

# Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES



Vol. 46 No. 1

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

January 15, 2009

[www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport](http://www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport)

## Inside this edition

## Family, friends welcome home Runnin' Roos of NMCB-133

By Rob Mims  
NCBC Public Affairs Officer

Family members and friends were on hand at the Trent Lott National Guard Training Complex in Gulfport to welcome home more than 200 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 Jan. 6 from an eight-month deployment in support of the Pacific Partnership 2008, Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2008 and numerous humanitarian operations. More than 400 more Seabees from NMCB 133 will return between now and mid-January.

As part of Pacific Partnership 2008, the "133 Runnin' Roos" helped complete 26 engineering projects. These projects ranged from the construction of a waste water treatment facility in the Philippines to the construction of a community center in Papua New Guinea and much, much more. For more about Pacific Partnership visit: [www.cpf.navy.mil/subsite/pp08/](http://www.cpf.navy.mil/subsite/pp08/).

NMCB 133 and engineers from the 91st Royal Malaysian Army Construction Regiment worked together to construct a new school building at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kijal elementary school as part of CARAT 2008.



Seabees assigned to NMCB-74, patrol the woods of Camp Shelby, Miss., during Khaki Field Exercise.

See page 6



1NCD selects NMCB-1 as the FY 2008 Atlantic Fleet NCF Battle "E" Active battalion.

See page 7



Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander relieved Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale as CNRSE Jan. 9.

See page 12



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian McCarthy/Released

**A Seabee with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 receives a heartfelt hug from his daughter at the Battalion's homecoming Jan. 6. An additional 400 'Roos are expected to return throughout January from their 8-month deployment.**

CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United

States and several Southeast

See RETURN page 14

## New counter-piracy task force established

By Commander, Combined  
Maritime Forces Public Affairs

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) established Combined Task Force 151 Jan. 8 specifically for counter-piracy operations.

Naval ships and assets from more than 20 nations comprise the Combined Maritime Forces. U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Terence "Terry" McKnight has been named the commander of the new task force which will be fully operational by mid January.

The CMF created the Maritime Security Patrol Area in the Gulf of Aden in August of 2008 to support international efforts to combat piracy. Coalition efforts included CTF-150 assets patrolling the area with ships and aircraft. However, the charter for CTF-150, established at the outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, was for the conduct of Maritime Security Operations in the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Operations included the deterrence of destabilizing activities, such as drug smuggling and weapons trafficking.

See CTF-151 page 23

**NCBC/20SRG**  
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Capt. Ed Brown  
Public Affairs Officer  
Rob Mims  
Editor

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MC3 Brian McCarty

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Public Affairs Officer  
MCC(SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce

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MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

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Lt. Jason Lockhart  
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MC2 Erick S. Holmes

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Public Affairs Officer  
Lt.j.g. Gregg Hazlett  
**Mass Comm. Specialists**  
MC2 John Hulle

**25 NCR Commander**  
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**Mass Comm. Specialist**  
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Public Affairs Officer  
Lt. Shanewit Nopkhun  
**Mass Comm. Specialist**  
MC2 Michael B. Lavender

**NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE**  
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Public Affairs Officer  
MCC (SW/AW/PI) Ryan C. Delcoro

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Cmdr. Stephanie Jones  
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# Navy Legal

## Are you eligible for interest rate reductions?

By Lt.j.g. Ryan Charles, JAGC  
RLSO Southeast



Service members paying interest rates in excess of 6 percent per year may be entitled to relief under federal law. Section 527 of the Service member's Civil Relief Act provides that "[a]n obligation or liability bearing interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent per year that is incurred by a service member, or the service member and the service member's spouse jointly, before the service member enters military service shall not bear interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent per year during the period of military service." This means that if you incurred a debt in the form of a mortgage, car loan, credit card balance, or just about any other financial liability, prior to entering military service, you may be entitled to reduce your interest payments to 6 percent during the entire period of active duty service. Please note, however, that the reduction does not apply to federally guaranteed student loans.

A service member intending to invoke the 6 percent interest rate cap must strictly comply with the SCRA's notification procedures. The service member must provide the creditor with written notice and a copy of the military orders calling the service member to military service. Generally, the written notice should be a letter to the

creditor setting forth: (1) the basis of the service member's qualification for the 6 percent interest cap, (that the debt giving rise to the interest payment was incurred before the service member went on active duty); and (2) a request that the creditor reduce the service member's interest rate to 6 percent pursuant to the SCRA. The military orders must show that the service member was called to military service after the debt or obligation was incurred.

A court may grant a creditor relief from the interest rate reduction if the creditor can show that the service member's ability to pay interest in excess of 6 percent is not materially affected by reason of the service member's military service. However, the burden is on the creditor to prove that this is the case. Still, it is a good idea for the service member to include a statement in the written notice to the creditor that his or her ability to pay interest in excess of 6 percent has been "materially affected" by reason of entry into military service.

The SCRA imposes a timeline

See **INTEREST** page 17

# Skipper's Log

## Happy New Year - Now let's get Brilliant on the Basics

By Capt. Ed Brown  
CO, CBC/CMDR 20TH SRG

*Basic - of, being, or functioning as a starting point*

*Brilliant - Superb, extraordinary*  
With, Brilliant on the Basics, CNO has set us on an outstanding path that will clearly enhance our legacy. It is completely aligned with what we here in Gulfport and Seabees in general have believed all along. If we are the best at the basic building blocks of our life's work, success and satisfaction will follow. If we teach our children strong values, or create a learning environment fostering their growth, they will become respected adults, no matter the career or path they follow. Too often we get wrapped up in the specific issues, concerns, and tasks and forget to focus on the basics.

The basics give us the tools to make smart decisions when we are challenged. They give us something to fallback on and regroup. Strong basic beliefs guide us and shape our future. Common focus keeps us heading toward our goals. If we focus on providing the best customer service in our Fleet and Family, MWR, NEX, Pass Office, Navy Relief, etc., our people will be better ready to focus on their mission. When our Seabees focus on the building blocks, including; Construction Skills, Leadership, Military Bearing, and Study Skills,



**Capt. Ed Brown**

they become the force of choice.

We are focused on our basics: Communication, Strong Leadership, Outstanding Military Bearing, which includes not only how we look but how we behave and how others see us, and a strong culture of physical fitness. This last one is new to these pages but should never be overlooked. Your dedication to doing what is in your power to improve starts with taking care of your body, mind and spirit.

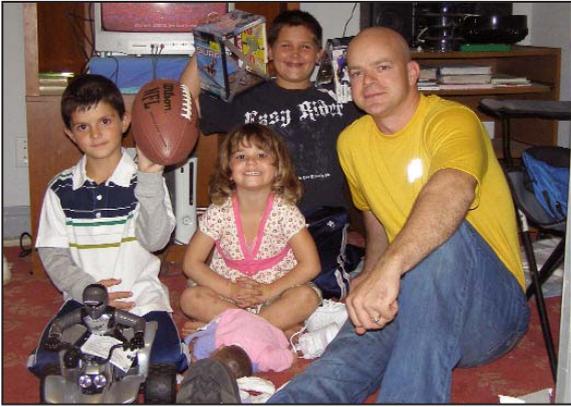
If we can be Brilliant on the Basics, then we will be successful with a force made up of the right people, with the right skills, ready to answer the call, today and into the future. Let's keep ourselves strong because with a strong foundation there is no limit to our future.

## Sailor's Creed

I am a United States Sailor,  
I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me,  
I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world,  
I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment,  
I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

### Command Action Line:

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



Official U.S. Navy photo/Released

UT1 Daniel Clowser is pictured with Jared, Kelsey and Rocky at their CAN-DO Christmas party. Clowser and other members of the 20SRG First Class Association raised money to provide the Long Beach family with gifts and a holiday dinner.

## 20SRG First Class Assoc. celebrates CAN-DO Christmas with local family

By *NCBC Public Affairs*

Armed with bright smiles, gifts and a celebration dinner, the 20SRG Can Do Christmas Team set out to brighten the holiday for a very deserving Long Beach family of five.

When the crew arrived at their home on Christmas Eve, Jessica (mom) and children Jared, Kelsey and Rocky came out to the truck to help unload the presents. "I don't know what to do for you guys," said Jessica as she hugged the Christmas crew.

"You don't have to do anything," replied UT1 Daniel Clowser.

All of the children were surprised that their guests already knew their names and had presents addressed to each of them. Their parents explained that they were Santa's helpers.

After the group was invited into the house, the children were allowed to open their gifts a little early.

When the kids discovered that the presents were exactly what they had wished for, remote control cars, clothes and a play station, they were delighted and amazed. Their parents were pleased to see that they had also received exactly what they asked for – all of the "fixins" for a complete holiday meal!

The First Class Association could not have made this Christmas wish come true without the help of some local businesses – Coast County Imaging and ABC Pawn Shop were able to fill in some of the donation gaps caused by the current economic slump.

"Next year we'll just start raising money in October," said Clowser. "We also hope to change the status of the fund drive next year to become a registered charity and maybe the associations throughout NCBC could work together to help more families."



U.S. Navy photo by Rob Mims, Released

Mass Communication Specialist First Class (SW) Terry Spain (center), NCBC Sailor of the Year, receives a plaque from Gulfport Chamber of Commerce members George Schloegel and Paul Maxwell during the Chamber's annual Early Bird Award Ceremony Dec. 3. Spain was joined by NCBC's Commanding Officer, Capt. Ed Brown.

NCBC  
SOY

### Naval Sea Cadet Orientation Meeting

A Naval Sea Cadet Orientation meeting will take place Jan. 17 from 8:30 a.m. until noon in building 60, room 105. Point of contact for more information is AGC Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez at: (228) 871-3787 or email: [enrique.acosta@navy.mil](mailto:enrique.acosta@navy.mil).

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SERVICE



DATE: 15 JAN 2009  
TIME: 1330  
PLACE: CBC CHAPEL  
SPEAKER: ATTORNEY  
MAXINE LAWSON-CONWAY

**THEME:**  
**"DIVERSITY - LIVING THE DREAM"**

## Adm. Mullen speaks with NMCB 7



U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Chad J. McNeeley/Released

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visits with Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, currently assigned to Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Dec. 21. NMCB-7 deployed in October, and is scheduled to return here in April.

## New Ethos outlines military and civilian Navy team principles

### *Navy Ethos*

We are the United States Navy, our Nation's sea power - ready guardians of peace, victorious in war.

We are professional Sailors and Civilians - a diverse and agile force exemplifying the highest standards of service to our Nation, at home and abroad, at sea and ashore.

Integrity is the foundation of our conduct; respect for others is fundamental to our character; decisive leadership is crucial to our success.

We are a team, disciplined and well-prepared, committed to mission accomplishment. We do not waver in our dedication and accountability to our Shipmates and families.

We are patriots, forged by the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. In times of war and peace, our actions reflect our proud heritage and tradition.

We defend our Nation and prevail in the face of adversity with strength, determination, and dignity.

We are the United States Navy.

*Ethos: Ethos identifies the distinguishing character, culture, or beliefs of a group or institution. The Navy Ethos is a statement of principles that distinguishes the military and civilian personnel who serve on the Navy team.*

Fire Warden Training, Jan. 22, 2 - 3 p.m., Bldg. 60, room 105

### **2009 Naval Leader Development Guide available**

The Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) completed the 2009 edition of the Naval Leader Development Guide and has posted it to Navy Knowledge Online.

The edition provides an annual calendar with important dates for naval leaders, as well as course listings and other useful resources and tools for military personnel.

# SRB policy changes announced

By Sharon Anderson  
Chief of Naval Personnel  
Public Affairs

Sailors will have the opportunity to reenlist with a Selective Reenlistment Bonus up to 90 days before the expiration of their active obligated service under new policy set forth in NAVADMIN 006/09 released Jan. 9.

Sailors may have less than 90 days to reenlist for the bonus to keep the SRB reenlistment in the same fiscal year.

"Under old policy, a Sailor could reenlist anytime in the same fiscal year as their EAOS," explained Jeri Busch, head, military pay and compensation policy branch for the chief of naval personnel. Sailors need to carefully read NAVADMIN 006/09 to understand the many rule

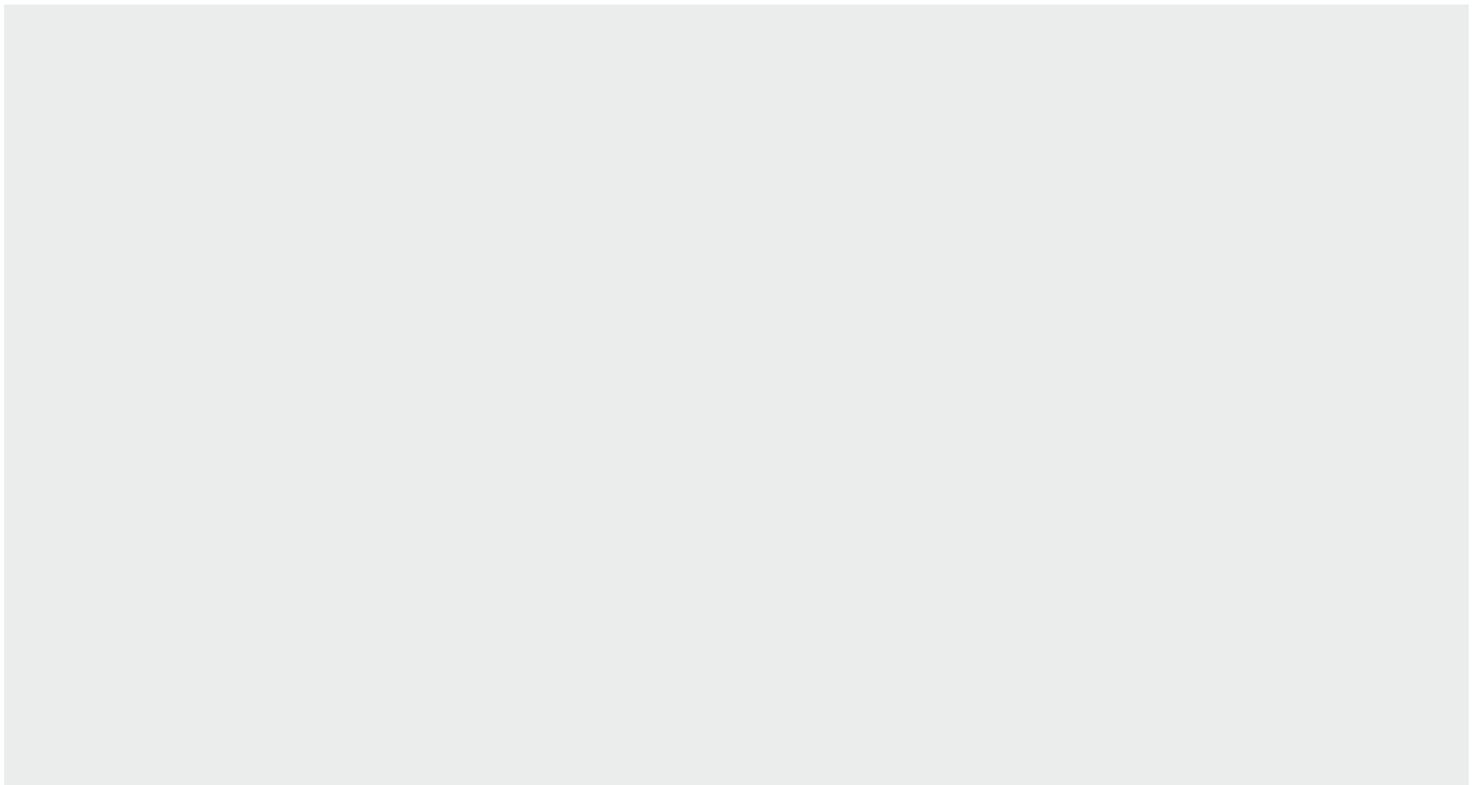
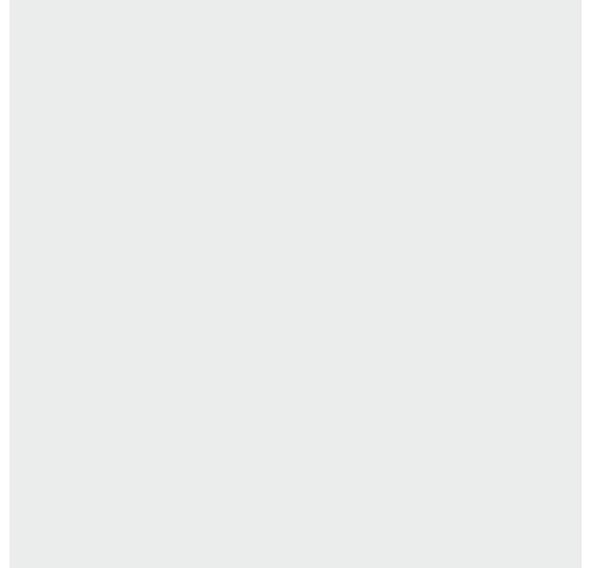
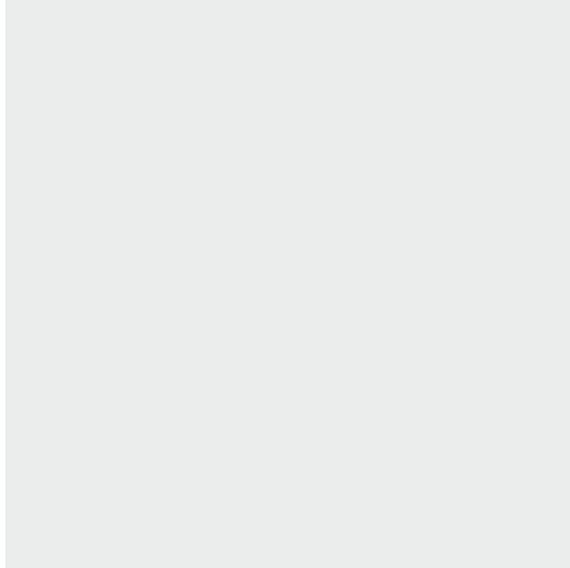
changes and exceptions and how this policy will affect any possible SRB awarded for reenlisting.

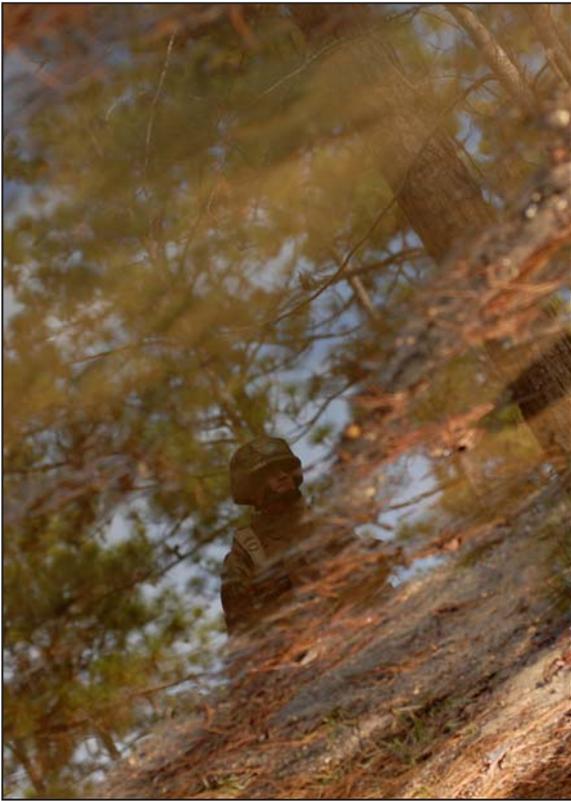
"By reducing the time frame for SRB reenlistment the Navy can better project and manage end strength

while continuing to provide incentive to Sailors with critical skills and valuable experience to stay Navy,"

said Busch.

The policy change is part of  
See **SRB** page 21





U.S. Navy photos by MC2 John Hulle/Released

**Above:** Lt. j.g. Samuel Williams, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, keeps watch in a fighting position at Camp Shelby, Miss. Chiefs and officers from NMCB-74 conducted a week long field exercise, or Khaki FEX to train for contingency operations.

**Left:** The reflection of Builder Chief James Hix, assigned to NMCB-74, is seen during a patrol through the woods at Camp Shelby, Miss., Dec. 15.

## NMCB-74 perfects the basics during field exercise

By MC2 John Hulle  
NMCB-74 Public Affairs

Chiefs and officers assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 conducted a field exercise in December. The khaki FEX helped senior Seabees and Sailors at the Naval Construction Battalion Center prepare for an upcoming battalion-wide field training exercise in March.

"In order to appreciate what the junior Seabees go through, it's important that the senior leaders understand the same frustrations," said NMCB-74 Command Master Chief Brian Farricy, a Syracuse, N.Y., native. "We are putting people in positions they might not be familiar with."

"This is absolutely a new experience," said Chief Career Counselor Surgann Coker-Bello, NMCB-74 command career counselor, while waisting deep in mud digging a fight-

ing position with an E-tool. "There is nothing from the fleet side that I can compare to this type of training."

Wearing a Kevlar helmet and a modular tactical vest with an M4 rifle slung across her back, the Florence, S.C., native said it was "a definite eye opener for what the troops will be going through" during the next field exercise.

After setting up a tent camp and communications, the Seabees and Sailors spent the first four days of the exercise split into four squads, each day focusing on a different evolution, such as digging and reinforcing defensive positions, driving Humvee's in convoys, walking patrols and command and control in the combat operations center while often switching positions within their squad.

R-75, the weapons and tactics division of the 20th Seabee Readiness

Group, conducted the training.

Watching a patrol from afar, Chief Builder James Bryan, R-75 leading chief petty officer, said "they are doing outstanding; they are all really motivated and helping each other out."

"If they haven't done this before, we have to teach them," said Ensign Dennis Lang, NMCB 74 bridge detachment officer in charge and Alfa Company platoon leader.

Lang, a Chicago native, is a prior equipment operator chief with 15 years with the Seabees and has seven non-Seabee members of his squad. He said the lessons learned during this and his former khaki FEX's as a chief, make a huge difference in his ability to be a leader, especially in his ability to see the big picture.

The culmination of the week was a Seabee Challenge, with squads competing against each other in

several stations along a six-mile course. Stations ranged from mounting crew serve weapons on a vehicle to land navigation.

Lang said the Seabee Challenge was "extremely physically and mentally grueling," especially the small arms station where fire teams had to disassemble an M4 rifle and M9 pistol after doing a 20-yard low crawl and jumping jacks with a gas mask on.

After a week of living and working close to each other, Coker-Bello said the FEX was a huge bonding experience for her.

"If I didn't know any of the chiefs or officers, now I know them better. We have a connection," she said.

NMCB 74 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Bruce Nevel said he was proud of the all the effort and success of the exercise closing with "so goes khaki FEX, so goes FTX, so goes deployment."

# First and Finest of NMCB-1 Earn "E" for Effort

By MC1(SCW) Chad Runge  
NMCB-1 Public Affairs

First Naval Construction Division (1 NCD) announced its selection of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 as the Fiscal Year 2008 Atlantic Fleet Naval Construction Force Battle "E" Active Battalion, Dec. 22 adding an exclamation point to an already successful year for the command.

"Competition for the Battle 'E' this year was extremely close, highlighting the superb performance of Naval Construction Forces in meeting the elevated demands of today's operational environment," said Rear Adm. Richard E. Cellon, commander of 1 NCD, in his official awards message.

"Both active and reserve component units provided outstanding support of

worldwide COCOM (combatant command) requirements, including GWOT (global war on terrorism) Phase Zero operations, theater security cooperation plans, humanitarian and civic action efforts and OIF/OEF (Operation Iraqi/Enduring Freedom) missions in support of Marines, Army and special forces," he added.

NMCB-1 returned to its Gulfport, Miss., homeport in April 2008 after a successful six-month deployment to 16 sites in the Central Command Area of Responsibility, Guam and San Nicolas Island, Calif.

"People always say that to win the Battle 'E' you have to be in the right place at the right time," said NMCB-1 Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Stan Wiles. "That is partially true; having the opportunity to perform is

half of the equation. The other half, and most important, is that you have to perform when given the opportunity."

"NMCB 1 performed. Across the board, NMCB 1 met or exceeded all goals and expectations."

The command's accomplishments were numerous and no less impressive.

"In addition to the demanding and arduous deployment to CENTCOM AOR in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, you successfully redeployed your Guam and San Nicolas Island Detachments to Iraq and Afghanistan," Cellon said, addressing the Seabees of NMCB 1.

"Throughout an arduous deployment spanning from Iraq to the Pacific, you demonstrated your ability to maintain optimal opera-

tional capability," he added.

While deployed, NMCB 1 completed 65,000 man-days of labor, 300 successful convoys and maintained a successful deployment safety record.

After returning to homeport, "The First and The Finest" continued its exemplary performance, paving the way for other battalions by being the first to participate in a new fleet response training plan cycle, while maintaining fire team training integrity.

NMCB 1 maintained stellar civil engineer support equipment availability rate (95 percent), as well as table of allowance accountability (97 percent). An astonishing 99.9 percent passed their advancement exams, 71 percent reenlisted, 105 Seabees earned their Seabee Combat Warfare designation and 21 earned their Fleet



Marine Force designation.

"The overall performance of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 during this year can only be described as outstanding," said Cellon.

Others to earn the Battle "E" distinction were: NMCB 14 (Atlantic Fleet, Reserve Battalion), NMCB 5 (Pacific Fleet, Active Battalion), and NMCB 15 (Pacific Fleet, Reserve Battalion).

This is NMCB 1's 11th Battle "E" award since the Battalion was commissioned in 1942.

## Santa's helpers come through once again



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Erick S. Holmes

Marine Corps Sergeant Jeffrey Kellum hands one of the boxes filled to the brim with donated toys to Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Christopher Long as part of the "Toys for Tots" program. The toys, donated by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11, will be given to children less fortunate in the Gulfport/Biloxi area.



**WANTED: SeaBee Divers!**  
Underwater Construction Team ONE  
Contact S1/CCC @ (757) 462-3986/3988

**NMCRS Thrift  
Shop Relocation**

NMCRS Thrift Shop is now located in building 29 (same building as NFCU).

Store hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact the NMCRS at: (228) 871-2610 for more information.

# New Navy paternity leave policy designed to enhance Sailor's quality of life

By Lt. Karen E. Eifert  
Task Force Life Work

The Navy recently announced the implementation of a paternity leave policy as part of the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Act.

The paternity leave policy provides Sailors another tool designed to help balance work and family. It grants 10 days of non-chargeable leave to married fathers who are currently serving on active duty following the birth of a child.

"I think the policy is great," said Yeoman 1st Class Luis Lujan who has two children and expects the arrival of a third in approximately two weeks.

"My wife is scheduled to have a C-section, which is a major surgery.

She's going to need the time to recover and shouldn't have to worry about anything but healing during that time," he said.

Lujan said he'll adjust to a new routine during his paternity leave but feels it is important for him to help out during the critical first days after the birth of a new child.

Lujan said his wife usually takes the kids to school and picks them up from child care, but it's a job he'll assume during his leave.

"I'll also be doing the cooking, cleaning and laundry, and helping to care for the newborn," he said. "It's only fair."

Lujan's wife, First Class Petty Officer Monica Lujan, an active-duty hospital corpsman, said she's excited about the new paternity policy and

said it makes her feel more committed to the Navy.

"The leave will really help us because we won't have family around to help," she said explaining that the nearest relative lives in Texas and will not be able to get time off from work to visit.

"But I think it's great because the Navy asks a lot of Sailors, and so it's like they are looking out for us."

The Navy, which is committed to becoming one of the top 50 employers in the nation and attracting the best talent possible, designed the progressive paternity leave policy after considering the changing perspectives of work and family needs in the Navy. These perspectives include a desire for more

family time.

The Lujans are only one of several military families excited about the new paternity leave policy. The popularity of the new benefit among fathers demonstrates the priority both male and female Sailors place on striking a healthy balance between work and family.

"We're pleased to be able to offer this highly-valued benefit," said Capt. Ken Barrett, head of Task Force Life Work, which helped spearhead the paternity leave policy. "Addressing life/work needs for our Sailors is a top priority. The ability for new dads to bond with a new baby or help mom at home is important to building healthy families and is a big priority for our Navy."

## Buzz on the Street



By MCI (SW)  
Terry Spain

### What do you think about the new Navy Paternity Leave Policy?



"I think it's good for new fathers to have Paternity leave. This gives both parents time to spend with their newborn."

BUCA Jeremiah Mason  
Wewahitchka, Fla.  
NMCB 1



"I feel it's good for the fathers to be there, so they can develop a bond and be there to assist the mother."

BU1 (SCW)  
Jesse VanAusdoll  
Cutler, Ill., 20SRG



"I think the Paternity leave is a step in the right direction for the Navy. I am glad to see this has happened."

BUCS (SCW)  
Robert Hughey  
20th SRG  
Gulfport, Miss.

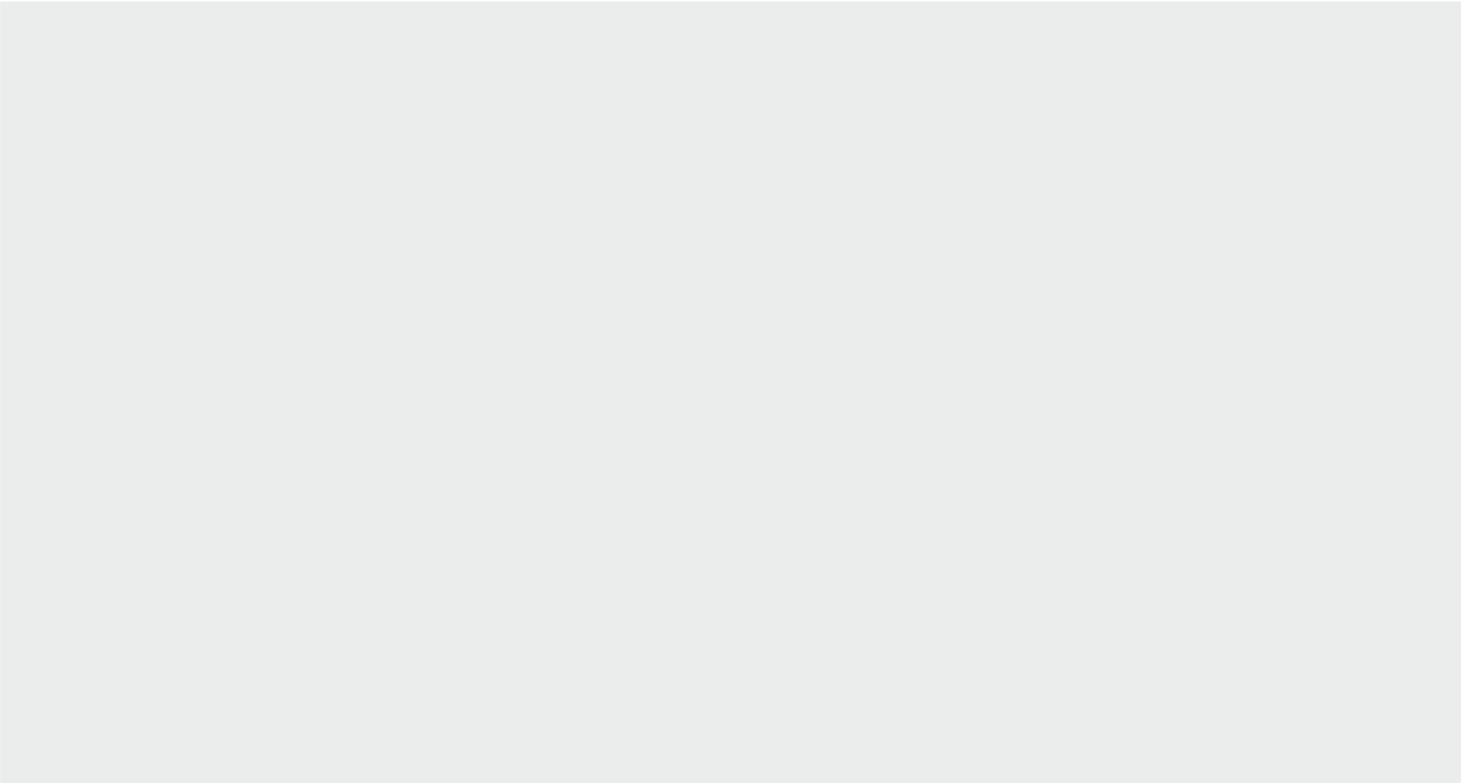
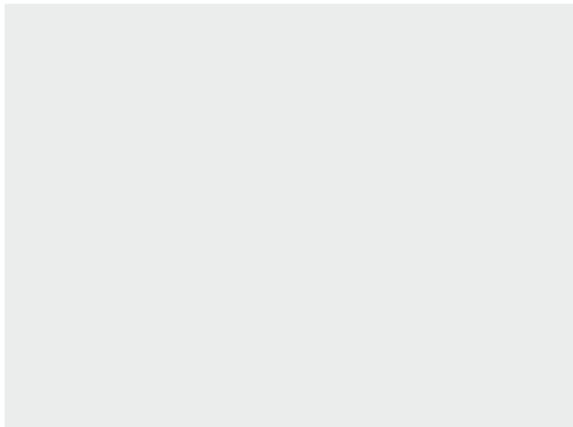
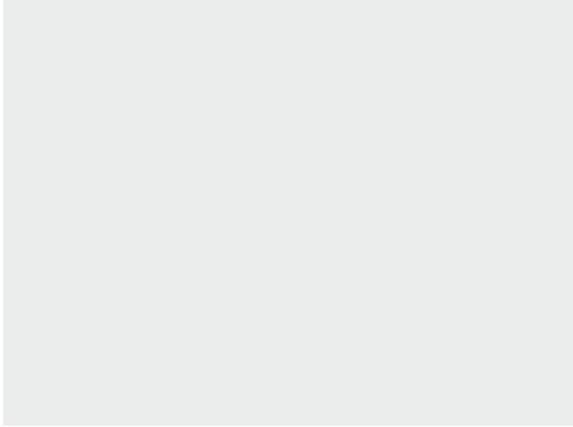
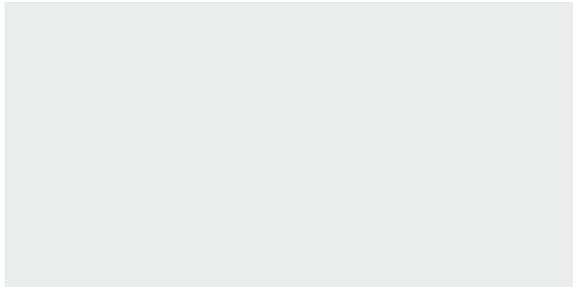
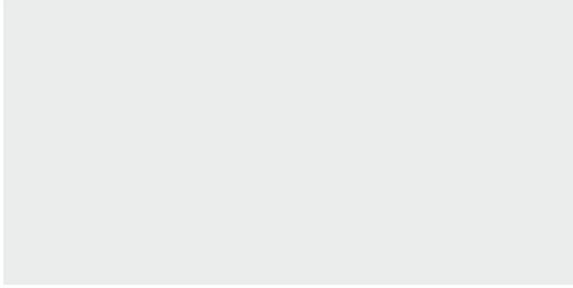
**Route 26 Express**

Save gas and catch the new Route 26 NCBC Navy Express bus which stops every Saturday and Sunday onboard NCBC Gulfport to take passengers to locations throughout the community.

The Route 26 Coast Transit Authority bus picks up passengers at three locations on the Center - NCTC, Pinewood Housing and by the Housing Welcome Center at the Pass Road gate.

Regular adult fare: \$1,  
Coast Tour Pass: Daily, unlimited rides: \$5 or monthly, unlimited rides: \$45.

Call MWR at X2538 or Coast Transit Authority at (228) 896-8080 for more information.



The FOCUS Project  
presents a  
Workshop for  
Military Parents:

*Ready, Set, Goals  
2009*

Jan. 27  
9 - 10 a.m.  
MWR/CDC, Bldg 31  
Meeting Room

Set Goals for the New  
Year! Personal and  
Professional. Tips for  
taking care of yourself  
along the way.

Must preregister to attend  
by Jan 26.

To sign up or  
for more information:  
(228) 224-3457

*The FOCUS Project provides resiliency training for military families facing the challenges of a family member's deployment during wartime. Multiple deployments affect both the service member and the family as routines and roles are disrupted. FOCUS uses family training techniques to highlight areas of strength and resilience in the family, improving emotional regulation, problem solving, goal setting and communications, enhance family relationships, and promote mutual understanding.*



[www.focusproject.org](http://www.focusproject.org)

Scholarships for Military Children now accepting applications until Feb. 18.

Applications are available at the NCBC Commissary customer service window, or online at: [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or [ww.militaryscholar.org](http://ww.militaryscholar.org).

Scholarship award: \$1,500

Eligibility: Active duty, Reserve, National Guard and Retired military dependents, (under age 23).

NCBC Gulfport Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site opens Jan. 20 inside the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., (closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch), and Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m. Services are available by appointment only. To make an appointment, contact CM2 Michelle Eckstein at (228) 871-2620.

## CNRSE changes command

By MC2(AW/SW)  
Marcel A. Barbeau  
Navy Region SE Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Townsend G. "Tim" Alexander relieved Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale as Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), during a ceremony Jan. 9 aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Alexander is taking over a command that leads shore installation management support and execution for 21 installations within the Southeastern United States and parts of the Caribbean - specifically Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Naval Activity Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico - with a budget of more than \$850 million.

Vitale commanded Navy Region Southeast since October 2007. He guided its emergency management efforts to unprecedented levels of operational excellence during hurricanes Gustav, Hanna, and Ike, making CNRSE one of the Navy's leaders in hurricane preparedness and post-disaster support.

The 1977 University of Louisville graduate spearheaded the formation of the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Air Operations Cross-Functional Team to identify major stakeholders and create a single process owner for shore-based air operations, bringing organizational alignment between resource sponsors, CNIC, and all major aviation stakeholders.

Vitale also executed an integrated encroachment plan to serve as the benchmark for enterprise-wide programs, including installation liaison officers and regional encroachment teams. He secured Department of Defense encroachment buffering funds and established strong partnerships with local communities. Vitale brought solutions to installation challenges and stood as the model for innova-

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See CNRSE page 22

# New FFSC director tackles multiple responsibilities

By MC3 Brian McCarthy  
NCBC Public Affairs

It's no small task taking care of an entire base of Seabee's and their families, but Barbara Jones, the new site manager of the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) here, does just that. Jones has had to adjust to a new leadership role while continuing to perform her old job. She works closely with the staff at Fleet and Family, the other organizations on base and the Gulfport community, and she does this to make the lives of the men and women of the Seabee's a little easier.

"You have to be committed to serving the population," said Jones. "You also have to have a good team behind you," she said.

"I'm responsible for overseeing all of the Fleet and Family Support Center programs here," said Jones. She also added that she manages the FFSC personnel, supervises the different programs while making sure they work, assesses the needs of the base, and works on the budget.

Meanwhile she's also been doing the work of the counseling advocacy supervisor (which was her previous position at FFSC) while she transitions into her new role.

"That person oversees all of the clinical programs," said Jones. This includes family advocacy, new parent support and the domestic violence victims advocate programs. "So it's very big ... there's so much. So much," she said.

Jean Sammons, an individual deployment support coordinator and staff supervisor at FFSC Gulfport said that Jones' transition to the new post and her new responsibilities has gone as well as can be expected.

"Barbara came into the job dual-hatted, and she was doing her old job as well as her new job," said Sammons. "It's been very smooth."

Jones is no stranger to helping peo-



Barbara Jones  
FFSC Gpt Site Manager

ple or working with the military. She's been at the FFSC here since July 2006. Over the years she's worked at the FFSC's at Keesler Air Force Base and Naval Air Station Pascagoula. She's earned two master's degrees—one in agency counseling and another in social work. Jones has functioned as a treatment manager, a family advocacy representative and has worked in the mental health field with the Tricare program.

"I've been doing social work for, I don't know, the past 25 years, and the last 13 of them I've been dealing with the military," she said.

"The Fleet and Family Support Center is here to support the mission," said Jones. The job's important because there are always new challenges to be met and people's needs are constantly changing. The entire staff at FFSC Gulfport needs to be ready at all times to assist the men and women here and help them with whatever they need, said Jones. "Our people here are dedicated. They're committed. They go that extra mile ... it's a family within a family. A community within a community," she said.

And with the help of her dedicated staff, Jones has begun to use

# DeCA celebrates every day as 'Mom's Day'

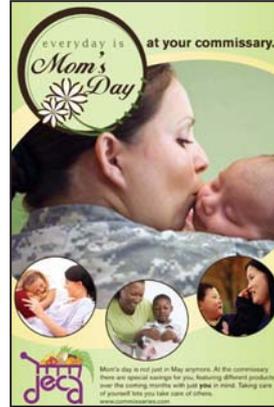
By Kevin L. Robinson  
DeCA Public Affairs Specialist

Every day in commissaries around the world, mothers are shopping for their families. They often pay attention to everyone but themselves. The Defense Commissary Agency would like to lavish some well-deserved attention on the military mom for a change.

"Moms are the heartbeat of our military families, whether they are holding down the home front or in uniform themselves deployed down range," said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and chief executive officer.

"From January through Mother's Day in May, we want to focus special attention on our military moms and show them how much they mean to us."

With its "Every Day is Mom's Day at Your Commissary" initiative, DeCA wants to pamper mom with a variety of specially priced health and beauty care products



set aside just for them. It's the commissary's way of saying "thank-you" to a customer demographic that represents about 80 percent of daily commissary shoppers.

Beginning in early January, commissaries stateside and overseas will roll out their "red carpets" for mothers who populate all segments of the military community.

Each store will highlight a special shopping area for military moms, a place where mothers can purchase discounted products to treat themselves or where their husbands and children also can do the honors.

"The military mom is the person who typically runs the household and routinely puts herself at the end of a long list of family obligations," Sakowitz said. "Every Day is Mom's Day" seeks to put our military moms first, honoring all the sacrifices they make each and every day."

Commissary customers can expect to see banners, posters and shelf signs that point the way toward product displays designed especially for mom. They also will see product giveaways and demonstrations as well as an emphasis on women's health articles posted on the DeCA Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, in the Ask the Dietitian forum.

January 15, 2009

Seabee Courier

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See FFSC page 23

## Sport bike education continues here in Gulfport



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SCW) Gregory N. Juday/Released

Ricky Morgan, NCBC Traffic Safety Contractor, offers guidance to Capt. Allen Hollingsworth, Expeditionary Combat Skills Learning Site Director, during the Sports Bike Safety Course at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Dec. 18. The course provides specialized training tailored to military sport bike riders and focuses on the critical skill sets and decision making incumbent with riding high powered sport motorcycles.

# Hundreds celebrate return of NMCB-133

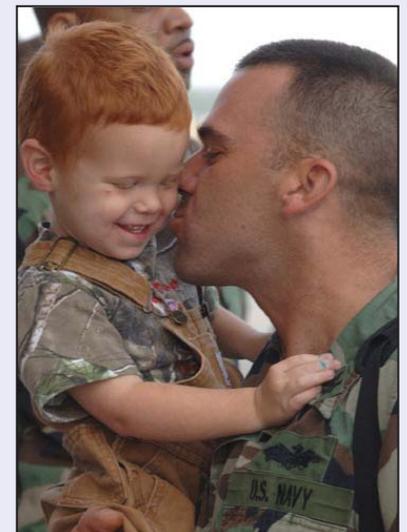


Photos by MC3 Brian McCarthy & MC3 Jeffrey Militzer



From RETURN page 1 Asian nations designed to build relationships and enhance operational readiness. In addition, NMCB 133 sent details throughout the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of responsibility to do humanitarian construction in

New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, while providing naval facility infrastructure improvements on U.S. bases in Guam, South Korea and Japan.



**Information Tickets and Tours (ITT) (871-2231)**  
Attention race fans . . . that time of year will once again be upon us! Yes, the 51st running of the Daytona 500 is quickly approaching! Join ITT on our second annual "running", Feb. 14-16. Trip will include round-trip deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights' hotel accommodations and race tickets! Stop by the ITT Office, Bldg 352, or call 871-2231/2126 for more info and pricing!

Attention Hockey fans! The Mississippi Sea Wolves are back! ITT has just received the 2-for-1 vouchers in the gold and platinum levels. Gold vouchers are \$8.50 each, platinum are \$10 each. They are on sale now! Stop by the ITT Office for a copy of their schedule or to purchase your vouchers or call 871-2231/2126 for more information! More Great Deals... The 2009 Gulf Island Season Passes are only \$74.95 (adults and children). Chuck E. Cheese Gift Cards valued at \$50 are on sale for only \$40. If you thought that was good ITT also has Island Strikz and Fun Factory Gift Cards on sale for only \$40 with a \$50 value. Stop by and pick up yours today, quantities are limited quantity. Free Multi-Day Admission to Disney's U.S. theme parks for Active and Retired military personnel, including active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reservists can enjoy complimentary, multi-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks, great rates at Walt Disney World and Disneyland Resort hotels, and additional special ticket offers for family members and friends.

#### CTA (Coast Transit Authority)

Don't forget about Route 26 NCBC Navy Base Express which is available Saturday and Sunday with transfers at the Gulfport Transit Center. Single ride passes, unlimited rides daily passes, and unlimited rides monthly passes are available for purchase through the CTA.

#### Liberty Center (871-4684/4683)

Looking for something fun to do either on or off base? Every Tuesday night at 6 p.m. join us for a Ping Pong Tournament and every Thursday night at the Liberty Center is a Pool Tournament at 6:30 p.m. Do you have a need for speed? Racing at Gulfport Dragway on Jan. 21, leaving at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$5. Travis Tritt will be live in concert at the Hard Rock Casino Jan. 16 at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are only \$35 and selling fast! New Orleans Day Trip is scheduled for Jan. 18 and is free! Join us for eating, shopping, and sightseeing in the French Quarter. There will be a free MLK Parade in Downtown Biloxi Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. Performing at the Beau Rivage Jan. 31 is Lynrd Skynard. Tickets are \$45.

#### Outdoor Recreation (871-2804)

Rent a bicycle from Outdoor Recreation for half price this month. Come put our canoes and kayaks to the test! Enjoy a fun adventure outdoors. Maneuver your canoe around river bends and take in the scenic view of nature.

#### Youth Activities Center (871-2251)

Navy FIT FACTOR Challenge! The FIT FACTOR Challenge is a Navy health and fitness program for youth ages 5-18 years of age! Children earn fun and fabulous prizes for everyday activities. See Ms. Sabrina or Ms. Jennifer to enroll.

Mommy and Me, is a FREE program for children 5 years and younger, and is a wonderful introduction to a preschool atmosphere with the comfort of mommy or daddy present. Mommy and Me offers an environment that will enhance early learning, build socialization skills, and increase confidence and independence. Come to the YAC, Building 335, each TUESDAY from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. to meet other parents; create lasting relationships, all while helping your child master new skills and have fun! Program Activities: Free Play, Circle Time, Arts & Crafts, Story Time, Bubble Time, and Marching Band. This is a FREE program for children 5 years old and younger.

#### Youth Activities Center Field Trips:

Jan. 16 - You Can Be A Star Karaoke Night: Come out for a night that is sure to be full of fun and laughs! Two lucky participants will be crowned Mr. & Ms. Karaoke! Only \$2 per person.

Jan. 17- The Ohr-O'Keefe Crafty Kids Extravaganza: This new field trip destination is going to be great fun! Youth will participate in a group art project led by local artists! Lunch needed- only \$3 per person.

Goals for Graduation! This is for Teens only and is a home work and tutoring program. This is available to all teens that are enrolled in the Youth Recreation Program. It will help raise academic proficiency for Club members ages 13 and up. Youth can earn great prizes while doing your homework at the same time! Homework Tutoring & Technology Time will be offered from 3:30 - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call Ms. Sabrina at the Club for more details.

Before & After-School Program Details We still have a few remaining spaces for the Before-School Program and After-School Program. At the time of registration you will need to bring the following items: Current LES or Pay Stub, Family Care Plan for Dual or Single Active Duty, and Proof of age (5-12) and dependant status.

Weekly fees for the Before & After-School Program are based on gross Total Family Income. School-Age Care Drop In Services Are Now Available Are you a parent who needs some time to yourself for doctor appointments, shopping, etc? Then you will love this affordable option at only \$3 per hour. Call 871-2251 for available dates or more information about drop-in care.

#### Anchors and Eagles (871-4608)

Make the right call and join us for the Super Bowl Party Feb. 1 from 3 - 11 p.m. with free food, games, and door prizes! To reserve Anchors and Eagles for your special event just call the Food and Beverage Supervisor at 424-6892.

#### Bee Hive Lounge (871-4268)

Football, football, football! Plan now to watch Super Bowl XLIII here Feb. 1 from 3 - 10 p.m. along with drawings for prizes all night, snacks, and games. Hours of operation are Monday - Thursday, 3 - 9:30 p.m., Friday, 3 - 11:30 p.m., Saturday 5 - 11:30 p.m., Sunday, by reservation only.



## NCBC, Gulfport, Miss.

#### Pizza Brothers (871-4705)

New items such as buffalo chicken wings, salads, soups, pizzas and more. Open Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Now Hiring! Contact Michael Duncan, (601) 325-0815 for details. The Grill . . . Open for breakfast and lunch Monday - Friday. Call ahead so you don't have to wait in line at the Grill and at the Pro Shop, 871-2494.

#### Fitness Center and Intramural Sports (871-2668/2353)

Unite the mind, body, and soul with free Yoga classes held every Tuesday in the Aerobics Room of the Gym from noon -12:45 p.m. Every month at the Gym there is a Seabee Challenge. This month is it a Squats Challenge-squat your weight as many times as possible which is scheduled for Jan. 21 and 22. Start that New Year's resolution in style by running in the New Year's 5K which will be Jan. 21 at 6:30 a.m. Dodgeville is going strong so come out and get involved or just watch Jan. 22 at 7:30 a.m. CFL Certification Course will be Jan. 26 - 30. Watch for more details at a later date. NCBC's Kickball League's sign-ups will run Jan. 26 - Feb. 6, with the season beginning on Feb. 17. For details, contact Sam Perkins at 871-2353/2668.

#### Pine Bayou Golf Course (871-2494)

Check out the new greens on the back nine! The Pine Bayou Golf Course has received two EZ Go Eagle Golf Carts (single rider). This initiative is intended to support the Wounded Warriors and handicapped players. FREE rental clubs for all Active Duty military personnel and their family members when you play nine or 18 holes of golf. Offer not valid for golf tournaments. New Pine Bayou Membership Prices: Military and Retirees can take advantage of the new prices and join Pine Bayou for as little as \$125 per quarter. Don't worry DoD Employees we haven't forgotten about you, you can join for as little as \$150 per quarter! Bring the entire family and check out our yearly family membership deals.

# Community Notes

## SUPPORT

### Family Readiness Groups

**NMCB 1 FRG** invites friends and family members of NMCB 1 Seabees to attend NMCB 1 FRG meetings the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall, preceded by a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. For more information, contact FRG President Angela Sourwine at: (228), 323-0036 or e-mail: a.sourwine@yahoo.com or FRG Vice President Rashelle Geddis at: (228) 224-1475 or e-mail: racechick40@hotmail.com.

**NMCB 7 FRG** invites friends and family members of NMCB 7 Seabees to attend NMCB 7 FRG meetings the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. For more information, contact FRG President Kayci Murrell at: seabee\_wife\_05@yahoo.com.

**NMCB 74 FRG** welcomes all friends and family members of NMCB 74 Seabees to join the NMCB 74 FRG. While the battalion is in homeport, the FRG will not be meeting on a regular basis. For more information, contact FRG President Torell Coquet at: (931) 338-8420, or Secretary Amy Tamplin at: (937) 570-0353.

**NMCB 11 FRG** welcomes all friends and family members of NMCB 11 Seabees to attend NMCB 11 FRG meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to take part in the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. For more information, contact FRG President Tessa Grimes at: tgrimes730@hotmail.com or (228) 229-9579.

**NMCB 133 FRG** invites all friends and family members of NMCB 133 Seabees to attend NMCB 133 FRG meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. For more information contact: NMCB133FSG@gmail.com

### Naval Officer's Spouse Club

The Naval Officer's Spouse Club holds monthly meetings the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Building 1 conference

room. For more information contact: noscgulfport@yahoo.com.

### Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in Building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers. Child care and mileage are reimbursed. Retail hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. New volunteers are always welcome. Visit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offices at the Fleet and Family Support Center, Building 30, Suite 103, or call (228) 871-2610 to obtain information about becoming a part of the NMCRS volunteer team!

### Gamblers Anonymous

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

**Retired Activities Office** is located in the Fleet and Family Support Center and staffed entirely by volunteers for the retired military community. RAO's services are free and are intended to assist customers in obtaining their entitled rights, benefits, and privileges as a retiree, dependent, or survivor of a military service member. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Call for an appointment at 871-3000 ext. 35 or just drop in.

### TRAINING

**COMPASS** is a team of trained seasoned military spouses mentoring other Navy spouses. Classes are intimate and informative. The 12 hour, three-day course is offered the last week of the month (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the CBC Chapel Fellowship Hall. The course and child care are FREE! Please R.S.V.P. (228) 871-3000 ext. 7444 Ask for COMPASS!

**Naval Sea Cadets - Gulfport branch** are recruiting youth ages

11 to 17 for Sea Cadets, a nationwide organization that help youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., Bldg. 60, Room 105. For more information contact Lt.j.g. Bowling at: (228) 313-9035 or coachcb@yahoo.com; or AGC Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez at: (228) 871-3787 or enrique.acosta@navy.mil.

### SOCIAL

**Miss. Gulf Coast First Class Association** is seeking new members. Meetings are every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. at CBC's Beehive, Building 352. Call MC1 Terry Spain at: 871-3663 or EO1 Denise Demontagnac at: 871-2970 for more information.

**VFW Post 3937 Long Beach** is open every Friday from 6 - 8 p.m. for a seafood, steak, or pork chop dinner. Weekend breakfasts are served from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturdays and from 9 - noon on Sunday. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Post Commander Lew Fountain at (228) 863-8602.

**VFW Post 4526 Orange Grove** is open daily from noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. VFW meetings are held the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. Old and new members alike are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information call Post Commander Bill McNicholas at: (228) 832-0017 or Sr. Vice Commander Ben Barker at: (228) 832-3798.

### HERITAGE

**The Seabee Gift Store** is located in Building 1, on the first floor. Hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (open weekends upon request), phone: (228) 871-3619. The shop has several command exhibits depicting the history of the Seabees. Our gift shop carries a variety Seabee related memorabilia, DVD's and books. Gift store proceeds support the construction of our new museum in Port Hueneme, Calif. Our web address is: [www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php](http://www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php).



## LifeWorks Schedule of Events

### January

**1-20: Super Bowl Raffle Begins** - One lucky resident will win a basket of game-day must-haves such as grill supplies, grocery gift cards, and more! To enter, stop by the office between Jan. 20 - 28 in any game day apparel. Jersey, hat, foam finger, painted chest, anything goes with this raffle! Winner announced Jan. 29, just in time for the big game!

**1-21: New Resident Mixer** - This is a new event to be held quarterly to welcome new residents to the neighborhoods! Don't let the name fool you; all residents are invited to attend this social in the office from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, as well as an opportunity to meet office staff and neighbors.

**1-23: National Pie Day Bake-Off** - Bring your finished pie to the office by 3 p.m. Jan. 23 for judging. Winner will receive a ribbon, gift certificate, and apron!

**1-26: Seed Swap Day** - As spring approaches, let us help you get prepared to get your garden in tiptop shape. Stop by the office all day to browse through our selection of seeds. You could be our next winner of Yard of the Month!

**1-30: Yard of the Month** - With the New Year, anyone can win! Even if you have won this fabulous prize before, keep up the good work because you could win again! All it takes to win is great curb appeal and a clean, cut backyard. Neighborhood winners will be announced monthly.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 John Hulle/Released

**Alison, 9, tears into a present at NCBC Gulfport, Dec. 23. Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 raised more than \$1,300 for "Can-do Christmas" to buy toys for children of two deserving families this year.**

## Can-Do Christmas does

By MC2 John Hulle  
NMCB-74 Public Affairs

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 did their best to make the holidays a little better for two families here Dec. 23.

Dubbed "Can-Do Christmas" by the battalion, they raised more than \$1,300 to buy gifts for eight children this year and then, like a camouflage clad Santa Claus, personally delivered them.

"Without this, we would have had nothing," said the Kristi, the mother of one of the sponsored

families. "We really, really appreciate it."

"To give back to community is great, especially for families having some financial problems during the holidays," said Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Shaun-Michael Vanasselberg, a Bentley, La., native and NMCB-74 lead fund raiser. "It feels pretty awesome."

NMCB -74 wardroom, chiefs' mess and first class association all matched a \$300 donation, with the rest of the contribution coming from individuals.

**From INTEREST page 2**

within which requests for interest rate reductions must be submitted. The service member has until 180 days after termination or release from military service to submit written notice to the creditor. This means that the interest rate reduction applies retroactively where a service member has been paying interest in excess of 6 percent after being called to military service. The creditor should account for any interest payment in excess of 6 percent made by a service member since the date of active duty. However, it is preferable to provide written notice as soon as possible after being called to active duty in order to avoid disputes with creditors and complications in calculating over interest payments. Also, it is the service member's obligation to inform a creditor if military service is subsequently terminated. Otherwise, the former service member is liable for any interest forgiven by the creditor after being released from military service.

The SCRA mandates that interest in excess of 6 percent is "forgiven," and cannot simply be deferred until the period of military service ends. Also, the SCRA broadly defines "interest" to include service charges, renewal charges, fees, or any other charges, except bona fide insurance. This protects service members from creditors trying to cleverly disguise the forgiven interest as "legitimate" charges and fees. Moreover, the SCRA forbids creditors from taking adverse action against a service member's credit report for requesting an interest rate reduction pursuant to the SCRA.

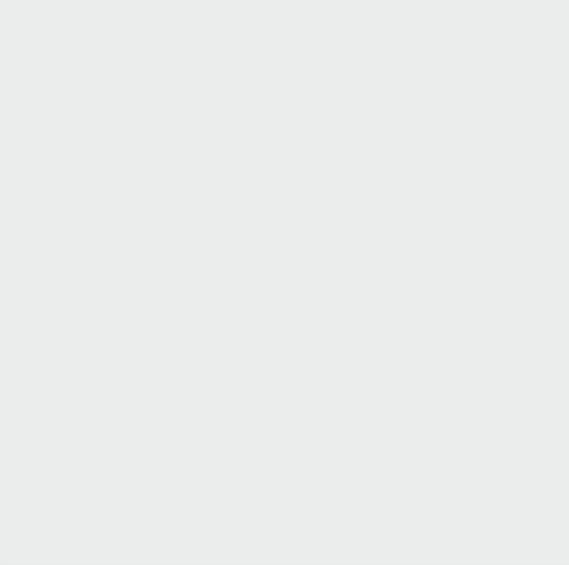
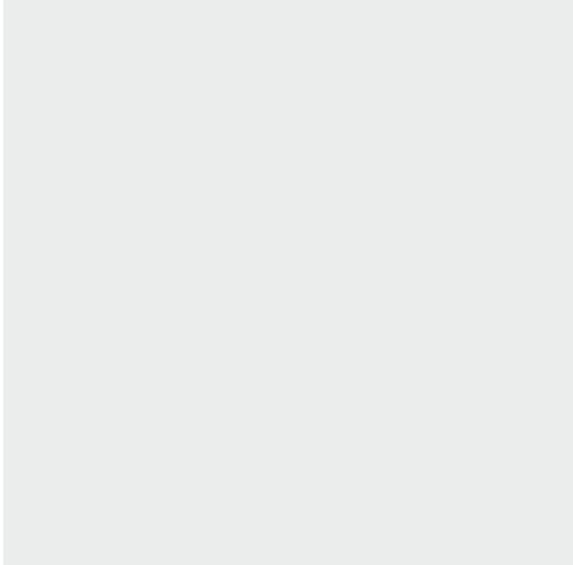
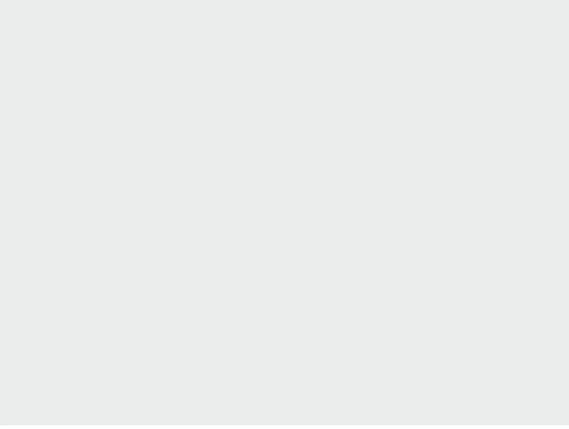
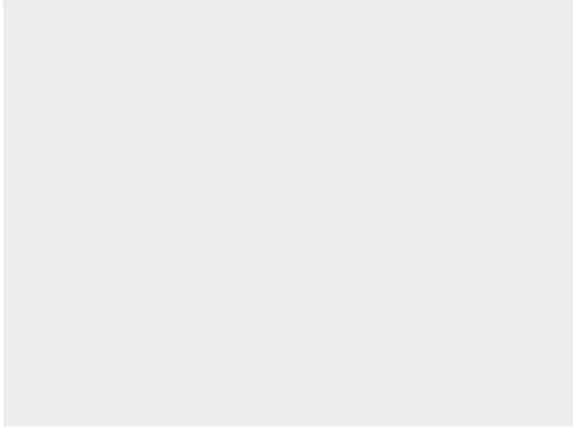
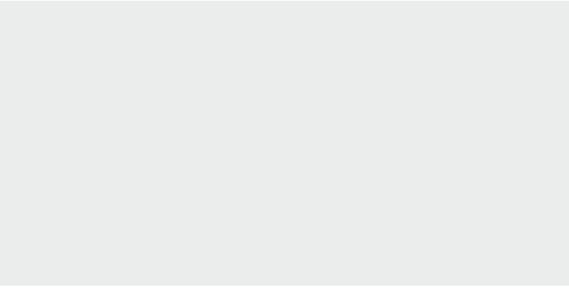
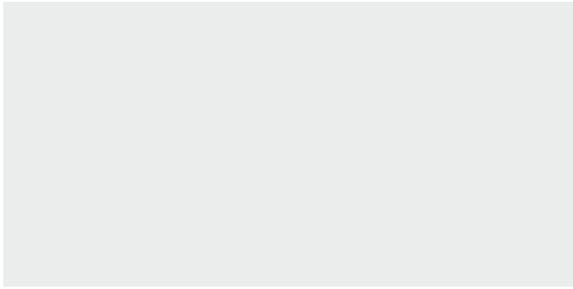
Remember, the interest rate reduction does not apply to debt incurred by a spouse alone. As a second practice point, some creditors are willing to lower interest rates below 6 percent (even to 0 percent) for pre-military debt. Therefore, service members

should contact each individual creditor to find out its policy before sending written notice and locking in the 6 percent cap. As a final word of caution, debts incurred by a service member after entering military service are not subject to the 6 percent interest cap and will incur interest at the

normal percent.

If you believe you might qualify for an interest rate reduction, visit a legal assistance attorney. The Gulfport Region Legal Service Office SE can be reached at (228) 871-2620. This article is not a substitute for the personnel advice of a licensed attorney.

**Keesler Children's Theater**  
Classes in session every Saturday  
Learn to be an all around performing artist  
Sing, Dance, Act, Perform  
Ages 3 - 17  
Contact Keesler Youth Center  
for enrollment info at (228) 376-4116



PSD Gulfport I.D. card office now uses an appointment system for civilian and military I.D. cards. Walk-ins are still welcome, but customers may visit: <http://www.pasd.navy.mil/IDcards.asp> or call (228) 871-2322/2331 to schedule an appointment Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**School Liaison Officer**  
**Location: MWR, Bldg 352**  
**1706 Bainbridge Ave. , NCBC**  
**(228) 871-2117**

The School Liaison Officer's main objective is to serve as a link between parents, educators, and the command so the military-connected child can make a smooth school transition. Other duties include creating partners in education, home school linkage, post secondary preparations, and to act as a conduit connecting educators to Navy deployment and to serve as a subject matter expert for education-related issues.

## NMCB-1 family holiday festivities



U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Demetrius Kennon/Released

**Left:** Chiefs and officers assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, serve Christmas dinner to fellow Seabees at the Battalion's Christmas party held on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport. **Right:** CM3 Robert Davies, assigned to NMCB-1, introduces his daughter to Santa Claus at the Battalion's Christmas party Dec. 11.



EO2 Ted Hillanbrand (right) directs EO1 Gregory Johannsen, from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24 in the Republic of Palau, as they place a World War II era anti-aircraft (AA) gun in front of the flagpole on Camp Katuu after months of tedious work removing rust and grime and applying paint during the weapon's restoration.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Riley Smith

## CAT 133-23 preserves military history in Palau

By EA2 Keith M. Casey  
NMCB-133 Public Affairs

For the few people who have ever tried to clean a metal object after it has been exposed to unforgiving tropical weather for over 64 years, Steelworker 1st Class Joshua Scaturo, a member of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Civic Action Team (CAT) 133-24, knows how they feel. For the last four months he has been doing exactly that as he washed, scrubbed, brushed, polished, and ultimately painted a WWII-era Japanese anti-aircraft/anti-tank (AA) gun.

The weapon, a Type 96 twin-barreled 25-mm AA-gun, was installed by the Japanese on the island of Babeldaob in the Republic of Palau during WWII. AA-guns of this type were manned by a seven-man crew, and were actually quite common across the South Pacific region. Approximately 33,000 were produced and installed by the Empire of Japan from 1936 to 1945. It is the only large relic, out of hundreds remaining in Palau, to be preserved against the frequent rains and high humidity of the local climate that make this weapon unique.

CAT 133-24, a detachment from

NMCB-133, deployed to the Republic of Palau in April of this year. When the Seabees first saw the weapon, it was sitting in the yard of a private residence not 200 yards from the rear fence of Camp Katuu, the team's home in Palau.

As part of an agreement between the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture, the State of Airai, and the CAT, permission was granted to move the weapon onto Camp Katuu and begin preservation efforts. The arrangement also required the team to hold a public demonstration of the restoration process. In late June, the Seabees of CAT 133-24 hosted a short course entitled "How to Restore a Rusted World War II Anti-Aircraft Gun."

Scaturo continued working diligently on the project until October, when preservation work was completed. The restoration process itself was quite tedious. The first step was to remove all of the accumulated dirt and grime that had adhered to the weapon since 1944. The next step was many hours of sanding, followed by the application of an anti-rust primer and ultimately two coats of paint. Reflecting back on the countless hours he

spent working on the project, Scaturo commented, "This was the most detail-oriented project I have ever done."

Once restoration work was completed, the AA-gun was placed in front of Camp Katuu's flagpole for public viewing. All parties involved considered the project a success for a number of reasons. According to Scaturo, "It is nice to be able to save a little piece of history for the future." In addition, Ms. Rita Ulsudong, an archeologist with the Palau Bureau of Arts and Culture, stated, "We also were able to learn some things about restoration techniques that we did not know before."

However, the real value of the preserved weapon was perhaps most eloquently expressed in a letter from Mr. Kunio Nakamura, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Palau, to Lt. j.g. Riley Smith, Officer-in-Charge of the CAT. In reference to the weapon, Mr. Nakamura wrote, "The AA gun serves as a reminder to many meaningful and valuable lessons learned in the past, and it is my hope that we will continue to live in peace and harmony, leaving no room for weapons like that to be used again."

### New Travel Claim Receipt Requirement

As of Aug. 1, 2008, personnel who travel by air must attach air fare receipts to their Defense Travel System voucher for reimbursement.

#### From CTF-151 page 1

The establishment of CTF-151 will allow CTF-150 assets to remain focused on those activities, giving CTF-151 the ability to focus solely on the counter-piracy mission.

"Some navies in our coalition did not have the authority to conduct counter-piracy missions," said Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, CMF commander.

"The establishment of CTF-151 will allow those nations to operate under the auspices of CTF-150, while allowing other nations to join CTF-151 to support our goal of deterring, disrupting and eventually bringing to justice the maritime criminals involved in piracy events."

Gortney highlighted the reduction in piracy events in the region due to merchant mariners' proactive measures. He also continued to caution that the efforts of coalition and international

navies won't solve the problem of piracy.

"The most effective measures we've seen to defeat piracy are non-kinetic and defensive in nature. The merchant ships have been doing a great job stepping up and utilizing these methods to defeat piracy attempts. That's a great first step. But the problem of piracy is and continues to be a problem that begins ashore and is an international problem that requires an international solution. We believe the establishment of CTF-151 is a significant step in the right direction."

CTF 151 is a multinational task force that conducts counter-piracy operations in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea and was established to create a lawful maritime order and develop security in the maritime environment.

#### From SRB page 5

an overall effort to stabilize the force at about 329,000 active duty Sailors by the end of this fiscal year. SRB is a targeted market-based incentive which allows enlisted community managers to strategically adjust award levels as retention needs dictate.

Any Sailor whose request to reenlist has been received by PERS-8 before the release of NAVADMIN 006/09 will have their reenlistment processed under the old policy. Reenlistment requests received by PERS-8 after the NAVADMIN's release will fall under the new policy.

Selected NECs will be allowed to reenlist anytime in the fiscal year and are listed in the NAVADMIN. Future changes to the list will be released via NAVADMIN.

Some other requirements under the new policy include:

All SRB reenlistment requests must to be submitted 35-120 days prior to the requested reenlistment date.

SRB requests submitted less than 35 days in advance of the requested date of reenlistment may be rejected.

Sailors who are eligible for combat zone tax exclusion and have an EAOS that falls in the most current fiscal year are authorized to reenlist anytime within the fiscal year. These Sailors along with command career counselors must annotate in the remarks section of the pre-certification request whether they are currently CZTE eligible.

All Sailors are encouraged to read the complete NAVADMIN and the frequently asked questions available at [www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil) to understand how the policy changes will affect them.

From CNRSE page 12

tive practices, which realized significant savings, promoted enhanced operational oversight, and supported the fleet, fighter, and family.

Rear Adm. Vitale has been selected for promotion to vice admiral and his next assignment will be as Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington D.C.

Rear Adm. Alexander comes to

Navy Region Southeast from his current position as Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, positions he has held since August 2006.

He graduated from the University of Colorado in 1978, and was commissioned an ensign after completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School in March 1981. His operational assignments included the Sea Snakes of Helicopter Antisub-

marine Squadron (Light) (HSL) 33, three tours with the HSL-46 Grandmasters, and the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau (LHA 4). Alexander served in a variety of billets, including detachment maintenance officer and officer in charge, squadron Naval aviation training and operating procedures standardization officer, quality assurance officer, operations officer, maintenance officer, executive officer and commanding officer. He

served as air boss aboard Nassau during operations Noble Anvil and Allied Force in 1999.

Shore assignments for Alexander included the Air Wolves of HSL-40, the Naval War College, Chief of Naval Operations staff, the Joint Staff, and Naval Base Coronado. During these tours, he served as quality assurance officer and instructor pilot, flag aide, aviation programs analyst, division chief, and commanding officer.

Alexander holds a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College and he attended the Armed Forces Staff College in 1998. He was recognized by the Naval Helicopter Association as a member of the 1993 Aircrew of the Year (Embarked) and, in 1989, he received the Rear Adm. Allan G. Paulson award for inspirational leadership from Commander, Helicopter Sea Control Wing 3.

## NCTC School Zone

Maj. Gen. Alfred K. Flowers, commander of 2nd Air Force, KAFB, visits with structural apprentice students Dec. 3, at Naval Construction Training Center, Gulfport. Flowers expressed his gratitude for all service members and encouraged their continued professional growth.

U.S. Navy photo by Staff Sgt. Tahisha K. Morgan/Released



Naval Construction Training Center students lay floor tile on their Quarterdeck. The work was part of a number of improvement projects underway at NCTC during the holiday stand-down at the end of December.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Daniel Spies/Released

### Colmer Galley Rate Increase

Effective Jan. 1: Breakfast charge is \$2.30, Lunch is \$4.25 and Dinner is \$4.25

# NMCB-7 teams with Air Force for big equipment move



U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Michael B. Lavender/Released

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 and Air Force Airmen of Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Detachment 4 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq work together to load equipment and supplies into an Air Force C-17 for transportation Jan.9. Navy Seabees and Air Force personnel often operate together during the process known as embarkation. Embarkation is the process of moving equipment and personnel from one location to another and is a vital procedure Seabees and Air Force personnel train on to use during deployments. NMCB 7 is currently deployed to U.S. Forces Central Command area of responsibility to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

From FFSC page 13

two new programs - the Effective Fatherhood program and the Families OverComing Under Stress (FOCUS) program. The Effective Fatherhood program is a class that teaches dads useful parenting techniques and FOCUS teaches parents ways in which they can strengthen family bonds that have suffered due to the stress of multiple deployments. Jones said that she and

her staff are very concerned with family stability and that they're working closely with MWR representatives and the on base Student Liaison Officer.

"So we're working to improve, I think ... understanding of military children and some of the things that are special to that population ... and how that affects the families," she said.

For more information about Fleet and Family programs, contact FFSC at ext. 2339.

**Buckle Up for Safety - Every Time!**

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# NMCB-11 takes on KaBOOM!



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Nicholas R. Lingo/Released  
RPSN Dillion Parkes, CECN Crystal Smith and LT.  
(Chaplain) David Kim from Naval Mobile Construction  
Battalion 11 volunteered Dec. 19 to help KaBOOM!  
build a playground. The Mississippi Gulf Coast is still  
rebuilding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



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(Closed Sundays)



January 15, 2009

## Seabee Memorial Chapel

### Center Chaplains:

Cmdr. Macgregor McClellan, Protestant Chaplain  
Lt.. Leticia P.J. Rouser, Protestant Chaplain

For more information concerning other faith groups,  
call the chapel office at (228) 871-2454

### Services:

Protestant: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Divine Worship

Catholic: Sunday, 9:30 a.m., Family Choir Mass  
Sunday, 10:40 a.m., Religion Education  
Monday- Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Daily Mass

Gospel Service: Sunday, 8 a.m.

Seabee Courier

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# Seabee teaches warfighter skills at Camp Shelby

By Sgt. Michael Williams  
Camp Shelby Joint Forces  
Training Center Public Affairs

Petty Officer 1st Class Luis Alarcon Jr. is an Utilitiesman with Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport. He is currently training Navy personnel for deployment at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

Alarcon, who is originally from El Paso, Texas, started his military career 10 years ago.

"I chose the military as a career mainly as a way to learn skills that could be of use in the civilian sector while traveling the world," said Alarcon. "The main factor for going Navy was having a grandfather and uncle who were former Navy."

His Military Occupation Specialty consists of plumbing (interior, rough-in, and large scale water distribution sewage disposal) jobs.

But his military skills don't stop there.

Alarcon is also a military tactics instructor. He instructs basic combat skills, squad leader combat skills, NCOs and officers-level combat skills, M2 .50 caliber machine gun training, Military Operations on Urban Terrain training and Convoy Security Element team training. You name it and probably Alarcon teaches it.

"As an instructor, it is challenging preparing a unit for deployment to a theater where Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures are continuously changing," replied the Vancleave resident.

As the Global War on Terrorism carries on and with the constant rotation of military personnel in a war zone, units need the relevant training for combat.

"There are times when units need additional training, especially when Reserve units are mobilizing," said Alarcon. "One week of convoy training or MOUT training is good for familiarization and sustenance training. However, we overcome the time constraints by



UT1 Luis Alarcon Jr.

following advanced tactical training with a two week field training exercise that tests our teams and pushes them to their physical and mental limits."

The type of training military personnel receive during mobilization training is designed to help them accomplish their missions overseas.

"The training we provide does have a direct impact, as every Seabee battalion is required to have two 30-person convoy teams," said Alarcon. "It's a point of pride knowing that the materials and curriculum we put out are a definite force-shaper."

Even though his unit has been here at CSJFTC for a short time, they have already found ways to utilize every asset the sprawling base has to offer. Alarcon said, "Camp Shelby is an excellent training area that allows us to accomplish all our field training requirements."

Some of the countries that he has visited in his military career include Iceland, Rota Spain, Guam, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Okinawa, Rota, Iraq, Haiti, and Sota.

When Alarcon is not conducting military operations, he says that he enjoys watching movies, playing video games, and spending time with his family.