



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

Homeport

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A word from our Commanders

SECNAV speaks on the safety of the Navy

As your Secretary and chief safety officer, I want to reemphasize the priority we must place on protecting the safety of our most precious asset — every sailor, marine and civilian employee within the Department of the Navy.

In order to achieve Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's two-year, 50 percent mishap reduction goal, a three-tiered approach was outlined three months ago to dramatically improve the safety culture within the Department of the Navy. Since then, we have seen little improvement.

My message today is directed at every leader within the department - not just commanding officers, but everyone who supervises the actions of another. We must change the value we place on safety and together turn the tide. For the most part, we have expertly managed the mechanisms and processes of our safety programs, but today I need your help. Today each of us must begin to lead a dramatic change in our safety culture, incorporating safety and health considerations into all job duties and operational decisions.

My safety policy for the Department of the Navy is quite simple. Every command, every work center, every unit will have a safety culture built on three principles: leadership commitment, leadership courage and leadership integrity. Today's leaders for safety must exhibit a solid commitment to communicate safety policy and to personally abide by it. They must verbalize a belief in the value of safety and create an environment that encour-



*The Honorable
Gordon England,
Secretary of the Navy*

ages open, frank communication. They must have the courage to set and enforce tough and sometimes-unpopular standards, to allocate safety resources (the right people and sufficient funding), and to provide quality training to ensure their personnel learn correct safety practices.

Today's leaders must have the integrity to hold themselves and their people accountable for violations of safety standards and to admit their own safety failures so others will do likewise. An effective leader must also openly praise and celebrate safety accomplishments.

While the CNO, CMC and I are leading this mishap reduction effort for the Department of the Navy, we know that, in

the end, success or failure depends on you.

The CMC and CNO are establishing comprehensive mishap reduction plans to guide the department in achieving the SECDEF 50 percent reduction goal by the end of FY05. These plans will require leadership and resources — we must be committed to both. We will develop and track metrics to accurately measure our performance, and our level of success will be shared with you.

I pledge to you my full support and commitment. Through our collective leadership efforts we will dramatically elevate the safety culture throughout the Navy and Marine Corps.

It will take a decisive and targeted level of effort to achieve a 50 percent mishap reduction in two years, but if the effort saves your life or the life of a shipmate, fellow Marine or co-worker, there is no better time spent.

I commend each of you, your families and your loved ones for the sacrifices you make to preserve the freedom of our great nation.

President Bush talks to veterans

By Sgt. First Class Doug Sample, USA
Armed Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., Nov. 11, 2003 — President Bush expressed the nation's gratitude to its veterans in remarks at Arlington National Cemetery here today, where he also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

On a day that saw him sign legislation to increase some military benefits, double the benefits paid to surviving family members of service members who die on active duty, and establish six new national cemeteries, Bush said Veterans Day is a day for the country to remember the debt the nation owes to all who have worn the uniform of the United States.

"Our veterans have borne the costs of America's wars and have stood watch over America's peace," the president said. "And today, every veteran can be certain the nation you served and the people you defended are grateful."

He said the nation knows Arlington National Cemetery as the final resting place of those lost to the violence of war. "Yet most of the markers here stand over the graves of Americans who lived beyond their years of military service," the presi-

dent noted.

"On the hills of Arlington and in the daily lives of our country, veterans have a special place," he said. "We honor them all for their service in uniform, and we honor American veterans for the full lives of ... service they continue to lead."

The president said that of the 25 million veterans still living today, more than 11 million are from the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam. He added that more than 4 million living Americans served in World War II, and that it is still possible to thank in person almost 200 Americans who were in uniform "when the guns of World War I went silent 85 years (ago) today." That special group who served when Woodrow Wilson was the commander in chief is now more than 100 years old, he said, "and they can know that America is still proud of them."

The president said the United States always has gone to war reluctantly, but always for a noble cause. "In the hardest hours of conflict, they served just and honorable purposes," he said. "They've humbled tyrants and defended the innocent and liberated the oppressed. And across the earth, you will find entire na-

Continued on page 14



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 JO1 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.

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From our Fleet

Groves chokes drug smuggling operation

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

A 12-hour, 305-mile chase resulted in the seizure of 1.5 tons of cocaine and the detention of six suspects during USS Stephen W. Groves' (FFG 29) first drug bust in the Eastern Pacific. The frigate is currently assigned to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Area of Operations.

Participating in a concerted team effort with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) 201, Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42 Detachment 10, and the Coast Guard HC-130 from the Coast Guard air station in Clearwater, Fla., Groves crewmembers captured a go-fast vessel, a high-speed boat specifically built for smuggling drugs.

After the seizure of the "go-fast," crews on the Groves and USCGC Steadfast were able to relocate and recover nearly 1.5 tons of cocaine, which had



Photo by LT J. A. McConnell

A U.S. Coast Guard HC-130 aircraft and a U.S. Navy RHIB from USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) approach a suspected drug smuggling vessel during a recent Maritime Interdiction Operation (MIO) conducted in the Eastern Pacific.

been jettisoned as the suspects tried to flee. The recovered cocaine had a street value of almost \$30 million.

According to ENS Jeff Bolling, LEDET-201 OIC, "It is really rare to capture a fully-fueled go-fast in a flat-out

chase."

"Only with the precise coordination of everyone involved was the capture of the go-fast possible," added Groves' Commanding Officer CDR Rudy Laco.

Groves began her six-mon-

th counter-drug operations deployment to the U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command area of responsibility on Sept. 25. While deployed, Groves' crew works with other assets from Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) South, the agency responsible for counter-drug operations in the Eastern Pacific.

Homeported in Pascagoula, Miss., Groves is a Commander, Naval Surface Group (CNSG) 2 ship, assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6. During its deployment, the crew will be patrolling nearly 4 million square nautical miles in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.

When asked what he thought about Groves' first bust ENS Matthew Noland summed it up when he said, "This is what I joined the Navy for, for a chance to get out and do what we train for, and for a chance to actually make a difference, and I know that's what were doing".

Decisive takes part in annual TACT training

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The USCGC Decisive wrapped up their most recent deployment by taking part in Tailored Annual Training (TACT). The training was held while the cutter was operating near Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

"TACT is an intensive 19 day period where we conduct over 150 drills and exercises," said LCDR David Strong, Decisive's Executive Officer.

Throughout the training the crew took part in gunnery exercises, navigation, emergency and visual signaling drills.

"This training is not only to train the crew but also to hone the skills of our onboard training teams," said Strong.



USCG Photo

HM2 Schofield instructs another crewmember on the procedures for treating a compound fracture.

During this deployment the crew took advantage of a three-day port call in Puerto

Plata, Dominican Republic, where they enjoyed local shopping, beaches and the local

nightlife.

As they made their way to Mayport, the crew offloaded 1.6 tons of marijuana and seven detainees in Miami, Fla., who were intercepted earlier in the deployment.

The crew celebrated Halloween on the ship with a costume contest and trick or treating.

While in Mayport the crew took some time off to enjoy seeing the local area attractions of Jacksonville including movies, restaurants and beaches.

Some even attended the Jaguars-Colts NFL game while others challenged another Coast Guard cutter to a softball game.

The Decisive returned to Pascagoula in late November just before Thanksgiving.

From our Fleet



Photo by SK2 James McDonald

Students from Jackson Elementary School in Pascagoula hold their ears as the ship's horn is sounded on USS Ticonderoga (CG 47). Jackson Elementary is one of the Tico's adopted schools, and crewmembers invited the third- and fourth-grade students to tour the ship and have lunch with the crew on Nov. 19. The Ticonderoga is homeported at Naval Station Pascagoula.

Elementary students tour Ticonderoga

By ENS Lisa Quayle
USS Ticonderoga PAO

Even chilly weather and prevailing winds couldn't keep spirits down when nearly 140 students from Jackson Elementary School in Pascagoula toured USS Ticonderoga (CG 47). It will be a field trip to remember as third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students paired up with enthusiastic tour guides and learned about the first AEGIS guided-missile cruiser.

The ship's First Class Association organized the event to give local students a little flavor of the Navy. Many of the children in attendance are sons and daughters of Sailors on Ticonderoga.

The students arrived at 9 a.m. and were broken into small groups. OS1(SW/AW) Chad Kiser put his sign language skills to good use as he guided some hearing impaired students around the ship.

"It was nice to see a big smile on their faces when they

saw that someone from Ticonderoga knew sign language," he said.

First stop on the tour was Mount 52 and the Harpoon launchers. Gunner's Mates dazzled the students on the next stop of the tour with a missile-training demonstration on the MK-26 launcher. Students ducked as the missiles spun around and tracked simulated targets. The students then learned about different helicopters that land on Ticonderoga.

The ship's Operations Spe-

cialists showed how they detect and engage targets in Combat Information Center (CIC). In the pilothouse, the students learned how the ship maneuvers. Each student had the chance to get behind the wheel and simulate driving the ship.

The last stop on the tour was at the galley, where Mess Specialists served punch and cookies.

As the students departed the ship, many stated they wanted to become future naval warriors.

Around the Homeport

Veterans' Day celebrated around the area

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Pascagoula Navy personnel participated in several Veterans' Day activities around the area, including parades and special ceremonies honoring veterans.

Naval Station Pascagoula's 'Float Fleet' garnered a first-place trophy after taking part in the Jackson County Veterans' Parade, held Nov. 8.

Members of the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) organized a Veterans' Day ceremony, Nov. 11, at the Mississippi Vietnam Memorial on U.S. Route 90 in Ocean Springs.

As part of the ceremony, Senior Chief Scott Mitchell read "Old Glory," and a flag detail conducted a 'passing the flag' ceremony, presenting a U.S. flag to 72-year-old Mississippi veteran Robert Cozart.

Cozart served in the U.S. Army from 1947 to 1950, and then he joined the U.S. Navy in 1968 and served with the Seabees until 1988.



Photo by Stacey Byington
Veteran's out of VFW Post 160 in Pascagoula conduct a POW/MIA ceremony on Veterans' Day during ceremonies at the B.E. "Mac" McGinty Civic Center in Pascagoula.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong
Naval Station Pascagoula's 'Float Fleet' took first place in the annual Jackson County Veteran's Parade, held Saturday, Nov. 8.

NAVSTA Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea, was the guest speaker at the Jackson County Veterans' Day ceremony, held Nov. 11 at the B.E. "Mac" McGinty Civic Center.

"I've been to several Veterans' Day celebrations over the past several days, and in all cases, a heart-warming phenomenon has struck me — the joining of our nation's young people with our nation's veterans," she said.

"Schools are playing a huge part in providing a forum for an exchange of honor and respect between our young people and our elders, between the people who have fought and sacrificed their lives in pursuit of American freedoms, and those people who will likely continue to do so in the generations to come."

She congratulated the Jackson County schools — staff and students — for their promotion and participation in ac-

tivities involving veterans.

She spoke about how the methodology of war has changed, and the faceless enemies we face.

"The heinous attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were hideous wake-up calls for us, waking us up to the necessity of protecting our own shores," Rea said. "The fight we are engaged in now is to keep the enemy from reaching our shores..."

"Today we are engaged in a war unlike any other America has fought. But while the enemy may be different, the reasons to fight are the same —

to protect the American people, to preserve our freedoms, and to ensure a peaceful future for ourselves and our children."

She told area veterans to take pride in their service and to be proud of the legacy they left to those who still wear the uniform.

"Your sacrifices have not been forgotten. Your dedication and passion for our freedom is inspirational," Rea said. "Today's uniformed force is just as dedicated, just as patriotic, just as strong, and just as sure of the ideals we are fighting to preserve. You can be proud of those who have followed you."



Photo by Stacey Byington

Several hundred people turned out at the Veterans' Day activities at the B.E. "Mac" McGinty Civic Center in Pascagoula.

Around the Homeport

Bikers practice bike-handling skills

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Another aspect of station security is being expanded at Naval Station Pascagoula — its security bike patrol.

Currently there are nine members of the NAVSTA security bike patrol, and the unit is conducting training to qualify new members.

A prerequisite to qualifying for the bike patrol is completion of the police mountain bike course, which consists of both practical bike skills and classroom lectures.

Classroom instruction teaches proper braking procedures, shifting and nutrition so an officer can maintain his or her stamina throughout a shift.

The practical portion of the course teaches riders how to ride in small areas, using different gears, and reinforces the braking procedures learned in the classroom.

All bike patrol members must pass both a written and a riding test at the completion of the course to be included as



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

LT Dennis Schexnayder and MA3 Crystal Escamilla practice bike skills in a small space. The goal is to complete full circles within the coned-in area. This teaches the riders how to brake properly and how to control the bikes in tight areas.

part of the bike patrol.

“Bikers have to know proper nutrition, including a high carbohydrate diet when they will be out biking many miles,” said LT Dennis Schexnayder, the Security instructor and bike patrol leader.

Pascagoula’s bike patrol

was initiated in 1996 and was the first on the Gulf Coast.

“Bike patrols are really starting to catch on,” said Schexnayder. “Beginning at the first of the year, our riders will be out patrolling on a more regular basis.”

The bike patrol not only pa-

trols areas within the confines of NAVSTA Pascagoula and Lakeside, but also takes part in community events helping with security and crowd control. They take part in local fairs, festivals and children’s bike rodeos.

Learn where to go and not go on computers

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Unlike a personal computer people use at home and away from the workplace, all users of government computers must be aware of the regulations in place that have to be followed to ensure government workers are protected from unhealthy activity.

NAVSTAPASINST 5239.2C is the local instruction outlining the guidelines that must be followed when using a government computer at Naval Station Pascagoula.

“Computers here are monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Donna

“There is no excuse for not knowing where not to go.”

*Donna Wilgus
Information Systems Manager*

Wilgus, Information Systems Manager.

Sites that are forbidden on government computers include those that promote gambling, hate groups, pornography, and chat rooms.

When an unlawful site is hit by a computer user, an alarm goes off and information about the time, site and who is logged on goes to the Information Systems Department (ISD).

“An investigation is initiated, and can lead to captain’s mast for military members and disciplinary action for government civilians,” said Wilgus.

If personnel go to illegal sites such as those advocating child or teen pornography, then criminal investigations are begun.

There have been several cases recently involving both

military and civilian personnel using government computers to access prohibited web sites.

If someone hits a prohibited site by accident, they should notify the departmental information system officer or the Information System Manager immediately.

“There is no excuse for not knowing where not to go,” said Wilgus. “The rules are very straight forward.”

All personnel using government computers sign a statement stating they understand the rules before they are given access to a computer.

Information is also given out at check-in briefs at ISD and at command indoc.

Around the Homeport

Flu shots -- HMI Sandra McBride, preventive medicine technician from the Branch Medical Clinic, gives flu shots prior to the NAVSTA Pascagoula 'All Hands' call, Nov. 20, at the Learning Resource Center. Flu shots are available free of charge to all government civilians, active duty military and Reservists, and military family members over the age of 4. No appointments are necessary.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Base Tour -- Gwen Leeman, left, walks a group of ladies through the station's Medal of Honor Park. The group, members of the Biloxi chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, visited the station on Nov. 5. Following the tour, the special guests had lunch at the USO with CDR Terry Rea.

About the cover -- MA3 Daniel Kemp and MA3 Amanda Hoffmeister listen as LCDR Nancy Fink, NAVSTA Pascagoula's executive officer, reads frocking letters at the Learning Resource Center, advancing them in rank. In addition to the two mentioned above, other Naval Station personnel advanced to their next higher paygrade include JO1 Kimberly deJong, FC1 Robert Underwood, GM2 Bryan Smith, and MA3 Shelly Monroe.



Photo by RP3 Jason Mullenix

Dedication -- YN3 Jason Clark, attached to NAVSTA Pascagoula, and his wife Melissa show off their new baby, Zackary, dedicated on Nov. 13 at the LRC by Chaplain Wayne Hatman.

Around the Homeport

Register for spring semester at USM

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

It is that time of year again to start thinking about adding to your education level. One of the universities in the area is the University of Southern Mississippi (USM).

USM has satellite campuses in Long Beach, Gautier, and at Keesler Air Force Base.

Undergraduate degrees offered through USM include Computer Science, Marine Biology, Political Science and Business Administration. Graduate degrees include Accounting, Computer Science, and Public Relations.

Spring semester classes be-



gin Jan. 12, 2004. Registration deadline is Jan. 7.

"It is recommended potential students start the application process now," said Kathy Mathis, who works at the USM Department of Marketing and Recruitment.

To register for classes ap-

plicants need a copy of their high school or college transcript, shot record, SMART transcript and a completed application.

SMART is an electronically produced transcript, which not only records a Sailor's military training, but also adds a consolidated history of college courses taken using tuition assistance funds or taken through afloat college education programs. Transcripts can be attained at the Navy College Office.

Mathis said, "Our campuses are non-traditional campuses catering to the working and family oriented student."

USM also offers a two-plus-

two program with Mississippi Gulf Coast and Pearl River Community Colleges. The program allows students to take core course work at area community colleges and upper level courses at USM to complete their bachelor's degree.

"Class sizes average about 17 students," said Mathis.

If you are interested in attending USM or would like more information Kathy Mathis is at the Learning Resource Center the first Wednesday of every month to answer your questions. She can also be contacted by email at Kathy.mathis@usm.edu or call at 228-865-4599.

Scholarships available for military children

By DeCa Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – "Org" in the grocery business might be misconstrued to mean organic, but in the case of the Scholarships for Military Children program "org" is taking on a different meaning. The program is now open for business on a dedicated Web site at www.militaryscholar.org.

"Fisher House Foundation built the Web site just for this program," said Edna Hoogewind, Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) liaison for the program, "and it's great because it contains all the latest information about the scholarship program and can be accessed any time students are looking for scholarship information." Usually, program information is only available on www.com-missaries.com when the scholarship program is actively seeking applications. "But even though the program doesn't open until Nov. 3, questions have already been coming in," said Hoogewind, "so it's great to have this site available all the time."



The Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by Fisher House Foundation and is funded by the manufacturers and other vendors that sell groceries and perform services in the commissary system. Since 2001, the Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to nearly 1,500 children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve families.

The other "big news" is that now the general public can participate in funding the scholarships by making donations through the Web site at

www.militaryscholar.org.

"This program is a valuable part of commissary outreach to the military community and the generous support from our industry partners and Fisher House Foundation has made it a tremendous success in just three years," said DeCA Director Maj. Gen. Michael P. Wiedemer. "The additional ability of the general public to show support to military families through donations to the program is really going to add a terrific new dimension."

"We've learned that individuals, as well as corporations, are interested in supporting the Scholarships for Military Children program," said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president for communications. "We provide a means to donate on the Internet through a secure credit card server, and there are no administrative fees involved. In addition, all Combined Federal Campaign donations to the Armed Services Foundation are used for the scholarship program."

Military families, customers

and the general public will be able to get to www.militaryscholar.org through DeCA's Web site at www.commissaries.com as well. Applications will be available online or at any commissary worldwide for the 2004 program starting Nov. 3. The application period runs until Feb. 18, 2004.

"Student applications increased last year by nearly 30 percent as store directors and staff really got out and spread the word about this great program," said Wiedemer. Over 6,500 applications were received in 2003. "We hope that trend continues for 2004 and that our commissaries will get the word out about these new features."

Scholarship links

www.militaryscholar.org

www.commissaries.com

Around the Homeport



Baby Shower -- LCDR Nancy Fink, Executive Officer of Naval Station Pascagoula, shows off a baby's t-shirt with a NAVSTA Pascagoula logo, given to her at a baby shower held in the Bldg. 10 conference room. LCDR Fink is expecting her third child in early December.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Blood drive -- YN1(SCW) John Monarch begins the procedure to donate blood Nov. 13 at the gym. The blood collected was to be sent to troops in war zones. A total of 36 pints was collected.

Gautier Christmas parade on Dec. 6



The Gautier Rotary would like to invite everyone to celebrate Christmas in the city of Gautier on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. when the Gautier Rotary Club sponsors their sixth annual Christmas Parade.

There are entries from churches, schools, civic groups and businesses throughout Jackson County and beyond.

After the parade there will be caroling, fun and games in the Singing River Mall. The festivities will begin immediately after the parade.

Everyone is encouraged to visit with one another and participate in the fun.

For more information about participating or viewing the parade, call the City Hall of Gautier at 497-8000.



Photo by Stacey Byington

Indian heritage -- Inauquan Lone White Eagle-Jorgensen, a Lakota Indian, shows off a wolf pelt used by early Indians to hunt game. Inauquan was the guest speaker at the American Heritage luncheon held at the Tiki in Gautier on Nov. 19.

Around the Homeport

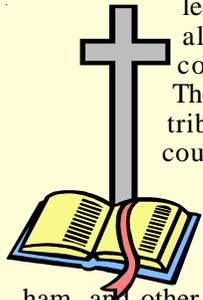
Help shipmates in need during holidays

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The Naval Station Pascagoula's Chaplain's Office is coordinating holiday benevolent events, and there are three ways area personnel — military and civilian — can help those less fortunate than themselves.

Anyone wishing to donate can do so throughout the holiday season in three different ways — with money, food items and/or gifts.

CMDCM(SW) Laurel Davis, NAVSTA's Command Master Chief, will be the col-



lection point for all monetary contributions. The goal is to distribute \$30 gift coupons so that recipients can purchase Christmas turkeys, ham, and other holiday food items. All check donations should be made out to Winn Dixie.

Sgt. James Williamson, NAVSTA Security Department, is the leading point of contact for collection of holiday food items. He has placed boxes in

collection points all around the station. To find a collection point, please contact Sgt. Williamson at 761-2071.

For those wishing to donate gifts to be distributed to area families, RP3 Jason Mullenix, at the Chaplain's Office, set up the 'Angel Tree' in the lobby of Bldg. 10 on Dec. 1. Each 'angel' has a child's first name, age, sex, clothes size, and a short 'wish list' of presents he or she would like to receive. Wrapped presents can be dropped off at the Chaplain's Office.

The intent is to help local shipmates who have a legiti-

mate financial need. Anyone who would like to suggest a shipmate or a shipmate's family can do so by contacting their department leading chief; command master chiefs; Carolyn McCorvey at the Fleet and Family Support Center; Karen Essary, the local Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society director; or the Chaplain's Office.

Additional 'leftover' resources will be contributed to the local Salvation Army 'giving tree.'

All collection will cease on Dec. 22.

USO supports troops during the holiday

By 1st. LT Steve Alvarez
Armed Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17, 2003 - The United Service Organizations recently announced it has teamed up with Armed Forces Entertainment and Reader's Digest to help support U.S. troops during the 2003 holiday season.

The USO, a nonprofit charitable corporation that extends a touch of home to military members, will soon send entertainer Wayne Newton, actor/director Gary Sinise, singer/television star Chris Isaak, country music star Neal McCoy and members of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders to entertain troops stationed in the Persian Gulf between now and the end of the year.

The troupe will perform several shows, visit with service members, and tour duty stations at a number of locations in the region. This tour marks the seventh tour in the last two years for Newton, who is the USO's Celebrity Circle chairman. Newton has entertained troops since the Vietnam War



and in June he participated in the first USO tour to Iraq.

Sinise, Isaak, and McCoy are also veteran USO performers. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders have joined with the USO 53 times over the last 25 years and have performed on more USO tours than any other entertainment group.

Additionally, the USO is working with Reader's Digest in an effort known as "Operation Desert Smile," which it hopes will bring 5,000 gift bags to troops in Iraq in time for the holidays. Reader's Digest advertisers have donated more than \$500,000 worth of snacks, prepaid calling cards, toiletries, magazines, books and compact discs to support the effort.

"The USO is grateful to Reader's Digest and its adver-

tisers for their generosity," USO President and CEO Edward A. Powell said. "Banding together to bring needed items to our troops, especially during the holidays, exemplifies the American spirit of supporting and remembering our men and women in uniform," he added.

As part of their holiday push to support U.S. service personnel overseas, the USO is urging Americans to support "Operation Phone Home." The program helps make international calling cards available for each U.S. service member stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan in time for the holidays.

"Giving these men and women in uniform the opportunity to speak with their loved ones over the holidays will provide an immeasurable boost to their morale," Powell said. "The USO's mission is to improve the quality of life for our troops and serve as a link between them and the American people. It is our way of giving back to those who give their all," he added.

Since April, the USO's "Op-

eration Phone Home" has raised more than \$200,000 and delivered nearly 30,000 calling cards to service members.

Donations can be made by visiting the USO Web site at www.uso.org or by calling 1-800-876-7469. Callers should specify their gift is for the "USO Operation Phone Home" campaign.

Other Items to donate

Board games
Playing cards
US postage stamps
Writing pads
Deodorant
Disposable shavers
Hand lotion
Hand sanitizers
Lip balm
Mouthwash
Feminine Products
Shampoo & conditioner
Shaving cream
Shaving kits
Shower gel
Soap
Toothbrushes/toothpaste
Wet wipes

Question:
What is the
color of
Rudolph's nose?



Answer:
Red, everybody
knows that
Rudolph's nose is red.

Question:
How long has Santa
been married to
Mrs. Claus?

Answer:
I don't know. Let's
wait until Christmas
and ask him.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TRIVIA



WIN A MP-3 PLAYER

Download files
Take your favorite
music where ever
you go

December 13 - 24

Each time you visit the Cyber Café, ask for the daily trivia quiz.

Each time you correctly answer one of the trivia questions, your name will be entered into the drawing for the MP-3 Player. Only one entry per correctly answered question will be permitted.

The drawing for the MP-3 player will be held on December 24.

The winner does not have to be present to claim the prize.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 761-2402

Military News

MyPay offers electronic W-2s

By Defense Finance & Accounting PAO

ARLINGTON, Va. (NNS) — All current myPay military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) civilian employees who request or already have a myPay Personal Identification Number (PIN) and access myPay will now automatically receive an electronic W-2.

The electronic method is now the primary means of delivery for all DFAS civilians and military users with a customized myPay PIN. Users may elect to receive a printed W-2 by mail by choosing the hard copy option through myPay before Dec. 1.



“This is an opportunity for our customers to better manage their pay information,” said Dennis Eicher, director for Electronic Commerce, Military and Civilian Pay Services at DFAS. “We are providing myPay customers access to their tax and pay preferences online. We also know some individuals would rather have a hard copy statement, so we are giving them that choice.”

The online version, complete with printing instructions, is

100 percent compatible for all tax purposes and allows users to print as many copies as they need without having to depend on saving a hard copy. A save button is also available to allow individuals to save their W-2s to disk.

To ensure customers who are affected receive either an electronic or hard copy W-2, there will be a “no change” period from Dec. 1 through Jan. 31. During this period, users will not be allowed to change their W-2 print election on myPay, but may request a paper W-2 by contacting their local financial services activity.

To select the hard copy W-2, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Under Taxes, select “Turn on/off Hardcopy of W-2.” Once this option is selected, carefully read the various questions posed. The user will be given the opportunity to select “hard copy.” In doing so, the user has elected to receive a hard copy by mail and will also still be able to see the W-2 electronically.

Retired military service members and annuitants, as well as civilians outside of DFAS, will continue to receive their tax statements or 1099 statements by mail. No action is required.

NKO is a one stop shop for information

By JO2 Diane Jones
NPDC PAO

The Sailors of today expect drive-through service with little to no waiting. NKO delivers.

NKO version 3 is coming with even more Sailor-oriented, personalized and tailored options.

“Sailors want instant gratification and the new NKO can give that,” said LT Eric Morris, NKO Program Manager at Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC).

Another benefit of version 3 is a privacy feature not available on the previous version. “In version 3, Sailors can set up private discussion boards to discuss subjects pertinent to their professional communities,” said Chris Piereman, member of the NKO Operations Support team. For example, if the Aerographers wanted to put out information that only related to their community, they could create a discussion board for only Aerographers.

Version 3 is also offering a



U.S. Navy photo

“low-bandwidth” option for easier accessibility.

NKO is the ‘one-stop shop’ portal all Sailors can use to find information concerning them and their jobs.

“This portal provides access to Navy information and more,” said Piereman. “NKO is the doorway for Sailors to EXCEL, not only in their professional lives but in their personal lives as well.”

NKO is the doorway to “My Health,” “My Education,” and

“My Finance.” These pages include just about everything a Sailor would want to access – including items like the PRIMS system for physical readiness assessment, Navy e-learning, SMART transcripts and the Morningstar program.

Morningstar is a financial program meant to offer financial information and advice to Sailors free of charge. Morningstar allows Sailors to educate themselves on buying and investing in stocks, IRAs, mu-

tual funds and more.

Gale’s website is another service now available. A reference library, Gale’s is an online reference tool that gives Sailors unprecedented educational resources. For Sailors working on a college degree, Gale’s is like having your own personal college library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

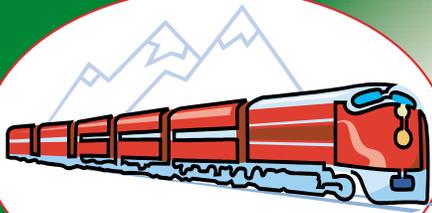
“These are new services and they are available right now,” said Piereman “We’re always looking for feedback from the Sailors on how to improve NKO services.”

Every section on NKO has a community manager who responds to Sailors’ comments and suggestions.

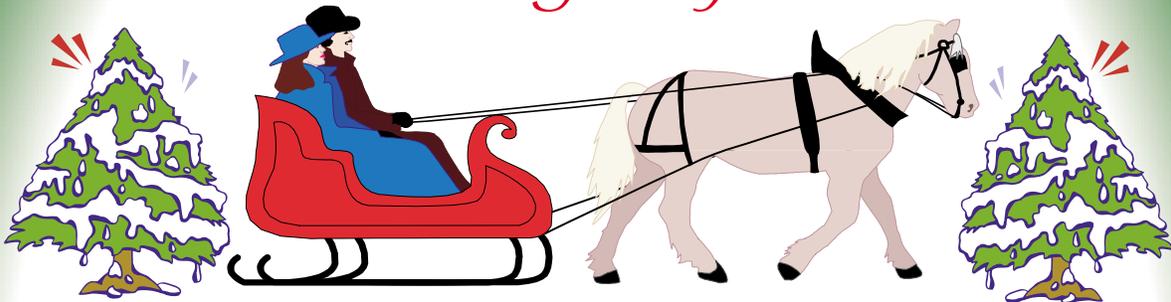
“If a Sailor wants something else or would like to have something put on that page, just click on the community manager link and it automatically sets up an ‘e-mail.’ Send in your comments, both good and bad and help us to make NKO your homepage,” said Morris.

Visit www.nko.navy.mil to find out more.

Need a ride to the airport or depot?



MWR will get you there



We want you to enjoy your holidays in the close company of family and friends

The Liberty program will provide
FREE TRANSPORTATION
to the Mobile and Gulfport airports and to the local bus and train stations from

December 18 - 23
between the hours of 1200 and 2000.

*Pre-registration required.
Sign up at the Liberty office
(Cyber Cafe).*

*Call 761-2293 or
761-2402*

MWR Activities

Oktoberfest -- UT1 (SCW) Jeremiah Peden and ET2(SW) Adam Poindexter face off in an arm-wrestling competition, just one of many games and competitions held on the NAVSTA Pascagoula pier during Oktoberfest, Oct. 30. In addition to the friendly competitions, station organizations sold food items like bratwurst and sausage, and sodas.

Photo by JO1 Kim deJong



More Oktoberfest -- Cake-eating competitors try to wolf down a huge piece of German chocolate cake, baked by ET1(SW) Jonathon Pickett, off the USS Thomas S. Gates. The winner of the cake-eating contest was MASA Geoffrey Brown from NAVSTA Security.

Photo by Stacey Byington

Continuing on ...

President Bush talks to veterans...

Continued from page 2

tions that once lived in fear, where men and women still tell of the day when Americans came and set them free.”

America’s mission in the world continues, Bush said, and veterans will continue to be asked to serve in the cause of freedom.

Recalling the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the U.S.-led war against terrorism, Bush said the men and women of the armed forces have engaged the terrorist enemy on many fronts, and that young Americans have died liberating some 50 million people in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“They’ve died in securing freedom in those countries.

The loss is terrible; it is borne especially by the families left behind. But in their hurt and in their loneliness, I want these families to know your loved ones served in a good and just cause,” the president said. “They died in distant lands to fight terror, to advance freedom and to protect America. They did not live to be called veterans, but this nation will never forget their lives of service and all they did for us.”

Bush related the recent words of a soldier serving in Iraq. “We in the military signed up and pledged to protect this great country of ours

from enemies foreign and domestic,” the soldier said. “We are fighting so that the next generation might never have to experience anything like Sept. 11, 2001.”

The president said the nation’s prayers are with its sons and daughters in uniform. “They serve a great cause, and they follow a great tradition handed down to them by America’s veterans,” Bush said. “Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our lasting gratitude.”

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

Take part in Liberty's 12 Days of trivia

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

Paintball Dec. 3, 10, and 17 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.

Dec. 1, Tennessee vs. New

York Jets

Dec. 8, St. Louis vs. Cleveland

Dec. 15, Philadelphia vs. Miami

Dec. 22, Green Bay vs. Oakland

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.

Jingle Bell Rock Karaoke

**Dec. 4, 11, and 18
7 p.m.**

Cracker Jack's

Take center stage at Cracker Jack's for Karaoke night. Win a prize for singing a favorite pop tune or traditional song of the season. It's going to be a jolly night.

Remembrance Run

**Dec. 5
7 a.m.
Gym**

Commemorate the events that thrust America into WWII by running a 5K run and a mile walk. All eligible fitness center patrons are invited to take part. Join in remembering the brave men of the U.S. Pacific Fleet by running for victory.

Liberty Shop 'Til You Drop Trip

**Dec. 7 and 14, 10 a.m.
Cyber Cafe**

Travel with Liberty to one of the Gulf Coast's favorite areas to shop. In Gulfport there's an outlet mall, Crossroads Shopping Center, Sam's Club and a host of specialty shops. Transportation is free.

Pool Tournament Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Cracker Jack's

Win a prize by playing in the pool tournament. There is no charge to enter the tournament

or rack the bass. The tournament is open to all Cracker Jack's patrons.



Liberty 12 Days of Christmas Trivia Dec. 13 - 24, 6 p.m.

Cyber Cafe

Visit the Cyber Cafe and ask for the daily trivia quiz. Every time a question is answered correctly, the name will be entered into a drawing for a MP3 player. The drawing will be Dec. 24.

Liberty Night at the Box Office

**Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m.
Cyber Cafe**

Check out what's showing at Cinema 5 with friends from Liberty. Entry fee with military ID is \$4.75. As a Liberty guest receive free snacks and don't worry about parking or waiting in line. For more information call 761-2402.

Rudolph's Red Nose Golf Drive

**Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m.**

Sports Complex

Win a turkey by landing a golf ball within 6 feet of Rudolph's flashing red nose. The driving distance is approximately 60 yards. Contestants will receive 3 balls for a dollar.

Liberty Holiday Shuttle Dec. 18 - 23

Noon - 8 p.m.

The Liberty Holiday Shuttle is available for holiday travel. The shuttle will pick up at the barracks and go to the Mobile or Gulfport airport, the local bus station or train station. There is no cost for the service, but sign up is required at the Cyber Cafe. Call 761-2293 or 761-2402 for more information.

MWR Facilities Christmas Hours

Sports & Fitness Center,
Closed

Cracker Jack's, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Cyber Cafe, noon - 4 p.m.

Skeeter's, Closed

Outdoor Rental, Closed

ITT, Closed

Child Development Home Office, Closed

MWR Facilities New Year's Day Hours

Sports & Fitness Center,
noon - 6 p.m.

Cyber Cafe, 5 - 10 p.m.

Skeeter's, Closed

Outdoor Rental, Closed

ITT, Closed

Child Development Home Office, Closed



Go Navy Beat Army

*Dec. 6
Philadelphia, Pa.*

