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NSA Panama City named "Best Base" in the Navy!



Commander Navy Installations Command (CNIC) announced Dec. 12 that Naval Support Activity Panama City (NSA Panama City) was the winner of the 2012 CNIC Installation Excellence Award (small installation category).

NSA Panama City was also named the Navy's nominee for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence (Award Year 2013). NSA Panama City Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Tony Anglin immediately congratulated base personnel.

"I am elated to announce that you have been awarded the CNIC Installation Excellence Award and that you will be the Navy's nominee for the OSD Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence," Cmdr. Anglin said. Your hard work and innovative 'out of the box' solutions to complex problems have been recognized at the highest levels of our chain of command, and I have been blessed to lead such a focused and innovative group of professionals. Through your hard work and dedication, you have greatly enhanced the quality of life for our personnel and our tenant commands."

CNIC is comprised of 11 regions and 72 bases worldwide. The annual CNIC Installation Excellence Award recognizes installations in the large and small categories; Naval Air Station Jacksonville was the winner in the large installation category, and NSA Panama City was the winner in the small installation category.

"This year's competition and all nomination packages reflected the great accomplishments that CNIC installations made worldwide," said Rear Adm. Jack Scorby, Commander, Navy Region Southeast. "NSA Panama City has consistently been a leader in advancing the CNIC mission of enabling today's warfighter and supporting the force of tomorrow. In 2012, NSA Panama City excelled in the categories of energy conservation, environmental protection, community outreach and providing outstanding quality of life for Navy personnel. Anglin and his team are truly deserving of this recognition."

The NSA Panama City team exceeded the demanding requirements in support of the diverse operations of its 18 tenant commands and other activities, while providing excellent customer service and quality of life for service members and their families who live and work aboard the installation. Over the past year, NSA

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Panama City coordinated more than 13,000 mishap-free vessel missions while providing a full range of services to fleet exercises, Joint Services Diver Training, research and development and advanced technology demonstrations.

As a leader in workplace safety, NSA Panama City reduced workplace mishaps by 27 percent, and civilian injuries have declined by 36 percent in the past year. In June 2012, NSA Panama City earned two Chief of Naval Operations awards and a Secretary of the Navy award for environmental stewardship. In October 2012, NSA Panama City earned the Secretary of the Navy Platinum Award for Energy and Water Conservation, reducing energy use with automated energy management and equipment upgrades. Military and civilian

personnel executed 324 community relations projects totaling more than 9,400 hours of service. NSA Panama City and Bay County, Fla. were recognized by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for streamlining communications with local municipalities and the State of Florida, and made major strides toward full implementation of the highly successful Joint Land Use Study.

Cmdr. Anglin attributed the command's success to optimal use of available resources, while focusing on innovative management actions to increase overall productivity.

"Team NSA Panama City shares this award with our very supportive commands and our partners in the local communities of Panama City Beach and Bay County," Anglin stated. "We all worked together to accomplish our missions and objectives on both sides of the fence line, and we are all winners."

Think before you click: Beware what you, your neighbors download

STORY BY TADD C. BLAIR, LTJG, JAGC, USN

Can you imagine life without the internet? For most of us, the internet is essential to almost every aspect of our life. We use email to communicate at work. We attend virtual meetings and trainings. We keep in touch with loved ones across the world. The internet allows us to look up the answer to any question in the blink of an eye and download that song we just can't get out of our head. The cyber dream can also quickly turn into a nightmare that could cost thousands of dollars. Recently, there have been increasing numbers of individuals who have been notified by their internet provider that their Internet Protocol ("IP") address has been identified as a copyright infringer. The letter from the internet provider explains that some entity has filed a lawsuit alleging a copyright infringement has been committed (usually an improper file upload/download). In most of these cases, the entity sends a long list of IP addresses to internet providers requesting that they release the personal identifying information associated with each IP Address. For some, this is the first time they realize that they may have downloaded something illegally. For others, they realize that their IP address has been compromised and that they should have secured their wireless router or uninstalled a file sharing program; the IP address could be wrong and the customer associated with that IP address may have never even downloaded any copyrighted material.

Whether you downloaded something without thinking, used a file sharing software (e.g. bit torrent, pirate bay, gnutella), or think your neighbor may have been mooching off of your router, you could be held liable for copyright infringement and ordered to pay anywhere between \$200 and \$150,000 in damages, in addition to attorney fees and court costs! Even if you (or your mooching neighbor) never actually downloaded the copyrighted material, release of your information by your internet provider could lead to threats to settle the case, still potentially costing thousands of dollars.

The letter from the internet company usually informs you that your name, address, and other information connected with your IP address may be released if you do not take action by a certain date. If you receive one of these letters, it is essential that you see an attorney as soon as possible, as they can help drop your name as

a defendant in a lawsuit, get the case dismissed or help prove that you should not be held liable.

Think before you download. Just as you would not steal a CD from a music store, you shouldn't download something without permission. File sharing programs may seem like a great way to build your music collection or catch up on that episode you missed, but much of this "free" entertainment is copyrighted, meaning that the download can end up costing you thousands of dollars in a lawsuit. No act online is private, every visit can be tracked. If your network is not secure, not only can your neighbors slow down your internet, but they could download something illegally. If you can't prove that you were not the one who illegally downloaded the file, then you may still be on the hook. If you secure your wireless router and think before you click, you can live the cyber dream without exposing yourself to a cyber nightmare.

If you have any other questions, please contact your local legal assistance office. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.



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Scams that target the Military: How Servicemembers can fight for financial security at home

STORY BY STUART F. DELERY

ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CIVIL DIVISION
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When servicemembers board the plane to return to the United States from deployment overseas, their family and friends are not the only ones waiting for them. Scam artists are also busy setting up store fronts, phone lines, and websites specifically targeting servicemembers.

These consumer predators know that servicemembers have to deal with unique pressures, such as spending extended periods of time abroad, moving to different cities multiple times, and being held to a higher standard for debt repayment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition, servicemembers are known for having a steady income and trying to do what is best for their families.

At the Department of Justice, we are working hard to protect consumers like you. The Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch has made fighting fraud aimed at servicemembers and veterans a top priority. We are working internally with the Department's Civil Rights Division to ensure that businesses respect the rights of servicemembers. And we are working externally with other agencies, such as the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, to identify potential fraud earlier. We are also collaborating with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs, led by Holly Petreaus, to engage in a dialogue with military leadership about how we can prevent this fraud together. And we have joined forces with federal and state prosecutors – as well as the JAG Corps – to identify scammers and bring more cases against them.

We are committed to using all of the tools at our disposal to hold these swindlers responsible. But the best way to fight them is to deprive them of customers. Servicemembers of each military branch have told us about their experiences, and we are dedicated to getting their message out.

Here are a few tips on how to protect yourself and your family.

- **Be wary of up-front fees.**

-The Sales Pitch: "I can help you access benefits, get a good rate on a loan, and make a great investment. All you need to do is pay me an up-front fee."

-The Defense: The military offers legal assistance, interest free emergency loans, and financial planning tools. Ask your military installation offices for details.

- **Always find out what the total price is.**

-The Sales Pitch: "I'll sell you this car, refrigerator, or anything else you want. Just give me a little bit of money every installment."

-The Defense: Salespeople can offer misleading information about how much something really costs once all the payments and fees are added up. If the total price is too high, take your business elsewhere.

- **Don't trust promises about the future.**

-The Sales Pitch: "Just buy the car with this higher interest rate, and I'll call you later once I get the lower rate interest for you."

-The Defense: Make sure that everyone agrees to the final terms of a deal before you hand over any money.

- **Find out who you are dealing with.**

-The Sales Pitch: "I'm a veteran of the armed forces. Sign up with my program to make sure that your family has everything they need while deployed overseas."

-The Defense: Ask your base community-service office about the company or individual. You can also contact the Better Business Bureau.

And, if you have been the victim of a scam, we encourage you to come forward and complain. So often, financial fraud goes unreported because victims feel embarrassed or foolish. But only when you complain is it possible for you to get the help you need. And only when we know there is a problem can we and our law enforcement partners work to stop it. So, consult your military installation legal assistance office or your State Attorney General — and log your complaint at www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov or at www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/.

With your help, we can continue to ramp up our fight against those who prey on the financial well-being of you and your families, and leave you free to focus on your invaluable work protecting the Nation.

Your rights under USERRA

LTJG BRIAN T. HENNING, JAGC, USN

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal law that protects the job rights servicemembers who have voluntarily or involuntarily left their civilian jobs to serve in the military. USERRA protections are easiest to understand when broken into three categories: reemployment rights, the right to be free from discrimination, and health insurance protection.

Reemployment Rights

Under USERRA, servicemembers have the right to be reemployed

in their civilian job if they leave that job to perform military service, so long as:

- The employer receives advance notice of the servicemember's service;
- The total length of all absences from civilian employment by reason of service in the military does not exceed five years;
- The servicemember returns to work or applies for reemployment in a timely manner after their military service has ended; and
- The servicemember has not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

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If all of these requirements have been met, employers must restore servicemembers to the position (both job position and benefits) that they would have been in if they had not left their civilian job to perform their military service.

Right to Be Free From Discrimination and Retaliation

Under USERRA, those who have served or will serve in the military cannot be denied certain rights by their civilian employer. These rights include initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment by an employer on the basis of the employee's military service or the employee's application to serve in the military.

Health Insurance Protection

Under USERRA, servicemembers and their dependants can continue their employer-based health plan coverage while serving in the military. The maximum period of coverage is the lesser of:

- 24 months from the date on which the servicemember's absence begins; or
- The day after the date on which the servicemember fails to apply for or return to a position of employment.

If you believe your rights have been violated or if you have any other questions, please contact your local legal assistance office. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

Naval Support Activity Panama City names its 2012 Sailor of the Year



Naval Support Activity Panama City Commanding Officer Cmdr. Anthony Anglin (right) and Executive Officer Lt. Robert Kenning (left) present Boatswains Mate 1st Class Billy Slankard with a Sailor of the Year plaque at the 2012 Navy Ball.

Petty Officer Billy Slankard performance, leadership, and dedication to professional and personal excellence exceed the highest standards expected of the was selected as the 2012 Sailor of the Year. Petty Officer Slankard's selection was based on his performance, leadership and dedication to professional and personal excellence, exceeding the highest standards expected of the most seasoned First Class Petty Officer. His pride, professionalism and technical abilities characterized him as a valued member of the command. Additionally, Petty Officer Slankard conducted himself with the utmost respect and compassion for all hands. He has displayed extreme pride in the constant development of his peers and subordinates. Petty Officer Slankard is an outstanding individual who greatly deserves the honor of being recognized as the 2012 Sailor of the Year.

Sailors help Anchorage Childrens Home

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2 DAVID DIDIER

Sailors from Naval Support Activity Panama City worked to beautify the grounds at Anchorage Children's Home in Panama City November 1, 2012.

The Sailors planted flowers, trimmed bushes, painted parking lines and cleared debris from an island in a small pond on the property.

"I feel it's great to make a safer and nicer environment for the kids to play in," said Religious Programs Specialist Bret Persinger "I want them to feel more at home while they are here."

The NSA PC Chaplain's office coordinates Community Relations Projects throughout the year to help organizations and special groups to foster positive relations within the community.



Operations Specialist 1st class Roger Wilkerson paints parking lines at Anchorage Children's Home.



Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Bret Persinger clears loose pine straw and debris for landscaping.



Engineman 2nd Class Joey Segarra prunes a tree at Anchorage Children's Home.



Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Aisha Ross plants flowers at the entry of the Anchorage Children's Home.



Lieutenant Diane Hampton, NSA PC Chaplain removes weeds from a flower garden at Anchorage Children's Home.

Our water, our responsibility

STORY BY NAVFAC SOUTHEAST PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Water is fluid and follows a path whether predetermined by humans or created by nature and runs clean or dirty based on the path it follows.

“Water is used for so many things,” said Douglas Pojegy, Public Works Department Gulfport Stormwater Program Manager. “We use it to wash dishes, cars, floors, driveways, etc. We choose to use it for its fluidity and power.”

Water over time created one of the nation’s most beautiful natural national parks, the Grand Canyon.

“Water is the one element that if controlled will find a way to continue its path. This is why it is important to manage where and how we use it,” explained Pojegy.

Water, whether it travels through a garden hoses or it comes down from the skys can run many different channels and may carry numerous pollutants as it runs its path.

“The best deterrent to filtering all of the pollutants is through vegetation,” said Pojegy.

Although the earth has this natural deterrent to pollutants it is still important for everyone to assist in the fight against erosion and pollution. With all of the construction and constant shifting of the landscape that everyone does on a daily basis, at home and on base, it is crucial to the environment that everyone make an effort to do their part.

“We must continue to clean up our own living space and not pollute,” said Pojegy. “The water that hits the ground could eventually make it back into our bodies. Whether it be from the fish we eat or the water we drink we are all responsible for our Earth. We only get one.”



Sailors assigned to Naval Support Activity Panama City walk the Shoreline of the base gathering trash during an Earth Day cleanup project April 25, 2012.



Engineman 2nd Class Lamar Stevens collects trash from the beach at Shell Island during a beach cleanup project.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers scholarships and interest-free loans for 2013-2014

STORY BY NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

Applications for Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) educational scholarships and interest-free loans for the 2013-2014 academic year are now available and can be downloaded at www.nmcrs.org/education.

Students eligible to apply include spouses or children (under the age of 23) of Sailors and Marines who:

- Are on active duty
- Are retired
- Died on active duty or in a retired status

Consideration for selection is based on scholastic ability and financial need. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors or full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) college students working toward their first undergraduate degree.

Applications must be received at NMCRS by May 1, 2013 unless the due date on the application states otherwise. “During these tough economic times, our educational assistance continues to help Navy

and Marine Corps families reach their goal of attending college,” said Beverly Langdon, NMCRS Education Program Manager. The NMCRS Education Program has provided scholarships and interest-free loans totaling more than \$60 million to more than 50,000 students over the last 30 years. It is based on the Society’s mission “to provide financial, educational and other assistance.” The program is supported entirely by donations and bequests to NMCRS.

For more information on the NMCRS Education Program, please visit www.nmcrs.org/education or email education@nmcrs.org.

About Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Since 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has provided financial assistance and education to active duty and retired members of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members and survivors – when in need. Headquartered in Arlington, Virginia, the Society is a non-profit, charitable organization that is staffed by nearly 3,500 volunteers, and a small cadre of employees, in offices around the world – ashore and aboard ships.