



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

Homeport

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Photo by Stacey Byington

A word from our Commanders

An expectation of ethical conduct

By **Honorable Gordon England**
Secretary of the Navy

This is a short message about an important topic - ethics. It is essential that all Department of the Navy personnel adhere to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. The American people put their trust in us and none of us can betray that trust. The standards of conduct contained in reference A are designed to ensure that we retain the trust of the American people.

It is critically important that we all put ethics above personal gain. Most ethical problems can be avoided by being forthright, honest and direct with everybody in every situation, every time. Everyone should understand that actions that may be permissible for some non-government employees are prohibited for us in order to preserve our trust with the American people. Here are some examples:

A. Government resources. Use of "company" (government) resources such as personnel, equipment, and property is restricted to official use only (with limited exceptions). We pay for our people, vehicles, and equipment with taxpayers' money, and we must use them to only accomplish our mission, never for personal convenience or other unauthorized purposes.

B. Acceptance of gifts. Although there are some exceptions, we cannot accept gifts that are offered by individuals seeking to do business with DoD or because of the official positions we hold. Similarly, superiors must neither expect nor

allow subordinates to give them gifts under circumstances not allowed by reference A.

C. Financial interests. We need to ensure that our financial interests do not conflict with conscientious performance of duties. This is important for everyone, but especially important for flag and general officers, personnel in the senior executive service, procurement officials, and other personnel who exercise fiduciary responsibilities. Waivers may be available in limited circumstances if it is determined that the financial interest will not affect the integrity with which government duties will be performed. The important point is that taxpayers must be confident that we make decisions for the benefit of the entire nation rather than just for ourselves, or a few companies or individuals.

D. Future employment. Anyone negotiating or seeking employment with a prospective employer must disqualify himself or herself from participating in official decisions, recommendations, and other actions that would affect the financial interests of the prospective employer. This restriction is especially important for procurement officials and other senior decision-makers. Waivers may be available in limited circumstances if it is determined that the financial interest is too remote to affect the integrity with which govern-

ment duties will be performed. Adherence to high ethical standards means not only that we treat taxpayers and the Department of the Navy with respect, but also that we treat all people with dignity and respect. When treating people with dignity and respect, there is obviously no room for behavior such as sexual harassment or sexual assault. Adherence to high standards of ethical conduct and personal behavior will ensure that we treat others with the dignity and respect that every person desires and deserves.

I expect all commanders and supervisors to set a personal example of integrity and ethical conduct. Doing so will create an environment that encourages subordinates to develop these same traits. In addition, reminding our people of their responsibilities in this regard is a useful exercise. One commander, for example, recently ordered a stand down to focus on personal behavior and ethics issues. Finally, commanders and other senior leaders must be particularly aware of ethical standards and should contact general counsel and judge advocate ethics counselors to seek advice or clarity on an ethics-related issue.

I appreciate the superb service each of you performs on a daily basis. You carry on a long tradition of service that preserves and protects freedom and liberty for all of our citizens.

Building the Navy of the future

By **Chief of Naval Operations PAO**

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) ADM Vern Clark detailed many aspects of the future Navy and the service's transformation efforts during an interview with the Defense Writers Group on March 2.

Throughout the interview, Clark stressed the importance of the Fleet Response Plan, manning initiatives, and new flexibility-enhancing technologies like the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), and how they play major roles in adapting the Navy to current and conceivable future world situations.

"If there's one message for me to get across to you this morning, it's that we are re-creating the Navy," said Clark. "The value of naval forces is that they're not fixed, they are mobile and they can respond. With the sovereignty issues of the

world today, we need to be able to extract as much utility as we can from our Navy."

One way the Navy plans to extract utility from the fleet is through the flexibility provided in the Fleet Response Plan, by incorporating it with new concepts of forward presence and power projection.

"I have talked a lot about presence with a purpose. It means to go after challenging assumptions about our ideas on presence," Clark said. "I'm not in love with six-month heel-to-toe deployments just so we can say we did six-month heel-to-toe deployments. We are revolutionizing the way we think about how we equip and train our forces so we can get more utility out of them, and that's what FRP is all about. So in a crisis, when our nation needs it, we'll be able to surge more combat capability than ever before."

Another way the CNO believes more

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Naval Station Pascagoula's hometown on-line newspaper

Homeport

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Executive Officer LCDR Nancy Fink
Public Affairs Officer Stacey Byington
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From our Fleet

Ticonderoga sets sail one last time

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

The USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) departed its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula for its final deployment on March 10. The ship is scheduled to be decommissioned on Sept. 30. While deployed, the ship will initially conduct counter-drug operations in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea, and then participate in UNITAS operations off the coast of South America.

UNITAS is an annual series of multi-national training exercises and operations conducted by the Navy, Marine Corps, Special Operations and U.S. Coast Guard forces with their counterparts from South and Central American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Although the Ticonderoga will not be joining the carrier



Photo by Stacey Byington

The USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) departs Naval Station Pascagoula on its final deployment.

battle groups currently operations in the Middle East, the ship will be supporting homeland defense, working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Coast Guard. It will be patrolling coastal waters and airspace, standing watch over critical infrastructure, collecting intelligence and intercepting threats to our national security.

The Ticonderoga is an Aegis guided-missile cruiser, one of three assigned to Destroyer Squadron 6, homeported at Pascagoula. It is a multi-mission surface combatant capable of supporting carrier battle groups, amphibious forces, operating as a flagship of a surface-action group, or operating independently.

It has a crew of more than 350 men and women, and has the ability to carry out multi-dimensional, multi-threat combat missions. As part of its Aegis weapons arsenal, Ticonderoga is equipped with SPY-1 radar, sophisticated displays and computer systems, and advanced surface-to-air missiles, and is ideally suited to perform duties as 'Shield of the Fleet' against a complex and fast-moving air attack of any description.

More than 20 years old, Ticonderoga was built in Pascagoula, commissioned in January 1983, and was the first ship of the AEGIS guided-

missile cruiser class. It was the world's first surface combatant equipped with the AEGIS combat system, the most sophisticated air defense in the world. During the ship's lifetime, its crews have been involved in major national and international events, and several historic NATO exercises. Ticonderoga's adventures have taken her to duty in the Gulf of Sidra, off the coast of Beirut, to the Arctic Circle, the Equator, and through the Suez and Panama canals. The ship was one of the first to report on station in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990. It has deployed to the Mediterranean Sea, the Caribbean Sea and the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

The current Ticonderoga is the fifth U.S. Navy ship to bear its historic name. She is named in commemoration of the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, on Lake Champlain in eastern New York, in May 1775, by Ethan Allen and his 'Green Mountain Boys.' One of the first military successes of the American Revolution, the seizure provided desperately needed cannons and supplies to George Washington's army.

The Ticonderoga is commanded by CDR Glenn W. Zeiders III.

"We have all put a lot into getting the ship ready to deploy," said Zeiders. "Right now we are all excited to deploy, but when we get back, everyone is going to be pretty down knowing we have to put her to rest."

Three Pinckney Sailors die in bus crash

NORFOLK, Va. – Three Sailors were killed, 24 treated at area hospitals, and 47 suffered minor injuries March 12, when the bus in which they were traveling collided with a truck on U.S. Rte. 17 about 20 miles north of Beaufort, S.C.

The Sailors were from the pre-commissioning unit of the guided missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91).

Killed were:

-- Seaman Apprentice Kip C. J. Baker, 19, of Pittsboro, Ind. Baker enlisted Aug. 1, 2003, and reported to the ship Jan. 5.

-- GSE2 Alfred J. Concepcion, 25, of Upper Marlboro, Md. Concepcion enlisted June 24, 1998, and reported to the ship Apr. 17, 2003.

-- FC1 Michael T. Booker, 33, of Austin, Texas. Booker enlisted Jul. 20, 1993, and reported to the ship May 19,

2003.

The accident is being investigated by local law enforcement agencies.

The ship was in port at Charleston, S.C. A group of 200 Pinckney crewmembers were on their way to a wreath-laying ceremony at Beaufort National Cemetery in honor of the ship's namesake who is buried there.

The ship is named for Petty Officer First Class William Pinckney who received the Navy Cross during World War II for his courageous rescue of a fellow crewmember onboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV 6) during the Battle of Santa Cruz.

Pinckney was built at Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, Ingalls Operations, in Pascagoula. It will be commissioned on May 29 at Port Hueneme, Calif.

About the cover

Last deployment -- Sailors aboard the USS Ticonderoga (CG 47) wave farewell to friends and relatives on the pier at Naval Station Pascagoula, as the ship departs on its final deployment prior to its decommissioning on Sept. 30.

From our Fleet

Decisive returns from recent patrol

By LTJG Melissa Owens
USCGC Decisive PAO

USCGC Decisive (WMEC-629) returned to her homeport of Pascagoula on March 4, after completing a seven-week migrant interdiction patrol in the Mona and Windward Passages in the Caribbean Sea.

The Coast Guard conducts migrant interdiction operations to support the U.S. national policy of safe, orderly, and legal migration, to deter other foreign nationals contemplating illegal migration, and to save lives.

Decisive sailed from Pascagoula on Jan. 9, headed for the Windward Passage, the stretch of water separating the western end of the island of Hispanola and the eastern tip of Cuba. Shortly after arriving, however, the situation in the Mona Passage, the dangerous stretch of water that divides the Dominican Republic from Puerto Rico, dictated a shift to conduct migrant inter-



Photo by Stacey Byington

The USCGC Decisive (WMEC-629) pulls back into the pier on March 4 after a seven-week deployment.

diction operations there.

While patrolling the Mona Passage, Decisive worked with a number of different Coast Guard assets including HU-25 Falcon jets, HH-60 Jayhawk and HH-65 Dolphin helicopters, and several 110-foot cutters from Puerto Rico and other areas. In addition, Decisive worked with Department of Homeland Security

partner agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Puerto Rico police forces, to locate migrant vessels and interdict undocumented migrants from them for repatriation to the Dominican Republic.

Dominican migrant vessels are known as 'yolas' and are open wooden boats that were originally designed for fishing

with one or two people aboard. They have been pressed into service as impromptu ferries and are usually dangerously overloaded with people and poorly equipped for an open-ocean passage.

During this patrol, Decisive interdicted 468 Dominican migrants and brought 448 Dominican migrants interdicted by other Coast Guard cutters to her decks. In all, she returned 916 migrants to the Dominican Republic. With large numbers of migrants often aboard, Decisive crewmembers worked day and night to provide humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, water, and medical care.

At one point, on Jan. 29, Decisive, along with the cutter Nunivak, interdicted a 40-foot yola with 245 migrants on board. The gross disregard for human life demonstrated by the migrant smugglers in overloading the vessel to such an extreme, prompted the United

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Gates deploys on counter-drug mission

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) left its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula for a five-month deployment on March 10. The deployment will cover a variety of missions, including a circumnavigation of the South American continent.

Gates' deployment will include counter-drug operations, high-profile port visits along the Eastern Atlantic Seaboard, escorting the nation's newest carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), to her new homeport in San Diego, Calif., and international exercises with South American navy ships.

"This is an unprecedented deployment with many training opportunities for Gates,"



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Sailors man the rails as the USS Thomas S. Gates pulls away from the pier at NAVSTA Pascagoula.

noted Cmdr. Richard A. Rainer Jr., Gates' Commanding Officer,

Gates' Eastern Seaboard tour will include a visit to New London, Conn., home of the

United States Coast Guard Academy; to Philadelphia, Pa., where Gates was commissioned in August 1987; and to Annapolis, Md., home of the United States Naval Academy,

where Gates will serve as the visiting ship for this year's graduation ceremony.

Gates was selected to escort Reagan on her maiden voyage to San Diego, Calif., where Reagan will be homeported. Reagan is the ninth aircraft carrier of the nuclear-powered Nimitz class. Gates' escort duties will include a visit to Punta del Este, Uruguay, and a voyage around the southern tip of South America, one of the most hazardous and legendary passages in maritime history.

The Gates is an Aegis guided-missile cruiser, one of three assigned to Destroyer Squadron 6, homeported at Pascagoula. It is a multi-mission surface combatant capable of supporting carrier battle

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From our Fleet

Groves seizes more than four tons of cocaine

By ENS M.W. Noland
USS Stephen W. Groves PAO

The guided missile frigate USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) returned to its homeport at Naval Station Pascagoula, March 22, after a six-month deployment in support of counter-drug operations.

After departing Pascagoula on Sept. 25, 2003, Groves patrolled nearly four million square nautical miles of water in the Caribbean Sea and Eastern Pacific Ocean, and logged 14,000 nautical miles.

While deployed, Groves was a key asset in the on-going joint effort with the U.S. Coast Guard to combat the flow of illicit drugs into the United States.

During this most recent deployment, the ship's crew worked with Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 201 and other assets from Joint Interagency Task Force (JIATF) South to track, intercept, and search vessels suspected of transporting illegal drugs. They prevented millions of dollars of illegal narcotics from reaching U.S. soil. They



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Family members wait impatiently on the pier as the USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) returns home from a six-month counter-drug deployment.

also rescued 104 Ecuadorian migrants in the Eastern Pacific.

"A six-month deployment is tough on the crew and our families, but we're keeping millions of dollars worth of cocaine off the streets of America," said ET2(SW) Ardell Washington. "That's something real, and it makes the sacrifice and hard work of a long deployment worthwhile. Our success out here makes coming home even more rewarding."

Highlights of Groves' deployment included 12 enlisted Sailors earning their Enlisted Surface Warfare (ESWS) pins, six officers earning their Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) pins, two who qualified as Engineering Officer of the Watch (EOOW), and nine who qualified as Officer of the Deck (OOD). The ship made 15 port visits, and conducted community relations projects in Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama; and Manta, Ecuador,

refurbishing schoolhouses and medical clinics. The ship transited the Panama Canal four times, and made several crossings of the Equator, both high-lights in any Sailor's career.

Groves, with Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 42 Detachment 10 out of Mayport, Fla., embarked, chased down three "go fast" drug-running vessels, captured their crews, and seized approximately four metric tons of cocaine. With the assistance of several Coast Guard detachments, the crew boarded 13 vessels suspected of narcotics trafficking.

"Our primary mission is to impede the flow of cocaine from South America, and to make it hard for the smugglers to operate," said LT William Rayburn, Groves' combat systems officer, "We're definitely doing that. It makes me proud to contribute directly to the war on drugs and the war on terror at the same time. Every bust we make is a victory that prevents cocaine from reaching our streets, and keeps money from reaching terror-

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Decisive returns home ...

Continued from page 4

States Attorney for Puerto Rico to charge three people with violating federal law against migrant smuggling. This is the first attempted prosecution of migrant smugglers in Puerto Rico in nearly seven years.

In the late hours of Feb. 6, with a crew from NBC Nightly News aboard reporting on the ongoing migrant interdiction operations, Decisive rescued 91 Dominican migrants from a dangerously over-loaded yola that was laboring in 10- to 12-foot seas. That incident was later featured on the NBC Nightly News.

"This case, which was handled superbly by the crew

in far less than ideal weather, illustrates perfectly the extreme risks these migrants are taking when they attempt these dangerous crossings," said CDR Kurt Van Horn, Decisive's commanding officer.

For the Coast Guard, safety at sea is paramount. While Decisive rescued more than 900 migrants during this patrol, not all migrants that attempt the voyage across the perilous Mona Passage are so lucky. Since January 2000, at least 60 migrants are known to have died attempting the dangerous journey. Another 20 are believed to have died in a voyage that ended tragically

this past January.

President Bush announced on Feb. 25 that Coast Guard units would turn back Haitian people fleeing toward the United States. Decisive was diverted back to the Windward Passage, where she originally began her patrol, to participate in Operation Able Sentry.

So far this calendar year, the Coast Guard has intercepted and repatriated more than 1,100 Haitian and 2,600 Dominican migrants attempting to illegally enter the United States. The Coast Guard's unique combination of legal authority, law enforcement expertise,

search and rescue skills, and humanitarian character make it the most appropriate federal agency to execute this mission. In doing so, the Coast Guard reinforces U.S. legal migration policies and national security by interdicting suspected migrant smuggling vessels attempting to illegally enter the United States and repatriating undocumented migrants to their home countries.

USCGC Decisive, a 210-foot Medium Endurance Cutter, is commanded by Commander Kurt A. Van Horn. The ship's company is 12 officers and 70 enlisted crewmembers.

Around the Homeport

Local Sailor helps shape cadets' futures

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Children are the key to the future, and a Sailor at Naval Station Pascagoula is doing his part to keep some local students on the right track.

EM1(SW) Daniel Ring, a dockmaster in the Port Operations Department, spends his free time working with the Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) unit at Moss Point High School.

The unit is made up of 90 students in grades nine through 12, and is the newest unit in Jackson County. Ring has been working with them since November.

"It gives me great pleasure to help some of our future leaders, and to give them first-hand knowledge about the U.S. Navy," said Ring.

He works with the students every Wednesday from noon to 4 pm, and at other times throughout the week when they have drills or special events.

NJROTC programs are conducted at accredited secondary schools throughout the nation, and are taught by instructors who are retired Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and en-



Photo by Rob Rickgauer

The Moss Point NJROTC stand in formation as they wait to board the USS Yorktown (CG-48) for a family cruise.

listed personnel. The NJROTC curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, as well as maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation and meteorology. Classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year by community service activities, drill competition, field meets, flights, visits to naval activities, marksmanship and other military training.

Ring works with the students to help them complete the NJROTC course book, which contains general military information and gives them guidance on proper military

procedures. He helps train the drill teams and color guard in formation movements.

Ring also accompanied 30 students from the unit on the recent USS Yorktown (CG 48) family cruise assisting them to earn their Sea Cruise Ribbon.

"Being a part of NJROTC gives students a big head start for those that are considering joining the military," said Ring. "They are better prepared for recruit training and future military service."

Three seniors attached to the NJROTC unit have already signed up to join various branches of the armed forces.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to help shape the future of these students," said Ring.

"The NJROTC program is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about patriotism and develop respect for authority. It also provides an alternative to gang participation and promotes a healthy and drug free lifestyle."

Ring is also the Naval Station Pascagoula NJROTC liaison for the local community.

He works to bring NJROTC units from different local schools together for different events.

Currently he is working on a field day that would get the Gautier, Moss Point and Pascagoula NJROTC units together for the day to get to know each other.

The event will be held May 1, and will be the first NJROTC field meet at Naval Station Pascagoula.

Nine events are scheduled to make up the field day. Some of these include relay races, sit-ups, pushups, tug-of-war, and an air rifle postal.

After the events the students will enjoy a picnic.

"Working with the students really lets them see and experience what the Navy is all about and I am looking forward to our first-ever field day," added Ring. "It should be a great day."



Tour -- Gulf Coast High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) tour the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) on March 1. The visit was coordinated by EM1(SW) Daniel Ring, NAVSTA Pascagoula's NJROTC liaison. Students got to see first hand what Navy life is all about.

Photo by EM1(SW) Daniel Ring

Around the Homeport

Wild bobcat is natural predator for rabbits

By Stacey Byington
Public Affairs Officer

Naval Station Pascagoula is a 435-acre, man-made island, built from dredge materials from the Pascagoula River and the federal channel.

When the station buildings were originally constructed in the early 1990s, there was a tremendous amount of natural grass growing, and the land had a prolific rabbit population. Because there were no natural predators to limit the number of rabbits and nutria, these species continued to populate themselves, eventually covering the island with fecal pellets and doing significant damage to ornamental trees and other wildlife that were planted to help landscape the property.

A number of solutions were discussed and discarded. Navy employees tried to trap the rabbits, without success. A state-authorized hunt was considered, but it was decided a natural predator would be more humane.

In the meantime, farmers in northern Mississippi were having a problem with nuisance bobcats that were raiding their livestock. The Navy, working with Mississippi State University, decided to release a captured bobcat on the island. A bobcat is a natural predator of both rabbits and nutria.

"Beauregard was the first bobcat we released," said Tom Sarros, NAVSTA's environmental services manager. "Beauregard was a two-year-old, 20-25-pound male bobcat which we released in June 1994. He actually did quite well for several months."

Initially the bobcat was monitored with a radio collar, but Sarros said that after a few months, the collar either stopped working or the cat left the island.

"There was plenty of food for him," said Sarros. "Some



One of three bobcats released on Singing River Island triggers a motion-sensor camera in January 1997. At least one of the three bobcats is still on the island.

environmentalists believe he left because he was looking for a lady-friend."

A second bobcat was released on the island in early January 1995. This time it was a two-and-a-half-year-old neutered female named 'Girt' (government-issued rabbit trap).

A third bobcat, another neutered female, was released on the island in April 1996. The third bobcat was never named.

According to a naturalist website, the bobcat is a secretive predator, rarely observed by humans, that hunts mostly at night. Its keen eyes and ears, ambushes, and short bursts of speed, make the bobcat the consummate small-game predator. Its diet is based mainly on hares, rabbits, birds and small rodents.

The female bobcat is territorial, staking out a home range that varies from two to more than 40 square miles, with overlapping of female boundaries uncommon. Territorial boundaries are marked with urine, scent from anal glands, and feces (skat) deposited on

the ground and vegetation during frequent boundary patrols.

Sarros is not sure that both female bobcats remain on the island.

"That's impossible to tell without capturing them," he said. "We (Public Works) think there is only one. The Mississippi State University biologist who released the bobcats said that eventually one would kill the other over territorial disputes. We know we have at least one because one

has been spotted from time to time, and we see skat regularly."

Runners who exercise on the station in the early hours of the morning, just after dawn, claim to have seen both bobcats, or their tracks, in different parts of the station, though not both on the same day.

Sarros says that one bobcat can cover quite a bit of territory, and it is likely that there is only one bobcat left.

"But on the other hand," he said, "we released two bobcats, so there may very well still be two bobcats out there, co-existing with one another. Without a capture, we can't tell for sure."

He is pleased with results.

"The program has been very successful," said Sarros. "We see very few rabbits now, where there used to be quite a lot. I don't have any hard numbers, but we see no damage to ornamental plants and very little rabbit poop."

Sarros added that when a nutria hunt was contracted five years ago, the hunter killed 175 nutria. This year he killed less than 50.

"That's a pretty good indication that the bobcat(s) is doing its job," Sarros concluded.



Photo by Stacey Byington

A bobcat print is found in the sand near the fishing pier behind the NAVSTA Pascagoula bachelor quarters on March 9. The penny was placed to give a reference for the size of the print. The print was identified by Tom Burst, a wildlife biologist.

Around the Homeport

Fred Blair named NAVSTA Civilian of the year

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

Many qualities make an outstanding employee and Freddie Blair displays them all. Because of his hard work and dedication, Blair has been named the Naval Station Pascagoula Civilian of the Year.

"I have been selected as Civilian of the Year twice in the last four years," said Blair. "It has been a challenging, but very rewarding assignment and I am thankful to be a part of Naval Station Pascagoula."

Blair is the Transportation/Facilities Maintenance Manager for the Naval Station and has more than 43 years of government service — 20 years of active duty, and 23 years as a government civilian.

His accomplishments include an outstanding rating on the most recent crane audit, upgrading the base vehicle fleet from an average age of nine years to an average age of three years, administering the International Merchants Purchase



Photo by Stacey Byington

NAVSTA Pascagoula Transportation Manager, Freddie Blair, accepts an award naming him Fleet Manager of the Year for 2003. Blair is also the NAVSTA Pascagoula Civilian of the Year for 2003.

Authorization Card (IMPAC) credit card program for six card holders with purchases exceeding \$140,000, and much

more.

Due to his outstanding efforts, the Naval Facilities Engineering Command selected

him as the 2003 Navy Transportation Fleet Manager of the Year. He was also nominated for Career Federal Employee of 2003.

"It is an honor and privilege for me to work with such a fine group of people as the ones here at Naval Station Pascagoula. I feel that each person that I have worked with was instrumental in me being selected for this award," said Blair.

Outside his normal workday, Blair is active in the local community. He teaches Sunday school at his church and is active in the hospital visitation program. Blair also supports the American Cancer Society in its fundraising efforts.

"He is clearly the best of the best, and is eminently deserving of recognition for his uncommon dedication and commitment to Naval Station Pascagoula, the U.S. Navy and the nation," said CDR Terry Rea, NAVSTA's commanding officer.



Look for Skeeter's to be open in early April for both breakfast and lunch

Around the Homeport

Promotion-- Susan Williams helps her husband, LCDR Randy Williams, pin on new collar devices after he was selected for promotion. In addition to the promotion, Williams, formerly the NAVSTA Pascagoula Chaplain, then the DESRON 6 Chaplain, was presented with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. Immediately following the pinning ceremony, the Williams' left the Pascagoula area for their new duty assignment. LCDR Williams will be the Chaplain for Naval Air Station Patuxant River, Md.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Mardi Gras -- The Naval Station Pascagoula 'float fleet,' decorated for Mardi Gras, takes part in Pascagoula's annual Mardi Gras Parade. Members of the Naval Station Pascagoula color guard, fire station, USO and the 'float fleet' all participated in the parade on Feb. 27.

Ombudsman Assembly

April 20, 4:30 p.m.
Fleet and Family Support Center



Photo by Stacey Byington

Black history commemoration -- Gautier Mayor, Ken Taylor, shakes the hand of Mary Dillon after proclaiming Feb. 26 Mary Dillon Day. Ms. Dillon was the guest speaker at the African-American History Month luncheon held at the Tiki Restaurant in Gautier on Feb. 26. Ms. Dillon is very active in her church and has been a math teacher in area middle schools for more than 30 years.

Around the Homeport

FCPOA looking for new members

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

The words leadership, training, camaraderie, and mentorship all symbolize the Pascagoula First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA).

The FCPOA is looking for new members to join an exciting and promising association that interacts with both station commands and the local community.

“Being a member of the FCPOA gives first classes the opportunity to connect not only with Naval Station Pascagoula and fellow First Classes, but also with the local community,” said LN1(SW/AW) Christopher Holt, vice president of the FCPOA.

Membership is open to all first class petty officers attached to Naval Station Pascagoula and its tenant commands. The organization meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the USO. Meetings begin at 11 a.m. Upcoming events are discussed at meetings, and the members hold training on a variety of subjects — from legal issues to career counseling.



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

Members of the First Class Petty Officer Association enjoy a lunch out at the Applebee's in Ocean Springs on March 12.

The FCPOA takes part in volunteer events including the Adopt-A-Road program, the American Heart walk, the base beach clean-up, and many more.

They also raise funds to donate gifts to families at Christmas and donate food for local food drives during the holiday seasons. Last year they

raised money to help offset ticket costs for junior Sailors attending the Naval Station Pascagoula annual Navy Ball.

“Taking part in the FCPOA allows the base first classes an opportunity to be well rounded Sailors,” said NC1 (SW) Mary Dunleavy, secretary for the FCPOA. “Not only do they have the opportunity to learn

from fellow first classes, but they have the chance to volunteer time to worthy causes throughout the local community.”

FCPOA Officers

President:

MA1(SW) Anthony Breaux
761-2635

Vice President:

LN1(SW/AW) Chris Holt
761-3374

Secretary:

NC1(SW) Mary Dunleavy
761-3319

Master-at-Arms:

MA1(SW) Zachary Loper
761-2007

Treasurer:

SK1 Sarita Smith
761-3353

Caterer:

FC1(SW) Richard Underwood
761-2380

Sailor chosen for MGCCC Honor Society

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

One Sailor who is also a college student has achieved what few college students ever do. Through her commitment to advancing her education, PC2 Cassandra Searight has been invited into the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honor Society.

“I did not even know that the society existed until I was invited to be a part of it,” said Searight, who works at the

Naval Station Pascagoula mailroom.

Searight, currently a sophomore at MGCCC working toward a degree in criminal justice, was inducted into the society for her academic success on Feb. 15.

Besides being a full time Sailor and full time student Searight is also a wife and has three children living in her household.

“In order to stay on top of everything I prepare a schedule which includes my work, PT, school, studying and family time,” said Searight. I try

not to change the schedule, but without the support of my family no amount of discipline would matter.”

Membership into the society is by invitation only. In order to receive an invitation, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher, be currently enrolled as a full time student and have completed 15 semester hours. Searight carries between nine to 15 semester hours per semester.

“Having the society invite me to join has been a great honor because they only take

a selective few,” said Searight.

Membership in Phi Theta Kappa will be noted on her transcripts and diploma.

“Being a member of the society comes with a lot of opportunities such as possible scholarships to continue on with my education,” said Searight.

After receiving an associate's degree from MGCCC, she plans to continue working on her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. Her goal is to graduate with a Bachelor of Art degree in criminal justice by 2006.

SIMA Happenings

SIMA wins sixth CNO safety award

By JO1 Kim deJong
Public Affairs Office

'Safety first' is the motto of Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity Pascagoula, and once again, SIMA has been named one of the best commands in the Navy in the area of safety.

For the sixth consecutive year, SIMA Pascagoula has been selected for the Chief of Naval Operations Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore in the small industrial-continental U.S. category. SIMA won previously in 1998, 1999, and 2000. After their selection for the CNO award in 2001 and 2002, SIMA Pascagoula was then selected to receive the Secretary of the Navy Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore.

They are in the running once again for the SECNAV award.

The command has been highly successful in the areas of mishap reduction trends and cost, has demonstrated safety leadership, innovative and enthusiastic in marketing safety leadership, and promoted a superior level of safety.

SIMA is a small industrial facility made up of 225 Sailors. They provide repair services and safety support to more than 1,600 Sailors assigned to ships homeported in Pascagoula, Naval Station Pascagoula and Construction Equipment Department at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss.

Since its establishment in 1992, SIMA has maintained a proactive and aggressive safety program.

Mishap rates have continued to drop at SIMA — total mishaps have decreased by 43 percent in 2003. In the past six years, the total mishap rate has decreased by 82 percent.

SIMA has reduced its hazardous material utilization by more than 57 percent and haz-



Photo by Stacey Byington

'Team SIMA' stands in formation at the recent SIMA change of command. The cornerstone to SIMA's safety success is the 'Team SIMA' effort which led to a 50 percent decrease in on-duty mishaps during 2003.

ardous waste generation by 40 percent since 1998. They have also saved more than \$3,000 through their chemical re-use program.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has recently challenged everyone in the Navy to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent over the next two years. SIMA is well on its way to achieving this goal.

SIMA's Safety Department has engineered the command's working environment to the

highest standards of safety and environmental compliance. This basic philosophy has enabled SIMA to work in a safe, healthy and hazard free work place.

At SIMA, emphasis is placed on safety awareness programs, leadership by example, enhancement of existing safety awareness programs and promoting a 'team' safety concept.

SIMA is constantly seeking new ways to challenge and

improve its safety program," said LCDR Joe Garry, SIMA's executive officer. "Every quarter, the command's Safety Council and the Safety Committee reviews the most current trends and mishap rates. Significant strides were made last year to reduce the number of on-duty mishaps."

"Safety is first and foremost at SIMA," he added. "We are meeting the challenges of doing more with less and doing it safer."

Because of their outstanding safety record, SIMA Pascagoula has proudly flown the SECNAV Safety banner for two consecutive years.

Photo by Stacey Byington



Navy News

Effective and efficient shore installations

By Don Kennedy
Flagship Staff Writer

What's in your supply cabinet?

That, said Rear Adm. Christopher Weaver, is the central question that will steer a more efficient Navy through the 21st century.

It's the aspect of the new business models the sea service will operate under that means every sailor can affect readiness of the entire fleet. Weaver recalled Feb. 17, aboard the destroyer Spruance.

"When I would conduct zone inspections, I'd open up a supply cabinet and see it packed full of legal pads," he said. "I asked, 'Does anyone know how many legal pads are in this cabinet?'"

"Can anyone tell me how many legal pads this office needs to get their work done?"

If you don't know what you need, how can you possibly know how many legal pads to order?"

The key is measuring output, Weaver said, and then ordering the right amount of legal pads to reach that output. When Weaver looks in supply cabinets across the Navy, he sees an aircraft carrier or an F/A-18 Super Hornet or a new modern family housing com-

plex.

The potential savings inherent in measuring output and applying the appropriate amount of resources -- money, manpower and materials -- is staggering.

"Anything more than you need, to me, represents money tied up that could be used for something else - the recapitalization of the fleet, aircraft parts, improved services."

Measurements, Weaver insisted, are needed in every facet of naval operations - from how the sea service delivers personnel support to how many flight hours are needed by F/A-18 pilots. It's about applying the appropriate resources to bring about readiness.

And that, in a nutshell, is the philosophy from which Commander Naval Installations was born a year ago. It's all about "intelligent consumption," Weaver said. The Navy's new business model, seeks to measure the outputs of every function in the Navy's support structure, and work backward to create the most efficient system to meet those needs.

Look back in that supply cabinet, and recall the "old way" the supply system worked.

That system was inherently inefficient, penalizing com-

mands and departments and divisions within commands that operated under their budgets. The next year after the command was in the black, fewer dollars came their way. And, why not? If a command showed it can do more with less, it is logical that it should be expected to do so. The rub is that, often, missions and requirements change, and the old system wasn't really adequate to meet those challenges.

In order to escape the trap of lost funds due to efficient use of resources, many commands, and the departments and divisions within them, spent money at a furious pace -- buying things like, well, legal pads it didn't really need -- trying to reach up to the budget.

"Readiness with no consideration of cost is no longer an operative concept," Weaver, said, attributing that quote to ADM. Vern Clark, the Chief of Naval Operations, who brought the concept of Commander Naval Installations to reality a year ago.

And Clark's record as the Navy's top officer suggests that detractors may want to reserve judgment. He is the architect of the plan that transformed the dismal recruiting and retention numbers of the Navy into the envy of the De-

partment of Defense. His plans, without fail, have proved that thoughtful research and good planning and execution mean positive results.

Still, there are those who have their doubts about how effective Commander Naval Installations will be -- those who say it's just another layer of an onion that is already too big.

Weaver shrugs off the criticism, confident that a more efficient system will reap huge benefits for the Navy. And, he has good reason to be confident."

In the past five years, we have seen this model paying huge dividends for the Navy," Weaver said.

Five years ago, tremendous efficiencies were discovered when services, even installations, were consolidated. Not only were there huge cost savings, Weaver said, but greater efficiencies were found.

While Weaver understands the negative connotation that comes with the "R" word, he contends that regionalization was a good thing for the Navy.

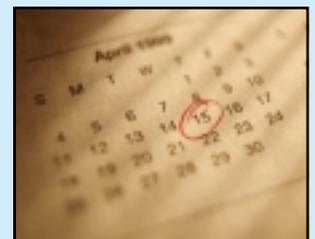
"We changed from 18 major claimants to eight, and we found that there were great rewards," Weaver said. "Now, we are peeling away at those eight layers of 'the onion,' and

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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

Global War on Terrorism medal introduced

By American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 2004 - Military members serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Defense officials announced today the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed to operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

"These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world — for both current and future operations," stated a DoD news release.

Individuals can receive both



The front of Global War in Terrorism Expeditionary Medal features a shield adapted from the Great Seal of the United States. The back includes the eagle, serpent and swords from the medal's front-side design along with the inscription "War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal." The medal's final approval was announced Feb. 26.

medals if they meet the individual criteria, officials said.

To be awarded the expeditionary medal, individuals must

have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area, excluding the lower Horn of Africa; Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces above the land and adjacent water areas, according to the release.

Each day aircrew members flew sorties into designated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release

states.

Personnel eligible to receive the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated in or supported operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates run from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002, for individuals who served in airport security operations.

The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal.

"Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin," the DoD release stated.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal has an eagle and wings display, with a terrestrial globe and the inscription "War on Terrorism Service Medal." The reverse side features a laurel wreath. The medal's final approval was announced Feb. 26.

Sailors and Marines now eligible for new license

By LTJG Doug Johnson
CNATT Public Affairs Office

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Department of Defense (DoD) partnered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to give enlisted mechanics in the military the same credentials as their civilian counterparts. For Sailors and Marines, the Navy and Marine Corps Airframes and Powerplant Program (NMCAPP) has been established at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT), this program will ensure all aviation technicians are given the opportunity to earn the federal agency's industry standard certification.

In the past, military experience was not widely recog-

nized by the FAA, significantly decreasing Sailor and Marine marketability in the civilian sector.

"Trying to get a civilian job without an A&P License is similar to trying to gain access to a military base without the proper credentials, almost impossible," said CNATT NMCAPP Officer LCDR Gabe Castro. "Well that time is gone, there are now certifications in place for Sailors and Marines, which allow our mechanics to enroll in the A&P licensing program."

In order to enroll, participants must meet basic eligibility requirements, being 18 years of age, having 36 months or more in service, and being an E4. It will take about 30

months to complete the entire program, which includes completing a Qualification Training Package (QTP), and passing a series of written and oral exams, as well as passing a practical test. After successful completion of the program and required exams, each participant will receive the airframes and powerplants certification from the FAA.

The benefits to Sailors and Marines include no out-of-pocket expenses as well as the ability to use their military experience and on the job training toward certification. Many non-military universities and vocational technical schools offer FAA approved classes, but the cost associated with these courses can be over-

whelming, even with tuition assistance and a GI Bill.

"It's one of the great new ways we are taking care of our Sailors and Marines" said CNATT Gunnery Sgt. Anthony Sosa. "It shows young Sailors and Marines that we are interested in their future as they continue their careers in the Navy and Marine Corps, but also after they leave their service and embark upon a civilian career."

For more info on the A&P Licensing Program visit the USMAP website at www.cnet.navy.usmap or visit the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training page on Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil.

Navy News

For the health of it: Navy refocuses on fitness

By JOSH Benjamin Jarvela
USS Enterprise Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. – In an effort to encourage Sailors to lead a healthier lifestyle and maximize their physical fitness potential, the Center for Personal Development (CPD) recently embarked on a three month test onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). The Personal Performance Assistant (PPA), being tested by 450 Ike Sailors, is designed primarily to help Sailors enhance their current level of physical performance, lose weight, and/or pass the semi annual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA).

According to Bill Calvert, a PPA program manager, the new program is designed to provide Sailors with easily accessible,

tailored guidance concerning their personal fitness.

“The foundation content of the program includes diet, weight control and exercise guidance all in an integrated package that delivers a dynamically created, personalized Web page for the user,” said Calvert. “It will assist you in achieving one of several goals, including enhancing your current physical performance and losing weight.”

Participating Sailors were issued a user name and password, and after a quick personal survey, including current level of physical readiness, and details about their specific goals, diet and exercise history, and intended goals, the site creates a personalized, user friendly program for that individual to follow.

“The program tailors itself to the individual,” said Calvert. “Once the personal information has been entered, it’s going to create a physical activity, diet, and weight control plan that will help Sailors achieve a healthier lifestyle.”

After the 90-day test period is up, participating Sailors will be asked for feedback regarding the program’s ease and helpfulness. The feedback will be a critical step in determining whether or not the CPD decides to adopt the program and implement its use Fleet wide.

But the potential benefits aren’t just for individual Sailors, the Navy as a whole will reap the many rewards, as a healthier, more physically ready force will have obvious impact combat capability.

“If our Sailors aren’t in the

best shape they can be, aren’t as physically and psychologically strong as they can be, then the command is not as strong as it can be,” said Naval Personnel Development Command Chief of Staff, Capt. Ron Stites. “In high intensity environments, like those Sailors find themselves in on a daily basis, endurance and precision are key. These attributes are a direct reflection of one’s individual fitness. It’s like putting an Aegis system on a destroyer, you now have the capability to reach farther, and hit harder.”

To learn more about the CPD and to find links to valuable health and fitness resources, log onto Navy Knowledge Online at www.nko.navy.mil and click the Personal Development tap at the top.

Groves returns home, seizes four tons of cocaine ...

Continued from page 5

ists.”

The Groves was also responsible for saving the lives of 103 migrants who were crowded into a small fishing boat.

“That vessel was unseaworthy, and wasn’t designed to sleep more than 10 people onboard,” said QMC(SW) Marco Lawrence. “I’ve been in the Navy for more than 17 years, and I’ve seen a lot, but the condition of that boat was deplorable and those people are lucky we found them.”

The Groves’ embarked all of the migrants, provided them with food, blankets, medical care, and a much safer place to spend a night at sea.

FN Thomas Menard spoke the thoughts of the entire crew saying, “You never know how lucky you are until you see people less fortunate. Americans have so much going for them, and when we saw those poor people, there was no question in our minds that we

were going to help them and share our ship.”

The 103 migrants were repatriated safely to their home country of Ecuador.

LCDR Rob duMont, Groves’ Executive Officer, is proud of the crew and the work that they have been able to do.

“The crew of the Groves has done a fantastic job protecting Americans from the threat of cocaine, which kills thousands of our citizens and ruins the lives of many more every year. In addition, they have saved lives at sea and volunteered their spare time to help the people of Panama and Ecuador. America could not ask for better defenders and ambassadors of our nation.”

GM2(SW) Joseph Heier speaks for all sailors who have completed long deployment throughout naval history.

“I’m looking forward to getting back home and relaxing, but I know I’m going to miss this,” said Heier. “There’s

something special about a crew on deployment. We spend so much time working, training, living together, and we see the world together. We’ve become like family. There is no comparison to the camaraderie on a warship at sea.”

“I am extremely proud of the performance of the entire crew,” said CDR Rudy Laco, Groves’ commanding officer. “The officers and crew performed superbly as one unit,

which resulted in an extremely successful deployment.”

Groves is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate, and is one of four ships in the Atlantic Fleet that has the distinction of serving as a training platform for Naval Reservists. It is a unit of Commander, Naval Surface Group 2, out of Mayport, Fla., and is assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron 6, also homeported at Naval Station Pascagoula.

Gates deploys ...

Continued from page 4

gro-ups, amphibious forces, operating as a flagship of a surface-action group, or operating independently.

It has a crew of more than 350 men and women, and has the ability to carry out multi-dimensional, multi-threat combat missions. As part of its Aegis weapons arsenal, the Gates is equipped with SPY-1

radar, sophisticated displays and computer systems, and advanced surface-to-air missiles, and is ideally suited to perform duties as ‘Defender of the Republic’ against a complex and fast-moving air attack of any description.

Gates is scheduled to return in early August, 2004.

Continuing on ...

Building the Navy of the future ...

Continued from page 2

utility can be extracted from the Navy is through the pursuit of a more effective 21st century human resources strategy, and leading the charge on pursuing an efficient end strength level to accommodate new and emerging operational requirements. At the same time, Sailors will see an increase in job content and increased opportunities to make a difference.

"One of the bottom line issues is: how do I run this place more effectively?" said Clark. "Everything I'm looking at developing into the future is through new manning concepts. I fully expect that we're going to expand this kind of thinking in every area we can

to make the force more productive."

Productivity of the force is also dependent on the acquisition of new ships and airframes that contribute to mission efficiency. Clark stressed the importance of getting rid of old systems that take time and money away from acquiring new ones that would increase readiness and mission capability.

"Flexible platforms like LCS and DD(X), manned by talented and professional Sailors, are the key to dominating the maritime now and in the future," said Clark.

When asked about the pace of the Littoral Combat Ship program that would increase

the Navy's capability to operate in many of the most dangerous and strategic areas of operation it enters, Clark responded, "When I go to the Hill, I testify that I need LCS tomorrow morning."

"It is important for us to develop military capability that can respond to different circumstances, and that's exactly the kind of Navy that I'm trying to develop," said Clark. "I'm trying to develop a Navy that is not wed to one particular problem set that will occur with great clarity. I just don't think the world is like that. We must focus on a capabilities-based military. I can't endorse that approach any stronger."

Effective and efficient shore stations ...

Continued from page 12

there will be one. And, with one central command for procurement and delivery of resources, efficiencies will continue to grow. Regionalization was a great case study for what we are doing at CNI. But, this isn't regionalization. What we are talking about with CNI is transformation."

What CNI is doing is changing the way support services are delivered -- moving beyond "regionalization" and its focus on geography, and looking ahead to bigger things, not the least of which is transformation. Transforming the Navy is a complex and expensive proposition - one that calls for a survey of how the Navy has functioned historically.

"It is important to remember that installations do not exist to be installations," Weaver explained. "They exist to support operational commands."

As one of the core elements of CNI's plans, that 'installation-centric' mentality, is going to change. The results of

those changes may well be that installation commanding officers may move from their role of controlling every function within their gates, and serving more as influencers of those services. For example, the time a commanding officer spends overseeing, say, a personnel support detachment within his gates, could be time better spent managing the outputs and outcomes of those services, and the many other services provided on that installation. Reporting those outputs and the areas of need through the regional command to Commander Naval Installations, allows Weaver and his staff to make determinations on how to best allocate resources at all the installations throughout the fleet.

Weaver would argue that is a much better construct than giving each installation a budget, and telling them to function. It is much better, he said, for a regional command to oversee services where it makes sense, and allow the

commanding officer to make sure the support the installation is providing to the fleet is adequate.

The result he said, is procurement that works the same way as Wal-Mart and a local clothing store. Wal-Mart buys in bulk for its stores across the country, and gets a better price. So, it can sell you the same shirt as a local shop much cheaper. But, money aside, it's just a more efficient way of doing business. Let the installations concentrate on the end product - providing service to the fleet - without being mired in the minutia of every single function within the gates.

The end result, Weaver said, will be a Navy that has measurable "metrics" to help determine how to best use limited resources in the most effective ways.

And, you - yes you - have the ability to bring about increased readiness. Do you have an aircraft carrier in your supply cabinet? That ship has sailed.

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 and Saturdays, 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed on 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, Sundays and holidays, 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, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 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

Take part in Kids Day fun on April 3

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

Sports Referee Certification Course

Certify to become a sports official, and earn extra money. The Sports and Fitness Center will offer the course on May 8. Successful completion of the course will earn certification with the National Intramural-Recreation Sports Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. Sign up at the Fitness Center throughout April. Class space is limited. Call 761-2107 for more information.

Pilates Starting April 1 Thursdays, 6 p.m. Fitness Center

Pilates improves mental and physical well-being, increases flexibility, and strengthens muscles without the strain and impact of sports like running or tennis. Learn the fundamentals of body-control Pilates by joining the classes at the Fitness Center. For more information call Sara at 76-2107. All eligible Fitness Center patrons, including family members, are welcome.



Kids Day April 3 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lakeside Picnic Area

The kids will be fascinated by a variety of activities such as:

Egg Hunts: Ages 0-10 years at 11:15 and Ages 11-14 Years at 12:30, science and nature exhibits, pictures with the East

ter Bunny, dunk tank, moonwalk, cookie making, pitching pennies, hot shot basketball, football throws, ring toss, bean bag toss, caricature sketching, storytelling, and children's music. The annual event is sponsored by FFSC, MWR and CHD. For more information call 761-2432.



Pool Tournament April 7 6:30 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Take part in a pool tournament and join the players at Cracker Jack's for a chance to compete for a fantastic prize. Entry is free and no registration is required. Call Cracker Jack's at 938-0439.

Good Friday Catfish Special April 9 6 - 9 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Catfish
Hush Puppies
Cole Slaw
Baked Beans
and Drink
For only \$6.50.
Call 938-0439

Ready for a night out?

Spouses Appreciation Night May 7

Call 761-2432
for more information

Spring Hoopla April 14 6 p.m. NAVSTA Outdoor Basketball Court

Get ready to pick 'n roll. Put an awesome trio together and join the 3-on-3 full court action on the pavement. The first and second place winners of the Hoopla will receive prizes. Liberty will provide free food and drinks. To register for the tourney call the Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Deadline to sign up for Jazz Fest Trip April 16 4 p.m. Cyber Cafe

Admission and transportation \$30.00

Grill your own steak night April 22 6 - 9 p.m. Cracker Jack's

Join us on the patio at Cracker Jack's and take charge of the grill. The special includes: Steak, potato, green salad and drink for only \$6.50. Call 938-0439 for more information.



Trip to New Orleans Jazz Festival April 24 9 a.m. Departure Cyber Cafe

The Jazz and Heritage Festival features 12 stages of continuous music. Visit any or all of the stages and witness blues, rock, zydeco, reggae, brazilian, and other popular acts as you mingle with music lov-

ers from all over the world.

Liberty takes to the New Orleans Fairgrounds for this world class event for only \$30.00 (transportation and all day admission).

To sign up for the trip or for more information call ITT at 761-2432.

Alabama in Concert Coast Coliseum Tickets at ITT April 23

Tickets on sale for \$56.39 and \$29.00

Prince in Concert May 1

Tickets on sale for \$83.00 and \$55.50. Tickets are subject to recall by coliseum box office. For more information call ITT at 761-2432.

Spring Southern Region Military & Civilian Job Fair

April 13
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mississippi Coast
Coliseum and Con-
vention Center,
Biloxi, MS.

Open to anyone
seeking a job.

For more information go
to www.jobfairs.ms.gov
or call 228-761-2096 or
228-377-8592.

