



Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 46 No.13

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

July 16, 2009

Inside this edition



NMCCB 11 Seabee, Equipment Operator 3rd Class Kendall Eacho, raises the Battalion flag over Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain.

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The last week of June was filled with change of command ceremonies for Gulfport battalions near and far.

See pages 6, 7



FFSC Gpt is busy helping military members and their families by hosting an annual Career Fair as well as its first-ever Youth Summit. See page 9



U.S. Navy photo by Anna Brown/Released

James Veazey, left, Janice Baker, and Jill Paradise-Page, right, civilian employees of Naval Construction Battalion Center were presented with Navy Meritorious Civilian Service medals for exemplary performance by Commanding Officer, Capt. Ed Brown in an awards ceremony July 8 on board the Center.

Civilians honored for performance

By MC1 (SW) Terry Spain
NCBC Public Affairs

The phrase "hard work pays off" is what some Civilian employees on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport are saying. In a ceremony that took place in the new Seabee Heritage Center July 8, Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer of the Center awarded three civilian employees Navy Meritorious Civilian Service medals.

Jill Paradise-Paige, Child and Youth Program director with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation department for NCBC was honored for pro-

viding 23 years of exemplary leadership and managerial skills which she used to develop the Child and Youth programs into a thriving service for military families.

Under her guidance, Gulfport's Child and Youth Programs have consistently surpassed requirements for facility standards, staff development, and program standards resulting in accreditation status and recognition as a stellar program, one of the Navy's best.

James Veazey, Family Housing manager was commended for his effective management of an ever increasing Family

Housing operation. His assistance in recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina were of tremendous benefit to the Navy and in the wake of the hurricane's devastation, he managed over 500 units of temporary housing at 79 different sites along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. His efforts were paramount in assisting over 5,000 active duty service members, Reservists, Military Retirees, DoD Civilians and their families. Additionally, he aggressively participated in the development and design of the MILCON project

See CIVILIANS page 21

Navy unveils self-apply option for PCS orders

From Navy Personnel
Command Public Affairs

The latest upgrade to the Navy's detailing system empowers Sailors by allowing them to submit their own job applications when negotiating for permanent change of station orders, according to NAVADMIN 200/09, released July 7.

Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID), is a Web-based system that allows Sailors to view available job assignments and make applications through their command career counselors when looking for PCS orders. Beginning with the July 9 CMS/ID application cycle, many Sailors will have the ability to submit applications on their own.

"More senior Sailors already understand the detailing system and know what they should be looking for. The self-apply option is good for them. This frees up the career counselor to work with junior Sailors who may have never negotiated orders before and need help navigating the system," said Chief Warrant Officer Samuel Kirkland, assigned to OPNAV N16 Fleet Introduction team.

The OPNAV N16 Fleet Introduction Team tests and validates man-

See PCS page 19

NCBC/20SRG
Commanding Officer
 Capt. Ed Brown
Public Affairs Officer
 Rob Mims
Editor
 Bonnie L. McGerr
Mass Comm. Specialists
 MC1(SW) Terry Spain
 MC2 (SCW) Gregory N. Juday

22 NCR Commander
 Capt. Louis V. Cariello
Public Affairs Officer
 MCC(SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC3 Michael Wright

NMCB ONE
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Stanley W. Wiles
Public Affairs Officer
 Lt.j.g. Ina Miranda-Vargas
Mass. Comm. Specialists
 MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon

NMCB ELEVEN
 Cmdr. Michael Monreal
Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. Jason Lockhart
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC1 (SCW) Nicholas Lingo

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Commanding Officer
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Public Affairs Officer
 Lt.j.g. Margaret Hansen
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2 John Hulle

25 NCR Commander
 Capt. Jeffrey T. Borowy
Mass Comm. Specialists
 MC2 (SCW) Jeffrey Militzer

NMCB SEVEN
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 Cmdr. Paul Mitchell
Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. Christopher Holzner
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender

NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Christopher Kurgan
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

What happens if I test positive on a Command Urinalysis

By LNC (SW/AW) M. A. Champagne
 RLSO SE Branch Office, Gpt



The U.S. Navy has a zero tolerance policy for drug abuse. Besides facing Nonjudicial Punishment or a court-martial, if you use drugs you will be processed for administrative separation from the Navy (i.e., PROCESSED OUT with an Other Than Honorable discharge).

The type of discharge you receive is important because it can affect everything from your veteran's benefits to your civilian employment opportunities. As a general rule, "Honorable" and "General" discharges qualify a veteran for most benefits while an "Other Than Honorable" discharge disqualifies him or her from almost all benefits.

There is one significant exception to this rule: veterans receiving anything less than a fully honorable discharge automatically lose their education benefits. This means that if you receive either a General or an Other Than Honorable discharge, you will lose your G.I. Bill and you will not get back the \$1,200 that you already paid into the plan.

Additionally, a court-martial drug conviction may affect your

ability to get government education loans.

Discharges also affect post-service employment. Many employers ask to see a copy of your DD-214 form. This is the form that each of us will receive when our Naval service ends, and it indicates what kind of discharge we received.

As you can imagine, many employers will not want to hire somebody who received an Other Than Honorable discharge. This is especially true for government employers. If you are separated for drug use, your DD-214 will also include an "RE-4" reenlistment code. This tells other branches of the service that they should not allow you to reenlist.

Basically, if you are separated from the Navy because of drug use, it may be even harder to find a job than before you volunteered to serve your country.

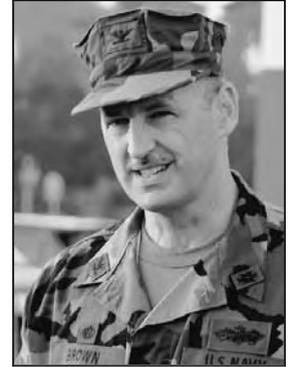
Also, persons awarded an Other Than Honorable discharge: (1) are not entitled to re-

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Skipper's Log

Every action . . .

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



Capt. Ed Brown

Right now think about the five or 10 interactions with others that have significantly influenced your life. Was it a meeting where someone starting berating you for no reason? Maybe it was the day you received bad news and someone stopped to listen. We all have a group of these strong memories that stay with us forever, where we think "I wish I could be like them," or "I'll never do that to someone." These memories are usually vivid and many times you can re-member a tremendous amount of detail.

Now stop again and think, if you met the person today that created that memory, do you think they would immediately connect you to that moment, would they even remember it if you described it. In many cases, if we are honest, the answer is no. This

was just a person being themselves. They were being who they are. They weren't trying to create a lifelong memory for you. They unintentionally changed your life forever.

How many people do you interact with everyday? How many of them will end up with those lifelong memories? Will you be the person that improves them forever, or the "I'll never be that?"

2010 Seabee Ball Design/Theme Contest

Show off your creativity and art skills in the 10th annual Seabee Ball theme design contest!

Open to Active and Reserve personnel assigned to a unit on board NCBC. Winner to receive two tickets to the 2010 Seabee Ball and a Seabee afghan (retail value \$155).

Entries due by close of business, July 31. Submit entries to the 2010 Seabee Ball officer in charge: robert.c.rutherford@navy.mil.

Winner to be announced Aug. 14.

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.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 (SW) Terry Spain/Released

The new \$14.2 million Navy Exchange opened on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) June 29. The facility is part of a massive \$320 million recapitalization funding action which has brought an entirely new look to NCBC since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2005.

Seabees, families shop in brand new Navy Exchange

By Bonnie L. McGerr
NCBC Public Affairs

The new Navy Exchange complex opened June 29 to an enthusiastic crowd on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. The NEX is one piece of a massive \$320 million recapitalization funding action that has brought an entirely new look to the Seabee Center since Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2005.

As customer's walk in through the expansive glass-front entrance of the Exchange, there is no doubt that they are inside a Seabee-friendly retail environment. The walls are decorated

with life-size pictures of Seabees at work and embedded with the Seabee motto "Construimus Batiuimus", Latin for "We Build, We Fight". Glass cases display an assortment of construction related memorabilia. A spacious Navy/Seabee Pride department offers customers the opportunity to choose from a vast stock of military casual clothing, paraphernalia and accessories.

NEX Gulfport's General Manager Mike Oatman said that a primary goal in developing the new complex was to make it truly a Seabee home-store. "Our decor package was done with our Gulfport Seabees in mind. I invite everyone to take a look

around at some of the [store's] subtle design elements," said Oatman.

The \$14.2 million NEX complex combines multiple services including a personalized services counter, UPS shipping and money order services, a florist, a barber and a beauty shop, as well as a full service Navy Federal Credit Union and a Subway - all designed to provide one-stop shopping to the more than 9,000 service members and their families who live here.

"We also have a great new 'Super Customer Service Desk' to fulfill all special needs such as lay-a-way, flowers and Western Union; as well as a new program



Left: U.S. Navy photos by Bonnie McGerr/Released
Family members and a NEX employee celebrate the opening of the new \$14.2 million Navy Exchange with cake and punch.



Below: A service member makes a purchase at the expanded Uniform Department of the new NEX.

called 'Club Pack' [which] gives patrons the option of purchasing bulk quantities of products," said Oatman.

The Tactical department has been greatly-expanded to include a sizable inventory of tools, comfort items and essentials for the warfighter, while the Uniform department has been revamped with wider aisles to allow for a much better shopping experience. There is also a "Red Phone" ordering service which allows authorized patrons to pick up the phone, order uniform items not in stock and have them shipped free of charge.

NCBC Commanding Officer, Capt. Ed Brown expressed his

satisfaction with the NEX, and the tremendous customer service response from all levels of the NEX staff and how the Exchange has been a big hit.

"My Exchange manager, Mike Oatman has done a phenomenal job," said Brown. "[I] am so happy to have such a creative and customer focused manager. He spends significant time getting to know the Seabees and Expeditionary Forces here at the base. [I] don't think I've ever seen a store so linked to its clientele."

For additional information about NCBC Gulfport, visit <http://www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport/index.htm>.

LifeWorks July Events

Thursdays in July: National Ice Cream Month
Stop by the office every Thursday in July for an ice cream treat! A great way to cool down this summer!

* **July 1- 30:** Back to School Backpack Drawing
Call or stop by the office to enter your name to win a backpack filled with supplies just before school starts! Winner will be chosen July 31.

* **July 1- 28:** National Culinary Month - Turn in your favorite summer recipe to enter your name into a drawing. You could win a basket filled with kitchen gadgets and goodies. Bring your entry to the housing office or e-mail it to jstacks@bbc-grp.com. Winner will be chosen July 29.

* **July 13 - 17th:** Summer Word Search - Bring your completed summer word search by the office to receive a goodie bag and beach toys!

* **July 21:** Tie Dyed Tuesday with a Summer Splash - Stop by the pool house lawn from 1 to 3 p.m. to enjoy some summer fun! After tie dyeing your own shirt to take home, have some fun and cool down with water guns, water balloons, and popsicles!

* **July 31st:** Yard of the Month awarded - Don't forget to mow your backyard and keep your patio neat and clean. You could be our next winner!



NMCB 11 re-establishes Camp Mitchell, Spain

By MC1 (SCW) Nicholas Lingo
 NMCB 11 Public Affairs

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 have taken the final steps in re-establishing Camp Mitchell, Spain as one of the Main body sites for NMCB deployments.

NMCB 11 gathered in formation around the Camp flagpole to present the Battalion's colors for the first time as a unit in Rota, Spain. The Battalion has been preparing for the return to Spain for the entirety of its six-month deployment.

The process began back in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait where the 'Bees were tasked with closing down the camp to include retrograding Civil Engineer Support Equipment, tools, materials and facilities; and returning control of the camp property back to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

The next step was the offload of the Seabees' new SMART P-25S Table of Allowance, a three-day ship offload that included over 300 pieces of Civil Engineer Support Equipment and over 150 Containers.

The final step came as the headquarter element arrived in Rota and brought the Battalion's colors back to Camp Mitchell to



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released

Equipment Operator 3rd Class Kendall Eacho and Construction Electrician 3rd Class Shane Roder raise Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 11's Battalion flag over Camp Mitchell for the first time since NMCB 11's main body arrived in Spain. Camp Mitchell will serve as the headquarters for Seabees deploying to the EUCOM and AFRICOM Areas of Responsibility. NMCB 11 currently on deployment throughout Europe, Southwest Asia, SOUTHCOM and Africa in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

complete the re-establishment process for the Seabees.

The Seabees have spent the better part of the last seven years in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait providing support to local commanders in that area, but more importantly were there to provide contingency construction support for joint forces working in and around Iraq and Afghanistan. With increasing missions in

Africa, the Rota Seabee Battalion will launch detachments and details to provide humanitarian civic assistance construction and exercise related construction projects in EUCOM and AFRICOM theaters of operation.

The Seabees of NMCB 11 are currently deployed to Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Fleet Forces Command drops by NCBC for visit

By MC1 (SW) Terry Spain
 NCBC Public Affairs

The commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF), Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, met with returning and future individual augmentees (IA) and Seabees at Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport June 30.

In March 2008, NAVADM 160/08 announced the assignment of USFF as the Executive Agent for the entire IA continuum. Greenert held an IA call as part of his ongoing goal to inform IA Sailors and family members on issues relating to IA deployment readiness and poli-

cies, and to receive feedback from those who have recently returned or will be deploying to an IA billet.

During the visit Greenert also toured the NCBC medical facility which assisted many IAs in their transitions to assignments throughout the world.

"I was really impressed with Adm. Greenert's visit," said Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class (AW) Joseph Blaylock, who will be deploying to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba as an IA. "It really showed me that he cared and

See GREENERT page 11



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael Wright/Released

Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) Adm. Jonathan Greenert shakes hands with deploying Individual Augmentee's prior to an IA call, at the Center Training Hall June 30. Greenert was visiting as part of his ongoing goal to inform IA Sailors on issues relating to IA deployment readiness and policies, and to receive feedback from those who have recently returned or will be deploying to an IA billet.

Pine Bayou Golf Tournament

MWR Independence Classic Golf Tournament. This tournament will be a 4-person scramble, held on the 17th of July at Pine Bayou beginning at Noon. The cost is \$24 for cart and greens fee and will be an 18 hole event. Prizes will be determined on the # of participants. In case of a tie, there will be a match of cards from #18 backwards.

NEX Mini Mart Hours
 Monday - Friday, 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. , Saturday,
 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



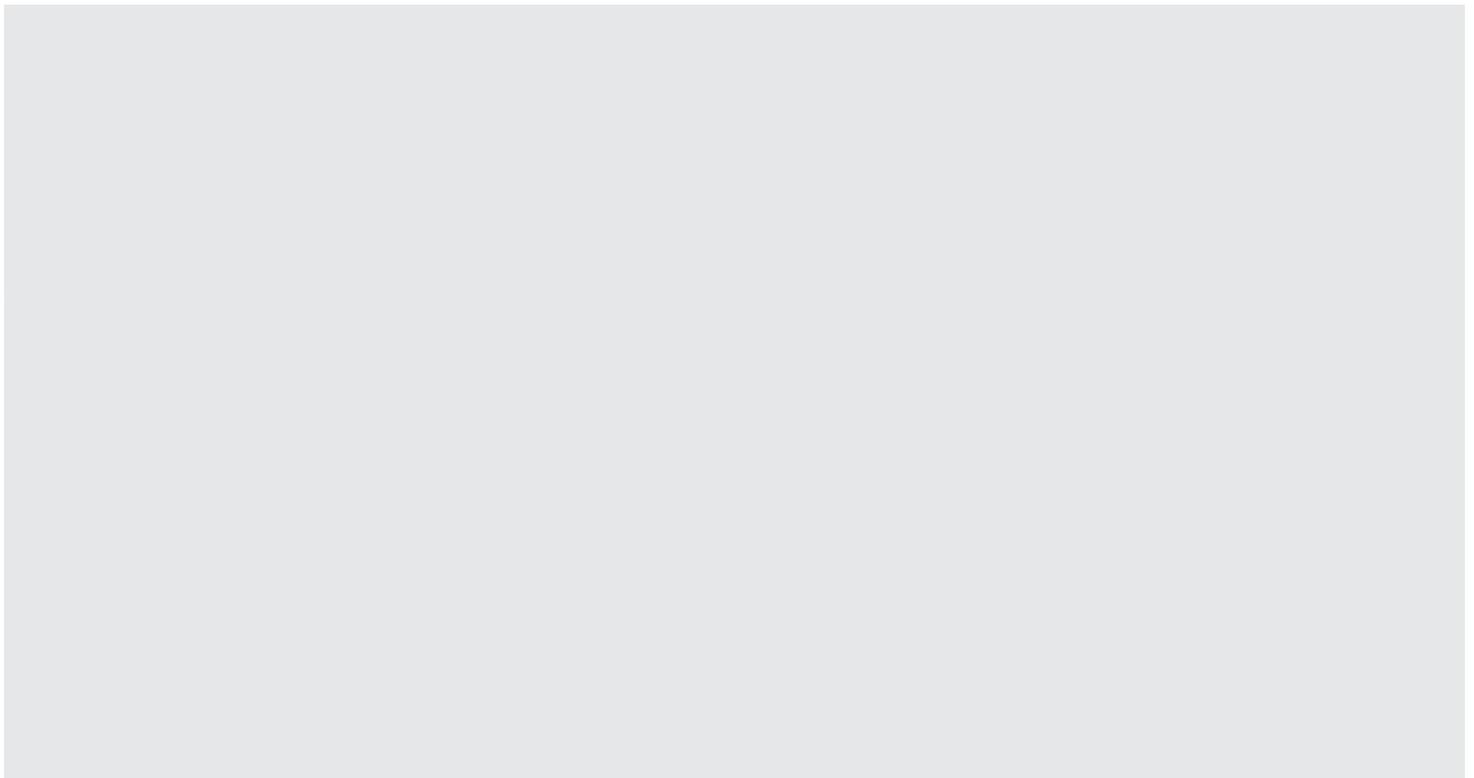
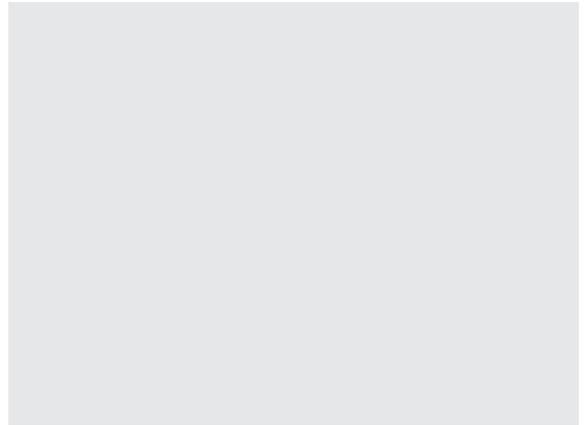
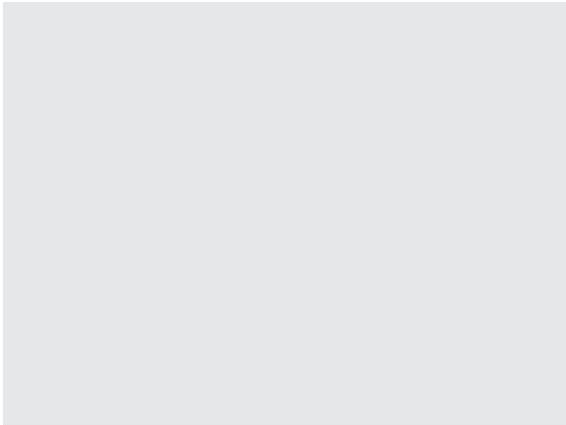
**WANTED:
Seabee
Divers!
Underwater
Construction
Team ONE**

**Contact:
S1/CCC@
(757) 462-
3986/3988**

Commanders Action Line: Mini-Mart Etiquette

Question/Concern: The NEX has limited number of pumps and long lines in the afternoons. This is compounded when shipmates finish pumping gas and go shopping inside the mini-mart before paying while they leave their car at the pump, thus holding up the line for everyone. In the past, there was a sticker (policy) on the pumps that asked the drivers to pull forward when they finished pumping, THEN go inside and pay for the gas. Can we educate NEX gas station costumers on proper gas pumping procedures and/or etiquette? Can the cashiers remind (enforce) the policy?

Answer: "Great idea about the signs, we're having them made. Thanks for bringing this up. To help alleviate this issue the NEX recently added cash registers at the back of the store and opened up the back door so patrons who want to shop can and should pull around. This leaves the front registers available for predominately gas purchases. Also, longer hoses are now in place on the "left side" gasoline dispensers to provide an option for most vehicles to now drive up to either lane. Gasoline operations are open 24/7 (credit cards only after hours). With the opening of the new store and relocation of the package goods to the gas station we have expanded our hours of operation to 9 p.m."



Mitchell relieves Adametz, takes command of NMCB 7

By CECN Ivana Flores and MC2 (SCW) Michael B. Lavender
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 held a change of command ceremony June 26, when Cmdr. Jayson Mitchell relieved Cmdr. John J. Adametz as commanding officer. Captain Ed. Brown, commanding officer for Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, presided over the change of command ceremony.

At the start of the ceremony, the entire battalion marched onto the parade grinder, demonstrating the battalion's pride in tradition. Present day military parades have their basis in history and tradition. The mass formation of troops at close interval made possible the massing of firepower from muzzle-loaded muskets. In the early days of U.S. history, the line of battle was just that: a line of two or three ranks.

During the ceremony, the presiding officer gave his remarks, recapitulating Adametz's tour as NMCB 7's commanding officer and the success of NMCB 7.

"People say that great leaders develop throughout time and one of the most important parts about being a great leader is that they enable their people to be more than they think they can be," said Brown. "Well, looking back on the performance of NMCB 7 and all they have done over the past two years, it has been nothing short of spectacular."

During his remarks over his term as commanding officer of NMCB 7, Adametz expressed his pride in the accomplishments of his battalion.

"Two years spent in command goes by very quickly, but you don't get there on



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael B. Lavender, Released
Cmdr. Jayson Mitchell, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7's new commanding officer, receives the battalion colors from the former commanding officer, Cmdr. John Adametz as the battalion Command Master Chief, Pete Grundy, observes during the change of command ceremony June 26.

your own," said Adametz. "The stories of this battalion are well heralded; they are amazing. I'm so proud of them. It's been my honor and privilege to serve with them. They honor me and they honor this great nation, the Navy and the Naval Construction Force." Following his remarks, Adametz stated he was ready to be relieved and the formal exchange of the battalion colors was conducted between Adametz and Mitchell while the orders were read aloud.

Following the exchange of the battalion colors, Mitchell declared his pride in the command and Adametz's tour during his remarks.

"It's clear to me that I have huge shoes to fill," said Mitchell. "I am deeply honored to be the commanding officer of NMCB 7. I'm humbled by NMCB 7's long and distinguished history of accomplishments. Since its first commissioning in 1942, as one of the original Seabee battalions, starting in World War II and following on with service

in the Korean War, Vietnam, Operation Desert Shield, and Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Add to that list, the impressive array of humanitarian missions, disaster relief operations and you have yourself a strong legacy indeed. NMCB 7 has lived up to that legacy and I look forward to the next two years as we write the next chapter of that legacy together."

Concluding the ceremony, the battalion passed in review, carrying on their pride in tradition and demonstrating their 'Can Do' spirit even in ceremony.

Adametz will report to Deputy Chief Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics as Head of Expeditionary Readiness Branch.

NMCB 7's mission is to provide advance base construction and battle damage repair, contingency engineering, humanitarian assistance and disaster recovery support all over the globe in defense of our great Nation and our way of life.

NMCB 11 holds 1st change of command since recommissioning

By MC1 (SCW) Nicholas Lingo
NMCB 11 Public Affairs

Command of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eleven has been relinquished by Cmdr. Stephen Revelas, NMCB 11's first and only commanding officer since the command was recommissioned September 14, 2007.

Cmdr. Michael Monreal assumed command from Revelas during a ceremony held on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

One of the guests of honor, Capt. Edward Brown, commander of the 20th Seabee Readiness Group, said he was pleased to attend the ceremony during NMCB 11's historic first deployment since its recommissioning.

He took the chance to remind the battalion what he addressed them about prior to their first deploy-

ment, "Before NMCB 11 left, I spoke to most of you and asked you to go out and make history, I believe you've done just that," said Brown. "The expert guidance of Commander Revelas has been instrumental; you've done a great job with these fine young men and women, Skipper."

Revelas will transfer to Naval District Washington and serve as the public works officer. Monreal is coming back to a battalion after a three-year stint at Naval Station Rota, Spain where he served as the facilities engineering and acquisition director and public works officer.

The Seabees of NMCB 11 are currently deployed to the Horn of Africa,

Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released
Cmdr. Stephen Revelas, receives the Navy Meritorious Service Medal from Capt. Ed Brown, Commander Twentieth Seabee Readiness Group, during NMCB 11's Change of Command ceremony held June 22 on Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Odenthal bids farewell to Runnin' Roos of NMCB 133

By MCC (SW) Ryan C. Delcore
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

It was a bitter-sweet day for Cmdr. Paul Odenthal, on the day of his change of command ceremony. He joined the battalion and took over as the commanding officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 during their 2007 deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He never missed an opportunity to be around his Seabees. He often stated to his chiefs and officers that his junior Seabees were his main motivation for going to work every day. Keeping track of and getting involved

in every opportunity for the junior troops to grow and excel was the main focus of Odenthal.

Cmdr. Odenthal made his change of command ceremony about his troops by presenting many of his Sailors with command coins and letters of appreciation, coupled with proud words of the accomplishments his battalion had made during their past two deployments.

He invited three sailors up to the stage before the ceremony ended and asked Command Master Chief (CMDM) Pamela Taylor for three more coins.

"We're out of coins, Sir,"

she replied. "Do you have anything else we can give them?" asked Odenthal.

Taylor pulled out two 3rd and one 2nd Class rank insignia. Odenthal surprised his Sailors by promoting them on the spot as his last act as commanding officer.

"That's the sweetest feeling in the world!" said Odenthal as he turned to his relief, Cmdr. Christopher Kurgan.

"I never saw anyone get up tight when he approached them, because he wasn't a stranger to anybody and we knew he genuinely cared about how we were doing," said Builder 2nd Class Heather Rickards.



U.S. Navy photo by MCC Ryan C. Delcore/Released
Cmdr. Chris Kurgan salutes Cmdr. Paul Odenthal after relieving him as commanding officer of NMCB 133 during the change of command at the Training Hall on board NCBC, June 25.

25th NCR gets caught 'tacking on' crows

By Chief Hospital Corpsman (SCW) Beverly J. Malm
25th NCR Public Affairs

Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class (SCW) Jeffrey R. Militzer was waiting patiently for training to start, when his Leading Chief Petty Officer, or LCPO, stood up and made the announcement that "Today, we will be 'tacking-on' Petty Officer Militzer's crow." Everyone looked around the room, in complete disbelief of what they had just heard, the silence was deafening.

In recent years, "Tacking on the Crow" typically refers to a practice of hazing, where shipmates would punch the arm of a newly promoted petty officer; a practice now forbidden Navy-wide due to the injuries and embarrassment experienced by Sailors. Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SCW/SW) James "Jake" Brady summoned Militzer to the front of the room and began the ceremony. With everyone looking



U.S. Navy photo by Chaplain (Capt.) Ronald Wells/Released
Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SCW/SW) James "Jake" Brady of the 25th Naval Construction Regiment sews a stitch into the collar device of Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class (SCW) Jeffrey R. Militzer to signify "tacking on" his crow during a ceremony in Afghanistan.

on in stunned silence, Brady inserted a threaded needle into the edge of the badge on Militzer's collar. As he continued to sew his stitch, he explained the history of "tacking on a crow" to everyone present.

"In days long past, when a Seaman was being promoted, his shipmates would take him

out on the town, while the crew remaining on board would sew or tack-on the new rating badge to his uniform. Typically, because he had been out very late the night before, the newly promoted Sailor would not even realize that his

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NMCB 74 rocks during 21st Annual Radio for Red Cross blood drive

Story & photo by MC2 John Hulle
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

The American Red Cross and 14 Gulf Coast radio stations orchestrated the 21st Annual Radio for Red Cross blood drive June 23-25.

"This is not only the largest blood drive in the region, but the South East division," said Liz Gaulke, Senior Account Manager American Red Cross.



Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Kyle Lykke, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, gives blood at the 21st Annual "Radio for Red Cross" Blood Drive in Biloxi, Miss., June 23.

The blood drive traveled to three Mississippi Gulf Coast locations during the three days including Our Lady Academy High School in Bay St. Louis, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Gautier.

"This looks better than years before," said Dan Saah, producer for Beasley and Pork Chop on 105.6 Go-FM, who has been involved in the blood drive for the last four years.

He said the station promoted heavily and it's "rewarding" to put in work and see so many people show up. "It shows people are listening."

Volunteers from across the coast came to support, including 20 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 at the Edgewater Mall in Biloxi.

Gaulke said the "military has been a huge help," referring to support from service members assigned to NMCB-74, Expeditionary Combat Skills, Keesler Air Force Base, and the National Guard. "We could not do any

See ROCKS page 17

DeCA launches Li'l Heroes Baby Program

By Courtney Rogers
DeCA Customer Relations
Specialist

As part of an ongoing effort to emphasize that the commissary is a benefit for the whole military family, the Defense Commissary Agency recently launched an exciting new initiative: the Li'l Heroes Baby Program.

A new addition to the family brings not only more joy, but also more expenses. As household budgets tighten, the average savings of 30 percent or more customers realize by shopping at the commissary helps families make ends meet. In fact, a family of four can save an average of nearly \$3,400 per year by shopping at the commissary, based on October 2008 USDA figures for retail grocery store food purchases consumed at home.

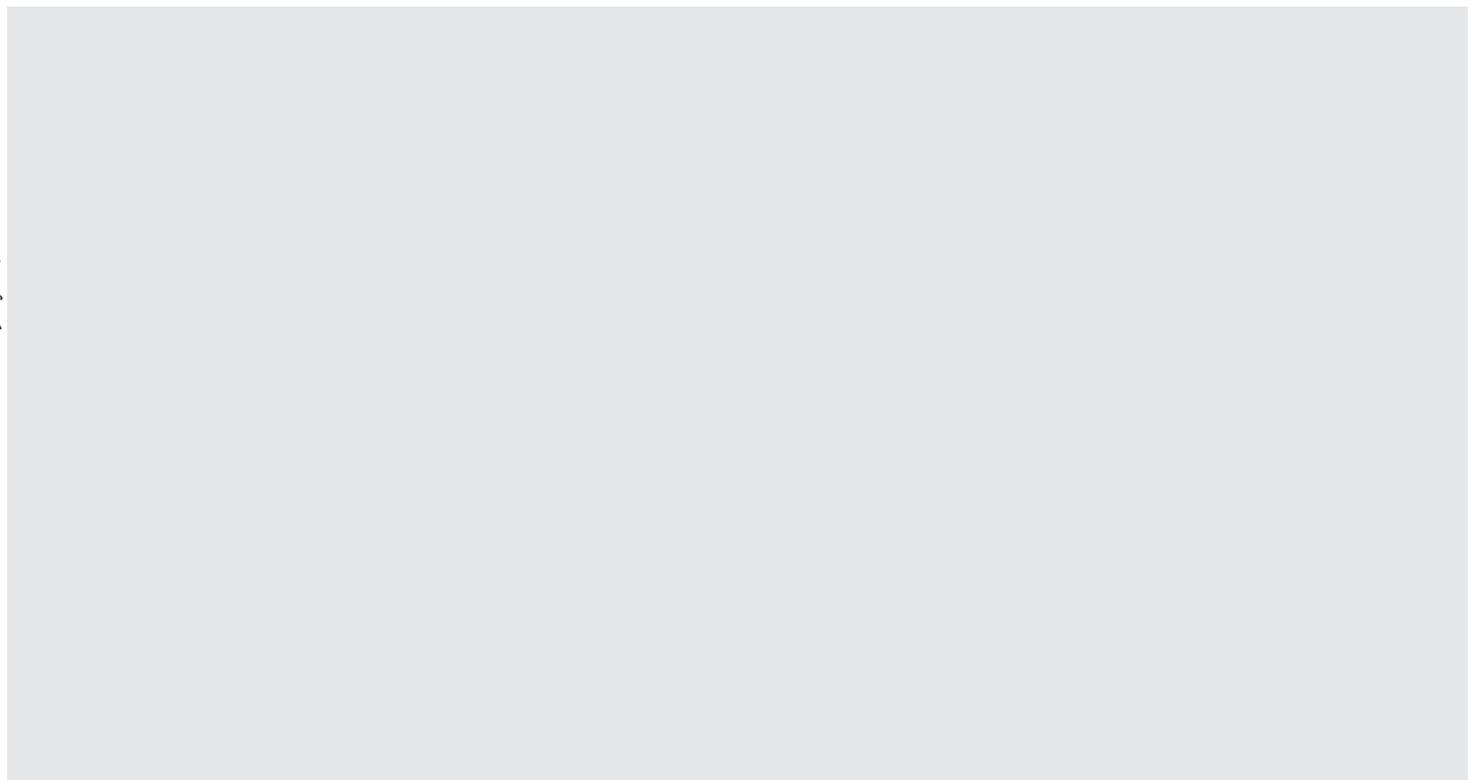
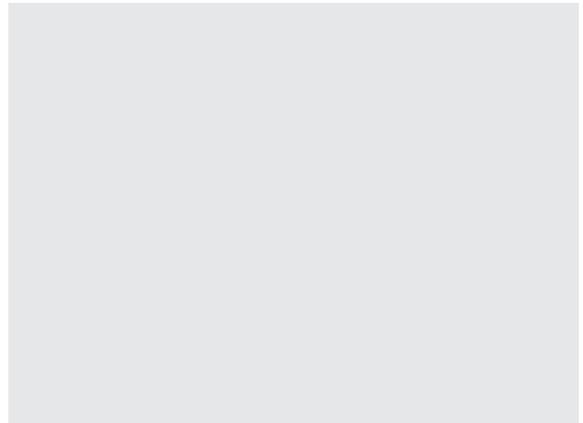
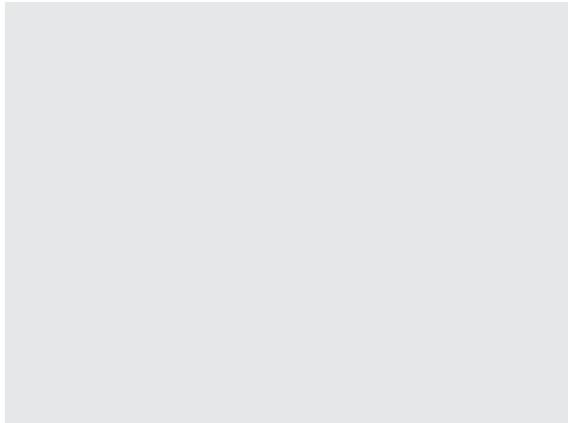
"Customers have told us that the commissary is their most important nonpay benefit, so we want to maintain that by supporting the whole military family as much as possible," DeCA Director and CEO Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. said. "We value the sacrifices these families have

made for our country, and hope that the support this program will provide will make the commissary even more worth the trip for them."

The Li'l Heroes Baby Program will be featured on a special section of <http://www.commissaries.c>

om that will offer articles from the DeCA dietitian, Lt. Col. Karen Hawkins, and the agency's home economist, Kay Blakley, as well as links to other government sources providing tips and advice to new parents.

See **HEROES** page 12



FFSC holds Youth Summit

From Fleet and Family Support Center Gulfport

Thirty-eight youth, ages 10 to 18 years old, and the CBC MWR Summer Camp Counselors learned about character, boundaries, and financial planning at the first annual Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Youth Summit held June 23.

Jeff Isabell, who coordinated the team effort said that the event provided the attendees with practical information and life skills to help them make good choices for a better future.

Gerri Warden, who works at the Pascagoula office of the FFSC, opened the session with "Character Counts," an overview of the 6 pillars of good character.

Paula Ingram, FFSC Educator, followed with an "Introduction to Boundaries."

Saudi Rodgers, FFSC Personal Financial Management Specialist, provided information on both the importance of and some methods for saving money.



U.S. Navy photo/Released

Saudi Rodgers, Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Personal Financial Management Program Specialist, makes a point about saving money at the June 23, Youth Summit at Fleet and Family Support Center. This is the first year for the Youth Summit. Organizers from FFSC are already working on next year's agenda.

Jennifer Watros, Manager of the CBC office of Navy Federal Credit Union, talked about credit scores and how to establish good credit.

Alice Huffman, Director of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), took the audience on a tour of the NMCRS Thrift Store.

Based on the success of this first effort, Isabell said that the FFSC will host a similar event next year.

"We will have different topics and we have already started brainstorming how to make next year's summit as relevant and interesting as possible," said Isabell.

NCBC Career Fair



U.S. Navy photo by Anna Brown/Released

A service member discusses future career plans at the Career Fair sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center here, July 9. There were more than 15 companies at the Fair who were interested in hiring new employees. The fair was filled with candidates interested in being hired.

**Questions on Recycling?
Call CBC Recycling at:
(228) 871-4738**

Sailors encouraged to participate in Sexual Assault study

By Bruce Moody
Fleet and Family Support
Program, CNIC

The Navy encourages active-duty Sailors to participate in a sexual assault study to assess the effectiveness of the Navy's Sexual Assault Victim Intervention (SAVI) program.

The Office of the Naval Inspector General (IG) is conducting the survey, which is available at www.ig.navy.mil/sastudy.htm. The survey was designed for active-duty personnel, is confidential, anonymous, and will be available for partici-

partation through Sept. 30. Naval IG teams are also visiting installations around the fleet through the end of September. As part of the visits, they are facilitating focus group discussions to gain more insight from a fleet perspective, about the occurrences and command support during incidences of sexual assault. Each focus group will be composed of a cross-section of approximately 20 people from various rank categories.

The Navy's SAVI Program is managed by Commander, Navy Installations Com-

mand's Fleet and Family Support Program. The Fleet and Family Support Program manages a wide variety of programs, including SAVI. These programs enhance Sailor readiness and family preparedness, directly contributing to mission readiness.

The Navy is the first of the armed service to have a dedicated program for sexual assault awareness, prevention, and intervention. Established in 1994, the program has recently shifted more focus toward prevention and is incorporating new initiatives based on civilian best prac-

tices and recent research.

"Sexual assault is a crime and will not be tolerated," said Paul Finch, SAVI's program manager. "It is a criminal act, incompatible with the Navy's core values; it dramatically affects morale and operational readiness. Senior leadership is committed to an effective and responsive SAVI program in order to ensure prevention, quality victim care and response and to holding offenders accountable."

In working toward this commitment, the Navy is sustaining a robust sexual assault prevention and response pol-

icy, identifying and eliminating barriers to reporting, ensuring that care is available and accessible to victims of sexual assault, and providing continuous, relevant, and effective training and education to all service members. All Navy commands have a 24/7 sexual assault response capability focused on victim support. Commanders ensure that female and male sexual assault victims (or survivors) have access to the assistance and resources to meet their needs and to provide a safe and professional work environment.

Why the English language is hard to learn

From GOSPORT, Pensacola, Fla.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. He thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer, taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
19. Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk, and 26 gallons of bottled water a year. That's a lot of containers -- make sure they're recycled!



that he's willing to address the concerns that we may have."

Although, the IA process can be lengthy and stressful, the ultimate rewards can be career enhancing. Sailors who have completed an IA tour greater than 90 consecutive days of service in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Kuwait, Cuba, Joint Task Force 515 or the Joint Force-Philippines and have parent command endorsement are now authorized two award points towards advancement.

The Navy has deployed more than 77,000 individual augmentees to joint and coalition commands since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom. There are approximately 10,000 IAs deployed globally right now, and more than half of our augmentees come from the reserve force. Most of the current augmentees are in CENTCOM, with others in Guantanamo, Europe, Africa and South America. While the overall number of IAs fluctuates month to month, only a very small percentage of the Navy's manpower is actually committed to IA orders.

Sailors serving on a global war on terrorism support assignment will also receive traditional family support from their detaching command while on an IA tour; however, Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) will provide all administrative Sailor support. This administrative support will include but is not limited to: exam ordering and exam administration; deployment pay, housing, medical and legal support; personnel accounting of Sailors during a disaster; and continuous reach back support for emergent deployment issues.

Coastline Community College announces 2009 Grads

Coastline Community College, Fountain Valley, Calif., announces that Associate Degrees were awarded to 1,567 military graduates for the 2008-2009 school year. Sixty-five of those graduates were from the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Stennis Space Center, Keesler Air Force Base or Pascagoula Pre Commissioning Unit (PCU) commands. A list of those graduates is as follows:

Bizhan O. Askari, Construction Technology; Kathryn M. Benjamin, Business Administration; Nathan P. Bizzle, Oceanography Technology; Barry N. Blanton Jr., Electrical Mechanical Technology; Mark W. Boice, Construction Technology; Everett P. Bowens, Business Administration and Electrical Mechanical Technology; LaKendra A. Brown, Business Administration; Leslie M. Buentello, Oceanography Technology and General Studies; Andrew W. Cahill, Media/Communications; Nina S. Colon, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Benjamin J. Corbett, Construction Technology; Jason W. Couch, Electronics Technology and Vocational-Technical Education;

Jason J. Cummings, Construction Technology; Eric G. Dallin, Construction Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Jennifer L. DeStefano, Business Administration; Dennis M. Ferstler, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Anthony M. Gabriel, Health Science Technology; Thomas S. Gallegos, Business Administration; Fasil H. Gebremedhin, Construction Technology; Jeffrey R. Greene, Construction Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Christopher E. Grisham, Construction Technology; Warren C. Hargrove, Business Administration; John A. Haynie, Construction Technology; Jonathon M. Heintz, Electrical Mechanical Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Tania T. Hilliard, Construction Technology; Heather M. Williams-Hines, Media/Communications; Joey A. Istre, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Matthew D. Jackson, Oceanography Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Catherine L. Jacobsen, Health Science Technology; Christopher S. Kelly, Construction Technology and General Studies; Dapri F. King, Con-

struction Technology; Ryan J. Laney, Construction Technology; Joseph W. Lee, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Kurita L. Lewis, Business Administration; Arnold P. Manipol, Applied Marine Engineering; Jacob K. Martin, Construction Technology; Marianela Martinez, Health Science Technology; James A. McQuillan, Management and Vocational-Technical Education; Brian C. McCarthy, Media/Communications; Henry M. Miller Jr. Applied Marine Engineering; Jeffrey L. Monson, Oceanography Technology; Christopher B. Morin, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Thaddeus B. Newton, General Studies and Criminal Justice; Greg D. Overhaiser, Electronics Technology; Vinceint D. Pettigrew, Electronics Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; James E. Pipoly, Construction Technology; Brian O. Randle, Business Administration; Aaron M. Rhodes, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Richard N. Roe, Construction Technology; Jeremy D. Schara, General Studies; Gregory J. Smith, Electrical Mechanical Technology; Justin R. Smith, Electronics Technology; Wayne A.

Sperko, Construction Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Bradley W. Stice, Electrical Mechanical Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Victor J. Swanier, Health Science Technology; Robert L. Thomas Jr. Construction Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Lance A. L. Thorpe, Construction Technology and Business Administration; Joshua W. Turner, Construction Technology; Gregory A. Verlinde, Applied Marine Engineering; Sanja L. Walker, Food Service Management; Christopher S. Watson, Electronics Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Timothy S. Weisenburg, Construction Technology; Marcus D. Wells, Oceanography Technology and Vocational-Technical Education; Michael D. Wolfe, Business Administration; Tara J. Young, Construction Technology.

Prospective students interested in Coastline's On-Line Degree Programs can contact Dr. David Drye in the Navy College Office, building 60, room 239, or call (228) 871-3439 for information.

Keeping children safe during the hot days of summer

From NCBC Safety

Children are more susceptible to heat injuries than adults. The onset can be quicker and the effects more serious.

Three factors cause heat stress on the body: humidity level, sun radiation and air temperature.

Heat stress injuries include:

- o Heat cramps, which are muscular pains and spasms that result from intense exertion and a loss of fluids. Rest and rehydration will usually relieve the cramps. While painful, cramps are not life threatening.

- o Heat Exhaustion - Heat exhaustion usually occurs after prolonged exposure to heat and/or heavy exercise in the heat resulting in increased loss of body fluids through heavy sweating. Signs of heat exhaustion include clammy, pale skin; sweating, dry mouth, fatigue, headache and or

dizziness. Children suffering from heat exhaustion need to be removed from the heat immediately and given water to drink and cool compresses on their skin. Fortunately, heat exhaustion is not life threatening, and will resolve with rest, fluids and cooling down.

- o Heat Stroke - Heat stroke is a very dangerous and a life threatening form of heat stress or injury. The body is so overwhelmed by the heat and humidity that it loses the capacity to cool itself. The signs of heat stroke include high body temperature; red, dry skin; absence of sweating; a weak pulse rate; confusion, hallucinations; seizures or loss of consciousness.

To prevent heat injury during the hot, humid days of a Mississippi summer you should:

- o Stay out of the heat and humidity by staying indoors during the hottest

time of the day (usually mid morning to mid afternoon).

- o If there are no air conditioners, try to stay at the lowest level of the house as it tends to be cooler and keep the house as shaded as possible by closing window blinds and curtains.

- o Because infants have thinner skin and underdeveloped melanin, their skin burns more easily than that of older kids. Sunscreen should not be applied to babies under 6 months of age, so they absolutely must be kept out of the sun whenever possible. If your infant must be in the sun, dress him or her in clothing that covers the body, including hats with wide brims to shadow the face. Use an umbrella to create shade.

- o Children age 6 months and older should use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher to prevent both sunburn and tanning. Choose a sunscreen protects against both UVA and UVB rays



(referred to as "broad-spectrum" sunscreen) and apply about 30 minutes before the kids go outside.

- o Keep children hydrated with water or sports drinks.

- o Children swimming in a pool or at the beach need a waterproof sunscreen. Waterproof sunscreens may last up to 80 minutes in the water, and some are also sweat- and rub-proof. Reapply sunscreen when kids come out of the water.

Being a good role model by wearing sunscreen and limiting your time in the sun not only reduces your risk of sun damage, but teaches your kids good sun sense which will pay off in their future.

A Reminder from NCBC Safety . . .

Motorcycle Safety Training is mandatory for all Sailors who ride motorcycles. Sign up on line at: <http://www.navymotorcyclider.com> or call NCBC Safety at (228) 871-4343 or (228) 871-4702 if you have questions.



In order to improve the skills and knowledge of motorcyclists, it's **mandatory for all Sailors** who are motorcycle riders to attend motorcycle safety training courses. Courses are available at no cost. There are three types of courses:

Basic Rider Course (BRC): A two day course required for all military who ride motorcycles. Then depending on the type of motorcycle owned the next class is either:

Experienced Rider Course (ERC): A one day course for standard cruiser or touring motorcycle greater than 500cc. Must complete no later than three years following BRC.

Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC): A one day course required for all sport/touring bike riders. Must complete no later than 60 days following BRC.

New Health Clinic providers available for service members and their families . . .

The Branch Health Clinic on board NCBC now has two new providers onboard, including a Pediatrician. Dr. Elisabeth Haller and Mr. Michael Fairbanks have joined the clinic staff and are available to start enrolling patients (family members of active duty personnel). Dr. Haller, a Pediatrician, is available to see patients aged 2 through 17. Mr. Fairbanks, a Family Nurse Practitioner, is available for all patients aged 2 and up. Their appointment hours are Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To change your TRICARE enrollment to either provider, contact Ms. Debbie Sekul at (228) 871-2810 x105. To make an appointment, call the Appointment Hotline at 1-877-879-1621.

**Navy
Seabee
Veterans
of
America**

**63rd
National
Convention and
All Seabee
Reunion
Oct. 12-16
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at:
www.NSVAGulfport.org; or email
questions to:
allseabeeunion@cablone.net**

From HEROES page 8

The highlight of this new program will be DeCA's newest e-newsletter: the Li'l Heroes Benefit Bulletin.

In addition to linking commissary customers to the articles mentioned above, this monthly e-newsletter will provide access to military-exclusive vendor Web pages offering special savings for readers.

This information will help you learn how to make the commissary that much more worth the trip for the things your little ones need. Vendors will also be offering special thank-you gifts to subscribers.

For more information on the program, and to subscribe to the Li'l Heroes Benefit Bulletin, please visit <http://www.commissaries.com/baby>.

Range Coaches guide Navy Riflemen to qualification

By MC2 (SCW) Michael B. Lavender
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Attaining a Navy Rifle Qualification can be a daunting experience for any Seabee, but especially so for a Seabee who has never fired the M16 service rifle.

Enter the Navy Seabee range coach. These personnel provide the direction for those Seabees to get them comfortable with the weapon and giving them tips for better shooting all while on the firing line. The ultimate goal is to ensure each shooter earns their Navy Rifle Qualification safely.

"The first time I fired the M16 rifle, it felt weird because I'm a left handed shooter but I'm right hand dominant," said Postal Clerk 2nd Class Oliver Jones III, a Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 7 range coach. "It was a daunting experience because of that and because I never fired the weapon before. My first range coach, Utilitiesman 3rd Class Jhameel Richmond, gave me some advice and while I didn't qualify the first time, I managed to the second time. That became my inspiration to become a range coach, along with the advanced training and the confidence that it gave me so I could pass on my knowledge to the next generation of shooters. Because of my experiences with my original range coach, I was able to put that to use to qualify shooters that hadn't qualified their first time either. It gave me that common reference to assist them."

Range coaches are individuals normally selected from the command who attain the Sharpshooter achievement or better. Range coaches are typically second class petty officers, however these prerequisites can be waived on an individual basis.

"I didn't earn sharpshooter, but I'm very close to earning it," said Jones. "This time, I qualified my first time up. The next time I go out to the range, I'm now more confident with the weapon, so I could potentially earn it."

To earn the Navy Rifle Qualification, a shooter must attain a score of 140 points. This allows them to wear the NRQ ribbon on their ribbon rack. To earn the Sharpshooter achievement, a shooter must score 160 points, which adds a bronze "S" to their ribbon. Fi-



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

Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Michael Pornovets, a range coach for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, watches Storekeeper 2nd Class Shawn Apgar as he sights in his M16A2 service rifle at the Woolmarket firing range. NMCB-7 is in its homeport training cycle preparing for an upcoming deployment to Rota, Spain.

nally, to earn the expert achievement, a shooter must score 170 points, which earns them the right to wear a silver "E" on their ribbon and earns them the Expert Marksman Medal, along with some bragging rights.

Once a serviceman earns the Expert Marksman Medal, they only need to qualify as a marksman in the future to keep it.

The Navy Pistol Qualification has an identical scoring system, but the point values are different for each level of achievement because it is a different course of fire on a different type of weapon.

The process to become a range coach begins with a two-week course, where each individual prospective coach learns the fundamentals of the M16 service rifle, the M9 service pistol and the M500 shotgun.

Then, the coaches learn advanced techniques on each weapon, including the calculations needed to make adjustments to sights, loading techniques, stances and what to look for when their shooters are on the firing line.

After a week of classroom instruction, the coaches head to the firing range to qualify on the M16 service rifle, the M9 pistol and the M500 shotgun. This gives them the opportunity to put the techniques they learned in the previous week to use and gives

them practice while they alternate shooting and coaching each other.

"It was a fun and exciting experience learning how to shoot all three weapons," said Jones. "My personal favorite was the M500 shotgun. I enjoyed how it kicked back and how it could saw the target in half. It was the manliest of the weapons we fired."

The final days of the course are spent with the prospective range coaches instructing shooters from their battalion.

"It was a rush," said Jones. "I actually got to use everything I learned in class on the range. It was the first time we applied everything we learned out on the firing line. I felt great because I was able to teach someone the fundamentals I learned so they could earn their qualification. Everyone I coach qualified on the M16 with one earning their expert achievement and four more earning sharpshooter. I felt really proud not just for myself as their coach, but also for the shooter. I can't wait to coach again."

The primary focus of the course is naturally on safety.

"We learn that, above all else, that every shooter's weapon is always under the four principle safety rules," said Jones. "That every shooter treats every weapon as if it were loaded. That they never point the weapon at

See RANGE page 18

Seabees acquire sea legs en route to Pacific Partnership

By Lt.j.g. Chris Auger
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

This summer, 16 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, and 12 Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion (ACB) 1, are participating in Pacific Partnership 2009 (PP09). PP09 is a humanitarian and civil assistance mission designed to provide engineering support and medical capabilities to host nations in the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

The mission includes joint services from Navy, Army, Air Force, and partner nations with the environment of "train the trainer," to practice the skills necessary to quickly respond to natural disasters. PP09 focuses on the countries of Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Marshall Islands.

NMCB 1 left their homeport in Gulfport to rendezvous with ACB 1 and depart from San Diego for PP09 with USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6) June 12. Prior to departure, materials, tools and civil engineering support equipment or CESE, were loaded onto the ship. Once underway, the typically land-based Seabees went through an adjustment period.

"Acquiring my 'sea legs' took longer than expected, but running on a treadmill was a whole different experience," said Builder 3rd Class Stephen Bruno, a member of PP09 assigned to NMCB 1.

While underway the Seabees took part in a U.S. Naval tradition when Amelia Earhart crossed the equator. The crossing line ceremony, or Shellback ceremony, consisted of two days of physical endurance, mental perseverance, and good fun. It ended in a slime bath where after the Seabees were officially deemed Shellbacks by "King Neptune," represented by the highest ranking Sailor on the ship.

"I didn't know what to expect



U.S. Navy photo/Released

Sailors onboard USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6) load civil engineering support equipment owned by Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 and Amphibious Construction Battalion 1 before embarking on Pacific Partnership 2009, a humanitarian and civil assistance mission designed to provide engineering support and medical capabilities to host nations in the Pacific Fleet area of responsibility.

when I agreed to participate...it turned out to be a lot of fun," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Nick Thompson, a member of PP09 assigned to NMCB 1. "It was cool to participate in the old-school naval tradition."

After 12 days at sea, the crew, as well as all materials, tools and CESE, were transferred over to the USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4). Richard E. Byrd will carry the crew for the remainder of the mission. The load was transferred via vertical replenishment and underway replenishment over two days.

The Seabees will integrate, and work with engineers from Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, and host nations during PP09. In total, the crew will complete 19 projects valued at \$1.5 Million. The majority of work focuses on sustainable community projects enriching lives of people in Oceania. The Seabees will be in each mission country approximately 14 days.

Seabees of CBMU 202 help renovate school in El Salvador

Story and photo by:

Airman 1st Class Benjamin Stratton
Continuing Promise 09 Public Affairs

Salvadoran soldiers worked alongside Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202 Seabees from the hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) to bring a safer educational experience to the students of Club de Leones School here as part of Continuing Promise 2009 (CP09).

"Overall, we're improving their way of life," said Utilitiesman 2nd Class Carlos Monserrat, a Seabee onboard Comfort. "When you see the smiles on the little kids around here, you know we're making a positive difference."

The team came to erect more than 550 feet of chain link fence topped with concertina and barbed wire, which will provide heightened security for the students here. Other projects included the renovation of school restrooms, new electrical systems, fresh drop ceiling with lighting fixtures and a leak-free roof. The Salvadoran soldiers and Seabees also teamed up with Comfort's Chaplain, Cmdr. David Oravec, and his community relations volunteers to clean the school's playground and surrounding property, which had become what some described as a landfill.

"For me, this is the first time working with a foreign engineering team such as the Salvadoran soldiers," Monserrat said. "You can tell they're excited about what we're doing here."

Recently deployed to Iraq together with American and allied forces, the Salvadoran soldiers, who are an engineering unit stationed here, share many of the same aspirations as the Navy's Seabees of CP09.

"The kids in general will benefit the most," said Cabo Santos Jouel Portillo, commander of the Salvadoran engineers here. "We are bettering the way



U.S. Air Force photo/Released
Utilitiesman 2nd Class Carlos Monserrat, assigned to CBMU 202 helps Cabo Santos Jouel Portillo, commander of a Salvadoran military engineering unit install pipes for a sink at the Club de Leons School.

of living and security for these kids. Additionally, the teachers really appreciate the overall focus of the mission because of what it does for their students."

Not only are the Salvadoran engineers worthy warriors, but they're also "excellent workers," said Health Service Technician 3rd Class Anthony Passalacqua, Comfort medical response team member and hospital corpsman for the Seabees.

"They're very self motivated. We learn from each other every day as they try to speak English and we attempt our luck with Spanish. It's a one team, one mission mentality for us as they're here to get the job done just like us," he said.

Passalacqua, a Coast Guardsman stationed with the Integrated Support Command in Alameda, Calif., is em-

bedded with the Seabees to ensure each crewmember maintains a healthy hydration cycle and are continuously physically capable of completing their strategic mission.

"What we're doing will help keep crime, gangs and violence out of the schoolyard and support a positive learning environment," he said. "Our efforts here will have a dramatic impact on the surrounding community by capturing the heart and soul of the mission and providing a safer environment for Salvadoran children to progress as they help build new opportunities for their country through future generations."

Whether in Iraq or in the Caribbean and Latin America, these friendships will continue to develop as more missions such as Continuing Promise increase in number and scope.

"We worked alongside our U.S. Marine counterparts in Iraq," Portillo said. "Whenever the walls were tumbling down around us, everyone came together, no matter whether you were a Salvadoran or American. And I think this mentality is present here as we work with the engineers from Comfort."

Other members of the construction team here have made their mark in the sands of Iraq as well. Equipment Operator 3rd Class Kevin Funk, CBMU 202 Seabee, has been to the region during a deployment with the Navy.

"The experience of this mission itself is not something I would've ever expected to do in my Navy career," Funk said. "Times like these you expect to see more in Iraq. Overall, I've learned not to take life for granted."

Club de Leones School was picked for the project as it was deemed a poverty stricken region of La Union

See **SCHOOL** page 16



U.S. Navy photo by Chief Builder Jason K. Holden

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 conduct a 2.6 mile tactical march while wearing full battle gear on NCBC in order to get acclimated to the warm summer weather.

Roos' turn up the heat

By BU2 (SCW) Kenneth Walls
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

133.

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 participated in a command tactical march July 2, on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center in preparation for their upcoming Field Training Exercise in August.

The tactical marches are being done weekly in place of traditional physical training to get the Runnin' Roos' accustomed to their heavy gear and the hot weather they will face in August.

The FIX is a three-week-long training exercise that focuses on the combat readiness of a battalion. With temperatures already up in the 100's, it can be very easy to get a heat-related injury that could possibly cause extreme nausea, headaches, severe internal injuries to vital organs or even death.

"It's a great idea to get accustomed to the weather conditions to the area that you get deployed to," said Builder 3rd Class Benjamin Staub of NMCB

The Roos' fall in at 6:45 a.m. wearing their construction utility uniforms, Modular Tactical Vests, Kevlar helmets and camel backs. The marches consist of a 2.5 mile on-base course over flat top roads.

Like all battalions, the Seabees of NMCB 133 are expected to be capable of fighting and building in extreme weather while wearing their bulky tactical gear. The marches work muscles that normally don't get used as much which increases each Seabee's core strength.

"The tactical march is fun and a good exercise. It helps us to come together as a team and motivates us to do better," said Builder Constructionman Jason Kelly.

The tactical marches also help promote leadership and a sense of team work. The marches let junior troops lead in a safe environment so that they will be in better shape during FTX and deployment.

NMCB 1's Civic Action Team takes charge in Palau

By Lt.j.g. Russell Dotson
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Civic Action Team (CAT) 01-25 received command of Camp Katuu, Palau, June 19, when CAT 09-05 Officer in charge, Air Force Capt. Christopher Bulson officially relinquished command to Lt. j.g. Russell Dotson of NMCB 1.

This deployment marks the 25th time NMCB 1 has sent a CAT to the Republic of Palau.

"We stand ready to render assistance to the CAT, and we welcome the new team and hope they will continue what the civic action teams before them have been doing for Palau for the past 40 years," said Palauan President Johnson Toribiong during the turnover ceremony.

"We will give as much support as we can to make the stay of the new team fruitful," said Toribiong.

The 13-member CAT will be deployed to the Republic of Palau for approximately seven months to provide expertise for public facility and infrastructure construction, technical advice and assistance for local projects, apprenticeship training, and limited

medical assistance.

"This is a young, energetic team that is ready for any and every task that is thrown their way," said Dotson.

Currently, CAT 01-25 is constructing a restroom facility for an elementary school on the small island of Angaur. The island is approximately 38 miles from the main island and is only accessible by boat.

The restroom facility will be used by 22 students and three teachers.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to help the youth at such a remote state," said Utilitiesman 3rd Class Andrew Leifermann, an NMCB 1 CAT member. "I am honored to be working on this project and look forward to completing the facility for the students and teachers."

School Liaison Officer

o The School Liaison Officer is available for consultation in the main MWR building 352, Monday-Friday. No appointment necessary.

Need to know...? How to resolve school issues; Ways to smooth a school transfer; Gulfport, Long Beach, or Biloxi School Options; Special Needs Process; Home School Information; Graduation requirements and more . . . Contact NCBC Gulfport's School Liaison Officer, Kevin Byrd today by calling (228) 871-2117.

o Attention Military Families! A Town Hall Meeting for Gaston Point and 28th Street Elementary Schools is scheduled for July 22 at 5 p.m. at the Training Hall, building 446. This is a chance to meet the Principals of both schools. If you need additional information contact Kevin Byrd, School Liaison Officer, at (228) 871-2117.

o Are you interested in meeting other parents who have chosen to home school? Come out for a Home School Network Meeting July 30 at 6 p.m. in the large classroom of the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30. The point of contact for this event is Kevin Byrd, School Liaison Officer, (228) 871-2117.

Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT)

o Base-wide Yard Sale - Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Grinder. Price is still the same . . . \$10 per booth gets you your choice of one or two tables and two

chairs OR a 10 x 10 canopy; \$15 per booth gets both! Sign-up deadline is Sept. 17; payment deadline is Sept. 18. For more information or to sign-up, stop by the ITT Office, Bldg 352, or call (228) 871-2231/2126!

o Florida theme parks trip Oct. 9-12! Depart at 4 p.m., Oct. 9 and return 7:30 p.m., Oct. 12.! Call for pricing details, trip will include round-trip transportation by deluxe motor-coach and three nights accommodations at the Radisson World Gate Resort in Kissimmee. Tickets can be purchased separately. Payment plan available! Sign-up deadline is Sept. 28 and must be paid in full by Oct. 5. Bring yourself, bring your spouse or sweetheart, bring your family, bring a friend, just be there! This trip is open to all! Take advantage of the opportunity to use the FREE theme park Military Salute specials! For pricing or more information, stop by the ITT Office, Bldg 352, or call (228) 871-2231/2126!

o Your base ITT Office has, once again, partnered with Vision Tours to offer you the opportunity to attend the Nov. 1 NASCAR race at Talladega! Price is \$160 per person and includes transportation by deluxe motor coach, your race ticket and a post-race BBQ! Pick-up & drop-off point is Crossroads Mall. Depart at 4 a.m.; return at approximately midnight - 12:30 a.m. Sign-up deadline is Oct. 23; must be paid in full by Oct. 30. Payment

plan is available. For more information, or to sign up, stop by the ITT Office, Bldg 352, or call (228) 871-2231/2126!

Liberty Center

o Friday, July 17: Movie Night at Cinemark ONLY \$5 Shuttles depart at 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m. and 11 p.m.

o Sunday, July 19: Crawfish Boil with Natalie Stovall, 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Crawfish, Music, Contests and more . . . ALL FOR FREE!

o Wednesday, July 22: Rock Climbing at Slidell Rocks \$8 Depart Liberty at 5:15 p.m.

o Thursday, July 23: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 6:30 p.m. FREE Prizes for Top Team!

o Friday, July 24- Bowling at Keesler FREE Transportation and only \$5.50 when you get there! Depart Liberty at 5:30 p.m.

o Saturday, July 25: Blue Bayou Water park in Baton Rouge, ONLY \$15!!! Depart Liberty at 8 a.m.

o Sunday, July 26: Skydiving \$140 Depart Liberty at 9 a.m.

o Tuesday, July 28: Water Balloon Wars! The war starts at 6:30 p.m.!!!!!!

o Wednesday, July 29: Make Your Own Sub Night! 5 p.m. FREE while supplies last!

Fitness Center

o Intramural 3 on 3 Basketball League sign ups are now until July 24. The season will run July 31-Sept.1. If you have a team and are interested in participating contact Sam Perkins, IM Sports Coordinator, at (228) 871-2353.

o Intramural Softball

league sign ups are now until July 27 and the season begins Aug. 3. A Captain's Meeting is scheduled for July 27.

o Upcoming CFL course is July 27-31. For more information the website is www.npc.navy.mil.



Youth Activity Center

School-Age Care Program

Before & After-School Program Registration The Before & After-School Program registration is ongoing and will continue until all spaces are filled. 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

Proof of age (5-12 years old) and dependent status

Weekly fees are based on Gross Total Family Income. Please call the Youth Activities Center at (228) 871-2251 for more details!

Transportation will be provided to limited schools in the Gulfport and Long Beach School District.

Captain's Cup Standings

Flag Football as of July 6

Team	Won	Loss	Pct.
Goon Squad	8	0	1.000
NMCB 133 (Flee-Bees)	6	2	.750
NMCB 1 (The Finest)	5	3	.625
NMCB 7 (Team 1)	5	3	.625
NMCB 7 (Team 2)	4	4	.500
NMCB 74	2	6	.250
NMCB 133 (Team RamRod)	2	6	.250
NCTC (Click-Clack)	2	6	.250
20TH SRG (R436)	2	6	.250

Flip Flop Fridays

Join us at Seabee Lake for Flip Flop Fridays, July 24 beginning at 10:30 a.m. until the food runs out. There will be a plate of catfish, hush puppies, slow and potato salad available for \$1.



Focus on Education

Upcoming Educational Meetings

Gaston Point and 28th Street Elementary Schools Town Hall Meeting

July 22 at 5 p.m. in the Training Hall, Building 446. For more information contact Kevin Byrd, School Liaison Officer, at (228) 871-2117.

Home School Network Organizational Meeting

July 20 at 6 p.m. in the large classroom of the Fleet and Family Support Center, Building 30. For more information, contact Kevin Byrd, School Liaison Officer, at (228) 871-2117.

In-State Tuition for Military Members and their Families

From Military Homefront

For periods of enrollment that begin after July 1, 2009, members of the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard) on active duty for a period of more than 30 days and his or her spouse, or his or her dependent children, will be eligible to receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in the state where they reside or are permanently stationed. Once a service member or their family members are enrolled and paying in-state tuition, they will continue to pay the in-state tuition rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the institution, even if the

service member is reassigned outside the state. This change is included in section 135 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H. R. 4137) (HEOA) which was signed into law on August 14, 2008 and amends and extends the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). This requirement applies to all public institutions that receive funds under a program authorized by the HEA.

The Department of Education has worked with the institutions of higher education and is confident they are aware of the changes in the law and are fully implementing the policy. However, as we all know, there is always

the chance someone just doesn't get the word. If this happens, you should contact the financial aid or registrar's office at the institution. You can also contact the Veterans Affairs office at the institution. Even though you are active duty, these offices should be able to assist you.

In the rare cases where these steps don't resolve the situation, please contact the Department of Education's Ombudsman's office (toll-free at (877) 557-2575 or via the Internet utilizing the online Ombudsman Assistance Request Form which can be found at www.ombudsman.ed.gov. Both URLs provide access to complaint information.

eKnowledge Corporation donates \$25 million of SAT/ACT Test Prep Software to Military . . .

eKnowledge Corporation, the leading supplier of interactive learning software for college test preparation is donating \$200 Test Prep Programs to military families worldwide.

"We're very proud of our men and women in uniform and deeply appreciate their sacrifice for our country," commented Charlie Beall, Chairman and CEO of eKnowledge Corporation. Mr. Beall, a former Marine, stated, "We want to ensure that our military families have the support they deserve with their continuing education requirements." Over the past three years, eKnowledge has donated over \$25 million of FREE SAT/ACT software to America's military families and received tens of thousands of thank you letters and testimonials from grateful recipients of the donation. Eligible recipients (Active duty, Reserve, Retired, Guard and military relatives) may order the software by visiting www.eKnowledge.com/military.

Sales Tax Holiday Notice . . . Just in Time for Back to School Shopping

A sales tax holiday will run throughout Mississippi, July 31-Aug. 1. The holiday, just in time for back-to-school shoppers, means buyers won't have to pay the regular 7 percent Mississippi sales tax on purchases of clothes and shoes

that individually cost less than \$100. The Mississippi State Tax Commission has an A-to-Z list of eligible and non-eligible items, but basically the tax savings will be on pants, shirts, blouses, dresses, coats, jackets, belts, hats, undergar-

ments and garments sold as a set. Eligible footwear includes dress shoes, rubber thong flip-flops, sandals, tennis shoes and Jellies.

For more information on the holiday, see www.mstc.state.ms.us.

Academic Achievement



U.S. Navy photo by Anna Brown/Released

Construction Electrician 2nd Class Michael Brophy of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, accepts his associate of arts degree in Criminal Justice and Electrical Mechanic Technician from Navy College Office Director, Alex Carter.



U.S. Navy photo/Released

Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Fasil Gebremedhin of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 accepts his associate of arts degree from Navy College Education Services Specialist Joyce James.

From SCHOOL page 14

and due to the fact the Seabee crew would have the opportunity to produce a quality product within the time constraints of the mission.

"We're here to go through and improve the lives of each individual country of the mission," said Utilitiesman 1st Class Samuel Foulds, CBMU 202 leading petty officer and project supervisor. "Whether we're in Colombia building new schoolhouses or here securing a place to play and learn, we're making a difference."

CP09 combines U.S. military and interagency personnel, non-governmental organizations, civil service mariners, academic and partner nations to provide medical, dental, vet-

erinary and engineering services afloat and ashore alongside host nation personnel.

"The Seabees of 202 have come together out of different detachments to assist in the CP09 mission," Foulds said. "It's most certainly a learning experience working with the other branches, international partners and NGOs."

Many of the Seabees feel the same way about this year's mission, last year's mission and missions like CP09 to come.

"I'll mostly remember the happy smiles on the kids' faces in every country, not just El Salvador," Monserrat said. "Hopefully I can do this again on future missions."

blood drive without the volunteers," she said.

By 5 p.m. on the first day, 448 donors had already contributed to the goal of 575 pints.

"Turn out has been excellent," said Gaulke, "it's a huge boost to our blood supply for the 4th of July holiday weekend."

During the three hours Builder 1st Class Christopher Jefferies, assigned to NMCB 74 volunteered at the blood drive, he said he helped expedite more than 160 people give blood.

"I believe in giving back to the community," said Jefferies. "My brother needed a blood transfusion so I know giving blood saves lives."

**Seat Belts
Save Lives . . .
Buckle Up!**

anything they do not intend to shoot and that they keep their finger straight and off the trigger. But most importantly, that they keep their weapon on safe until they're ready to fire. These four safety rules are the foundation of our work, or our 'ten commandments' on the firing line. We constantly work and observe the shooters to ensure they follow those rules."

While on the firing line, range coaches are the first line of defense to ensure that each shooter is acting in a safe manner. "We count on you to ensure each shooter conducts the course of fire safely," said Construction Mechanic 1st Class (SCW) Darrick Farmer, the Range Coach course instructor and Woolmarket Range leading petty officer, during the course. "It's paramount that you are always observant and keep safety as the paramount subject in both your and the shooter's mind. If they do something unsafe, we rely heavily on you to ensure that it's corrected or that attention is brought to the matter. In the end, the range coach is there to make sure everyone goes home safe and as qualified Navy marksmen."

Interested in joining the Cadets?



The Gulfport branch of the Naval Sea Cadets are recruiting youth ages 11 to 17 years old for Sea Cadets, a nation-wide organization that helps youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., in building 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.

power, personnel, training and education applications currently being used by Sailors. CMS/ID Self-Apply option was tested at 15 different commands including ships, shore units and squadrons during a five-month period.

"The feedback has been very positive. We found that Sailors liked the empowerment," said Kirkland.

"Sailors have been asking for it, and the Navy really delivered," said Senior Chief Navy Counselor (SW) Veronica Holliday, assigned to Navy Region Southwest in San Diego. Holliday's command participated in the CMS/ID Self-Apply operational test earlier this year.

"We love it. It is like what a lot of major businesses already do, where you apply online or at an application kiosk," said Holliday.

While this new option allows Sailors to apply for jobs on their own, the career counselor will still retain the option to review and modify requests.

"It does not take the command out of the process because we have to review the applications to make sure Sailors apply to the right jobs for their career path," said Holliday, who verifies applicants at her command meet physical readiness standards, sea-shore flow requirements and other factors.

Before getting started, Sailors must meet Perform to Serve requirements as outlined in NAVADMIN 017/09 and 161/09 and be within their orders negotiation window in order to submit applications. Sailors can access CMS/ID online at

<https://www.cmsid.navy.mil>. A common access card (CAC) and a card reader are required to log in.

Sailors without Internet access should continue to communicate with their detailers through the career counselor and the chain of command.

For more details read NAVADMIN 200/09.

uniform had been changed until the following morning when he reported for Quarters."

After Brady completed his stitch, he called upon each person present to take a turn placing a stitch into the edge of Militzer's collar device, and to congratulate Militzer on his recent promotion to Petty Officer 2nd Class.

After the ceremony, Militzer admitted that he was a little nervous at first. He knew that "tacking-on," in its recent history, is considered a hazing incident, but was most pleasantly surprised when his "tacking-on" ceremony was conducted with the history, tradition, and values that the occasion deserves. He also commented that he will always remember this ceremony, and hopes to be able to continue this "New-Old" tradition in the future with his Sailors as they are promoted.

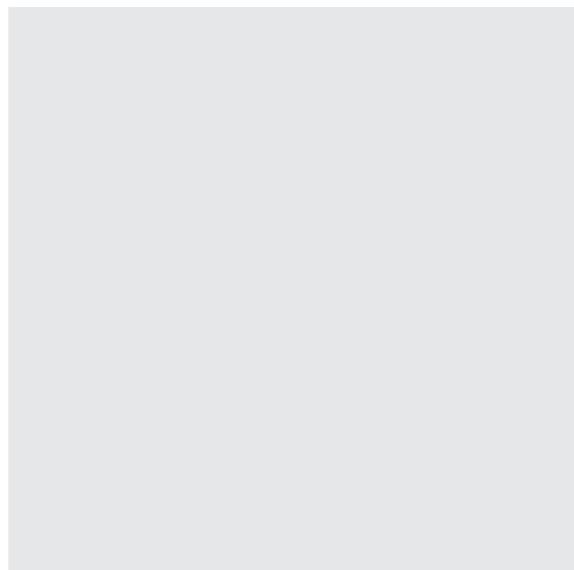
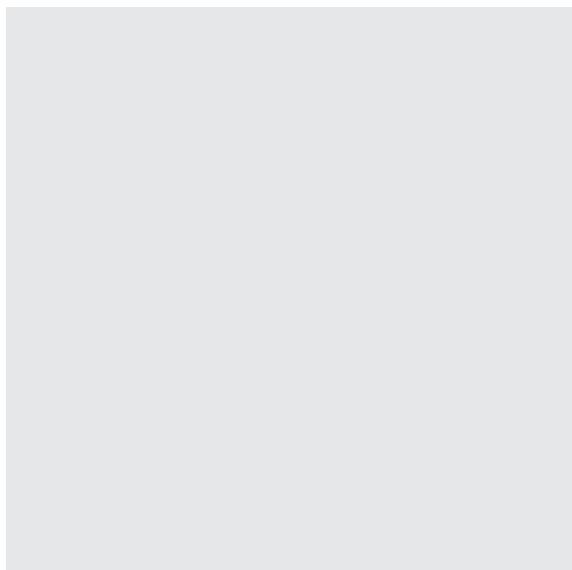
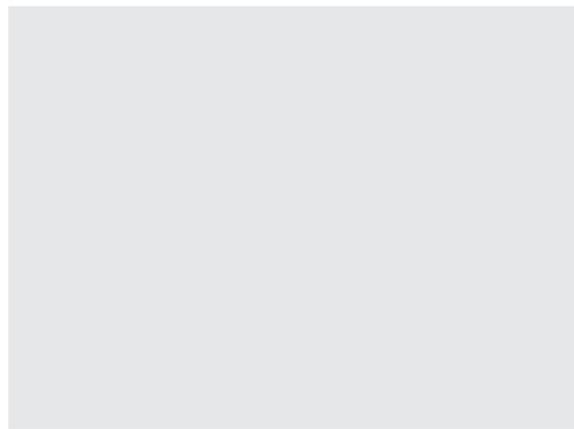
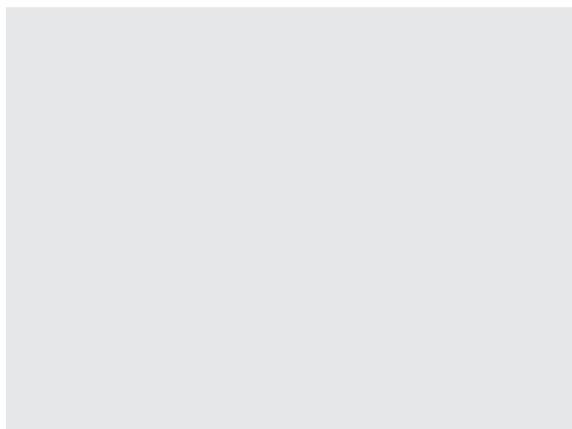
"We, as Chief Petty Officers, are the guardians of heritage and tradition," explained Brady. Though there is not much, if anything, in written history regarding the history of "tacking-on,"

Brady recalls listening to his Chief's sea-stories about their entire Division sewing on their Shipmates' crowns. More recently, he recalls a conversation with one of his mentors, Master Chief Equipmentman (SCW) Chris Redding, who had performed a similar ceremony with his Seabees and received many praises from them for making the ceremony even more special to them.

"That's when I chose to adopt it as well, and bring back this tradition," Brady said. "I fully plan to carry this new tradition on to my future duty stations," said Militzer.

"I am very proud of Senior Chief Brady's initiative in highlighting our Naval traditions," commented Command Master Chief (SCW) Sean Libby afterward. "He helped make this a day that Militzer will not soon forget, and in a most positive way. This type of deck-plate leadership, passion for mentoring, and genuine interest in our Naval heritage was the vision that our recently retired Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Joe Campa, had in mind when he developed the Chief Petty Officer's Guiding Principles."

Pine Bayou Front-Nine Closure . . . The front nine of Pine Bayou Golf course will close July 20 through October for the installation of a new irrigation system. Golfers will still be able to play 18 consecutive holes by playing the back nine twice. For speed of play, Pine Bayou asks all golfers to call ahead and schedule tee-times.



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. at the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), bldg 114 (next to Broad Ave gate), preceded by a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. 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: racechick404@hotmail.com.

NMCB 7 FRG welcomes friends and family members of NMCB 7 Seabees to attend FRG meetings. Meeting are the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. For more information contact Shana Pitman at (228) 867-9968 or e-mail: shana_pitman@att.net.

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 FRG meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), building 113. Bring a dish to take part in the potluck dinner at 6 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided.

NMCB 133 FRG invites all friends and family members of NMCB 133 Seabees to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. 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, (228) 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 (228) 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 nation-

wide 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: (228) 871-2970 for more information.

VFW Post 3937 Long Beach is open Monday - Thursday from noon until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon until 10 p.m., Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. The first Friday of every month is Seafood night, the remaining Fridays are Steak night. Weekend breakfast is served from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturdays. 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 Bill North 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. Call Post Commander Bill McNicholas at: (228) 832-0017 or Sr. Vice Commander Ben Barker at: (228) 832-3798 for more information.

HERITAGE

The Seabee Gift Store has relocated to the new Training Hall, building 446 and is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., phone: (228) 871-4779. The shop has several command exhibits, as well as a variety of Seabee related memorabilia, DVD's and books. Gift store proceeds support the construction of the new museum in Port Huene, Calif. The Web address is: www.seabeeuseumstore.org/shop/index.php



No Butts about it! . . . NCBC is a No Litter Zone!
Pitch In! . . . Use the Bin! . . .

From **CIVILIANS** page 1

for 212 new houses on base while developing and marketing a Rental Partnership Program to assist single and married active duty service members with security adequate, affordable rental property in the community. He is a major contributor in the Navy's privatized housing program working closely with all parties involved to ensure the program's success.

Janice Baker, manager of the Gulfport Navy Lodge, was cited for providing superior lodging to more than 11,000 military personnel, retirees and their families during the past seven years. Under her superb leadership the Navy Lodge has been recognized with several Hospitality awards as well as the coveted Carlson Award which is given to Navy Lodge facilities that are rated highest in guest satisfaction, associate satisfaction, operations, quality assessment and financial performance. Through Baker's hard work

and resourcefulness, the Navy Lodge is an established "Top Tier" performer. The Navy Lodge Program Committee has also selected Baker as a Management Intern Trainer for her outstanding determination and performance.

"I feel this award was an honor, and I would like to thank everyone who played a part of me receiving such a distinguish award," said Janice Baker, NCBC Navy Lodge manager.

Although, the awardees were cited for different reasons they were all singled out because of their hard work and dedication.

The Navy Meritorious Civilian Service award is issued to personnel for their sustained meritorious service, in a civilian capacity, while serving in the U.S. federal government. There are currently more than 800 civilians working on NCBC.

For additional information about NCBC Gulfport visit <http://www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport/index.htm>



**Fire Warden Training,
July 30, Building 60,
Room 105, 2 - 3 p.m.**

From **TEST** page 2

tain their uniforms or wear them home; (2) must accept transportation in kind to their homes; (3) do not receive mileage from the place of discharge to their home of record; and (4) will have to repay any reenlistment bonus they may have received.

Many "sea lawyers" out there will tell you that an Other Than Honorable discharge can be "upgraded" to a General or an Honorable discharge six months or a year after your separation.

Although it is true that in some instances the characterization of a discharge can be upgraded, this is very rare. It only occurs when the former service member is able to demonstrate

that his or her Other Than Honorable discharge was unjust.

If you are separated because of drug use, your chances of upgrading your discharge are almost zero. Your Other Than Honorable discharge will be with you for the rest of your life.

The decision to use drugs will not only have severe short-term consequences (NJP or possibly a court-martial), but it will have longterm consequences that will follow you forever.

Of course, these consequences are nothing compared to the consequences your decision may have to your health and safety, or to the safety of your friends and shipmates.



**Gulf Coast
USO
3001 6th
St., Bldg.
306,
(228) 575-
5224
Snacks/Dr
inks,
United
Through
Reading
Program;
Computers
(4), with
web cams,
Email Ac-
cess,
Yahoo,
Hotmail,
X-Box
Office
hours:
Monday-
Friday, 8
a.m. - 5
p.m.,
Saturday,
11 a.m. -
7 p.m.,
(Closed
Sundays)**



Seabee Memorial Chapel

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.

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**