



# SKY RANGER

The Electronic Newsletter of NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas



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## Texas Born Captain Returns To Command

Story by Rusty Baker, photo by MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

The former legislative liaison and section head of the Chief of Naval Operations Collaborative Warfare and Common Systems for Air Warfare, Capt. T.D. Smyers, took command here April 11.

Capt. Smyers, a native of Boyd, Texas, replaced Capt. Ian McIntyre, who transferred to the Navy Personnel Command at NAS Millington, Tenn.

"Twenty-nine years ago, I was a young, hopeful candidate for admission to the Naval Academy," said Smyers. "My father took me to get my personal readiness test at the gym, of what was then Carswell Air Force Base. With that test, I got admitted and started my journey with the Navy. Little did I know then, that almost three decades later, I would get to come back here and be the (commanding officer) of this installation... but here I am."

Smyers received his commission from the Naval Academy in 1984; earned the Alden C. Markey Memorial Trophy as

the outstanding graduate from advanced navigator training; and was designated a Naval Flight Officer in September 1985.

He flew several versions of the Lockheed P-3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft with Patrol Squadrons 5, 30, 62 and 64; deploying several times to the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Over his naval career, Smyers has served as a naval flight officer, instructor and trainer, maintenance officer, administration officer, squadron officer-in-charge, Reserve Force Realignment VP Program Manager, executive officer, and commanding officer.

In 2003, Smyers served as the VP-62 Broadarrow's 23rd CO; leading the operational employment of P-3C Aircraft Improvement Program technology in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions in three operational theaters and Operation Enduring Freedom.

He then studied at the National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Upon graduation with a Master of Science Degree in National Resource Strategy and completion

*"We will continue forward and continue to build our joint community within this fence line, supported by an extremely strong community outside the fence line."*



of Joint Professional Military Education, he reported to the office of Chief of Naval Operations, where he has been serving as legislative liaison since.

"We press forward," he said. "We stand proudly as the example of jointness for the Department of Defense and for the U.S. military and we take the lessons we've learned since we've become a

joint reserve base and we apply them. We will continue forward and continue to build our joint community within this fence line, supported by an extremely strong community outside the fence line." ■



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# NAS JRB FORT WORTH

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## A Message from the Skipper

*America's first joint base; America's finest joint base.*

*In the two weeks since I relieved CAPT McIntyre, I've been all over our base visiting Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians in workcenters, headquarters buildings, MWR facilities, shopping areas and on our roads.*

*The visits have given me a comprehensive view of our enterprise and it's various demographics; but one characteristic was consistent in all groups – pride in what we do. I think that's what makes this place very special amongst DoD installations. Whether it's the esprit de corps of the Marines; Air Force polish; Army gung-ho; Navy tradition or just plain ol' Texas pride, a thread of pride of ownership runs through our entire base.*

*And why not? We have much to be proud of!*

*As we move ahead into forging a truly joint community, I hope each and every one of you finds new reasons to proudly boast "JRB Fort Worth is MY base"! After all, the community we forge here is solidly based on a heritage that many of you built, and many more of you will carry into the future. I look eagerly forward to the jointness we will create together.*



# Lodging staff nets third Zumwalt Award

Story and photo by MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

The Navy Gateway Inn and Suites here was recognized as a winner of its third consecutive Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Award for excellence in housing and lodging management in April 2008.

The Zumwalt award evaluates Navy transient quarters against criteria very similar to commercial hotels. Each facility is awarded a three or four-star rating, but the five-star rating grants the accreditation of the Zumwalt award.

The NGIS was noted for its housekeeping and cleanliness as well as the staff for their knowledge level and outstanding customer service, according to housing manager, Senior Chief Culinary Specialist James Spencer.

"The staff really went above and beyond preparing for it, putting a lot of hours into it, crossing the 't's' and dotting the 'i's', making sure we met all the requirements for the accreditation checklist," said Spencer.

The Navy is standardizing and renaming all of its visitor quarters and combined bachelor housing offices under one name as NGIS. This way, the same services and comforts that one may receive at one base will be the same as those at any other base,

according to Spencer.

"It's exciting. Words can't express all the hard work that went into it," said accounting supervisor, Sherle Roberts.

The Star Service Training Program was designed to train housing staff members

for customer service. The week long process of becoming "star service" certified, followed by a monthly refresher course has definitely helped win the Zumwalt award, according to Roberts.

The award is scheduled to be presented at the International Hotel / Motel and Restaurant Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City, in November. ■



# Save A Life Tour brings alcohol awareness to NAS JRB team

Story by Rusty Baker

The national Save a Life Tour alcohol-awareness program stopped at Moreland Hall Dining Facility on March 31 to speak with military members about the dangers of drinking and driving.

SALT is a high impact, hands-on program that combines shocking statistics of the devastating effects of drinking and driving, graphic vehicle accident footage and a driving simulator designed to show how alcohol affects reaction times and motor skills from a sober perspective.

Participants are bombarded once they walk in the door with sights ranging from an empty casket to videos of lifeless bodies being dragged from mangled vehicles. Once the somber tone is set, the sailors board a driving simulator that provides the drivers a sense of tunnel vision similar to that felt by drivers under the influence of alcohol.

MAG-41 Administration Clerk, Sgt. Yadira Mendoza, 26, felt dizzy after completing her five-minute drive.

"(The simulator) would make you think twice about drinking and driving," said Mendoza. "The coffin did it for me alone."

Of the tens of thousands of accidents that are caused by drunk driving every year, 15 percent are caused by swerving. According to SALT Senior Manager, Brian Beldyga, swerving is the number one cue to police that someone may be under the influence. The simulator shows just

how difficult it may be to operate a vehicle drunk.

Beldyga has been on a mission to save the lives of others since his fiancée was taken from him in a fatal drunk driving accident eight years ago. After seeing the less-than-desirable results of other alcohol awareness programs, like the laugh-inducing "drunk goggles," he felt a more in-your-face approach was needed to resonate in the hearts and minds of the participants to produce results.

"Positive reinforcement is temporary and doesn't work," Beldyga said. "I use a shock jock, in-your-face approach."

The approach seems to be working on sailors around the country. According to Beldyga, 5,000 members of the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) participated in the SALT program after a dismal record of 32 reports of driving



Save a Life Tour Senior Manager, Brian Beldyga, gives a quick tutorial to Culinary Specialist 3rd Class Lorenzo R. Wright before letting him take the wheel of the driving simulator.

Photo by MC2 (AW) D. Keith Simmons

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# Fighting For A Dream

## A SAILOR'S JOURNEY WITH THE U.S. NAVY BOXING TEAM

Story by Rusty Baker

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To watch his footwork during a practice drill, one could see he knew his way around the ring. He was an orthodox fighter with the ability to change up to a south paw to gain the upper hand on his opponent. From a well-balanced stance came a series of left jabs, followed by a straight right and a left hook. While waiting for the retaliatory counterpunch, he feints a Philly shell that lures his opponent in for an unexpected flurry of power punches. His eyes are fixed on the guard of his imaginary opponent, in what almost looks like a self-induced trance. After years of training and the last two months of almost torturous conditioning, he is ready for the real thing.

Cleveland, Ohio native, YN3 J'von Wallace, has been working on his dream to be a pro boxer for years. A gentle giant of 6' 3" at 226 pounds, he has the humble demeanor of his boxing hero Lennox Lewis; professional and sharp in the way he carries him-

self. Growing up in Cleveland Heights High School, Wallace excelled in all sports. He played basketball, football, soccer and even knew how to ice skate; but nothing could compare to his true love.

"I love to box," said the super heavy weight, Wallace. "The training is tough. You've got to really love the sport to do the training."

On a day's average, a boxer in training may run sprints, jog for two miles, and spend an hour on the treadmill running 10-minute miles, according to Wallace. His daily workout also consists of a circuit conditioning course and plyometrics, a training technique to produce fast, powerful movements, and improve the functions of the nervous system with the sole purpose of improve performance in the ring. He completes his workout with 300 sit ups, 250 push ups, five rounds of a speed bag and standard bag workout, and 30 minutes of jump rope.

"If you're not conditioned in boxing," said Wallace "your nose is going to point (to the ground)."



Wallace faces Andrew Sheppard at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 7, 2008.

Photo by Jamie Cameron, The Globe

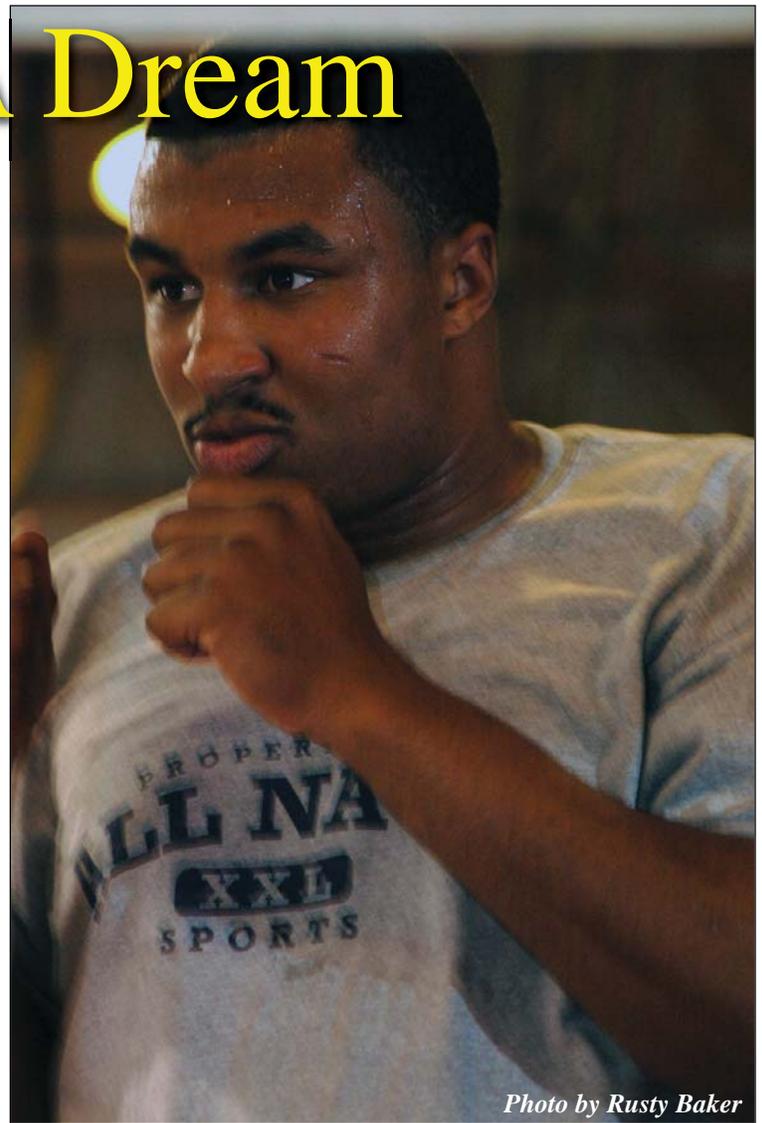


Photo by Rusty Baker

Wallace entered his first boxing ring at the age of 16 and never looked back. He trained and fought at Glenville Recreation Center on the east side of town, but found himself getting shuffled into the wrong crowd. After talking with a local Navy recruiter, Wallace discovered the All-Navy Boxing Team. On Sept. 5, 2003, the recruiter got him off the streets and helped him get a little closer to his dream by enlisting Wallace in the Navy. His first assignment brought him to Atsugi, Japan. There he stayed in shape by wrestling to lift the heavy aircraft chains as a plane captain onboard the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* (CV63), but nearly got in hot water due to fighting a fellow sailor.

Deciding to turn a negative experience into a positive one, Wallace bid on a set of orders that brought him to Texas, with

the Jacksonville, Florida-based Fleet and Industrial Supply Center detachment at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. There he works as a post office supervisor, but on his off time he continued to focus on conditioning at local gyms like Fort Worth's Sycamore Recreation Center.

"I had to work my way in by keeping up with my training, staying in shape, working and keeping my passbook up," said Wallace, now a registered US Amateur Boxer. "Most of the matches were open amateur, but a few tournaments were more semi-pro."

His first match stateside was Stephenville, Texas' Sigma Chi Fight Night. He lost, but was driven to continue. Back on base, Wallace's new supervisor, SKC (SW/AW) Renee A. Reed, had just checked onboard and wanted to get to know her crew

a little better. She started talking to YN3 Wallace one afternoon when he mentioned that he had a boxing match at a local recreation center. He was passionate about the upcoming bout and invited her as well as his whole shop to be spectators.

"He seemed raw, unknown and unpolished some how," said Reed. "He was trying to make fights at the local gym and dreamed of maybe making it to the Golden Gloves."

She could see the desire and hard work ethic in her sailor, but it appeared to her that he would find it difficult to advance to the next level without a better support system.

"I had just seen the Navy Boxing Team on exhibition in Port Hueneme, Calif., while stationed there," said Reed. I made some calls to a few chiefs and got the Navy Boxing Coach on the phone."

Reed said the Navy Boxing Coach, Kevin Ludwig, sounded very excited over the phone to hear about Wallace. Reed approached her command with the idea of their little-known star athlete representing the Navy in the upcoming Navy Box Off back in Port Hueneme. The command whole-heartedly agreed and made arrangements for his shipmates to fill in at the busy

base post office while Wallace scheduled to be away.

"All in all, everyone here took turns to help out at the post office," said Reed, who admits that even she and another chief came by to sort mail a few times. "They have been true shipmates to help out so that one of their own could pursue a dream. That makes them all champions in my book."

Finally, the 23-year-old sailor's hard work and good attitude had paid off. After his completion of the boxing team's package and a Navy physical, Wallace's soon found himself on a plane headed for Oxnard Naval Base, Ventura County, Calif., to train with the Navy Boxing Team.

"It was a great experience," Wallace said. "You get to meet a lot of people, learn a lot of new exercises. I felt like I was in the best shape of my life. I was able to do things I never thought I could do."

Originally, the boxing team numbered 13 sailors, but a few early injuries had whittled it

down to seven men and three women. Kevin Ludwig was the team's trainer. His conditioning regimen for the group was intense, but far from the in-your-face attitude of boot camp. With less than five weeks from the Navy Box Off in Port Hueneme, there wasn't much time to stand idle. All he required from the group was to continue to work

out, stay in shape and train hard. The boxers could either continue to represent the Navy by winning their upcoming match or go home.

Reed said, "I'll never

forget the next time I spoke to his coach, Kevin. I felt proud! He told me that he had never seen a fighter who appreciated the opportunity to box more than (Wallace). I was happy that someone took a chance on this kid and saw his determination."

As a super heavy weight at 226 pounds, Wallace could be matched with anyone from 201 to 320 pounds. At Port Huen-

eme, he faced Airmen Courtesan, weighing in at 275 pounds. Once the bell rung, Wallace picked his opponent apart causing the Air Force to throw in the towel in the third round. Wallace was ready to advance to the next level – the Armed Forces Championship, held at Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune, N.C.

Excitement spread as word got back to his shipmates in Fort Worth.

"I had people calling me asking how Wallace was doing," Reed said. "I tried to keep everyone updated as much as possible. We were just hoping for the best."

Wallace's experience with the Armed Forces Championships began Feb. 4, with a real barn burner with Lance Cpl. Jouse Torres, a Marine fighter who wasn't going to go down easy in a base full of fellow leathernecks.

"At first, I had to knock the ring rust off. I'd been doing a lot of training, but I wasn't used to that environment," said Wallace. "I was just trying to get the feel of boxing back."

By the end of round two, Wallace was down two points. As

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"I felt like I was in the best shape of my life. I was able to do things I never thought I could do."



The U.S. Navy Boxing Team at the Navy Box Off directly after Wallace's match on Jan. 12, 2008

U.S. Navy Photo

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while under the influence of alcohol the year prior. One year since the program, only two DUIs were reported from the ship, and those were individuals who didn't attend the class.

Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (West), 400 Division, Aviation Machinist Mate Airmen, Luke C. Metz grew up in a Christian home in Soldiers Grove, Wis., and at the age of 22 has never tried alcohol. He believes the program can change some attitudes, but feels that other fellow sailors may be hard to reach.

"They know the risk," said Metz, "but for some reason they enjoy getting hammered so much it doesn't matter to them."

SALT spokesman, Jeremiah Newson, has only been with the program for eight months, but can see that it's making a difference with the sailors he meets all over the nation. However, he agrees that sailors need to take the program seriously in order to see positive results.

The Save a Life Tour will continue to educate sailors around the nation. [www.savealifetour.com](http://www.savealifetour.com)



com ■

# How the latest law on repaying student loans can help you

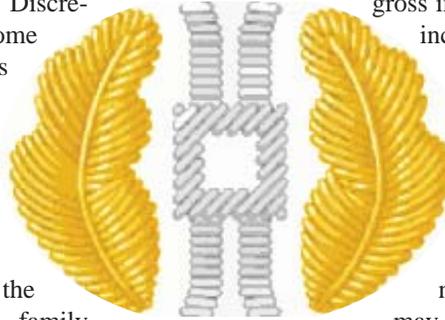
Story by LTJG Cara Addison,  
JAGC, USN

Congress recently passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, an act designed to benefit college graduates who are employed in certain types of jobs. It has several provisions that favor military servicemembers, including a provision that may enable servicemembers to lower their monthly payments and another provision that would allow servicemembers to receive forgiveness on outstanding balances after a certain amount of time. Different sections of the Act take effect at different dates, and it is important to know what programs you qualify for and at what time.

Section 203 may lower a graduate's monthly student loan repayment by allowing the graduate to elect an income-based repayment option. This option was meant to benefit low-income bor-

rowers, and limits the total amount that the graduate can pay annually. The graduate's total annual amount may not be more than 15 percent of his or her discretionary income. Discretionary income is defined as adjusted gross income minus 15 percent of the poverty level for the graduate's family size. These figures are not difficult to calculate, and you should not be scared by the terminology. To calculate your discretionary income, start with the poverty guideline for your family size. The poverty guidelines can be found online at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml>.

Note that the guidelines for Alaska and Hawaii are different than the guidelines for the contiguous 48 states and Washington, D.C. Multiply the appropriate poverty guideline by 150 percent. Subtract this amount from your adjusted gross income. You now have your discretionary income. Please note that servicemembers must understand that in making this calculation that their adjusted gross income does not



include BAS or BAH. Next, multiply your discretionary income by 0.15. This figure is the maximum annual amount you may repay under the income-based repayment option. To get your maximum monthly payment, further divide the figure by 12. Section 203 does not go into effect until July 1, 2009, but various student loan services offer income-contingent repayment options now, which are similar. The difference between your monthly

payment calculated under the income-based option and a standard repayment schedule can be drastic.

Married borrowers face a unique situation. For these individuals, the adjusted gross income of each spouse is combined for the purposes of calculating the monthly payment. The result is that the borrower-spouse will likely face a higher amount of payment than he or she would have if still single.

Section 401 of the Act strongly favors servicemembers, in that this type of employment qualifies as full-time public service. This section provides that a graduate who works full-time in public service, and who makes 120 payments while employed in such position, is entitled to have the unpaid balance of his or her student loans, both principal and interest, forgiven. In other words, the graduate's remaining debt is wiped away and the graduate does not pay it back.

See **LOANS** next page

the bell rung for round three, he remembered



what Ludwig had stressed about keeping a positive attitude even when you're down. Wallace charged in with a melee of combinations, and before the round was over he was ahead by one point. In the fourth, he continued to apply pressure until the Marine went down, netting Wallace a silver medal.

Wallace said of his opponent, "He was a good fighter, and being the only sailor in the Marines' backyard, I had to keep up the pressure."

With another win under his belt, Wallace was poised to be in the



final fight in the championship. Winning this match would bring him a gold medal and the chance to fight in the coming international competition, the World Military Games held in Baku, Azerbaijani. Win or lose, he had already qualified for the national competition held in Colorado

Springs, Colo., in March. His opponent was Army Sgt. Andrew Sheppard, the number four ranked super-heavy-weight fighter in the country.

"When I saw him I thought, 'oh, that's a big guy,' and I told myself, 'don't be nervous... don't be nervous. Just go in there and fight your fight,'" said Wallace.

In the third round, the referee called the match on Wallace's second knock down to the mat. He had been bested, but his attitude remained intact.

Wallace said, "losing to the fourth ranked fighter in the U.S., who's in the Olympic trials, really isn't all that bad. I

had a lot of respect for the guy."

"Win, lose or draw, I'm glad I came out with a silver medal," said Wallace. "A lot of people weren't expecting that out of the Navy, especially in the super-heavy-weight division."

Now back in Fort Worth, Wallace continues to train and fight. Recently, he attended Fort Worth's Golden Gloves competition and won the regional title. He, once again, represented the Navy at the National's in Colorado, but lost to civilian, Savon Tol, only after going the distance.

The future of this proud sailor is certainly bright, as he continues to live out his dream through the U.S. Navy.

Reed said, "We are very proud of YN3 Wallace, he has worked very hard. He has and will continue to have the support of his shipmates and his chain of command." ■

## LOANS

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The 120 payments need not be continuous. A graduate may leave public service, at which time the count to 120 would stop, then return to this type of full-time employment after such break, when the 120 count would resume. This section technically does not become effective until July 1, 2009, however, the 120 clock began to run on October 1, 2007. This means that any student loan repayment that a graduate has already made between October 1, 2007 and the present may count as part of his or her 120 payments. There are limitations on this and other provisions; they are discussed in the next paragraph.

There are a few catches to Section 401. First, private loans are not eligible for the benefits of the Act. Most federal loans qualify, including Federal Perkins and Federal Stafford loans, but you should check to make sure they meet the criteria. Second, in order to take advantage of the Act, the loans must be classified as “feder-

al direct loans.” This means that any loan managed by a service, such as Sallie Mae, is ineligible for income-based repayment or forgiveness after 120 payments, pursuant to the Act. Having a servicer is not a complete bar, however, graduates merely need to consolidate their federal loans with the Department of Educa-

tion. Once this process is complete, the federal loans are now called “federal direct consolidation loans” and meet the requirements for the benefits. Consolidation is not an impossible process, but one

must remember to compare the interest rate paid on the serviced loan versus the interest rate that one would pay after the loan is consolidated under the Act to determine which would be the better deal by comparing the change in

interest rate with the savings due to income-based repayment and loan forgiveness.

As the law stands right now, when student loans are forgiven after 120 payments under Section 401, the graduate faces taxable gain. You should realize that you may still end up owing some amount for an educational

*“You should realize that you may still end up owing some amount for an educational debt that was forgiven.”*

debt that was forgiven. Congress is currently debating the issue of whether such a student loan forgiveness should continue to be counted as a taxable gain. Thus, personnel with this issue

must stay aware of changes in the law that might reclassify the student loan forgiveness as a taxable event.

Tell your family and friends about the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, since the defini-

tion of “public service job” is quite broad. It includes not only military servicemembers, but also employees in government; law enforcement; public health, safety and education; social work; and a number of other tax-exempt organizations. It is definitely worth taking the time to look into your student loan situation; this Act is too good to ignore.

Legal Assistance Attorneys are here to help! Region Legal Service Office Southeast legal assistance offices can be reached as follows: Jacksonville, Florida at (904) 542-2565 ext. 3006; Mayport, Florida at (904) 270-5445 ext. 3017; Kings Bay, Georgia at (912) 573-3959; Charleston, South Carolina at (843) 764-7642/44; Gulfport, Mississippi at (228) 871-2620; Pensacola, Florida at (850) 452-3734; New Orleans, Louisiana at (504) 678-2520; Corpus Christi, Texas at (361) 961-3765; and Fort Worth, Texas at (817) 782-6009. ■

## MWSS-473 Marines return to Fort Worth

By Sgt. Beth Zimmerman Still

It was almost like the first game of football season. Throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area on April 12, decorated cars dotted the highways, streaming past other vehicles with bright flags and streamers flapping behind them.

As they arrived at their destination, passengers joined each other in small groups on the grass or around the back of their vehicles, sharing their stories while galloping children weaved in between them.

A red Chevrolet Tahoe spelled out the reason behind the excitement. Larger-than-life purple letters scrawled on the vehicle’s back window simply stated, “Our hero is home.”

That afternoon, approximately 100 Marines with Fort Worth, Texas-based Bravo Detachment, Marine Wing Support Squadron 473, returned from a 7-month Iraq deployment. They returned to an overwhelming show of support -- friends and family members who filled a ceremonial hangar on base, many of them wearing customized t-shirts with their Marine’s names on it.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Merle Frailey, Det Bravo’s utilities chief, the detachment deployed to Iraq’s Anbar province in September. An additional group of 50 Marines from the detachment deployed to Iraq two weeks early as an advance party, and they returned to Fort Worth on March 30.



The detachment joined the squadron’s Fresno, Calif.-based Alpha Detachment and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.-based headquarters to provide aviation ground support during their deployment to Al Asad, Iraq. ■



# Navy Reserve Policy Board in session at NAS JRB

Story by *Rusty Baker, rusty.baker@navy.mil*

The National Navy Reserve Policy Board met here April 11 - 13 to consider, recommend and report to the Secretary of the Navy, policy matters that may affect many enlisted sailors in the Navy Reserve community.

Currently, NNRPB has three recommendations up for review, increasing the Reserve quarterly maintenance clothing allowance, changing the Navy's order writing practices for those on partial orders for permanent change of station and adjusting Selected Reserve enlisted high-year tenure limits.

Submissions for the board can come from individual sailors or a Naval Operation Support Center's policy board, but if a policy may affect a larger section of the Navy Reserve community, it make be forwarded for consideration by NNRPB.

"We see anywhere from 80 to 100 issues each year, the vast majority of those get resolved at the Commander Naval Forces Reserve Command Board in New Orleans every spring," said NNRPB Chief of Staff, Capt. Keith Mahosky. "We take their most overarching issues that may affect SECNAV or entire Reserve community."

Thanks to United States Code Title 10, the nation's entire Reserve community has a voice that their active duty brother has never been afforded – the ability of its members to quickly change outdated policies. However, with most Reserve members drilling once a month, a marketing strategy was needed to alert members of their capability to influence the status quo.

"Our goal is to get the word out about who we are and what we can do for the sailors," said PSCS(SW) Ray Sutton, Secretary of the Navy Staff, Senior Enlisted Leader Deputy ASN (Reserve Affairs).

To aid in getting that word out to the masses, the Navy has introduced an online submission form on their human resources Web site: [www.hq.navy.mil/nnrpb](http://www.hq.navy.mil/nnrpb) Now, any Selected Reservist or Full Time Support member in the Navy or Marine Corps can interact directly with the NNRPB staff with nearly immediate feedback. The submitting member receives correspondence from the panel, and if there is a conclusion, the member will be notified of the recommendation, according to Mahosky.

"It's a good opportunity (for

Reservists)," said Mahosky. "It's effective when we have good issues, and a part of our charter is to look under every rock to make sure that we're finding every good issue."

If a recommendation is approved, it is then submitted to SECNAV via Assistant of Secretary of the Navy Manpower and Reserve Affairs, however if a change could affect other branches of service, it is then submitted to the Reserve Force Policy Board for consideration.

According to Mahosky, the time it takes for a policy to be implemented varies by the severity of the issue in terms of its complexity, the fiscal implication and the number of people needed to get involved in solving the issue. A policy that affects only the Navy could be put into effect that same year, but if it reaches to other branches of service it may take longer.

One item that was recommended at the RESFOR board level was the removal of social security numbers as service identification, according to Mahosky. Over three years ago, the idea was considered in the Reserve community after identity-theft issues became rampant across the nation as

well as in the military. Now after being recommended jointly to all branches of service, independent service identification numbers will be introduced Department of Defense wide by 2010.

The NNRPB board meets twice a year, once in Washington, and once in a major command, like NAS JRB Fort Worth, to help spread the word directly to individual Reservists. Fort Worth has one of the largest fleet concentration areas by Selected Reserve population. Combined with the Navy/Marine Corps aviation community on board the base, Fort Worth became the meeting place by choice of NNRPB's Chairperson, Rear Adm. Karen Flaherty, according to Mahosky.

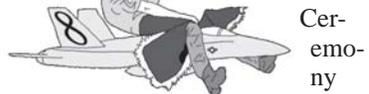
"I believe the Navy and the Marine Corps do the very best jobs of reaching down to our very best folks to give them a voice and an opportunity," said Mahosky. "This policy board process empowers our folks at the lower ranks to be able to say something, and it gives them a great venue to come up with good ideas that haven't been thought of before. I think the Navy and Marine Corps have it done the right way." ■

## Base firefighter awarded for volunteerism in Burleson

NAS JRB Civil Service Firefighter William C. Warner received the 2007 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year for honorary service and dedication to the community of Burleson, Texas.

Warner has been a Navy Department of Defense civil service firefighter since 1994, and has been a volunteer firefighter for Burleson since 2005. He has received numerous performance, life safety and on-the-spot awards recognizing his exceptional dedication to duty.

At the Burleson City Council's Annual Awards Ceremony



on April 7, Mayor Kenneth Shetter awarded the Burleson Fire Department with Warner's plaque. Fire Chief Gary Wisdom presented Firefighter Warner with the award April 16.

"This presents an extremely positive image for the DoD, Navy and NAS JRB Fort Worth, and exhibits a reflection of the esprit de corps in our fire department," said Sam De Sessa, NAS JRB Fort Worth Fire Prevention Chief.

The City of Burleson employs 24 career firefighters and 12 volunteer firefighters. The staff



*Firefighter William C. Warner receives Burleson's 2007 Firefighter of the Year Award from Fire Chief Gary Wisdom on April 26.*

operates out of two fire stations with city approval for a third station in the future. The Burleson Fire Dept. provides fire protection

service for over 32,000 citizens residing within its response districts. ■

# Thousands flock to commissary in its return to Fort Worth

Story by Kevin L. Robinson, [kevin.robinson@deca.mil](mailto:kevin.robinson@deca.mil)

Thousands of customers have streamed through the commissary here during its first week of operation, reinforcing the military's decision to return the benefit to North Texas.

"This is the first Defense Commissary Agency store to open on a joint services base," said Rick Page, acting director, during the store's grand opening ceremony on March 25.

"And, this is the first commissary dedicated to serve Guard and Reserve members and their families."

The opening of the Fort Worth commissary for a customer base of mostly Guard and Reserve members and their families is part of a DeCA initiative to expand the benefit to them wherever they are.

During its first week, the Fort Worth Commissary served nearly 12,000 customers, generating almost \$900,000 in sales. Store Director Sam Tresenriter said the commissary has just started to "scratch the surface" of its customer base of 150,000 authorized shoppers. "So many customers expressed their pleasure that DeCA was back," he said, "many were almost teary-eyed."

"It's about time [for a commissary to return here] because we do need good prices," said Jessie Ruiz, 65-year-old military

spouse of a retired Air Force non-commissioned officer. She drove about 20 miles to get to the base. "Our paychecks aren't getting any bigger and buying groceries can be very expensive."

In welcoming DeCA back to Fort Worth, Navy Capt. Ian Mc-

Intyre, installation commander, said the Fort Worth Commissary "is a huge quality of life benefit that will be enjoyed for a long time by all patrons." McIntyre also thanked the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for the

many years it operated a BXMart there. DeCA last sold groceries in the Fort Worth area in 1993, on Carswell Air Force Base before it was closed as part of base realignment and closure. Eventually, the Carswell site

was renamed Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.

AAFES operated the facility as a BXMart, selling groceries to military customers, from 1993 until DeCA's recent conversion of the facility into a fully operating commissary. "There is no question that the Guard and Reserves play a critical role defending our nation," Page said. "America relies on both its active-duty and its reserve forces to preserve and protect our freedoms. Rightfully, the commissary benefit is extended equally."

## About DeCA:

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country. ■



Customers check out the grand-opening-day specials at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth Commissary on March 25.

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## A-76 competition changes

By Mary Anne Broderick Tubman  
Region Southeast Public Affairs

The CNIC Competitive Sourcing Initiative was developed in 2003 to provide the Navy with a workforce strategy to determine whether military and civilian billets for certain services should be retained or contracted to the private sector. Recent developments in the conversion have produced a variety of results.

Air Operations, which was one function identified for a possible switch to commercial service, will not proceed to competition. This decision was made jointly by CNIC HQ and regional leadership following their review of research conducted during a preliminary planning phase.

The contracting officer (CO) canceled solicitation of

Non-Guard Security on April 3. This action does not automatically result in the cancellation of competition. The next step in this process is to request direction from Department of Defense Competitive Sourcing Official.

Competition for Emergency Management and Dispatch Support Services was postponed until further notice, and then on March 25, CNIC HQ and Regional leadership agreed to pursue cancellation of the competition altogether. The next step in this process is to request

cancellation through the DoD Competitive Sourcing Official, which could take several months. Approval of the request is not guaranteed.

Employees are encouraged to monitor updates on the status of each competition, which will be available through the following Web sites. CNIC's Competitive Sourcing Web site: [https://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic\\_hq\\_site/CompetitiveSourcing/index.htm](https://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic_hq_site/CompetitiveSourcing/index.htm) or the Navy's Competitive Sourcing website: <http://competitive-sourcing.navy.mil> ■

## Web-based CAC card appointment system launches May 1

To reduce wait times and aid in customer service, a new identification card appointment system will be implemented at the Visitor Control Center on May 1. The system will affect active duty, reserve, contractor and civilian personnel requiring any CAC card services, like the issuing of new cards or resetting pin numbers.

Members can now make appointments online at: <https://es.cac.navy.mil> The customer can select 'FORT WORTH JRB' from the list, then click on 'make appointment.'

Once the search page comes up, a customer can click on 'search' and the next available appointment will display. The member can then click on the date underlined in blue. Next, the member will be taken to an information screen where personal information, such as name, organization, phone number, and the last four of their social security number will be implemented, followed by status and branch of service. Once the member clicks 'sign up' he will receive a confirmation e-mail explaining what, if any, paperwork they will need to bring with him.

The appointment system is being implemented to reduce wait time to receive a card. Currently, dependents and retirees are waiting upwards of two hours to be seen. Since the ID office is such a high-traffic office, VCC staff said they have dedicated two DEERS/RAPIDS terminals for CAC card members only and three terminals dedicated to dependent and retiree cards. ■

## Fallen Seabees honored at Arbor Day celebration at NAS JRB

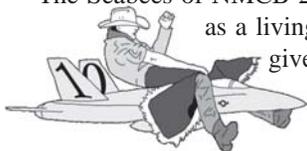
Story and photo by  
MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

To honor the Seabees who have been killed in action during the Global War on Terrorism, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 planted a tree near the new child development center here for Arbor Day, April 23.

During the ceremony, Texas Forest Service representative, Mr. Courtney Blevins, awarded NAS JRB with its 13th consecutive designation as a Tree City USA certified community.

The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters sponsor the Tree City USA program, which was designed to provide direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities nationwide. There are more than 50 communities in the state of Texas and over 3,000 across the country that have been awarded this designation, according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Seabees of NMCB 22 donated the oak tree that was planted as a living memorial to their comrades who have given the ultimate sacrifice.



*Seabees from NMCB 22 and Mr. Courtney Blevins, of the Texas Forest Service, pose by the oak tree planted in honor of their fellow Seabees who have fallen in support of the Global War on Terrorism.*

"This tree and others planted in the future, stands as a living reminder and memorial that NAS JRB Fort Worth bears the responsibility of preserving freedom and protecting the environment," said Lt. Jason M. Brown, NAS JRB Public Works Officer. ■



## TELL US!!!

A little over four years ago, the Sky Ranger Magazine was pulled from the presses and shut down, presumably for good. A lack of funding, personnel and a down right lack of interest killed the publication that had been supporting Dallas and Fort Worth's sailors and Marines since World War II.

Today the magazine begins anew. Albeit an electronic publication, the command is pursuing commercial enterprise sourcing to print the Sky Ranger for the future.

Our goal is to get this out to all active duty and reserve personnel attached to NAS JRB Fort Worth, as well as their families and loved ones who want to know what their soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are doing in Cowtown.

If you wish for your e-mail to be put on the list for electronic distribution, or your family, let us know by e-mail: [Rusty.Baker@navy.mil](mailto:Rusty.Baker@navy.mil)

Thank you for support.

# Sky Ranger



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**Sgt. Beth Zimmerman Still**  
Contributing Photojournalist

## 2008 Military Handbooks Now Available

Military Handbooks has announced the release of its latest 2008 FREE handbooks for military personnel. The response to these handbooks has been great.

These handbooks, written specifically for military service members, include a variety of information about pay, benefits, education and transitioning from the military. To receive your own copies of these handbooks, simply go to our Web site - [www.militaryhandbooks.com](http://www.militaryhandbooks.com). Don't forget to tell all of your military colleagues about these free handbooks too!

**2008 BASE INSTALLATION DIRECTORY (NEW!)** The Base Installation Directory, our newest handbook, provides contact information for every military installation in the United States. From information about military housing to the commissary to the base dental clinic, you'll find the contact numbers and addresses you need in one easy to access guide.

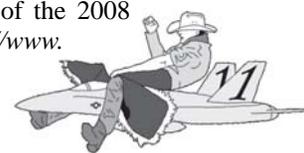
**2008 U.S. MILITARY RETIRED HANDBOOK** The United States Military Retired Handbook is designed to assist all U.S. Military personnel who have retired or who are planning to retire. This unique guide covers everything from the nuts and bolts of computing your Retirement Pay to the detailed explanations of retired military health care, TRICARE, Social Security, VA, SBP, taxes, insurance, travel, and survivor benefits.

**2008 GETTING UNCLE SAM TO PAY FOR YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE** This guide, written for active duty military personnel, covers everything you need to know military education benefits: the G.I. Bill, Tuition Assistance, scholarships, veteran benefits, student aid, military-friendly schools, and tips on staying ahead of the curve.

**2008 BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS HANDBOOK** This complete benefits handbook covers: health care benefits, disability compensation, pension, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education and training, home loan guarantees, life insurance, burial benefits, survivor benefits, overseas benefits, workplace benefits, miscellaneous programs, and more.

**2008 MILITARY CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK** A college degree has become the essential tool to unlock doors for future success. This handbook contains all the latest information about getting a college degree, including: types of higher education, resources for finding the right college, entrance exams, financial aid resources, paying for college, applying for federal student aid, Pell Grants, Direct and Federal Family Education Loans, and PLUS loans.

To reserve your own FREE copies of the 2008 Military Handbooks, please visit: <http://www.militaryhandbooks.com>. ■



# Post Office to offer first ever military discount

*For those that have military members at APOs or FPOs*

Planning to send a care package to a military service member serving abroad? Take advantage of a new flat-rate box from the Postal Service that is 50 percent larger and delivered for \$10.95 to an APO/FPO address -- \$2 less than for domestic destinations.

The new priority mail large flat-rate box (12" x 12" x 5-1/2" or 800 cubic inches) has been available in post offices nationwide since March 3, and can be ordered at [www.usps.com/supplies](http://www.usps.com/supplies) or by calling 800-610-8734. Some of the new boxes are co-branded with the logo of "America Supports You," a Department of Defense program that con-

nects citizens offering support to the military and their families.

The \$2 discount is applied when the priority mail large flat-rate boxes are shipped to an APO/FPO destination. The two existing flat-rate boxes (11-7/8" x 3-3/8" x 13-5/8" and 11" x 8-1/2" x 5-1/2"), which currently retail for \$8.95 for U.S. addresses, are not available for the military discount.

All flat-rate boxes can be used for international shipping. The 'America Supports You' branded box will be available online, at select post offices near military bases, or by calling 800-610-8734. ■



*With over sixty-five years separating the two, Lockheed's P-38F Lightning and Lockheed Martin's F-35A Lightning II, the Air Force variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, are positioned together for the first time on the tarmac at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 29. The World War II fighter/patrol aircraft, known as Glacier Girl, was recovered and restored from a crash landing on Greenland in the summer of 1942. Much like her predecessor's name sake, the Lightning II is versatile in both air-to-air and air-to-ground combat engagements in all weather conditions.*

*Photo by Rusty Baker*

## Audio books program a great benefit for military families

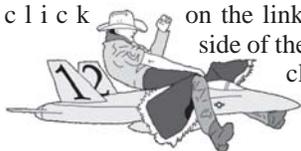
*Story by Ensign Jan Shultis, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs*

Military spouses and families are encouraged to take advantage of their access to free audio books, movies, and music now available through the Navy's Audio Books program.

Popular titles, foreign language lessons, and even children's movies are available for download through Navy Knowledge Online by all active duty, retired, reserve, and dependent members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Currently, the online library houses over 8,000 audio books, 400 eBooks, 600 videos, and 1,400 albums. Educational materials such as foreign language books and manuals, and books on the Chief of Naval Operation's (CNO's) Navy Professional Reading list are also available for download.

To access the Audio Books program, log into [www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil) click on the link to "Navy Library Econtent" on the right side of the page under the "reference" section. Next, click on the banner that reads "Download eBooks, Audio Books, Music, and Video," to access the myriad of titles available. A



user account must be established to check out materials.

Over 400 titles were selected specifically for children. New titles are added to the library regularly, in categories ranging from "classic literature" and "juvenile fiction" to "business and finance" or "comic and graphic books."

There are several guidelines for using of the library. Titles are served through the Overdrive Media Console, and so cannot be downloaded to Navy computers, or used on iPods, Macs, or Zunes. While these restrictions may make it difficult for a Sailor at sea to access the library, the families of military personnel can always take advantage of the program. Items may be downloaded to personal computers, non-iPod listening devices, or even CD's.

Five items may be downloaded at a time. Due to high customer demand, all Audio Book and music titles are available to the user for 10 days, and video titles may be checked out for five days; after that period, the title must be checked out again.

For more information or to establish an account, visit Navy Knowledge Online at [www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil). ■ ■ ■