Navy iPhone application provides emergency information

From CNIC Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – As Hurricane Irene approaches the East Coast, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) reminds Sailors, retirees and their families Aug. 26 about the "Navy Life" iPhone application (app) that provides emergency information regarding hurricane preparedness.

The application, which was created by CNIC FFR staff and is endorsed by Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Rick West, was developed as part of CNIC's iShore initiative, features interactive program information that can be accessed directly from the initial download from the Apple store to a customer's iPhone or iPod Touch.

The app provides information about important quality of life resources for Navy personnel, retirees and their families and ncludes embedded videos and information about Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, Navy Entertainment, single Sailor program, family and bachelor housing, library program, child and youth programs, discounted tours and travel, Fleet and Family Support programs, lodging for business travelers, the Navy Movie Program, and more upon download.

"A key feature of the app is that in emergency situations we can push important information directly to Sailors and their families," said Ruel Odom, head, CNIC Fleet and Family Readiness (FFR) Marketing and Multimedia Development Branch. "We hope they find the 'Navy Life' app to be a useful resource for information on the many Fleet and Family Readiness programs and services that are available."

Additional information is provided on the mobile devices when an internet connection is used.

Majority of information available offline; when online includes additional videos through YouTube, and also global and local Navy news and information. Viewers can select targeted events and announcements for specific regions and installations that are of particular interest. The app works on iPod Touch, iPhone 3G and 3Gs. This is a large file that should be downloaded using wifi. The app requires iPhone OS 3.0 or later.

Active links will direct users to emergency response information and news feeds for help during emergencies.

"When an emergency strikes, knowing what to do can save time, property and lives. You can learn more about how to prepare and cope with disasters by using the 'Navy Life' mobile application," said Mike Bruner, CNIC Navy Family Emergency Response Program manager. "The 'Navy Life' mobile application has important information on preparing for a disaster, what to do after a disaster occurs, basic emergency kits and important resources available (i.e. Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System and more) for recovery."

The "Navy Life" mobile application, through the strength of social networking, connects members to Facebook pages for the master chief petty officer of the Navy (MCPON), Navy FFR and more.

In addition to information about CNIC's FFR programs, the mobile application contains information about other important quality of life programs, such as the Navy Exchange, Defense Commissary Agency and other resources for family members.

The "Navy Life" iPhone application that provides emergency information regarding hurricane preparedness.

The app can be downloaded at http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/navy-life/id368752284?mt=8.

Navy observes Women's Equality Day

By Lt. Laura K. Stegherr,
Diversity Directorate Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The Chief of Naval Operations Heritage Committee, in collaboration with Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, celebrated the 91st anniversary of women's right to vote through a 5K fun run event at the Arlington Annex Aug. 26.

The event, held in conjunction with Women's Equality Day, commemorated the long struggle of generations of women to gain suffrage, while promoting health and fitness goals for both uniformed and civilian women.

"It was great to see men and women of all ability levels coming together to take part in this run," said Chief Operations Specialist Jessica Myers, senior enlisted advisor for the Navy's Office of Women's Policy. "While it was meant as a recreational event, it's important to recognize the many sacrifices made by previous generations that give women like me the opportunities I have to serve today."

The women's suffrage movement began more than 160 years ago, in 1848 at the Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Convened by suffragist leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, the committee published a Declaration of Sentiments which outlined key social, civil and political demands for women, helping the cause of women's suffrage gain national prominence. Nearly 72 years later, on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, granting women in the United States the right to vote. To honor and commemorate the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1971, New York Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduced and Congress signed a resolution to designate August 26 as Women's Equality Day. Today, the annual observance recognizes suffrage and of women's continued efforts toward equal rights in the United States.

Currently, 93 percent of billets in the Navy are open to women, it was only in the last century that opportunities for women were extended. With the passage of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act on June 12, 1948, women gained permanent status in the Armed Services. The first six enlisted women were sworn into the regular Navy July 7, 1948 and Oct. 15, 1948, the first eight female officers were commissioned.

Women were first assigned to selected non-combatant ships in 1978, and opportunities were later broadened to include service in combatants in 1994 following the repeal of the combat exclusion law. Most recently, in April 2010, the Navy announced a policy change that allows women to serve on submarines. Today, women may be permanently assigned to ships, aviation squadrons, submarines, afloat staffs, and units of the Naval Construction Force. 65,330 active-duty women and female reservists are currently serving in the Navy, comprising 16.8 percent of the force.

Additionally, nearly 50,000 women serve across the Navy in a wide-range of specialties as civilian employees.

NPC announces ERB Phase I quotas

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn - Navy Personnel Command (NPC) announced updated Phase I enlisted retention board (ERB) quotas, Aug. 25.

According to enlisted E-4 to E-5 retention board quotas published on the NPC website, 6,243 active duty E-4 and E-5 Sailors will be reviewed for 4,403 available retention quotas during the first phase of the ongoing ERB.

The Navy currently projects that 15,518 Sailors will be reviewed by the ERB. Phase I convened Aug. 22 and will review eligible E-4 and E-5 Sailors. Phase II will convene in September and will review eligible E-6, E-7 and E-8 Sailors.

This reflects a reduction in the amounts originally announced to the Fleet. Approximately 500 Sailors were removed from the original eligibility pool due to their promotion to chief petty officer, in accordance with criteria listed in Navy administrative message (NAVADMIN) 129/11.

Sailors eligible for the Phase II have until Sept. 6 to review their official military personnel file and submit any correspondence for the Phase II board to consider. See NAVADMIN 129/11 for submission procedures. Phase II quotas have not been finalized but will be announced in September as Phase II convenes.

"The final quota development for the E6 to E8 phase will be done the first week of September," said Lt. Cmdr. Brian Ribota, surface enlisted community manager at NPC.

Phase I quotas broken down by rating, total eligible, year of service eligible and available quotas can be found on the ERB web page at http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/default2.aspx .

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"This was an absolutely amazing time," said Tomoko Asano from Tokyo, a guest aboard *George Washington*. "I was overwhelmed by everything, especially the air show. I kept saying 'wow' all the time, I was that amazed."

The cruise, while not simply held to thank *George Washington* Sailors' families, was also held as to say thank you to their host nation, said Hecht. As a result, several Japanese citizens also visited the ship for the cruise, both military and civilian.

"We have 22 Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force master chief petty officers aboard for this cruise," said *George Washington* Command Master Chief Martin King. "They always enjoy coming aboard to see the ship, and they always enjoy seeing our Sailors at work."

George Washington pulled back into Yokosuka in the early evening, with many guests saying how much they enjoyed the event.

"This cruise was absolutely fantastic," said King. "While talking to my Sailors and their families, I know that it was a rewarding experience for the families to see what their Sailors do and how they live while at sea."

George Washington's mission is to ensure security and stability in the western Pacific and to work with regional partners to respond to any crisis across the operational spectrum.