computer games or surf the 'net' on computer terminals with internet access.



Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by Stacey Byington

Command picnic -- Barbequed chicken, ribs and sausage, grilled by CWO4 Raymond Thomas, were among the main items on the menu at the Naval Station Pascagoula's command picnic on March 19. The picnic also served as an opportunity for command members, both military and civilian, to say farewell to LCDR Shri Stroud, NAVSTA Pascagoula's executive officer, who departed for Millington, Tenn., on March 28.

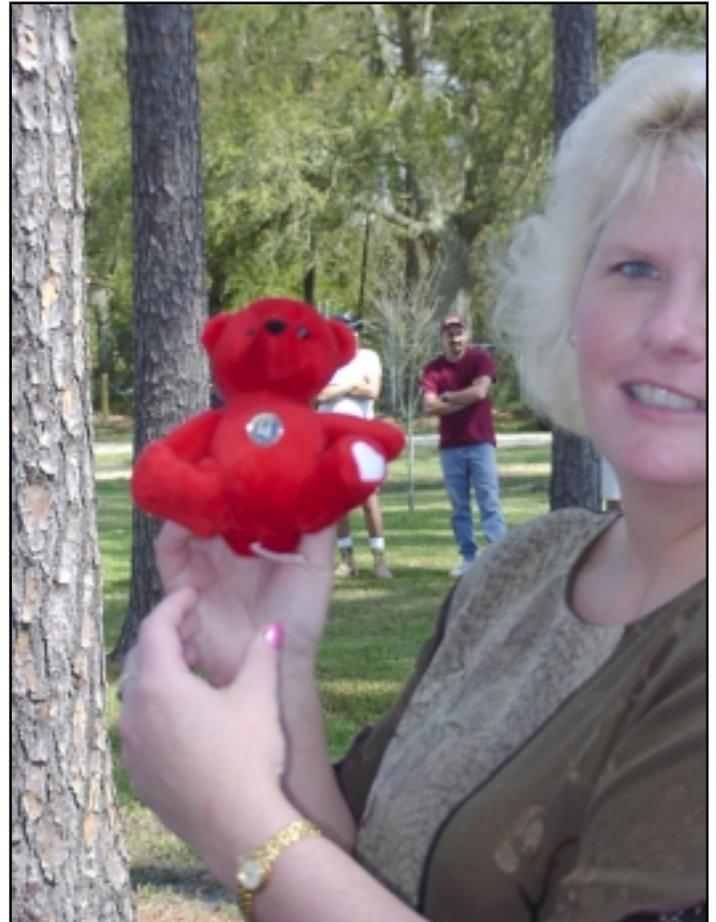


Photo by Stacey Byington

Farewell -- LCDR Shri Stroud shows off a teddy bear she received at the command picnic.

About the cover:

PC2 Cassandra Searight, with the station post office, fills her plate at the command picnic held at the recreation area behind Lakeside Inn.

Navy, Military News

Bush establishes medals for war on terrorism

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press

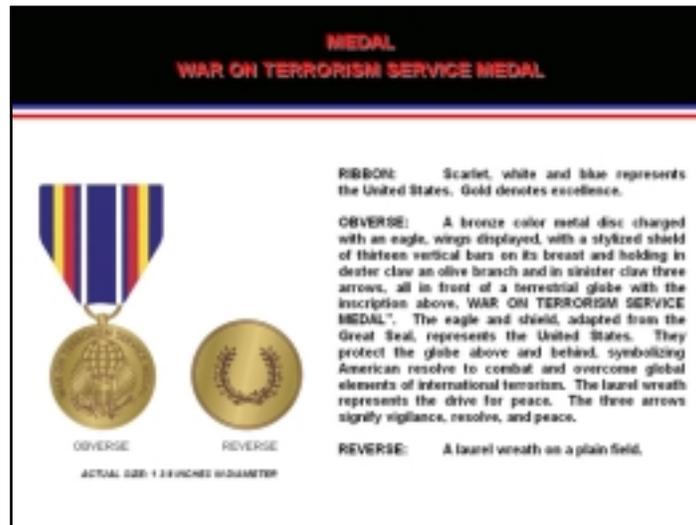
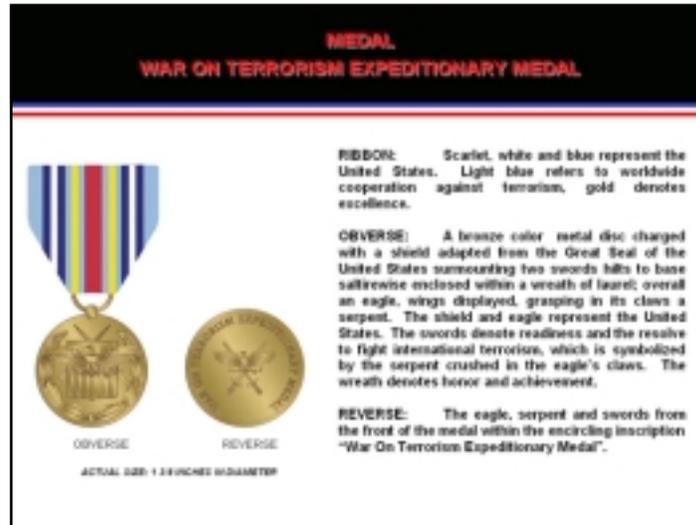
WASHINGTON, March 13, 2003 — President Bush has issued an executive order establishing two military awards for actions in the global war on terrorism.

The president signed the order March 12 establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

A White House spokesman said the medals recognize the “sacrifices and contributions” military members make in the global war on terror.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation Enduring Freedom is the prime operation the medal may be awarded for. Personnel assigned to operations in Afghanistan and the Philippines are examples of service members who will receive the award.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Opera-



tion Noble Eagle is an example of the type of operation the

medal may be awarded for.

The awards do not take the

place of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established Dec. 4, 1961, or the Armed Forces Service Medal, established Jan. 11, 1996.

“Any member who qualified for those medals by reason of service in operations to combat terrorism between September 11, 2001, and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense, shall remain qualified for those medals,” the executive order reads. “Upon application, any such member may be awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service Medal.”

No one may be awarded more than one of the four medals for service in the same approved expedition or operation to combat terrorism. No one is entitled to more than one award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The medals may be awarded posthumously.

DoD and military service officials, including the Coast Guard, are working on provisions to award the medals.

CENTCOM charts ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom’ progress

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2003 — All of Iraq is a battlefield and coalition forces are challenging the heart of Iraqi resistance around Baghdad, Air Force Maj. Gen. Victor Renuart said today in Qatar.

Renuart, U.S. Central Command operations chief, said despite bad weather, coalition forces are making adjustments and progressing in all areas.

Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks, U.S. Central Command’s vice

operations chief, showed a videotape of special operations forces parachuting to take a desert landing strip. He said coalition land forces continue advancing north of Nasiriyah and defeated an enemy attack north of Basra.

Renuart said coalition forces had suffered casualties in those actions, but would not go into detail until next-of-kin notification is complete.

“We inflicted more (damage) on the enemy and destroyed a number of their tanks, artillery pieces and troop formations,”

he said. “We are on track and we’ll deal with these regular and irregular forces wherever we find them.”

Winds clocked close to 100 miles per hour, and rain has complicated the situation for coalition forces. “However, that hasn’t stopped us,” Renuart said. “Our precision all-weather weapon systems and an aggressive integrated operations plan by our air and land components have allowed coalition forces to maintain and increase pressure on the regime on all fronts.”

So, for example, if Apache helicopters cannot fly, then the mission can go to other aviation assets, he said.

The fighting around Basra highlights irregular Iraqi efforts mixing with regular forces, Brooks said. “The attack began with the arrival of several (Iraqi) tanks, which were repelled,” he said. “Shortly after the battle was joined, a bus — a civilian bus, with people in civilian clothes — and several civilian vehicles joined the battle. Out of those vehicles

Continued on page 12

Continuing on

Hall returns from deployment ...

Continued from page 3

ally thought about how heavily the drug lords depended on the ocean for transporting drugs north, and it was good to see how strong of an impact we made."

The cruise was more than just aggressive takedowns of lawbreakers and drug runners, however. It provided an opportunity for Sailors and officers to hone skills and work toward advancement. Thirty-two John L. Hall sailors earned their Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. Even some of the crew's off-duty time was spent working and giving back to the South American communities.

In Manta, Ecuador, volunteers spent a day repairing and repainting a local elementary school.

"It was inspiring being such a help to people who really

needed it," said HM1(SW) Alfonzo Jacobs of Wildwood, Fla. "Some of these people never have anyone to look out for them, and sometimes all it takes is being in the right place at the right time, and being prepared to help out in any way you can."

The Hall Sailors also brought their selfless spirit also to assist one of nature's creatures. While transiting near the Galapagos Islands, the specialized training of the Search and Rescue (SAR) swimmers was called into action when the ship rendered assistance to a sea turtle that had been caught in drifting fishing gear.

Port visits during the cruise provided a welcome break from the long periods at sea. Visits to Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Colombia gave the crew the opportunity to

sample some local cuisine, do some shopping, and explore the scenic countryside of Central and South America.

In Panama, there were several tours offered, one which included traveling upriver in dugout canoes to a small Indian village where all manner of exotic foods and hand-crafted ornaments were made available. For those who missed home and all the usual amenities, Panama also offered American style restaurants and the dollar was universally accepted.

"I liked the fact that I didn't speak Spanish, but everyone in Panama was really nice," said SN Thaddeus Jones of Memphis, Tenn. "I ended up meeting some very interesting people that were great to hang with, no matter what language I spoke,"

NAVSTA Pascagoula 'Bravo Zulus'

Sailor of the Quarter:

MA1(SW) Zachery Loper

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: *OS2(SW)*

Demetric Cobbins

Bluejacket of the Quarter: *MS3(SCW)*

Misty McMasters

MWD teams detect ...

Continued from page 7

the tenant commands on the station, including the ships, and to other organizations outside of the station," said Koehler.

Most recently they have provided assistance to the Gautier Police Department in Gautier, Miss., and to the Naval Air Station and the Joint Reserve Base in New Orleans.

CENTCOM charts war progress ...

Continued from page 11

came Fedayeen Saddam in civilian clothes, with weapons. The attack was repelled."

Renuart said these pockets of "almost terrorist-type forces" are challenging British and American service members in and around Basra and further south. He defended coalition intelligence estimates.

"We expected the Iraqi regime to fight," he said. "We didn't expect that it would be any kind of an easy operation."

Renuart said the air component would fly more than 1,400 sorties over Iraq today, paying particular attention to the Iraqi Republican Guards and surface-to-surface missile sites. They will also target key command and control positions.

Over the weekend, news reports claimed Russian companies had supplied Iraq with prohibited high-tech equipment such as night-vision goggles

and Global Positioning System satellite jammers. Secretary of State Colin Powell told Fox News March 24 he had contacted the Russians about the equipment and they are looking in to it.

During the briefing, Renuart was asked about the Russian-supplied GPS jammers.

"We have noticed some attempts by the Iraqis to use a GPS-jamming system that they have procured from another nation," Renuart said. "Actually, we've been able to identify the location of each of those jammers, and I'm happy to report that we have destroyed all six of those jammers in the last two nights' airstrikes." The jammers, he said, had no effect.

"In fact," he continued, "we destroyed one of the GPS jammers with a GPS(-guided) weapon."



Photo by PH1 Brien Aho

K-Dog, a Bottle Nose Dolphin belonging to Commander Task Unit (CTU) 55.4.3, leaps out of the water in front Sgt. Andrew Garrett while training near USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) in the Arabian Gulf. The Navy uses dolphins to hunt for mines.

Prenatal care initiated at clinic ...

Continued from page 8

LCDR Foster's OB/GYN patients. "LCDR Foster is a wonderful doctor and she has some of the best bedside manners that I have ever experience with a doctor. I think that they are doing a wonderful job."

Wallace is expecting her third child in August, and is married to OS1(SW) Brian Wallace, with the crew of the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51).

"Our goal is good quality service to satisfy our patients," said Smith-Hollies.

MWR Activities

Navy Region Southeast MWR is seeing stars

Navy MWR and especially Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) is committed to putting its customers first.

Five years ago MWR headquarters in Millington, Tenn., made a commitment to move beyond just "good enough service" and transform Navy MWR worldwide into a "best in class" service leader to ensure is the Sailors' and their families' provider of choice for fitness and leisure! CNRSE commitment to service excellence is enabling us to meet this goal.

The commitment began when MWR headquarters partnered with Achieve Global (a world leader in helping organizations translate business strategies into business results by developing the skills and performance of their people) to roll out its customer service training program "Star Service: Achieving Extraordinary Customers Relations (AECR) " to all 18,500 MWR employees throughout 118 MWR departments worldwide in order to build a customer-focused service culture within MWR.

In October 2001, CNRSE MWR decided to move beyond

this training to sustain a customer-focused organization and established itself as a Star Service Center of Excellence (COE).

What is a Center of Excellence? A COE is a base or region so committed to service excellence and building long term customer relationships that it strives to sustain a customer-focused organization. A variety of strategies are used to achieve this goal, the most important of which is using customer feedback to improve and enhance MWR program and service delivery in an effort to meet and/or exceed customer expectations.

The COE strategy uses a methodology called Cycles of Service that provides an opportunity for MWR to proactively manage the customer experience by using customer feedback to go beyond the expected, and create a "wow" or positive memorable customer experience (PMCE) at every customer contact.

This customer feedback is being collected via telephone or face-face at MWR facilities.

As a customer it is possible you have already been asked about your experience and

have noticed improvements and enhancements being made as a result of your feedback. If you have yet to be asked, help us to improve your MWR experience by letting us know what we could do better to enhance your MWR experience and/or what might have happened that detracted us from making a PMCE.

CNRSE MWR is the first region to take on the challenge of becoming a true Regional Star Service Center of Excellence (COE). There are two other installations currently working towards becoming a Star Service COE, NSA Mid-South in Millington and NAVSTA in Great Lakes, Ill.

CNRSE rolled out the cycle of service methodology at the Jacksonville-area bases (Jacksonville, Kings Bay and Mayport) and Charleston in March 2002.

All four bases embarked on the journey together by surveying customers that utilize Gym and Fitness Center facilities at each base. Gym/Fitness facilities were chosen since standards have been developed Navy-wide and the program mandated as mission essential.

The four bases together formed a framework to share best practices and assist each other.

This key piece was instrumental in creating a "region-wide" COE crusade.

Currently all four bases have completed two cycles of service and are launching their third cycle in March 2003.

In the past four months Gulfport, Pascagoula and Guantanamo Bay employees were trained and Gym/Fitness COSITs (cycle of service improvement team) chartered. Key West and Puerto Rico will launch their Gym COSITs in late March 2003. All nine bases have grasped the concept and added their individual elements and enthusiasm, making CNRSE a leader Navywide.

By becoming a Regional Star Service COE, CNRSE MWR will be able to deliver extraordinary service to customers, enable employees to view things from the customers' perspective, give customers a voice in helping make needed changes, promote adaptability and empower frontline service employees to make a difference for you our customer!

MWR's America's Kids Run set for May 17

The *America's Kids Run* event will provide 20,000 children 5 to 13 years of age an opportunity to participate in a fun run scheduled for May 2003, on 148 military bases worldwide.

The 5- and 6- year-olds run one-half mile, the 7- and 8-year-olds run one-mile, and the 9- to 13-year-olds run two miles, with a finish line reward of an "America's Kids Run" T-shirt and the cheers of their proud parents.

Naval Station Pascagoula MWR department will host the area Kids Run on May 17 at 8 a.m.. To pre-register your



child for the event or for more information about local activities, call the Sports and Fitness Center at 761-2061 or 761-2107.

The *America's Kids Run* event offers an outstanding opportunity for children of military personnel to participate in a safe, interactive, and fun event on Navy, Air Force and Army bases as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations and in commemoration of May as Fitness Month.

America's Kids Run has a

17-year history of success, originating in Spokane, Wash. in 1986. 8,000 children in Spokane run the race in the second week of April each spring, in anticipation of an annual adult race, which attracts 50,000 runners in May.

With young children running, and teens participating as organizing volunteers, and parents cheering in the stands, it has become an eagerly anticipated family ritual that welcomes in the spring.

"Children's obesity is an epidemic state, and our event provides children an innovative, fun and safe place, to ex-

ercise, while providing an experience to enhance the self-esteem of the children who participate," states Mike Erwert, the executive director and event founder. "Our 17-year history has shown us that children who begin running as exercise at an early age continue with exercise as a lifestyle choice through their elementary, middle, and high school activities.

Military dependents worldwide now have an opportunity to join in the fun. Visit the website at: www.americas-kidsrun.org, for more information and photo's.

MWR Activities

Dominoes, spades tourneys at CrackerJack's

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

Paintball Apr. 2, 9, 16, 30 Paintball Field

Challenge your friends to join you for an adventure on the Paintball Field. Play for up to four hours for only \$10, includes protective clothing, guns and 200 paintballs. Call 761-2293 or 761-2038 to reserve the field.

NASCAR on the big screen Apr. 6, 13, 27 CrackerJack's

Get on the right track for all the April NASCAR races. The new CrackerJack's atmosphere is perfect for the 2003 NASCAR Season. Cracker Jack's opens at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Dominoes tournament Apr. 7, 7 p.m. CrackerJack's

Shuffle those bones. CrackerJack's is the place to play dominoes. The winner will receive a t-shirt.

Outdoor volleyball coaches meeting Apr. 9, Noon

Sports/Fitness Center

The 4-on-4 Volleyball league begins play on Apr. 15. Games are played during lunchtime on the pit near the softball field. Register your team and get the league rules by attending the coaches meeting. For more information call the Sports and Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Liberty Program Spring Hoopla Apr. 9, 6:30 p.m. Outdoor Basketball

Grab two of your pals and get ready to take it to the hoops. Join others for a 3-on-

3 fun basketball tournament. MWR is grilling hotdogs and hamburgers. Winners of the single-elimination tournament get Liberty Program t-shirts. Sign up at the gym by Apr. 8, or just show up for the food and fun.

Kids' Day Apr. 12, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lakeside Inn Recreation Area

The Easter Bunny arrives by NAVSTA fire truck at 11 a.m. Easter egg hunt for children under 3 years begins at 11 a.m.; children 3-5 years at 11:30 a.m.; children 6-10 at noon, and the Ultimate Egg Challenge for children 11-14 begins at 12:30 p.m. Other fun activities include games, prize give-aways, photos with the Easter Bunny. Social organizations offer hamburgers, hotdogs and soda at reasonable prices. All activities are free.

Movie and a steak Apr. 16, 6:30 p.m. at the USO

For the cost of popcorn, soda and a candy bar at the theater, you can enjoy a savory sirloin steak dinner and a newly released video movie. Join the Liberty Program at the USO for the best Wednesday night dinning experience in the area.

Spades Card Tournament Apr. 21, 7 p.m. CrackerJack's

Join other card enthusiasts for an exciting Spades tournament. Winners receive t-shirts.

Movie and a snack Apr. 30, 6:30 p.m. Cyber Café

Join other movie buffs for a movie and a treat. The only way to know what the treat is, is to be there.

Looking ahead

Spouses Appreciation Night May 9 Cracker Jack's

Have you ever considered renewing your wedding vows? Now is your chance. MWR is partnering with FFSC and the Chaplains' office to have a wonderful evening which will include comedian Jeff Allen, best known for his routine "Happy Wife, Happy Life."

Please join us on Friday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. Social hour is from 6:30-7:30 p.m. with free hors d'oeuvres. Our feature comic will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. and then Chaplain Williams will officiate the renewal vows afterwards for those that are interested.

RSVP by Friday, Apr. 25 to the FFSC office at 761-2096. Seating is limited so make your reservations soon. Dress is smart casual.

Armed Forces' Kids Run May 17, 8 a.m. Sports/Fitness Center

In conjunction with Armed Forces Day and May as Fitness Month, NAVSTA Pascagoula will join military bases worldwide in promoting youth fitness with a kids fun run. The MWR department will host this event on May 17 at 8 a.m.. Kids from 5 to 13 years of age may enter the run. Runners will have a choice of a half-mile or a mile course. All participants will receive "America's Kids Run T-Shirts." Refreshments will be served. This promises to be a fun experience for both kids and parents. Pre-register your child, get more information or volunteer to assist by calling the Sports and Fitness Center at 761-2061 or 761-2107.

MWR Facilities Hours of operation

Outdoor Rental Building 87 761-2038

Mondays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays and
Wednesdays
Thursdays and Fridays, 10
a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturdays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CrackerJack's Lakeside

Now open in its new location. CrackerJack's has extended its hours of operation to include Saturday. Many new items have been added to the menu. Try the Blue Plate Specials Monday through Thursday. Others new menu items include po-boys, salads and specialty cookies.

Mondays-Thursdays, 5-10
p.m.
Fridays, 5-11 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, 11
a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sports/Fitness Center Building 75 761-2107

Mondays-Fridays, 5:30
a.m.-9:30 p.m.
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays, noon-6 p.m.

Cyber Cafe Building 59

Mondays-Fridays, 4:30-10
p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, 11
a.m.-6 p.m.

ITT

Building 63
761-2432

Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5
p.m.

Auto Skills Shop Lakeside

Tuesdays and Fridays,
4:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.

Skeeter's

Main Softball Field

Open for softball, other
sporting events and special
occasions.