



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

Homeport

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Photo by Stacey Byington

A word from our Commanders

Department of the Navy objectives for 2004

The CNO, CMC, and I congratulate each of you on the significant accomplishments of 2003. Together, the Navy and Marine Corps team have fought two wars, made considerable strides in the global war on terrorism, and developed and implemented strategies that will guarantee an unbeatable Naval force in the decades to come.

In his recent state of the union address, the President stated "...and the men and women of the American military — they have taken the hardest duty. We've seen their skill and their courage in armored charges and midnight raids, and lonely hours on faithful watch. We have seen the joy when they return, and felt the sorrow when one is lost. I've had the honor of meeting our servicemen and women at many posts, from the deck of a carrier in the pacific to a mess hall in Baghdad. Many of our troops are listening tonight. And I want you and your families to know: America is proud of you! My administration, and this congress, will give you the resources you need to fight and win the war on terror". Like the President, the CNO, CMC, and I are extremely proud of you. The value you provide to our country is immeasurable. While the President and the congress ensure the armed services are adequately funded, it is our responsibility to ensure that we make the most with the resources we have.

As we begin the new year, it is essential that the leadership throughout the Navy and Marine Corps fully understands and works toward accomplishment of our priority objectives for 2004. This is not in-



Gordon England

jectives are met.

DoN objectives for 2004:

A. Continue to support the global war on terrorism through Naval combat forces that are capable and relevant to the mission assigned by the combatant commander.

- Provide and support the required forces for OIF and OEF.
- Incorporate OEF and OIF lessons learned during current operations and in POM 06 investment decisions.
- Optimize DON intelligence capabilities and ensure integration with DoD-wide intelligence efforts.
- Participate in public FORA to emphasize the role of Naval forces in the GWOT.

B. Shape, streamline and protect the work force for the future.

- Continue to provide for the growth and development of our Sailors and marines by sustaining our quality of service/quality of life programs including training, compensation and promotional opportunities, health care, housing, and reasonable operational and personnel tempo.
- Broadly implement the national security personnel system (NSPS) in DON.
- Transform Naval military personnel force by creating modern human resource systems to achieve the objectives of sea power 21 and Marine Corps strategy 21.

• Reduce mishaps to be on target for a 50 per cent reduction FY02 to FY05.

C. Create a more responsive and integrated reserve component.

- Define the 21st century reserve force structure.
- Determine active component/reserve component force structure and mix that supports the fleet response plan (FRP), flexible deployment concept and global conops and new Navy missions such as anti-terrorism/force protection

tended to be a comprehensive list of all that needs to be accomplished this year. It does, however, reflect our joint consensus on those objectives that we personally intend to manage and track to assure that the ob-

(AT/FP).

• Implement redesign of naval reserve to:

-- Establish common training and readiness standards for regular and reserve forces

-- Improve reserve access to current equipment and tactics

-- Optimize command and headquarters relationships between regular and reserve forces.

D. Continue major emphasis on system survivability in POM 06. In the development of sea shield, assess and program to reduce risk in survivability of naval systems, platforms, units, and critical infrastructure from both conventional and asymmetric threats.

E. Posture the department for base realignment and closure (BRAC) 2005. Establish policy imperatives to effectively support the Navy and Marine Corps 20-year force structure plan and align our shore infrastructure to support this vision. Establish policies to guide department analysis of BRAC candidates through the DoD joint process, and determine a framework for aligning post-BRAC capabilities in support of future operating forces and concepts.

F. Deploy operational naval national missile defense capabilities.

G. Align organizations and processes to ensure service collaboration on key joint concepts and capabilities and to accelerate force transformation.

• Stand up a sea basing joint concept development office.

• Develop a joint tactical air weapons office.

• Revise policies and procedures to facilitate "joint basing."

H. Take a leadership role in shaping DoD and joint staff enhanced planning process.

• Prioritize and align service participation in the business management modernization program, joint capabilities integration and development system, the Aldridge study and Under Secretary Wynne's analytical agenda efforts.

• Balance the planning and re-sourcing activities to create a better business structure by focusing more executive time on planning, vice resourcing.

• Develop executive financial management tools to better support executive planning and decision-making along with the financial accounting improvements

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Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

Commanding Officer CDR Terry Rea
Executive Officer LCDR Nancy Fink
Public Affairs Officer Stacey Byington
Homeport Editor JO1 Kim deJong

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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

USS Yorktown to fight war on terrorism

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The guided-missile cruiser USS Yorktown (CG 48), and its crew of approximately 400, deployed Feb. 17 from its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula, as part of the USS Wasp (LHD 1) Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG), making its maiden deployment as an ESG in support of the global war on terrorism.

The ESG concept is centered on the proven flexibility and combat power of a combined Amphibious Readiness Group and Marine Expeditionary Unit. The ESG adds the robust strike, anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-subsurface capabilities of two cruisers, a destroyer, and an attack submarine. These combined capabilities give the combat commander a wider variety of options and enables independent operations in more dynamic environments.

"The significance of this deployment," said Yorktown commanding officer, CDR Steven Sloan, "is that this is the first time in several years that a Pascagoula based ship has deployed to Europe and the Middle East. This is the first time any Pascagoula ship has been part of an Expeditionary Strike Group."

The Yorktown is slated to be the surface warfare commander for the strike group, meaning that the ship and its crew will lead the defense of the group against any surface threat.



Photos by Stacey Byington



Family members wave goodbye as the USS Yorktown (CG 48) heads out to sea on Feb. 17 for its six-month deployment as part of the USS Wasp (LHD 1) Expeditionary Strike Group.

"No boats will get close to the Wasp," said CDR Sloan. "We have a very formidable striking power, and are able to back up the Marines in a low or medium threat condition. I believe we will be a very credible asset to the theater commander."

The Yorktown is capable of carrying an extensive array of weapons and electronic equipment at high speeds over vast distances. The ship's Aegis combat system can detect, track, and destroy enemy aircraft, missiles, submarines, and surface ships to ensure victory in battle. The system, comprised of radars, computers and weapons, is designed to function effectively in all weather conditions and hostile environments.

The Yorktown will be deployed for six months, and although the crew is looking forward to making their mark in

the war on terrorism, there is some anxiety.

"This will be the first deployment for a number of the crew," said Sloan. "They are a little bit anxious, but are looking forward to the deployment. The ship is well trained, and we are ready to go. We are ready!"

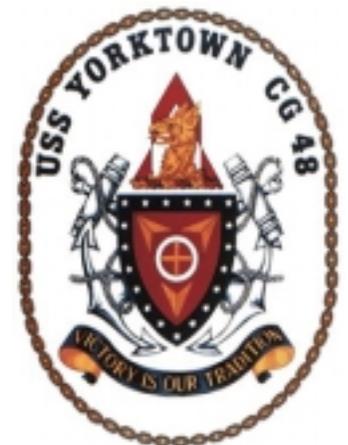
CTT3 Daniel Harton is making his first deployment.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "The ship has trained hard and we are ready to go. The question is, 'Are they ready for us?'"

OS2 Paul Francois said, "The ship is ready to go, but it's hard leaving the family."

The Wasp Strike Group is commanded by CAPT Steven C. Joachim, and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (22 MEU) is commanded by Marine Col. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. In addition to the Yorktown, the strike group consists of the amphibious assault ship Wasp,

homeported in Norfolk, Va.; the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), homeported in Norfolk; the amphibious transport ship USS Shreveport (LPD 12), homeported in Norfolk; the dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41), homeported at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Va.; the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul (DDG 74), homeported in Norfolk; and the fast-attack submarine USS Connecticut (SSN 22), homeported in Groton, Conn. The MEU is composed of the Marine aviation squadron, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 266, the battalion landing team, BLT 1/6, and the MEU Service and Support Group (MSSG) 22.



About the cover

Yorktown deployment -- Sailors man the rails of the USS Yorktown as the ship pulls away from the pier, on its way to join the USS Wasp (LHD 1) Expeditionary Strike Group in support of the global war on terrorism. Yorktown is the first ship from Pascagoula to deploy as part of a strike group.

From our Fleet

Hall Sailor wins shiphandling award

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

LTJG Paul Cocker, has been named the Destroyer Squadron 6 (DESRON 6) Junior Officer Shiphandler of the Year for 2003.

Cocker is currently stationed on the USS John L. Hall (FFG-32), his first surface combatant, where he works as the Electronics Warfare Officer.

A native of Palmer, Alaska, Cocker began his Navy career in 1994 when he enlisted in the Naval Nuclear Power Program from which he was selected for the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.

After completing Naval Nuclear Prototype training he attended Oregon State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Engineering and was then commissioned as an Ensign.

The shiphandling competition takes place annually, and each squadron or group com-



Photo by ENS Irish Sirmons

LTJG Paul Cocker mans the binoculars and looks out over the water from the USS John L. Hall (FFG-32).

prises a competitive grouping. Cocker was selected from among all afloat on-duty officers of DESRON 6, except for unit commanding and executive officers.

"I felt honored to have been selected by my chain of command," said Cocker. "It was a joy to be in competition with the best shiphandlers in DESRON 6,"

"Cocker is the best shiphandler that the USS Hall has, and the best I have seen in my past six years at sea," said LCDR Francis Gutierrez, USS Hall Executive Officer.

"LTJG Cocker is well on his way to being a master of the shiphandling art," said CDR Eric Young, USS Hall Commanding Officer. "He is one of the finest junior officer shiphandlers I have witnessed."

Cocker was one of 22 junior officers from the Atlantic Surface Force selected for shiphandler of the year.

"Shiphandling is the absolute bedrock of every SWO's seagoing soul," said RADM Terrance Etnyre, Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic Fleet, in a message announcing all Surface Force selectees.

"It requires a thorough understanding of a ship's characteristics, wind, sea force effects, and above all, a true seaman's eye. Each of you can be justifiably proud of your accomplishment."

Decisive is on patrol in the Caribbean Sea

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The USCG Decisive is on deployment and hard at work.

During the cutter's second week on patrol the crew intercepted 131 migrants and returned them to the Dominican Republic. By the end of the cutter's third week, they had intercepted another 474 people in six separate interdictions by the Decisive and other cutters in the area. The Decisive had more than 400 migrants on the cutter's helo deck at one time awaiting repatriation back to the Dominican Republic.

During the first week of February, the cutter patrolled the Caribbean Sea, through rough water, with high winds and seas.

The cutter rendezvoused with the Dominican Navy vessel Bellatrix and embarked two Dominican Navy officers. With the Dominican officers aboard, the cutter was allowed to operate within the coastal limits of the Dominican Republic.

They also embarked an NBC Nightly News crew from the Dominican Republic who were working on a story about the illegal migration of people from the Dominican Republic to Puerto Rico.

The weather deteriorated significantly by the end of the week, and on Friday night, Feb. 6, the winds were well over 20 knots, and the cutter was fighting 10-foot seas. A patrolling aircraft sighted another overloaded yola (a small

boat) with more than 40 people on it. When the Decisive reached the scene, the crew discovered 91 migrants crammed into the 35-foot craft. The crew spent several hours transferring the migrants aboard the Decisive, and rendered aid and comfort where needed.

The NBC television crew was able to document the evolution and several days later, Decisive and its crew were featured on national television.

The migrants were repatriated to the Dominican Republic on Feb. 8.

A week later, another patrolling aircraft spotted two more migrant vessels with 89 migrants aboard.

This brought the total to 785 migrants who have crossed the decks of Decisive so far dur-

ing the current patrol.

The patrol has not been all work and no play. The crew spent three days on their first patrol break in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, founded by Christopher Columbus. They visited some of the oldest churches in the Western Hemisphere, spent time on the beach, in local restaurants, and enjoyed some of the city's nightlife.

They enjoyed Super Bowl weekend at the Coast Guard Station in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and stopped briefly in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, to refuel, take on spare parts, and transfer people ashore.

The cutter is scheduled to return to Pascagoula in early March.

From our Fleet

USS Yorktown hosts a family cruise

By ENS Abbas Bandukwala
USS Yorktown PAO

The USS Yorktown sat four inches lower than usual in the water on Jan. 24. The reason for the lower draft was the weight of 500 guests on board for the Yorktown's friends-and-family-day cruise.

Unlike most days at sea, Sailors were able to spend time with their family and friends, demonstrating their duties on a United States Navy vessel. Friends, family members, and Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) students observed the difficult evolutions occurring on a ship.

Some visitors even had a chance to stand watch in some of the positions and operated equipment on the ship. Overall the cruise was a great success because both the guests and the Yorktown crew enjoyed a great Navy day.

Visitors started to arrive as early as 6 a.m. to view the ship. These guests were able to walk around the ship and view the spaces before it became too crowded.

Once the ship was ready to get underway, CDR Steve Sloan and Command Master Chief Andy Lott welcomed everyone on board. Soon af-



Photo by ENS Abbas Bandukwala

The Graves family takes part in the USS Yorktown family cruise on Jan. 24.

ter the introductions, the Yorktown pulled away from the pier and the activities began.

Everyone had an opportunity to get a tour of the ship, with highlights on the tour including Combat Information Center (CIC), Central Control Station (CCS), a Main Engine Room (MER), a torpedo magazine, medical, and the bridge.

These spaces are filled with equipment used to control the weapons systems and the engineering plant of the ship.

"All the cutting-edge technology and understanding needed to operate such a

mighty warship is quite a feat. It is hard to believe how much equipment and power is available on this ship" stated guest Jessica Jones.

Other events included a demonstration of the MK26 guided-missile launching system, shooting the .50 caliber guns and a display of the ship's damage control equipment

Of course, a ship and her equipment are useless if not for the Sailors who operate and drive the ship.

Many Sailors actually had to perform their normal duties to make the family day cruise possible. This day was differ-

ent, though, because these Sailors had help from their guests.

"It was so great for my wife to see me raise and lower the different flags," said SM3 Courtney Lust. "I had a great time explaining the different flags to her and then letting her raise the flags."

NJROTC students were also given an opportunity to observe Sailors at work, and showed a keen interest in the ship and her Sailors, which made the whole experience memorable for everyone.

Several missions were accomplished on Saturday.

The excitement and joy on the faces of everyone on the family cruise were hard to miss.

All the crewmembers went out of their way to spend time with the guests and explain what they do on the ship.

The guests also had an opportunity to learn about the different systems on board and cruise out to sea on a Navy warship.

"We loved being on the ship and seeing different things," said Sosha Richards, a Moss Point High School NJROTC student. "We hope to get another chance to do something like this cruise again."

MGCCC to hold two summer classes at Pascagoula

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) is offering two classes which will be taught at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pascagoula this summer.

The two classes are Developmental Mathematics (MAT 1103), and Beginning English (ENG 1103).

Each class will be held two days a week at the Learning Resource Center (LRC).

"The math class will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays," said Debra Lee, the



MGCCC representative at NAVSTA Pascagoula. "The English class will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Class time will be from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. Tuesday, June 1, is the start date for the English class, and Wednesday, June 2, is the start date for the math class. Final exams will be Aug. 2-6.

"These classes are open to anyone who works on base

including their dependents," said Lee. "They are even available to the general public. We just have to make sure they have a vehicle pass."

Mrs. Gwendolyn Purnell will be the instructor for the math class, and Ms. Bevelyn Ray will be the instructor of the English class.

Anyone interested in taking summer classes on the station should contact Ms. Lee at debra.lee@mgccc.edu. She can also be reached at 761-5647 or 497-7860. She is at

the LRC on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. or noon to 4 p.m., and on Thursdays from 7:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Prior to registering, prospective students must take a placement test. These tests can be taken Monday through Thursday before 3 p.m. at MGCCC. Contact the Admissions Office at 497-7812 to set up an appointment.

Call or see Ms. Lee for any further information on other classes available at MGCCC.

Around the Homeport

RADM Brown visits Pascagoula

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

RADM Annette Brown, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, spent two days on the Mississippi Gulf Coast touring bases under her command and familiarizing herself with other Navy assets in the area.

RADM Brown, a two-star admiral whose headquarters is in Jacksonville, Fla., serves as one of three Navy regional coordinators on the East Coast. She oversees the operations of 20 different commands and Navy activities which support operational fleet units in the southeastern United States, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. Commands under her cognizance on the Mississippi Gulf Coast include Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport and Naval Station Pascagoula.

RADM Brown spent Feb. 10 touring facilities and talking with Sailors at CBC Gulfport. She did the same Feb. 11, touring Northrop Grum-



Photo by Stacey Byington

RADM Annette Brown, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, was the guest speaker at the Pascagoula area Sailor of the Year banquet, held Feb. 11 at the USO.

man Ship Systems, Ingalls Operations; meeting with CAPT David Bella, Superintendent of

Shipbuilding Gulf Coast at Ingalls; CAPT James Martin, Commander Destroyer Squad-

ron 6 at Pascagoula; and touring and talking with Sailors at NAVSTA Pascagoula. Wednesday evening, RADM Brown was the guest speaker at the Naval Station Pascagoula Sailor of the Year banquet, held on station at the USO. She departed the Mississippi Gulf Coast Thursday morning to visit Navy facilities in Charleston, S.C.

After speaking with senior Navy leadership in the Pascagoula area, RADM Brown took time during her visit to speak to and address Sailors' concerns at an 'All Hands' call at NAVSTA Pascagoula.

She talked briefly about the Chief of Naval Operations' 'Seapower 21' initiative and how the Southeast Region fits into the overall concept.

"The focus of the Region is on 'Sea Enterprise,' which is all about recapitalizing the Navy," she said. "Recapitalizing means revitalizing or replacing with newer or better technology. It means we need to do things more efficiently."

Ship and shore Sailors of the Year honored

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Pascagoula area Sailors of the Year were recognized at a dinner on Feb. 11 at the USO. RADM Annette Brown, Commander, Navy Region Southeast was the guest speaker for the special event.

"These Sailors were singled out as 'the best of the best,' from their respective ships and commands, said RADM Brown. "They are exactly the kind of young, dedicated individuals that we want to lead our Navy, now and in the future."

She talked about the Navy core values of honor, courage

and commitment, and charged each of the selected Sailors to ensure their shipmates understand the Navy's mission and standards, and to help them attain the level of success each one of them have achieved.

"We rely on your example," she said. "The road ahead will not always be easy. As the Navy transforms, becoming more 'efficient and effective,' we are depending on you to get it done.

"You have done well," RADM Brown added. "We have high expectations of you in the future."

She presented awards to 12 area Sailors.

EN1(SW) Curtis Davis is

the Naval Station Pascagoula Sailor of the Year. A member of the NAVSTA Security Department, he has set the highest standards of honor, courage and commitment. In addition to his ability to modify or adjust his leadership style to fit all challenges set before him, he has mastered the role of mentor for 65 new Masters-at-Arms under his charge.

SH1 (SW) Dennis Edwards from the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) lead and mentored seven Sailors in the ship's Supply Department in all aspects of ship's sales and service. In his capacity as ship's training petty officer, he helped increase the divisional enlisted

surface warfare (ESWS) qualifications to 80 percent and significantly contributed to the ship earning the ESWS pennant. He also coordinated the command's adopt-a-school program where he supervised the renovation of the playground at the Jackson Elementary School and coordinated the tutoring of more than 3,000 students.

Destroyer Squadron 6 (DESRON6) Shore Sailor of the year is LN1 (SW/AW) Christopher Holts. He serves as the Commodore's legal assistant. Holts does an exceptional job of maintaining good order and discipline throughout

Continued on page 7

Around the Homeport



Photo by Stacey Byington

RADM Annette Brown presents NCI (SW) Lejune Shute from the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) with her award as Sailor of the Year.

Area Sailors of the Year ...

Continued from page 6

DESRON 6.

The DESRON 6 Sea Sailor of the Year is CS1(SW/AW) Terry Richards. Richards takes care of coordinating meals for the squadron staff at sea and on shore. In addition to preparing meals for the Commodore underway, he is also in charge of making VIP's comfortable when they visit DESRON 6.

HT1 (SW) William Rose Jr. is the Shore intermediate Activity (SIMA) Sailor of the Year. He is the leading petty officer in the planning and estimation division, and leads 14 Sailors in an atmosphere of cooperation among planners and work centers which increases productivity and eliminates unnecessary ordering. Through his efforts the command has saved customers more than \$90,000 in repair costs. He is a sailor who exemplifies the Navy core values and supports his shipmates, command and community.

NC1(SW) Lejune Shute is USS Tomas S. Gates (CG 51) Sailor of the Year. As the command career counselor, her personal dedication to duty was the driving force behind

the ship's 25 percent increase in first term retention, a 25 percent increase in second term retention, and a 10 percent increase in third term retention.

STG1(SW) Gregory Thomas was selected as the USS Yorktown (CG 48) Sailor of the Year because of his leadership and professionalism as CA division leading petty officer and combat systems officer of the watch. He contributed significantly to a successful pre-deployment training cycle and to the ship's highest possible proficiency rating in anti-submarine warfare. Thomas also works as the assistant command DAPA and the physical readiness training program coordinator.

The SUPSHIP Gulf Coast Sailor of the year is DC1(SW/DV) Paul Vail. While serving as assistant ship superintendent of the USS Pinckney (DDG 91) and USS Halsey (DDG 97) he was directly responsible for Navy acceptance of 531-ship spaces before alpha trails. This was a SUPSHIP/Northrop Grumman first. Vail is also the command training petty officer and gen-

eral military training coordinator.

DK1(SW) Kevin Ward on the USS John L. Hall (FFG 32) earned his recognition as Sailor of the Year through his flawless execution of duty as the ship's disbursing clerk. As a member of the ship's damage control training team, he helped train many members of the crew in damage control techniques.

MK2 Nathan Williamsen is

the Pascagoula Coast Guard Sailor of the Year. He is dedicated to duty and goes above and beyond while doing his job. Williamsen was primarily responsible for the station inventory that was conducted as part of the turnover of all Coast Guard assets from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security. He is also the station's boat engineer.

Pascagoula Sailors of the Year

Naval Station Pascagoula

EN1(SW) Curtis Davis, Security Department

Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity

HT1(SW) William Rose Jr., Planning and Estimation Division

Branch Medical Clinic

HM1 Sandra McBride, Patient Administrator

Superintendent of Shipbuilding Gulf Coast

DC1(SW/DV) Paul Vail, Damage Control Specialist

U.S. Coast Guard Station Pascagoula

MK2 Nathan Williamsen, boat engineer

USS Ticonderoga (CG 47)

SH1(SW) Dennis Edwards, Supply Department

USS Yorktown (CG 48)

STG1(SW) Gregory Thomas, Combat Systems

USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51)

NC1(SW) Lejune Shute, Command Career Counselor

USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29)

STG1(SW) Matthew Lewis, Combat Systems

USS John L. Hall (FFG 32)

DK1(SW) Kevin Ward, Dispersing Clerk

Destroyer Squadron 6 Sea Sailor of the Year

CS1(SW/AW) Terry Richards, Squadron Staff Chef

Destroyer Squadron 6 Shore Sailor of the Year

LN1(SW/AW) Christopher Holt, Legalman

Around the Homeport

Navy Relief celebrates 100 years

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) marked its 100th anniversary on Jan. 23 with a celebration at the Naval Station Pascagoula USO. Local NMCRS workers and guests celebrated the birthday with the official cutting of the 100th anniversary cake.

NMCRS was established in 1903 when Dr. J. William White of the University of Pennsylvania suggested that the proceeds from that year's Army-Navy football game be split three ways. President Theodore Roosevelt agreed, and the \$27,000 collected from ticket sales was divided between the university, the Army Relief Society and the Navy. The money was to be used to establish a relief society for the Navy and Marine Corps widows and orphans.

With the money given to the Navy after the Army-Navy football game, the NMCRS was officially started.

In the early years, the society, known then as the Navy Relief Society, investigated circumstances of every man who died on active duty. If his widow or children were in financial need they received a supplement of \$5 to \$25 each month. At the time, all assistance was given out as grants.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

The local NMCRS staff celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society with a cake cutting. CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA Pascagoula commanding officer, took part in the festivities.

The society also paid for training or schooling so families could develop a reliable source of income.

For several years following the beginning of the society, the University of Pennsylvania continued to share the profits from the Army-Navy football games. Selling memberships to the organization also raised funds for

NMCRS.

By 1905 there were auxiliary offices in eight different states, and by 1916 NMCRS had expanded to 18 auxiliaries and several branch auxiliaries. The society also provided grants totaling more than \$250,000 to almost 2,500 families.

As the years went by, the

NMCRS continued to grow and prosper.

In the 1990s, the society officially changed its name to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society.

A NMCRS office was officially established in Pascagoula on Jan. 1, 1971.

Today the office provides financial assistance for widows and children, and helps all active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel, eligible family members of active duty or retired personnel and eligible family members of Navy and Marine Corps personnel who have died on active duty or in a retired status.

NMCRS provides services including budget counseling, layettes, education loans and grants for spouses of active duty members, information on educational loans, interest free loans or grants to help with emergencies and they can coordinate with civilian agencies when needed.

The Pascagoula NMCRS also has a thrift store at Lakeside Combined Bachelors Quarters.

For more information about the Naval Station Pascagoula NMCRS call 761-2263.



Did you know that...

NMCRS Thrift Shops can help eligible members buy household items and clothing at a fraction of the original cost? Find bargains on bedding, kitchen items, clothing and shoes. Check out the uniform inventory before paying full price. The Thrift Shop has dress whites, dress blues, utilities, khakis, etc., for both men and women.

Before spending hard-earned paychecks on new items, visit the Thrift Shop located at the Lakeside barracks complex. Open Wednesdays 11a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information please contact the NMCRS office at 228-761-2263 or the Thrift Shop at 228-762-1605.

NMCRS THRIFT SHOP ALSO ACCEPTS CLOTHING DONATIONS

Around the Homeport

Motivation -- Larry Kryske offers a motivational lecture to Naval Station Pascagoula personnel. Kryske, now retired, was the first commanding officer of the station, and was instrumental in many of the station's aesthetic features. He returned to present "Creating your finest hour" on Jan. 23. Throughout the program Kryske worked a large oil painting which illustrated the motivational message he delivered. By the end of the program the painting was complete and provided a visual surprise.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Reenlistment -- CS3 Nickolaus Lewis pledges his allegiance to the Navy for another four years in front of family and co-workers on Feb. 2 on the USS Alabama in Mobile, Ala. The oath was administered by CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA Pascagoula commanding officer. Following the re-enlistment Lewis transferred to NAS Whidbey Island, WA.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Science Fair-- EM1(SW) Daniel Ring talks to a student from Trent Lott Middle School about an entry in the school's science fair. On Feb. 6 Trent Lott Middle School held its first annual science fair. Students from the school displayed their projects while volunteer judges graded each project. Projects were entered in several different categories including botany, engineering, and social sciences. Ring was one of the judges for the engineering projects.

Around the Homeport

NAVSTA wardroom offers scholarship

The Naval Station Pascagoula wardroom has teamed up with the First Command Educational Foundation to offer a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or enrolled college student.

All dependent children of active duty, retirees or deceased military in the vicinity of the station are eligible to apply. All applicants must be enrolled or have been accepted full time to a two- or four-year college or university, starting or continuing in the fall of 2004.

Alex Byington, 19, son of NAVSTA Pascagoula's Public Affairs Officer, was awarded the scholarship last year. Alex is currently a sophomore at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga.

Applications are available from the NAVSTA Pascagoula Executive Officer, LCDR Nancy Fink, or from the commanding officer's secretary, Sara Stockfleth.

"Educational expenses are rising every year," said LT Jon Jeffries, Staff Judge Advocate and a member of the NAVSTA Officers Wardroom. "This is a great opportunity for those who take advantage of it."

All applications must include

a 500-1,000-word typed, double-spaced essay discussing the pros and cons of requiring two years of military service from all 18-year-old U.S. citizens.

Applicants must also include a copy of the student's most current transcript, and SAT/ACT scores.

All applications must be returned completed, signed, with attached essays to Naval Station Pascagoula, addressed to the Executive Officer. Application deadline is April 1. No late applications will be accepted.

First Command provides scholarships annually to deserving dependents of American military professionals at many installations around the world.

Since the Educational Foundation was established in 1983, more than \$2.7 million has been awarded in scholarships to those dependent children of military members who are selected and nominated by military clubs and organizations worldwide. They also award special scholarships to deserving Reserve Office Training Corps (ROTC) students nominated each year by the various military services.

Uniform Shift

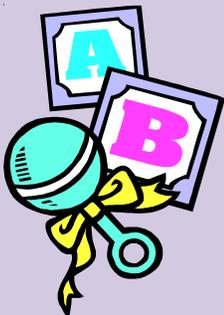
The shift to summer uniforms is April 5.



Photo by Stacey Byington

Blood Drive -- GM2 Shawn Guimond, of the NAVSTA Weapons Department, donates a pint of blood during a recent blood drive held in the station gymnasium. Thirty pints of blood were contributed.

New Arrivals



Mia Allie, new daughter to BM2(SW) Derek Norris.

Born Feb 5.

Isiah, new son to SN Teresa Sizemore.

Born Feb. 5



SIMA Happenings

SIMA holds change of command

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

CDR Daniel Henderson relieved CDR Derrick Mitchell, in a traditional Navy change of command ceremony as Commanding Officer, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula, on Feb. 20.

SIMA Pascagoula provides quality direct ship repair intermediate level maintenance to surface units in the Gulf Coast region and provides maintenance and repair training to Sailors to further enhance their skills. 'Intermediate level maintenance' complements and bridges the gap between routine shipboard repair conducted by ships' crews and the extensive industrial repairs performed during periodic ship overhauls at Navy and commercial shipyards.

CDR Henderson is a native of Clarksville, Va., and following his graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Navy in 1979. Ships he served aboard during his enlisted career include the USS W.S. Sims (FFG 1059), and USS Preble (DDG 46). He participated in numerous Cold War operations, deploying to the Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and the Caribbean Sea.

He was selected for and commissioned as an Ensign in the Engineering Surface Repair, Limited Duty Officer program in 1987. His first tour of duty as an officer was aboard the USS Preble, as the engineering maintenance and main propulsion assistant. Three years later he was assigned as the Staff Material/Training and Readiness Officer on the staff of Commander, Naval Beach Group 2. During this assignment he deployed to the Persian Gulf, and served as the officer in charge of the recon-



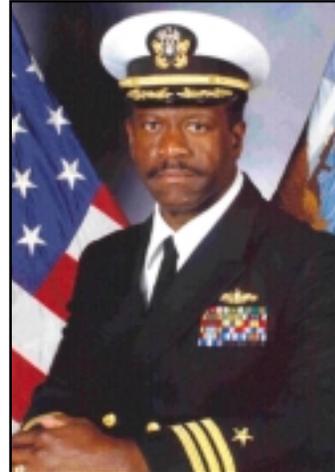
CDR Daniel Henderson

stitution of the Maritime Prepositioning Force following Operation Desert Storm.

As Chief Engineer aboard USS Samuel Eliot Morison (FFG 13) CDR Henderson participated in Operations 'Able Vigil' and 'Uphold Democracy.' He became the production officer for SIMA Norfolk, Va., in December 1995, and then assumed the job of repair officer, readying the command to assume all intermediate level submarine work for the Mid-Atlantic Region, a first for a surface intermediate maintenance activity.

CDR Henderson's most re-

The principals of the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Pascagoula change of command salute as the national anthem plays. The new commanding officer is CDR Daniel Henderson, right. CDR Derrick Mitchell, left, said his farewells, and CAPT William Larson of Regional Support Group, Mayport, Fla., was the guest speaker.



CDR Derrick Mitchell

cent assignments include duty on the staff of Commander, Countermeasure Squadron 3, Ingleside, Texas; aboard the USS Saipan (LHA 2) as Chief Engineer; and most recently as the Maintenance Officer for Commander, Regional Support Group, Mayport, Fla.

His personal awards include three Meritorious Service Medals, four Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals, three Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and numerous unit citations and campaign ribbons.

CDR Mitchell assumed command of SIMA Pasca-

goula in June 2002. Under his leadership and guidance SIMA Pascagoula became the pre-eminent SIMA in the Gulf Coast Region. With an operating budget of more than \$3 million, and through creative scheduling and utilization of assets, the command achieved a 30 percent increase in productivity, quality control and customer satisfaction.

He is also responsible for improving core proficiency, and upgrading capabilities including corrosion control and powder-coating facilities, infrared imaging, acid cleaning, and shear-wave non-destructive testing. Additionally, SIMA Pascagoula has made significant improvements in reducing mishaps and injuries to sailors, both on and off-duty, resulting in the command being awarded the Secretary of the Navy Safety Award in the small industrial category two consecutive years.

CDR Mitchell leaves Pascagoula for Little Creek, Va., where he will assume the duties of Assistant Chief of Staff for Material on the staff of the Commander, Amphibious Group 2.



Around the Homeport

Do your part to save the environment

By Tom Sarros
Environmental Manager

Here are just a few things that can be done to make a difference in protecting our environment. It will help save our planet, save money and maybe make life a little better for all of us. Engaging in these activities will definitely reduce the amount of resources used by all.

- Use things more than once. Write on both sides of a sheet of paper.

- Re-use plastic grocery bags by taking them back to the store each time you shop. Recycle them at the store recycling center. Better yet, use canvas bags.

- Put leftovers in re-usable containers instead of wrapping them in foil or plastic wrap.



- Bring lunch in re-usable containers instead of zip-lock bags, foil wrappings or plastic wrap.

- Attach a low-flow aerator on kitchen and bathroom faucets. They cost very little and cut water use by more than 3,000 gallons per year for a typical family of four.

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth. A running faucet puts three to five gallons down the drain every

minute.

- Filling a basin when hand-washing dishes uses about five gallons of water. The 'running tap' method uses about 25 gallons.

- Displace the water in toilet tanks by dropping in (clear of the flushing mechanism) a plastic bottle filled with rocks, and save about two gallons per flush.

- Use low-phosphate or phosphate-free detergent. Phosphates help algae grow out of control, using up the oxygen needed by other plants and marine life.

- Keep tires properly inflated. The "rolling resistance" caused by underinflated tires wastes about two billion gallons of gas in America each year.

- Car-pool to work. If ev-

ery commuter car in America carried just one more passenger, Americans would save 600,000 gallons of gasoline every day.

- Don't let cars idle unnecessarily. It takes less gas to restart a car than it takes to let it idle.

- Avoid using styrofoam. That cup you drank your morning coffee from could be polluting the earth 500 years from now. The same goes for any type of styrofoam packaging.

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. They screw into standard sockets and give off light identical to incandescent. By using one compact fluorescent bulb in place of a traditional bulb, you keep a half-ton of CO₂ out of the environment.

Seabees renovate animal sanctuary in Bahrain

By JO2 Tim Walsh
NSA Bahrain Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain (NNS) — Seabees deployed to Bahrain teamed up with the Bahrain Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA) to make life a little better for abused and abandoned animals.

The Seabees, from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, homeported in Gulfport, Miss., recently replaced roofs and created a drainage system for the BSPCA sanctuary.

According to sanctuary manager Pam Smith, the BSPCA operates from donations and proceeds derived from the society's thrift shop.

The sanctuary was in desperate need of repairs, but with plans of moving and constructing a new sanctuary, most funds were being saved for future projects, and only emergency repairs could be



SEABEES

"We Build, We Fight"

made. The Seabees brought building materials, and provided much needed labor and expertise.

"I am very grateful for them coming out and helping," Smith said of NMCB-1's work. "If they didn't do it, it just wouldn't have gotten done."

UT3(SCW) Jeffrey Ladd and BU2(SCW) John Bachik replaced a dilapidated roof with new plywood supplied by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet Chaplain's Office.

"The roof was in pretty bad shape. It was cracked and

leaked," Bachik said, as he painted the new roof.

According to Smith, the Seabees replaced the roof on a building used to house cats, where after several recent rainfalls, sanctuary personnel were growing concerned for the cats' health.

"The leaks were all over. More than half of the cages were under leaks," Smith explained. "Getting a new roof is invaluable for the health of those cats."

SW3(SCW) David Gilliam and CE3(SCW) Brett Bucheit replaced the roof and added a drainage pipe to the puppy pen,

as well.

The repairs will dramatically improve the puppies' living conditions, Smith said.

"It takes hours to get water out of the pen after it rains," she explained, saying workers and volunteers use brooms to push the water out.

To alleviate the build up, the Seabees tore up part of the pen's floor and laid eight inches of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe to an already existing drainage system, Gilliam said.

With the renovations, NMCB-1 continues a tradition of Seabee support to the BSPCA.

Navy News

CNI addresses evolving Navy

By JO1(SW) Jason McKnight
CNRSW San Diego PAO

CORONADO — Commander, Navy Installations, RADM Christopher E. Weaver held a conference with all of the Navy's regional commanders last month on Naval Amphibious Base Coronado to discuss CNI's mission and goals.

The four-month-old organization Weaver heads was tasked by the Chief of Naval Operations to align all shore-based support facilities and processes under one entity.

"Our objective is to enhance the Navy's combat power for the same or fewer expended resources," said Weaver. "As we centralize short support processes, we'll become more coherent, focused and our product delivery will become more efficient."

Increasing efficiency through standardization of processes and using the best ways of doing business is a major pursuit for CNI. If the forward operating forces don't have to constantly look over their shoulder to check for support, they can focus more on their jobs and they'll become more effective in their area of operations.



"We're not about becoming U.S. Navy, Inc.," said Weaver. "But what we can do, what we should do, is adopt those industry models that have proven effective in the private sector and put them in place where we need to."

Weaver said private corporations never have to worry about defending the nation as the Navy does, but the Navy shouldn't ignore the benefits of taking advantage of their expertise in more effective business practices.

"The CNO is intent on putting the message out that everyone can be more efficient and, therefore, more effective," said Weaver. "What we all need to look at more closely is whether any given cost is worth the benefit it brings."

Inefficiency through adopt-

ing different processes, such as handling identical supply item requisitions differently from region to region, can cost time, effort and money.

"Why make it up locally if there's a standardized way of doing it?" said Weaver. "We're not about heavy-handed standardization for the sake of standardization, but if your locally-generated idea is so innovative that it warrants a new process, why can't we adopt it Navy-wide?"

Weaver said the best way of contributing to CNI's mission with a great idea is to tell supervisors. The idea will find its way up the chain of command and if it's found to be a better way of doing something, it'll have a good chance of being put into place.

"ADM [Vern] Clark has asked us all to challenge the assumptions," said Weaver. "The old ways of doing business just aren't going to work in the surge Navy of today and the foreseeable future. Just having the attitude of 'I'm going to try to save the taxpayer some money today,' is good, but we all need to be willing to actually take the steps to change our Navy."

Weaver said programs such

as the '5-Vector Model' and 'Perform to Serve' will help Sailors make those steps as the Navy evolves.

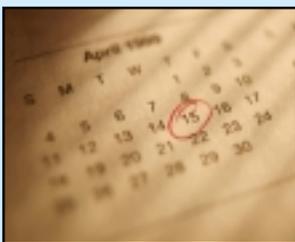
"Changing the way we do business is going to mean that as we gain efficiencies in one area, opportunities are going to open up elsewhere," said Weaver. "Whether you're a civilian or military member of the Navy, that's going to require you to change your mindset that your job is the only job you're ever going to be asked to do. You've got to take advantage of the training opportunities and be open-minded about adapting and learning new things."

The first commander of CNI said that as resources are shifted to support the evolving Navy, sometimes people will be asked to change, but these shifts won't be done without careful consideration.

"This is not about wholesale redistribution of people," he said. "It's about intelligent re-application of people's skills and abilities. Through communication and education, we'll be able to do this so it's best for everyone involved."

Change is coming, he said, and everyone must have an appetite for it.

VITA office information



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



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

Navy News

Web-based system helps commands

By Ingrid Mueller
MWR Communications Group

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — The key to the Navy's physical readiness program is recognizing that "total fitness" is a crucial element of mission performance.

Recent upgrades to the Navy's Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS), including enhanced "read only" access and reporting procedures, help Navy commands get a true picture of their Sailors' overall fitness, while significantly reducing the administrative workload required to administer the physical readiness program.

"The refinements we are making to PRIMS support the Navy's goal of developing a culture of fitness," said CDR Mike Criqui, physical readiness program manager, Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Division, Navy Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.

"Commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs can now be assigned read-only access to all the physical readiness program records within their command, which will enable them to get a better look at the overall fitness of their Sailors."

Read-only access is available through the command fitness leader (CFL).

All commands are required to report their physical fitness assessment (PFA) data via PRIMS no later than 30 days after conducting the PFA, in accordance with guidelines established in the Navy's Physical Readiness Program instruction, OPNAVINST 6110.1G. When using the Web-based PRIMS, there is no need to provide any additional reports to Navy Personnel Command on command participation in PFAs.

"The purpose of PRIMS is to make the whole administration of the physical readiness program easier for the command and for the individual," explained Criqui. "PRIMS came on line Oct. 1, 2002, and has significantly reduced the command level administrative workload required to administer the physical readiness program. We estimate that PRIMS has reduced record management time by about 30 percent."

CFLs can use PRIMS to update individual records, receive and transfer members' records, and create specialized reports for their command. Other features of the system include risk controls, PFA

tracking, administrative warnings and fitness enhancement program (FEP) enrollment.

Using PRIMS means no more "stubby pencils" for CFLs, as the system performs the calculations for body fat measurement and computes the overall physical readiness test performance score. Step-by-step instructions for this user-friendly system are available to the CFL through the PRIMS Web site, www.mwr.navy.mil/prims.

"PRIMS also provides the CFL with checks and balances to ensure risk control measures are in place prior to conducting the physical readiness test," added Criqui. "The system tracks medical screenings and waivers, and will print a list of individuals who are cleared to participate in the physical readiness test, along with a list of those who are not cleared to participate."

Sailors can view their records at any time through the Navy MWR PRIMS Web site at prims.persnet.navy.mil, by using the social security number as the log-in identification and the BUPERS Online (BOL) password as a password. Sailors can obtain a BOL password by visiting the BOL Web site at www.bol.navy.mil/default.asp.

"I encourage each indi-

vidual to check their record on PRIMS after the PFA has been recorded to make sure it's correct. That way, any discrepancies can be resolved at the command level," said Criqui.

As part of the checks and balances built into the system, CFLs can only make changes to the records of members assigned to their command. In addition, after six months of PFA completion, record changes can only be made by Navy Personnel Command, which requires a letter from the individual's commanding officer granting authorization to make the changes.

"A gaining command cannot edit a record that was updated by a previous command, even if it was within six months. You can only edit records from your own UIC (unit identification code)," said Criqui. "So, if a record from a previous command needs to be edited, we need to get a letter from that previous commanding officer to make the change. That's another reason why, especially on a transfer, Sailors should check their records on PRIMS."

For additional information, please visit the Physical Readiness Program Web page at www.mwr.navy.mil/mwrprgms/physred.htm.

LINK-Perspective transitions to web format

By JO1 Teresa Frith
NPCC Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — LINK-Perspective magazine is now available online at the Navy Personnel Command (BUPERS) Web site. The January-April 2004 edition can be found at www.bupers.navy.mil/periodicals/link-perspective/Link-Perspective.htm.

This edition will be the last printed version of the publica-

tion, which has been a Navy icon in one form or another since 1956. Beginning with the May-September 2004 issue, it will be available only on the BUPERS Web site or via the quarterly BUPERS CD-ROM.

"The new, online-only versions of LINK-Perspective are part of the Navy's initiative to give our Sailors Web-based methods of accessing information vital to their careers. It gives them the information they need at the click of a

mouse the moment it is needed, information that can be updated as needed, thus ensuring access to the most current career or policy-enhancing items," said RADM John W. Townes, Commander, Navy Personnel Command.

The Officer section began in 1956 as the Line Officer Newsletter. That changed to Perspective in 1980. The enlisted section began as LINK in 1972. Both publications started out small, with little or

no graphics, but by the time they merged in 2002 to become LINK-Perspective, they had become a larger, more informative magazine with both black and white, and full-color photos.

The January-April issue has already implemented features that will be continued in the online-only versions. For the first time, readers can click onto Web sites, NAVADMIN messages and instructions

Continued on page 15

Continuing on ...

Department of the Navy objectives ...

Continued from page 2

needed to obtain a clean audit.

I. Develop an enterprise-wide system of performance measures fed by echelon II level metrics that enable effective DoN management and provides linkage to the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) risk areas and the President's management agenda.

J. Develop, in concert with DoD and Congress, a financing strategy for shipbuilding that articulates requirements, matches them with platforms, and aligns resources with those commitments. Explore options that differentiate these major capital investments from other costs.

K. Work with Congress and appropriate agencies to ensure needed training and readiness of naval forces are not impaired by encroachments and restrictions such as urban sprawl and local environmental regulation. Ensure effective consideration of national defense factors in amend-

ments to environmental laws, especially reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

- Work closely with Congress and regulatory agencies to ensure proposed reauthorization of MMPA is consistent with national defense needs.

- Implement a robust, integrated program to assess the potential impacts of naval activities on protected marine animal species.

- Complete fleet guidance, environmental documentation, and mitigation actions for all routine unit training evolutions and major exercises in FY04.

L. Adapt maintenance management to support surge requirements of the fleet response plan (FRP).

- Develop a strategy to support the "one shipyard" concept within the industrial base.

- Establish mission funding at all shipyards.

M. Clarify DoN and Coast

Guard roles, missions, and homeland security relationships both in CONUS and non-CONUS theaters of operation.

N. Synchronize and align information technology (IT) programs and investments/NMCI. Identify and execute the near term application and server management decisions to capitalize on NMCI as an enterprise IT system.

O. Create the enterprise framework and initially deploy an enterprise resource program (ERP) to manage our supply chain and to enhance and modernize our business management process.

We look forward to receiving progress reports on each of these objectives and working as a team to accomplish the best possible results.

We commend each and every one of you on your commitment to achieving the maximum effectiveness with the greatest efficiency.

FFSC offers Ombudsman training

The Ombudsman program is a significant factor in enhancing quality of life for Navy families, and Ombudsman help improve the overall effectiveness and mission readiness of their command.

The next scheduled training for Ombuds-

man will be held at the Fleet and Family Support Center, March 24 - 26. The Wednesday and Thursday classes begin at 8:30 a.m., and end at 4 p.m. The Friday class goes from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Call Gerri Warden at 761-2096 to register for this training.

LINK-perspective transitions to web...

Continued from page 14

listed in each article. This gives Sailors instant clarification on the subject matter without having to look up the information elsewhere.

The January-April issue is available in two formats, a smaller, lower resolution Adobe Acrobat .pdf file and a new text-only .html file. The two versions offer a choice if computers are constrained by lower download speeds or bandwidth issues.

LINK-Perspective is the

Navy's career bulletin, providing critical information to both officers and enlisted Sailors on key issues and emerging trends that will affect their careers. It will continue to be the vital link between the Sailor and the detailer by giving them that information in a more timely fashion, offering the ability to update any information instantaneously if a breaking policy change occurs, or any other item needs

to be put out to Sailors.

Future issues may also contain items such as links to detailers, chat rooms and other assets, as the magazine continues to mature into a publication with less redundancy and more issues relevant to a Sailor's needs.

"This is just one of the many ways that we are staying true to our promise of 'Mission First, Sailors Always,'" said Townes.

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

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, noon - 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 Coliseum, 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.

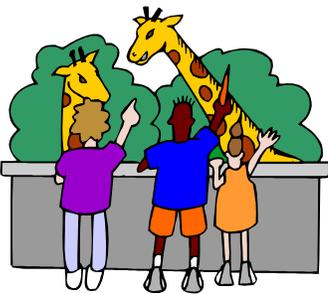
MWR Activities

Intramural softball league begins March 23

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

Liberty trip to Edgewater Mall March 1

Edgewater Mall in Biloxi offers a wide array of shopping. Enjoy an afternoon at the mall. Relax in the food court or find that special item. Leave the Cyber Cafe at 4 p.m. and return around 9:30 p.m. Transportation cost is \$3. For more information call 761-2293.



Liberty trip to Audubon Zoo March 6, 10 a.m.

Travel to one of the nation's top zoos. Get up close to some of nature's most fascinating creatures. Leave the Cyber Cafe at 10 a.m. and return around 8 p.m. The cost is \$12.50, which includes admission to the zoo. The

The paintball field is available on Wednesdays. Call 761-2038 to make reservations.

deadline to sign up is March 3. Sign up at the Cyber Cafe or call 761-2293.

Kite flight competition March 1, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Skeeter's (ball field)

It's a plane, it's a bird, no it's a super kite. Build a super kite and join the excitement. Prizes will be awarded. No store-bought kites are allowed. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place. Judging criteria will be based on the height of the flight and design originality. Entry is free for the event. For more information call 761-2293.



March Madness Hot Wings Special March 15, 6:30 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Don't miss the NCAA final four and \$6 all-you-can-eat hot wings.



Eat green and stay healthy March 17, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Fitness Center

Make St. Patrick proud. Join the Fitness Center staff and observe St. Patrick's Day along with National Nutrition Month by promoting healthy dieting. Eat from the free

salad bar and get nutrition advice from the specialists that will be on hand. Family members are welcome.

"Dem bugs" night March 17, 6:30 p.m. Crackerjack's

Heads or tails? Any way the crawfish falls, be a winner. Liberty is serving up free succulent crawfish just the way everyone likes 'em -- crawfish, corn and potatoes boiled to Cajun perfection on an open flame. Say goodbye to cabin fever and hello springtime.

Liberty trip to Mobile Flea Market March 20

Want a day of exploration and discovery? Grab a few dollars and spend the afternoon at the flea market. Leave the Cyber Cafe at 10 a.m. and return around 4 p.m. To get a preview of the vendors and their offerings, visit www.fleamarketmobile.com. Transportation cost is \$3. Sign up at the Cyber Cafe or call 761-2293 for more information.



Spring Intramural Softball League March 23, 6 p.m. Main Softball Field

It's opening night for the spring season and the entire family is invited for an evening of fun. Bring your camera and take pictures of the

kids with Bay Bear, team mascot for the Mobile Bay Bears. The league's coaches meeting is March 16 at noon at the Fitness Center. Games are played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m.



Fishing Tournament March 27 7 a.m. - noon

Join Liberty on the pier behind the CBQ and compete for a prize. Entry in the tournament is \$5 and the winner will receive a free week's rental of a pop-up camper or a Carolina skiff boat. Register at Outdoor Rental by March 22 or call Bo at 761-2038 for more info.

Personal Classifieds

FOR SALE: A beautiful brick home in a subdivision in Gautier. It is a 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with walk-in closets, fireplace, a big front and back yard, two-car garage and much more. For more information call Cassandra Searight at 228-235-1526 or 228-522-0025.

CAC Card Office Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.