NAS FORT WORTH JOINT RESERVE BASE

SKY RANGER

The Electronic Newsletter of NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas

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Service Members Become Citizens In Dallas Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony

Story and photos by Rusty Baker

Twenty five service members were granted citizenship to the United States in a pre-Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's (USCIS) Dallas Field Office on Nov. 5.

The Texas based mixture of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines were born from places all over the world; like Barbados, Burma, Colombia, El Salvador, Kenya, Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, People's Republic of China, Philippines, the United Kingdom and Vietnam.

"Everyone here has had their own path to citizenship," said Army Maj. Steven Gambichler, Commanding Officer of M Company, 90th Aviation Support Battalion, located here, and keynote speaker for the naturalization ceremony. "The 25 people that stand before you earned theirs while serving a country for which they did not have citizenship when they swore to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States."

Gambichler's role as the keynote speaker of the ceremony was profound, as he is a naturalized citizen himself. He was adopted by Ameri

Speaking of his youth as an immigrant from Great Britain, Maj. Steven Gambichler, Commanding Officer of M Company, 90th Aviation Support Battalion was the keynote speaker for a pre-Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremony in Dallas on Nov. 5.

UH-1 Huey, UH-60AL Blackhawk, and CH-47B Chinook helicopters, and serving two tours supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism.

"As a naturalized U.S. Citizen, I am often struck by the fact that it is easy to take your citizenship for granted," said Gambichler. "Having been around the world on two deployments to the Middle East, I know what it is to see people that don't live free."

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A Message From The Skipper

The next several weeks will likely be a blur for most of us. They will be among the most joyous, stressful, memorable and hectic weeks of the year!

For me, Thanksgiving kicks off a thunderous rally of celebrations at year's end. In addition to the traditional holidays of December, annual travel to the Army/Navy game and my wife's birthday add to the festivities! Before you know it, we'll be back to work in 2009, wondering what just happened!

One thing that helps me survive this second hurricane season is planning; so I offer this up to you:

- **Plan your holiday travel. A good part of our last Quarters was devoted to travel safety, and this was no accident (pardon the pun). This is the most heavily travelled time of the year, and is therefore the most hazardous.**
- **Plan your gift-giving. Nothing saps the joy from the Holidays like scrambling around at the last minute trying to be thoughtful and considerate … under pressure!**
- **Plan your celebrations. If alcohol plays a part in your celebration, don't get caught without a designated driver when you most need one. Anticipate why, when and how you'll be imbibing; then answer the more-important questions of who will help you get where.**

Finally, PLAN to spend some much-deserved down time with friends, family or someone special. Some of my best memories are the ones I spent with my family doing non-spectacular stuff during the Holidays. Sometimes it was just driving around looking at decorations (NOT on the Friday following Thanksgiving, however!); other times it was wrapping presents together (provided you got your shopping done early enough); watching a bowl game or helping someone in need as a family. Whatever your holiday plans entail, treasure this uniquely special time of year. Your going to have enduring memories from this Holiday season – they might as well be good ones!

There are currently 43,529 non-U.S. citizens in all the branches of the Armed Forces, both active and reserve, with 14,449 serving in the Navy alone.

Representing NAS JRB Fort Worth based Sailors during the ceremony were Storekeeper Third Class Barry Bland from Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 59, Storekeeper Seaman Tchilalou Blaoudina, and Storekeeper Third Class Chinedu Felix Oranebo, both from Fleet Readiness Center West.

"It's pretty interesting to see the [naturalization] process," said Blaoudina, who intends to make the Navy a career. "I only wish I could have done it sooner so I could vote."

The naturalization process has been significantly streamlined for service members. Currently, non-U.S. citizens honorably serving in the United States Armed Forces on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible for expedited citizenship. Filing fees and waiting periods are currently waived, and interviews and oaths can occur overseas, further expediting the process.

"As a naturalized U.S. Citizen, I am often struck by the fact that it is easy to take your citizenship for granted."

"It's been great, I just turned in my [naturalization] paperwork in August," said Oranebo.

According to USCIS officials, to be qualified for citizenship a service member must demonstrate good moral character, knowledge of the English language, knowledge of U.S. government and history, and attachment to the United States by taking an Oath of Allegiance to the U.S. Constitution.

Even though members of the U.S. Armed Forces are exempt from normal naturalization requirements, including residency and physical presence in the United States, only 1,433 eligible service members filed in 2007 using the expedited filing procedures.

"I think that the word on immigration and the process for military being streamlined is slowly but surely getting out to the Navy and her sister services," said Legalman First Class Andrea Navarro. "I do my best when

Storekeeper Third Class Chinedu Felix Oranebo (pictured right), from Fleet Readiness Center West, raises his right hand to swear the Oath of Allegiance to the United States.

I put out information at command and base indoctrinations on base to make sure that service members and their commands are aware of our immigration program and the services we provide."

USCIS Field Offices were directed to make and maintain contacts with designated military officials to bring immigration services to service members and their families at military installations. Navarro, who lead the Pledge of Allegiance during the ceremony, is the Command Citizenship Representative for NAS JRB Fort Worth and acts as the liaison between USCIS and her fellow service members on base. She has assisted in 52 service members' naturalization packages since her time on board the installation.

"The first thing a service member needs to do is to contact me," said Navarro in reference to NAS JRB Fort Worth based military obtaining citizenship. "We go over the current [USCIS] forms and the required information. I also like to meet with them in person, in case they have any questions or concerns, and go over the process and timelines with them."

Immigration advice and services are available to NAS JRB Fort Worth based service members and their families at (817) 782-6101/7989. Additionally, USCIS has established a dedicated, toll-free help line, 1-877-247-4645, and a Web page, http://www.uscis.gov/military to assist service members and their families with immigration services and benefits.

USCIS Field Offices are directed to naturalize qualified service members domestically, as soon after enlistment as possible and before deployment overseas. Since Sept. 11, 2001, over 37,000 military naturalizations have been granted in the United States. USCIS officials have been known to conduct long-distance ceremonies for others who didn't get the time to submit their paperwork or finish the process before deploying in harm's way. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 made it possible for military members to naturalize while being outside the United States. Since then, overseas military naturalizations have totaled 5,788. In 2007, 253 new U.S. citizens were welcomed in three special Veterans Day Naturalization Ceremonies in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

LN1(SW/AW) Andrea Navarro leads the Pledge of Allegiance during the naturalization ceremony. She is the Command Citizenship Representative for NAS JRB Fort Worth and acts as the liaison between USCIS and her fellow service members on board the installation.

As the ceremony came to a close, a modern music classic by Lee Greenwood, "Proud To Be An American," played while images of the nation's landscapes were displayed on television monitors throughout the ceremony hall. Some service members sang proudly, while others waved their miniature American flags – all had a greater appreciation for the country they live in, as they were now citizens of the United States.

When asked what the first thing he would do as a U.S. citizen, Oranebo said, "I'm already doing something – supporting what the U.S. stands for." ■

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Remembering History: Carswell AFB, 1946

Photo and story by Rusty Baker

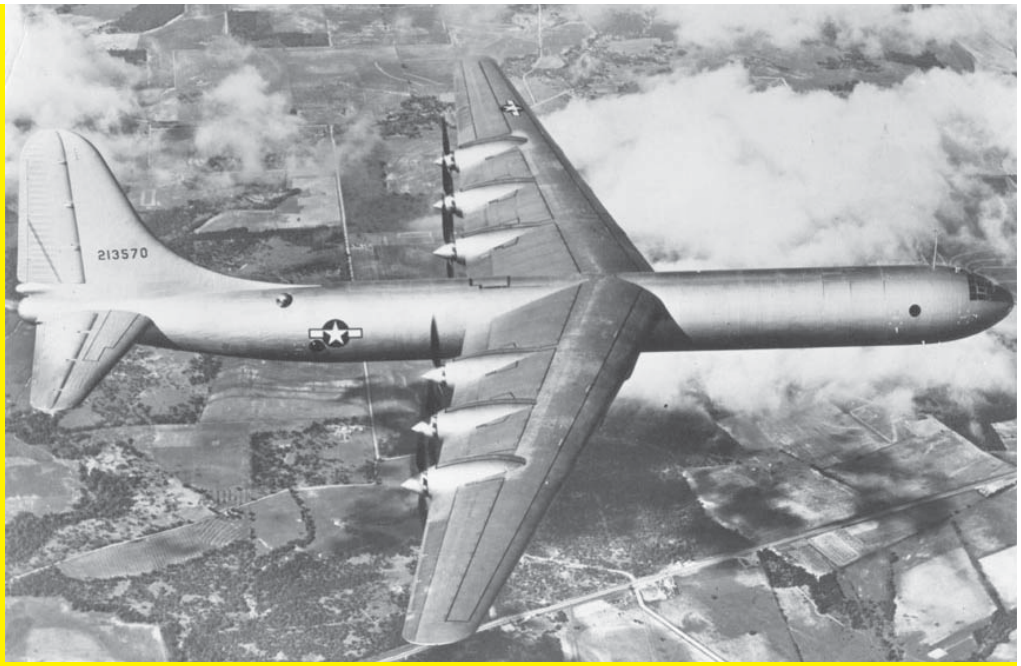
The year was 1946. Victory in Europe and Japan had just been achieved, but the looming threat of the Soviet Union had already begun. America's military forces had begun transitioning to the jet-powered age to keep the Iron Curtain from spreading across Europe and Asia.

If things are bigger in Texas, Fort Worth had taken the axiom to new heights. Convair built the first intercontinental, thermonuclear bomber, known as the B-36 Peacemaker. It was the largest, mass-produced, piston-engine aircraft ever made. The bomber had the largest wingspan of any combat aircraft ever built (230 feet), which held an array of six 3,500 horsepower radial engines and four turbojet engines, each creating an extra 5,200 pounds of thrust for take off. The Peacemaker earned its name by being the only aircraft to carry, not just one, but two 42,500 pound Mk-17 Thermonuclear 'Grand Slam' bombs.

Convair's production of the aircraft was shrouded in secrecy, but an 18-year-old Army corporal across the runway, on board Tarrant Field, was about to have a rendezvous with history.

On a surprise trip arranged by his daughter, Zane Baker receives a tour of NAS JRB Fort Worth's operations center and radar room from ACC Abram E. Dodge.

August 8, 1946, was a usual hot summer day in Fort Worth. Arcadia, La., resident Zane Baker had just been trained as an air traffic controller, and was 'flying solo' on the microphone to talk to incoming and outgoing pilots. As unfamiliar officers began filing into his small two-story observation tower, he received the news that the first experimental flight of the B-36 was slated for that day.



The first flight of the Convair XB-36 Peacemaker over the Fort Worth landscape on August 8, 1946. Zane Baker was a newly trained air traffic controller who communicated with the crew during the 37-minute flight.

"There was so much brass there, I was nervous at first" Baker said.

Convair and Tarrant Field shared the same runway that NAS JRB Fort Worth and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation share today. Soon the XB-36 lumbered toward runway 17. Baker communicated with the test pilots as its nine-foot in diameter wheels came off the ground for its maiden 37-minute flight over Fort Worth skies.

That memory and many more were relived on Nov. 14, 2008, when Zane Baker walked on board the base for the first time in 61 years. His daughters, Lydia Baker and Sandy Huntsinger, had surprised him with the

tour as he and his wife, Myldred, had driven in from Houston to visit family.

Air Traffic Controller Chief Abram E. Dodge escorted the Baker family through the current operations area and radar room. Zane Baker, now 80, began chit-chatting with Navy controllers as he recollected his past. He was amazed by the amount of technology involved with air traffic control today.

"They just didn't have this kind of equipment in my day," he said to Myldred while observing the radar room. "Radar had been invented, but it hadn't made it here yet."

While in the radar room, a young voice cracked over the intercom. Her shift was coming to an end and the Sailor's scratchy voice bore proof of a very long day of flights. Baker reminisced about days when his voice was hoarse from talking down aircraft.

"It was just you in that tower," said Baker, "you didn't get a relief until your shift was over."

Tarrant Field had changed its name to honor the Texas born Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Horace Carswell, Jr., before Baker was transferred to his next duty station of Barksdale AFB. With the onset of the Cold War, the U.S. created the Strategic Air Command (SAC) to meet the need for both offensive and defensive long-range capabilities. Carswell AFB became a SAC base with the addition of the U.S. Air Force 7th and 11th Bomber Wings. The B-36 Peacemaker was flown here from 1948 to 1958, and was then replaced by the Convair B-58 Hustler, also manufactured across the runway.

The Mk-17 Thermonuclear Bomb carried by the B-36 was retired in 1957. A static display of the bomb is located on Military Parkway. ■

AC1 Marcus Offord explains the images on a radar scene to the Baker family during Zane Baker's first visit to the base since 1946.

Top Naval Commands up in lights in Times Square on Oct. 22.

SECNAV Energy and Water Management Awards Ceremony group photo.

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CNRIC Holds Conference And Retires Deputy Commander

Rear Adm. Ann DeBaets Gilbride, Associate Director of Naval Intelligence, briefs senior leaders from various units under Commander, Navy Reserve Intelligence Command at command headquarters. CNRIC held the Reserve Intelligence Area Command/Officer-in-Charge Conference at the headquarters from Oct. 31 through Nov. 2, drawing unit leadership from around the Force. Conference attendees were briefed by key personnel, including Rear Adm. Michael W. Broadway, CNRIC; and Master Chief Intelligence Specialist Daniel L. Gundred, Command Master Chief. Photo by MCC Maria R. Escamilla

Congress Woman Kay Granger (left) and Rear Adm. Michael W. Broadway (right), Commander, Navy Reserve Intelligence Command, present the Navy officer's sword to Capt. Robert Wood (center), CNRIC Deputy Commander, during his retirement ceremony at the NOSC on Nov. 1. The sword was a gift from the NAS JRB Officers' Association.

Photo by Mr. David Wilkerson

NAS JRB Fort Worth 2008 Halloween Costume Contest

Mission First... Sailors Always

Contestants came dressed as a variety of characters, some from everyday life, others from Hollywood.

The winner of the funniest costume award was YNC Alicia Marshall (pictured above) dressed as Pippi Longstocking, complete with two-foot-long pigtails.

Winning the most original costume award was Rusty Baker in his homemade Darth Vader costume (pictured right).

The winner of the best overall costume was AC2 Linas Milavickas, who dressed as the Batman character, Two-Face (pictured above right).

Contestants won a variety of tickets and passes from MWR. ■

MAG-41 Hosts Olympians

Story and photos by Sgt. Lisa Rosborough

USA World and Olympic track and field champions Jeremy Wariner of Grand Prairie, Texas and Sanya Richards of Austin, Texas spent a full day with the Marines of Fort Worth, Texas-based Marine Aircraft Group 41 on Nov. 12.

Also 2007 World champions, Wariner and Richards each won silver and bronze medals in the 400 meter dash and both were part of the gold medal 1600 meter relay teams at this year's Olympics in Beijing, China. The two Texas athletes were recognized by the Marines for their distinguished athletic achievements in representing Team USA.

"The Olympic champions, who have volunteered their time and travel expenses to exclusively visit MAG-41, did so in a motivating display of patriotism and respect for what we do as Warriors. Conversely, this event is a rare opportunity to show our appreciation and respect to these Warriors who represented our great nation in the battle of Olympic competition," said Lt. Col. Lyle Hague, MAG-41 Command Inspection Program manager.

Throughout the early part of the day, the athletes and their managers received a tour of the base and of the aircraft at Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 and Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112. After the tours and having lunch, the athletes met with Marines at the base theater for a photo session and autograph signing. A question and answer period followed, where Marines asked questions about the athlete's training regiments and nutrition maintenance, while informing the athletes on how Marines train in preparation for the Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test.

"I eat a lot of rice, baked fish, and baked chicken. No fried foods," Richards mentioned. "There is really no special diet for me because I've eaten this way ever since I was a kid growing up in Jamaica. I've just kept the same disciplined eating habits."

During the open discussion with Wariner and Richards, leathernecks were able to review this year's Olympic results and receive new information about those results. According to statistics maintained by USA Track and Field (USATF) and the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), Wariner, who placed second in the 400 meters in Beijing, did so in a time of 44.74 but still has the fastest time in the world at 43.45 from his 2007 World championship race on Osaka, Japan.

Although Richards came out traditionally hard in the first 200 meters of her 400 meter race in Beijing and had the lead coming into the homestretch, she was slowed down due to a cramp in her right hamstring, causing her to slow down in the last 75 meters. Richards place third with a time of 49.93, claiming the bronze medal for Team USA.

Despite having the gold medal slip away, USATF reported that the 400 meter race ran by Richards has historic significance – it was Team USA's fourth Olympic medal ever since the first two were won back in 1984.

As part of the winning gold medal 1600 meter relay team, this year's Olympic win for Richards and her teammates is the fastest in the world since 1993, USATF reports.

As Wariner pointed out during his visit, the breaks after the Olympics are really short. Competition stops in September and they usually start training again the first or second week in November. However, Wariner felt that this chance to visit with Marines was well worth the break from training.

"I really haven't done much

Marines with Fort Worth, Texas-based MAG 41 present two MAG-41 Texas plaques as tokens of appreciation to 2008 Texas Olympic track and field champions Jeremy Wariner and Sanya Richards on Nov. 12. Wariner and Richards visited the Marines at the NAS JRB as one of their last stops before beginning training for the 2009 World Championships in Berlin on Aug. 15-23.

since the Olympics, so this was a great opportunity and I took it," Wariner said. "To get a chance to sit in the F/A-18 was amazing," said Wariner, who recently began training with a workout of 16 100 meter runs.

Richards, on the other hand, remains very busy on and off the track. In 2005, she was the recipient of the USATF Humanitarian Award in recognition for her community outreach work that she still does with the organization's "Win with Integrity" program.

The "Win with Integrity" program is a USATF program initiative aimed at educating youth, parents, educators, and coaches about the positive results that come from leading a physically active, drug-free lifestyle while living with integrity. A program in which the champions of track and field work directly with young people around the nation, the "Win with Integrity" program has evolved from a start-up program in 2004 into one of USA Track & Field's most successful initiatives.

Both Wariner and Richards attended college in Texas. Wariner ran for Baylor University in Waco, and led the Baylor 1600 meter relay team to a pair of national titles in 2004, to include setting a collegiate conference indoor relay record of 3:03.96.

Also in 2004, at the age of 20 while still a student at Baylor, Wariner broke 2000 Olympic champion Michael Johnson's collegiate 400 meter record. As equally important, Wariner made his first Olympic team and competed in Athens, Greece, bringing home Team USA gold medals in the 400 meters and as a member of the 1600 meter relay. That year Wariner became the youngest Olympic gold medalist ever, winning the 400 meters in a time of 44.00, USATF reported.

Major success started for Richards as a collegiate athlete with the Longhorns at the University of Texas in Austin. As a student athlete, Richards ran 50.82 seconds and won the gold in the 400 meters, setting collegiate, championship, facility, and school records at the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor Track and Field Championships. Richards also help lead the University of Texas 1600 meter relay team to its second consecutive national title.

> ***"This was definitely one of the most meaningful stops I've made."***
>
> ***- Sanya Richards***

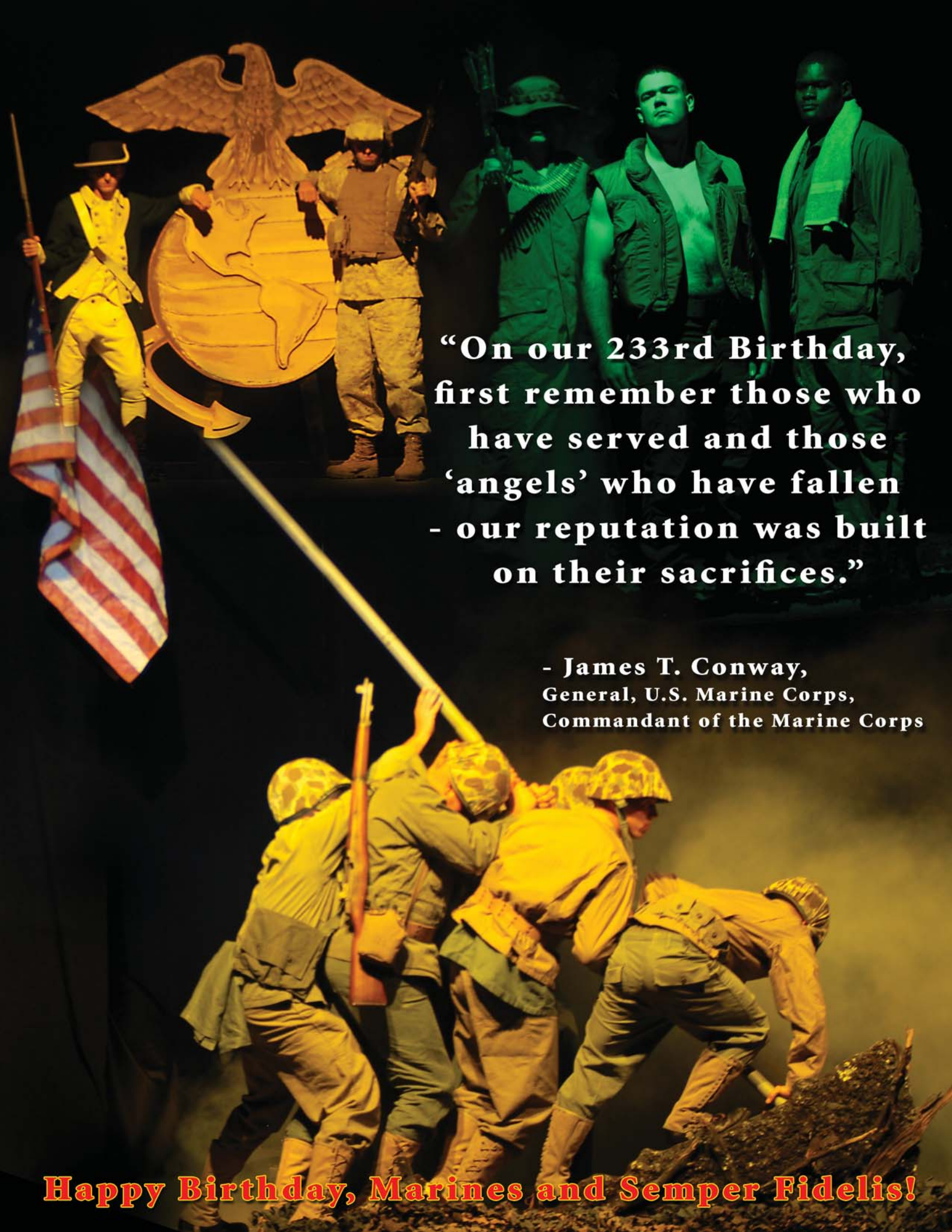
As USATF records show, it was also in 2004 that Richards broke her own American junior record three times in the 400 meters.

All in all, the day visiting with the Olympians was good for both sides. They each received a MAG-41 Texas plaque on behalf of MAG-41 commanding officer, Col. Gary S. Graham in appreciation for their visit.

"I would say this is my last stop before getting back into training again and trying to be in one place for an entire week so I can really focus in and start to get strong and fast again," said Richards. "This was definitely one of the most meaningful stops I've made."

Both Wariner and Richards will continue with training and other track meets next year in preparation for the 2009 World Championships in Berlin that will take place from Aug. 15-23. ■

Lt. Col Lyle D. Hague (center), MAG-41 Command Inspection Program Manager, tells 2008 Texas Olympic track and field champions Jeremy Wariner (left) and Sanya Richards (right) to let their feet hang while they simulate jumping from the KC-130T during their visit with the Marines on base.


"On our 233rd Birthday, first remember those who have served and those 'angels' who have fallen - our reputation was built on their sacrifices."
- James T. Conway,
General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps
Happy Birthday, Marines and Semper Fidelis!

Bair, Jordan	AD2
Barerra, Michael	AC3
Beland, Kerri	AWF3
Belt, Joseph	YN2
Beyer, Adam	RP3
Broadway, Carl	AM3
Chisenall, Robert	AM3
Demieville, Bryan	AD2
Duenes, Matthew	MA3
Elliott, Brandy	YN1
Erbez, Ana	AC3
Feliciano, Andre	AO3
Flores, Roberto	AWF1
Guerra, Eddie Jr	CS3
Gunckel, Lane	AC3
Harrison, Jamie	MA2
Howell, Sarah	AC1
Hunt, Llyween	MA2
Ingalls, Ellen	CS3
Jones, Joseph	AC3
Jones, Zachery	CS2
Knight, Thomas	YN3
Lacey, Ebony	YN2
Lewis, Albert	YN1
Mansell, Joseph	CS3
Martinez, Javier	SK2
Mckinley, John	YN1
Mercado, Peralta	AM3
Miller, Mark	AM2
Osborne, Timothy	SK2
Osterbur, Matthew	AC2
Raley, Robert	AC3
Russell, Aaron	AWF1
Spiegel, Christo	AM2
Stagner, Darwin	HM2
Timothy, Osborne	SK2
Williams, Rodney	AC1

Jury Duty Do's and Don'ts For Service Members

By Mr. Bill Van Deren, Legal Technician, NAS JRB Fort Worth

Have you received a summons for duty? Do you believe the myth that all service members are automatically exempt from serving on a State or local jury? Well, allow me to enlighten you.

It is Department of Defense policy that military members should serve on State and local juries to fulfill their civic responsibilities. Jury service is an integral part of our national criminal and civil court system. If you have the opportunity to serve as a juror, you will find it to be an experience not soon forgotten.

At times however, jury service may interfere with military responsibilities. In such a case, service members may be exempt from jury duty when it would unreasonably interfere with the performance of their duties or adversely affect the readiness of the member's command. Jury service has been predetermined by the Secretary of the Navy to unreasonably interfere with the performance of military duties or adversely affect the readiness of a command for certain billets and military activities. Members in those billets or attached to those activities are therefore exempt from jury service. These include all general officers, flag officers, officers in command, and all personnel assigned to operating forces or who are in a training status or stationed outside the United States.

Other military members may be exempt only if their Commanding Officer determines that jury service would unreasonably interfere with the performance of military duties or adversely affect the readiness of the command. Basically, this means that the member's absence would have an extreme negative impact on the command, so much so, that if the member were requesting leave for the same time period, leave would be denied.

The decision to exempt someone from jury duty must be made by the Commanding Officer and cannot be made by a Department Head or other command authority. The Commanding Officer, who must be designated as a Special Court-Martial Convening Authority, signs a letter to be sent to the State or local court providing the reason why the member is exempt.

Members of the Armed Forces who serve on State or local juries will not be charged leave or lose any pay or entitlement during their period of jury duty. Most States pay a small daily fee to jury members. Unfortunately, active duty military may not keep the payment received for jury duty. All fees paid to members of the Armed Forces for jury duty must be turned over to their command and will then be sent to the U.S. Treasury. Members may keep any reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of jury duty, such as transportation costs and parking fees.

References in this matter are SECNAVINST 5822.2 and Title 10 USC §982.

For further legal advice on this issue, contact the base legal office at (817) 782-7988. ■

New GI Bill Overview

Attributed by Mr. Paul Dowd, Director, Education and Incentive Programs Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command

Many post 9/11 veterans and service members will soon see a new package of education benefits. This new Post 9/11 GI Bill, or so-called GI Bill for the 21st Century, boasts the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944.

The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a $1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits.

Benefits Start Date - This new GI Bill is set to go into effect on August 1, 2009. However, as with any new legislation, it could take some time for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to begin paying benefits. Benefits will not be paid for any training or education programs completed before July 31, 2009.

Eligibility for the New GI Bill - If you have served a total of at least 90 days on active duty in the Armed Forces you're eligible. However, the amount of benefits you receive under this program are determined by the actual amount of accumulated post 9/11 service you have.

To be eligible for the full benefit, you must have three years of active duty service after 9/11 or have been discharged due to a service-connected disability.

If you are an officer who graduated from a service academy or received ROTC scholarships, you also qualify for the new GI Bill benefits. However, you're ROTC/Service Academy associated obligated active-duty service time does not count toward the three years necessary to qualify for the full benefits.

Note: You didn't have to opt-in for the Montgomery GI Bill to be eligible for this program.

New GI Bill Payment Rates - The Post 9/11 GI Bill will provide up to 100 percent of your tuition. In addition, the program provides a monthly housing stipend of up to $1,000 a year for books and supplies. If you attend school on a part-time basis, (generally, less than 12 hours) you will receive a portion of the payment based on the number of units of study.

The amount of tuition and stipends paid under the Post 9/11 GI Bill will vary depending on your state of residence, number of units taken, and amount of post Sept. 11, 2001 active-duty service. Here is a quick reference showing the percentage of total combined benefit eligibility based on the following periods of post 9/11 service:

- 100%: 36 or more total months; or 30 or more consecutive days with a disability related discharge.
- 90%: 30 total months
- 80%: 24 total months
- 70%: 18 total months
- 60%: 12 total months
- 50%: 6 total months
- 40%: 90 or more consecutive days

Tuition Rates - Under the new GI Bill you will be provided tuition up to the highest established charges for full-time undergraduate students charged by the public institution of higher education in the state in which you are enrolled.

One of the added features of this tuition payment plan is that the tuition will be paid directly to the school, relieving you of the responsibility. This is similar to the process used for military tuition assistance.

Based on 2008 in-state tuition rates, the anticipated annual tuition payment rate for 2009 will be just over $6,000. The low being Wyoming at $3,500 a year and Michigan which is the highest payment in-state tuition rate at $13,000.

Monthly Housing Stipend - If you are enrolled in a traditional college program as a full time or three-quarter time student, you will be paid a monthly housing stipend equal to the monthly amount of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents. The average housing stipend will be approximately $1,000 a month. However, if you attend distance learning programs such as correspondence courses and online you will not qualify for this stipend.

Note: You are not entitled to this stipend if you attend school while on active duty.

Book and Supply Stipend - You will receive a lump sum payment the first month of each quarter, semester, or term. The payment will help cover the cost of books, supplies, equipment, and other educational fees for that academic term. The payment amount will be equal to either a quarter or half of the annual $1,000 cap for that academic year, depending on how the academic year is divided – quarter or semester terms.

Benefits Expiration Date - Unlike the Montgomery GI Bill, the new GI Bill will allow you to use this benefit for up to 15 years after your

Continued on page 17

Volunteers Needed

1. VITA Tax Service - Once again, tax season is coming around the corner and volunteers are needed at the VITA Center on base. This program is designed to provide tax services to all the joint services as well as national guard located in the area. The IRS will come out to teach a one-week class, between early December to mid-January. After that, volunteers at a minimum are required to work 12 hours a week at the center (That equates to three separate four-hour shifts). The VITA Center will be opened Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and will be opened occasionally on Saturdays. This is a great opportunity for service members as well as civilians and retirees to get some good tax training and experience that will be valuable to them for years to come. This can also be considered a collateral duty in most cases, but check with your command. Last year's volunteers received, at a minimum, a Flag Letter of Appreciation. Other dedicated volunteers were given Flag Letter of Commendations - one volunteer received a Navy Achievement Medal.

Last year's numbers netted over 1,100 returns made for the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard and Coast Guard. Volunteers were able to save service members nearly $190,000 in fees to tax preparation services, and refunds nearly totaled two million dollars. For 1,100 service members - that is a lot of money!

For those that are interested in volunteering, please call (817) 782-6010/7989.

2. Navy Marine Corps Relief Society - NMCRS is a private, non-profit, volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, NMCRS is committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Services – active, retired, and their eligible family members – to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs.

NMCRS Volunteers come from all walks of life. They need only to have the desire to serve others, the time to commit to volunteer positions, and the willingness to follow NMCRS policies and procedures. NMCRS depends on Volunteers to deliver its services. The majority of our volunteers work during normal business hours and hold either a receptionist or caseworker position. Other volunteer opportunities in our office are hospitality, public speaking, teaching, and training. Volunteers are essential to a successful office. Some benefits of volunteering are: gain satisfaction of serving others, make a difference in the community, make new friends and expand your network in a fun environment, enhance your skills and professional growth opportunities, be reimbursed for child care and mileage, and be recognized for time in service and special achievements.

For those that are interested in volunteering, please call (817) 782-6000.

3. AAFES Christmas Wrapping - Lend a helping hand for the holidays - Santa's helpers are needed! AAFES is looking for base organizations (NCOA, FCPOA, etc.) to volunteer as gift wrappers at the base exchange. Organizations can keep all donations earned, but the gift wrapping will be furnished for free. Volunteers may start November 26.

To sign your organization up for this great opportunity, please call at (817)939-9644.

last discharge or separation from active duty.

Licensing and Certification Payments - This new GI Bill will provide up to $2,000 to cover the cost of one licensing or certification test. This benefit is not charged against your 36 month entitlement.

Tutorial Assistance - Like the Montgomery GI Bill, the new GI Bill will provide up to a maximum of $1,200 for tutorial assistance. The program will pay up to $100 per month, for a maximum of 12 months. This benefit is not charged against your 36 month entitlement.

Benefit Transferability - According to a recent Stars and Stripes article, service members who have served at least 10 years on active duty will be able to transfer their benefit to a spouse or dependent child. Spouses of service member who have served at least six years and agree to another four-year contract can receive the money even sooner.

The transferred benefit will cover the cost of tuition only.

Benefits may be divided as long as they don't exceed 36 months of college classes. For example, a retired member can use half of the benefits to pay for a two-year degree program, and then transfer the remaining half to a spouse or child.

College-age children of long-serving service members could get a free college education starting fall 2009, provided they attend a state-backed school.

Affects on Existing GI Bill Benefits - If you are already enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill and also meet the criteria for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, you will have the option to transfer your remaining MGIB benefits to the new program.

For many veterans this will be a good option. However, due to the tuition limits set by this new GI Bill, many veterans who are pursuing a post-graduate degree may find the MGIB better suits their needs. This is also true for those students pursuing an online degree, as this new benefit will not pay the housing stipend to students enrolled in distance learning programs.

Coming Soon - A Web-enable enrollment system is under development that will eliminate the guess work of who's eligible and how to transfer their benefits. The Web site is tentatively scheduled to launch around June of 2009, prior to the new GI Bill's effective date of August 1.

FAQs - For more information on eligibility or transfers, or just frequently asked questions, log onto www.gibill.va.gov.

You can also be notified of all updates, as they happen. Log onto www.gibill.va.gov, look under New GI Bill Information, and "click here to sign up."

For more information, contact your resident career counselor. ■

Comparing the Old and New GI Bill - The following table highlights the differences between the Montgomery GI Bill, the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) and the New GI Bill.

	Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30	Post 9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33
Payment Rate for Full-Time Student	Annually set - nationwide - monthly payment rate. Set to increase to $1321 for 2008-2009. Paid to the student each month.	A payment indexed to full in-state tuition for public schools. A lump sum paid directly to the school each term. The national average for in-state tuition in 2008 is $6,185.
Duration of Program	36 Month entitlement.	36 Month entitlement.
Additional Expense Payments	No additional payments for expenses.	**Living expenses** - stipend based on local BAH for E-5 with dependents - paid monthly avg. amount app. $1,000 a month. **Books and Fees** - Up to $1,000 a year.
Eligibility Requirements	Those who entered military service after June 30, 1985.	Active-duty service since Sept. 11, 2001.
VEAP-era Eligibility	**No** - Except those who elected to convert in the past.	**Yes** - those who meet eligibility requirements above.
Benefit Expiration	10 years after separation or discharge.	15 years after separation or discharge.
Transfer Benefits To Families	**Limited** - Currently limited to Army for critical MOS only.	**Yes**
Enrollment Fee	**Yes** - $1,200	**None** - Those who have not yet completed paying their $1,200 for the MGIB may elect to stop further payment.

Holiday Happenings

JRB Children's Holiday Party

The party will be held Friday, December 5, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the TexPlex (Bowling Center, Bldg. 1815). The Sports Bar will be closed until after the party to allow for additional space. The cost will be: Military child, $3 and DoD/BoP child $5. Tickets will be on sale at ITT from 3 November – 4 December. There will be no ticket sales at the door, so please purchase early.

Free Sneak Preview Screening of "Yes Man" Starring Jim Carrey

Sunday, December 14, at 2:30 p.m., there will be a free movie. Pick up your free tickets to this preview at the Bowling Center, Bldg. 1815, or Movie Reel, Bldg. 1845. Remember, seating is "first come, first served". Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and will close when capacity is reached.

Jingle Bell Team Fun Run

Friday, December 19, at 11:00 a.m. there will be a team fun run. All teams must have between 5 and 10 people and registration will close at 9:30 the day of the race. The entry fee is $5.00 per person and all participants will receive a T-shirt. All teams must start and finish the race together. For more info, please call (817)782-7770.

East Gate Closing for the Holidays

The East Gate is going to be closed for a short period during the upcoming Christmas holiday. This temporary closure of the East Gate will allow some of our outstanding Security Department personnel time off with their family and friends during the upcoming holidays. Christmas holidays closure timeframe: East Gate will close December 21 at 6:00 p.m. and reopen at 6:00 a.m. on January 5. The Main Gate will operate as normal - 24/7.

Visitor Control Center Holiday Closing Schedule

The Visitor Control Center next to the main gate will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, and closed the 25th through the 28th for Christmas. Then for the New Years holiday, the VCC will be open from 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31, and closed the 1st of January through the 4th, opening again for regular business on Monday, 5 January.

Religious Services

In addition to the regularly scheduled worship services, the Base Chapel will hold a Christmas Eve Protestant service at 7:00 p.m. and Mass at 9:00 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Commanding Officer's Policy on Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is a form of sex discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term or condition of a person's job, pay or career;

Submission to or rejection of such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person;

Such conduct destroys teamwork by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment. Like any other behavior contrary to good order and discipline, it won't be tolerated.

Sexual Harassment is prohibited. Any person in a supervisory or command position who uses or condones any form of sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the career, pay, or job of a service member or civilian employee is engaging in sexual harassment and has failed to well and faithfully discharge the duties of their position.

I encourage each of you to use the training you have been given to ensure sexual harassment does not take place onboard NAS JRB Fort Worth. Please promptly report, via the chain of command, instances which cannot be resolved immediately.

It's not complicated; simply treat your shipmates with the respect due their service, and demand the same.

T. D. SMYERS