

Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES



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Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi
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February 12, 2009

Inside this edition



Christy Kuriatnyk, wife of Civil Engineer Lt. Cmdr. Alex Kuriatnyk attached to the 22 NCR, was recently selected 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year.

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Navy Chaplain Lt. Leticia Rouser and EO1 (SCW) Denise Demontagnac were eye witnesses to the inauguration of President Barack Obama Jan. 20.

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NCTC tri-service students and staff work on a Habitat for Humanity community build in Long Beach, Miss.

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Supporting the global war on terror



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

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 depart an Air Force C-17 aircraft following its arrival at a forward operating base. NMCB 7 is deployed to Afghanistan to provide contingency construction support to Alliance forces supporting NATO International Security Assistance Forces. NMCB 7 deployed from its homeport of Gulfport in last October and is expected to return in March.

NCBC/20SRG
Commanding Officer
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Public Affairs Officer
 Rob Mims
 Editor

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Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC1(SW) Terry Spain
 MC3 Brian McCarthy

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Public Affairs Officer
 MCC(SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce
 MCSN Michael Wright

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Public Affairs Officer
 Lt.j.g. Ina Miranda-Vargas
Mass. Comm. Specialist
 MC1 (SCW) Chad Runge
 MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

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Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. Jason Lockhart
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC1 Nicholas Lingo
 MC2 Erick S. Holmes

NMCB SEVENTY FOUR
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Public Affairs Officer
 Lt.j.g. Gregg Hazlett
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2 John Hulle

25 NCR Commander
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Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2 Dale Miller
 MC3 Jeffrey Militzer

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Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. Shanewit Nopkhun
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2 Michael B. Lavender

NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Paul J. Odenthal
Public Affairs Officer
 MCC (SW/AW/PJ) Ryan C. Delcore

NCTC Gulfport
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Stephanie Jones
Public Affairs Officer
 Chaplain (Lt.) Daniel Spies

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Navy Legal

Dispelling the myths of Renter's Insurance

By *Roni Beasley, Esq.*

RLSO SE BROFF Gulfport



Are you a renter? Have you ever taken an inventory of all the items in your home and determined what it would cost to replace them? According to www.statefarm.com, the average 2 bedroom home contains more than \$20,000 in personal property. This amount accounts for the obvious appliances, such as televisions and computers, all the way down to the smaller items we take for granted, like pots and pans. Having an itemized list of your possessions, including their value and serial numbers, is a good idea. An even better idea is having renters insurance.

Renters insurance is just like any other insurance in that it protects a renter in the event of property loss caused by fire, theft or a natural disaster. While car insurance is a legal necessity for anyone who operates an automobile, renters insurance is a practical necessity for anyone who rents their living quarters. This type of insurance covers your goods while in your home, and often extends to while your goods are in transit. Despite the essential need for this type of security, many renters don't purchase coverage because they fall victim to three myths.

First, it is assumed by many renters that they don't need renters insurance because their landlord has them covered. This is an inaccurate assumption. Though most landlords do have insurance, the coverage usually only extends to the building and any structural damage caused to the building by a storm or other natural disasters. For the landlord, this type of coverage is adequate. For the renter, this is insufficient. For instance, in the event of a flood, fire or storm, the renter, not the landlord, would be responsible for the replacement cost of all damaged household possessions.

Another inaccuracy associated with renters insurance is that coverage is too costly. This couldn't be further from the truth. While your monthly payments will differ based on the amount of coverage you purchase, agencies like USAA and GEICO offer policies for personal property starting as low as \$6 a month. This means that you could use one week's worth of Coke money to insure your property for one month. Paying a few

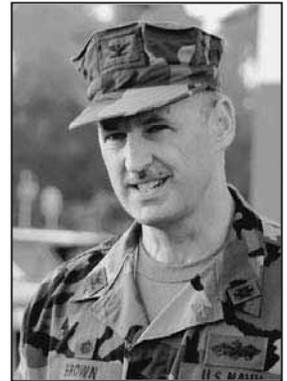
See **MYTHS** page 22

Skipper's Log

Navigating through the sea of diverse personalities at work

By *Capt. Ed Brown*

CO, CBC/CMDR 20TH SRG



Capt. Ed Brown

Diversity is about more than just race, gender and religion. It is cultural and learned during our upbringing. How people behave is a result of a number of factors and we need to be aware of all if we want to function at the highest level.

There are a number of books on leadership and management. All can give you their key to success. Knowing yourself and knowing those around you is a great place to start. In the military and in the military community we are blessed by a rich diversity of people unequaled in most occupations. While this makes us more open to differences, it makes it more of a challenge to function. Understanding the background and cultural norms of the people around you allows you to tailor messages and communi-

cation methods.

Some families embrace open and loud family gatherings and you need to speak your peace to be heard, in others the norm is silent acceptance. These items we learn as children translate into our everyday lives. Are you quiet? Do

See **DIVERSITY** page 22

67th Annual Seabee Ball
 April 4, 6 p.m.
 Mississippi Coast Coliseum



Tickets are on sale through March 20 and may be purchased from command Seabee Ball representatives
 E4 and below: \$20, E5-E6: \$25, E7-E8: \$30,
 E9-03: \$35, 04 & above and civilians: \$40
 Retiree's ticket price is based on retired pay grade

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

NEX complex turns corner of completion

By Naval Facilities Eng. Command Southeast Public Affairs

The new Navy Exchange complex is nearing completion on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Miss. and is scheduled for opening late this summer.

Construction on this project began in February 2008 after the theater was demolished from the existing site.

The new NEX complex will offer much needed services in the convenience of one area for more than 9,000 service members that call NCBC Gulfport home.

"This project will house many services that improve the quality of life for our service members," said Lt. Cmdr. Craig Clutts, resident officer in charge of construction (ROICC). "Now they only have to stop in one place to take care of a number of errands."

The one-stop services offered at the new exchange include a Western Union, a personalized

services counter complete with a florist, UPS shipping and money order services, a barber and beauty shop, Subway and a full service Navy Federal Credit Union. Also, the tailor shop will be located in one corner with its own service counter and fitting rooms.

One of the best design features about the new exchange is the large open area where staff members can feature products that best suit the demands of the customers. Whether the need shifts towards baby supplies or Navy memorabilia, the staff can adjust shelving and product arrangements easily overnight.

"This project has been extremely rewarding for me," said Jerry Davis, construction manager, ROICC Gulfport. "We get closer every day to providing much needed services for our Seabees and their families."

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be planned in conjunction with the grand opening ceremony.



Above: The new Navy Exchange is coming together and will soon be ready to offer customers one-stop shopping for a number of services.

Right: The large, open floor plan of the new NEX complex will make it easier for staff members to arrange featured products. This will also help customers easily find what's in high demand.

Official U.S. Navy photos/Released



February

LifeWorks Schedule of Events

9 - 14: National Jell-O Week . Put some wiggle in your week! Stop by all week and ask us for your free package of Jell-O and recipes!
9- 14: Stop by the office to make your own Valentine for someone special!

16: Presidents' Day - Office is closed
24: Mardi Gras. Get your Fat Tuesday goodies! We will be serving King Cake and handing out beads here in the office.
26: "Wife of a Deployed

Sailor Makeover" Spouses of NMCB 7 members were sent personal invitations to write an essay about what they missed most about their husband while he is deployed. The winner will receive a new outfit, make-up, hair cut

and style, and a manicure/pedicure. Essays are due. Drop them off at the office or e-mail: jstacks@bbcgrp.com.
27: National Chili Day Chili Cook-off. Bring your best pot of chili and recipe by the

office to be judged by 2 p.m. today! Feel free to stick around and sample others! Winner receives dinner at a steakhouse!
27: Yard of the Month awarded - Make sure to cut both front and back yards!

22nd NCR spouse voted Navy Spouse of the Year

By MCSN Michael Wright
22 NCR Public Affairs

After 12 long weeks of online voting; and 100 Navy spouse nominations later, Military Spouse Magazine selected the 2009 Navy Spouse of the Year. The humble and honored winner of this prestigious and highly recognized award is Mrs. Christy Kuriatnyk, of Ellerslie, Ga. Kuriatnyk, a mother of three and wife to Lt. Cmdr. Alex Kuriatnyk attached to the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment here is very flattered by the selection.

Kuriatnyk, the daughter of a Korean War veteran, has always had a sense of pride and patriotism for her country. "It started with my father; he was in the Army. He always supported the military in anyway he could," said Kuriatnyk. "Growing up, supporting the military

became very important to me."

Now as an adult, Kuriatnyk not only supports the military, but the spouses and children of deployed service members. Being the wife of an active duty Naval officer, she understands that deployments can be especially hard for military families.

"There is always a sense of uncertainty and anxiety on deployments and you're always wondering when they're coming back," Kuriatnyk said. Through the years, she has learned that all positive things come from an inner strength. This is encouraging advice for all spouses of deploying troops and soldiers.

Kuriatnyk, a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician and a certified Lead Poisoning Inspector, has created several successful safety awareness programs for children throughout the state of



Christy Kuriatnyk
Navy Spouse of the Year

Georgia. With events such as the Booster Seat Program, Lead-Safe Toy Program and "Skateboard Jam," which teaches children about the importance of skateboard safety, Kuriatnyk has made a remarkable progress in child safety in her home state. She believes that her Booster Seat Program, which she introduced in 2004, took a tremendous amount of drive

and willpower to create. "It was all worth it, if the program educated enough parents and children to potentially save the life of one child."

On Jan. 23 in San Antonio, Texas., Kuriatnyk had the opportunity to meet the spouse of the year winners from the four other military branches. Together, they were honored during a half-time ceremony at a San Antonio Spurs basketball game. "I like all of them very much. I think that any of them would be an outstanding choice for Military Spouse of The Year," said Kuriatnyk.

As Navy Spouse of the Year, Kuriatnyk plans to represent all Navy spouses with grace and dignity. Years down the road, Mrs. Kuriatnyk wishes to be remembered as a Navy spouse, and

See **SPOUSE** page 27

Navy mandates Electronic Service Record accounts

From Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

The Chief of Navy Personnel released a NAVADMIN Feb. 5 announcing the requirement for all active-duty and Reserve personnel to establish and maintain a self-service Electronic Service Record account within the next 60 days.

"Having a self-service account is necessary for updating emergency contact information. Self-service accounts contain other important features, such as enabling Sailors to directly submit PCS (permanent change of station) travel claims upon PCS transfer, update race, ethnicity, and religion information, and view all other ESR service record information," said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel in NAVADMIN 043/09.

The requirement date for Sailors serving at sea and without connectivity to establish and ESR is 60 days upon return to homeport.

The Navy first implemented ESRs in 2006. The ESR provides individual Sailors, Personnel Support Activity Detachments (PSD), personnel offices holding service records, Navy Operational Support Centers, and customer commands of PSDs, with secure worldwide Internet access to personnel, training, and awards data.

The ESR replaces the paper service record as the single field level data entry point

See **ELECTRONIC** page 22



Vitale assumes command of CNIC

Vice Adm. Michael Vitale, right, salutes Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead after being sworn in Jan. 30 as Commander, Navy Installations Command during a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard. Vitale relieved Vice Adm. Bob Conway Jr., center, who retired after more than 35 years of service.

Keesler Medical Center closes Feb. 14 - 16 for power switch. Contractors are switching electrical power to a new \$21.1 million central energy plant. Because of the shutdown, anyone experiencing a medical emergency should call "911" or go to the closest civilian emergency room.



FFSC plans for Military Saves Week

By Paula Ingram

FFSC Gulfport

Military Saves Week, Feb. 22 - March 1, provides education to service members and their families about why and how to save money.

According to MilitarySaves.org, "The Navy hopes to increase participation by at least 20 percent over last year. An impressive 45,000 sailors and their family members participated in the 2008 week-long event."

Under Secretary of Defense David S. C. Chu has announced that because savings and financial responsibility are so important, the military is moving to a year-long emphasis on money matters for service members and their families with quarterly themes as follows:

Jan. - March: Save and Invest
April - June: Spotlight on Military Youth and Finances
July - Sept.: Debt Reduction
Oct. - Dec.: Finances and Retirement

In support of the "Save and Invest" emphasis for this quarter, Fleet and Family Support Center will host a Military Saves Workshop Feb. 24 from 10 - 11 a.m. The class is open to everyone and will provide information on how to maximize savings during these challenging economic times.

Speakers include Saudi Rodgers, Personal Financial Management Program Specialist at Fleet and Family Support Center; Alice Huffman, Director of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society; and Jennifer Watros, Acting Manager at Navy Federal Credit Union. Ms. Watros will discuss specific savings opportunities available through NFCU.

Any planning to attend the workshop should call (228) 871-3000 to pre-register.

Fleet and Family Support Center staff will also be working with local elementary school students on Feb. 25 to teach the principles of saving money.

For more information about these classes, call Jeff Isabell at 871-3000.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven board a plane headed for Kuwait. The Seabees aboard will split into several Detachments and deploy further to several Areas of Operation including Afghanistan. NMCB 11 is currently deploying to Horn of Africa, Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NMCB 11 takes historic steps, again

By MC1 Nicholas Lingo
NMCB 11 Public Affairs

This isn't the first deployment for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven (NMCB 11). Formerly known as MCB Eleven, the battalion was re-commissioned Sept. 14, 2007 and can trace its heritage back to World War II. NMCB 11 was originally commissioned on July 27, 1942, and served on Tutaila, American Samoa, New Caledonia, Auckland, Banika, Los Negros, and Luzon, Philippines. It was disestablished Dec. 1, 1945. NMCB 11 was again commissioned on Sept. 14, 1953. NMCB 11 was also the battalion of Construction Mechanic Third Class Marvin Shields, who was killed at the Battle of Dong Xoai and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The re-established Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 is in the movement stage of its deployment, pushing its detachments out to various locations around the world

in support of several conflicts and humanitarian missions. The wait has been a lengthy one for this burgeoning battalion; its homeport was extended several times over due to training commitments and the Naval Construction Forces shift to a 12-month homeport. Of the "Four-Horseman", the original four sailors attached to the command, two remain and will deploy with the battalion. NMCB 11 is deploying for the first time in nearly 40 years since its last decommissioning on Dec. 15, 1969.

In war, time can be a major adversary, but in NMCB 11's case the extra time to train has better prepared this young unit for the tasks that lie ahead of them. Lt. Cmdr. Brian Lindoerfer, NMCB 11 Executive Officer, expects great things from his battalion.

"There is much anticipation; it has been 16 months since the commission date. Our Seabees have worked extremely hard preparing for this first deployment.

They met and often exceeded expectations during every training evolution; I expect they will do the same on deployment . . . ready, willing and able!"

Due to the infancy of the battalion as a whole, another question for their success is their relative youth throughout the unit. "Over 60 percent of the personnel have never completed a deployment. We will be working in over 33 locations, in 24 countries, spanning 11 times zones and supporting requirements for four different component commanders. Command and Control will be difficult at best, but our leadership and our Seabees are prepared. It is a great opportunity for our detachment and project team leaders to shine," added Lt. Cmdr. Lindoerfer.

Though the youngest Seabees of the battalion may not have the relative experience of other peers,

See NMCB 11 page18

Acosta-Gonzalez takes command of Sea Cadets

From NCBC Public Affairs

Chief Aerographer's Mate Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez, a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, assumed command of the Gulf Coast Naval Sea Cadets during an informal signing ceremony Feb. 2 on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport.

Acosta's unit, the only unit in Mississippi, drills on board NCBC with all formal training taught at the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Professional

Development Center.

The six instructors mentor and facilitate classes for 10-15 cadets and have a current recruiting goal of 25 cadets by spring 2009. Training is year-round, usually one weekend per month during the school year, with two-week training opportunities offered during the summer months.

After completion of a two-week recruit training camp, a variety of developmental opportunities are available, including Airman, aviation ground school, and shipboard training. Other options

available include submarine, medical, music, and leadership seminars, as well as Seabee and SEAL training.

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit, nautically oriented, youth training and education organization dedicated to developing the principles of patriotism, good citizenship, and self-confidence.

"We strive to instill in young people a sense of duty, discipline, and respect for self and others," said Acosta.

Since 1958 the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been com-

mitted to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

U.S. Navy photo/Released Chief Aerographer's Mate Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez, a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, assumed command of the Gulf Coast Naval Sea Cadets during an informal signing ceremony Feb. 2 on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport.

Parents interested in having their youth join the cadet corps can contact the unit at 228-547-4405 or nscgulfportbattalion@hotmail.com.



Sailors witness historical day in America

By MC1 (SW) Terry Spain
NCBC Public Affairs

Many Sailors assigned to Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport gathered around their televisions Jan. 20 to watch the historical inauguration, as President Barack Obama became the first African American president. But Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Denise Demontagnac and Chaplain Leticia Rouser were able to fly to Washington D.C. and witness this event firsthand.

"I felt like I was experiencing history in real time, it was unfolding right in front of my eyes," said Demontagnac. She was invited to the inauguration by Congressman Gene Taylor upon her selection as the 2008 Thomas V. Fredian Community Service award winner.

The temperatures were freezing, but it did not stop millions of people from turning out for the inauguration.

"When I arrived at the airport just after midnight on

Jan. 17, it was filled with children from all nationalities, you could feel the excitement in the air, every mother and father wanted their child to experience this moment," said Rouser.

After the inauguration there were several balls that took place, but the one that meant the most to both Sailors was the Commander-in-Chief's Ball which Rouser was able to attend.

"The ball was great. To have the chance to see President Obama up close made the trip even better," she stated.

While in Washington, Rouser was a part of a leadership team that helped put together more than 85,000 care packages and 100,000 greeting cards that were later distributed to deployed troops. She also had the pleasure of meeting First Lady Michelle Obama, her mother Marian Robinson and Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden.

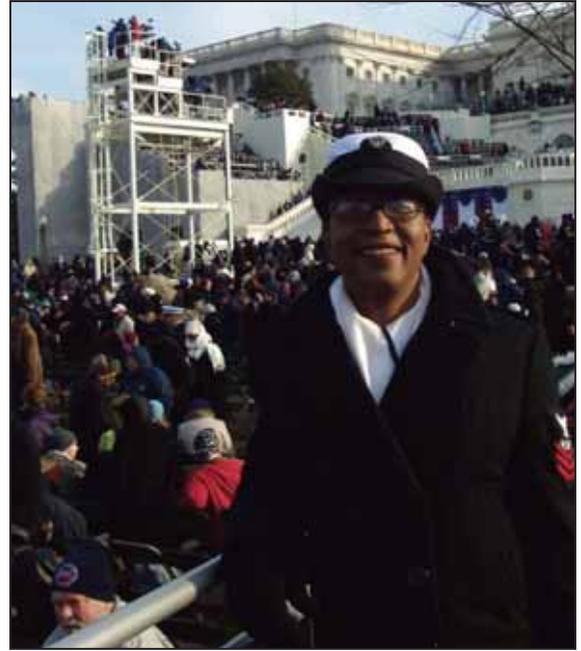
This election gave many African Americans hope and a sense of belonging.

"My parents were immigrants and while watching the election take place I was reminded of why my parents migrated to this great country," said Demontagnac.

Many young kids now believe that no matter their color, they can achieve anything their heart desires.

"When I was six I marched with late great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Andrew Young and Jessie Jackson, but I have never experienced anything like the inauguration crowd," said Rouser. "I attended the inauguration alone and once I arrived I regret not bringing my children."

More than 5,000 men and women in uniform provided military ceremonial support to the presidential inauguration, a tradition dating back to George Washington's 1789 ceremony. Both Rouser and Demontagnac were extremely grateful to be a part of history.



U.S. Navy photo/Released

Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Denise Demontagnac, a Seabee with the 20th Seabee Readiness Group (20SRG), waits for the presidential inauguration to begin in Washington, D.C. Jan. 20. Demontagnac was invited to the ceremony by Congressman Gene Taylor after her selection as the 2008 Thomas V. Fredian Community Service award winner in October.

NMCB 1 captures Battle 'E'



Commanding Officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, Cmdr. Stan Wiles receives the 2008 Atlantic Fleet Active Component Battle "E" Battalion award for the battalion from Commander, First Naval Construction Division, Rear Adm. Richard Cellon.

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

RecruitMilitary Career Fair
comes to New Orleans
Fair Grounds Race Course

Feb. 18
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

RecruitMilitary Fair is a FREE hiring event for veterans, military personnel transitioning from Active Duty, Reserve, Guard and also military spouses. The Fair is presented by the Presidents National Hire Veterans Committee, the American Legion and the Military Spouse Corporate Career Network.

All are welcome. For more information visit:
www.recruitmilitary.com

**MWR's
Resale Lot**

\$5 per week or
\$15 for 30 days

Located in the
parking lot east of
the Auto Hobby
Shop, building 397

Authorized items:
Motor vehicles
Motorcycles
Boats/Trailers
Recreational
Trailers
Utility Trailers

Contact Auto
Hobby at
(228) 871-2804

Navy/Marine Corps Motorcycle Safety Statistics Improve!

Naval Safety Center records indicate that leadership engagement at all levels has produced significant improvements for both the Navy and Marine Corps in motorcycle safety during the first quarter of FY09.

Navy fatalities/rate through Dec. 31,2008 were 2/2.20 (compared to 6/6.59 in 2007).

The FY08 total was 33/9.06, compared to the 10-year average of 20.3/5.13.

Corresponding Marine Corps data is 2/4.11 for 2008 (6/12.33 in 2007),
FY08 total 25/12.84, 10-year average 12.7/6.71.



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

Left: Army students and staff from Naval Construction Training Center Gulfport work on the exterior of a Habitat for Humanity home in Long Beach, Miss.
Above: Navy students and Habitat for Humanity staff install a protective cover under an elevated home. The home is part of a 27 home Habitat project in "The Trace," a new neighborhood in Long Beach, Miss.

Tri-Service NCTC volunteers join Habitat build

By Lt. Daniel Spies, CHC
 NCTC Public Affairs

On Jan. 31, Army, Air Force and Navy staff and students from Naval Construction Training Center joined in on a

Habitat for Humanity project in Long Beach. There was plenty of work for all 150 military volunteers and the Habitat staff on this unique project completing "The Trace," a new neighbor-

hood made up of 27 homes that line a single street. It was a satisfying day for the students to put into practice many of the skills they have been developing in their construction classes.

Careful attention to detail rather than speed was the key to progress on this day of work. Most of the jobs for the day were on the exterior finishes on these attractive homes. A lot of siding

had to go up just right and carefully on the elevated homes. The Habitat project managers taught the volunteers how to install insulation and a protective cover under a house using vinyl soffits.

Habitat for Humanity was glad to have this surge of help from the military volunteers. The Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen that joined in on this project made a lasting impact. Many of them are looking for the next opportunity to lend a hand.



**Final week to
apply for Military
Children
Scholarships**

Scholarships for
Military Children is ac-
cepting applications
through Feb. 18.

Applications are avail-
able at the NCBC
Commissary or on line
at: [www.commissar-
ies.com](http://www.commissar-
ies.com) or [www.mili-
taryscholar.org](http://www.mili-
taryscholar.org).

Scholarship award:
\$1,500

Eligibility:

Active duty, Reserve,
National Guard and
Retired military de-
pendents (under age
23).

Take advantage of Route 26 NCBC Navy Express Bus Service

Save gas and catch the new Route 26 NCBC Navy Express bus which stops every Saturday and Sunday on board NCBC Gulfport. Route 26 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: \$1.25. Daily or monthly passes are available. Call MWR at (228) 871-2538 for more information.

VITA offers TAX help to military

CM2 Michelle Eckstein, right, prepares a tax form for a Sailor at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. VITA offers free assistance to active duty service members and their families. The office is located in the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30, room 158. Services are provided by appointment only Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from noon until 7 p.m. Call (228) 871-2620 to make an appointment. Active duty service members are also encouraged to use the free tax filing service provided by Military OneSource at: www.MilitaryOneSource.com

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



Navy to hold exercise Solid Curtain, Citadel Shield

From CNIC N7

The Navy is the only Service that conducts an annual CONUS wide Antiterrorism Exercise. This year's Antiterrorism Exercise, SOLID CURTAIN/CITADEL SHIELD 09, will be held Feb. 23 - 27. The purpose of the exercise is to assess our procedures for reporting, deterring, defending, and recovering from terrorist incidents.

Solid Curtain is a command post exercise that will exercise and assess command, control and communications. Citadel Shield is a field training exercise that will involve every Navy installation. Installations will adjust their security posture based on threat reporting and direction from higher headquarters.

Additionally, realistic aggressors will conduct simulated terrorist attacks.

Installation First Responders will be evaluated on their ability to effectively respond.

The region and installation training teams will play a key role in ensuring that the exercise is executed safely and that we are able to capture lessons learned.

While there may be some disruptions to normal base and station operations and/or increased traffic or delays in base access, it is critical that the antiterrorism plans are exercised in order to effectively respond when necessary.

NMCB 74 Seabee leaves for STA-21

By MC2 John Hulle
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

As Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 gears up for a field exercise and upcoming deployment, one Seabee parts way to begin a new chapter of his career.

Builder 2nd Class Benjamin Sculley, who was assigned to NMCB 74 for three deployments and almost five years, left for Newport, R.I., Jan. 19. Through the Seaman to Admiral Program-21 program, the motivated Seabee will eventually return to the ranks of the Naval Construction Force, but this time it will be as a commissioned officer.

The program allows active duty Sailors to attend school to obtain a college degree to become a commissioned officer. The STA-21 Program will keep all participants on active duty at their current pay grade while they receive all pay, allowances, benefits, and privileges they currently enjoy.

After attending Naval Science Institute and STA-21 Broadened Op-

portunity for Officer Selection Training (BOOST), a program to help students be successful during college, Sculley plans to attend Texas A&M in the fall to earn a degree in structural engineering.

Sculley, who has been attending college through out his enlistment, said earning a degree has been a goal he has always wanted to achieve, but "wasn't exactly interested in going directly to school after high school," however, as his first enlistment neared its end, he realized he wasn't yet done with the Navy.

He said he never would have considered putting in the package without the support of his chain of command and his family, especially his wife. "They all did more than I could have asked for," said the Beaumont, Texas, native.

Boatswains' Mate Chief Melvin Paulk, assigned to NMCB 74, was Sculley's officer-in-charge during his last deployment to Camp Morrell, Kuwait. Sculley said during a

career development board Paulk motivated him to stay in and helped him begin his STA-21 package.

"He's genuinely a great guy," said Paulk. "One of the smartest guys I have ever had the opportunity to work with; no task is too challenging for him."

Paulk said he is confident in Sculley's ability to excel in whatever he decides to do, in or out of the Navy.

With three deployments under his belt, the 23-year-old has traveled nearly around the world, from Sasebo, Japan, to Ramadi, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"Deployments are always fun when you look back at them," he said. "You learn a lot about yourself and the Navy, about what you can do and where you can go."

With all the experience of deployments and working his way up the ranks to being a 2nd class petty officer, Sculley doesn't necessarily think it will make him a better officer over his peers.

"Not better, but different," he said. "I think coming from the enlisted rank you can bring a different perspective to the officer community, not a better perspective, but a different perspective that can be beneficial to the Navy or whatever community I wind up in."

The admission to the program, Sculley said was an eye opener to all the opportunities available to Sailors. He urges everyone to take advantage of what the Navy has to offer.

The STA-21 program is open to active duty Sailors who are a U.S.



BU2 Benjamin Sculley

citizen, have a high school diploma, or GED, and have qualifying ACT and SAT and meet physical fitness standards. For more information on STA-21 contact your career counselor or visit www.sta-21.navy.mil.



67th Annual Seabee Ball

April 4, 6 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum

Guest Speaker: Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Gary Roughead

E4 and below: \$20, E5 - E6: \$25, E7 - E8: \$30, E9 - O3: \$35

O4 & above and civilians: \$40

Retiree's price is based on retired pay grade

Tickets may be purchased through March 20 from your Seabee Ball representatives

CNO message honoring African American History month

*From Adm. Gary Roughead
Chief of Naval Operations*

This NAVADMIN announces the observance of African American/Black History Month during February 2009. The national theme for this year's observance is "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

This year is historically significant for America and our diversity history. First, it is the centennial of the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Additionally, Jan. 20, marked a major milestone with the inauguration of our first African American President Barack Obama.

Both past and present, the United States Navy has been privileged with numerous African American heroes and role models.

Our Navy's past includes heroes like Petty Officer Dorie Miller, a Messman who served with distinction in USS West Virginia during the attack on pearl harbor and earned the Navy Cross for heroism.

Others answering the call were Lt.j.g. Harriet Ida Pickens and Ensign Frances Wills, the first two African American women accepted for volunteer emergency services (WAVES), and Phyllis Mae Dailey, the Navy's first African American commissioned nurse. Sixty years ago, Wesley Anthony Brown became the first African American to graduate from the Naval Academy and Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown received his commission as our first African American desig-

February 12, 2009
Seabee Courier

Focus on Education

Seabee Center hosts MOA signing

By Rob Mims

NCBC Public Affairs Officer

South Mississippi Schools Superintendents and the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport took an important step forward Feb. 2 at Rhodes Hall Conference Center on board NCBC with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement concerning transitioning requirements and assistance in school for military children.

"We want this to be the place that everybody comes, that everybody wants to go. And when they get orders to Gulfport, we want them to feel comfortable and feel confident that their families will be well taken care of," said Capt. Ed Brown, NCBC commanding officer.

Most children of military members have a pretty interesting life in general. They get to go new places and see things most children or adults will never experience. Unfortunately, being a military child also comes with a hefty price. Deploying parent(s), leaving friends, and going to a new school every two to four years are some of the hardships that come with the territory.

"It's the new kid. It's being that new child. Just the stress of leaving your last school where you were comfortable and you had friends," said Capt. Brown.

The intent of the Memorandum of Agreement is to adopt a set strategy to address transition problems high school students who have military parents face when they must transition from one school to another due to moves and deployments.

It puts a formal stamp of approval on programs and efforts which the majority of South Mississippi Schools already do.

The agreement is a smaller scale version of a State Bill 2669 currently before the Mississippi State Senate and House of Representatives. The bill calls for the adoption of the "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children."

Master Chief Robert Cuff, 20th Seabee Readiness Group command master chief, and Kevin Byrd, NCBC School Liaison Officer, drove to Jackson to testify before the Mississippi Senate Education Committee Jan. 29.

According to Eric Sherman, Regional State Liaison, Southeast Office, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community & Family Policy, "Their presence and testimony overwhelmed the committee into initiating supportive action and inspired lasting impressions throughout the capitol which impacted the outcome of the proceedings."

The committee voted to pass and forward the bill to Senate Appropriations Committee where it also passed. It is now on the calendar awaiting the next vote on the floor of the Senate. According to Sherman, "It will either pass the full senate and be referred to the House of Representatives for the committee process all over again, fail, or it could die on the calendar if the Chairman chooses not to bring the bill off the calendar."

The Compact has been adopted in more than 11 states to date. If adopted by Mississippi, the proverbial playing field would be leveled not only for military children, but all children whose family moves around a lot.

See MOA page 24

Navy College News

Education Fair

The 2009 Gulfport Navy College Office (NCO) Education Fair is scheduled for March 18 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The fair will be held at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Building 114 in the Drill Hall.

Navy College has invited 28 Navy College Program Distance Learning Partner institutions to the Fair. The Mississippi representative for the Troops to Teachers program will be in attendance along with local school representatives. Please contact the NCO at Building 60, room 239 or call 871-2785 if further information is needed.

Testing Offered at Navy College Office

The Gulfport Navy College Office offers the following exams: College Level Examination Program (CLEP), DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), Excelsior Exams, ACT (monthly), SAT (monthly)

Please contact the Gulfport NCO at Building 60, room 239 or call 871-2785 for test dates and times. Test dates and activities can be found on the monthly calendar at the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center's website under the "Programs" menu.

Special Exams schedule and deadline for registration

The Navy College Office Gulfport has scheduled the PRAXIS and Automotive Service Excellence exams. The registration deadline is March 20 for the April 13 test date and the registration deadline is June 11 for the July 13 Praxis test date. The registration deadline for the Automotive Service Excellence exam is March 17 for the May 2009 test dates. The exams are free to active duty, reserve and guard personnel. A registration fee is required. Please contact the NCO at Building 60, room 239 or call 871-2785 if further information is needed.

Navy Tuition

Did you know that, in some cases, reimbursement of Navy tuition assistance can be deducted from your pay? Counseling on Navy Tuition Assistance policies and procedures are required after five classes and recommended before taking courses and annually.

Tuition assistance workshops are held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. at the Gulfport Navy College Office. Appointments are not required. Please contact the NCO at Building 60, room 239 or call 871-2785 if further information is needed.

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.

Mardi Gras Madness at the Dome



Above: More than seven thousand people wait in front of the Louisiana Superdome for the start of the 45th Annual New Orleans Mardi Gras Marathon Feb. 1. Seven people from Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport ran in the half marathon portion of the multi-race event. Top right: Lt. Reginald McNeil of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, crosses the finish line for the half marathon. Bottom right: Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Ian Shaw, Lt. Reginald McNeil, Lt. Paul Gundy, all from NMCB 74, and Cmdr. Bruce Nevel, NMCB 74 commanding officer, flank Cmdr. Stephanie Jones, Naval Construction Training Center commanding officer after completing the half marathon. (Not pictured: Alice Huffman, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society director (1st Half Marathon) and Peggy Cuevas, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator(1st Half Marathon) and Chief Storekeeper Alan Wood).

U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class John Hulle/Released

Seatbelts: Who STILL isn't buckling up?

By Naval Safety Center

Seatbelts are the most effective means of saving lives and reducing serious injuries in traffic crashes. Wearing them properly is also the law in most states. Every year, Marines, Sailors, family members, and friends are killed or maimed because they didn't buckle up. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that seatbelts save 9,500 lives in the United States each year. NHTSA also estimates that an additional 9,000 lives would be saved and 160,000 injuries would be prevented each year if all motor vehicle occupants ages 5 years and older properly used restraint devices.

Despite the hazards we face

See SEATBELTS page24

NMCB 1 supports development of JTF/GTMO migrant camp

By Lt.j.g. Matthew Lenzer
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Alfa Company Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 have been hard at work onboard Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since November 2008. They have been working for Joint Task Force Guantanamo to enhance the migrant operations capability of the Naval Base.

While the Joint Task Force may be better known for their operation of Camp Delta, where detainees from the global war on terrorism are held, they are also tasked with preparing to process and handle migrants that may be displaced from islands around the Caribbean due to hurricanes or other disasters.

The project, started by NMCB 11 in October, will be completed by

mid-February and provide sites large enough to create a 25,000 person tent camp.

Prior to the current NMCB 1 detail in Guantanamo Bay, an initial detail of 15 NMCB 1 Seabees picked up the project where NMCB 11 left off in mid-November. These Seabees departed Gulfport just after Thanksgiving and returned just before Christmas.

As a testimony to their dedication, the initial group of NMCB 1 Seabees departed less than two weeks after returning from a three-week field training exercise. In addition, eight of the 15 Seabees returned to Guantanamo in January for another six weeks of work.

Following their arrival, the Seabees went right to work on the project. Since the site consisted of open grassy fields, the first task



Official U.S. Navy photo/Released

A Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 uses an excavator to load a dump truck with fill from the borrow pit area. A crew of Seabees recently returned to Gulfport, Miss., after working for Joint Task Force Guantanamo to enhance the migrant operations capability of the Naval Station.

was to clear all of the vegetation and haul it away. Once cleared, the cut and fill process began, which brought the sites to a level grade to provide for water drainage. Over the six week period of this phase of work, 50 acres will be graded for a total project area of 80 acres.

For many of the junior Seabees, this is the first time they have worked on a project that has a real world application. Under the supervision of the more experience members of the detail, the junior Seabees have increased their skills in operating equipment that many have not seen since their rating schools.

"Being here in Guantanamo Bay has given the junior guys an understanding of what it is to push

See GTMO page 18

February 12, 2009
Seabee Courier

outdoor recreation

Located in Building 397
Monday/Saturday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
871-2804

Outdoor Recreation has all of your essential equipment rentals. Stop by today!

Party Planning - Make your party a hit with equipment from Outdoor Recreation: Tables-Chairs-Canopies-Coolers-Grills-Inflatables-and More!

youth activity center

Located in Building 335
Monday-Friday 2:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Friday 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
871-2251

Spring Break Camp Sign-Ups

Spring Break Camp sign-ups are March 16 for all Military Dependents and DoD Civilians. The program will run April 13-17 for Gulfport City Schools and April 6-10 for Long Beach Schools. Camp hours are from 6 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and children will need to bring a sack lunch.

Summer Camp Can Do

Registration Coming Soon! Program registration for Military Dependents will begin March 2 with DoD Civilian registration beginning April 1.

After School Program

We still have a few remaining spaces for the Before-School and After-School Program.

liberty center

Located in Building 342 T1
Sunday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday - Saturday 9 a.m. - noon
871-4683/4684

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

MONDAY . . . Card Night - Free and begins at 6 p.m.
Texas Hold'em happens Feb. 23.

TUESDAY . . . Ping Pong Challenge FREE and begins at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY ... Pool Tournament \$5 at 6 p.m. First-Third place winners receive a great prize!

free liberty activities:

Valentine's Party

Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m.
Drawing will be held for Grand Prize of a dozen roses, a large box of chocolates, and a \$100 gift certificate to a local fine dining restaurant for you and your sweetie.

Transportation will be provided to the following parades:

Long Beach Mardi Gras Parade

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.

Diamondhead Krewe of Selene & Royal-T Parade

Friday, Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

Gulfport Mardi Gras Parade

Saturday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

North Bay Mardi Gras Parade-D'Iberville

Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Biloxi Mardi Gras Parade

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m.

gym

Located in Building 361
Monday - Friday
4:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
871-2668/2353

fitness

•Punt, Pass, and Kick Challenge

Friday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 a.m. on the Softball Fields.

•Valentine's 5K

Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 a.m. The first 200 runners will receive a T-shirt.

•The Gauntlet

Feb. 18 and 19
Contestants will have to complete as many circuits as they can in a 3 minute time period.

intramural captain's cup

•Kickball League Starts on Feb. 17

•Command Dodgeball is Feb. 27 at 7:30 a.m. (the fourth Friday of every month) For more info e contact Sam Perkins at 871-2353.



PINE BAYOU GOLF COURSE

Open Monday-Sunday

7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Public Welcome!

Building 418, 228-871-2494

Quarterly Membership Fees*

Military/Retirees: \$125

DoD Employees: \$150

Guests: \$250

Use the Pine Bayou Golf Course 5 times and on your 6th visit get a 50% Greens Fee on us.

1 2 3 4 5 6th off

Don't forget to start your punch card today!

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 Tuesday 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. - 1p.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 has relocated to the new Training Hall, building 446. Hours of operation are: Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (open weekends upon request), phone: (228) 871-4779. 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.

NMCRS Thrift Store seeks donations



The NMCRS Thrift Shop is actively seeking gently-used ball gowns for The Seabee Ball. The donated gowns go on sale at the Thrift Shop March 3. Located in bldg. 29, Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

From GTMO page 15

Joshua Labove, project supervisor.

The equipment operators are not the only ones who have gained skills from this detail. The construction mechanics have also been able to test and enhance their skills working on the equipment. From changing an o-ring to rebuilding track adjusters on a Cat D-7, the mechanics have been hard at work to keep all of the equipment up and running.

The job of the construction mechanic is made even more challenging by the remote location of Guantanamo Bay. Many repair parts were not readily available, so substitutions were made to keep work moving forward.

Upon their departure from the island in February, the Seabees

from NMCB 1 left knowing that they continued the Seabee tradition of doing more with less in less than ideal conditions and that they have greatly enhanced the migrant operations capability for Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

Joint Task Force Deputy Engineer, U.S. Army Capt. Shane Lauritzen said, "Working with the NMCB 1 Seabees has been an honor. Not only is their work of the highest quality, but the speed at which they produce is astonishing. They have gone well beyond their original scope of work to squeeze every last usable acre out of the terrain. In a contingency operation such as mass migration, every square foot of usable ground counts, and the Seabees of NMCB 1 have helped to maximize that space."

Commissary benefit saves customers more money

There's more pocket money for service members and their families when they shop consistently in the commissary - nearly \$3,400 in fact for a family of four based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture survey that measures household grocery store purchases.

"In tough economic times our customers can always depend on their commissary benefit to help them make ends meet," said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., Defense Commissary Agency director and chief executive officer. "This survey validates our motto that more than ever before "The Commissary - It's Worth the Trip!"

Each month, the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion calculates household purchases of grocery, meat and produce items. Once a year in October, DeCA's sales directorate examines the USDA's figures to determine monetary savings amounts for its customers in various family-sized units - a single military member, a couple, a family of three or four - based on the commissary's savings of more than 30 percent :

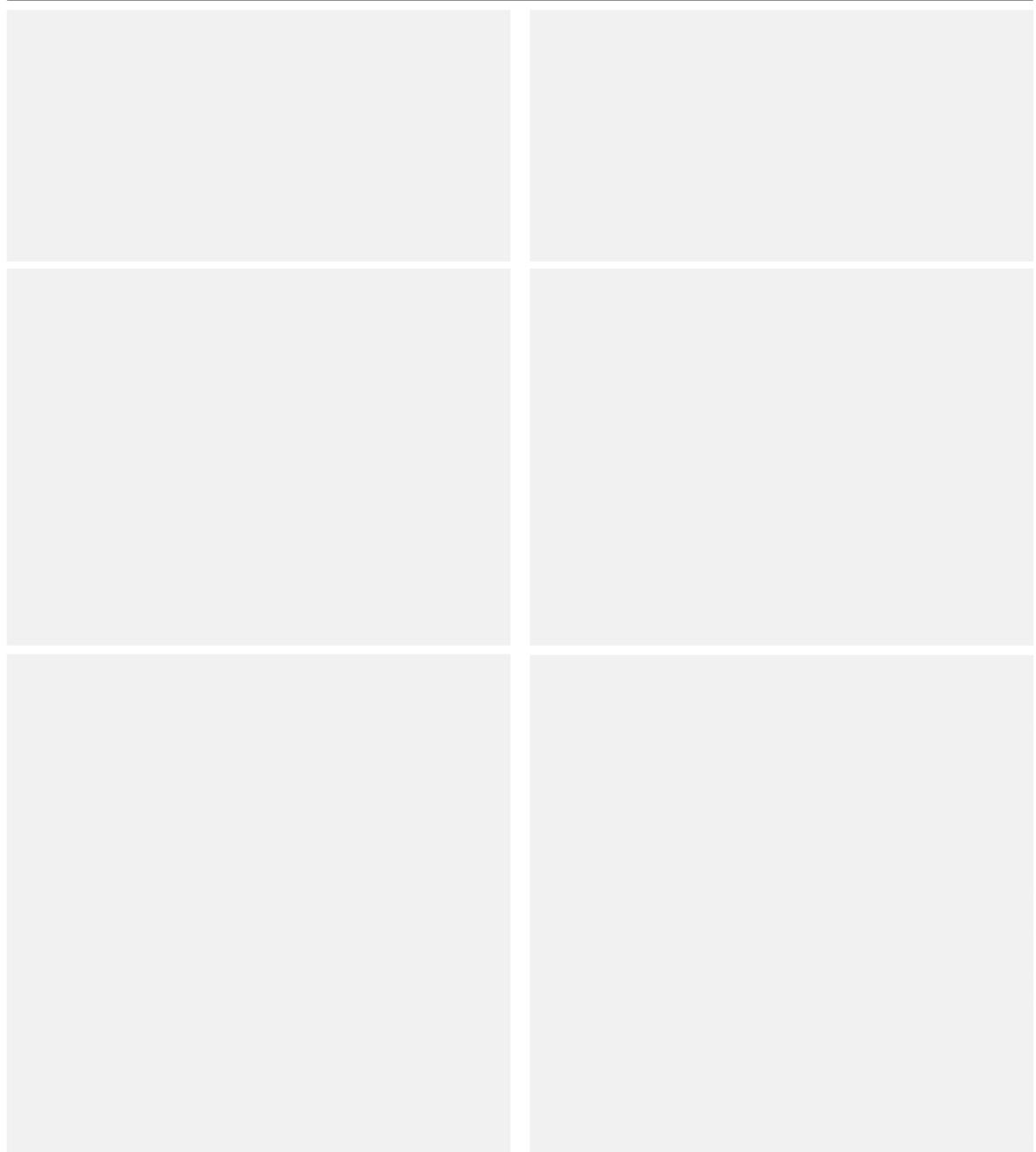
A family of four saves nearly \$3,400 annually based on spending an average of \$898 per month or \$10,783 annually. Previous savings calculated in October 2007 were about \$3,100.

From NMCB 11 page 6
 they are more than willing and in some instances are eager for the experience of deployment. "This deployment is going to outstanding," said Equipment Operator 3rd Class (SCW) Asia A. Rogina, who is serving in NMCB 11's Air Det and slated for six months of work in Afghanistan. The Bellingham, Wash. native's enthusiasm is comparable to

the "Can Do!" spirit Seabees have embodied since 1942. "I can contribute more to the war effort there [than in homeport]," Rogina explained.

The Seabees of NMCB 11 move forward for the first time as a battalion, but the journey they've been involved in over the last two years has them well-prepared to endure and overcome any obstacles they may face.

Recycling Saves, Recycling Pays



See SAVINGS page 22

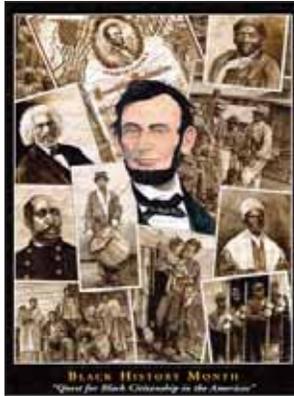
nated naval aviator.

A year later, Ensign Brown gave his life and earned the distinguished Flying Cross providing close air support at the battle of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. These are just a few of the thousands of African Americans who have answered the call and served with distinction in our Navy. Today we have four African American 3-star admirals serving on active duty - the most ever.

Vice Adm. Derwood C. Curtis, Commander Naval Surface Forces; Vice Adm. Adam M. Robinson Jr. Navy Surgeon General; Vice Adm. Melvin G. Williams Jr. Commander, 2nd Fleet; and Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns, Navy Inspector General, are an inspiration to all.

Over 94,000 African Americans serve today in the navy's total force - Active, Reserve, and Civilian. These talented shipmates ensure our navy continues to succeed in challenging missions at

NCBC African American History Celebration



The Seabee Center celebrates African American History Feb. 26 in the Seabee Memorial Chapel at 12:30 p.m.

Sponsored by NCBC Diversity Committee

sea and ashore around the globe.

All commands are strongly encouraged to take advantage of opportunities during African American/Black History Month, and particularly to engage in activities which enhance the public's perception of African American/black opportunities and successes in the navy. Programs,

exhibits, publications, and participation in military and community events recognizing the diversity of our American heritage are excellent ways to deepen our commitment to that legacy. Presentations and other information are available on the defense equal opportunity management institute web site at:

www.deomi.org/specialobservance/presentations_category.cfm, and many other resources are available online to plan your events.

Commands are also encouraged to support participation in affinity groups such as the national naval officers association - more information at www.nnoa.org; and blacks in government (big) - more information at: www.bignet.org.

Award nominations are especially encouraged, and are a great way to get your people external recognition. More information on diversity conferences, events, awards and observances is available at the navy diversity web site:

www.npc.navy.mil/command-support/diversity.

The point of contact for further information is Lt. Cmdr. Elizabeth Zimmermann, OPNAV N134, at (703) 614-5392/DSN 225 or e-mail at:

elizabeth.zimmerman@navy.mil.

Naval History and Heritage Command announces new homepage

By Bill Hendrix

Naval History and Heritage Command Public Affairs

The Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) recently announced the release of a new homepage for its Web site: www.history.navy.mil.

According to the NHHC Director, retired Rear Adm. Jay A. DeLoach, "The changes to our homepage are part of an extensive and ongoing effort to create a new, revitalized command Internet presence. This is just the first major aesthetic change to the Web site. There have been extensive repairs to the site's background architecture and functionality over the past few months."

Naval History and Heritage Command staff, in coordination with a private Web development team, will continue to make changes to the site overall look throughout the year, while adding additional content and easier search capabilities for users.

The NHHC is the official history program of the United States Navy. NHHC's mission is to collect, preserve, protect, and make available the artifacts, documents, and art that best embody our naval history and heritage for present and future generations.

For more news from NHHC, visit: www.navy.mil/local/-navhist/.

Seat belts are not optional:
CLICK IT OR TICKET!



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

Find out more about UCT 1 at:
<https://www.seabee.navy.mil>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



Tire care and the environment Maintain tires and help control greenhouse gas emissions

By CBC Environmental

A smart tire maintenance program will reduce fuel usage, improve vehicle safety, and reduce greenhouse gases. Underinflated and misaligned tires reduce fuel mileage. Low tire pressure, unevenly worn tires, and inadequate tread depth are safety hazards. Improper disposal of used tires are concern to public health and the environment. A few steps will save you money and help the environment.

Tire Care Checklist - Extend tire life and improve fuel economy by

using this list once a month. Avoid road hazards that could damage tires like rocks or potholes. Be aware of any change in vehicle handling that could indicate uneven tire wear.

Check the air pressure with a tire gauge

Measure the tire tread depth. It should be more than 1.6 millimeters (1/16 of an inch)

Look for bald spots or signs of uneven tread wear

Rotate tires every 6,000 miles

Prevent Tire Waste - When a tire is purchased, the store will

discard the tires for a small fee.

NCBC offers a tire recycling program. All tire rims must be removed from the tires. Military Family Housing residents and MWR facility users can drop-off clean tires in the designated area at Automotive Hobby Shop. Inform the staff at the Automotive Hobby Shop of the number of tires dropping off. Inner tubes, used oil, and batteries are also accepted.

The Automotive Hobby Shop is located at building 397. For more information call (228) 871-2804.

Harrison County site available for hazardous material disposal

By CBC Environmental

The Harrison County Household Hazardous Waste Collection site provides residents with a safe and sanitary alternative to throwing household waste away. Open the second Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. until noon at 10076 Lorraine Road next to the Sheriff Department, this collection site is free to the public.

Questions about whether or not an item is accepted at the site may be answered by calling (228) 214-1405.

Items are only accepted during the hours of operation or by special appointment.



Accepted waste

Latex or oil based paint
Used cooking or automobile oil
Antifreeze, Household, marine and car batteries, White goods such as freezers and refrigerators, Fluorescent light bulbs, Tires, E-waste (electronics) such as computers, cell phones, telephones, televisions

From MYTHS page 2

dollars each month is better than a few hundred or thousands in the event of loss.

The final assumption made by many is that they don't need renters insurance because their property has little to no value. This is certainly not the case. Even accounting for basic items such as televisions, clothing and furniture, the purchase of renters insurance is warranted. It's worth the time and effort to contact various insurance carriers and shop around for the best coverage, premiums and discounts for bundling policies.

Legal assistance attorneys are available to help. The Gulfport RLSO SE can be reached at (228) 871-2620. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

From SAVINGS page 18

A family of three saves more than \$2,600 annually based on spending an average of \$703 per month or \$8,442 annually. Previous savings in October 2007 were more than \$2,400.

A couple saves more than \$2,100 annually based on spending an average of \$570 per month or \$6,844 annually. Previous savings in October 2007 were more than \$1,900.

A single service member saves nearly \$1,200 annually based on spending an average of \$311 per month or \$3,733 annually. Previous savings in October 2007 were about \$1,600.

Commissary savings percentages are calculated based on an annual market basket study. Procedures differ somewhat depending on geographic location. In the continental United States, DeCA captures prices through Nielsen's database of commissary and industry front end sales volume on more than 30,000 grocery items with a Universal Product Code. Pricing comparisons for meat and produce department items in the continental United States are accomplished through in-store audits at 30 randomly selected commissaries to compare them with commercial retail stores within commuting distance.

"We exist to deliver a commissary benefit to our authorized customers, the men and women and their families who sacrifice so much in the defense of this great nation," Sakowitz said. "The concept is simple: We sell items at cost, and if you shop regularly in a commissary for your grocery needs, you will save at least 30 percent or more. That's extra money you can apply to paying off credit card debt, your children's education or whatever else you need."

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.pasas.navy.mil/IDcards.asp> or call (228) 871-2322/2331 to schedule an appointment Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From DIVERSITY page 2

you assume your e-mail was enough to be heard? Are you sure the person you sent it to isn't from the "speak up and tell me what's on your mind" world? If you have input, make sure it is both transmitted and received.

Earlier I mentioned knowing yourself as well as others. Are you an introvert or extrovert? Many of us link these terms to quiet and shy or boisterous and outgoing. In reality its how people get their energy

and how they generally behave. Introverts get their energy through quiet thought. They "think to speak." Extroverts get their energy through being with other people, and in meetings generally "speak to think." Next time you're sitting in a group session observe the outspoken, are they tossing ideas and building their final position or are they waiting patiently and then launching their "final position?" The more you know the better you can adapt and lead.

Fire Warden Training

**Feb. 19
2 - 3 p.m.**

**Building 60,
room 105**

From ELECTRONIC page 4

for service record maintenance. Commands are required to use all available ESR functionality.

Self-service accounts can be created at:

<https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> or on the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) ESR server on board ship.

Commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs can obtain command level view only access by completing the NSIPS/ESR system authorization request and contacting their local NSIPS area

manager. This access provides the user view only capability for all ESR accounts within their UIC(s).

All commands responsible for service record entries are required to initiate updates in NSIPS ESR, however official military personnel file requirements remain unchanged. NSIPS ESR is the data entry point for electronic service record maintenance. Sailors are responsible for the accuracy of their ESR and must contact the servicing personnel office if any information is incorrect.

For more information read NAVADMIN 043/09.

Some of the specific items that pertain to military families include:

Transfer of Records - Official transcripts for military-affiliated children often come from other states or overseas schools. Children are placed incorrectly because some schools refuse to accept hand-carried copies until the official version arrives. Because of the possible time lapse between entry into school and the arrival of school records, this process jeopardizes proper placement for all students and, in particular, those involved in Special Education, Gifted Education, English as a Second Language, and Advanced Placement Courses.

Course Sequencing - States have varying prerequisite course requirements that can result in thwarting students' academic advancement, repeating content or eliminating students from Honors or Advanced Placement courses.

Graduation Requirements - Graduation requirements vary from state to state. In some states, specific courses are required for graduation. The graduation of military students who transfer during their junior or senior year may be jeopardized if they are unable, due to state or local policies or scheduling constraints, to enroll in the necessary course work.

Exclusion from Extra-Curricular Activities - Students who enroll in school after auditions, tryouts, elections and membership recruitments are often eliminated from activities that promote socialization and connectedness to their new school community. Often their skills and talents are not recognized or developed or are placed on "hold" because they are seen as transient or having arrived "too late."

Organizations such as the National Honor Society permit local entrance requirements that can eliminate students even when they have been members in their previous school.

Redundant or Missed Entrance/Exit Testing - Children who move frequently can be penalized for missing state mandated tests required to enter or exit various levels of the educational system. Tests are often specific to the state and therefore, entrance/exit tests taken in another state, are not recognized.

Kindergarten and First Grade Entrance Age Variances - Children enrolled in Kindergarten in one state may not qualify by age when transferred during the year to another state. Children who have completed Kindergarten in another state are sometimes denied entry into first grade if they do not meet the age requirement.

Power of Custodial Parents While Parents are Deployed - Due to circumstances created by military deployment, there are times when children are placed in the care of designated guardians. Legislation is needed to protect the children of these families so that they may continue to attend their school or relocate to the neighborhood school of their newly appointed guardian.

These are just a few of the items contained within the Compact. For more information about the compact visit: <http://www.csg.org/programs/ncic/EducatingMilitaryChildrenCompact.aspx>

To follow the bill, go to: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/2009/pdf/history/SB/SB2669.xml>

FISC hosts customer service seminar



U.S. Navy photo by MCI (SW) Terry Spain
Rodney Duggins, Naval Construction Battalion Gulfport, Supply Officer, briefs Civilians and Sailors during the Customer service meeting Feb. 5. The meeting is designed to help employees communicate with customers in a professional manner and review supply procedures. NCBC plans to hold a Customer Service meeting quarterly.

1NCD on the move during day-long visit with Gulfport Seabees

By MC3 Brian McCarthy
NCBC Public Affairs

Commander, First Naval Construction Division (1NCD) Rear Admiral Richard E. Cellon visited Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Feb. 4, to spend time with the men and women of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) and talk with all of the Seabee's stationed in Gulfport.

The Admiral began his visit by presenting the Sailors of NMCB 1 with a plaque; recognizing them as the 2008 Atlantic Fleet Active Component Battle "E" battalion.

After lunch, Cellon presented Capt. Robert McLean, Commander of 22NCR, the Legion of Merit award for his service as the



22NCR Commanding Officer during an All Hands call. McLean thanked his troops and said that their success has been his success. "It really is all about the people you serve with, and what they can do," he said.

Cellon addressed the members of 22NCR and answered some of their questions regarding the Perform to Serve program and reserve component and deployment challenges. "The things you're engaged in today ... are just as important as what

you were engaged in when you were deployed to Iraq," he said.

Before closing, Cellon thanked everyone for their continued service and praised the Seabee's for their constant hard work and dedication. "I appreciate the opportunity to spend some time with 22NCR today . . . I've been very impressed with what I've heard and what I've seen and what you guys are doing," he said. "In my view, Seabee's are making important contributions around the globe."

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian McCarthy/Released
Rear Adm. Richard E. Cellon, commander, 1st Naval Construction Division, speaks with members of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment during his visit to Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Feb. 4. Cellon spent the day speaking with the men and women of the Naval Construction Force through a variety of venues including Admiral's Calls and award presentations.

From SEATBELT page 15

every time we get into a vehicle, wearing a seatbelt is still the single most effective thing you can do to save lives and reduce injuries on our nation's highways.

The National Seat Belt Campaign "Click It or Ticket" has raised the public's seat belt usage rate to 82 percent. Navy and Marine Corps installations can participate in the upcoming "Click It or Ticket" campaign 18-31 May 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>. The effectiveness of enforcement is apparent, and rather than a one-time campaign, base and installation commanders should consider implementing a year-round campaign of strict seat-belt enforcement, especially when personnel are leaving the base.

February 12, 2009

Seabee Courier

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GULF COAST USO

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 (Closed Sundays)



February 12, 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



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Brian McCarthy

Bachelor Housing personnel display the "A List" award for customer satisfaction presented to them Feb. 2 by Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer of Naval Construction Battalion Center.

Gulfport Bachelor Housing earns praise from residents

By MC3 Brian McCarthy
NCBC Public Affairs

Capt. Ed Brown, Commanding Officer at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, presented the 2008 CEL & Associates "A List" award for the Bachelor Housing Resident Satisfaction Survey to the Bachelor Housing personnel here, Feb. 2. The award recognizes the outstanding achievements and commitment to excellence made by the housing staff according to the bachelor enlisted quarters residents here.

"It's when your juniors judge

you on the service you provide," said Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Kennedy McCarty, BEQ manager for NCBC.

According to McCarty, surveys are left in the barracks rooms of all the junior troops. They then have a chance to critique their living conditions and make suggestion to the housing staff. "It's up to the individuals to send them in," he said.

The housing personnel provide a variety of services to BEQ residents including barracks and grounds maintenance and responding to trouble call requests

or passing them along to Public Works.

According to McCarty, the purpose of the bachelor housing staff is to make sure the junior troops are getting what they need. "The priority is to provide them with clean, safe living conditions," he said. "Taking care of the junior troops is our job."

The "A List" award was first presented to Charles Taylor, director of housing at NCBC, during the Professional Housing Management Association - Professional Development Seminar in January.

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NEX rewards students with 'A-OK' program for outstanding scholastic achievement

By NEX Public Affairs

The Navy Exchange wants to help its customers pay for their children's college education through its A-OK Student Reward Program. Four times per school year, four students will be the recipients of a \$5,000, \$3,000 \$2,000 or \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, denominations at maturity. The next drawing will be held at the end of February 2009.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in first through 12th grade.

Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identifica-

tion Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each student may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for NEX products and services.

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has been offering students a chance to win a savings bond through its A-OK Student Reward Program since 1998. Since the program began, NEXCOM has awarded \$460,000 in savings bonds to 152 students with the help of its generous vendor partners.

Thrift Store moves



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (SW) Terry Spain/Released
Cmdr. Steve Fitzgerald, NCBC Executive Officer, along with members of Navy Marine Corps Society and Public Works, cut the ribbon during the grand opening of NCBC Thrift Store. The new store is located in Building 29 near the Commissary.

From **SPOUSE** page 4

for her positive impact on childhood safety and childhood injury prevention. Kuriatnyk will compete

against spouse of the year winners from the four other military branches for the coveted Military Spouse of The Year Award. The winner will be announced dur-

ing the second annual MSOY awards ceremony held in May in Washington DC. The winner will also be highlighted in the June edition of Military Spouse Magazine.

Voting for the 2009 MSOY will remain open through March 4. Individuals can go to : www.msosy.milspouse.com and cast their vote.

Do you practice OPSEC?

Protect your Navy family by protecting the information that you know. OPSEC or operations security is keeping potential adversaries from discovering critical information. Although information may not be classified, it can still be "critical." Critical information deals with specific facts about military intentions, capabilities, operations or activities. Details concerning locations and times of unit deployments, information about unit missions, references to personnel transactions that occur in large numbers (e.g. pay information, power of attorney, wills) are small pieces of information that may seem insignificant. However, to a trained adversary, they are small pieces of a puzzle that highlight what a unit is doing and planning. OPSEC is everyone's responsibility