Naval Station Pascagoula's award-winning on-line newspaper

Homeport

Vol. III, No. 11

November 1, 2003

Photo by Stacey Byington

Inside:

Groves visits South America, page 3
NAVSTA gets new Reserve unit, page 5
Navy Ball snapshots, page 6

A word from our Commanders

Fallon shares vision of Fleet Forces Command

By JO3(SW) C. Grant Johnson
CFFC/CLF Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — Days after taking the helm of Fleet Forces Command (FFC), ADM William J. Fallon shared his vision with a Navy audience at this year's U.S. Naval Institute Warfare Exposition and Symposium held Oct. 8, in Virginia Beach, Va.

The speech outlined the Atlantic Fleet commander's plans to reconstitute the fleet following two unprecedented surges in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom and spelled out the future of FFC.

Fallon first began by praising the military's ability to work as a team in support of the global war on terrorism.

"You're all familiar with the success of Enduring Freedom," said Fallon. "For example, you can't get much more joint than an Air Force combat controller directing from horseback a Marine pilot flying off the deck of a Navy aircraft carrier in support of Army troops on the ground."

After highlighting some of the campaign successes, Fallon launched into his plans to hone fleet capabilities.

"We knew that after [Operation Iraqi Freedom], we were going to have to bring this force home and reset it into something that was very new and different than the way we've been doing business," said Fallon. "Something that would support surges as well as rotational deployments, without building it on the back of our Sailors."

Photo by PH1 Brien Aho

ADM William J. Fallon, the newly appointed Commander of U.S. Atlantic Fleet, speaks during the Change of Command ceremony on the flight deck of USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). ADM Robert Natter relinquished command of the Navy's Fleet Forces Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet to Adm. Fallon on Oct. 3.

To implement the changes to the Navy's organization, the Chief of Naval Operations established FFC in October 2001 with the mission of organizing, manning, training, and equipping naval forces for assignment to combatant commanders.

To accomplish its ideals, Fallon announced he will initially focus on five areas.

The first, organizational alignment, will reinforce FFC as the single fleet commander responsible for readiness and requirements.

"Our goals are to provide a unified, coordinated voice for fleet requirements. A portion of this is to enable our former fleet commanders to focus on combatant commander objectives," said Fallon.

Next on Fallon's list is the fleet's current readiness.

"We want to expand on the gains made in the last several years in current readiness by using the Fleet Readiness Program as a framework and exploiting it," said Fallon. "In the uncertain future we face, it seems to me we have to be prepared to support both flexible and rotational deployments, and to more efficiently train and provide maintenance to our capital assets."

Fallon's third goal is to identify efficiencies that can be reinvested in other key areas.

"We must champion a more efficient use of resources by incorporating the business dimension into planning and execution at every level of command," he

Continued on page 12

England reassumes SECNAV post

The Honorable Gordan England, Secretary of the Navy

When I left our department in January, I said that I would "marvel at your achievements" and "gain strength from your example." Over the last seven months, in Iraq and around the world, you have fought the enemies of freedom and prevailed. Your courage and hardened resolve is the shield Americans rely on for their security and way of life.

The success of the Navy Marine Corps team results from that daily dedication to America. It also results from the strong leadership of servants like President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and Hansford T. Johnson. H.T. guided our department through a significant battle in our global war on terrorism and through our continuing transformation. He and Linda deserve our deepest gratitude. With leaders like Adm. Clark, Gen. Hagee, MCPON Scott and Sgt. Maj. Estrada, our team is indeed blessed.

Dotty and I are pleased, proud and delighted to return to the Navy Marine Corps team. The success of our naval family is due to the quality of your work and depth of your devotion. We pledge our equal dedication to you and to your families.

In my confirmation hearing, I committed to strengthening our combat capability, improving your quality of service, recapitalizing our forces and improving business practices. Naval power 21 will continue to guide our transformation as we project persistent power, around the world and around the clock.

Working together, we will prevail in this global war on terror.

Semper fi and sail proud.

Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

Commanding Officer . . . . CDR Terry Rea
Executive Officer . . . . . LCDR Nancy Fink
Public Affairs Officer . . . Stacey Byington
Journalist . . . .JO2 Kim deJong

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

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

From our Fleet

Groves crew visits South American port

By LT J.A. McConnell
USS Stephen W. Groves PAO

MANTA, Ecuador- The guided-missile frigate USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG-29) recently made a port call to the seafaring town of Manta, Ecuador. The port visit marks the first liberty port of Groves' six-month counter-narcotics deployment.

While in Manta, Groves hosted RADM Vinson E. Smith, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command. Groves' Commanding Officer, CDR Rudy Laco, met RADM Smith and gave him a tour of the ship's new electronic systems and combat information center and explained how the recently installed equipment will aid Groves in successfully completing her counter-narcotics mission.

During the tour, Smith was also briefed on some of Groves' early accomplishments in her deployment.

"Groves' Sailors are carrying out a very essential mission for our nation's security," said Smith. "They should know that their efforts and sacrifices to keep drugs off our streets and neighborhoods are appreciated by the American people."

During the port visit, the crew was able to relax and enjoy some of the local sites including a rainforest tour hosted by the local MWR representatives.

"The tour was great but the beach at the end is what really made the trip," said LTJG Donald Murphy.

The crew got a chance to get off the ship and experience some of the street life of Manta as well. The street vendors gave several crewmembers a chance to purchase some souvenirs for family and friends back home.

"After a few weeks at sea the visit was a welcome break," said PN2(SW) Michael Salvitti.

Groves departed its homeport of Pascagoula, Miss., Sept. 25. The ship's first visit to a South American port was a successful and enjoyable one and many of the crew are already looking forward to future visits and the opportunity to learn more about the rich Latin American culture.

U.S. Navy photo

USS Stephen W. Groves' commanding officer, CDR Rudy Laco, presents a ship's plaque to RADM Vinson E. Smith, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command. Smith visited the ship during a port call to Manta, Ecuador, to thank the crew for their efforts made in the war against narco-terrorism. Groves is currently on a six-month counter-drug deployment to the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

Photo by ENS Lisa Quayle

Tico SOQs -- USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) Sailors of the Quarter are: GSM1 (SW) Gregory Reynolds, left, Sailor of the Quarter; FC2(SW) Erick Roberts, Junior Sailor of the Quarter; and SN Ryan Tanner, Bluejacket of the Quarter.

From our Fleet

Yorktown to deploy with expeditionary force

By ENS Abbas Bandukwala
USS Yorktown Public Affairs

New challenges face the crew of USS Yorktown (CG 48), because when Yorktown deploys in early 2004, the ship will be part of the USS Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG).

The upcoming deployment not only gives the crew a chance to experience working within a major task force, but will also set the standard for future U.S. Navy operations. For the past eight years, the Yorktown has been conducting successful counter drug operation deployments to the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.

The Navy's new concept of ESGs involves amphibious assault ships accompanied by combatant vessels. An ESG allows the United States to have a forward deployed Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) with a naval support force in any part of the world. Integration of amphibious vessels and Navy combatant ships will enable this group not only to have a forward deployed MEU, but also provide the capabilities to act against surface vessels and submarines.

Commanded by Commander Steven E. Sloan, USS Yorktown is a 'smart ship' *Ticonderoga* Aegis class cruiser.

The ship was constructed at Ingalls Shipbuilding Pascagoula, Miss., between 1981 and 1984. Its Aegis system incorporates searching, targeting and weapons firing into an integrated combat system. Aegis ships are the most technologically advanced fighting ships in the United States Navy. Yorktown's 'smart ship' program enables its crew to use computer programs to monitor and control some ship systems and therefore help reduce the manning requirements of the ship.

U.S. Navy Photo

Yorktown's conning officer, PC2 Frank Perkins, and range finder operator, ENS Abbas Bandukwala, stand watch during a recent ship's underway replenishment.

Yorktown was originally chosen to accompany the George Washington Carrier Battle Group, but the ship was needed more elsewhere. Based on the ship's systems and its outstanding performance in past exercises and deployments, the Yorktown was assigned to the Wasp ESG in July 2003.

In addition to Yorktown, the other ships included in the Wasp ESG are three amphibious assault ships, USS Wasp (LHD 1), USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) and USS Shreveport (LPD 12); two *Ticonderoga* class cruisers, USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) and Yorktown; an *Arleigh Burke* class destroyer, USS McFaul (DDG 74); and a *Virginia* class submarine.

The ships in this group are now training together to improve fighting capabilities by working as a team. The ESG will deploy to the Mediterranean for six months, but this destination could change at any time.

Whether it will be aiding in fighting the war on terrorism or providing support for other hostile situations in the world, Yorktown, along with the Wasp ESG, will be ready to launch support wherever needed and at any time.

Baby dedication held on Ticonderoga

Even though Kaitlyn McDonald is only three months old, she has touched the lives of many people around her, including those aboard the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47).

On Friday, Oct. 17, her dedication was held on the ship.

Kaitlyn Elisabeth McDonald, daughter of Ticonderoga crewmember, SK2 James McDonald and his wife, Rebecca, was born on Aug. 1.

She was seven weeks premature, weighing only 4 pounds, 8 ounces. After spending two weeks in a natal intensive care unit she was able to go home only to return to the hospital a week later for two more weeks of care.

While Kaitlyn was in the hospital, she was visited by many people from around the community and from the ship. She is now home and her health improves daily.

SK2 James McDonald decided to hold her dedication on the USS Ticonderoga because "the Captain and crew truly showed what the Navy family is all about."

Around the Homeport

New Reserve unit augments Security force

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Naval Station Pascagoula's security force will soon be augmented by 46 additional personnel, when a new reserve unit — Commander, Navy Region Southeast, Force Protection Pascagoula (CNRSE FP PAS) — stands up and integrates itself into the current station security force.

The reserve unit, one of approximately 20 new Reserve Naval Security Force (NSF) units being established around the country, will begin drilling at NAVSTA Pascagoula this month.

LCDR Jeff Johnson is the new commanding officer of CNRSE FP PAS.

"Our mission is to augment the base security force in force protection conditions Charlie and Delta," said Johnson. "Administratively, we drill out of the Naval Reserve Center in Mobile, Ala. Operationally, we work for the commanding officer of Naval Station Pascagoula."

The unit make-up will consist of one officer, Johnson, and 45 enlisted personnel. All the enlisted personnel are rated Masters-at-Arms (MAs), or from among other ratings and possess the interest and competency for force protection and law enforcement.

They have been moved from other units into this specialized one with the primary mission of force protection.

"Approximately 80 percent of our unit are experienced personnel," said Johnson. "The other 20 percent are junior personnel looking to strike for, or convert to, Master-at-Arms. Several of our MAs were recalled immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, and assigned to Naval Station Pascagoula. They are already familiar with most of the security personnel and some of the procedures."

Johnson added that most of his people live and work in Mobile, south Alabama, and along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

"This is a brand new unit, operating under a brand new concept," said Johnson.

The NSF is a new initiative of the Reserve Force, and calls for eventually having a dedicated NSF unit at each Navy installation around the country.

"We have to be prepared to carry out Homeland Security functions around our installations, and not just when we are forward deployed," said CAPT Mark Donahue, Reserve Liaison Officer, Fleet Forces Command. "It's become a major function and a major mission, and it's one the Reserves very logically fit into to fill this requirement."

For the Reserve Force, the concept has opened up a new window of opportunity. With permanent NSF responsibilities being added to the list of Reserve mission areas, the Reserve Force now has the occasion to offer tremendous advancement opportunities to those who would join the ranks of the Security Force, specifically the MA community. Thousands of Reserve MAs will be needed to fill NSF manning requirements.

"It's a win-win situation," said Donahue. "The installations get a trained cadre, an extension of their security force that will be there to respond to a crisis when it arises, and to help out with day-to-day things that come along. The Reserve units have an honest-to-God, real-world mission requirement that they can fill."

Johnson says Pascagoula's new unit will serve in a contributory support mode all the time.

"Each reserve member will be working with an active duty counterpart," he said. "We should be able to integrate seamlessly into the current security force. People outside the security force shouldn't be able to tell the difference between the active duty and the Reserves."

NAVSTA Pascagoula's Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea, is pleased to welcome the new unit.

"This reserve unit is going to provide us with quality, trained personnel to augment our security forces," said Rea. "One of the greatest benefits is that the Reserves will lessen the burden on our Auxiliary Security Force. In the past, we relied very heavily on tenant command support to augment our security forces. We'll keep that program in place, but our use of the Auxiliary Security Force should be very short term while we make arrangements for the reservists to come on board.

"The great thing about having a reserve unit attached to the base is that they are readily available and already trained to our local procedures in the event that they are recalled," Rea added. "We'll know these folks are ready because we'll see them on a routine basis as they report for their monthly drill here at the Naval Station. And, just as importantly, they'll know us. That is, they'll know our procedures and our environment.

"LCDR Johnson and I are very enthusiastic about the quality of training that can be accomplished under this arrangement. It's a great step forward in ensuring we have the proper resources for an increased security posture."

The new unit held its first organizational meeting in Mobile in October when they took care of administrative paperwork, indoctrination, and mission briefings. They begin drilling at NAVSTA Pascagoula in November.

"I am extremely lucky to have some very good people," said Johnson. "I think this is a great opportunity for our Reservists to be part of a new mission area that will be very important for years to come."

Photo by Stacey Byington

SKSN Cassidy Blessing stands aboard one of NAVSTA Pascaogoula's 'float fleet.' The 'fleet' will be one of many units participating in area parades over the next few months. Blessing, and others assigned to First Division, constructed the 'fleet.'

Around the Homeport

Pascagoula celebrates Navy birthday

Residents of the Armed Forces Home, Gulfport, raise their glasses in a toast to the President of the United States at Naval Station Pascagoula's Navy Birthday Ball, held Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Grand Casino in Biloxi. The residents were special guests of the Navy Ball committee. More than 300 people attended this year's special commemoration of our Navy history.

Photos by
Stacey Byington

CAPT James Martin, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6, reads the Secretary of the Navy's birthday message.

BM2 Shawn Hooks tolls the ship's bell in remembrance of departed shipmates.

About the cover-- ***The oldest and youngest Sailors (having the most and least time on active duty) traditionally cut the Navy birthday cake. CDR Rodney Duggins, Material Officer at Sup-Ship Gulf Coast, has almost 30 years on active duty. MASN Justin Bentley and MASN Brenda Cantrell work in the Naval Station Security Department, and have only six months in the Navy.***

Around the Homeport

PO Womble nominated for Fredian award

By JO2 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The Mississippi Gulf Coast's 25th annual 'Salute to the Military' took place Oct. 20 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. During the salute the 2003 Thomas V. Fredian Community Service Award was presented by the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce to one outstanding enlisted military member.

HT1(SW) Marcus Womble was this year's nominee from the Naval Station Pascagoula area.

Womble, a Mississippi native working in his home state for the first time in his military career, is now a member of the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) team.

He was nominated for the Fredian award because of his commitment to community involvement.

Womble is active with the local schools and the Dixie baseball league. He also works closely with the youth in the local community.

Photo by JO2 Kim deJong

HT1(SW) Marcus Womble completes an inspection of a recirculation pump discharge pipe. Womble is one of SIMA's quality assurance inspectors, and was nominated for the Thomas V. Fredian Community Service Award.

He is also one of SIMA's honor guard members, and has participated in more than 20 military functions supporting community events.

SIMA's Commanding Officer CDR D.A. Mitchell praises Womble for his participation in the community.

"The time and teaching that he invests in the children helps them to mature and become the leaders of tomorrow," said Mitchell.

Womble is constantly striving to be a positive role model for the community youth.

"Being involved in the happening of our community allows us to help in improving the health and well being of our community," he said. "It also improves our relationship with the people of our community."

The Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, was this year's guest speaker at the 'Salute to the Military.'

In an interview with the Sun Herald newspaper before his speech, Clark said the Navy considers Naval Station Pascagoula a vital base that gives access to the Gulf and South America, which could give the base some protection when the Base Realignment and Closure Commission meets in 2005.

"It's an important base to us," he said. "The proximity of the shipyard is important to us. It's a good fit."

Thrift savings open season runs through Dec. 31

By CNP Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Sailors interested in contributing to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) can sign up now. The open season began Oct. 15 and runs through December 31. Those already enrolled can increase their contributions up to the allowable level.

TSP works much like a civilian 401(K) savings plan, where pre-tax dollars are invested to provide retirement monies for Sailors. Taxes are deferred on TSP contributions, meaning no federal (and in most cases, state) income taxes are paid on contributions or earnings until the money is withdrawn, usually at retirement when many are in a lower tax bracket.

Contributions to TSP can range from as little as 1 percent to 8 percent of basic pay in 2003. Bonus, special or incentive pay may also be contributed, up to the $12,000 IRS tax limit permitted this year. Basic pay contribution limits increase through 2006 when TSP contributions will be limited only by IRS rules.

TSP investments may be directed to any of five different funds, which vary in risk and investment mixture. The five funds are: government securities investment (G fund); fixed income investment, common stock index investment, small capitalization stock index investment and international stock index investment.

Contributions are initially directed to the G fund. Sailors can then redirect their investment.

Sailors can transfer any amount of money into the TSP from certain qualified retirement plan if a Sailor leaves the service. This option makes TSP an attractive investment whether someone serves four or 30 years.

"TSP is an outstanding opportunity for Sailors to provide for their financial future," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "I encourage everyone to learn more by speaking with financial counselors or by using the Web site during this open enrollment period. There's never been a better time to pay yourself first than right now." For more information on TSP, go to *http://www.tsp.gov.*

Around the Homeport

***Hispanic Heritage* -- More than 150 people take part in the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration luncheon, held Oct. 9, in the NAVSTA Pascagoula gymnasium. The food was catered by El Saltillo of Ocean Springs. Mrs. Delores Keenum, a Spanish instructor at William Carey College and at Moss Point High School, was the guest speaker. The luncheon was hosted by NAVSTA Pascagoula's American Heritage Committee, and the Employees Equal Opportunity Committee of SupShip Gulf Coast.**

Photo by Stacey Byington

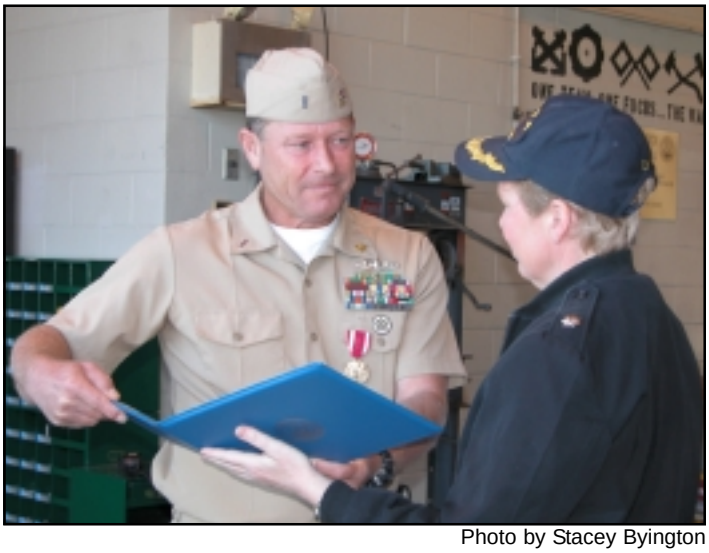

Photo by Stacey Byington

***Farewell* -- CWO4 Raymond Thomas, Port Services Officer for NAVSTA Pascagoula, is presented with a Meritorious Service Medal by CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA Pascagoula's commanding officer. The medal was presented on CWO4 Thomas' retirement after 30 years of active duty.**

Name the Store

Name the new store at the Fitness Center, and win a prize. Place votes in the box. Also, nominations are being held for the "Customer of the Month."

Photo by Stacey Byington

***Community support* -- GM1 Brian Weimer shows off his 'Light the Night Walk' t-shirt and balloon, after participating in the local 'Light the Night Walk,' which raises money for leukemia patients.**

Around the Homeport

***Promotion** -- ENS Kevin Albert, formerly Chief Albert, has his Navy cover, representing his new rank, placed on his head by CDR Rodney Duggins, Material Officer at SupShip Gulf Coast. ENS Albert was selected as a limited duty officer into the Supply Corps and has recently transferred to the Supply Corps school in Athens, Ga. CDR Duggins was the guest speaker at ENS Albert's commissioning ceremony.*

Photo by Stacey Byington

Photo by Stacey Byington

***Promotion** -- CDR John Zollo, SC, signs his promotion authorizations after being promoted to his current rank on Oct. 1.*

Photo by Stacey Byington

***Reenlistment** -- PN2 Gary Macalusa reenlists for three more years in the Navy during a farewell luncheon held at Ruby Tuesday in Moss Point. The reenlisting officer is LTJG Brian Carroll.*

CLICK IT OR TICKET

Be safe, not sorry. The NAVSTA Pascagoula Security Department will be conducting the "Click it or Ticket" program Nov. 17 – 30.

Military News

Former WWII enlisted pilot is last of a few

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

GULFPORT, Miss. — Richard D. Beaver is one of the last of a few. And at 84 years old, he's an "endangered species" of the Silver Eagles — the World War II enlisted pilots of the sea services.

But to Beaver, age is irrelevant. "I came here to the Armed Forces Retirement Home (formerly the Naval Home) in 1991 when I was 72. People are supposed to be old at that age, but I didn't feel old. I felt like I was about 40 or 50, and there are people here at 60 who look like they're 120," Beaver said with a hushed laugh.

When it comes to the retirement home, Beaver said, "You can't find anything like it anywhere else for the price you've got. It serves my purpose. It's great — beautiful."

As a teenager, Beaver became frustrated and disappointed because he couldn't find a job in the rural community of Fancy Creek Township in Sangamon County, Ill., near Springfield, the county seat. Sangamon County, located in the heart of Illinois, was the home of Abraham Lincoln, the nation's 16th president. Beaver was born there on May 24, 1919.

The Navy beckoned, and Beaver took the oath of enlistment Sept. 11, 1938. "There (were) no jobs, so the Navy seemed like a good place to go," said Beaver.

He became a Machinist's Mate, but he really wanted to fly combat aircraft as a Navy pilot. Graduating from boot camp in San Diego in December 1938, Beaver went aboard the destroyer USS Perkins 377 and worked his way from the deck force to the engine room, which he liked.

"I made seaman first class in three years — before World War II — which was a pretty good deal," Beaver said proudly.

Photo by Rudi William

Richard Beaver holds a couple of his keepsakes in his room at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Miss., which includes his Navy uniform shirt with the rank of lieutenant and his enlisted pilot rank of chief petty officer.

The Perkins sailed to Hawaii to join the Hawaiian Detachment in September 1939, the month the Nazis invaded Poland; Great Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand and Canada declared war on Germany; the British Royal Air Force attacked the German Navy; and the United States proclaimed neutrality.

Beaver said, at first, there was just a squadron of destroyers and cruisers there. Then on May 7, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Pacific Fleet to Pearl Harbor.

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Beaver was at the Navy Yard on Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif., near San Francisco.

"We got underway immediately and made two convoy trips from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor," Beaver noted. "We convoyed the first expeditionary troops to the Pacific out of San Francisco."

Beaver was aboard when the Perkins was engaged in the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Sydney Harbor (Australia). The Perkins was involved in pivotal battles around Guadalcanal and New Guinea, and earned four battle stars during World War II. The only damage the Perkins received while Beaver was a crewman was hits by shrapnel.

Beaver said he was lucky because he'd gotten off the destroyer when a damaged propeller screw caused the ship to return to Pearl Harbor from the South Pacific in August 1942. While repairs were being made, Beaver used his liberty time to take civilian flying lessons. His application for Navy flight school was approved before the Perkins headed back to war.

"They wanted to make me a (chief petty officer) before I left the ship for flight school, but I refused it because I wanted to fly more," he said.

"I'd finished flight school - earned my wings - when she (Perkins) was sunk in November 1943," Beaver noted. "I was flying combat patrols then - what I'd always wanted to do."

"As soon as I got out of flight school, I went to San Diego for assignment with the PT (Patrol Torpedo Boat) 72 patrol squadron - 'the Knights of the Sea,'" Beaver noted. Operating out of Funafuti in the Ellice Islands, he flew the "Black Cat" PBY Catalinas, a squadron of black-painted aircraft that operated mainly at night against enemy shipping.

"We did patrols out of there prior to the invasion of the Central Pacific, the Gilberts, Marshalls and Enewetak islands," Beaver explained. "That took about a year, then we went through Tarawa and Kwajalein, and we had planes in the Marianas during the Marianas campaign. That took another year. Then we came back to the states because our airplanes were worn out by then."

He said the invasion of Tarawa atoll is called one of the worst and bloodiest battles the Marines had ever faced. "The reason was the tide was supposed to be in, but by some phenomena of weather, the tide was out," Beaver noted. "So the landing crafts couldn't get

Continued on page 12

Navy Pascagoula

INTRAMURAL League

BASKETBALL

Make your team roster

Make it to the

Coaches Meeting

Wednesday, November 12

1200 - Gym Floor

And get on the road to the Championship.

League begins play on November 18.

For more information call the gym 761-2107.

All eligible Fitness Center Patrons may participate.

Continuing on ...

New admiral shares vision of fleet ...

Continued from page 2

said. "This is not something that belongs just in Washington; it belongs in the minds of each of our commanders. There is no free lunch here. We have got to take into account the cost of doing business."

Fallon's fourth goal deals with active and Reserve integration, an important aspect in the global war on terrorism.

"We are going to structure, man, train, and equip the Naval Reserve to better support Navy mission requirements to truly achieve an integrated and relevant total force," said Fallon. "The majority of the focus here is going to be on the active side, which has allowed the business of the Naval Reserve to be done by the Reserve. We're going to change that."

The commander's final goal gives naval units a single, authoritative fleet-driven voice in the requirements process.

"The business of 'I need, I want, I gotta have, I must have' and the endless list of requirements that are just passed up the line to D.C. in some great expectation that Santa Clause will arrive, well, that's just not going to cut it," said Fallon. "We're going to start making some hard decisions, and [FFC] is the place to do it."

Fallon closed his speech by stressing his excitement about the future of the naval forces.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of the accomplishments of our people, particularly and most recently in the global war on terrorism," said Fallon. "We've learned some very important lessons, and we're acting rapidly and decisively to ensure we have the full range of capabilities that we need."

Navy enlisted pilot is last of a few...

Continued from page 11

close to the beach for the Marines and soldiers to get off. They were about a mile out and tried to get to the beach in waist-deep water. About 4,000 Japanese were on the island and slaughtered the guys in the water."

After the war was over in 1945, he went to the Philippine island of Samar, the site of the Battle Off Samar, for a short time. From there he went to Guam, then back to the United States.

"I still hadn't been commissioned; I was still a chief petty officer aviation pilot," Beaver said. "When I came back from that tour of duty in the Pacific, they recommended us for commission because you couldn't fly in a war zone as an enlisted pilot at that time. So I became an ensign in '46 when I came back to Guam. That's when I came back to the states and I took a discharge. I wanted to get out.

"They discontinued the enlisted pilot program in 1948, and the last one retired in 1981," he explained. "Those that were already in were allowed to continued on to retirement.

"We were kind of a breed of our own, I guess," Beaver said. "They called us 'Silver Eagles,' and three enlisted pilots who were commissioned became admirals. So that's quite a history, which we're proud of."

MWR's November events ...

Continued from page 13

Three Doors Down Concert
Nov. 26
Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Entertain yourself with music by Three Doors Down. Tickets are $32.50 and the deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 21 at ITT.

MWR Facilities Thanksgiving Hours
Nov. 27

Sport and Fitness Center, Noon - 6 p.m.
Cracker Jack's, 5 - 10 p.m.
Cyber Cafe, noon - 10 p.m.
Skeeter's, Closed
Outdoor Rental, Closed
ITT, Closed
Child Development Homes office, Closed

Bayou Classic
Nov. 29, 10 a.m.

Join the fun of the clash between Louisiana's Southern University and Grambling College. Tickets range from $25 to $45 and are available through Nov 7 at ITT. For more information call Liberty at 761-2293 or 761-2402.

MWR Facilities Hours of operation

Outdoor Rental
761-2038
Boats, campers, travel trailers, land and garden equipment, outdoor grills, propane, hunting and fishing licenses, and much, much more. Mondays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on Saturdays, Sundays

Cracker Jack's
Lakeside
938-0439
Serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday. Food and beverages, five TVs, including a big-screen, free pool tables, free computers with internet capability, playstations, patio with view of the lake. Mondays-Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.; Fridays, 5-11 p.m., Breakfast, 6-7:30 a.m.; Lunch, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sports/Fitness Center
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/ Liberty Center
761-2402/761-2293
Food and snacks, 12 free computer stations with internet capability, playstations, free pool tables, big-screen TV, movies. Mondays-Fridays, 10a.m. -10 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

ITT
761-2432
Ticket outlet for Gulf Coast Colliseum, theme park tickets, worldwide cruise packages, vacation and travel planning, information on local attractions. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Skeeter's
Main Softball Field
Open for breakfast Monday through Friday, 6 - 9 a.m. Also open for softball games, other sporting events, and for other special occasions.

MWR Activities

ITT has tickets for Alan Jackson concert

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

Paintball
Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26
4:30 p.m.
Paintball Field

Feel like changing the normal afternoon routine? Grab a couple of friends and head to the Paintball field every Wednesday afternoon for a couple of games of "Capture the Flag." It's fun and exciting. The field is available every Wednesday beginning at 4:30 p.m. Play for up to four hours for only $10 per person. Includes protective clothing, guns and 200 paintballs. Call 761-2293 or 761-2038 to reserve the field.

Monday Night Football
8 p.m.
Cracker Jack's

Make the most of Monday night football and join your friends for all the Monday night football games at Cracker Jack's. Don't miss one thrilling moment of the action on the big screen and four smaller ones. Get all the buffalo wings you can eat. To add to the fun, there will be prizes given away during the games, and if you can predict the score, take home an NFL t-shirt. The 'Hot Wings Special' - all you can eat for $5 - will be offered at all Monday night games.

Nov. 3, New England vs. Denver.

Nov. 10, Philadelphia vs. Green Bay.

Nov. 17, Pittsburgh vs. San Francisco.

Nov. 24, NY Giants vs. Tampa Bay.

Cracker Jack's is open every Saturday and Sunday, noon to 10 p.m. Enjoy all the college and professional football games and other sporting events on the big screen television.

Pizza and a Movie Night
Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m.
Cyber Cafe

Cancel all your plans for the night and keep your money in your pocket. The liberty center is providing the food and entertainment. Come early and enjoy free pizza and check out one of the latest video releases. Come ready to have some fun.

Alan Jackson Concert
Nov. 8
Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Enjoy a night of music and fun with Alan Jackson. Tickets are $65.50, $51 and $35. They are available at ITT through Thursday, Nov. 5.

Madeas Class Reunion
Nov. 11
Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Tickets are $35.50 and are on sale until Nov. 5 at ITT.

UNO Tournament
Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Cyber Cafe

Come out of a chance to have some fun while you win prizes. The tournament is free and even if you don't know how to play, it's easy to learn. There's nothing to lose.

MWR Facilities
Veterans Day Hours
Nov. 10

Sports and Fitness Center, Noon-6 p.m.
Cracker Jacks, 5 - 10 p.m.
Cyber Cafe, noon - 10 p.m.
Skeeter's, Closed
Outdoor Rental, Closed
ITT, Closed

Liberty Shopping Trip
Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Get ahead on your Christmas shopping by taking advantage of this shopping trip to the Riviera Centre Factory Stores in Foley, Ala. With 120 brand name outlet stores you are sure to find something for everyone on your list. The trip is free, but you need to sign up at the Cyber Cafe, Cracker Jack's or ITT by Nov. 7. To find out more, call Liberty at 761-2293 or 761-2402.

Intramural Basketball
Coaches' Meeting
Nov. 12, Noon
Gym

The IBL needs stars to take it to the hoop. If your unit would like to compete please send a representative to this meeting. Leagues start Nov. 18.

Liberty Turkey Fry
Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Cyber Cafe

The Liberty Program is delivering the Thanksgiving bird early and it's fried. If you have never tasted moist, crisp, deep-fried turkey before, your taste buds are in for a treat. Join the Liberty crew for an early holiday feast, which will include turkey, tasty side dishes and it's free.

Spades Tournament
Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Cracker Jack's

Whether you are a player or a spectator, the games will be fun. The entry is free and the winners take home unique prizes.

Bowling for Turkeys
Nov. 21, Noon
Spanish Trails Lanes

Join your shipmates and coworkers for an afternoon of Pre-Thanksgiving merriment and a chance to take a strike at your Thanksgiving entree. The outing features lunch and three games on the lanes. Pizza and hot wings will be served from noon to 12:45 p.m. Bowling starts at 1 p.m. The event is open to active duty, reservists, retirees, DoD civilians and family members. The cost is $10 and you must sign up and pay by Nov. 17 at the gym.

Continued on page 13

Personal Classifieds

Vehicles

FOR SALE: Electric scooter, $200. Runs great, needs air in tires. Runs about 9 miles per hour, gets about 30 days to a charge, depending on usage. Great for a college student to use for getting around campus without a car. Great for transiting around the neighborhood. Not for use on open roads. Comes with charger, helmet, tool kit, light, and lock. For more information or to give it a test ride, call Stacey Byington, 761-2164 during working hours, or at (228) 522-6050.