

SEABEE COURIER

www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport

Vol. 55 No. 46

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

December 3, 2015

NMCB 11 - Global Good Neighbors



Congratulations to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 for winning the 2015 Navy Community Service Program/Project Good Neighbor Award in the large sea command category. The Project Good Neighbor Award recognizes the best year-around, volunteer supported program or special project

that promotes outreach activities to establish and restore hope to communities. Pictures included in this post are of various NMCB 11 Sailors participating in a variety of projects worldwide. Bravo Zulu, NMCB 11. (U.S. Navy photos/Released)

See story on page 7

NCBC Gulfport Christmas Tree Lighting!

Children's games
Food Vendors
Snow Pit
Navy Band from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Santa Claus
Carousel
Free Prizes!



Call 871-2538
for details

Friday, Dec. 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Youth Activities Center

USS Jackson to be Commissioned

From NCBC Public Affairs

This weekend, the city of Gulfport will host the commissioning ceremony for the USS Jackson at the Port of Gulfport.

This historic event is open to the public and will take place Saturday, at 10 a.m.

Free tickets are required for entry and they may be requested through the commissioning website - www.ussjacksoncommissioning.com, or can be picked up at Gulfport City Hall, 2309 15th Street.

The littoral combat ship was christened last spring in Mobile and Saturday's ceremony signifies its official entry into the Navy Fleet.



The littoral combat ship Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) Jackson (LCS 6) during its christening ceremony at AUSTAL USA shipyard in Mobile, Ala., March 22, 2014. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of AUSTAL U.S.A./Released)

New Seabee 'Force' selected

By Don Rochon
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Public Affairs

The selection of the 17th force master chief of the Seabees was announced by Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) at the Washington Navy Yard, Dec. 1.

Naval Base Ventura County Command Master Chief (SCW/EXW) Percy Trent, Jr., will assume the duties of the highest ranking enlisted Seabee in March 2016 from Seabee Force Master Chief (SCW) Christopher Levesque, who retires in June 2016.

NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Naval Civil Engineers Rear Adm. Bret Muilenburg praised the two men as innovative leaders in the Naval Construction Force (NCF).

"I can't say enough about Force Levesque and his leadership abilities. "The Naval Construction Force has been fortunate to have him during this very dynamic time in our history," said Muilenburg.

"Command Master Chief Percy Trent is another remarkable and energetic leader who will lead our Seabees into the future," Muilenburg added.

Prior to taking the reigns

as force master chief in January 2014, Levesque served as command master chief of the Naval Construction Training Center in Gulfport, Miss., Levesque is a native of Rantoul, Ill., and enlisted in the Navy in October 1985.

"It has been my distinct honor and privilege to have served as the force master chief of the Seabees" said Levesque. "The community has stabilized from the rough times that we have had within our construction force from downsizing. The need for Seabees grows every day and the need throughout the Navy and Marine Corps for our Seabee skills remains high. Through it all, our Seabees have stayed the course and I'm extremely proud to be one of them."

Levesque went on to say that the Seabee community will be in good hands. "I have all the confidence in the world that Master Chief Trent will take our construction force to a new level, and I wish him the best of luck."

A native of Bluefield, W. Va., Trent joined the Navy in 1989.

"I am humbled by my selection, and it's my great pleasure to have the



Naval Base Ventura County CMDCM Percy Trent, Jr.

opportunity to lead such an elite group of young men and women," said Trent. "I want to personally thank Force Levesque for his leadership and his service to our country, and I wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

Trent is a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist and Expeditionary Warfare Specialist. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation, Joint Service Achievement Award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.

December Fire Safety

From NCBC Fire and Emergency Services

As the weather slowly grows colder, we would like to remind you that portable heaters are not authorized for use on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport – no exceptions.

For those who live off base, or have family member who do, please remember and pass along the following information:

~ 50 percent of all home heaters fires occur during December, January and February.

~ When buying a new space heater, make sure it carries the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and is legal for use in your community.

~ Keep objects that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heating equipment.

~ Do use heaters as dryers for wet clothes.

~ Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" barricaded off around space heaters.

~ Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

NCBC

Commanding Officer

Capt. Cheryl Hansen

Public Affairs Officer

Rob Mims

Courier Staff

Editor

Bonnie L. McGerr

Special Contributors

BUCN Elizabeth Mills

BUCN Samantha Opyoke

The Seabee Courier is a weekly authorized on-line publication for members of the military services and their families. Content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the DoD or the U.S. Navy and does not imply endorsement thereof. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Government, DoD, the Navy or NCBC Gulfport of the products and services advertised. All content in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The Seabee Courier solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources, but the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to edit and/or rewrite material selected for publication to conform with journalism standards. The deadline for material is close of business every Friday. Your comments are always welcome. The Seabee Courier office is in Building 1, Room 205. The mailing address is 4902 Marvin Shields Blvd., Code NOOP, Gulfport, MS 39501. Phone, 228-871-3662, email: seabecourier@navy.mil.

Safe Helpline
Sexual Assault Support for the DoD Community
Live 1-on-1 Help Confidential Worldwide 24/7

Local 24/7 Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Contact #: 228-596-0697; Your installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinator's Contact #: 228-323-4717; Alternate Sexual Assault Response Coordinator's contact # 504-762-0224; Click: www.Safe-Helpline.org; Call: 877-995-5247; Text *55-247 (inside the U.S.); Text *202-470-5546 (outside the U.S.) *Text your location for the nearest support resources.

AUDRA
SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT GROUP
AUDRA means "nobility and strength" in French

You don't have to walk this path alone

This group offers a safe, open atmosphere for discussion and activities to facilitate the healing process

For Active Duty females who have been sexually assaulted as adults

Call FFSC at (228) 871-3000



Actors from Pure Praxis, partner with volunteers from the audience to perform Bystander Intervention techniques during one of their two performances at the Training Hall on board NCBC Gulfport, Dec. 1. The improvisational actors use audience participation to demonstrate how individuals have the power to affect change by rehearsing with Sailors and Marines around the world. (U.S. Navy photo by Rob Mims/Released)



Congratulations to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 flag football team on their 2nd place tournament win at Keesler Air Force Base (KAFB). Great job to their coach IT1 Roberson and the players; BU2 Knowles-Ball, ET3 Wells, EO3 McLeod, YN3 Davis, EO3 Freeman, BU3 Parker, YN3 Sosa, LS3 Wilder, CECN Books, EOCN Monroe, CECN Harrel, and BUCN Strader. Anyone who is interested in participating in competitive sports is encouraged to stop by the Fitness Center to find out what is offered. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of MWR/Released)



The First Class Petty Officer Association (FCPOA) assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 host Thanksgiving for the single Sailors who don't have family in the area or don't have plans on going home for the Holiday. The FCPOA provided traditional Thanksgiving items such as turkey, stuffing and sweet potato casserole. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

Gulf Coast CFC 2015 5K Walk/Run

The NCBC Combined Federal Campaign Team will hold a 5K Walk/Run at 6 a.m., Dec. 11 at the Fitness Center. Participants who have already filled out a donation slip or who have registered on line to donate to the CFC are asked to bring their slip with them to use as a registration form. Command CFC representatives will be on hand to help people who have not filled out a pledge slip. Although donating is not required, it is encouraged. Top 3 Winners! 1st place will be awarded the opportunity to pick

where 50 percent of donation proceeds go to. 2nd place will be awarded the opportunity to pick where 30 percent of the donations go to. 3rd place will be awarded the opportunity to pick where 20 percent of the donation proceeds go to. 100% CONTACT IS OUR GOAL! Let us come together and have fun! The base wide goal for this year is \$45,000. See your CFC rep for more information.



Gulfport Legal Limiting Service - Gulfport Legal Assistance is limiting services Dec. 7 - 9 due to TAD travel of personnel. The office will offer powers of attorney as scheduled, but not regular appointments or will executions. For more information, please call 228-871-2620.

Secret Santa Shopping For Kids
Dec. 5, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Base Thrift Shop
Info - 228-871-2610



Above: Sara Lerch, a youth counselor at the Youth Activities Center race Jahki (left) and Kamal, up the climbing wall at the new playground at the YAC on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Dec. 1. The School Age Care Program (SAC) recently was reaccredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA). (U.S. Navy photo by Rob Mims/Released)



Right: Kaden shoots the basketball at the YAC playground on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Dec. 1, while Sara Lerch, a youth counselor at the Youth Activities Center, Hailey, right, and Brittany wait for the rebound. The School Age Care Program (SAC) recently was reaccredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA). (U.S. Navy photo by Rob Mims/Released)

School Age Care Program earns high praise during Accreditation

By Grace Sheets
Marketing and Publicity Coordinator

Families of school-age children who participate in the School Age Care Program (SAC) at the Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport can be assured that their children are in one of the best programs available.

The program was recently re-accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA), an international nonprofit that reviews organizations to ensure they meet the standards of quality for their programs. COA recognized the program at NCBC Gulfport as one that implements high performance standards, providing the highest quality services to all of its children.

NCBC Gulfport Youth Activities Center was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR) process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice or core standards. During their two-day visit the council reviewed on site documents such as operation licenses, teacher lesson plans and staff files while also observing the classrooms and teacher-child interactions. Inter-

views were conducted with the youth director, program lead, program trainer and teacher in which all aspects of the program were discussed. The program goes through an accreditation visit every five years in order to keep its status; during the in-between years an annual report is submitted.

While the high standards of programming have remained unchanged in the past five years, the accreditation process has been one that Youth Director John Hartsell and staff have diligently worked on; meeting daily to discuss the process and hosting weekly staff trainings to cover inspection criteria.

Within that time frame the SAC program has moved to a free-flow environment in which the children pick their choice of activity upon their arrival. They can decide for themselves to focus on homework, arts, science, dramatic play, outside play, music, tablets or computers.

The staff is consistently self-evaluating the program to ensure they are meeting the needs of the youth enrolled. Ideas are generated by all youth and funneled through the elected 4H officers and comment cards. Not only does this provide new programming suggestions but also hones the

leadership skills and character of the pre-teens participating. Several continuing initiatives include fine arts development through various medium contests and partnership with the Missoula Children's Theater; gardening in which the produce planted will later be used in Healthy Habits programming; Triple Play Challenges where the children develop various sports skills and Triple Play Too, in the works, to provide week-long challenges for football, soccer, get-fit and boot-camp.

With hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. the School Age Care Program is one that benefits all busy families and provides bus services the Long Beach and Gulfport school districts. Parents wondering where to send the kids during school vacations can use SAC, who provides camps throughout the year!

"We put our written guidelines and regulations into practice," Hartsell said. "Parents can rest assured that their children are in a safe environment that is conducive to their learning and well-being."

People looking to enroll their children in this program can call 228-871-2251 or stop in at the Youth Activities Center, Bldg. 335.

Navy Exchange and Mini Mart Holiday Hours of Operation

NCBC Gulfport Navy Exchange (NEX) Holiday Hours of Operation are: Dec. 24, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Dec. 25, CLOSED; Dec. 31, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Jan. 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Mini Mart Holiday Hours of Operation are: Dec. 24, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Dec. 25, CLOSED; Dec. 31, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Jan. 1, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

NEX and Mini Mart Early Closure

The Navy Exchange and the Mini Mart on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport will close at 6 p.m., Dec. 12 for an annual Christmas party.

NCG 2 personnel help Engage, Educate and Empower students

By MCCS(SCW/SW) Jeffrey J. Pierce
NCG2 Public Affairs Officer

Thirteen Sailors from Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2 brought their unique experience and expertise to assist over 6,000 middle school students during the 3rd Annual Pathways2Possibilities (P2P) at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi, Nov. 18 and 19.

P2P is an interactive career expo designed for all eighth grade students enrolled in private and public schools located in the six lower counties of Mississippi. During the event, each student had the opportunity to experience 19 distinct career paths, which are aligned with the career "Pathways" set forth by the Mississippi Department of Education.

According to Karen Sock, one of P2P's co-coordinators, the main goal of the event is to ensure every student entering high school identifies a career path that fits his or her interests, abilities and passion.

NCG 2 personnel have been a part of P2P since its inception. Initially, the focus of NCG2's efforts centered on the construction skills in

which the Seabees are known. However, since NCG 2 also employs Sailors from many different military career fields, their participation was considered essential by the P2P coordinators.

According to P2P co-coordinator Paige Roberts, not every career path looks the same. Education and the training required differ from one career to another. This applies to the military as well.

"We wanted to focus on the different opportunities and skill sets within the military as part of this year's event," Roberts said.

Members of NCG 2 were scattered throughout the convention center. In one area a tractor-trailer with a bulldozer affixed identified the Seabee specific volunteers who discussed the different career paths available in the Naval Construction Force. In another, Hospital Corpsman engaged students with a hands-on exhibit and provided information on the opportunities in the Navy's medical community. Logistics Specialists interacted with the 8th graders as they discussed careers in the Navy's supply community, and NCG 2 personnel in PT gear focused on the benefits of health and exercise applicable to any profession.

Steelworker Constructionman Melody Wilkie, NCG 2's Assistant Volunteer Coordinator and the command's liaison for P2P was surprised at the depth of the student's questions.

"I think Pathways2Possibilities will open up a lot of minds. As I walked around the convention center, there were so many students who asked questions I didn't expect from 8th graders. They asked about furthering their education. What they needed to do to qualify for specific jobs and the salaries to expect. "When I was in 8th grade, all I was thinking about was playing softball," Wilkie said sheepishly.

According to Roberts, the two-day expo hosted over 6,000 students from 26 schools from six counties. The 152 employers who participated brought 770 professionals to volunteer to make this happen. In addition, 150 community volunteers and 60 individual sponsors were on hand to support the 19 career pathways grouped into career clusters aligned with the Mississippi Department of Education.

With this said, Roberts feels the continued growth of P2P isn't necessarily tied to the amount of employers present nor the number of volunteers and sponsors.

"What we see as growth is the activities within the Pathways," Roberts said. "Our goal is to



Construction Mechanic Constructionman Bryan Speciale from Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2, gives students a hands-on experience during the Pathways2Possibilities career expo Nov. 19. During the event, Speciale talked to the students about his experience in the Navy and about the different career opportunities available in the Seabees. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Jeffrey J. Pierce/Released

December 3, 2015



Utilitiesman Constructionman Donald Kimp, a volunteer assigned to Naval Construction Group (NCG) 2, welcomes students to Pathways2 Possibilities (P2P) held at the Mississippi Coast Convention Center Nov. 19. P2P is an interactive career expo designed for all eighth grade students enrolled in private and public schools located in the six lower counties of Mississippi. (U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Jeffrey J. Pierce/Released)

continually refine the quality of the activities presented to the students during the two-day event."

NCG 2's Commander, Capt. Paul Odenthal came to event to visit with the volunteers from his command and see first hand the scope and breadth of what was being presented to the students in his community.

"I can think of no one better role model to inspire these students than our Sailors, some barely five years separated in age. Sharing their personal experiences and professional knowledge, our Sailors definitely widened the youngsters' apertures to the many career opportunities available both in the military and in the civilian marketplace," Odenthal said. "Pathways2Possibilities offers a unique opportunity to connect with these students and hopefully light a spark to where they start asking themselves what they want to achieve in life and what avenue they need to choose to make it a reality."

For more information on Pathways 2Possibilities go to www.pathways2possibilities.org or search Pathways2Possibilities on Facebook.

Seabee Courier



See Something Suspicious, Say Something Immediately! Report suspicious activity which is defined as any observed behavior that could indicate terrorism or terrorism-related crime. Public safety is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to local law enforcement. Call 228-871-2361 or 911.

Back in Time: Seabee History Vietnam Era

Nov. 29

1967: Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 main body begins deployment from Dong Ha, Republic of Vietnam (RVN) to Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Port Hueneme, Calif. The movement was accomplished by 14 MAC C-130 flights.

Nov. 30

1942: The first echelon of the 29th Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) arrived at Rosneath, Scotland. These men were the first Seabees to land in Europe; 41st NCB commissioned at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va.

1967: NMCB 5 relieved NMCB 11 at Camp Barnes, Dong Ha, RVN.

Dec. 1

1966: NMCB 8 main body of 19 officers and 707 enlisted personnel begin deployment by air from CBC, Port Hueneme, Calif., to Rosemary Point, Chu Lai, RVN.

Dec. 2

1966: A change of command ceremony was held on board Camp Haskins, Da Nang, RVN at which Cmdr. Daniel N. Shockey relieved Cmdr. Richard E. Anderson as com-

manding officer of NMCB 9. 1966: Seabee Team 0509 deployed to Vietnam.

Dec. 3

1966: NMCB 3 begins departure from Chu Lai, RVN on eight C-141 aircraft.

Dec. 5

1966: Seabee Team 0910 departed the main body at Da Nang, RVN via C-118 aircraft for the 31st NCR to commence military and technical training.

1967: At a convoy passing site, NMCB 3 personnel were involved when four mines exploded simultaneously. (They were believed to have been command detonated dud bombs.) Several Seabees were knocked down by the blast and one carried 40 feet through the air. Unbelievably, no casualties were sustained.

1967: Rear Admiral James V. Bartlett, commander of the Third Naval Construction Brigade, dedicated Camp Wilkinson in memory of Construction Mechanic 1st Class J.W. Wilkinson, killed during a mortar attack on the Phu Bai/Gia Le bases. Camp Wilkinson was the Seabee camp at the Gia Le Combat Base near Phu Bai, Vietnam.



KWAJALEIN, Republic of Marshall Islands - Builder 3rd Class Justin Weeks, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction (NMCB) 1, chips block on a project in the southern end of U.S. Garrison on Kwajalein Atoll (USAG-KA), Republic of Marshall Islands, Nov. 14. NMCB 1 is collaborating with the Public Works Department of the USAG-KA on the construction of shower and restroom facilities for Marshallese laborers of Kwajalein Atoll during NMCB 1's deployment to provide humanitarian aid to the Republic of Marshall Islands. (U.S. Navy photo by Hospitalman 2nd Class Isaac P. Cajinas/Released)

Seabees build friendship with construction in Marshall Islands

By **MC1 Brannon Deugan**
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Marshallese construction workers and U.S. Navy Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, construct a washroom facility in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, Nov. 20, 2015.

The previous outdoor facility where local Marshallese bathed and washed up after a long day of work in a local landfill is being upgraded by NMCB 1 with a block building that will provide showers, restrooms, and a washer and dryer area.

"This project is a morale booster for the Marshallese

workers," said Lt. j.g. Cory Devonis, NMCB 1 officer in charge, Marshall Islands.

"The existing shower is an outdoor faucet where local Marshallese can bathe and wash up after a long day work in the local landfill, however, being outside and open is not the most comfortable way to wash up after a long day of work. This facility allows the locals to freely wash up before heading home as well as providing washer and dryer services and restroom facilities."

NMCB 1 has been working hand-in-hand with the local Marshallese workers on a project that began as a concrete placement and then

developed into a building with a roof, walls, and a solid foundation.

"This is my first time working with military construction," said Joel Aldea, lead carpenter and native of Manila, Philippines. "I have a good time talking to these guys. They work hard and are very polite to everyone." According to Builder 2nd Class Bryan A. Peter, this is a unique and fulfilling project due to the work being done with the local Marshallese.

"We joke, work, and laugh together," said Peter, assigned to NMCB 1. "This is also a great site; I have learned a lot and also flexed my skills."



Seabees add another 20 feet onto the Liberty Bridge in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) as a Seabee detachment lowers stringers into place over new pilings in 1967. By the time it was completed, Seabees had driven more than five tons of nails, each more than 10 inches long, into the bridge. The deck of the bridge was 8 feet thick. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Seabee Museum)

Influenza Vaccination Drive Thru

Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Gulfport has scheduled their first-ever Influenza Vaccination Drive Thru, Dec. 5, 8 a.m. - noon on the big grinder on base. This opportunity is open to all DoD beneficiaries who have

authorized access to NCBC Gulfport. Beneficiaries will be expected to fill out a medical screening form at the grinder, prior to being immunized. For more information, please call the NBHC at 228-822-5792 or send a message via RELAYHEALTH.com.

NMCB 11 wins Project Good Neighbor Award

By MC1 Michael C. Barton

NMCB 11 Public Affairs

The Navy Community Service Program recently announced Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 as winner of the 2015 Navy wide Project Good Neighbor Community Service Flag Award in the large sea command category Nov. 30.

The Project Good Neighbor Award recognizes the best year-round volunteer-supported program or special project that promotes outreach activities throughout the year to establish and restore hope to the community. This marks the second consecutive year NMCB 11's Seabees captured the award.

"I couldn't be prouder because this award recognizes the true character of the Lucky ELEVEN Sailors," said Cmdr. Jorge Cuadros, NMCB 11's commanding officer. "Being active and good neighbors in the many communities we've been part of is now culture in the battalion. Our Sailors get tremendous personal satisfaction from their selfless acts and value the relationships that are developed."

Two hundred and forty five Sailors assigned to NMCB 11 volunteered a total of 4,600 hours and helped more than 15,500 people during their 2015 deployment. NMCB 11 had 15 different detachment sites around the world to include both Spain and Guam.

Some of the volunteer events NMCB 11's Seabees contributed to include: The Spanish Navy Admiral's Beach Clean-up in Rota, Spain; ASVAB training at Ebeye Elementary School in Marshall Islands; participation in the Special Olympics for Guam and Gulfport; servicing of air conditioners for CURE Hospital Niamey in Niger; cleaning and landscaping for La Cartuja Monastery in Jerez, Spain.

"Seabees have the unique capabilities to interact with multiple communities at one time around the world," said Lt. Twig Sergeant, command chaplain and volunteer program coordinator. "Through all the volunteering NMCB 11 has been involved with, the focus has always been strengthening partner nation relationships at every detachment site."

The award is divided into three categories: shore, sea and overseas. Within these categories, nominees are then separated by command size – under 200, 200-499 and 500 or more personnel.



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Blane Wilson, left, from Buffalo, N.Y., has his second class petty officer rating badge sewed on by Steelworker 2nd Class Jeffery Conmy during a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 "tacking on crow" ceremony on Naval Station Rota, Spain, Dec. 1, 2015. NMCB 1 promoted 21 Sailors to their newly appointed petty officer ranks with a traditional "tacking on crow" ceremony with a contemporary frocking ceremony in Rota, Spain. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Brannon Deugan/Released)

Tradition and Heritage promotes Seabees with 'Tacking on Crows'

By MC1 Brannon Deugan

NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Seabees bundled up for the stroll from their Camp Mitchell barracks to the Spanish theater across the street on board Naval Station Rota, Spain, Dec. 1.

The majority of the Sailors are wearing the uniform of the day, the Type III Navy Working Uniform, while 15 Sailors could be spotted wearing the Service Dress Blue Uniform.

The Sailors wearing the dress blue uniform volunteered to participate in a traditional ceremony that pays homage to the history and heritage of enlisted Sailors being frocked to the next pay grade, while an additional 18 Sailors participated in the frocking portion of ceremony in the uniform of the day. Frocking is the authority to wear the rank of the next pay grade until receiving the benefits and pay of that rank.

During the ceremony known as "tacking on crows," Sailors took turns stitching on a new rating badge to the left sleeve of a fellow shipmate's dress blue uniform, while imparting words of wisdom to help the shipmate navigate through the promotion.

A "crow" is an unofficial Navy term for the petty officer rank insignia, which includes an eagle above one to three chevrons, depending upon a Sailor's rank.

"The ceremony was a traditional experience that not a lot of Sailors will get to be involved with because it is not a common practice today," said Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Blane Wilson. "I hope that every other E-4, E-5, and E-6 Sailor will get the opportunity to be a part of a similar experience when they are frocked

to the next pay grade."

Wilson represented the newly promoted E-5's of NMCB 1 during the ceremony, and he credited his work ethic, study habits, and shipmates for providing the opportunity for him to earn a second chevron.

"Being advanced is great. I worked hard, studied hard, and I'm appreciative of this," stated Wilson. "I'm thankful for all of my friends and supervisors who helped me get here through opportunities and encouragement while I studied hard for approximately two months straight, and it paid off. I couldn't be happier about being advanced."

Three Sailors, each representing the pay grades of E-4, E-5, and E-6, had a rating badge sewn on prior to frocking 18 other Sailors to their newly appointed pay grade.

The Sailors who participated in the frocking portion of the ceremony observed their peers go through the "tacking of crow" while anticipating being frocked.

"The ceremony went along with the tradition of the Navy" said Equipment Operator 3rd Class Richard Hall, frocked to E-4. "It followed an old tradition, but was made into something new and better by teaching younger troops the tradition and importance of rank structure."

"It was an honor to be promoted because when I think I'm moving up in the Navy's rank structure, and, to me, that means I'm doing something meaningful for my country," continued Hall, a native of Sparta, Ill. "This proves that working harder and harder everyday will be rewarded. My family has a long Navy heritage, and it makes me proud to know that I'm representing my family and country honorably on a daily basis. It's a good feeling to know I'm moving up."

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Design the theme and/or logo for the 75th Anniversary of the Seabees. Show us your "CAN DO" spirit and your submission could be used as the Official logo and/or theme for the year-long celebration in 2017! This is your opportunity to be part of the Seabee legacy. Send entries for consideration to seabee75thanniversary@gmail.com by Jan. 31, 2016. Download submission information and view official rules at <http://navfac.navy.mil/seabee75th-anniversary>.



1942 - 2017



Education Notes

EFMP POC Command Training

Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will host Exceptional Family Member Program point of contact training Dec. 15, 9 - 11:30 a.m. at FFSC, building 30. Please call 228-871-3000 to register.

DeCA Scholarships for Military Children

The Scholarships for Military Children Program will be accepting applications from eligible students beginning Dec. 15 at commissaries worldwide or on the Internet at www.militaryscholar.org. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Applications must be hand-delivered or shipped via U.S. Postal Service or other delivery methods to the commissary where the applicant's family normally shops by close of business Feb. 12, 2016. Applications cannot be emailed or faxed. For more information, visit www.militaryscholar.org or email, militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com or call Scholarship Managers at 856-616-9311.

Fire Safety Brief

New to military family housing? Did you know that OP-NAVINST 11320.23G requires housing residents to attend a Fire Safety brief within 30 days of moving into base housing? Briefs, which last no more than an hour, are held at the NCBC Fire Department on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. If you have not attended a brief yet, plan to do so. If you are unable to attend, call the Fire Chief, 228-871-3117 to discuss your situation.

NCBC Gulfport School Liaison Officer:

Kevin Byrd, MWR, Building 352, 1706 Bainbridge Ave., Phone: 228-871-2117
email: kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil

December Tip of the Month from FOCUS (Families Over Coming Under Stress)

The holiday season is fast approaching. Parents are busy making holiday preparations and children are busy making lists.

During the rush of this holiday season, let us remember to take notice of the people around us and those we love. This means we shift our focus from shopping to spending time together, sharing memories of the past and making memories for the future.

Fostering family rituals and traditions can make the holidays especially meaningful for both parents and children. If a parent is away, family rituals can also support family closeness and consistency that is important for children of all ages.

If you'd like more ideas for enhancing family closeness and support throughout the year, please contact FOCUS.

FOCUS (Families Over

Coming Under Stress) is a resiliency-building program of the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED). It is confidential and designed for military couples and families facing the multiple challenges of combat operational stress during wartime.

FOCUS promotes family strengths and supports couples and parents to help manage the challenges of military life. Through the sharing of perspectives, families make meaning together and thereby grow in unit cohesion, mutual care, and effective communication.

In the context of their unique stories, couples and families learn and practice key skills to enhance communication, problem solving, goal setting and overall family resilience. Making meaning as a family unit as

well as enhancing resiliency skills have been shown significantly to increase a family or couple's ability to handle military and life stressors more effectively.

Contact us today to learn more about FOCUS and to schedule your fun and personalized training sessions! FOCUS is located at 304 John Paul Jones, Room 405, next to Anchors & Eagles. The main office phone number is (228) 822-5736 and our general email is gulfport@focusproject.org. For more information about FOCUS, visit us online at www.focusproject.org or www.facebook.com/FOCUSresiliencytraining.



GULF COAST USO

901 CBC 3rd Street, Building 114
228-575-5224

Office hours: Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



USO Gulf Coast presents Storytime with Santa - 5:30 - 7 p.m., Dec. 12 at Dickey's in Gulfport. FREE pictures with Santa and other giveaways. FREE for Active Duty Military, Reservists, Guard Members and their Dependents. Space is limited so RSVP by contacting usogulfcoast@uso.org. In the email, please include how many children will be in attendance and their names as well as which time slot you'll be attending, either the 5:30 p.m. or 6:15 p.m.

Buzz on the Street

"What gets you in the holiday spirit?"

BUCN Elizabeth Mills
NCBC Public Affairs



"Christmas decorations get me into the holiday spirit."

Sandra Vazquez
NCBC Fitness Center



"Family ... because being around people I haven't seen in a long time helps me get in the spirit of things."

Phillip Simmons
Naval Supply (NAVSUP)
Material Handler



"Christmas songs with Delilah on the radio!"

Chanda Schauger
Child Development Center
Program Assistant

'The Meat & Potatoes of Life'

By Lisa Smith Molinari
Special Contributor

My gravy's better than your gravy

We do it every year. We cut out recipes. We make lists. We go to the commissary. We elbow each other out of the way to grab turkeys, cranberries, yams, and mini-marshmallows. We jam enough food into our pantries to feed an Army ... or Navy, as it were.

Why? Because it's Thanksgiving, of course!

When our guests politely ask, "What can we bring?" we are faced with an interesting dilemma.

On one hand, our brains are about to explode over all the details of hosting, so contributions would be nice. But on the other hand, we have envisioned holiday meals using our own family traditions, and what if our guests bring dishes that are weird and unfamiliar?

I experienced this phenomenon twenty years ago, when we lived in base housing at Fort Ord, just outside of Monterey, Calif. Unable to fly back east to spend the holiday with our relatives, we accepted

an invitation to have Thanksgiving dinner at another family's house down the street.

"What can I bring?" I asked the other wife. "Uh, well, um ...," she stuttered nervously, "I'll get back to you on that."

I fancied myself a pretty darned good cook back in those days (before kids turned my brain to mush and our staple food into mac-n-cheese, mind you) and was looking forward to contributing to the meal.

"What? But, you've got to let me bring something," I pleaded.

"Well, alright then, how 'bout you bring the frozen corn."

Frozen corn? Are you kidding me? She wasn't.

Over the next few days, I hounded the other spouse, offering my delectable Sausage Apple Pecan Cornbread Dressing, my rich Guinness Gravy, my addictive Swiss Onion Bread, my snappy Waldorf Salad. She resisted, but finally agreed to let me bring a lousy



pumpkin pie and a tub of Cool Whip.

I swallowed my disappointment that Thanksgiving -- along with her boring stuffing and starchy gravy -- and resolved to make what I wanted from then on.

However, year after year, the same dilemma kept cropping up. Whether host or guest, military spouses really don't like to give up their holiday traditions. But at the same time, we are often in unfamiliar places where we feel the urge to reach out to other military families for companionship during the holidays.

I realized that, unless we want to spend Thanksgiving stubbornly alone with our coveted recipes, we'd

better learn to compromise.

If I am a guest at someone else's house, I won't turn my nose up at the hostess' fancy homemade cranberry sauce because I secretly love the canned stuff. I won't judge my host if he doesn't brine the bird, and then make passive aggressive comments like, "Could you pass the canned gravy? I think a little breast meat is stuck in my throat." I won't be bitter that I wasn't able to show off my Pecan Cheesecake with the Gingersnap Crust. Instead, I'll shut my pumpkin pie hole and gladly eat whatever my host serves.

If I host, I'll let my guests bring their Tex Mex corn soufflé even if it clashes with my Ambrosia. I can give up my beloved Swiss Onion Bread just this once, and let them bring their Gammie's Poppy Seed Loaf if it makes them feel at home. Who really cares if my friend has a different take on sweet potatoes -- surely, no one has

ever died from not eating marshmallows.

I'll survive, and probably gain 10 pounds in the process.

Besides, this is the time of year that we're supposed to think about all the things we're thankful for, and isn't that being able to celebrate the holidays with our family and friends? Not the Green Bean Casserole with the French-fried onions, for Pete's sake.

Think of it this way: good friends and family are the meat and potatoes of life. The food? Well, no matter whether it's canned, powdered, or slow cooked from the drippings, it's just the gravy.

*A 21-year Navy spouse, Lisa and her family are currently stationed in Newport, RI. Her self-syndicated columns appear on her blog, www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com, and she recently co-authored *Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life*. Follow Lisa @MolinariWrites."*

Energy Savings Tip

Over the holidays ... Don't drive more than you need to ... Instead of visiting the mall multiple times, try to buy all of your gifts in one trip and map out an efficient driving strategy. Draining your gas tank shopping can be avoided if you buy on-line, but sometimes the shipping fees are more than what you would have spent on gas driving to the mall.



Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline:

Due to limited IG resources throughout the Southeast Region, all Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline work will now be handled by the Region. To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact the Region at: Toll Free 1-877-657-9851, Comm: 904-542-4979, DSN 942-4979, FAX: 904-542-5587, Email: CNRSE_HOTLINE@navy.mil

NCBC Helping Hands

WEST HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL PROCTORS - Volunteers are needed to serve as test proctors or hall monitors for West Harrison High School, Dec. 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11, from 7:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. Volunteers do not have to work all of the days, but they are expected to stay until testing is complete the day they are volunteering. Hall monitors will maintain a quiet atmosphere in the testing halls. No cell phones are allowed in testing areas. To volunteer, please contact Cynthia Levins, 228-539-8900 or CLevins@harrison.k12.ms.us. West Harrison High School is located at 10399 County Farm Road, Gulfport.

WREATH LAYING - BILOXI NATIONAL CEMETERY - Crusaders for Veterans needs volunteers to help lay wreaths on the graves of more than 9,000 military veterans at the Biloxi National Cemetery, Dec. 5. Volunteers will help unload the wreaths at 7 a.m. Other volunteers are needed at 11 a.m. to take part in the Laying of the Wreaths ceremony. There is no need to sign up - just come to the Biloxi National Cemetery. For more information, please call 217-201-1330.

GULFPORT HARBOR LIGHTS WINTER FESTIVAL - Volunteers are needed to help the city of Gulfport with their winter festival at Barksdale Pavilion in Jones Park Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18 and 19 between 4 and 9 p.m., with a variety of duties including assisting at the Santa station, cookie decorating, kids workshop, photo booths, train, carousel and horse carriage rides. Please contact Katie King at kking@gulfport-ms.gov or Brittany Dyess at bdyess@gulfport-ms.gov or 228-868-5881 if you are interested in volunteering.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - Volunteers are needed to load donated groceries into vehicles at the St Vincent de Paul Society D'Iberville office at 10046 Lemoyne Blvd., on Tuesdays, between 5 and 5:30 p.m. To volunteer, call Sandra Babuchna, 228-392-2113.

GULFPORT SCHOOLS NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS - The Gulfport Battalion of Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) is looking for adult volunteers willing to help the area's youth succeed in life. NSCC is a non-profit, nautically

oriented, youth training and education organization which is run by the Navy League with support from the United States Navy. Although a great plus, no prior military experience is required; all we need are adults who are passionate about mentoring America's youth. Point of contact is Lt. Cmdr. Thomas O. Klomps, NSCC, at Region63@juno.com or 850-890-6792.

USS ALABAMA ALWAYS LOOKING FOR HELP - The Navy is looking for volunteers with construction expertise for a rewarding experience. The battleship USS Alabama anchored in Mobile Bay needs help from individuals that can work with wood, steel, and concrete for work aboard ship and around the grounds. Point of contact is Owen Miller, 251-433-2703 or cell 251-767-0157.

DISABILITY CONNECTION - Disability Connection provides support to individuals with disabilities, including military veterans. Volunteers are needed to build ramps and provide home inspections for needed material lists. Point of contact is Ms. O'Keefe, 228-604-4020 or office@disabilityconnection.org.

COAST SALVATION ARMY - Volunteers are needed for various projects throughout the year. Point of contact is Shawna_Tatge@uss.salvationarmy.org.

HELP SENIORS AND DISABLED CITIZENS - Harrison County RSVP needs retired plumbers, electricians, carpenters, skilled and unskilled laborers to join a team of handymen/women. Point of contact is Mag Holland, 228-896-0412.

NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY - The NMCRS Thrift Store is experiencing a severe shortage of volunteers. Call 228-871-2610 to volunteer.

USO GULF COAST - Interested in volunteering? We need volunteers every day to assist at our centers throughout the military community. To become a USO volunteer, you'll need to create a volunteer profile through www.usovolunteer.org.

Respite Care Providers needed at Keesler Air Force Base

Become an Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care Provider ... Do you have a passion to work with children with special needs? Do you currently provide care for children with special needs? You can get paid to provide USAF EFMP Respite Care while gaining valuable experience as an EFMP Respite

Care Provider. Enjoy great benefits. Receive free training, support and resources, enjoy flexible hours, receive competitive wages and gain valuable experience. To find out more, log on to: www.naccrra.org/Military-Programs/airforce/EFMP/ or email efmprespitcare@naccrra.org.

NCBC Public Affairs
228-871-3664



**Stay in Touch
with NCBC Gulfport**

Inside the Gate:

tinyURL.com/NCBCITG

Seabee Courier:

tinyURL.com/CBCourier

Facebook:

NCBCGulfport

Twitter:

@SeabeeCenter

Seabee Memorial Chapel

What's happening at the chapel?

Protestant

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Protestant Service

11 a.m. - Children's Church

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. - Praise Break (20 minutes of praise and worship through music)

11:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study

Noon - 1 p.m. - Protestant Women of the Chapel Bible Study

Catholic

Sunday

9 a.m. - Mass

10 a.m. - CCD Class

Monday, Tuesday & Friday

11:15 a.m. - Mass

Thursday

5 p.m. - Holy Hour

6 p.m. - Mass

6:30 p.m. - Fellowship

Please visit the Seabee Memorial Chapel Facebook page for updates on chapel events at: <https://www.facebook.com/ncbcchapel>. We may be reached by email at gulfportchapel.fct@navy.mil or by phone at 228-871-2454.

NCBC Command Chaplain: Lt. Cmdr. Ammie Davis

DEC 4-10

MWR

MWR LIBERTY
NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI

- 12/5 – 10 am, Gulfport Prime Outlet Mall Shopping Trip, \$2
- 12/6 – 9 am, Saints vs. Panthers, \$40
- 12/7 – 6 pm, Egg Nog Drinking Contest, 1st Place Prize
- 12/8 – 5:30 pm, Star Wars on the Big Screen, Episode 4, Free Popcorn
- 12/8 – 6 pm – Tournament Tuesday: Ping Pong, 1st Place Prize
- 12/9 – All Day, Wrapping Wednesday
- 12/9 – 5:30 pm, Star Wars on the Big Screen, Episode 5, Free Popcorn
- 12/10 – 5:30 pm, Star Wars on the Big Screen, Episode 1, Free Popcorn
- 12/10 – 6 pm, Auto Skills 101: Tire Maintenance, Free

**French Toast
Breakfast Sandwich
with Coffee**



\$5.00



Breakfast served 7-10am

Captain's Cup Event
Jingle Bell Jog
Wednesday, December 9th
6:45 am
Sleigh Bells for all Runners
Begins behind the Fitness Center
Free & Open to All Hands
Call 228-871-2668 for details

**NCBC GULFPORT
CHRISTMAS TREE
LIGHTING!**

Friday, December 4th
6-8 pm @ Youth Activities Center

Children's Games, Food Vendors, Snow Pit
Navy Band from 5:30-6:30pm
Call 871-2538 for details

TOYS FOR TOTS
BOX LOCATION

CAROUSEL
FREE PRIZES!
SANTA CLAUS!



The Navy nor any other part of the federal government officially endorses any company, sponsor, or their product.



Regular movie showings Thursday-Sunday of every week!
Showing this weekend: Spectre, Burnt, Truth, Our Brand Is Crisis, The Last Witch Hunter
For more information, call the 24-hour Movie Hotline at 228-871-3299 for show times.

MWR Program Telephone Numbers

Facility Name	Phone	Facility Name	Phone
Anchors and Eagles	871-4607	MWR Admin	871-2538
Auto Skills Center	871-2804	Outdoor Recreation	871-2127
Beehive	871-4009	School Liaison	871-2117
Fitness Center	871-2668	Shields RV Park	871-5435
Aquatics	871-2668	The Grill	871-2494
Child Development	871-2323	Youth Activities	871-2251
Seabee Cinema	871-3299	Liberty Center	871-4684
ITT	871-2231		

December 3, 2015

Seabee Courier

Stormwater Pollution ... What it is and what can we do about it

From Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast Public Works Department (PWD) Gulfport Environmental

NCBC Gulfport has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit (No. MSRMS4) that requires the base to develop, implement, and enforce a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4.

What is stormwater pollution?

Urban areas create problems with both water quality and quantity. When impervious surfaces in an urban area cover more than 10 percent of the land surface in a watershed, without Best Management Practices (BMPs), the streams begin to degrade. Impervious surfaces prevent rainwater from infiltrating into the ground, thus creating large volumes of surface runoff. Many urban areas have a storm drain network to carry runoff away rapidly to the nearest stream.

Stormwater pollution happens when rainwater that has landed on a home, property or construction site leaves your control and is impacted by trash, excess fertilizers, sands and silts, grass clippings, or washed off oils from driveways or parking lots.

Common sources of stormwater pollution include:

- ~ Heavy metals from transportation areas
- ~ Excess nutrients from over application of fertilizers around homes, golf courses, and parks
- ~ Petroleum products from spills and leaks
- ~ Bacteria and pathogens from pet waste and leaking sewer system
- ~ Trash thrown into streams or washed off streets into storm drains
- ~ Sediment from construction

In addition, stormwater pollution can be introduced from point sources like a factory or a plant nursery, and from non-point sources like parking lots and public streets.

What does the MS4 Permit require?

As federally mandated, NCBC Gulfport is to develop and implement a stormwater management program, evaluate and assess the pro-

gram, and submit periodic reports. Six minimum control measures are to be implemented under Phase II Stormwater Permits:

- ~ Public education and outreach
- ~ Public involvement and participation
- ~ Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- ~ Construction site stormwater runoff and control
- ~ Post-construction stormwater management in areas of new development and redevelopment
- ~ Pollution prevention and good housekeeping

What is a Best Management Practice (BMP) and how can it help me prevent stormwater pollution?

A BMP is a set of guidelines or rules that tells you how to approach certain situations and prevent certain problems. BMPs are generally divided into two groups, Structural (where you build something) and Non-Structural (where you change the way you do something).

Structural examples include:

- ~ **Retention Ponds** – allow sediments to settle and water to infiltrate the ground
- ~ **Temporary Sediment Basins** – allow sediments to settle and control the flow of stormwater
- ~ **Entrance/Exit Controls** – reduce the amount of soils transported onto paved roads
- ~ **Silt Fencing** – prevents loose soils from entering waterways prior to being stabilized with vegetation
- ~ **Berms** – physically prevents runoff from entering storm drains and waterways
- Non-structural examples include:
 - ~ **Stabilization** – sodding, seeding, mulching and stone cover to prevent erosion
 - ~ **Phased Construction** – minimize the amount of land cleared at one time, schedule the work for the dry season
 - ~ **Good Housekeeping** – oil and fuel containment, spill prevention and cleanup, street sweeping, preservation of pre-existing vegetation, proper disposal of yard waste

So how can you prevent stormwater pollution?

The easiest and most effective way is to follow BMPs developed for your facility. The NCBC Public Works Department, Environmental Office, can help you select the most cost effective BMPs to address your individual needs.

What can I do to reduce the amount of stormwater pollution I contribute?

The most important thing you can do is to get involved and utilize the BMPs developed for your facility. There are BMPs that cover Household/Construction Site Preparation and Maintenance, Surface Stabilization, Runoff Conveyance, Sediment Control, Outdoor Maintenance Activities and many others.

Why are BMPs required?

According to the State and Federal Regulations, BMPs are an integral part of the man-



dated Stormwater Management Program developed for your Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The purpose of the Stormwater Management Program is to reduce stormwater pollution and protect the environment for future generations.

Who is required to implement BMPs?

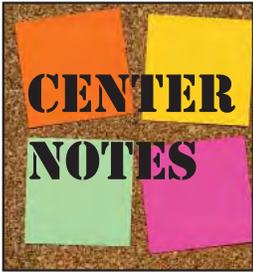
As stated above, your base is required to implement a Stormwater Management Program, which will include a host of BMPs. In addition, if your construction activity disturbs more than ONE acre of land, you are required to obtain a Stormwater Permit, and that permit will require the implementation of BMPs on your site to prevent stormwater pollution from your construction activities.



Where can I learn more about Preventing Stormwater Pollution?

For information specific to NCBC Gulfport, please contact the Public Works Department, Environmental Division, located in Building 322 at 2401 Upper Nixon Avenue, Gulfport, MS 39501, 228-871-2373/228-822-5938 or http://www.cnbc.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/ncbc_gulfport/om/environmental_support.html. For additional information concerning Mississippi Stormwater programs, please contact the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) at: 515 E. Amite Street, Jackson, MS 39201, 601-961-5171, Toll Free 888-786-0661 or <http://www.deq.state.ms.us>





SUPPORT

NMCB 1 Family Readiness Group (FRG) invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Monday of every month at the Youth Activities Center, building 335. Meetings are from 6 - 8 p.m. Children are welcome and baby

sitting is provided during deployment.

NMCB 11 FRG invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the last Monday of every month at 6 p.m. The meetings are held at the Youth Activities Center on board NCBC Gulfport. Children are always welcomed and child care is provided at no cost. Please join us for fun, food, and to meet and socialize with other NMCB 11 families and friends. For more information, please contact us at nmc11frg@gmail.com or like us on our Facebook page, NMCB 11 FRG.

NMCB 133 FRG invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. Please bring a dish to share. For more information, contact FRG President Jaime Royal at 317-730-4064 or email NMCB133fsg@gmail.com Log on to the FRG site, <http://www.wix.com/NMCB133FSG/133frg>.

FOCUS - Families Overcoming Under Stress provides resiliency training to service members and their families by teaching practical skills to help meet the challenges of military life, including how to communicate and solve problems effectively and to successfully set goals together. Confidential and free with family-friendly hours, contact FOCUS today! Call 228- 822-5736 or email Gulfport@focusproject.org

Gulfport Officer's Spouse Club is a social organization that has FUN while helping our community. We meet monthly and have special interest groups for almost everyone! For more information, email goscgulfport@gmail.com or Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/gosc.gulfport>. We hope to see YOU soon!

Navy Wives Clubs of America, Inc., is interested in reestablishing a club in the local area. If you are interested in joining an organization that promotes the health and welfare of any enlisted member of the

Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, please contact Darlene Carpenter at 228-342-2271 or Tina O'Shields, 228-357-0513. Visit www.navywivesclubsof-america.org for more information on NWCA.

NMCRS - The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, and child care and mileage are reimbursed. Retail hours of operation are Tuesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Visit the NMCRS offices at the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30, suite 103 or call 228-871-2610 to find out how to become a part of the NMCRS volunteer team!

Gamblers Anonymous The Fleet and Family Support Center offers GA meetings every Thursday at 11 a.m. GA is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other. All meetings are confidential and facilitated by GA. Come to a meeting or call Jim Soriano at 228-871-3000.

TRAINING

Naval Sea Cadets

The Gulfport branch of the Naval Sea Cadets are recruiting youth ages 11 to 17 for Sea Cadets, a nationwide organization that help youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., building 1, 2nd floor conference room. Point of contact is Lt. Cmdr. Thomas O. Klomps, NSCC, at Region63@juno.com or 850-890-6792.

SOCIAL

Miss. Gulf Coast First Class Association is always looking for new members. Meetings are every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., at the Fitness Center classroom. For more information, contact Association president, CE1 Daniel Shaver, 228-871-2145.

NCBC Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee is seeking members. Meetings are held weekly on Wednesdays at noon at the ECS, building 122 in the second floor conference room. Contact MCDC President, PS2 Handley at natashia.handley@navy.mil or Vice President, BUCN Miller at tarikah.miller@navy.mil for info.

VFW Post 3937 Long Beach - Open Monday - Thursday, noon - 8 p.m., Friday, noon to 10 p.m., Saturday, 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. Steak Night is every Friday, 5 - 8 p.m., and breakfast is available every Saturday, 7 - 10 a.m. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at

7 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Post 3937 at 228-863-8602.

Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW 3937 Long Beach now VFW Auxiliary - Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars 3937 Long Beach, Miss., now invites men to join. The Auxiliary is now the **VFW Auxiliary**. Our organization supports veterans, their families and current service members. We help in VA Hospitals, have voices in Legislation, help promote patriotism in our youth, offer scholarships to youth, teachers, and members. Members must be directly related to a veteran who has served in a foreign war. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at 213 Klondyke Road, Long Beach, MS Contact Carol Feters, President at 228-832-4893 or email cfeters@cablone.net for more information.

VFW Post 4526 Orange Grove is open daily from Noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. Meetings are the second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call 228-832-0017 for info.

NMCB 62 Alumni Group Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 62 was recommissioned in Gulfport in 1966, and decommissioned in 1989. To become a member or for links to historical sites, visit: <http://nmc62alumni.org>.

D.A.V. - Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5 invites Veterans and future Veterans to monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Service Officer, Silva Royer at 228-324-1888 to find out more information.

Navy Seabee Veterans of America (NSVA) Island X-1, Gulfport is always happy to welcome new members. You do not have to be retired to be a member. If interested, contact Eugene Cowhick at [eugene.cowhick@navy.mil](mailto:cowhick@navy.mil) or 228-871-3877. Please join us on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 5 building, 2600 23rd Ave., Gulfport, for the monthly Island X-1 business meeting and see what we're all about. For more information, visit www.nsva.org.

HERITAGE

The Seabee Gift Store is located in the Seabee Heritage Center Training Hall, building 446. Hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shop has a variety of Seabee related memorabilia, books and DVD's. Contact them at www.seabee-museum-store.org or call the gift store at 228-871-4779.

HOLIDAY GATE HOURS

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS SCHEDULE



Pass and ID:

- Dec. 23, **Normal Hours**
- Dec. 24, 6 a.m. - Noon - **OPEN**
- Dec. 25, **CLOSED**
- Dec. 28 - 30, **Normal Hours**
- Dec. 31, 6 a.m. - Noon, **OPEN**
- Jan. 1, **CLOSED**

Pass Road Gate:

OPEN 24 hours, 7 days a week

28th Street Gate:

- Dec. 23, 6 a.m. - Noon, **OPEN**
- Dec. 24 - 25, **CLOSED**
- Dec. 28 - 30, **Normal Hours**
- Dec. 31, 6 a.m. - Noon, **OPEN**
- Jan. 1, **CLOSED**

Broad Avenue Gate:

- Dec. 23, **Normal Hours**
- Dec. 24 - Jan. 1, **CLOSED**

Buy a Brick for the Gulfport Seabee Heritage Center Memorial Plaza

Show your support for those who gave of themselves in the U.S. Navy Seabees with a commemorative brick at the new Seabee Memorial Plaza. The Plaza will be built at the east end of the Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport. The Memorial Plaza will also serve as the new entrance to the Seabee Heritage Center. The Memorial Plaza will have over 10,000 paving bricks available for engraving.

Each brick is individually crafted of the finest quality. Customize your brick with your own special message. It can be a tribute to a former or current Seabee, a Seabee unit, your own service or any other appropriate text.

~ Each brick can have three lines with up to 20 characters (including spacing) per line

~ Lettering will be centered on bricks in capital letters

~ Letters are laser etched in black for durability and beauty

~ Order now and save \$25 per brick. Special introductory pricing through Dec. 31, 2015 of \$100 per brick. Regular price \$125 per brick. Offer valid for Gulfport only!

The first bricks will be placed when the Memorial Plaza is completed in 2017 and unveiled at an event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Seabees. Subsequent placements will be made once a year.

For more information and to order a brick, visit: <http://www.seabeehf.org/museum/buy-a-brick-for-the-gulfport-seabee-heritage-center-memorial-plaza/>. Please contact the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation at 228-865-0480 or via email at info@seabeehf.org.