



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

Homeport

Vol. IV, No. 02

February 1, 2004



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Photo by Stacey Byington

A word from our Commanders

CNO talks about another chapter in history

The year 2003 has added another chapter in our Navy's history of achievement. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Iraqi Freedom (OIF) demonstrated - above all else - our Navy's combat excellence.

They showed that ready, American warriors with the right technology can exploit the vast maneuvering space of the sea to deliver decisive, joint power across the globe. They also demonstrated the value of leaders at every level of our organization committed to making it better every day.

Last year I asked you to tackle our top five priorities in new ways to "be ready;" to protect our nation, bases, ships and Sailors; to achieve the efficiencies needed to buy more ships and aircraft; and to accelerate Sea Power 21 capabilities. Your efforts led our Navy to successes in every one of these areas.

This year we must continue to focus on winning the war on terrorism; delivering the readiness and decisive capability needed for the security of our nation both today and tomorrow; and continue our commitment to the growth and development of our people so they can contribute their utmost to mission accomplishment.



*Chief of Naval Operations
ADM Vern Clark*

These difficult tasks require your leadership, your understanding of risks and costs, your willingness to challenge all assumptions and most importantly, your commitment to pursue continuous improvement in our institution.

Readiness, advanced technology, control of the maritime domain, and the genius of our people - these are our asym-

metric advantages. We are in a position to continue to build upon these strengths, to innovate and experiment, and to push the envelope of operational art and technological progress. Winning organizations never rest, and we are a winning organization. It is our job as leaders to accelerate our advantages over the coming year.

CNO guidance 2004 is posted at www.navy.mil. We have set demanding goals. I ask that you review and align your organizations to achieve these goals. I also urge you to share our 2003 achievements with your Sailors. Their superb efforts are the foundation of both our success and the tremendous opportunities before us.

I wish you every success in 2004. I am constantly reminded of the importance of these days and the privilege it is to lead at a time like this. We all know that our institution expects a great deal from its commanders, and I don't shrink from that expectation.

You carry a heavy load because your leadership matters. For that I say, thank you for your service! I look forward to this year with great anticipation.

Let's ensure, for our nation, that we get the outcomes we want and need for our Navy.

The safety, health, and return to employment initiative

The cost of Federal workplace injuries, when measured by workers' compensation losses, is more than \$2 billion and 2 million lost production days annually. In fiscal year 2003, the Federal

workforce of almost 2.7 million filed more than 168,000 injury claims. Behind these numbers lie pain and suffering by workers and their families. Clearly, Government agencies should strive to do more to improve workplace safety and health and reduce the costs of injury to workers and taxpayers. Many workplace injuries are preventable.

Therefore, I am establishing SHARE: Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment Initiative, a safe workplace initiative for fiscal years 2004-2006. The initiative's four goals cover the most important elements of a strong safety and health management program: lower workplace injury and illness case rates, lower lost-time injury and illness case rates, timely reporting of injuries and illnesses, and fewer lost days resulting from work injuries and illnesses. The Secretary of Labor will lead the SHARE Initiative and will measure the



President George Bush

performance of each department and agency against the goals. I direct all executive branch departments and agencies to participate in SHARE for this 3-year period.

Each department and agency will collaborate with the Department of Labor to establish challenging annual goals based on its current performance in the four areas. The Department of Labor will measure and track agency performance, and will report to me annually on each agency's progress towards meeting its goals. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation Programs will also work with Federal departments and agencies to develop new workplace strategies to improve safety and health at high injury rate sites, assist them in improving the timeliness of reporting claims through electronic and other means, and guide them in providing suitable work and tools for injured and disabled employees.

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Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

Commanding Officer CDR Terry Rea
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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.

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

The Gates is three times to the rescue

By ENS Bryan Sirmons
USS Thomas S. Gates PAO

In the 90-mile stretch of sea that spans between Cuba and Key West, any mariner can expect a fair amount of shipping traffic. Ships often encounter oddly-shaped rafts built by Cuban émigrés seeking freedom in the United States.

The crew of USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) recently encountered two such rafts, filled with 12 freedom seekers.

"Officer of the Deck, I think I see a raft off the port bow," said ENS Walker Brooks, peering through his binoculars. About five miles away, dipping with the roll of the waves, was a small raft with eight people crammed into it.

Quickly maneuvering to intercept the raft, Gates notified the Coast Guard cutter *Tahoma*, which was in the vicinity, and deployed her small boat team to make contact with the raft.

As *Tahoma* closed the raft, she also deployed a small boat to intercept the raft, which attempted to evade the boats, but was cut off when Gates moved in front of it. Eventually the eight refugees boarded the Coast Guard small boat, while Gates destroyed the raft with her weaponry to keep it from becoming a navigation hazard.

With the raft sunk and its crew aboard *Tahoma*, Gates continued on her course to the Atlantic.

ENS Joel Wheatley was the first to notice a small light off the ship's starboard bow.

With the encounter with the raft earlier that day fresh in their minds, and given the faintness of the light, the Gates headed toward the light.

As the ship got closer, faint cries of "*¡ayuda!*" (Spanish for "help") were heard on the bridge. Gates had found a raft



Photo by CTR2(SW) Daniel Coe Jr.

Small boats from USCGC *Tahoma* and USS *Thomas S. Gates* surround an eight-man refugee raft. The refugees were taken aboard *Tahoma* for evaluation.

with a crew of four stranded in the Straits of Florida with little water and an engine out of gas.

Gates maneuvered to bring the raft off her starboard side and lowered a small boat. The refugees, out of fear of being left by the U.S. ship, clung to the ship and refused to let go. Gates' small boat transferred them to the ship, then recovered the small raft.

The migrants were given food, clothing and medical attention by the Gates crew.

The four men were severely sunburnt, hungry and thirsty. They had been at sea for five days. Their engine had run out of gas on the second day.

After leaving Cuba, the men were intercepted by a Cuban Coast Guard vessel, which attempted to block their way out of Cuban waters. During that chase, two extra fuel containers on the raft spilt, covering their skin. The fuel, mixed with salt water and the beating sun, caused severe chemical burns which all men were treated for. The food they packed was also destroyed by the fuel spill, leaving them with only a small amount of water, no engine, no food, and a paddle.

With a determination not uncommon to those stranded at

sea, they took turns rowing the ungainly rubber raft northward, hoping they would reach the shores of Florida safely.

They spotted Gates in the night after a flock of seagulls woke them. Grabbing the last of four flashlights, they signaled and shouted. They were saved by a vigilant watch team, looking for just that sort of contact.

"They were very thankful to God and us for rescuing them," said CWO Martin Garcia, who interviewed them. "They were trying to get to Miami, where three of them had family, including wives."

This was the fourth attempt for one of the refugees.

The migrants were turned over to the Coast Guard and the crew of the cutter *Nantucket* early the next morning. As they left, each expressed their thanks for the food and comfort afforded them during their brief stay on Gates.

After six weeks as the Opposing Force for a fleet exercise with the aircraft carrier USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) and her supporting strike group off of Cape Hatteras, N.C., Gates was heading home. One evening, Gates overheard a bridge-to-bridge radio conversation between the Coast Guard Station in May-

port, Fl., and a 23-foot sailboat, *Cutting Edge*, stranded and taking on water about 25 miles off the coast of St. Augustine, FL.

LTJG Thomas Mulligan, the Gates' officer of the deck, quickly located the sailboat about 20 miles from the ship. He made best speed to her position.

The *Cutting Edge* was transiting from New Jersey to the Tortuga Islands with one person onboard. Her engines and electrical system had failed, and her sails had torn in the rough weather two days prior.

A small boat team, manned by several of Gates' crew trained in electrical and structural repair, delivered a battery and attempted to isolate the leak, repair the engine, and restore electrical power. Unfortunately, all these attempts failed.

Gates provided a towing line to *Straight Flush*, a nearby fishing vessel, which volunteered to tow *Cutting Edge* into Cape Canaveral, FL, and gave an emergency personnel recovery beacon to the sailor on the *Cutting Edge*, who remained onboard continuing to pump out his sailboat.

Life on the high seas has inherent dangers that challenge all vessels in international waters. The stories of vessels lost at sea haunts all mariners and are the basis of many a tale told by old salts sitting at wharf-side pubs. Yet it is the vigilance of other mariners that often provides the saving grace for many who venture on the open ocean.

The crew of USS *Thomas S. Gates* gained the satisfaction of having assisted in the rescue of three vessels stranded at sea during her recent six-week underway period, averting more tales of sailors lost at sea.

From our Fleet

Northrop Grumman delivers Navy destroyer 'Pinckney'

By Donna Harris
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA -- It's in the Navy now.

The Navy took possession of its 19th U.S. Navy Aegis-guided missile destroyer, the USS Pinckney (DDG 91) during a ceremony onboard the ship at the company's operations along the west bank of the Pascagoula River.

CDR Robert M. Byron, U.S. Navy, of Asheville, N.C., a 1985 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, will be the new ship's commissioning commanding officer.

"Thousands of shipbuilders dedicated their efforts to produce the absolute best of American industrial capability," Byron said. "Thousands of people worked hard to make this day happen; to give this brilliant technological achievement a pulse."

The Pinckney has two vertical launching systems capable of housing a variety of missiles. It also has two triple torpedo tubes and advanced

radar systems on board.

"We're going to be on high seas where just our mere presence is a deterrent," Byron said.

In naming the Pinckney, the Navy honors Navy Cook Third Class William Pinckney, (1915-1975), recipient of the Navy Cross for saving a fellow crewmember during the 1942 Battle of Santa Cruz. Byron said his crew is inspired by the story.

"He was an ordinary man and an ordinary sailor who rose to perform a very heroic act during his combat," Byron said.

Seaman Clarence Boyce of San Francisco was all smiles at the ceremony. Still a month away from his 18th birthday, Boyce is serving on his first ship. He said it's an honor to serve on the Pinckney, not only for the ship's namesake, but also for his fellow shipmates.

"They treat me with so much respect, not like a little kid," he said.

In following a Navy tradi-

tion of having the oldest and youngest sailors on board cut the cake during the ceremony, Boyce joined Chief Mitch Stewart of Midwest, Okla., to slice into the baked dessert with a pair of cutlasses.

"As William Pinckney's motto goes, Proud to Serve, I'm proud to serve too. I've had a great time in the Navy and I'm loving it," Stewart said.

The Pinckney is Stewart's fifth ship in his 12-year career.

"We at Northrop Grumman are as proud of this ship as any we have built," said Bob Merchant, vice president of the shipbuilding giant's DDG 51 program. "When this ship takes her place in the fleet, we know we have met the trust placed in us by the Navy and the American people."

The ship will leave Pascagoula in two months for California, a two-month cruise. It will spend another year testing its ammunition and computer systems.

"We'll be firing lots of mis-

siles, making sure the U.S. Navy and the taxpayers got their money's worth," Byron said.

DDG 91 will be commissioned USS Pinckney on May 29 in Port Hueneme, Calif., and will be homeported in San Diego as a member of the Pacific Fleet's Destroyer Squadron 23. DDG 91 is the 19th of 28 Aegis destroyers under contract to Northrop Grumman Ship Systems.

The Ship Systems sector includes primary operations in Pascagoula, Gulfport, New Orleans and Tallulah, La., as well as a network of fleet support offices in the U.S. and Japan. The sector is one of the nation's leading full-service systems companies for the design, engineering, construction and life cycle support of major surface ships for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and international navies, and for commercial vessels of all types.

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About the cover

Renewal of wedding vows -- "May you live the days of your lives in peace, love, and happiness," said LCDR Wayne Hatman, CHC, as GMI(SW) David Dunn and his wife, Dennise, exchange rings when they renew their wedding vows on the bridge of the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51). The Dunns celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary beginning their renewal ceremony at the exact time they were initially married, 15 years before (7 p.m., Jan. 14). Chaplain Hatman, Chaplain for Naval Station Pascagoula, officiated the ceremony, and CDR Richard Rainer Jr., commanding officer of the Gates, was the official witness. The Dunns were married on Jan. 14, 1989, when he was stationed aboard the USS Robinson (DDG 12), homeported in Latoya, Calif.



Photo by Stacey Byington

Renewal of wedding vows -- GMI(SW) David Dunn, his wife, Dennise, and their daughter, Sharon, pose with CDR Richard Rainer Jr., and LCDR Wayne Hatman, CHC, on the bridge of the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51).

Around the Homeport

Security team gets two new additions

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The Naval Station Pascagoula security force recently received two new members to its team. Tarzan and Rick have reported on board and are already hard at work.

These two new members are part of the Military Working Dog (MWD) unit and are joining forces with Marco. Both dogs were stationed at Naval Station Puerto Rico before being transferred to Pascagoula.

Marco, the veteran of the Pascagoula team, will be 7 years old in March and has been assigned to the station since March 2001.

Tarzan will be 11 years old in February, and reported aboard on Dec. 12. Rick is 3 years old and came aboard Jan. 21.

MA1(SW) Elizabeth Koehler and MA1(SW) Martin Clifford make up the human part of the MWD teams. The two dog handlers work with the dogs on a daily basis.

The teams have been recently command certified by Naval Station Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea.

The certification proves that the handler and dog are a reliable team and that they have demonstrated they can do their job together.

Training is a significant part of the MWD teams' daily activities.

MWD's and handlers are initially trained at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The school provides basic working dog handler instruction to more than 525 military students annually. They also train more than 300 dogs for all Department of Defense (DoD) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or-



Military Working Dog Tarzan

ganizations. The four major sections of an MWD team's initial training includes logistic, dog training, handler training and medical support.

At Naval Station Pascagoula, the MWD team's primary mission is to detect and deter.

"When people see a MWD they don't know what kind of dog it is so that tends to deter the individual," said Koehler.

"They are a good asset for a base to have for psychological deterrence," she added.

The MWD team conducts random car inspections, barracks inspections and anti-terrorism measures.

They provide support to the naval station, Lakeside, the local ships in port, Naval Station New Orleans, and other units stationed in New Orleans.

NAVSTA Pascagoula's MWD teams have also assisted local police units and the U.S. Coast Guard.

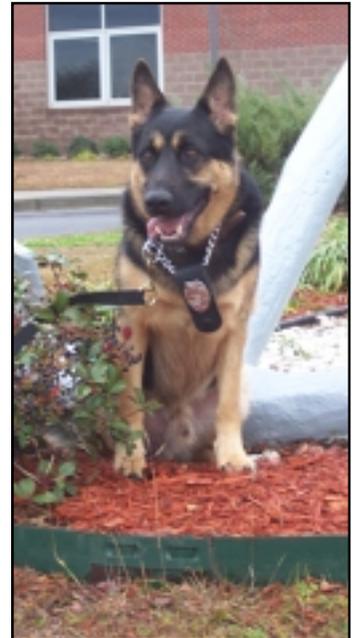
Additionally they participate in Red Ribbon Week, the CBC Gulfport National Night Out, local childrens' fairs, and give



Military Working Dog Marco

demonstrations at local schools.

Marco, Tarzan and Rick are fulfilling their duties in Pascagoula, but they don't want anyone to forget about their fel-



Military Working Dog Rick

low MWD's who are forward deployed in all branches of the military services in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by JO1 Kim deJong



Reelishment -- GM2 John Clark pledges his allegiance to the Navy for another four years in front of co-workers on Jan. 15 at the Weapons Department compound. The oath was administered by LTJG Howard Herring, NAVSTA weapons officer.

Around the Homeport

Help make the Homeport better

By **JO1 Kim deJong**
Public Affairs Office

Take this opportunity to voice an opinion about the Homeport, Naval Station Pascagoula's online base newspaper.

The Homeport staff is looking to hear what their readers think about the Homeport. What do readers like best? What could be changed? What could be added?

The 2004 Homeport survey is now available to its readers



online.

If you haven't already done so, take a few minutes to complete the survey. Go to www.cns1.spear.navy.mil/nspascagoula/pages/homeport.htm.

[cns1.spear.navy.mil/nspascagoula/pages/homeport.htm](http://www.cns1.spear.navy.mil/nspascagoula/pages/homeport.htm).

It's as easy as a click of the mouse to answer the questions. All readers need to do is click on the answer that best fits their feelings.

Questions range from simple demographics to what readers like best and least about the Homeport. They can also be notified at home when the latest issues of Homeport go online. For those who have more specific suggestions or

comments, there is space available for that as well.

Once the survey is completed all that needs to be done is a simple click on the mouse on the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the survey.

The survey will better help the Homeport staff meet the needs of the people who read the newspaper.

Take a few minutes to help make the Homeport a base newspaper that has what its readers want.

CFC a tremendous success

By **JO1 Kim deJong**
Public Affairs Office

This year's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) was a huge success.

CFC was held from Oct. 30 to Dec. 5, and the goal for this year's campaign was \$61,200. Government civilians and military members from Pascagoula raised \$68,842, surpassing the goal by \$7,642.

CFC is a national fundraising event, which allows federal employees to select organizations of their choice from a single brochure and to make their contributions through pay roll deductions. Federal employees have the opportunity to help those in need across their community and through-

out the world.

Employees have the chance to donate to local organizations such as the Fisher House at Keesler AFB, the Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast, to name just a few.

For those who wanted to donate to international or national organizations the opportunities were endless.

"There is always an organization that needs help even if it's a \$2 donation," said FC1 Richard Underwood, CFC coordinator.

"Donations can change someone's life for the better," said Underwood.

This year's local campaign was very successful, and Pas-

cagoula was recognized by the Southern Mississippi CFC with several awards.

The crew of USS Stephen Groves (CG 51) was awarded a Silver Award for a 75.3 percent participation rate and a Gold Award for a 162.1 percent increase in contributions.

The crew of USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) was awarded a Bronze Award for a 25.5 percent increase in contributions.

Naval Station Pascagoula received a Silver Award for a 34.7 percent participation rate and a Bronze Award for a 6.1 percent increase in contributions.

"Every penny helps," said Underwood, "so keep CFC in mind when making charitable contributions."

Pass and I.D. Office Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday
6 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Temporary passes are available at the main gate after hours and on weekends.

New Arrivals

Zyaria Seward, new daughter to Jack Seward.

Born Dec. 3

Peter John Fink, new son to LCDR Nancy Fink.

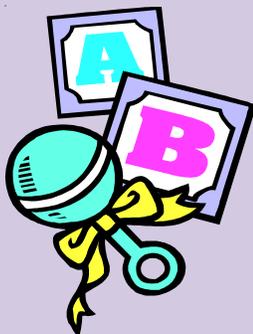
Born Dec. 16.

Clayton Edward Williams, new son to Chaplain

Randy Williams. Born Dec. 26

Alexia Lynn Downs, new daughter to CSSN

Juanita Downs. Born Jan. 18.



Around the Homeport

Safety involves everyone in the command

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer



Over the past several years, workplace and off-duty mishaps have cost the Navy more than \$4.6 billion dollars and the lives of more than 1,000 Sailors and Marines. During fiscal year 2003 alone, mishaps cost the Navy \$853 million, and 231 lives.

Private motor vehicle accidents took the most lives, 119, with shore and ground operational accidents being the second most lethal, taking 49 lives. Off-duty recreational mishaps took a toll of 32 lives.

Proportionately, the statistical numbers for Pascagoula are significantly less, and although there was no loss of life attributed to local military and civilian mishaps, there is still sig-

nificant cost involved.

Since FY99 local on and off-duty mishap rates have increased, from 10 in FY99 to 20 in FY03. Last year's mishaps involved 10 civilians (on-duty) and 10 military (5 on-duty and 5 off-duty). So far this fiscal year, since Oct. 1, 2003, there have been eight mishaps reported, involving both military and civilian workers.

In an effort to reduce mishaps, everyone in the military chain of command, from the

President, to the Secretary of Defense, to the Chief of Naval Operations, down to the lowest ranked personnel is advocating workplace safety.

President Bush is establishing a SHARE program, promoting Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment, a workplace safety initiative through the year 2006 (see page 2).

The Secretary of Defense has challenged the Department of Defense's military and civilian leaders and rank and file "to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years."

These goals "are achievable," Rumsfeld said, "and will directly increase our operational readiness. We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation."

Most accidents are preventable. In an effort to combat the rising number of mishaps at Pascagoula, and meet the Secretary of Defense's challenge of reducing mishap numbers by 50 percent, Safety Manager Keith Stelljes and Safety Specialist Charles Harvey held a series of safety stand-downs during January.

"The Navy advocates Operational Risk Management (ORM)," said Stelljes. "The purpose of ORM is to minimize risks so the mission can be accomplished with the minimum loss potential."

ORM is a five-step process where hazards are identified and assessed, risk decisions are made and controls are implemented, and supervision determines whether changes are

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Occupational safety rights and responsibilities

By OSH PAO

Under the *Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970* (OSH Act), employers have a general duty to provide work and a workplace free from recognized hazards.

The Department of Defense Safety and Occupational Health Protection Program poster (DD-2270) that describes rights and responsibilities under the OSH Act must be displayed in a prominent place.

The OSH Act also gave employees many new rights and responsibilities:

Employee Rights include the right to do the following:

- Review copies of appropriate standards, rules, regulations, and requirements that the employer should have available at the workplace.
- Request information from your employer on safety and health hazards in the workplace, precautions that may be

taken, and procedures to be followed if you are involved in an accident or exposed to toxic substances.

- To know what hazardous chemicals are located in the spaces you work in. This list of chemicals can be found in each area and is called an "AUL," or Authorized Use List. You are also required to receive training on the hazards and precautions required for safe use of each hazardous material before you use it the first time. We occasionally perform non-routine tasks with hazardous materials and you must be trained on the hazards of the material before you use it, even if you are only going to use it for this one task and never again.

- Have access to relevant employee exposure and medical records. You or your designated representatives have the right to see your medical records upon request. If you are exposed to a chemical and

the exposure levels are above the limit set by the standard, you must be told what will be done to reduce the exposure.

- Request the safety office conduct an inspection if you believe hazardous conditions or violations of standards exist in the workplace.

- Under 29 CFR 1960.27(a), the workers' representative has a right to accompany a NAVOSH inspector during an inspection. The representative must be chosen by the union (if there is one) or by the employees. However, this right can be denied if such participation interferes with a fair and orderly inspection.

- Respond to questions from the safety inspector, particularly if there is no authorized employee representative accompanying the safety inspector on the inspection "walkaround."

- Observe any monitoring or measuring of hazardous materials and see the resulting

records.

- Have an authorized representative, or yourself, review the Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.

- Submit a written request to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for information on whether any substance in the workplace has potentially toxic effects in the concentration being used, and have your name withheld from your employer, if so requested.

- Be notified by the Navy if the Navy applies for a variance from an OSHA standard, and testify at a variance hearing, and appeal the final decision.

- File an Unsafe and Unhealthy Working Condition Report with the Station Safety Office and have your name withheld from your Command, upon request

- Be advised of safety ac-

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Around the Homeport



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Angel Tree -- More than \$1,135 worth of gifts were collected for 54 children of local Sailors and for the Salvation Army as part of the Angel Tree program. Additionally, \$100 in food coupons was collected. Personnel attached to all area commands worked together to bring Christmas gifts to area children.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Food Drive -- The annual food drive was a great success over the holiday season. All the collected food went to local deserving Sailors and their families, and the Salvation Army. DoD Police SGT James Williamson headed the drive and had drop off locations around the base. Personnel from all the commands contributed to provide holiday food items.



Photo by LTJG Blake Vincik

New Construction -- The steel frame for the new Fleet Operations Building is being put together as the new building takes shape. Once complete it will be home to the DESRON 6 staff, SUPSHIP and C-HET.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Volunteers honored -- NAVSTA Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea, presents Lillian Second with an award commemorating more than 1,800 hours of service. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society honored 16 volunteers at a recent luncheon, held at the Tiki Restaurant in Gautier.

Around the Homeport

The future of the Navy is NKO

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) is the future of the Navy. As NKO gets fully operational, there will be many benefits to the Sailor.

"The way we operate today and the way we operate tomorrow will be a huge change," said AGC Mary Okoniewski, during her presentation to Pascagoula sailors at the Learning Resource Center recently.

NKO will change the way Sailors are used to doing things. As NKO is up and fully running Sailors will be able to get an electronic copy of their service records and Smart transcripts.

The NKO web site will be a one-stop shop for military matters. As web sites come online at NKO, other web sites will go away. NKO will allow users to use only one password



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

AGC Mary Okoniewski from Kings Bay, Georgia answers Sailors questions after a NKO training session on Dec. 12 at the Learning Resource Center.

and log on to obtain information.

NKO also has a messenger site where Sailors can chat with other Sailors around the world.

"It will be the only messenger allowed on government computers," said Okoniewski.

By the end of fiscal year 2004 every rate will be online.

Sailors will be able to use the five-vector model that will represent the total sailor.

The model will show professional development, personnel development, leadership, certifications/qualifications and performance.

"The five vector model will eventually be a key part of ever Sailor's career toolbox," said VADM Alfred G. Harms Jr., director of the Naval Education and Training.

"Mentors will also be found through NKO and they will have access to Sailors five vector model to help the Sailor reach their goals," said Okoniewski.

Sailors can now access a demonstration and tutorial of the Five Vector Model via the NKO website at www.nko.navy.mil.

FFSC gets a new parent support specialist

By Gerri Warden
FFSC Information Referral

The Navy established the New Parent Support program in 1990. It is an early intervention home visiting plan designed to promote healthy family functioning, child development, positive parent-child interactions, and to provide advocacy and referral to other services.

The goal of the program is to empower expectant and new parents to meet the challenges of parenthood and Navy life style.

In the beginning ten sites Navy-wide were selected for implementation of the program. In 1998, there were 34 sites with a staff of 63. Today we are proud to welcome the program to Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC), Pascagoula. We believe this pro-

gram will enhance the Navy Mission of Operational Readiness, Retention, and Quality of Life.

Enhancing personal self-esteem and strengthening individual coping skills can lead to improved job performance. Prevention or alleviation of family stressors allows service members to focus on their Navy duties.

Helping service members cope more effectively with adjustment problems to the Navy and other work-related stressors contributes to the retention of highly skilled personnel in the Navy. Helping the family member cope more effectively to the military lifestyle leads to greater spouse satisfaction, which strongly influences the military member's decision to stay in or get out of the Navy.

Supporting the Navy's philosophy of "taking care of its

own" reinforces perceptions by service members and their families that the Navy is concerned about them as individuals and how military life affects their quality of life.

Having a new infant in the home can be an exciting and rewarding experience, but with this bundle of joy comes a package of expectations, needs, and stresses. That's where the New Parent Support program can step in. The NAVSTA Pascagoula New Parent Support Specialist can meet with parents at the FFSC and in the homes, if recommended. All Navy expectant and new parents with an infant under the age of 4 months are eligible for the services.

Sue Maters, the New Parent Support Specialist, was an Education Specialist for FFSC in the past. She has

her Masters in Science in Family Life Studies with the emphasis in early childhood development. She was a Child Life Specialist at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport, and a teacher and assistant director in a child development center. She is currently on staff at the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center in Gulfport and active in the Center Stage Theater. She is well known along the Gulf Coast as an actress and puppeteer. Her husband, Don Maters, is retired military and a recognized artist. She is the mother of 2 adult sons.

With her background, she will be able to offer much to the parents of young children in the most critical stage of human development. If you have a new infant, or expect one soon, she is available to help you with guidance and information.

Around the Homeport

Commanders answer BRAC 2005 data calls

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Military base commanders all over the United States and its territories and possessions are being asked to gather data on their installations in preparation for the 2005 round of base realignments and closures (BRAC).

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Department of Defense (DoD) to pursue one BRAC round in 2005. The department will use BRAC to eliminate unnecessary infrastructure and to increase military capability and effectiveness, officials say.

The data calls are designed to provide an up-to-date snapshot of the military's infrastructure and allow DoD to make informed decisions about where cuts can be made and functions reorganized. All military installations are participating in the data calls.

The information gathered ensures DoD collects and uses the most current data on installations throughout the BRAC analysis. It also ensures that all bases are treated equally throughout the BRAC analysis. The initial data call is just one of many steps in the BRAC process. Others will be added as needed.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-501), as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, requires that closure and realignment recommendations be based on published criteria that make military value the primary consideration. DoD published the draft selection criteria in early January. The list of BRAC recommendations will be submitted to the independent BRAC commission by May 16, 2005.

In order to evaluate military value, DoD is looking at current and future mission capa-

bilities and the impact on operational readiness, including the impact on joint warfighting, training and readiness. It is looking at the availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of the armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.

Other military value criteria include the bases' ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training, and the cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Considerations also include the extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, begin-

ning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs, and the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations. The commission is also looking at the ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel, and the environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management and environmental compliance activities.

The goal of BRAC is transformation, reconfiguring current infrastructure and creating joint organizational and basing solutions so that operational capacity maximizes war-fighting capability, efficiency and effectiveness.

More information on DoD's BRAC process is available online at www.dod.mil/brac/.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

MLK march -- Sailors and civilians from almost all the command at NAVSTA Pascagoula joined together to march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 20. The march began at the fitness center with a brief word from NAVSTA Pascagoula Commanding Officer, CDR Terry Rea. The group then marched around the station ending up at memorial park where Chaplain Wayne Hatman offered a prayer in honor of King. Following the prayer, Otis Carter, Moss Point High School band leader, played the trumpet while the group joined in song. The group took time out of their schedules to honor not only King's birthday, but also all that he accomplished throughout his life.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Around the Homeport

Getting ready for tax season

By Jeffery Isabell
FFSC Financial Specialist

You can usually tell that tax season is coming when a heap of tax-related mail starts arriving. By the time it's over, you'll get some interest-earned statements and maybe a 1099 or two. If you changed jobs, you'll receive multiple W-2s. Charitable organizations may gift you with receipts detailing your generosity. You get the picture.

We recommend you shove all tax-related paperwork in the same file folder so it's out of sight until you need it. Then you'll know where it is when you're ready to deal with taxes (on or before the April 15 deadline, we hope). Don't go out and buy a special file. Don't scan all the documents for systematic filing on your computer. Don't lose sleep debating whether information for the Schedule A&B should be alphabetized under "A" or "B." Just find a manila folder and shove everything in it.

Take a Close Look at Your Financial Goals
As you approach tax time, review your financial goals. How does your checkbook stack up



against your bills? What would you like to be able to afford? Record your long-term and short-term goals to guide your financial decisions going forward. In terms of taxes, it helps to look at your finances two years at a time — the current year and the one to come — to help decide how you can best manage your money to reduce your tax obligation and to meet your financial goals.

Taxes are just a part of what should be your overall financial planning goals. We say "should be" because we know how you have tried to become a contestant on that new game show, "Who Wants

to Ignore Their Money Until It's Too Late." You're not in the mood to create a plan and stick to it, so how about just sneaking a peek at your financial situation by reviewing your tax forms from the 2002 tax year.

Exemptions. If the number of exemptions you claimed changed from 2001 to 2002, you may want to look at your life insurance coverage and your will. It's hard to look at those things if you don't have them (hint, hint). If your family has grown, you may need more coverage. If you have recently been divorced or widowed, you may need to change beneficiary designations on your life insurance policies..

Deductions. You know that mortgage interest payments are tax deductible, but maybe you didn't know that a home equity line of credit may be too. If you're carrying credit card debt, think about paying it off with a home equity loan. Then you may be able to deduct the interest at tax time. Be careful, though, not to ring up more credit card bills, and bear in mind that you risk losing your home if you're unable to make the loan payments. Consult a tax advisor about your individual circumstances.

Tax-Deferred Income. If your income wasn't sufficiently adjusted with tax-deferred contributions to an employer-sponsored retirement plan or IRA don't make the mistake again next year. Your income is reduced by your contributions and the money can grow income-tax-deferred until you start withdrawing it.

Financial planning provides 10 steps you can take to get your house in order—and not just at tax time. If you're ready to take the leap, click to The Work and get a comprehensive financial plan that's personalized just for you.

VITA office information



Open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Thursday
Appointments are needed.
Call 761-2410.



Available for active duty, family members, retirees, and Reservists.
Remember the tax submission deadline is April 15.

Around the Homeport

Navy outlines options during CLEP transition

By Darlene Goodwin
NETCPAO

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — Responding to a decision by the developer of the College Level Exam Program (CLEP) exams to phase out paper-based tests, the Voluntary Education staffs at the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) and the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) are working to maximize options for Sailors seeking college credits through testing.

The College Board, the national testing agency who owns the CLEP exams, has started transitioning from paper-based to electronic computer-based tests (eCBTs) in their national test centers. However, software and computer infrastructure issues preclude the Department of Defense (DoD) from immediately transitioning to the eCBT CLEP tests.

Although the phase-out of current paper-based tests will be complete by March 2004, College Board has agreed to



develop and maintain 14 of the most requested CLEP test titles in paper form specifically for use by military members. According to LCDR Steven Stopler, director, Navy Voluntary Education, the new DoD-only paper exams are scheduled to be released in April 2004.

“During the transition when Sailors will be unable to take a number of the paper-based CLEP tests at military test centers, it is important they know there are other opportunities through which they can pursue college credit by examination,” said Stopler. “The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) Subject Standardized Test and Excelsior College Exam continue to be good op-

tions for credit by exam.

“Additionally,” Stopler continued, “35 CLEP eCBTs are currently available to Sailors if they wish to take their test at a national test center located on many college and university campuses. Just because CLEP tests are not available through the military for this short period does not mean Sailors have to stop their pursuit of a college education.”

It is important to note that if Sailors take the computer-based CLEP tests at a national test center, they must pay a registration fee (generally about \$20) that will not be covered by DANTES. There is no registration fee for tests taken at military test centers. Additionally, whether taking a test at a national test center or a military test center, there is an exam fee (generally about \$50).

For those taking a CLEP test at a military test center, DANTES will pay the exam fee, beginning in late January or early February 2004. However, an exact date has not yet been established, and Sailors should check the DANTES website at www.dantes.doded

.mil for the exact start date.

As soon as the new paper-based tests are in place, the Navy will work closely with DANTES and the College Board to begin implementing CLEP eCBT exams at Navy College offices around the world.

Stopler said they are targeting the end of 2005 to begin administering the CLEP tests electronically at military test centers.

“We’ve budgeted for the hardware for our Navy College offices to facilitate electronic CLEP tests, and once we solve the software and security issues, we will begin the next phase of transition to eCBT,” said Stopler. “We are committed to providing the tools Sailors need to succeed personally and professionally at all points in their career.”

For additional information, contact your nearest Navy College office, or visit the Navy College Program website at www.navycollege.navy.mil. The Navy College Center can also be contacted by telephone, toll-free, at 1-877-253-7122 or DSN 922-1828.

Activity-based costing model helps track business

By JO2 Steven Feller
CNRNE Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. (NNS) — From money and time management to infrastructure shaping and reshaping, Commander, Navy Region Northeast (CNRNE) searches for new and better tools to help it accomplish its missions.

Already being used in other naval regions including CNRSE, Activity-Based Costing Model (ABC/M) is a management tool designed to help CNRNE trace allocations of costs and resources throughout the organization.

Used successfully for many years in the private sector,



ABC/M is now being implemented at all Northeast Region bases by the CNRNE Business Office. David Alexander, deputy business manager for CNRNE, said the Navy needs ABC/M.

“The Navy needs ABC/M, as it will provide us the ability to determine how we spend our money.”

After the ABC/M data is put together, that data is used to help make plans and decisions. ABC/M will help program managers and commanding offic-

ers determine where their money is being spent and how much bang they’re getting for their buck.

Unlike most management tools, where there is a set way to do business, ABC/M depends on the input of those who use it.

“If people are reporting accurately how we spend our time and money, the model will calculate it accurately,” said Alexander. “If not, the model won’t be able to give us an accurate picture of how we

spent our time and resources.”

“The ABC Model builds as we go. Right now, people are able to make inputs once a month. As the months go by, we will acquire more data and we’ll eventually see actionable results, which will help the decision makers,” said Alexander. “The real beauty of ABC/M is that we’ll be able to compare like bases, benchmarking or comparing against like functions at other regions. We’ll be able to look at how much it costs to move a boat here and compare it with how much it costs to move a boat in Norfolk. We’ll be able to compare our services and outputs.”

Navy News

Support to the fleet, ready and fully integrated

By Ted Brown
 CFFC Asst. Media Relations

After months of emphasis, every "Shipmate," Full Time Support (FTS) and Drilling Reservist (DRILRES) alike, has seen these words and had a chance to reflect on their meaning.

"*Support to the fleet*" – Naval Reserve Fighter Squadron 201's (VFA-201's) recent deployment with USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), continued global security efforts by Naval Coastal Warfare units, and special operations support by Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 4 (HCS-4) and HCS-5, who both possess one of a kind capabilities that

exist primarily in the Naval Reserve, and USS Stephen W. Groves' (FFG-29) counter-narcotics achievements, are just a few examples of the significant contributions Naval Reserve units are making towards the Global War on Terrorism.

More than 22,000 Naval Reservists have been mobilized since 9/11, and more have been notified of upcoming recalls to active duty. Daily, our talented reservists and their supported commands innovate ways to apply our Annual Training (AT), Active Duty for Training (ADT) and Flex Drill mandays to maximize support of fleet requirements, maintain a high state of "*readiness*," and

continue to demonstrate the value of the Naval Reserve... capability and commitment, anytime, anywhere, 24/7/365.

"*Fully integrated*" – The Navy must take ownership of its Reserve force. Our military's current force structure was designed to combat a Cold War era enemy that no longer exists. Today's enemies are smaller, more difficult to identify, and aggressively apply asymmetric tactics. To win the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), we need to rapidly transform and become a more flexible service with surge capability. We also need to recapitalize our fleet to take advantage of new technologies that will enable us to defeat our

nation's enemies overseas, so we do not have to fight them at home.

We can only accomplish this by utilizing all of the resources at our disposal in the most efficient and effective manner, which is best accomplished as one fully integrated force. To that end, Commander, Naval Reserve Force (CNRF) and Commander, Fleet Forces Command (CF-FC) has engaged in an aggressive plan to rapidly integrate active and Reserve forces. CFFC ADM William J. Fallon has kindly agreed to share with you his perspective on the progress we have made and what the future may hold for the Navy's total force.

FEEA scholarship applications now available

By Pauline Meyer
 Navy College Office

The Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund recently announced that applications for its 2004-05 scholarship program are now available.

Eligible applicants are civilian federal and postal employees with at least three years of service, and their dependents. Dependent applicants must be full-time students in an accredited degree program and must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Employee applicants

must meet the same academic criteria, however, they may be part-time students.

For more information, visit FEEA's website at www.feea.org in the "Educational Assistance" area. A downloadable version of the application is also available on the

website.

To receive a printed application, please send a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: FEEA Scholarships, 8441 W. Bowles Avenue, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501. Agencies requesting applica-

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Navy OneSource bridging the gap for Sailors and families

By JOSN Amie Hunt
 NPC Strategic Communications

With Sailors and their families stretched out all over the world, it can be difficult getting access to the traditional base or station support services. To help bridge the gap, in cooperation with the Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC), a new resource has recently been contracted. It's called Navy OneSource, an information and referral system, linking Sailors and their family members to both military and community resources. Together they're working to support operational, personal and family readiness.

Navy OneSource offers practical solutions, information, advice and support via telephone, email, or the web. With Navy OneSource working in conjunction with NPC's 1-866-U-ASK-NPC call center, Sailors will receive the widest spectrum of service to meet their needs. While 1-866-U-ASK-NPC will remain the authoritative source for professional and career counseling and referral, Navy OneSource will bridge the gap for family resources. There are a wide variety of resources available on topics such as parenting and childcare issues, education services, financial information and counseling, legal, elder

care, health and wellness, crisis support, and relocation.

It is designed to help Sailors better manage competing time demands, such as purchasing a vehicle, locating a plumber, or locating a youth program seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Navy OneSource is available to active duty and reserve Sailors and their family members.

Navy OneSource is accessible by telephone or the web. For web access go to www.navyonesource.com. The user ID is: Navy; and the password: Sailor. By phone: 1) the toll free CONUS number is 1-800-540-4123; 2) the OCONUS

universal free number is 1-800-540-412-33; 3) OCONUS Collect Call number is 1-484-530-5914; 4) the special needs line for TTY/TDD is 1-800-346-9188; or 5) the Spanish and other foreign language line is 1-888-732-9020.

Initial levels of web and call-in support/referral began in January 2004 and a full roll out of service will occur as the database is populated with base-specific information throughout the year.

Check with FFSC for more information on Navy OneSource services. It's another way the Navy is taking care of its own, "Mission First, Sailors Always."

Continuing on ...

President Bush wants to SHARE ...

Continued from page 2

Federal supervisors and managers must focus management tools and resources on eliminating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Federal employees should be

encouraged to perform their jobs safely, effectively, and alertly to remain injury-free. Dedication to ensuring our Government workforce fam-

ily is safe and healthy preserves the resources of Government and helps promote the delivery of Government services to the American people.

Occupational safety rights ...

Continued from page 7

tions regarding a complaint and request an informal review of any decision not to inspect or to issue a citation.

- You can decline to perform an assigned task because of a reasonable belief that, under the circumstances, the task poses an imminent risk of death or serious bodily harm until it can be evaluated by a safety and health professional. *Note: Military members do not have this right under all conditions.*

- File a discrimination complaint using existing grievance procedures if punished for exercising the above rights.

Employee Responsibilities
Each employee shall comply with the standards, rules,

regulations, and orders issued by the Navy. An employee should do the following:

- Read the Department of Defense Safety and Occupational Health Protection Program poster (DD2272) at your workplace.

- Comply with all applicable safety standards.

- Use all safety equipment, personal protective equipment, and devices reasonably necessary to protect you.

- Report hazardous conditions to the supervisor.

- Report any job-related injury or illness to your supervisor, and seek treatment promptly.

Note: Civilian employees -

if you are injured on the job and wish to have your personal physician treat you, you must check out with the Occupational Health Clinic BEFORE you leave the station for treatment. This is for a couple of reasons: the first and most important is to ensure that you are really capable of safely driving to your physician's office, and the other reason is to document the injury.

- Cooperate with the safety officer conducting an inspection if he or she inquires about safety and health conditions in the workplace.

- Exercise rights under the Act in a responsible manner.

Safety involves everyone in the...

Continued from page 7

necessary.

"Almost every decision we make involves some sort of risk management," said Stelljes. "We are all safety practitioners."

In addition to a brief on what ORM is — the steps,

principals and levels involved, the safety stand-down also included videos and presentations on ways to avoid back injuries, slips, trips, and falls, hearing and sight conservation, use and care of personal

protective equipment (PPE) and office ergonomics.

"Safety is everyone's business," said Stelljes. "We must all be safety advocates, looking out for ourselves as well as each other."

FEEA scholarship applications ...

Continued from page 13

tions in bulk may call FEEA at 1-800-323-4140, fax requests to 303-933-7587, or e-mail FEEAHQ@aol.com. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 26, 2004.

FEEA has provided more than \$3.5 million in scholarships to civilian federal employees and their dependents. For more information about FEEA, visit www.feea.org or call 303-933-7580.

When replying to messages, please only reply to sender unless you want the entire list to receive your response.

To Contact the Administrator send mail to mcnet_admin@voled.doded.mil

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.; 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.-11 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

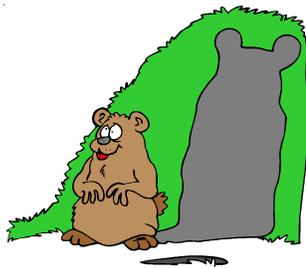
Take part in Presidents Day shopping trip

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



Super Bowl Party Feb. 1 Cracker Jack's

If the divisional playoffs were any indication of what to expect of this year's Super Bowl it's going to be a thriller. Join friends and shipmates at Cracker Jack's for free snacks and official NFL apparel give aways. Pre-gram festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and the Super Bowl begins at 5:25 p.m.



Ground Hog Day Movie Feb. 2 Cyber Cafe 6:30 p.m.

Come rain, sunshine, sleet or snow the Cyber Cafe is open. Join in on a great ground hog day movie and enjoy free snacks. Some lucky enough might even get a glimpse of the Naval Station's closet kin to the ground hog, the nutria.

Paintball Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25 4:30 p.m. Cyber Cafe

The field is available by request on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to dusk. Protective clothing, gun and 200 paintballs are provided for \$10 per person. Call 761-2038 to reserve the field.

Hearts Tournament Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Try a hand or two and take a chance at winning something special for the sweethearts out there. Entry is free and the tournament winners will get a free Valentine's day delivery.



Valentine's Day Delivery Feb. 13

Send a love one a Valentine's day surprise on the eve of Valentine's day. The surprise consists of a bouquet of sweetheart balloons anchored with a decorative basket filled with candy. The cost is \$6. Deliveries are limited to the Pascagoula-Gautier area. Call 761-2432 for more information and to place an order. Quantities are limited.

Presidents Day Shopping Trip Feb. 16

Spend a couple of hours in Mobile shopping, browsing, dining or just getting away for awhile. Visit Colonial Mall, The Festival Center, Sam's Club and specialty shops. The trip begins at noon at the Cyber Cafe. Sign up at the Cyber Cafe by Feb. 12 or call 761-2402.

Indoor Volleyball Coaches Meeting Feb. 17, noon Fitness Center

Earn Captain's Cup points for commands and departments. Get together a volleyball team and send a representative to this meeting. The co-ed league begins play on Feb. 23.



Mardi Gras Bowl 'N Ball Feb. 19, noon Spanish Trail Lanes

Kick off the final weekend of the carnival season with a festive afternoon of Mardi Gras Gladness. Make plans now to attend by nominating candidates for king and queen from each department. Submit entries via email to Ruth Rotton at mwrtoa. Activities begin with a cajun lunch at noon followed by coronation at 12:30 p.m., bowling begins at 1 p.m. Sign up at the fitness center by Feb 17. The cost is \$10 per person for active duty, DoD and family members. Call 761-2107 for more information.

Mardi Gras Fun Run Feb. 20, 7 a.m.

Instead of scrambling for beads and moon pies thrown from floats, grab treats from carnival tables along the running trail. Here's the catch individuals can not break stride as you reach for carnival treats. The event is open to all eligible fitness center patrons and registration is free.

Liberty Trip to New Orleans Bacchus Parade Feb. 22

Travel with Liberty to the Crescent City for one of the city's most popular carnival parades. Transportation is free and will leave from the Cyber Cafe at 10 a.m. Sign up at the Cyber Cafe by Feb. 19. For more information call 761-2402.

Mardi Gras Gumbo Monday Feb. 23 6:30 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Forget the mumbo jumbo, the magic is in the gumbo. Get fired up for Fat Tuesday with a bowl of Cajun style seafood gumbo for \$2 a bowl. Stop by Cracker Jack's for a taste of Mardi Gras.

MWR Facilities Feb. 16 Hours

Sports & Fitness Center, noon - 6 p.m.
Cyber Cafe, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Cracker Jack's, 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Skeeter's, Closed
Outdoor Rental, Closed
ITT, Closed
MWR Office, Closed
Shuttle Service, noon - 8 p.m.

Personal Classifieds

FOR SALE: A personal lap top, Metro Book. Has Windows 98, Office 2000, a 2.0 gig hard drive, CD rom drive and two USB ports. Selling price is \$600. If interested call 228-497-6213 or email admin8@ns-pascagoula.navy.mil or monarchjd@juno.com.