



Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 47 No. 2

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

February 11, 2010

NMCB 7 moves forward with relief efforts in Haiti

By MC1 (SCW) Nicholas Lingo
NMCB 11 Public Affairs Officer

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's 85-man Air Detachment is currently deployed to Port Au Prince, Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response.

The self-sustainability of the NMCB Air Det. (they are essentially self-sustaining for 30 days) made them a perfect candidate to assist in the recovery efforts and to provide construction support under these dire circumstances.

The Seabees spent the majority of their first week on the ground building up their own camp and assisting others in doing the same.

"The influx of the U.S. troops has made it a little challenging, so coordinating and providing not only relief to the Haitians we're also helping to take care of our fellow service members by helping them set up their camps so they can support the mission as well," said Lt. Beau Brooks, Air Det. Officer in Charge.

The main breadth of NMCB 7's mission is Operation Port Opening. "We're here to pro-

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Builder 1st Class Zachary Vaughan, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's Air Det Safety and Quality Control Officer attaches caution tape to concertina wire in order to warn locals of the dangers of trying to push into the campsites of U.S. military in Port Au Prince. A Haitian child accompanies Vaughan as he completes his tasking. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released)

NMCB 74 taps first artesian well in Helmand Province

By HM1 Ken Mazor
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74's Water Well Detachment reached a deployment milestone Dec. 3 when they tapped an artesian well in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The well is the first known artesian well to be tapped in the country and will provide much needed water to service members serving in the region.

The United States Geological Survey defines an artesian aquifer as one situated between layers of poorly permeable rock, such as clay or shale that may be confined under pressure, and states on their website that the word "artesian" comes from the town of Artois in France, the old Roman city of Artesium, where the best known flowing artesian wells were drilled.

When tapped by a well, water from the aquifer will flow rapidly upward, often resulting in a high-pressure water spout at the surface. These wells are rare, but gained notoriety in the Middle Ages where they powered famous fountains and aqueducts.

NMCB 74's water well team began drilling operations De-



Equipment Operator 1st Class Aaron Nagel, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, Water Well Detachment, taps the team's first artesian well in Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ken Mazer/Released)

ember 18. In just seven days their drill steel reached a depth of 1,220 feet; making it the deepest Naval Construction Force water well in Afghanistan. What came next was almost unimaginable; high pressure water spouting out of the bore hole. The crew was overwhelmed with excitement.

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Navy Legal

Military families may gain tax relief under MSRRRA

By Lt.j.g. Brandon Hale Sargent,
 JAGC
 NLSO Central



Under the Sailors Civil Relief Act (SCRA), a service member does not pay state income tax in the state where the service member is stationed if that state is not his domicile (legal state of residence). However, the service member is taxed on his military income in his state of legal residence. In other words, Seaman Paul, whose state of residence is New York, does not pay income tax to the state of Virginia from his military income earnings while stationed in Norfolk. Rather Seaman Paul will be taxed based on New York state income tax rates. As we know, New York does not tax service members on their military income earnings outside the state unless the sailor is onboard a ship. Furthermore, no matter where Seaman Paul is stationed, New York will always remain his state of legal residence unless he changes it.

Until recently, this benefit under the SCRA did not extend to service members' spouses. Every time a service member moved, the spouse's state of legal residence would change and the spouse would be taxed by the state on all income earned in that state. For example, when Seaman Paul moved to Norfolk, Va. with his

wife; she became a Virginia resident and the state of Virginia now taxes her on income earned while living there.

THIS LAW HAS SOMEWHAT CHANGED! President Obama signed into law the Military Spouses Residency Relief Act which changes some of the basic rules of taxation in regards to military spouses. The spouse of the military member is entitled to SCRA protection for the same domicile (state of legal residence) of the military spouse- IF the dependent spouse had also previously acquired the same legal domicile.

Translation: if Seaman Paul's wife Kristen is also a resident of New York at the time they move to Norfolk, Va., Kristen's state of legal residence will be New York. Moreover, if Kristen works while in Norfolk, she will not be taxed by Virginia but will only be subject to New York state income tax. Also, Kristen will not be taxed by Virginia on automobiles when they are titled solely in Kristen's name or jointly with Seaman Paul.

Keep in mind two things:

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Skipper's Log

Do not let the 'Easy No' stop you

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



Capt. Ed Brown

It frequently amazes me the power of no. I can't count the number of times great efforts have been derailed when people have accepted what they know to be the wrong answer, because it was easier to accept the "No," go back to what they were doing and blame someone else for stopping progress.

I guess I was brought up differently. When an answer is given that is clearly contrary to what needs to be done, ask why. If there is a compelling reason why we can't do something, seek an alternative route. Only after all resources are exhausted is it time to accept the result. True creativity and value takes effort. All of us will face opposition and people who are reluctant to change as we work to improve ourselves and the world around us.

Are you quitting at the first obstacle because that's the answer you want, because you don't care or because you are afraid of failing? Complete the task; accomplish what you committed to do. Blaming others for stopping your momentum is only lying to yourself. Success is sweeter when really earned.

Commander's Action Line . . . The Commander's Action Line gives all NCBC personnel a direct link to Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer of NCBC. Go to <https://www.cnbc.navy.mil/Gulfport/Service Organizations/PAO/CNIPC A132870>



Fire Warden Training . . . Feb. 26,
 at the Fire Department, Building
 321 , 2 - 3 p.m.

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.

Lifetime of Service . . . Civil servant calls it a day after nearly 40 years with the Seabees

By EO3 (SCW) Elizabeth Saranto
NCBC Public Affairs

Cindy Webb, supervisor of Receipt Control on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) was honored at a retirement ceremony at the Operational Expeditionary Logistics Facility (OELF) Jan. 27.

Nearly 40 years ago on Sept. 19, 1969, Webb began her civil service career in customer service - just two weeks after Hurricane Camille devastated the Gulf Coast. In April 1983, Webb was assigned to Procurement as a buyer and in November of 2004, she received a promotion as the supervisor of Receipt Control.

Webb said that she is ready to retire even though it has been her privilege to work with each of her coworkers in support of the "Fighting Seabees" and many other endeavors.

"Now that my retirement date is almost here, this is really bitter sweet; and I mean as in dark chocolate bitter," said Webb.

"Most of you have been like my second family, and this Supply Department has been my home away from home for the past 40 years, and believe me, it is hard to say . . . so long, farewell," added Webb.

When here late husband John Webb passed away unexpectedly 12 years ago, she thought about retiring. John had supported her work efforts for 32 years of their marriage. Rather than retiring then and doing nothing, Webb decided to keep



Cindy Webb, FISC receipt control supervisor, looks over her retirement letter with Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer Naval Construction Battalion Center at the OELF on board NCBC, Jan. 27. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Gregory N. Juday/Released)

working, because she loves "her Seabees" and would do anything to get them what they need.

"Our department has gone through many, many changes over the years, and as we know, there are many new adventures to abound," said Webb.

She added that one of the hardest times working, besides when hurricanes hit, was during the Cuban Haitian Conflict from 1994 to 1995, when we were working 10 - 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As her official retirement ceremony came to a close, Webb quipped, "I came in a mini skirt and high heels; now I am leaving with a full mind and body."

Navy Region SE housing program has banner year

By MC1 Monica R. Nelson
Region Southeast Public Affairs

A total of 23 awards made it a banner year for Navy Region Southeast's Housing Program in the 2009 calendar year.

Naval Air Stations Jacksonville and Key West received the Crystal Award for service excellence in bachelor housing. The Crystal Award is given to an installation that has a consolidated service score of 85 or above and a response rate of 20 percent or above in a Resident Satisfaction Survey for all the buildings and complexes at the installation.

The survey is managed and evaluated by CEL & Associates, a nationally-recognized customer service firm familiar with tenant and property opinion surveys, and benchmarking.

In addition to the Crystal awardees, Navy Region Southeast's Housing Program earned every internal Navy housing

award possible - Michael Sarroca of NAS Pensacola won Navy Housing Employee of the Year, Lionel Williams of NAS Pensacola won Navy Housing Mid-Level Manager of the Year, Richard Wolff of Navy Region Southeast won Navy Senior Housing Manager of the Year, and Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was selected the outstanding Navy Housing Installation Team.

Seventeen additional awards were given to Navy Region Southeast installations for superior levels of housing and real estate service excellence. The awarded installations were rated by residents as the "best in the industry" with the "A list" award.

"With all the major increases in workload and changing requirements we have had this past year, each housing staff member should be proud of what we have accomplished collectively," said Richard Wolff, regional housing program director. "These awards recognize

the hard work performed by our staffs and the pride they exhibit in providing the best possible homes, barracks and dorms for our service members and their families."

NAS Corpus Christi, Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, and NAS Kingsville received the "A list" service award for government-owned family housing. Residents in public-private venture family housing at NAS-Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Naval Construction Battalion Command Gulfport, NAS Meridian, Naval Support Activity Panama City, NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, NAS Kingsville, and NAS Corpus Christi awarded their commands "best in the industry." Naval Support Activity Athens, NAS Jacksonville, NAS Key West, Naval Station Mayport, Naval Support Activity Panama City and NAS Whiting Field took the "A list" service award for bachelor housing.

February 11, 2010

Seabee Courier

Seabee Ball Feb. 27 . . . The Seabee Ball is Feb. 27 at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Ticket prices are \$20 for E-6 and below, and \$40 for E-7 and above. There will be a DJ, dancing and door prizes. Entertainment provided by the USO Liberty Bells. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. With the current deployment cycle, NCBC leadership understands spouses of deployed Seabees may be reluctant to attend; however, plans have been made to help maximize spouse attendance (i.e. FREE childcare, transportation from the Seabee Center). Seabee spouses are an important part of the Seabee mission and your attendance is highly desired. Uniform for military E-1 to E-6 is Service Dress Blues with large medals, E-7 to O-3 - Dinner Dress Blues, O-4 and above - Dinner Dress Blue Jacket and Civilian - Formal.

Renewal of Faith



Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brown sings a hymn at the Seabee Memorial Chapel rededication ceremony Jan. 24, following a renovation in 2009. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

Army student stays ahead of the pack

By MC2 (SCW) Gregory N. Juday
NCBC Public Affairs

Everyone joins the military for different reasons. For some it is money for schooling, while for others it is to embark upon a new journey. Every once in a while you meet an individual who answered a calling and is serving in gratitude for the freedom we each possess.

"I joined the U.S. Army to give thanks to this great country for the freedom they have given me," states Kenya native, Pfc. Kiplagat Soimo.

His journey into military service began at the age of 19, when he came to the U.S. on a full ride track scholarship to the University of Louisville, Ky. While living in the Louisville, Soimo ran into a college friend who had joined the Army and made it onto the Army's Elite Running Team.

Soimo liked the stories his friend had told him so much that he decided to visit an Army recruiter and enlist. He

is currently attending Army Carpentry / Masonry school at Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) and is scheduled to graduate at the end of the month.

"Soimo is a very appreciative Soldier," said 1st Sgt. Eddie Michael, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer for the Army at NCTC. "He is a wonderful human being and a great asset to the United States Army."

Prior to joining the Army, Soimo used to run 10 miles in the morning before class and another 10 miles in the evening, averaging 140 miles per week. With his newly restricted academic schedule, he has not been able to run as much as he would like, except for the short two to three mile runs in the mornings for Physical Training.

"We have definitely been holding him back while he is attending class," said Michael. "We try to let him run as many races on the weekends as we can. He has won every race he

has entered so far, proudly representing the Army."

Since arriving in Gulfport in September, Soimo has placed first in several races across the Gulf Coast and has made a name for himself amongst fellow runners.

"It is funny to see the change of expression upon runners faces when Soimo shows up," said Michael. "You see them go from smiles to frustration, knowing they have just lost the race."

Soimo has been hand-picked by the Army's Special Operations Command out of Ft. Bragg, N.C., to be a part of the Command for his fluent Swahili language skill.

"I feel Soimo will do great things with Special Operations," said Michael. "He has overcome a lot of diversity since joining the Army. He approached me during class one day and told me he needed someone to talk to, which is not like Soimo. He told me his brother had died suddenly of



Army Pfc. Kiplagat Soimo is congratulated on his 1st place finish in the Jingle Bell 5K Classic in by a member of the Gulf Coast Running Club after winning the 5K with a time of 16.40. The Kenya native is enrolled in Carpentry/Masonry school at Naval Construction Training Center on board the Seabee Center. (Photo courtesy of Gulf Coast Running Club)

cancer over the weekend and that he was having trouble focusing. I offered to set him back in class and allow him to go back to Kenya to be with his family, but he insisted that

the funeral was that day and he needed to graduate. That is a determination you rarely see in someone, and a reason I know Soimo will be a great asset to my Army."

The "Hearts Against Hunger" Food Drive. . .



is going on throughout February.

Drop off location is Building 60, Room 110 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

All donations go to Twelve Baskets Food Bank in Gulfport for distribution throughout the tri-county area. Contact CBC Public Affairs at 228-871-3662 for more information.

No Cell Phones Please . . . It is against NCBC Gulfport policies to talk on a cell phone while driving on base. Offenders will receive a 2 point penalty for the first offense followed by a 30 day driving suspension for the second. Please don't do it.

AD SPACE

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20th SRG Sea Sailor of the Year



Steelworker 1st Class (SCW) Elliot A. Sermons was selected as the Twentieth Naval Construction Regiment (20 SRG) Sea Sailor of the Year. Sermons is currently deployed to Okinawa/Atsugi, Japan with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1. During the deployment, Sermons is acting as Leading Petty Officer and Project Supervisor for Deployment for Training Atsugi where he is directly responsible for 22 personnel in the day-to-day planning and execution of work. While in homeport, he served as the Main Body Charlie Company Platoon Commander where he supervised and lead 63 personnel improving their professionalism and enhancing overall Battalion readiness and mission effectiveness. During homeport he is a volunteer coordinator for the "Adopt-a-School Partnership in Education" Program, where he leads 30 volunteers in providing over 350 hours of mentoring and teaching to over 400 elementary and middle school students. He also volunteers in Operation Goodwill in Okinawa, Japan where he assisted in the packaging of donated foods and clothing. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

One's Det Diego Garcia takes part in Captains Cup challenge

By NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Diego Garcia recently joined the rest of the Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia family in their monthly Captain's Cup competition.

The competition consisted of nine teams participating in five events. Each team was awarded points for each event and the total score at the end of the day determined the overall winners.

The first event of the day was a single elimination dodge ball tournament. The team dominated the first round; however, the second round was lost to the base Security team. The Seabees put up a good fight against the Master at Arms force but, in the end, it was not enough to secure a victory.

The second event was a three-on-three one arm basketball tournament. The rules of the game

dictated that players could only use their weak hand and their "strong" arm was tucked into their shirt.

Utilitiesman 3rd Class Bernard Smith, Builder 3rd Class Katherine Rubio and Steelworker 3rd Class Sean Combs were on the floor representing the Seabees for this event. The first game was played against the British team who they defeated 2 to 1 after 10 minutes of play. The next game, played against the Navy Telecommunications Det. was also a victory with a score of 2 to 0. Unfortunately, the team had to play their third game immediately after finishing the second and they fell to Public Works by a score of 2 to 0. The team had an outstanding showing, especially with Rubio making sure the opposing teams earned every shot they at-

See **Competition** page 21

F.A.S.T. Marines build NMCB 1 Seabee combat skills

By EO3 (SCW) Peter Charron
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team Pacific (FASTPAC) Marines gave Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Guam combat skills training that included hand to hand combat, close quarters battle, non-lethal riot control, entry control point procedures and high stress tactical combat shooting during two Saturdays in January. During each training day, about 60 Seabees from NMCB 1 participated in the unique combat instruction opportunity.

FASTPAC Platoon Bravo 1 gave a course of instruction on "stress shooting," a method of making target shooting more like combat. By making the Seabees run a mile-long road course in boots and utilities, doing a series of pushups and sit ups, then dressing in full battle gear and shooting the M4 from various distances, the shooters were more exhausted, hearts were racing, and the level of realism was increased.

FASTPAC Platoon Charlie 1 gave a course on stress shooting also but added the M500 shotgun and M9 service pistol to the training. Their stress tactics included the physical training like Platoon Bravo 1, but then following behind the shooter during the course of fire and "harassed" the shooters by shouting in their ears, pouring gravel and empty shell casings over them and jamming the weapon to see how the Seabee would react in a simulated combat scenario.

"I have been in several firefights while in combat with the Marines and this [training] is the closest I've seen to the real thing," said Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SCW/FMF) Sorann Khim.

Both Marine platoons provided shoot house training to teach proper close-quarters battle which includes entering a building and clearing rooms. Call signs and scenario based training provided Detail Guam Seabees different ways to breach doors and travel through interior hallways. The Seabees ultimately used their

newly acquired skills in full-speed scenarios against the seasoned Marines. To simulate combat conditions, simulation rounds, small projectiles of "lip stick" similar to paintball rounds, were used with actual M4s and M16s configured with a special barrel.

"The training was great, it was fun and very informative. The Marines were knowledgeable and taught as much as they could in the time they had with us," said Construction Electrician 3rd Class (SCW) Adam Johnson.

Fundamentals of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), non-lethal riot control, and Entry Control Point procedures were taught at the final course of training. Seabees train in some of these areas annually, but the Marines took them deeper than their standard training. "I added some new tricks to the bag and sharpened some of the tools I already had. We got time to spar with each other and build camaraderie; it was a fun twist to normal training," said Builder Constructionman Philip Jones.



Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Guam do a walk-through of the combat skills training they are learning from Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Pacific (FASTPAC) Marines. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

The Seabees were thankful for the time the Marines spent training with them on their off day. Not only did the training benefit morale but more importantly combat and deployment readi-

ness.

The skills and camaraderie created a deeper appreciation of the sister service while promoting greater unity within the Seabee and Marine Corps team.

Gala event helps Seabee spouses

By Rob Mims
NCBC Public Affairs Officer

Months of planning and hard work came to fruition Feb. 5 at the Seabee Center Training Hall as more than 20 formally dressed ladies from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Family Readiness Groups, Naval Officers' Spouse Club, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Volunteers and local commanders, took to the stage at the Mardi Gras themed Inaugural 2010 Ball Gown Fashion Show and Silent Auction.

The show got its roots in early 2009 when Captain Ed Brown, commanding officer of the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, proposed an idea to Alice Huffman, NCBC's NMCRS director, about collecting and selling gently used gowns and dresses at the Society's Thrift Shop that could be worn to the Seabee Ball.

"He brought the idea of a Ball Gown Sale to us last year before the 2009 Seabee Ball, said Huffman. "We collected about 24 gowns, advertised for a sale and sold 11 gowns."

Brown, knowing he might be on to something, then introduced the idea of a Fashion Show to preview the gowns. Huffman said she knew it was a great idea, but the Thrift Shop and Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society could not

pull it off alone.

That's where the NOSC came in. Eileen Brown presented the idea to the NOSC. They accepted the partnership and brought their ideas, experience and community outreach to the planning.

As an added bonus to the Fashion Show, NOSC decided they would also hold a Silent Auction to raise money for their scholarship fund. Hundreds of dollars worth of items and services were auctioned off, including limousine service, jewelry, hair salon packages, manicure and pedicure packages, day spa package and other items.

The Seabee Ball Committee got in on the action and raised funds for the ball by providing finger foods for the event.

Thanks to early broadcasts through several mediums calling for gowns, donations were up by more than 500 percent over 2009. One of those mediums was through a Facebook post. From that post, a group of Civil Engineer Corps spouses in Hampton Roads, Va., learned of the event and began collecting ball gowns and dresses.

"We received 17 gowns from the Hampton Roads groups bringing the total donated gowns to 155," said Huffman.

During the evening, models showed off dozens of dresses that went on sale



Alice Huffman, director Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) Gulfport, thanks the military wives for modeling the ball gowns in the fashion show at the Training Hall on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Feb. 5. The NMCRS Thrift Store sold a total of 47 gowns, raising \$585, with the dresses ranging in price from \$8 to \$20. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Gregory N. Juday/Released)

the following day at the Thrift Shop. Judging by the 47 dresses sold, which netted \$585 in sales during the two hours the second hand store was open, the show was a success.

The Thrift Shop will continue to accept ball gown donations and sell the

gowns until the Seabee Ball, Feb. 27. The proceeds from all Thrift Shop sales, including the Ball Gown Sale, benefit the Society's programs which are available to active and retired Navy and Marine Corps service members and their families.

'Roos of NMCB 133 take part in West Texas training

By BU3 Brandon Rowe
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

On Dec. 6, the NMCB 133 Convoy Security Element (CSE) Team journeyed to Camp McGregor near Fort Bliss, Texas to begin Live-Fire Training in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

Training in the west Texas western desert environment, that is somewhat similar to Afghanistan, gave the Seabees a feel for what may lay ahead.

They wasted no time, immediately starting to load the equipment, fuel the trucks and prep the weapons. When all of the training course prerequisites were completed, they received a safety brief and the intense training began.

The CSE received 10,000 live rounds with which to practice. The training objective was to experience shooting live rounds from a moving truck, while enhancing precision and accuracy. The team was divided into eight trucks. Six trucks were designated for shooting, while the medical and ammunition trucks waited behind. At the front of the convoy were two HMMWV's mounted with MA2 .50 caliber machine guns followed by four HMMWV's mounted with M240B machine guns.

The convoy mounted their weapons and took on a 10-mile course filled with pop-up targets resembling single-person and truck silhouettes triggered via a remote control manned

by Steelworker 3rd Class Garren Clegg. The terrain intensified throughout the course, but they persevered and completed their requirements safely.

The CSE Team had not only accomplished, but exceeded the expectations of themselves and their convoy commander by the end of the week. They worked diligently, completed every objective laid before them and learned the necessary elements that connected all of their previous training with the final endeavor of Live-Fire Training.

Their hard work has shown that the team is quite capable and we should be seeing great things from the CSE Team in the future.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Convoy Security Element Team scan the horizon for contacts from a Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) mounted with a M240B 7.62 caliber machine gun in Fort Bliss, Texas during live-fire training. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder 2nd Class Jason Kraus/Released)

From WELL page 1

“Amazing,” said Equipment Operator 1st Class Aaron Nagel, lead driller. “There are very few places in the world which have free-flowing artesian wells.”

It is almost unbelievable that this rarity could be found in the middle of the desert. The well requires no power to operate, and because of the high pressure flow being produced, there is no pump installed. That means there is no requirement for a generator, electrical wires, or on/off switch. It is virtually maintenance free! All that is required is a turn of the valve and, like magic, pristine “artesian” water flows out at more than 100 gallons per minute.

The well is very important to Forward Operating Base Geronimo, because it is the lynch pin for all base improvements. Construction cannot begin without a reliable and abundant source of water, which has now been delivered. Showers are now being

installed for the first time, porta-johns are being staged and contractors are scrambling to get construction materials delivered. Within the next few months, FOB Geronimo will undergo a radical transformation that will greatly improve the quality of life for the Marines and Sailors that call it home.

Water well drilling in Afghanistan is one of the most important operations being conducted by NMCB 74. Not only does it create self-sufficiency for U.S. and Coalition Forces, it has a direct impact on the standard of living and morale of the troops.

The Seabees of NMCB 74’s water well team, with unbridled zeal and motivation, are fanatical in their devotion to finding water. Their enthusiasm rubs off on everyone around them as they bring a little hope to remote FOBs. Marines are usually glad to see Seabees, but with this crew they are down right ecstatic!

AD SPACE

AD SPACE

Training to secure the homefront



Seabees assigned to base security on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), assess a simulated crime scene at the commissary during a regular scheduled security exercise. The exercise was designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security personnel in order to respond to threats to installations and units. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

AD SPACE

AD SPACE

22 NCR deploys in support of operations in Afghanistan

By MCC (SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce
22 NCR Public Affairs

The Twenty Second Naval Construction Regiment (22 NCR) departed Naval Construction Battalion Center, Feb. 7 to begin their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The regiment, commanded by Capt. Lou Cariello, will provide general and combat engineering support for U.S. Forces Afghanistan and NATO Forces.

"My responsibility is to coordinate engineering efforts in support of United States Forces-Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force by leveraging the engineering and leadership talent assigned to us," said Cariello. "As coalition forces continue to push out further from established FOBs [Forward Operating Bases], engineering and associated logistics will be vital

to the success of the surge in Afghanistan."

The 22 NCR will direct the work of nearly 5,000 Navy, Army and Air Force military engineers from Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) 74, 133, 4, 22; as well as the Army's 19th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Knox, Ky., the Army's 20th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Hood, Texas, the Army's 105th Engineer Battalion based in Raeford, N.C., the Air Force's 777th Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force based out of Abilene, Texas, and the Air Force's 809th Expeditionary Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron based in Billings, Mont.

These units are expected to complete projects including forward operating base facilities construction, force protection upgrades, expeditionary airfields, road repairs, bridg-



ing and water wells.

The regiment will support the missions of these units by exercising command and control of construction and engineering activities, planning construction workload and determining priority of work in coordination with higher headquarters.

The 22 NCR consists of both active and reserve component Sailors. This will be the regiment's first deployment to Afghanistan after three deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002, 2004 and 2008.

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vide disaster recovery and humanitarian assistance. We're looking at assisting with road repairs and repairing the port to help in bringing the commerce back into Haiti as well as supplies and aid for the Haitian people," added Brooks.

Though in the short time NMCB 7 has been on the ground they have spent the majority of their time improving their camp, they have also jumped at the opportunity to assist in humanitarian efforts whenever possible.

"One of the things that made us feel good was we gave some cable to the Joint Task Force civilians that were here doing work for one of the orphanages and they did as much as they could do with a donated generator. They needed 200 feet of cable to make their well operational which provides water for 250 children in the orphanage. Considering what the children are going through, I feel a small sense of gratification for us doing what we can to help," said Master Chief Equipmentman (SCW) Michael Law, the Air Det.'s Senior Enlisted Leader.

"For a lot of them (junior troops) this is their first deployment, always with your first deployment you always remember it whether it's bad or good. This being the humanitarian effort that it's going to be, everyone will have a different situation, but it will be lasting regardless," said Law.

This deployment may prove to provide a large number of the troops with memories that will last a lifetime, but it will definitely give them ample opportunities to put their months and sometimes years of training to good use. The road repairs and pier work as well as providing some of the other services assistance will be key in allowing the Seabees of NMCB 7 to hone and perfect their skill sets.

"It's always great to have the

opportunity to get our junior troops trained up, an opportunity to apply all of the skills that they've learned in an expeditionary environment and there's a lot of opportunity out here because of the tasking we'll have. They'll basically get the chance to do all the things they've been trained to do," said Brooks.

There are a few roadblocks in the way of NMCB 7's progress. The structure of the JTF is a work in progress and will continue to take shape over the

course of the operation. Communication is limited due to the large number of troops on the ground and the lack of resources. Though daily the process seems to be improving.

The 'Bees of Seven aren't allowing it to put a strain on their morale, but they are more than ready to get started on projects in the city.

According to Law, the junior troops are chomping at the bit to get involved in projects.

"I'm really looking forward

to being able to get out and get to work. I want to help make a difference in these people's lives. I see them every day and it breaks my heart, I just want to help them in any way I can," said Steelworker Constructionman Apprentice Lindzie Wheelock.

The heat and insects provide an environmental challenge as well, the Seabees spend their days slathered in sunscreen and dipped in DEET, to help provide some protection against these elements.

The projects out in town are slowly matriculating into NMCB 7's workload and will in short time provide these anxious Sailors with a deployment they will not soon forget.

The Seabees of NMCB 7 are preserving the "Can Do" Spirit of the Naval Construction Force and are prepared to provide Operation Unified Response with every ounce of sweat and dedication that the Seabees pour into every project they attach their always revered name to.

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Homefront in Focus: Members of the Elite 'One Percent

By Beth Wilson
Military Spouse Contributor

Did you know the United States military, Active Duty, National Guard and Reservists total less than 1 percent of the total population?

When I first married my Sailor I was astounded, okay and stumped, by the use of acronyms by not only service members but spouses, contractors, family members and everyone associated with the military.

As a new Navy wife I sometimes felt like I was on the outside looking in on a private culture, a society that even had its own language: 'milspeak' (the ability to convey information and communicate through the use of acronyms and terms unique to the military).

Realistically every profession has its own lingo distinctive to them. But what does milspeak say about me, about us? The military; active duty, National Guard and Reserve, comprises less than 1 percent of the total population of the United States. That makes us a very elite group. You and I, as military spouses and family members, are part of an amazing and exclusive group. It is fitting that we have our own vernacular, our own culture, for *this* group, this *one percent*, is entrusted with the protection of the 99 percent. This *one percent* races to the forefront in times of peril, rushes to the relief of those in need. Whether fighting for Iraqi's right to choose their own government or recovery from an earthquake, we are that *one percent*.

One Percent. The rarer an

element the more priceless it becomes. Whether a diamond, gold, or a Picasso; its rarity only adds to its value. During World War I and World War II an estimated 14 percent of the population served in the military. Likewise, 11 percent served in the military during Viet Nam. Today it is *one percent*.

This highly trained, specialized, exclusive sector of society; this *one percent* is tasked to do more with less

– and they do it. Whether on the battlefield, from the skies above or the silent depths of the ocean, this one percent accomplishes its mission, not without sacrifice, so all can go on with their lives, their pursuits.

Sometimes, in the midst of PCS moves, deployments, training, and 'milspeak' we might forget who we are. We grow weary. Some can feel they 'lost themselves' or their distinctive when

they became a military spouse. I say you *added* to your distinction. May I remind you that you are a vital part of that pivotal, exclusive and amazing *one percent*? You are the elite, the exclusive and rare, the military spouse . .

Contact Beth at beth@homefrontinfocus.com. Kevin Bacon, creator of the *Broadside* cartoons, is her guest this week on *Navy Homefront Talk* at (www.blogtalkradio.com/nht).



Beth Wilson

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Earthquake Relief in Haiti



Clockwise from above: Builder 2nd Class Thomas Camara, left, and Builder 2nd Class Dustin Kuhns, both assigned to the Air Det. of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, speak with local children outside the NMCB 7 camp site. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released); Equipment operators assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 offload equipment from Naval vessels anchored near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Nicholas Lingo/Released); Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 lay concertina wire to help fortify the camp. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Nicholas Lingo/Released); Builder 2nd Class Andrej Paskevic, assigned to Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, drills guide holes into a damaged section of pier at the port in Port-au-Prince. UCT-1 and U.S. Army divers are conducting repair operations in the main seaport during Operation Unified Response after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused severe damage in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti Jan. 12. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Chris Lussier/Released)

Calling all competitive shooters

By MCC William Lovelady
Navy Public Element Support
Element SE

The U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team (USNMT) is looking for new members to participate in Navy and inter-service rifle and pistol matches. All active-duty Sailors and Reservists are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Serving in the Navy has always been a profession of arms, but in the last 10 years it has increasingly become a profession of small arms.

With a growing security force of Masters at Arms and a constant commitment of individual augmentees in every war zone around the world, Sailors have a greater need than ever to be familiar and proficient with firearms. The U.S. Navy has more Sailors serving in ground combat operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, than it has on ships in the AOR.

"Sailors receive limited small arms training as they process through Navy Individual Augmentee Training at various U.S. Army training centers," said Cmdr. Mick Glancey, USNMT officer in charge and captain of the rifle team. "All Sailors serving IA tours are issued a service rifle (M-16) or a service pistol (M9), some receive both prior to deployment. Small arms marksmanship is a basic fundamental skill-set all our Sailors are required to possess."

The USNMT is the leading proponent of small arms marksmanship and safety training for U.S. Navy personnel. Each year, the team con-

ducts the U.S. Fleet Forces Command (Atlantic and Pacific) Rifle and Pistol Matches, where hundreds of Sailors are trained in service rifle and service pistol marksmanship. Sailors participating in fleet matches represent their commands in individual and team events, earn marksmanship medals and badges, and qualify to stand armed watches aboard ships and at other commands.

USNMT also conducts the annual All Navy Rifle and Pistol Championships, in which the top 100 Sailors who have fired qualifying scores in fleet matches compete. As members of the rifle and pistol teams, the top 20 Sailors from each coast represent the Navy in the annual Interservice Rifle and Pistol Matches, the Civilian Marksmanship Program's National Rifle and Pistol Matches, and the National Rifle Association's National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

Both fleet matches begin with classroom and range training to familiarize shooters of all skill levels with safety and proper practices on the range as well as the fundamentals of marksmanship. Then the shooting starts. There are warm up matches before the 600-point rifle match fired at distances of 200, 300 and 500 yards and the 600 point pistol match fired one-handed from 25 and 50 yards.

Competitors also shoot in both pistol and rifle excellence-in-competition matches. EIC competitions are qualification matches in which competitors earn "leg points" toward the Distinguished Marksman and the

Distinguished Pistol Shot badges.

Last year's Atlantic Fleet Grand Aggregate winner, with the highest Navy combined rifle and pistol scores during the Fleet matches, was Lt. Richard Ray of Commander, Submarine Forces, with a score of 1056-13X.

Ray, who began his career in competitive shooting in 1994 after spotting a co-worker wearing a silver (8-point) EIC medal on his uniform, also served as the pistol match director.

"The Navy shooting team is the Navy's best-kept secret," said Ray, referring to the low-profile, all-volunteer nature of the Navy's competitive marksmanship program, but the team wants to change that. "We want to get the word out to everybody," said Glancey. "We want more new shooters to come out and participate in the matches."

Sailors do not have to be experienced shooters to benefit from competitive shooting—they don't even need to own firearms.

Throughout the match season, Naval Sea Systems Command Crane Division provides an armorer's van with match grade rifles, pistols, ammunition, and a workshop where a group of veteran gunsmiths build and maintain these precision firearms for Navy shooters. They even have all the small gear for matches like spotting scopes, shooting coats, mats, and folding stools used to carry gear up and down the 500-yard rifle range.

"Most shooters buy their own gear once they get involved in the sport, but if you don't already own the guns and gear, it's best to try competing before you buy so you're sure of getting what you need," said Lt. Eric Palmer a member of the team who got his start like most Navy shooters—he heard about a match and decided he wanted to shoot. "Once you've shot for a while and are ready to buy your own equipment and guns there are a lot of manufacturers that offer discounts to team members on rifles, ammunition, and just about everything else you need."

Gunners Mate 2nd Class Evan Cruz, a Reservist from Bronx, N.Y., shot his way to the national matches

See SHOOTER page 16

Additional Seabees surge



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 4 arrive on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. NMCB 4 is one of two additional Seabee battalions that deployed in support of the President's new troop uplift. The battalion, whose main job is expeditionary construction, will play a key role in providing necessary engineering support to arriving U.S. forces. (U.S. Navy Photo by MC3 Ernesto Hernandez Fonte/RELEASED)

Military OneSource offers free tax filing

By Elaine Wilson
American Forces Press Service

Defense officials encourage military families to once again take advantage of the free electronic tax filing services offered through Military OneSource.

People can access the H&R Block at Home program by going to Military OneSource at <http://www.militaryonesource.com/> and clicking on "Tax Filing Services."

More than 200,000 service members filed their tax returns through this resource last year, officials said.

"We have such a mobile force, and you have folks dispersed all over the world. It's a quick link for the family to link up with the [service member]," said Tommy T. Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "It's a convenience for you to be able to go on that site and file that tax form."

The program is open to active duty, Guard and Reserve service members, regardless of activation status, as well as spouses, dependent children and family members standing in for a deployed service member.

Participants can e-file up to three state resident returns for each federal return, Thomas said. However, he added, they should ensure they're filling through Military OneSource. People who file through H&R Block directly may be charged for services,

he cautioned.

The program is set up for basic returns. People who wish to upgrade to the premium program also may incur charges.

For tax assistance, filers can call a Military OneSource tax consultant from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST, seven-days-a-week, at 800-730-3802.

"That's a tremendous service," Thomas said. "We feel it's important to give our military families the absolute best."

Along with the consultants, people with complicated tax returns can visit a legal assistance office on a military installation for more in-depth advice, he said.

Whether online or on base, people should file early, Thomas advised.

"Don't run up against the 15 April deadline," he said. "And when you get the return, look at it as the means to secure your family's finances,"

whether its paying off debts, adding to a savings account or contributing to a Thrift Savings Plan.

Note: The NCBC Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is located inside the Fleet and Family Support Center (Building 30). Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call CM2 Michelle Eckstein at 228-871-4264/4257 to make an appointment. See the Jan. 28 edition of the Seabee Courier for more information.



The U.S. Navy Marksmanship Team (USNMT) is looking for new members to participate in Navy and inter-service rifle and pistol matches. Sailors do not have to be experienced shooters to benefit from competitive shooting, nor do they need to own firearms. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



Whether we are planning events, activities, festivals, or concerts, MWR is always working to support NCBC Gulfport's Active Duty and their Families by planning ways to provide quality experiences for all to enjoy.

If you want to stay "in the know" about upcoming events go to www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfpport and sign up for MWR's e-newsletter. Simply submit your email address, and MWR will send you a weekly E-news email that will include special events, sports registrations, and more. As always, the MWR web page is an excellent source for information on any of the MWR facilities and events. The MWR promotion line, (228) 871-4MWR, is updated with information on MWR happenings, or you can always call the MWR Publicity office directly at 228-871-4010. The MWR Events Calendar can be found inside the Bee Tracks and can also be accessed from the MWR home page. Also, sign up to receive weekly text messages from

MWR. Just text "CBCFun, CBCFitness, or CBCMWR" to 30364 on your mobile phone. Keep in mind that standard carrier-messaging charges may apply.

For more information on registering for E-news or any of MWR's facilities, events and activities, please call MWR Publicity at 228-871-4010.

NCBC Gulfport MWR wants to know what you want and how best to serve you! Take this 5 minute survey online and let them know! Just go to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPZT9V>.

Liberty Center

The Liberty Center wants you! Join the MWR Street Team. Street Teamers are fun, honest, reliable, and outgoing individuals who will be responsible for bringing friends to events, posting flyers/posters, and convince friends to participate in MWR activities. It's as easy as 1-2-3 . . . just contact Grace at 871-4684.

Remember that Liberty is open 365 days a year so we'll be open even for President's Day Feb. 15! Don't forget that

the goal of Liberty is to be your home away from home- a place for you to relax, shoot some pool, check your email or just watch a movie. Have a request for trip or event- let us know!!! February is a short month.

However, we still have some great trips and events waiting for you! Join us as we take a trip over to Biloxi to check out the Professional Cowboys Association Rodeo Feb. 20 for only \$20! After the craziness of Super Bowl and Mardi Gras has died down, we'll be traveling to New Orleans for a Day Trip Feb 21- join us for only \$2.

If you're looking for something more along the sports line, then join us as the New Orleans Hornets take on Orlando Magic Feb. 26 -the cost is only \$17, but you MUST sign up by the Wednesday prior! We'll also be taking care of some sports-related shopping as we travel to Mobile Feb. 27 to the Bass Pro Shop for only \$2 - we'll stay as long as you want!

We're excited about the weather warming up but until it does join us in the Liberty Center Feb. 24 for Think Warm Wednesday- We'll be cranking up the heat with tropical décor, food, and games with prizes!!! You won't want to miss this experience! For more information please call 228-871-4684.

Auto Hobby Shop

Providing seasonal maintenance-Maintain the longevity of your vehicle by making repairs in one of our many stalls. Free Fluid Check every Wednesday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop at 228-871-2804 to make your reservations today.

CBC Lake Pavilion

Take advantage of this great offer! Reserve one of the three large pavilions for any special event in the month of February and receive a 50 percent discount. Contact the MWR Outdoor Rental Center for more information at 228-871-2804.

MWR Vehicle Resale Lot

Have a Vehicle, Motorcycle, RV, Boat or Utility Trailer you want to sell? Put it in the MWR Vehi-

Face-off



Members of the Mississippi Surge hockey team took time out from their busy schedule to stop by the Youth Activity Center and pass on a few tips Feb. 4. The Surge is currently on the road defending their first-place position in the Southern Professional Hockey League. (U.S. Navy photo/released)

cle Resale Lot located on 5th Street. Location is in a high visibility area and is lighted for extra security. For more information please contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop today at 228-871-2804.

Car Wash

MWR has done many up grades to the car wash with the installation of new vacuums. Vacuums have high suction power, stain remover, shampooer and fragrance selections. The MWR car wash is located off Marvin Shields Blvd. and Rodgers Ave. MWR also has new shade structures on order for those car enthusiasts who like to wax their vehicles in a covered area. For more information please contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop at 228-871-2804.

Youth Activities Center

Moms and dads need a break from time to time, especially during deployment. Join us at the YAC for arts & crafts, games, fun, and more.

Children's Valentine's Dance will be held Feb. 12 from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. A live DJ is scheduled to perform and dinner and snacks are included in the price of admission. Only \$4 per person. For more information please contact 228-871-2251.

Outdoor Recreation

Enjoy a month filled with fun during February when you join Outdoor Recreation because there is something for everyone in the family. Gather your friends and head over to one of the many trips planned this month: 4th Annual Blues Festival - Feb. 13; Grease the Musical Feb. 19; Professional Cowboys Association Championship Rodeo Feb. 20; and New Orleans Day Trip Feb. 21 (Free Imax, Aquarium, and Zoo tickets will be given out on first come first served basis). For more information please contact Dana Dawson at 228-224-3516 or 228-871-2804.

Aquatics

With the warmer weather only a memory, one might think that going for a swim is no longer an option. MWR Aquatics wants you to know that you can enjoy swimming ALL year long. For more information please contact Dana Dawson at 228-224-3516.

Information, Tickets, and Tours

Looking for some fun activities to do during Spring Break? ITT has you covered. Join us for 4 wonderful days in Orlando. Be sure to bring your camera! The deadline to sign up is March 18 and the final payment is due by

At the Movies . . .

FREE movies, now playing at the Training Hall Movie Theater



- Feb. 11: Stepfather, (R), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 12: Law Abiding Citizen, (R), 5:30 p.m., Paranormal Activity, (R), 8 p.m.
- Feb. 13: Astro Boy, (PG), 1 p.m., Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), 3 p.m., Where the Wild Things Are, (PG), 5 p.m., The Invention of Lying, (PG13), 7 p.m.
- Feb. 14: Paranormal Activity, (R), Noon, Carriers, (R), 2 p.m., Amelia, (PG), 4 p.m., Stepfather, (R), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb.16: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18: Paranormal Activity, (R), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 19: Amelia, (PG), 5:30 p.m., Law Abiding Citizen, (R), 8 p.m.
- Feb. 20: Law Abiding Citizen, (R), 1 p.m., Invention of Lying, (PG13), 3:45 p.m., Carriers, (R), 5:45 p.m., Paranormal Activity, (R) 7:45 p.m.
- Feb. 21: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), Noon, Astro Boy, (PG), 2 p.m., Where the Wild Things Are, (PG), 4 p.m.
- Feb. 23: Michael Jackson's-This Is IT, (PG), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25: Carriers, (R), 6:30 p.m.

Focus on Education

Looking for a way to finance college?

From School Liaison Officer

If you are the parent of a high school senior, you are probably collecting information to complete your taxes so you can fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA)! Military parents all over the world who have students planning to enroll in a college or university next fall are getting ready to submit the FAFSA.

What's the rush? Many schools award aid on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, the student may not be eligible for state aid if the FAFSA isn't submitted until April. Many state aid deadlines are early in the calendar year (calendar year 2010 for the 2010-11 award year). While students are responsible for filling out the FAFSA, parents must also provide financial information if the student is their dependent. The form requires the previous year's tax return and other tax information for

the student and parents.

Once the FAFSA is received and processed, a Student Aid Report (SAR) will be provided. It will list all of the answers you provided on the FAFSA. This allows changes to be made which may be necessary if the form was submitted before a tax return was completed. The SAR will also contain your Estimated Family Contribution or EFC. The EFC is **NOT** the amount of money your family will have to pay for college nor is it the amount of federal student aid to be received. It is a number used by the college to calculate the amount of federal student aid your child is eligible to receive.

Once the schools listed on the FAFSA receive this information, they will use this EFC to determine the amount of the federal grant, loan, or work-study award your child is eligible for based on the school's cost of attendance. The student will receive a financial aid award letter from

each school explaining the aid the school is offering.

While the FAFSA is not a difficult form to complete, sometimes families have unusual circumstances which make filling out the form more complicated. Military OneSource has an article entitled "Tips for filling out the FAFSA" available at www.MilitaryOneSource.com. Or you can call 1-800-342-9647 to speak with an Education Consultant today for personalized help with selecting the right college, completing college applications, and researching scholarships and financial aid.

Ready to get started? Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. **NOTE: This not at a ".com" Web site.** If you go to a ".com" site, you will probably be asked to pay to submit the FAFSA. Remember, the first F in "FAFSA" stands for "free" – so use the official government site to submit your application.

Contact the School Liaison Officer at 228-871-2117

Need a tutor? Tutor.com gives students of all ages FREE online help in math, sciences, English, social studies and a variety of other subjects. To access the program go to www.tutor.com/navy and then sign in to Navy Knowledge Online.

Save the Date . . . Transition Counselor Institute Phase One Training designed to prepare education and installation professionals to recognize concerns that impact the mobile military child will take place Feb. 24 - 25 at the Holiday Inn Gulfport/Airport from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Contact Amanda Hulsey@MilitaryChild.org., www.MilitaryChild.org

Special Needs Resources for Military Families Webinar . . . Special Needs Family Support Program Manager, Isabel Hodge, is conducting two Special Needs Resources For Military Families Webinar Feb. 23 and 25. Isabel is providing a comprehensive overview of government and non-government resources useful to military families with special needs. Additionally an overview of the MOS specialty consultants and other valuable MOS information will be provided.

Interested family members should visit Military OneSource (<http://www.militaryonesource.com>) to register for the webinar.

Budget request calls for new, renovated DoD schools

By Elaine Wilson
Armed Forces Press Service

Military children are one of the many groups poised to benefit from President Barack Obama's fiscal 2011 budget request.

The request, announced yesterday, provides \$439 million for the Department of Defense Education Activity to replace or renovate 10 of its schools, said Kevin Kelly, the activity's associate director for financial and business operations. This is the first step in a plan to replace or renovate more than 100 schools by 2015, he added.

"The budget request demonstrates that this administration is fully behind education and very supportive of our military dependents," Kelly said. "They understand the needs of the military - if we care for the families,

folks will be able to get the job done."

The new schools are sorely needed, Kelly noted. Some of the activity's nearly 200 schools date back to the 1940s. They initially were built as barracks or hospitals and later transformed into schoolhouses.

"Some of these schools are getting in bad shape," he said. "It's time to get them up to date."

If the request is approved, the education activity's plan calls for new schools overseas in Belgium, Puerto Rico, Germany and the United Kingdom, as well as stateside in North Carolina, Georgia, New York and Virginia. The construction will take two years, with completion scheduled for 2013, Kelly said.

Schools with limited electrical outlets and power will be replaced with state-

of-the-art buildings equipped with the latest technology, he said. "We're going to equip the schools with everything needed for the 21st-century student," he said.

Other schools are slated to be renovated, with makeovers to gymnasiums or entire wings.

Additional funds will be used for school upkeep as well as the funding of new programs, including Operation Virtual School, Kelly said. This program, scheduled to launch in the fall, will enable geographically dispersed students or students at smaller schools to access a wide range of classes online.

Kelly said activity officials remain hopeful the request will be passed by Congress. "We're just ecstatic with the outcome so far and hope for a solid bill on Oct. 1," he said.

Stop the Pop!



Heather Ball, a dental hygienist at the Navy Dental Center Pensacola, Branch Clinic Gulfport informed students of Long Beach High School about the effects of sugars and acids found in many popular juices, soft drinks and sports drinks. The information is part of the "Stop the Pop" campaign, designed to raise awareness of the important role oral health plays in systemic health care and to encourage students to adopt preventive care practices. (U.S. Navy photo by EO3 (SCW) Elizabeth Saranto/Released)

NCBC new 'No Tobacco Use' policy . . . Effective immediately tobacco use (including smokeless) is prohibited on all life and fitness, child and youth, medical clinic, Navy Exchange, and Commissary properties. This includes the facilities, walkways and parking lots. There will be designated areas behind the Commissary and east of the new Single Sailor Center for patrons and employees to use. There will be no use within 50 feet from the air intakes and commonly used building entry ways/egresses. A map and more information will follow in future issues of the Seabee Courier and will also be posted on the NCBC Website.

From **SHOOTER** page 13

with borrowed gear. He purchased his first competition rifle at Camp Perry the day before the President's Match started.

"We've had shooters shoot their whole careers with a van rifle," said Master Chief Utilities Constructionman Scott Hancock. "They just keep track of the rifle number and shoot the same one at every match."

One common area of confusion for Sailors wanting to shoot is how to join the team. It couldn't be easier. The Navy Marksmanship Unit is not a commissioned unit of the Navy. It

has no unit identification code and there are no billets. Team leadership is a collateral duty and team membership is entirely voluntary. The Navy team doesn't hire professional shooters like the Army Marksmanship Unit and it doesn't have permanent change of station assignments like the Marine Corps team. It is made entirely of Sailors who love to shoot and want to compete.

Joining the Navy and shooting either of the Fleet Forces Command matches is the same thing. The annual match announcement message and team details may be found at the team website www.usnst.org.

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Gates: 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' to get broad review

By Donna Miles
Armed Forces Press Service

A new panel assembled to review the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that bans openly gay people from military service will consider the views of those affected throughout the chain of command, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates told Congress Jan. 3.

The review also will consider the impact of a potential policy repeal on morale, unit cohesion and retention, he said.

Gates attempted to allay concerns within the House Armed Services Committee that the working group he announced yesterday will overlook getting input about a potential policy change from the troops themselves.

If there's one thing he learned during his career — as director of Central Intelligence, president of Texas A&M University and as defense secretary — Gates said it was to get input from the people affected before imposing change.

"In each of those [positions], I have led and managed change. And I've done it smart, and I've done it stupid," he told lawmakers. "Happily, I think, the stupid was early. But stupid was trying to impose a policy from the top without any regard for the views of the people who were going to be affected or the people who would have to effect the policy change."

Gates said the working group, headed by Jeh Johnson, the Pentagon's top lawyer, and Army Gen. Carter Ham, the commander of U.S. Army Europe, will review the full range of issues associated with a repeal to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"One of the purposes of the review that I have directed [to] be undertaken by General Ham and by Jeh Johnson is precisely so we can understand not just the views and concerns of the [service] chiefs, but of our military people and their families," he said.

"If you want lasting and effective change, you had better bring the people who are going to be affected by it into the discussion and get their views," Gates said. "At a minimum, it will help you mitigate whatever negative consequences

there are."

The panel also will evaluate the impact of a policy change on military readiness and effectiveness, Gates said, including unit cohesion, morale, and retention, "so we can get some facts into this debate, or at least some data that we think is reliable and objective."

As part of that, Gates said he will ask the Rand Corporation to update its 1993 study that led to the policy's

adoption, expanding the review to cover a broader range of issues.

"I think this review period is absolutely essential in terms of our understanding what we're doing; figuring out what the concerns are and the issues are, helping us figure out how to mitigate them so that if the Congress does vote to change this policy, we have an understanding of how to go about implementing in a way that minimizes

whatever negative consequences there are," Gates told legislators.

"We have set the goal," he said, emphasizing that the decision ultimately will be Congress' to make.

Should Congress change the policy, Gates said, it's "vitaly important" to be able to tell service members that the change represents the view of the elected representatives of the United States of America.

Meanwhile, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a blog posted today that he still has questions about the impact of a policy change, but that he also personally supports a repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

"My personal belief is that allow-

See GATES page 19

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Haiti Imminent Danger Pay set

From Chief of Naval Personnel
Public Affairs

The Navy has clarified eligibility for Imminent Danger Pay (IDP) and Hardship Duty Pay-Location (HDP-L) for Sailors serving in support of Operation Unified Response providing humanitarian operations for Haitians following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Port au Prince on Jan. 12.

"Navy staffs have been collaborating on providing this guidance to ensure we are getting it right for our Sailors who are performing this vital life-saving mission," said Jeri Busch, head of the military pay

and compensation policy branch for the Chief of Naval Personnel. "The goal is to ensure that all commanding officers are using the same legal interpretation to determine the eligibility of their crews."

The land area of Haiti has been designated for payment of IDP at \$225 per month, and will not be prorated for a partial month. The land area includes internal waters and waters landward of the baseline, in accordance with international law. The guidance memorandum provided by Busch's office further clarifies that for purposes of IDP entitlements involving operations

in Haiti, the term 'internal waters' is defined as any waters landward of the low-water line. Waters landward of the outermost harbor works are also considered internal waters.

Only those Sailors on temporary duty to the land area of Haiti for 30 or more consecutive days will be eligible for HDP-L. Those who work intermittently on land would not be eligible.

For example, flight crews or corpsmen who are frequently on land, but routinely return to the ship are not eligible.

Those who are eligible will receive \$100 per month.

A reminder from NCBC Public Safety . . . The Naval Construction Battalion Center commanding officer can authorize the elevation of Force Protection Conditions locally. The Crisis Management Team determines the nature and extent of threats and makes recommendations to the commanding officer. Plans are evaluated for implementing higher Force Protection Conditions. All personnel are reminded to report all suspicious or unusual incidents to NCBC Security at (228) 871-2361.

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Seabee Divers!
Underwater
Construction
Team ONE**



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

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Community Notes

SUPPORT

Family Readiness Groups

NMCB 1 FRG invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Monday of every month at the Youth Activity Center, building 335. A potluck dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a 6:30 p.m. meeting. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. For more information, contact FRG President Angela Sourwine, 228-323-0036 or FRG Vice President Rashelle Geddis, 228-224-1475 or e-mail nmcbone-frg@gmail.com.

NMCB 7 FRG welcomes friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. To receive FRG information, send an e-mail to nmcb7frg@gmail.com or contact FRG President Deanna Salter at 228-206-0377.

NMCB 74 FRG welcomes all friends and family members to join the NMCB 74 FRG. Meetings are the third Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Fleet and Family Support Center. Bring a covered dish to take part in a potluck dinner. For more information, contact FRG President Torell Coquet at torellcoquet@yahoo.com or Vice President Annie Gundy at anniegundy@gmail.com. To receive updates, log on to the FRG website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb-74-fgr/index.html>.

NMCB 11 FRG welcomes all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), building 113. For more information contact FRG President Liz Stocking at 717-491-2900 or Vice President Sarah Edwards at 336-215-2211 or email nmcb11frg@gmail.com. Visit the ombudsman and FRG website at <http://nmcb11.webs.com>.

NMCB 133 FRG invites all friends and family members 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. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact FRG President

Kelli Clarke at 727-504-4408 or e-mail hansonk154@yahoo.com. To receive updates, log on to the FRG website at

<http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb133fsg>
Naval Officer's Spouse Club
The Naval Officer's Spouse Club meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Youth Center. Children are welcome and child care is provided. For more info, e-mail noscgulfport@yahoo.com. Visit NOSCGulfport.org for more information.

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. Volunteers are always welcome. Visit the NMCRS 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 GA meetings every Thursday at 11 a.m. GA is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other. All meetings are confidential and facilitated by GA. Come to a meeting or call Jim Soriano at 228-871-3000 for more information.

TRAINING COMPASS is a team of trained seasoned military spouses mentoring other Navy spouses. Classes are intimate and informative. The three-day course is offered the last week of the month. The course and child care are FREE! Contact Kim at 228-832-5343 or Amanda at 228-328-1352 to sign up.

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., 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

228-688-5288 or enrique.acosta@navy.mil.

SOCIAL
Miss. Gulf Coast First Class Association is seeking new members. Meetings are every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at CBC's Beehive, building 352. Call BU1 Tony Boldrey 228-871-2577 for more information or just come and join us at a meeting.

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 the month is Seafood night, the remaining Fridays are Steak night. 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. All 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.

NMCB 62 Alumni Group
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 62 was recommissioned in Gulfport in 1966, and decommissioned in 1989. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Alumni Group may go to <http://nmcb62alumni.org> for more information. The website also contains links to hundreds of Seabee military historical sites as well as reunion information.

HERITAGE
The Seabee Gift Store is in 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 Hueneme, Calif. Contact the museum through the web address at www.seabeeuseumstore.org/shop/index.php

From GATES page 17

ing homosexuals to serve openly would be the right thing to do," Mullen wrote in his blog. "I cannot escape being troubled by the fact that we have in place a policy which forces young men and women to lie

about who they are in order to defend their fellow citizens. For me, it comes down to integrity — theirs as individuals and ours as an institution."

Mullen told Congress today he recognizes the issue is charged "with emotion and strongly held opinions

and beliefs" that the panel will work through during the course of its assessment.

While declining to speak for the service chiefs, Mullen said the top concern for military leaders boils down to "the readiness and military effectiveness of the force."

March 25.

Bring your shades, sunscreen, and bathing suit because ITT is going to the Bahamas!

You+ITT+Cruise=Fun! Enjoy the music, fresh air, beaches, and the sun May 27 - 31. Cost is \$480/person with a \$200 deposit due by Feb. 17. Cost includes cabin stay and transportation to and from cruise terminal. For more information on any of these ITT trips please contact Kayci at 228-871-2231.

Anchors and Eagles

Attention all chiefs and officers! Do you know where the best place on base to relax and get a cold drink is? A&E is the place for you. Located in bldg 303, Rhodes Hall, Anchors and Eagles is open Tuesday through Thursday 2 - 9 p.m. All other days are by reservation. For information please call Michael Sweetapple at 228-871-4750.

Beehive Lounge

The Beehive All Hands Club is the best place on base, or in town, to get a cold beverage and hang out with your friends. Located in bldg 352, across the street from Pizza Bros, the Beehive has multiple flat screen tvs, pool table, darts, and daily entertainment. Starting Feb 6, the new hours will be Monday - Thursday from 4 - 10:30 p.m., Fridays 4 - 11:30 p.m. & Saturdays 5-11:30 p.m. Sundays are available by reservation. Remember, "Be Safe, Stay On Base".

Fitness Center

Seabee spouses are an important part of the Seabee mission and your attendance at all activities is highly desired.

Mission Nutrition Course is a free class that will show you how to identify and read nutritional information found on food labels and gain behavioral tech-

niques to make better eating choices. Classes will be offered every Thursday from 1 - 3:00 p.m. and Friday from 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Outdoor Fitness Fun is a Fitness Program designed to give a total body workout to our dependents and Active Duty in an outdoor setting every Tuesday/Thursday from 5.- 5:45 p.m. Meet outside on the field.

Fitness with a Friend Personal Training is available! We would like to offer personal training with up to one friend. Prices are \$45/Dependents and \$30/Active Duty. Each session is 75 minutes. Come in and have a consultation with one of our trainers and decide what time is best for you and your friend.

All Aerobic Classes are free to all eligible patrons, children between the ages of 10 - 15 who accompany their parents must stay with them throughout the class. Monday/Wednesday classes are: Bosu Strength/Cardio at 9 a.m. and Cycling at 5 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday classes are: Cycling at 9 a.m. and Cardio Kickboxing with step at 5 p.m.

Have you ever played walleyball? Walleyball is similar to volleyball and it is played on a racquetball court. The net is wall to wall and the walls are legal. Sounds crazy right? Well wait until you try it! Sign ups for league play are Feb. 15 - 23. For more info contact Sam Perkins at 228-822-5109.

CBC Biggest Loser Challenge

- This 12 week challenge is in progress and the first weigh in will be March 1 - 5. For more info contact Michael McLaughlin at 228-822-5107.

Sweetheart 5K Run is NCBC Gulfport's hottest winter 5K held Feb. 17 at 6:30 a.m. behind the Fitness Center.

Make an appointment today with Massage Therapist Julie Blackner by calling 228-871-2668.

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

From TAX page 2

The spouse must be present with the service member in the non-domicile state pursuant to military orders and the state must not be the spouse's domicile (legal residence). This law is effective for tax year 2009 and eligible spouses may be entitled to refunds. For 2010 and the future, eligible spouses need to designate their appropriate domicile state by filing new withholding forms with their employer.

However, there are some common misunderstandings that need to be addressed.

1. The MSRRA does not allow a spouse to pick or choose a state of legal residence. Second, the MSRRA does not allow a spouse to "inherit" or assume a service member's domicile upon marriage. There is not a standard form to be filled out that allows a spouse to change their residency.

2. The spouse must have lived in the state, intent to return to there, and have a tangible connection to the state. Such connections that need to be established are: voter registration, driver's license, purchase of residential property, and registration or titling of vehicles.

3. MSRAA does not allow a spouse to recapture an old abandoned domicile unless the spouse physically returns to the state with the requisite connections and intent to remain there permanently.

4. The tax exemption for working spouses only applies to wage income and income from services performed in the non-domiciliary states. Thus, if Kristen sells their Norfolk house or rents out their extra home in Virginia, she will be taxed by Virginia on this income. Also, Kristen will pay Virginia state income tax on her two businesses she opened while in Norfolk: the florist shop and tanning salon.

The Gulfport RLSO SE can be reached at 228-871-2620. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

From COMPETITION page 5

tempted.

After basketball, the teams competed in the paper carry relay in which two people carried a full box of paper the length of the gym and back while balancing an empty water bottle on top. While not necessarily a hard event, some of the other teams started moving a little to fast and ended up tripping over their feet. The Seabees did well but were not able to advance from their heat to the finals.

With the three events completed in the morning, all of the participants took a break for at BBQ lunch put on by MWR and then met back up in the afternoon near the beach for the remaining activities.

The first event of the afternoon was a PT relay which involved four participants from each team. From the starting line the first member would run backwards to station one to do 15 pushups, get up and run backwards to station two for 15 sit ups, then run backwards to station

three for 15 jumping jacks. The Seabees won their heat winning them a place in the final round. In the final round, the team put forth an outstanding effort but fell short to Public Works and Air Ops.

The last event of the day was the dizzy bat football toss. For this event three pairs from each team would put their head on a bat, rotate seven times and then one person would run out as a receiver and the other would throw. This event was rather interesting to watch as many fell over attempting to run or just ran the wrong way.

Prior to the announcement of the winner, the NSF Executive Officer Cmdr. Joe Hutchinson, thanked everyone for coming out and participating as well as a special thank you to the Seabees for their participation on their day off. Finally, as the scores were read from the bottom up, the Det. found out they had placed third out of the nine teams. The Det Seabees put forth an outstanding effort for the day and had a good time in the process.

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GULF COAST USO



3001 6th St., Bldg. 306, (228) 575-5224
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., (Closed Sundays)



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 - Friday, 11:35 a.m.,
Daily Mass**

Gospel Service: Sunday, 8 a.m.

Seabee Memorial Chapel

Center Chaplains:

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

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

NEXCOM visit



Rear Adm. Steven Romano, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command, discusses uniform issues with Julie Herring, the Store Manager of the Navy Exchange (NEX) on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Jan. 26. Romano is touring NEX facilities under his area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by EO3 Elizabeth Saranto/Released)



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