



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

# Homeport

Vol. IV, No. 6

June 1, 2004



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Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

## A word from our Commanders

# Change is underway at Southeast Region

The Navy is changing the way it does business ashore. Think leaner, as the Navy is trimming excess costs wherever it can.

For installations within Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), this means managing budgetary changes while providing adequate levels of service needed to Enable Warfighter Readiness at regional installations. Also, allocating the workforce needed to accomplish the required service levels is key.

The end goal is to create the most effective and efficient organization.

“The CNO has outlined his plan for reshaping the Navy in his Seapower 21 vision, and CNRSE will be an integral part of supporting that vision as directed by CNO and Commander, Navy Installations (CNI),” said RADM Annette Brown, Commander, CNRSE.

RADM Christopher Weaver, Commander, CNI, recently said, “Anything more than you actually need to directly support mission output, to me, represents money tied up that could be used for something else - the recapitalization of the fleet, parts, improved services, and so forth...It’s all about intelligent consumption.”

Navy regions worldwide, including CNRSE, are currently prioritizing and shaping resources to best serve the customer - in this case, the Fleet.

“We’re always looking for ways to do things better. If we’re doing our jobs effectively and efficiently, we’re eliminating redundancy, streamlining our business processes, and adopting a smarter, better way of conducting day to day operations,”



said CAPT Larry Cotton, CNRSE Chief of Staff.

According to CNI, the Navy’s goal ashore is to operate more like a commercial business, with many factors influencing the decisions that need to be made regarding changes in services and how the CNRSE workforce of the future must be structured. Factors include cost of labor, cost of goods and services, and contracts, along with budget adjustments for the Navy’s share of investing for future military readiness.

“In order to buy new ships, submarines, aircraft and weapons, the Navy must find ways to conduct business with a leaner budget, within the resources and budget targets needed to get the mission done,” said Cotton.

Some changes throughout the Southeast region will be more visible, and other changes, such as within individual departments at the installation level, may not be as noticeable. A few changes have already occurred at local levels, while more will be announced soon and implemented as they are approved.

Included in Seapower 21 is Sea Enterprise, the CNO’s vision for resourcing

tomorrow’s Fleet.

“The goal of Sea Enterprise is to streamline current monies spent on salaries and infrastructure and reinvest them in the Fleet (ships and planes),” said CNRSE Executive Director, Galen Carver.

In cases where it is needed to restructure the workforce, some civilian employees will have changes in the workplace and in their scope of responsibilities. For others, it may mean that their job is no longer needed, resulting in reduction-in-force (RIF) actions.

Carver added, “We’re still working out the details. Reduction-in-force actions are very hard decisions to make, considering we have very dedicated employees who have served the Navy well. We’re already making plans to assist those who may be affected through the transition process.”

Additionally, all military billets are being validated, and if they are not needed, they will be eliminated.

In operating like a commercial business, the aim is to ensure that processes are streamlined and nothing gets duplicated. The bottom line, the Navy and its people must get the most for their money.

“The CNRSE management team will not lose sight of the Southeast Region’s mission and the possible impacts on our people while attaining our goals,” Brown concluded.

## SECNAV Memorial Day Message

WASHINGTON (NNS) — This Memorial Day, we remember our fallen heroes and recognize the sacrifices of our forefathers. America also honors the service of those who fought in World War II by dedicating a new national memorial in Washington, D.C.

They are known to us as the “Greatest Generation.” Today, a new great generation of Americans is serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere around the globe. Our service members are fighting to free the world of global terrorism, establish security and stability, defend our way of life and liberate oppressed peoples who yearn for freedom.

President Bush has said, “As we act to lift the dark cloud of terror from our nation and the world, we reaffirm our determination to preserve our forefathers’ legacy of freedom. In doing so, we honor their legacy as we move forward into the 21st century.”



*The Honorable  
Gordon England,  
Secretary of the Navy*

Since the founding of our great nation, those who have gone before us have earned the blessings we enjoy today. Through their service and sacrifice, our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines of generations past have defeated every threat to our way of life.

Freedom is not a birthright. It is hard won and can never be taken for granted. I am humbled to stand alongside each of our magnificent men and women in uniform who serve today.

Your fighting spirit and your code of  
*Continued on page 15*



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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## From our Fleet

# SECNAV visits Yorktown on deployment

By ENS Abbas Bandukwala  
 USS Yorktown PAO

ARABIAN GULF – USS YORKTOWN (CG 48), on deployment in the North Arabian Gulf, received a special visit from the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon England on May 20.

The visit allowed Secretary England to personally express his appreciation to the sailors executing the Navy's missions in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Market Time II, the maritime security operations in the North Arabian Gulf.

While visiting the ship, the Secretary met first with the embarked staff of Commander, Task Force 55 and members of the ship's leadership, and then spoke with the crew, thanking the Sailors and their families for their service. Mr. England also reenlisted five sailors on the ship, including FCCS(SW) Joel Conrad, who was recently promoted to his current rank.

"I have spent 14 years in the Navy and have reenlisted twice before. To have the opportunity to reenlist with the Secretary of the Navy giving me the oath, it was a great honor to be reenlisted by someone of his stature," said Conrad. "This is my second time meeting with the Honorable Secretary, and I am glad to see him back at the helm. The Secretary shows a great affinity for each one of our Sailors. His quality-of-life initiatives have made the Navy a better place to be."

The other Sailors reenlisted by the Secretary of the Navy were FC1(SW) Vuong McCoy, FC2(PJ) James Francis, AW2 (AW) Blake Fenske and AE2 (AW) James Hunton.

After speaking to the crew, Secretary England departed the ship via an 11-meter rigid hull inflatable boat to tour the Al Basra Oil Terminal. Yorktown



U.S. Navy Photo

***Sailors of the USS Yorktown (CG 48) are reenlisted by the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon England, on May 20. Reenlisting, left to right, are: AE2(AW) James Hunton, AW2(AW) Blake Fenske, FC2(PJ) James Francis, and FCCS(SW/AW) Joel Conrad.***

and other coalition maritime forces are guarding both the Al Basra Oil Terminal and the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in order to protect and help create a safer Iraq.

Anti-coalition forces attempted to attack the terminals on April 24, but were thwarted by coalition and Iraqi security forces. Two U.S. Navy Sailors and one Coast Guardsman were killed during the attacks.

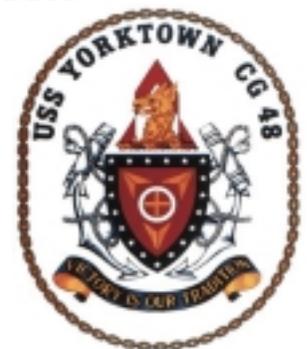
Whenever the Secretary visits a ship or a base, it definitely sends a message to the Sailors. The Secretary of the Navy manages and controls more than 250 ships and bases

around the world. Through Secretary England's visit and tour, the crew gained a sense that their current mission in the North Arabian Gulf is of the highest importance to America's national security.

"I can't believe the Secretary of the Navy came all the way from Washington, D.C., to our ship," said STG3 Will Beaton. "I have never had the chance to ask someone with so much control in the Department of the Navy a question about where I could be working in the future."

USS Yorktown, homeported in Pascagoula, is commanded

by CDR Steven Sloan. The coalition is commanded by Capt. Kurt Tidd, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 50, homeported in Manama, Bahrain, headquarters to the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet.



## From our Fleet

# Groves gets new commanding officer

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

CDR Brian Harrison, USNR, relieved CDR Rodelio "Rudy" Laco Jr., USNR, as Commanding Officer of guided missile frigate USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) in a traditional change of command ceremony on the ship at Naval Station Pascagoula, May 21. The Groves returned from its most recent deployment in late March, and was most recently one of the visiting ships taking part in south Florida's Fleet Week, held the last week of April.

A native of New Orleans, CDR Harrison graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering technology and was commissioned in the Navy in May 1986.

Sea assignments include duty aboard the USS Germantown (LSD 42) during its deployment to the Arabian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. After the ground war ended, he returned to the Arabian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm aboard the USS Affray (MSO 511) and USS Leaders (MSO 490) where he earned a Combat Action Ribbon for live mine recovery operations. He served as the Engineering Officer aboard both the USS Ardent (MCM 12) and USS Harper's Ferry (LSD 49), and as Executive

**CDR Brian Harrison reads his orders just prior to assuming command of USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29). He is a native of New Orleans, La., and is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University.**

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by Stacey Byington

**CMCM(SW) Daymon Morris, Command Master Chief for USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29), presents the ship's commissioning pennant to CDR Rodelio 'Rudy' Laco Jr., outgoing commanding officer, during the change of command ceremony. CDR Brian Harrison is the ship's new commanding officer.**

Officer of USS Rentz (FFG 46).

Shore assignments include duty as Commanding Officer, Naval Reserve Center Burlington, VT; Force Maintenance Officer on the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force; and as Plans/Security Cooperation Officer on the staff of Commander, U.S. European Command. Most recently he graduated



from the Naval War College with a Masters of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies.

His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, five Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal.

CDR Laco assumed command of the USS Stephen W. Groves in October 2002. Under his leadership, the ship earned the Maritime Warfare Excellence 'E,' Engineering 'E,' Supply Management 'E,' and the Health and Wellness 'E.' Due to his efforts, the integration of selected reserve personnel on the ship has been the highest in the surface Navy with more than 1000 man-days utilized in fiscal year 2003.

During the ship's most recent deployment, the ship chased down three 'go-fast' drug-running vessels and inter-

cepted more than 9,600 pounds of cocaine. They rescued 104 migrants who were crowded together on a small fishing vessel on the verge of sinking in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. The ship transited more than 40,000 nautical miles and patrolled an area of more than 16 million miles.

CDR Laco is a native of Dallas, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University in 1984. He was commissioned as an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC). Sea duty assignments include serving on USS Moosbrugger (DD 980); USS Moinester (FFT 1097); on the staff of Destroyer Squadron 1, in San Diego, Calif.; as Commanding Officer, MCM Rotation Crew Charlie on USS Pioneer (MCM 9), Ingleside, Texas; and as Commanding

*Continued on page 15*

## From our Fleet

# Gates makes New London port visit

By JO3 Steven Feller  
NSB New London PAO

NEW LONDON, Conn. — On a typical day in New London, one could look out across the horizon and see a submarine from Naval Submarine Base New London (SUBASE) glide quietly through the water on its way to or coming back from sea. The horizon offered quite a different view when USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) made its way here and moored at Fort Trumbell.

As one submariner noted last weekend, "it's not often we get a 'target' in these parts."

The Ticonderoga-class cruiser, homeported in Pascagoula, Miss., made the visit as part of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce's Ship to Shore program. USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG 29) was last year's visiting ship.

Tony Sheridan, President of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber and community are excited to have the ship visit.



Photo by JO1 (SW/AW) Mark A. Savage

***OSSN James Hanson gets a brief reprieve from guard duty to say hello to his mother, Mary Anne Riley, and grandparents, George and Eileen Degelmann, shortly after the ship pulled into New London on April 29.***

"New London's roots are steeped in maritime history and the whole idea of having a visiting ship is exciting to the community. It's an opportunity to show off what we have here and for us to express our

appreciation to the Navy," said Sheridan.

Not only was the Chamber and community excited about the visit, but the crew was eager to experience what the New London area had to offer.

"For me, visiting any U.S. port is better than visiting any country in the world," said EMSC(SW) Rockette Miller. "I feel welcome here and I can relax a little bit more. We picked a perfect day to sail into a beautiful port."

The ship made the stop a month and a half into its scheduled five-month deployment. Last month, the ship conducted a counter-drug operation with its embarked Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment that resulted in the apprehension of a Miami drug 'kingpin.'

"We, along with the Coast Guard, apprehended Jose Battle," said ENS Ryan Sirmons, the ship's Combat Information Center and Public Affairs Officer. "That operation was part of a huge bust on that crime

family. We were very happy to participate in that."

While the ship was moored at Fort Trumbell, they welcomed the community to come visit them. For six hours each on Friday through Sunday, Sailors led tourists along the deck plates, showing off weapons systems, damage control lockers and the bridge, among other stops on the tours.

In addition to showing off their ship, Sailors were also invited to Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket to celebrate the Submarine Force's Birthday. In welcoming the crew to the ball, Naval Submarine School (SUBSCOL) Command Master Chief (SS) Kevin Crisman told the crew that "this was probably the first time you've ever been surrounded by this many submariners and actually known about it."

Sirmons said after leaving New London, there is much for the crew to do before going home.

"After this visit, we will be going to Philadelphia for Armed Services Day and then Annapolis for the United States Naval Academy graduation," said Sirmons.

Later this summer, the Gates will rendezvous with USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) to escort it to San Diego.

"We will meet the ship and then navigate around Cape Horn in South America on the way to San Diego. We will be making stops in Uruguay, Chile and Peru," said Sirmons.

In addition to all those stops, the Gates will participate in an anti-submarine warfare exercise with the Peruvian Navy.

Sheridan said this visit by the ship illustrates the excellent relationship the Chamber and community have with the Navy.

*Continued on page 15*



Photo by JO3 Woody Paschall

***A Sailor aboard USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) displays some of the ship's weapons for a group of tourists to see. The ship had several hundred visitors while it was in Groton, Conn.***

## Around the Homeport

# Pascagoula Sailor gets medal for valor

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

HM3(FMF) Brylan Riggins, a Hospital Corpsman assigned to Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula, was recently commended for his service during the first days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Riggins has been awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for "heroic achievement in connection with combat operations as Platoon Corpsman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Co. F, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, Task Force Tarawa on March 24, 2003."

A native of Tulsa, Ok., Riggins has been in the Navy a little more than four years. After completing recruit training and Hospital Corpsman 'A' school, he was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, in Camp Lejeune, NC.

He said that he had orders to transfer to Pascagoula, but had not yet departed, when his Marine unit got the news, just after the first of the year that they had to deploy in less than two weeks.

"We boarded the USS Saipan (LHA 2), crossed the Atlantic, went through the Mediterranean Sea, through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and into the Arabian Gulf," said Riggins. "We were flown by helicopter into Kuwait to a little spot in the desert."

He said his battalion met up with two more Marine battalions, and they trained in Kuwait for a couple of weeks.

"We were ready when we crossed over the border into Iraq," Riggins said.

He said that on the day of the incident his Marine unit was supporting Army operations in An Nasiriyah.

"We were to secure a key bridge," Riggins said. "Earlier



Photo by Stacey Byington

***CDR Daniel Frederick, Officer in Charge of Branch Medical Clinic Pascagoula, pins a Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device on HM3(FMF) Brylan Riggins. Riggins received the medal for his efforts to save wounded Marines during action in Iraq during the first days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.***

there had been some sporadic fighting by loyalist militia, who were taking pot shots at us. On that day we were taking fire from two different directions. It was getting crazy."

Riggins' citation reads in part, "As Fox Company's position came under direct and indirect fire, a Marine from the attached CAAT section received wounds from an enemy mortar round. Petty Officer Riggins immediately moved to an exposed position, calmed the Marine, and began treating the entry and exit shrapnel

wound in his shoulder. His composure under fire and life-saving actions had a lasting impact on the battalion."

"With enemy fire still landing around the position, Petty Officer Riggins stayed with the Marine providing continuous first aid and comfort until the casualty vehicle picked him up and processed the wounded Marine for further treatment," said Marine 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kris Southwick, one of the officers involved in the action.

"There was no time to think," said Riggins. "It was

time to use our training. I had to keep a level head, keep focused on what I had to do, and keep the patient calm."

Riggins said "he was just doing his job," but a witness to the events of March 24, Staff Sgt. Richard Ayala, says that "Petty Officer Riggins' ability, personal initiative, and unswerving devotion to duty, reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Since reporting to Pascagoula, Riggins says the pace at the clinic is a little slower than it was in Iraq, but he is enjoying life. His fiancé is in the Air Force stationed at Keesler Air Force Base. He is taking classes at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and is taking part in a number of volunteer activities in the local community.

About his time in Iraq, Riggins reflects that he was "more nervous than scared. We had medical training every day. The training helps keep you focused, and the repetition is good. Then if you are involved in some sort of action, the training takes over. I had good training."



***A combat distinguishing device is a "V" for valor.***

## Around the Homeport

# FFSC gets new victims' advocate

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

A new member has joined the Naval Station Pascagoula Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) family. Karen Williams is the new the FFSC Victim Advocate.

Williams joined the team on April 5. It is her job to support victims of domestic abuse, and to provide resources for immediate and ongoing domestic abuse intervention.

Although she is new to FFSC Pascagoula, she is not new to the military. She was on active duty for seven years, has been married to a Navy Seabee for 13 years, and was the Ombudsman for Naval Construction Battalion 7 at the Navy Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss., for almost three years.

According to Williams, it was her work as an Ombudsman that prompted her to take up her current profession as a victims' advocate.

"Being an Ombudsman taught me that there is such a need for support for the military family," said Williams.



**Karen Williams is the new FFSC Victims' advocate.**

"Families need to know that there is help available for them if they need it. I am here to help in any way that I can."

Williams is the Navy Victim Advocate covering the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast. She will be working out of FFSC offices at both Gulfport and Pascagoula.

She is arranging her schedule to fit where she is needed.

"I work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and I can always be reached, no matter which base I may be on that day," said Williams. "My main goal is to be available to help the victim."

As a victim's advocate, Wil-

liams will be aiding adult victims of domestic violence, assisting them as they deal with the legal system, medical and mental wellness appointments, and with military chains of command.

She will help victims find immediate safety and help with long-term planning, as well as provide information regarding access to medical service providers and other resources. She will also act as a liaison with local civilian victim advocacy resources.

Additionally, Williams will be available to help educate command personnel on how to prevent domestic violence in their own personal situations, and help them recognize when someone else is a victim of domestic violence.

"I am available to help the victim with whatever they need," said Williams.

For more information on Domestic Violence and how to prevent it, please call Karen Williams at FFSC Pascagoula at 228-761-2096, at FFSC Gulfport at 228-871-3000 ext. 11, or on her cell phone at 228-669-1774.

## Navy-Marine Corps Relief fund drive results

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) and May marks the end of this year's fund drive.

NMCRS is a non-profit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, and their eligible family members and survivors when needed.

A fund drive is conducted annually by active duty Navy and Marine Corps, and by a



direct mail campaign of the Navy and Marine Corps retired community. All contributions are returned to members in the form of relief services.

The NMCRS provides financial assistance to eligible recipients in the form of interest-free loans and grants to meet emer-

gency needs.

This year's fund drive raised more than \$36,000.

"Every dime collected here is used locally," said CWO5, Scott Curtis, NMCRS area coordinator.

There are 12 commands in the local area that took part in this year's fund drive which began March 2.

"The purpose of the fund drive was to increase awareness of Sailors and Marines and their families about the availability of assistance from NMCRS and to obtain funds that are essential to the continuation of the organization,"

said Curtis.

The fund drive may be over for this year, but the NMCRS is always available to assist Sailors and Marines.

For more information about NMCRS call 228-761-2263.

### Top commands:

**USS Yorktown (CG 48)**  
\$ 11,412

**USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51)**  
\$ 9,396

**USS Ticonderoga (CG 47)**  
\$ 4,082

## Around the Homeport



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Advancement--Naval Station Pascagoula personnel advanced include MA1 John Dean, MA1(SW) Flenard McLin, LN2 Calandrial Afriyie, MA2 Buddy Boden, MA2 Ramiro Cruz, MA2 Elizabeth Davie, MA2 Nick Henley, MA2 Marcie Jaramillo, MA2 Christopher Jones, CS2(SW) Bobby Walker, MA2 Douglas Lafleur, MA2 Anthony Lemos, MA2 Sophia McGrady, MA2 Raul Sagaribay, BU2(SCW) Christopher Stambaugh, GM2(SW) Charlie Mouse, MA3 Wade Garnatz, MA3 Alicia Knight, MA3 Jonathon Kuehn, MA3 Kimberly Robinson, MA3 Hollis Smith Jr., MA3 Kevin Spain Jr., MA3 Jeffrey Sutton, MA3 Justin Bentley, SK3 Cassidy Blessing, GM3 Eric Hassel.**

### ***It's time to be creative***

The Navy Drug and Alcohol Program is reinvigorating "The Right Spirit" campaign and has come up with a new slogan: "Accelerate our Advantages." They are looking for a new design deglamorizing drug and alcohol abuse to replace the bulleye.



Anyone with graphic design talent who would like to design an emblem to reflect the new slogan, please contact the Naval Station Pascagoula Public Affairs Office at 228-761-2019 or email pao2@ns-pascagoula.navy.mil.

### **About the cover**

***Frocking -- MA2 Elizabeth Davie accepts a letter designating her new rank from CDR Terry Rea at the Naval Station Pascagoula frocking ceremony held May 13.***



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

***Celebrating spouses -- A number of military spouses speak with John McAnally of the Fleet and Family Support Center at the Military Spouse Appreciation celebration held May 7 at Cracker Jack's. MWR and FFSC co-sponsored the event.***

## Around the Homeport

### Area history

# Cat Island once used to train war dogs

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

Cat Island, Miss., one of the five barrier islands in the Mississippi Gulf Coast, was one of five War Dog Reception and Training Centers operated by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps in the early 1940s.

MA1(SW) Elizabeth Koehler, one of Naval Station Pascagoula's Military Working Dog (MWD) handlers, was recently the guest speaker at a special program sponsored by the Gulf Islands National Seashore in Biloxi, about the war dog training at Cat Island. After the program about the dog training at Cat Island, Petty Officer Koehler gave a short demonstration with her MWD Rick, and spoke briefly about current MWD training and how the military uses dogs to protect our bases and fight the war on terrorism.

Cat Island is the westernmost of the Mississippi barrier islands. In the early years of American history, it was used as a French military post from 1754-1757, and then as a British base during the War of 1812. It was one of several state yellow fever quarantine stations from 1896-1998. Today, parts of the island are privately owned, and the rest is part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

More than 400 dogs are reported to have been trained on Cat Island in the two years the Army operated the training camp on the island. The dogs were trained to be sentry, mine, scout, or messenger dogs, to be used in tropical and subtropical combat areas in the Pacific theater. The Cat Island War Dog Reception and Training Center included officers' quarters, barracks and mess hall, dog kennels, a veterinarian hospital, and a barbershop.

At one point, 25 Nisei soldiers, second-generation Japa-



Photo by Stacey Byington

***MA1(SW) Elizabeth Koehler talks to guests at the Gulf Islands National Seashore about the Navy's Military Working Dog program. Arthur Lang, one of the first Army dog handlers who trained on Cat Island sits in the front row.***

nese Americans, were stationed in secret on Ship Island for several months and transported daily to Cat Island by boat, to help train select dogs to attack Japanese enemy soldiers.

The Quartermaster Corps trained dog handlers, most of which were Quartermaster soldiers, as well as dogs, and was responsible for developing all doctrine for training and use of War Dogs. Total training time for a dog was between 8-12 weeks. At Cat Island, and the other training centers, the dogs underwent a rigid military routine. A "basic training" period was initiated where dogs were trained to carry out certain fundamental commands such as sit, stay, come, and other 'basic' orders. They were also accustomed to muzzles, gas masks, riding in military vehicles and to gunfire.

After completion of basic

training each dog went through specialized training. A sentry dog worked on a short leash and was taught to give warning by growling, alerting or barking. They were especially valuable for working in the dark when attack from cover or the rear was most likely. The sentry dog was taught to accompany a military or civilian guard on patrol and gave him warning of the approach or presence of strangers within the area protected.

A scout or patrol dog was trained to work in silence in order to aid in the detection of snipers, ambushes and other enemy forces in a particular locality. A messenger dog was chosen for his loyalty because he had to work for two handlers. They were taught to travel silently and take advantage of natural cover. A mine-detection dog, or M-dog, was trained to find trip wires, booby traps, metallic and non-

metallic mines.

Arthur Land, who now lives in Gulfport, was one of the first dog handlers trained by the Army at Cat Island.

"Before joining the Army, I trained show dogs and racing greyhounds," he said. "Many of the initial dog handlers were ranchers, kennel owners, and others who worked with dogs in some other form before joining the Army. We even had one person who trained circus dogs for Ringling Brothers Circus."

Adam Prato, a park ranger with the Gulf Islands National Seashore, said that today there are still remnants of the dog training site on Cat Island.

"It's old and rusted, but even the power generator is still there," he said.

MA1 Koehler showed off Rick, one of the station's newer MWDs. Rick is dual qualified, and can be used in a number of different ways. During the demonstration, Rick showed off his skill by finding a hidden training device that contained oxidizers that are used in the construction of explosive materials.

Koehler answered audience questions about the team's training, the different duty stations she has been assigned to, and spoke about the many different ways the military uses military working dogs.

"He is very smart," said Koehler, referring to Rick. "If there is some sort of device or weapon hidden somewhere, and he is in the vicinity, he will find it."

She said that when she was first assigned here she didn't know that Cat Island had been used to train war dogs.

"I have been doing some research on the internet," she said. "There is quite a bit of information out there. I was surprised to learn that they trained war dogs at Cat Island."

## Around the Homeport

# Update on Navy family housing construction

By Stacey Byington  
Public Affairs Officer

Sandhill Landing, the new Navy Family Housing complex in Gautier will soon be able to offer an alternative housing solution for Navy and other military families in Jackson County.

Located on 75 acres purchased by the Navy in 2002, just north of Interstate-10 on Mississippi Hwy. 57, Sandhill Landing will consist of 160 three- and four-bedroom two-story duplex units arranged along mini-roads. Site construction began in the spring of 2003.

The property was purchased from Schooner Harbor Ventures, Inc., of Biloxi, at a cost of \$1.9 million. The design-build contract was awarded in June 2002 to DebCon Inc., of Ashland, Ky., for approximately \$19.6 million. The ground-breaking was held in August 2002.

**Construction workers are in the process of framing 13 duplexes along Wiregrass Street in Sandhill Landing, the new Navy Family Housing complex on Mississippi Hwy. 57, north of Interstate-10, in Jackson County.**

Photo by Stacey Byington



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Framing is almost complete and roofing is being installed for 16 duplex units along Buckwheat Tree Road in Sandhill Landing, the new Navy Family Housing complex on Mississippi Hwy. 57, north of Interstate-10, in Jackson County.**

The main road into the complex is Pine Savanna Drive, with four connecting roads — Buckwheat Tree Road, Wiregrass Street, Clubmoss Road, and Wax Myrtle Street. There

will be 13 to 20 duplex units on each road.

Framing is almost 100 percent complete on 16 units being constructed along Buckwheat Tree Road, and roofing



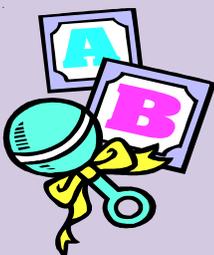
is progressing on schedule. There will be 13 duplexes along Wiregrass Street, where first floor framing is almost complete with the second floors being added. Clubmoss Street will have 13 duplexes, some of which overlook the natural lake on the property. The slabs have been placed, underground electrical is in place and some framing has begun.

Sewer and water pipes are being put in for 18 duplexes along Wax Myrtle Street, and excavation and utility placement is ongoing for 20 duplexes along Pine Savanna Drive at the back of the property.

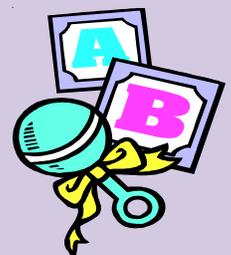
Each unit will range from 1,628 to 2,153 square feet, with the average at approximately 1,900 square feet. Each unit includes an enclosed garage (side by side separating the units from each other), with storage areas over the garage.

“I am very pleased the housing construction is progressing so well,” said CDR Terry Rea, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Pascagoula. “We had some initial delays due to weather and Navy modifications to housing square-footage entitlements. But the work is progressing very well now, and we anticipate the first families to be able to move into Sandhill Landing in the spring of 2005. We have been waiting for this for a long time.”

## New Arrivals



**Alexis Brunner**, new daughter to MA3 Carrie Brunner.  
Born April 28.



## Around the Homeport



Photo by CMDM(SW) Laurel Davis

**Recognition --** *UT2(SCW) Jeremiah Peden and PC2 Cassandra Searight receive awards for their contributions to area services. They recently received 'Volunteers are Important People' Awards from Jackson County at a special awards ceremony at the La Font Inn.*



Photo by Stacey Byington

**Command Fun --** *Command members take advantage of canoes and sunshine at the annual Naval Station Pascagoula command picnic held April 28 at the Combined Bachelor Quarters complex off Chicot Road in Pascagoula. In addition to canoeing, softball games, and other fun activities, there was lots of good food.*



Photo by JO1 Kim deJong

**A Day of Prayer --** *Chaplain Wayne Hatman offers a prayer to kick off the National Day of Prayer annual breakfast. Sailors from all commands at Naval Station Pascagoula gathered together at the USO on May 6 to begin the day of prayer. The National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event by an act of Congress in 1952 and was signed into law by President Harry Truman.*



Photo by IT1 Phillip Singleton

**Donating for life --** *BMI(SW) Clayton Ledet gives of himself by donating a pint of blood at the blood drive held in the station gymnasium on May 11. Twenty-eight people tried to donate and 23 good pints were collected.*

## Around the Homeport

# Outstanding Fire department nominees

By JO1 Kim deJong  
Public Affairs Office

Performing above and beyond the call of duty are not just characteristics of the military, but also of two members of the Naval Station Pascagoula Fire Department. Fireman Douglas Painter was named the Naval Station Pascagoula DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year, and Assistant Fire Chief Derrick Walley was named the Naval Station Pascagoula DoD Civilian Fire Officer of the Year for 2003.

Painter earned his nomination through his many accomplishments. He serves as acting fire captain, conducts fire-fighting training classes, and structural and medical drills. As an Emergency Vehicle Operator's Course (EVOC) Instructor, he assists other firefighters with the driver op-



*Assistant Fire Chief  
Derrick Walley*

erators program. Painter is also a Mine Safety Appliance (MSA) certified technician.

"Fireman Painter has demonstrated his abilities as a true



*Fireman  
Douglas Painter*

leader in the fire service and is a valuable asset to the Department of Defense," said Michael Bobinger, Naval Station Pascagoula Fire Chief.

Walley also stands out within the fire department.

Recently promoted, Walley serves as Assistant Fire Chief, was recently certified as Fire Officer IV, and is the hazardous materials incident commander/instructor. He also received his Hazardous Material Incident Commander certification and is an adjunct instructor for the Mississippi State Fire Academy. Walley is also an instructor with the American Red Cross.

"Walley is a professional and trusted firefighter who is a driving force behind the fire department," said Bobinger. "Both men show experience, professionalism and integrity which are essential elements to the many successes enjoyed not only by this command, but the entire Jackson County community. I am proud to have them as members of my team."

## Health Education Classes

### Tobacco Cessation

4 - session class  
June 9, 16, 23 & 30  
1 - 2:30 p.m.  
BMC Pascagoula  
Conference Room



### Weight Management

4 - session class  
June 10, 17, 24 & July 1  
1 - 2:30 p.m.  
BMC Pascagoula  
Conference Room



### Healthy Heart

Learn about hypertension, high cholesterol & healthier eating

4 - session class  
June 9, 16, 23 & 30  
9 - 11 a.m.  
BMC Pascagoula  
Conference Room



For more information or to register, contact LCDR Linda Spencer at the Branch Clinic or call 761-2048.

## Navy News

# Phone cards for deployed Sailors

By Kristine Sturkie  
NEX Service Command PAO

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (NNS) — Calling home from a Navy ship may soon be a lot easier. The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) is now authorized to sell prepaid calling cards to any individual or organization who wishes to support our Sailors serving in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We are excited to be able to sell our prepaid phone cards to anyone interested in supporting our troops," said Jennie Virden, NEXCOM's afloat program manager. "With extended



deployments and the stress of being away from home, a phone call to a loved one can ease a family's worry. This is a win-win for everyone involved. Americans have an easy and meaningful way to support our Sailors and ensure Sailors have the ability to call

home more often."

The Navy Exchange's AT & T Ship to Shore prepaid card is the only card that can be used to make calls from most U.S. Navy ships, as well as to place calls during port visits. Calls made from a ship are \$1 per minute, while rates for

phone calls made ashore vary by location.

To purchase a Ship-to-Shore prepaid phone card, log on to [www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com) and click on the "Help our Sailors Call Home" link. From there, the prepaid phone cards can be purchased and sent to an individual at his or her deployed address. Cards can be purchased individually or in bundles of 10 or 25. The prepaid phone cards sell for \$20 each. Cards can also be purchased for "any service member." These cards will be distributed by the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, the American Red Cross or the Fisher House Foundation.

## AAFES also selling pre-paid phone cards

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has granted approval for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to sell prepaid phone cards to the general public for donation to Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom service members.

By law, only patrons with military exchange privileges can shop at AAFES retail stores, but officials announced this week that the exchange service would begin selling phone cards to normally ineligible people and organizations on its Web site.

"It is truly an effort by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to reach out and to make sure that we keep our troops connected to home," Army Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander, explained. "Everybody wants to do something for the troops to let them know they care, and this is a way they can do it."

The general said hundreds



of people and several civic organizations have called wanting to make a purchase since word got out about the program.

Those wishing to purchase the cards can log on to the site and click on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" icon. The cards can be designated for an individual service member, or sent to "any service member" and distributed by the American Red Cross.

Frost said phone cards also can be donated to the Air Force Aid Society and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, as well as the Fisher House. All are nonprofit charitable organizations that support service members and their families in need.

AAFES officials said most calls from the Middle East to the United States originate

from one of their 54 calls centers. AAFES has four phone centers in Afghanistan with 98 phones in operation, 19 in Kuwait with 571 phones, and 31 in Iraq, with 936 phones.

Frost said new phone centers will added as requirements are identified throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

The average price for a call is 32 cents per minute from Iraq and Afghanistan, and 19 cents per minute from Kuwait.

The AAFES price is about 8 cents per minute cheaper than its closest competitor, according to Frost. And beginning May 1, she said, the price per minute when calling from Iraq and Afghanistan will be reduced from 32 cents per minute to 25 cents per minute when using the 550-unit prepaid card.

The general emphasized that the special 25-cent rate applies only to 550-unit prepaid cards purchased from AAFES post or base exchanges and other contingency operation stores operating in the theater of op-

erations, she said.

AAFES also is allowing normally ineligible patrons and organizations to purchase gift certificates for deployed service members through its "Gifts from the Homefront" program, Frost said. The certificates are sold by a commercial vendor through the AAFES Web site or by calling (877) 770-4438, toll-free. She said the certificates can be sent to service members overseas and used for purchases at AAFES facilities.

AAFES is a joint command of the Army and Air Force for authorized patrons to buy goods and services. The organization donates a percentage of its earnings to military morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Frost said a percentage of the proceeds from phone cards sales will go to MWR funds.

"So when Americans buy the cards, they are helping troops in two ways: They're connecting them to home, and they're contributing to morale, welfare and recreation programs."

## Navy News

# Traffic wrecks still leading killer

By Derek Nelson  
NSC, Media Department Head

Each year the Navy and Marine Corps sustain significant losses in valuable resources and equipment through material failure, training mishaps and operational accidents. However, the largest losses are due to traffic accidents, which significantly reduce the numbers of our greatest asset - our people. Often the cause is simple: they failed to wear seat belts while driving.

During the period fiscal year 2001 through May 18, 2004, 292 sailors and Marines were killed in four-wheel private motor vehicle (PMV) mishaps. From October 2003 through May 18, 2004, 46 sailors and Marines lost their lives in four-wheel PMV mishaps. We know 16 (or roughly 35 percent) of these 46 lost souls were not buckled up.

Two of the most important actions that we can take is the enforcement of existing laws and regulations governing seat



belt use and raising the awareness of our highest risk Sailors and Marines, those who are 18-34 years of age. These young men and women are well aware they should buckle up. However Navy Safety Center and national statistics indicate many in this age group are not taking the necessary steps to protect themselves on every ride.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's

(NHTSA) nationwide "Click it or Ticket" seat belt safety awareness campaign begins this year on May 24 and runs through June 6. "Click it or Ticket" is a high-visibility, law-enforcement campaign with the primary goal of increasing seat belt use nationwide and reducing the number of preventable fatalities and injuries.

The "Click it or Ticket" law enforcement mobilization began nationally in 1994. The Navy and Marine Corps team has been proactively involved in this campaign since November 2002. National statistics indicate adult seat belt use has increased from 58 percent in 1994 to 79 percent in 2003 - the highest usage rate ever since the mobilization began - with 39 million more Americans buckling up today than 10 years ago.

We should all fully support seat belt enforcement campaigns like "Click it or Ticket" because seat belt usage will save lives and reduce injuries.

During this year's mobilization, more than 12,000 law en-

forcement agencies in communities across the country will participate in zero-tolerance enforcement of seat belt laws with special emphasis on teens and young adults in the 16-to-34-year-old age group.

All Navy and Marine Corps installation commanders and safety professionals are encouraged to partner with state and local agencies to participate in this year's campaign. Everyone must stand ready to work together with DoN and civilian agencies to step-up enforcement of seat belt use, both on and off base.

Locally, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pascagoula safety and security personnel have joined forces with local law enforcement agencies, and are instituting 'Click it or Ticket' on the station.

NAVSTA Pascagoula held a safety standdown on Thursday, May 27, which included speakers from area law enforcement agencies.

The 'Click it or Ticket' campaign will run through the end of the first week of June.

## Heat injuries and how to prevent them

By HM1 Christopher Marin  
Naval Hospital Pensacola

Spring is here. Summer is closing in on us. Along with the change of seasons comes the usual change of activities. Along the northern shore of the Gulf of Mexico, people are flocking to the beaches; outdoor-partying and barbecuing, and breaking out those dreaded yard tools. However, performing any of these outdoor activities can also bring on the increased chance of suffering from heat injury.

During the next couple of months, the temperatures and humidity will rise dramatically. These conditions make it more

likely for an unprepared person to suffer from a heat-related illness. Learning the signs and symptoms of heat injury, and how to prevent them, is the best remedy. The three main heat-related injuries are heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Heat cramps occur when a person loses too much water and salt through excessive sweating. The result is a muscular soreness in the body, especially in the arms, legs, and stomach. The best treatment for heat cramps is to place the affected person in a cool, shaded area, if possible. Rubbing the affected muscle areas and giving "sips" of water with

a small amount of table salt can also help to relieve the symptoms.

Heat exhaustion occurs as the result of dehydration and over-exertion during physical activities. This illness is characterized by excessive sweating, cold and clammy skin, headaches, and occasionally, nausea and vomiting. The best treatment is to place the person in a shaded area. Fanning the body and applying a light spray of water will help relieve the symptoms. If a person is conscious, he may drink sips of water. However, never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If help is called, ensure that someone

stays with the patient until medical personnel arrive.

Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency and is often associated with a potentially high fatality rate. When a person suffers from heat stroke, their body cannot cool itself down (through perspiration), and results in the person having hot, dry skin. Essentially, a person's internal body temperature is rising to dangerous levels.

The first step is to call for medical help immediately. While waiting for medical help to arrive, place the patient in a cool, shaded area. Remove the patient's clothing, except for their undergarments. Fan the

*Continued on page 15*

## Continuing on ...

### SECNAV Memorial Day message ...

*Continued from page 2*

honor, courage and commitment have been, is today, and always will be, our enduring strength.

Your families and your countrymen are proud of your service. May you have a safe and happy Memorial Day. God

Bless each of you, God Bless your families and God Bless the United States of America.

### Groves gets new commanding officer ...

*Continued from page 4*

Officer of USS Ardent (MCM 12), Manama, Bahrain.

Shore assignments include serving as Executive Officer, Naval Reserve Center, Corpus Christi, Texas; Officer in Charge of Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Union 108 (MIUW 108), Corpus Christi; Commanding Officer of Naval Reserve Center, Tyler, Texas, and Deputy, Mine Warfare Branch Expeditionary Warfare Division, Chief of Naval Operations.

He earned a Master's de-

gree in Business Administration and a Master of Science degree in computer science Texas A&M, Corpus Christi University, and attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., where he earned a sub-specialty designation in computer systems management.

CDR Laco's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), and the Navy

and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and other service and campaign ribbons.

His next assignment will be as a student at the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., the nation's premier educational institution emphasizing the management of national resources to support our national security. He will be working on a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

### Gates makes New London port visit ...

*Continued from page 5*

"We have an excellent relationship - one that we continually work on," said Sheridan. "The relationship we have with the base and the Navy is as good as any relationship we have with any organization in

Eastern Connecticut and we want to keep it that way."

Sheridan also noted that the Chamber would like to see more than one visit a year by a surface ship.

"We'd welcome several visits a year," he said. "We want those who serve on these ships to feel comfortable, enjoy their shore leave, and come back and visit us again."

### Heat injuries and how to prevent them ...

*Continued from page 14*

patient down while continuously pouring water over their body. Rubbing the arms and legs will also help until medical personnel arrive.

The best way to avoid heat-related injuries is to prevent them:

- Avoid being in the sun as much as possible. Schedule

outside activities for the early morning or evening hours;

- Drink plenty of water, especially if you are working outside during the day;

- Avoid drinks and supplements containing caffeine, such as soda, coffee, and Ephedrine. Caffeine will only make a person more dehy-

drated;

- Avoid alcoholic drinks. Alcohol can dehydrate your body and affect your judgment;

- Wear loose fitting clothing.

By following the above mentioned guidelines, everybody can have a safe and healthy spring and summer season.

#### **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.

##### **Kickboxing**

Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

##### **Water Jogging**

Mondays, 11 a.m.

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.

##### **Pilates**

Thursdays, 6 p.m.

##### **Cyber Cafe/ Liberty Center Closed for renovations**

##### **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. Lunch Monday through Friday, 11a.m. - 1 p.m. Also open for softball games, other sporting events, and for other special occasions.

## MWR Activities

# Youth basketball camp set for June

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



### MWR Shuttle Schedule

Need to get to the mall or to visit Crackerjack's at the Lakeside facility? Shuttle service is provided daily.

#### Monday, Wednesday & Friday

4 - 10 p.m.

#### Saturday

2 - 10 p.m.

### Swimming Pool

Enjoy some cool fun in the hot summer sun. The base pool is open, and ready for a splash any day of the week. The pool hours are:

#### Lap Swims

Monday - Friday

6:30 - 8:30

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

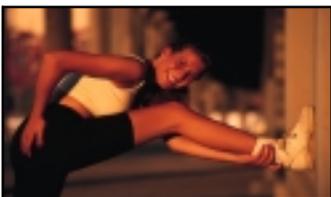
#### Open Swims

Monday - Friday

1 - 7 p.m.

#### Saturday and Sunday

Noon-5 p.m.



### Mid-Year Fitness Resolution

Anyone having difficulties fulfilling fitness goals should talk to one of the personal trainers at the Fitness Center about a fitness contract. A fit-

ness contract enables people to set realistic goals, and the personal trainers propose a comprehensive program with time-tables. Once a plan is agreed on, it's put in writing, and the personal trainer monitors progress with follow-up contact if necessary. Call 761-2107.

### Battle of Midway 5K June 4 8 a.m.

#### Fitness Center

The Pascagoula Surface Navy Association will host a 5K fun run. The run, held in remembrance of the Battle of Midway, starts at the Admin. building, and the route meanders around the base. Refreshments will be provided after the run. Runners will receive a complimentary tee shirt and a water bottle when they register. Advance entry fee is \$7 for Surface Navy Association members and \$8 for non members. Register at the Fitness Center. Late entry fee, the day of the run, is \$10.



### Pool Tournament June 10 6:30 p.m.

#### Cracker Jack's

Do you know what a three-rail bank is? If you know what it is you're ready to break the balls in this tournament. You don't have to make a rail shot to win the tourney, just know if your opponent misses one. First and second place winners will receive prizes. Entry is free.



### Kids Basketball Camp June 14-18 4 p.m. Fitness Center

For children interested in the game of basketball, this camp will teach him or her basic basketball fundamentals. The camp will be conducted by the MWR Sports Coordinator and volunteer coaches. The fun-filled sessions are open to active duty family members ages 9 through 14, free of charge. For more information or to register, call the Fitness Center at 761-2107.

Register teams for either league at the gym through June 18. Top finishers in both leagues earn Captain's Cup points at the end of the season.



### Sports Referee Softball Camp June 26 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fitness Center

The response to the first camp last month was so overwhelming, we had to repeat it. Successful completion of the course will earn certification with the National Intramural-Recreation Sports Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations. With certification, extra money can be earned in your spare time. The course is free to active duty. For more information call the Fitness Center at 761-2107.

### Steak Night

June 15  
6:30 - 9 p.m.  
Cracker Jack's  
Why settle for a burger when you can  
Steak Out  
for only \$6.50.



### Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday Softball at 6 p.m. Basketball at 5 p.m.

The second phase of the Intramural Softball season will be hot and challenging. Come slug it out for the trophy.

If the court is preferred to the diamond, come out and run and gun in the Summer Basketball League.

### CDH Services

Child Development Homes currently has openings for childcare in Gautier, Ocean Springs, Moss Point. These providers offer a nurturing environment which promotes the social and cognitive development of child. The rates are reasonable, and the hours are flexible. Call the CDH office for more information or a list of current providers at 761-2525 or 761-2524.

Training is available for anyone who may be interested in becoming a CDH provider.