



# Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 48 No. 1

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

January 13, 2011

## Navy efficiencies announced

From Defense Media Activity - Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) – The Secretary of Defense announced Jan. 6 a series of efficiencies decisions designed to save the Department of Defense more than \$150 billion during the next five years.

According to Secretary Robert M. Gates, the savings would be achieved primarily by reducing overhead costs, improving business practices and culling excess or troubled programs.

Most of the resulting savings will be used by the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force to invest in high-priority programs that strengthen warfighting capabilities. The intent of these proposed changes is to improve support to operational forces, and to reprioritize resources to fund the Navy of today while building the Navy of tomorrow.

No fleet area was exempt from this review.

“Secretary Gates charged the Navy and Marine Corps to scrub everything, eliminate the unnecessary or underperforming, find savings, and apply those savings to warfighting,” said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. “We have done that.”

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## NMCB 11 delivers holiday cheer to children



Builder 1st Class (SCW) Jonathan Garigal of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 plays a game with a child during a visit to an orphanage on the island of Timor-Leste. The men and women of Det. Timor-Leste collected donations to buy Christmas gifts and party supplies before escorting Santa Claus to visit more than 100 children at four different orphanages in the area. Timor-Leste is located in Southeast Asia, on the southernmost edge of the Indonesian archipelago, northwest of Australia. NMCB 11 is currently deployed to the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and scheduled to return from deployment this spring. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Jayden Quinlan/Released)

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**LifeWorks**  
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January

**Happy New Year 2011**

**Cell Phones For Soldiers** - This month we will be collecting cell phones for soldiers. Please drop off your old cell phones at the Community Management Office anytime throughout the month. The cell phones will be shipped off and used to purchase calling cards for our troops.

**Website Trivia** - Our website has a lot of great information and updates. Visit our website at [www.ncbcgulfporthomes.com](http://www.ncbcgulfporthomes.com) to find the trivia questions you must answer. The questions are listed under the Events Tab. All answers can be found on our website. Those who submit the correct answers will be put in a drawing for a **FREE Pay and Go** or a family dinner gift card. Email all answers to [abingham@bbcgrp.com](mailto:abingham@bbcgrp.com)

**NFL Cute Kid's/Pet's Photo Contest** - Submit a photo of your kids or pets in your favorite NFL teams attire. Contest entries will need to be submitted before Jan. 28. The winner of the photo contest will receive a Super bowl Party Pack! Be creative and email all submissions to [abingham@bbcgrp.com](mailto:abingham@bbcgrp.com)

**Bal-4 Coloring and Puzzle Contest** - Complete your Bal 4 coloring and puzzle sheet and submit it to the Community Management Office any time this month and the winner will receive and prize.

**Polar Plunge** - Gather up the family and join Balfour Beatty for our Polar Plunge. This January pool party will be held at MWR's Fitness Center Saturday, Jan. 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have a DJ playing with free food and activities for the family. This event is subject to change due to inclement weather. You can check for updates on the website or contact the Community Management Office at 228-863-0424.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for events please contact Addie Bingham at the Community Management Office 228-863-0424 or [abingham@bbcgrp.com](mailto:abingham@bbcgrp.com)

**Citizenship And Immigration Questions Answered At NLSO Jan. 27. . .** In order to better assist service members and dependents in the Gulfport area with their immigration and citizenship issues, the Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) has arranged for Immigration Services Officers from the local U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office in Metairie, La., to make monthly onboard NCBC Gulfport visits to provide one-on-one appointments. The visits will be scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month, with the next visit Jan. 27. Service members or their dependents can make a 20-minute appointment to see an Immigration Service Officer by calling the NLSO at 228-871-2620.

## 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](mailto:CNRSE_HOTLINE@navy.mil).

## Seabee Courier Reader Survey results are in

### From NCBC Public Affairs

About six weeks ago we ran a DoD- mandated readership survey to find out how you felt we were doing our job of giving you the news you need to know.

Based on survey results, it seems that we are covering the topics that you want us to. However, there is always room for improvement and you told us that there should be even more base activity news as well as a section on off-base activities happening on the weekends.

You are also interested in having more individuals featured in the Courier. We are carrying out this request with the addition of our Around the Center and Freeze Frame features. Based on reader requests, we will also try to include more stories and photos on Seabees and Seabee Units from outside of the Gulfport area who are carrying out the mission at independent duty sites and other locales.

If anyone has a good idea for a story or series of stories we would love to hear from you. Contact the Seabee Courier Editor at 228-871-3662 or send an e-mail to [seabecourier@navy.mil](mailto:seabecourier@navy.mil).

**E7 EXAM . . .** The E7 Exam will be held at 6:30 a.m. Jan. 20 in building 433.

# Angel Tree brings joy to military families



By NCBC Public Affairs

Very little compares to seeing the excitement and joy in a child's face when they wake up Christmas morning to find Santa Clause has visited them and left toys and goodies galore. However, there are many children who would never experience those feelings if it weren't for a generous group of people who give to the Angel Tree Program.

The Navy Exchange, in collaboration with the Seabee Memorial Chapel and several other program participants, put their own Angel Tree up Nov. 22 to assist families on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport.

"Our Angel Tree was comprised of Department of Defense eligible children," said Religious Programs Specialist Seamen Ramesia Smith.

Families could sign their child up at the Chapel to have an Angel created in their name. After collecting gender and age information on each child, along with their Christmas lists, Chapel personnel

created their angels for placement on the Angel Tree located inside the main NEX store.

When the sign up period was over, more than 30 Angels hung on the tree. Wishes ranged from basic necessities to electronic gadgets to toys of all shapes and sizes. As generous NEX customers visited the store, they were able to pick an angel and purchase items to fulfill the child's request. The philanthropists could leave the gifts at the NEX for Chapel staff to pick up.

"We went to pick up the donated gifts and brought them back to the chapel, where families were called to pick the presents up," said Smith.

By all accounts, the program was considered a success; however, next year, program coordinators hope to begin the program earlier in order to assist more families. But, for this Christmas, they know they helped a few parents experience the pleasure of watching their children's eyes sparkle with excitement thanks to a few paper Angels hanging on a tree.

## Tax Time is Here . . .

VITA Tax Center volunteers are needed . . . The VITA Tax Center will be offering free tax preparation assistance to service members and their dependents again this year and could use the help of anyone who is willing.

# VITA

If interested, please call Lt.j.g. Young at 228-871-4992, and she will set up a training schedule and provide necessary materials. They are looking for volunteers who can do at least one full day a week, rather than a couple hours here and there. The VITA Tax Center will open for business Jan. 24 in building 60.

# Around the Center



Equipment Operator 3rd Class Rebekah Flis, helps Equipment Operator Constructionman Ashley Marks, both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1, prepare for a personal gear issue inspection at the grinder on board NCBC, Jan 6. NMCB 1 is preparing for their upcoming three-week Field Training Exercise (FTX). (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Mikayla Mondragon/Released)



CMDM (SCW/PJ) Pete Grundy is rendered side boy honors at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony held at Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Training Hall. Grundy was the Command Master Chief for NCBC and retired with more than 30 years of honorable service. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Terry Spain/Released)



Construction Electrician 3rd Class Karla Espana, assigned to the NCBC Chapel, sorts through food donated to the Seabee Food Pantry at the Chapel on board NCBC, Jan 5. Pantry items needed include baby food, canned goods, peanut butter, mayonnaise, dried fruit, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, sugar and cereal. Donated items for the Seabee Food Pantry can be dropped off at several locations, to include the Chapel, Fleet & Family, Commissary, NEX and the Gulfport Inn. All donations will go to help Sailors who are in need. For more information call 228-871-2454. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Mikayla Mondragon/Released)

# Involuntary Separation Pay not authorized for PFT failures

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

To comply with DOD-wide policy, members separated from the Navy after Jan. 1 solely for failing the physical fitness test (PFT) portion of the physical fitness assessment (PFA) will not be authorized involuntary separation pay, according to a NAVADMIN released Dec. 29.

Policy for involuntary separations before Jan. 1 did not distinguish between separations for failing the PFT and separations relating to weight control.

Members separated for failing the body composition assessment (BCA) in any of three PFA failures may receive one-half involuntary separation pay as long as they are eligible for such pay in all other respects, including the requirement, if qualified, to serve in either the selected reserve or individual ready reserve.

Members who have been involved in misconduct or who are not performing satisfactorily must be separated for those reasons, not for weight control.

To read NAVADMIN 420/10, visit <http://www.npc.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Messages/>.

# Federal Civilian Employees Federal Pay Freeze Facts

In December, the President signed Congressional legislation\* that freezes civilian pay for two years. The pay freeze prohibits statutory pay adjustments from Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2012. Certain additional payments and continuing pay increases (e.g., bonuses, promotion increases, WGIs) are excluded from the pay freeze.

Employees Covered by the Pay Freeze: General Schedule, Alternative Personnel Systems, Executive Schedule, Federal Wage System (Prevailing Rate), Senior Executive or Senior-level Employees and Political Appointees

Pay Adjustments Covered by the Pay Freeze:

- o GPI - General pay increases (across-the-board adjustments)
- o Locality pay adjustments (except for employees covered under the Non-Foreign Area Retirement Equity Assurance Act of 2009)
- o Prevailing rate adjustments
- o Executive schedule adjustments
- o Basic pay increases for Senior Executive or Senior-level em-

ployees (unless their position changes due to a substantial increase in responsibility or a promotion)

Employees and Pay Adjustments EXCLUDED from the Pay Freeze

- o Additional payments in the form of:
- o Performance-based awards (bonuses and salary increases)
- o Recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives
- o Premium payments (e.g., overtime pay)
- o Continuing pay increases including:
- o Promotion increases
- o Within-grade step increases (WGIs)
- o Quality step increases (QSIs)

Additional information is available at [www.opm.gov/oca/11tables/index.asp](http://www.opm.gov/oca/11tables/index.asp) or at [www.cpm.osd.mil/wage](http://www.cpm.osd.mil/wage). Information also available on Department of the Navy civilian compensation [www.public.navy.mil/donhr/compensation](http://www.public.navy.mil/donhr/compensation). Contact the Office of Civilian Human Resources (OCHR) at [DONhrfwaq@navy.mil](mailto:DONhrfwaq@navy.mil) with additional pay freeze questions.

**Professional Classes . . .** There are dozens of upcoming classes for all military and civilian employees available through the Human Resources Service Center Southeast, Training Center in building 60.

For more info, contact Lucy Galster at 228-871-2641 or email: [lucy.galster@navy.mil](mailto:lucy.galster@navy.mil)

For a list of classes, go to [https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Gulfport/Service\\_Organizations/HRSCTraining/index.htm](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Gulfport/Service_Organizations/HRSCTraining/index.htm)

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## Traffic Notes

*NCBC Road Work . . .* Road repaving will begin on board NCBC shortly. Everyone is asked to be patient with this process as there will be multiple road closures for several months.

*Broad Ave. Closure . . .* For the next 60 to 90 days, Broad Ave. from Highway 90 to the Railroad tracks will be closed to through traffic. Please use an alternative route.

# NMCB 1 Seabees embark during Operation Meathook

By Lt. Khalid J. Woods  
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One (NMCB) 1, "The First and the Finest", currently in homeport at Gulfport, successfully completed Operation Meathook, an embarkation training exercise that occurred the Dec. 6-10.

The purpose of the Meathook Exercise was to test the battalion's ability to mount out an air det within 48 hours and the air det's ability to redeploy within 32 hours.

The exercise was initiated when NMCB 1 received an execution order directing the battalion to mount out a task tailored Table of Allowance (TOA), including Civil Engineering Support Equipment (CESE) for air shipment and surface shipment aboard Airlift Mobility Command (AMC) aircraft and Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) vessels utilizing the TC-AIMS II program in support of a contingency construction mission. The battalion prepared 20 pieces of CESE and eight pallets of gear in preparation for embarkation from Construction Battalion Center (CBC) Gulfport to Camp Shelby.

NMCB 1's Embarkation Organization, Air Det, Mount Out Control Center, Alfa Company, and support personnel under

the guidance of Movement Control Center (MCC) East prepared for this event through various certification courses, in-house training, and a crew leader walk through.

"The in-house training and crew leader walk through paid huge dividends," said Chief Equipment Operator Jackie Chandler, the embarkation chief.

An Embarkation Training Week in late October provided the greatest possible awareness of the embarkation plan, dissemination of embarkation skill set and set the tone for command and control. The crew leader station training throughout the month of November provided time for crew leaders to exercise their stations and begin becoming "brilliant in the basics".

The walk through conducted by MCC East's crew leaders helped instill confidence and refreshed essential skills that further empowered crew leaders to exercise small unit leadership.

"This was not the first time anyone on the organization had practiced their jobs. We began preparing for the exercise months ago by working with MCC East whom conducted a preliminary Management Assessment Visit to identify battalion shortfalls and discuss a plan for correction. We also conducted unit



Logistics Specialist 1st Class Marko Jackson and Logistics Specialist 1st Class Carlos Bright go over the air load planning during Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One's embarkation exercise, "Operation Meathook. The exercise is designed to test the battalion's ability to rapidly mount out an Air Det for redeployment. U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Alonzo Stuckey/Released)

driven training to hone our weighing and marking, pallet building, and load planning skills," said Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Erik Pearson, embark organization lead petty officer.

"The exercise provided an opportunity to reiterate the fact that we must be prepared to react at a moment's notice to support mission requirements, access the personnel readiness of the air detachment, and redistribute support requirements needed to deploy the air

detachment," said Lt. John Baise, air det commander.

Though the air det appears to be the focus of the exercise, its ability to respond is a direct reflection of the battalion's ability to support its mission. The battalion's unity of effort and expertise behind the actions of the Embark Organization, Alfa Company and the MOCC; as well as the personnel readiness and logistical support directed by the senior leadership made the evolution successful.

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Families are reunited as Seabees, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 return home just in time for the holidays from a 10-month deployment from EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Mikayla Mondragon/Released)

## NMCB 7 returns from successful ten month deployment

By NMCB 7 Public Affairs

The last of more than 600 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 returned to their homeport here Dec. 17, marking the completion of a successful 10-month deployment of providing contingency construction, humanitarian and civic assistance and exercise related construction projects throughout the European, African and Southern Command areas of responsibility.

During their ten-month deployment, which began in February, NMCB 7 exercised command and control of their entire deployment from Naval Station Rota's Camp Mitchell. Once on deck, the battalion began deploying detachments, which completed construction and contingency projects in 33 separate locations in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Central and South America.

More than 120 Seabees were continually assigned to Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa

(CJTF-HOA) at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti as an enduring Detachment, with smaller Detachments completing projects in Kenya, Comoros, Ethiopia, and the Djiboutian countryside. The battalion also embarked Seabees aboard USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), debarking for projects in several countries along the Pacific shores. Seabees of NMCB 7 also worked on projects in Israel, Morocco, Liberia, Montenegro, Burkina Faso, Latvia, Senegal, Sao Tome and Romania to name a few.

"Our deployment was both challenging and rewarding due to the often extremely high operational and unprecedented volume of movements," said Chief Mass Communication Specialists Yan Kennon, NMCB 7 public affairs officer. "The deployment presented operating environments and construction projects not normally encountered during 'peacetime' deployment."

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# NMCB 11 'Bees deliver Christmas cheer to orphans

By CM2 Jayden Quinlan  
NMCB 11 Public Affairs

On Christmas Eve, "Santa Claus" visited four orphanages to deliver holiday cheer and Christmas presents to over 100 Timorese children. Santa Claus was none other than a member of the United States Navy, Dustin Hicks. Dustin is a member of a detachment of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11. This was the second year the Seabees organized their "Toys for Timor" program. They collected toys and donations from friends, family, and colleagues throughout the year and then delivered them to Timorese children on Christmas Eve.

This year, the Seabees visited the Orphanages of Has Laran, Santa Clara, Missionary Jesus, and Bacosra. "Santa" Dustin delivered wrapped gifts while other Seabees served the children freshly made cookies. All the children had the chance to sit on Santa's lap. In return, the



"Santa" takes time for a photo with a Timorese child during Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11's Toys for Timor holiday program. Seabees from Det. Timor-Leste made the holidays brighter for over 100 children at orphanages on Timor-Leste. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

smiling children serenaded the Seabees with Christmas carols. Seabee Jonathan Garigal described the visits as "truly a magical day," commenting further that there was "no better way to spend a Christmas Eve away from home."

The Christmas Seabees have

been deployed to Timor-Leste since May 2010. They work alongside their Timorese military counterparts and civilian engineering apprentices on construction and renovation projects focused on schools, medical clinics, and community centers throughout Timor-Leste.

## Commander 1NCD announces 2010 Battle 'E' Winners

By Daryl Smith  
COM1NCD Public Affairs

The 1st Naval Construction Division (1NCD) announced the winners of the 2010 Battle "E" Award Dec. 21 in Virginia Beach, Va.

The Battle "E" Award recognizes outstanding operational performance.

The recipients of the Battle "E" Award for 1NCD are as follows: **Atlantic Fleet:** Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 (Active), NMCB 14 (Reserve)

**Pacific Fleet:** NMCB 4 (Active), NMCB 18 (Reserve)

"Competition for the Battle 'E' this year was exceptionally close, highlighting the superb performance of naval construc-

tion forces in meeting the continually elevated demands of today's operational environment," said Rear Adm. Mark A. Handley, commander, 1NCD. "Both active and reserve component units provided outstanding support of worldwide combatant commander requirements." Seabees provided a wide range of critical construction support in 2010, including doubling their forces in Afghanistan as part of the surge and responding to the earthquake in Haiti.

NMCB 133 deployed 600 Seabees from Gulfport, Miss., to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan in March 2010. Unlike most Seabee deployments, they did not relieve another battalion, but served as the first in a line of surge engineering units to sup-

port the initial operating capability. The battalion executed more than 45,000 project man-days of construction valued at more than \$200 million. In total, they executed more than 400 construction projects, including 1.6 million square meters of forward operating base (FOB) expansions.

Based in Jacksonville, Fla., NMCB 14 provided 28,750 man-days of construction support and 5,900 man-days of skills training. They constructed a handicapped accessible beach ramp in Mayport, Fla. The battalion increased its readiness by 28 percent and maintained 100 percent gear accountability. The unit was also noted for its

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## 'Roos of NMCB 133 continue legacy of work on Andros Island

**By BUCN Nicholas Whitaker**

NMCB 133 Public Affairs  
Eighteen Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 traveled to Andros Island to continue construction on the Atlantic Undersea Testing and Evaluation Center (AUTECH) facility in the Bahamas from Oct. 18 to Dec. 6.

How often do Seabees look at a job site and say, "this is a dream come true," as Utilitiesman 2nd Class (SCW) Samuel Thomas did? This was the reaction when the Detail realized that their job site was 50 yards from the turquoise water of the Atlantic.

The project was an 8,800 square foot Marine Industrial Facility began by NMCB 74 in July 2010. When complete, the building will house the Boatswain's Locker, Marine Electrical Shop, Outboard Motor Shop, Overhaul Shop and Marine Supply. These shops play

a key role in supporting the submarine training missions of the AUTECH.

After being on the island a short time, it is easy to see the Seabees' impact and history on this one square mile base. The Seabee's office walls are covered with pictures dating back to 1986. This is only a fraction of the Seabee history that stretches back to 1964 when the AUTECH mission began.

The MIF is the latest Seabee project consisting of a pre-engineered steel building (PEB) with a concrete block (CMU) exterior.

NMCB 74 began the PEB erection, laid the CMU walls and placed the concrete bond beam on top. NMCB 133 built upon this progress by completing the PEB frame, installing the standing seam metal roof, flashing, vents, walk-in doors and roll-up doors. The crew's pride and professionalism were evident in the high

quality and consistency of their craftsmanship.

While talking with people permanently stationed on the base, the Seabees always hear stories about what the Bees' of the past have done to help the community such as building parks, renovating a church and repairing the Queen's Highway. NMCB 133 contributed to this tradition by conducting a beach cleanup, removing approximately five cubic yards of trash from a one-mile section of beachfront and woods.

The high level of professionalism held by NMCB 133 personnel prompted the base Master Chief to visit the job site and personally thank the crew first for their work and later for "being good citizens." The AUTECH personnel do not remember which battalion finishes what project, only that they were Seabees. NMCB 133 was happy to continue that legacy.



Construction Electrician 2nd Class Jon Ardilla assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 pulls wire through an underground distribution conduit during the construction of the Atlantic Undersea Testing and Evaluation Center's Marine Industrial Facility on Andros Island in the Bahamas. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Stanley Worthington/Released)

## US AFRICOM CSM Ripka visits Seabees in HOA

**By MC2 Michael Lindsey**  
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Mark S. Ripka, U.S. Africa Command's (U.S. AFRICOM) senior enlisted leader, personally recognized several Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 during a visit to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti Dec. 20-24.

Ripka met with many Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines attached to Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)-HOA during his trip, including the Seabees of NMCB 74.

"I always make time to see what the Seabees are building," said Ripka. "If there is one organization in the Department of Defense that helps accomplish the United States Africa Command mission and the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa mission, it has to be our United States Navy Seabees. They do more to build and provide for basic needs through not only their construc-

tion projects, but their direct interaction with the people around them."

A schoolhouse project in Kontali, Djibouti, was Ripka's first site visit. He arrived by convoy and was greeted by the crew working there. During his project tour Ripka presented his CSM coin to some well-deserving Seabees, and then escorted the entire crew back to Camp Lemonnier to enjoy a dinner with other distinguished guests, including CJTF-HOA commander Rear Adm. Brian Losey. Ripka spoke to the dinner guests concerning their role as U.S. military members in the U.S.

AFRICOM area of operation, emphasizing the fact that they are U.S. ambassadors in the eyes of the local population. Chief Builder Manuel Segura, NMCB 74 Det. HOA's operations chief, was in attendance.

"He [Ripka] simplified the big picture of what we are doing here and how everything we do has a purpose," said Segura. "We are

ambassadors to the United States in and out of uniform whether we are out building a school or on liberty; our actions affect the way people perceive us."

The following day, CSM Scott Mykoo, CJTF-HOA's senior enlisted leader and three members of the U.S. Embassy Country Coordination Element joined Ripka in Djibouti to visit a primary school under construction, where the crew there has been working 12 labor-intensive hours per day, six days a week. Ripka toured the project site and once again presented his CSM coins to a hard-working few.

Ripka's final interaction with "Fearless 74" concluded with a non-commissioned officer (NCO) call for personnel assigned to Camp Lemonnier and CJTF-HOA where he shared his some of his own experiences from 36 years of military service. He spoke of the role of NCOs in today's military, and with the assistance of Mykoo, tackled the troop's toughest ques-



Command Sergeant Major Mark S. Ripka, Africa Command's (AFRICOM) senior enlisted leader, speaks to Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines attached to Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)-HOA and Camp Lemonnier during an all-hands junior non-commissioned officer (NCO) call on base. Ripka shared his experiences and lessons on the role of NCOs and tackled the some of the toughest questions concerning issues in today's military. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

tions, ranging from the effect of the riots in Sudan to how NCOs will have to adapt and support the changes in the "don't ask, don't

tell" repeal.

"There is a lot of opinions about

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*Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration  
"Keeping the Dream Alive"*

*Jan. 13, 11 a.m. to noon*

*NCBC Training Hall*

*All military and families, civilian employees  
and contractors, are invited to attend*

*Sponsored by the NCBC Diversity Committee*

*Special MLK Birthday Meal*

*Colmer Dining Facility*

*11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

*Featuring Southern Fried Catfish, BBQ Ribs,  
Baked Mac & Cheese, Twice Baked Potatoes,  
Collard Greens, Fried Okra, Cornbread,  
Salads, Assorted Desserts*

*Cake Cutting Ceremony in honor  
of Dr. King following celebration*

*Galley open to Civilians for this special day*

*Cost \$4.25 per person*

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# Buzz on the Street



By EO3 Mikayla Mondragon

What is your New Year's resolution?



*"To go to college and work towards a degree in Graphic Design."*

**CECN Brooke Miller**  
NCBC Security  
Hometown: Germantown Hills, Ill.



*"Quit smoking."*

**Marie Chasse**  
CBC Personnel Security Manager  
Hometown: Houma, La.



*"To get back in shape and quit smoking."*

**UT2(SCW) David Stieffermann**  
20 SRG  
Hometown: Jefferson City, Mo.

## NCBC FRAMES...

DANA DAWSON

MWR

STORY BY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 3RD CLASS  
MIKAYLA MONDRAGON

**FF: WHAT SINGLE EXPERIENCE DURING YOUR CAREER STANDS OUT THE MOST, AND WHY?**

**DANA:** THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE FROM A SEASONAL POSITION AS A LIFEGUARD, TO A FULL TIME POSITION AS A PROGRAM MANAGER FOR LIBERTY.

**FF: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST MOTIVATION THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREER.**

**DANA:** HAVING A CAREER THAT ALLOWS ME THE CHANCE TO ALWAYS DO MORE, AND BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE OUR MILITARY WITH SOMETHING FUN AND RELAXING TO DO.

**FF: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FUTURE MWR EMPLOYEES?**

**DANA:** GET IN WHERE YOU CAN AND TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES YOUR WAY. TAKE CLASSES,



LEARN FROM THEM AND ALWAYS PUT YOUR CUSTOMERS FIRST AND YOU WILL EXCEL.

**FF: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT WORKING WITH THE SEABEES?**

**DANA:** KNOWING THAT IN SOME SMALL WAY I AM CREATING A QUALITY OF LIFE THAT THEY MAY NOT OTHERWISE GET. I RESEARCH AND PLAN, SO THAT ONCE THEIR JOB IS DONE, THEY CAN SIMPLY RELAX AND ENJOY.

**FF: WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM WORKING AROUND THE NAVY?**

**DANA:** EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, AND FRIENDSHIP. I FEEL THAT WORKING AROUND THE NAVY AFFORDS ME THE ABILITY TO DO THINGS MANY PEOPLE CANNOT.

**Balfour Beatty Sponsors Polar Plunge . . .** Gather the family and join Balfour Beatty for January pool party Polar Plunge at the MWR Fitness Center Jan. 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. FREE Food! Music! Bounce House! Polar Plunge T-Shirt for first 20 participants.

*Subject to change due to inclement weather, check for updates by contacting your local Community Management Officer at 228-863-0424.*

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**"Project Flag Raising"**

NSVA Island X-1 is initiating a flag-raising program. We would like to help you, your family and neighbors fulfill a dream of proudly displaying our national ensign. For more information, contact Don Galster at 228-239-7326 or [dgalster@gulfport.ms.gov](mailto:dgalster@gulfport.ms.gov)

**Electronic Waste Turn-in Procedures . . .** NCBC Gulfport has changed the operations procedures for turn in of all Electronic Waste (E-waste). All E-waste must be turned in to the Recycling Center located in building 275. Please check all computer equipment and property prior to turn-in for "Classified" information. All hard drives must be clear of all information. Ensure that all memory sticks, compact flash cards, secure data

card, smart card media, micro-drives, multi-media cards, back-up tapes and floppy diskettes are removed prior to turn-in. E-waste includes desktop computers, laptop, palm pilots, organizers, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, speakers, modems, plotter, external devices, televisions, VCR's, DVD players. Points of contact for more information on electronic waste turn in are Jerry Davis, 228-871-3336 or Jack Bowles, 228-871-4738.

**Be alert for suspicious mail . . .** All personnel should be alert and inquisitive about suspicious packages and letters in their area. A recent wave of incendiary devices have been mailed and while these incidents are not wide-spread, and no such incidents are anticipated at NCBC, it is in your best interest to remain vigilant. Anyone receiving suspicious mail is asked to Contact CBC Security Dispatch immediately at 228-871-2361. Do NOT handle the letter or package, or remove from the building. Responding Security police officers will provide guidance for appropriate action.

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

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

**Colmer Dining Facility News . . .** The Colmer Dining Facility will be conducting a menu review on the first Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to come out and provide feedback on menu options. The Colmer Dining Facility will also host an Ice Cream Social during lunch on the last Wednesday of every month. All are welcome.



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# New Navy Reserve Force Master Chief selected

**By Capt. Robert Durand**  
Commander, Navy Reserve Force Public Affairs

The next Navy Reserve Force master chief was announced by the chief of the Navy Reserve Jan. 6.

Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Dirk Debbink announced that Command Master Chief Christopher T. Wheeler was selected as the next Navy Reserve Force master chief.

Wheeler will relieve Navy Reserve Master Chief (FMF) Ronney Wright as Navy Reserve Force master chief in June 2011.

"Command Master Chief Wheeler was chosen for this important job from a group of highly motivated, professional and qualified candidates," said Debbink. "I will rely on his insight and counsel to ensure that our Sailors, their families and their civilian employers have what they need to carry out our mission and to live up to our Navy Reserve Force motto - 'Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.'"

Wheeler's focus as force master chief will be taking care of the Navy Reserve Sailors he works for.

"Taking care of Sailors is what this job is all about, and Master Chief Wheeler is a deckplate leader who knows and cares deeply for our Sailors," said Wright. "Serving in this job is a tremendous honor and an awesome responsibility. Command Master Chief Wheeler is eager to take on this challenge."

Stewardship to the citizen-Sailors who man the Reserve Force is high on Wheelers priorities.

"I believe this job is about being an honest steward for the Navy Reserve Force, and I pledge my stewardship to Vice Adm. Debbink and all of our Navy Reserve Sailors," said Wheeler.

Wheeler currently serves as the

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command master chief of Naval Air Force Reserve and as staff command master chief for Naval Air Force.

The Navy Reserve Force master chief is responsible for advising the chief of Navy Reserve on matters affecting the morale, retention, Sailor development and general well-being of the 53,000 enlisted personnel of the Navy Reserve. The force master chief is also charged with ensuring active communications throughout the force and instilling a sense of heritage and active support of Navy core values to all Sailors.

Wheeler will be the 14th Navy Reserve Force master chief. The mission of the Navy Reserve is to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to our Navy and Marine Corps team, and Joint forces, from peace to war.

For more news from Commander, Navy Reserve Force, visit [www.navy.mil/local/nrf/](http://www.navy.mil/local/nrf/).

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# F O C U S E D U C A T I O N

## School of Arts now taking applications

### From School Liaison Officer

The Mississippi School of the Arts is accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. The application deadline is Feb. 1.

MSA is an 11th and 12th grade visual and performing arts residential, public high school in Brookhaven. Students not only meet and exceed the traditional Mississippi high school curriculum, they receive special instruction in visual arts, vocal

music, dance, literary arts and theatre. Students interested in MSA apply their sophomore year. Last year's graduating class received more than \$2.6 million in scholarship offers for college.

Applications to attend MSA are available online at [www.msa.k12.ms.us](http://www.msa.k12.ms.us) or can be requested over the phone or by email:

[admissions@mde.k12.ms.us](mailto:admissions@mde.k12.ms.us).

For more information, call 601-823-1300.

## 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](http://www.tutor.com/navy) and then sign in to Navy Knowledge Online.

## Scholarship availabilities

### Scholarships for Military Children Program . . .

is now accepting applications at military commissaries, worldwide until Feb. 23. A minimum of one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. More than one scholarship per commissary may be available based on response and funding. The scholarship

provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other related expenses.

Go to <http://www.militaryscholar.org/> to learn more.

### Hospital Corpsman Study Material available from NAVMED MPT&E . . .

Navy Medicine Manpower, Personnel, Education & Training Command (NAVMED MPT&E) has free Hospital Corpsman advancement study material available in hard copy or online as a download. Hospital Corpsman Manual Flashcards (NMHCF10V1), a flash card "quizzier," are available via Navy eLearning and accessed via Navy Knowledge Online (NKO). Other material, such as the Hospital Corpsman Rate Training Manual, is also available. For more information, contact Mr. Chris Hawkins at [RTM\\_feedback@med.navy.mil](mailto:RTM_feedback@med.navy.mil).

### NMCRS Scholarship Opportunities . . .

Wouldn't it be great if education came with the same price tag? The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society can help make education affordable and attainable. We offer a variety of need-based scholarships and interest-free loans that can assist in attaining your educational goals. For a complete listing of our programs and to determine your eligibility, please visit our website at: [www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org) or call us at 1-703-696-4960

## Reading Fair Competition



Members of the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Branch Health Clinic were judges at the Pineville Elementary School Reading Fair held Dec. 8. The Branch Health Clinic is partnered with the Pass Christian school through the Adopt-A-School Partnership in Education program. Through the partnership, service members assist with mentoring, tutoring, test proctoring, guest speaking, field day support and junior achievement programs. Commands on board the Seabee Center have partnered with five area schools to date. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

### School Liaison Officer

**Location: MWR, Building 352  
1706 Bainbridge Ave. , NCBC  
(228) 871-2117  
or e-mail  
[kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil](mailto:kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil)**

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

# NCTC Skipper dons coveralls, safety glasses to experience daily workload with personnel

By NCTC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Gulfport is one command in the Navy that you will find the commanding officer working hand-in-hand with his personnel. Cmdr. William Whitmire has taken the initiative to randomly experience the challenges and triumphs of individuals at the worker level. He does not merely observe, he actually rolls up his sleeves and participates in the physical labor demands of various work centers within the command.

The CO has already visited several of the staff shops and schools to perform work with military troops, civil service and contract employees. Of recent note during Whitmire's visit to the Transportation Division, he assisted in changing an engine starter on a Caterpillar D7G Dozer with civilians

Dale Unger and Jesse Hardee working side by side.

Upon arrival, Whitmire was issued a pair of coveralls, safety glasses, a wrench and an overview of the task at hand. It is interesting to note that the bolts that fasten the starter to the engine block are located in a very congested area in the engine compartment. To save valuable time, Hardee and Unger had already removed the belly pan from the Dozer, so the CO could concentrate solely on this challenge.

"The surprise in the Commander's eyes as he contemplated the task was priceless," said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Paul Case. Transportation personnel watched in anticipation as the CO wrestled with the retaining bolts. Considering the 80lb weight of the starter, Hardee pre-posi-

tioned himself under the dozer to assist the CO with a secure grip for safe removal.

The CO was noticeably tired and dirty after working for approximately two hours before the starter could be safely removed.

"I am so amazed we have a CO who is not afraid to do dirty work," commented Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Robert Connell. The CO ended his visit by stating how grateful he was for the experience he gained by working with the Transportation Division.

"The day was a great opportunity for us to show the CO the skills required to do our job on a daily basis," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Kristopher Waite.

The Transportation Division is looking forward to the next opportunity to share even



Cmdr. William Whitmire, commanding officer, Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC), and civilian employee Dale Unger prepare to change the starter in a Caterpillar D7 Dozer at the Transportation Division of NCTC on board Naval Construction Battalion Center. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

more about the importance of the support mission folks

working around the command.

# 'Can Do' Christmas makes fifth annual holiday charity run for coastal families

From NCBC Public Affairs

The spirit of holiday generosity was once again demonstrated when participants in the 5th annual "Can-Do Christmas" were able to raise enough money to sponsor four local families.

Fund raising started off with a huge barbecue and chili cook off on base, which raised \$1,100 in just two hours. The success of the event came as a pleasant surprise to the founder of the Christmas charity.

"I was nervous; when you spend \$800 dollars in food you take a gamble," said Utilitiesman 1st Class Dan Clowser.

With some additional help from the 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) First Class Association, ABC Pawn Shop, the Saucier Fire Department and the 20th SRG

Chiefs Mess, a total of \$1,400 was raised for the project. With money in hand, the volunteers set off to Target to shop for presents for the families.

"Shopping for families you don't know is harder than I thought," said Builder 1st Class Stuart Helvie.

The Salvation Army, who is also responsible for screening and selecting the families chosen to participate in the program provided a wish list. Target provided free gift-wrapping and an associate to help the volunteers.

Christmas Eve morning Santa and his helpers delivered gifts to the families. The children were all present as Santa walked in to each of the homes with a sack of gifts.

After watching a child's eyes light up with delight as he carried



Utilitiesman 1st Class Dan Clowser and Santa are pictured with one of the families touched by the 5th annual "Can-Do" Christmas. Volunteers from on board the Seabee Center, along with organizations in the community worked together to make this year's event a success. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

a bicycle into the living room, Equipment Operator 2nd Class Justin Fellows captured the spirit of the moment.

"This is what Christmas is about," said Fellows.

The child's mom was noticeably shaken and at a loss for words. All she could manage to say was that it was her son's first bike.

The day was filled with one uplifting moment after another as the Can Do volunteers continued to deliver gifts, Christmas food supplies and holiday cheer to all the families on their route. "I thank everyone who supported this; you made it happen," said Clowser.

Anyone interested in helping make dreams come true for families in need can contact Clowser at [daniel.clowser@navy.mil](mailto:daniel.clowser@navy.mil).

# NMCB 74 keeps spirits lifted while deployed over holidays

By MC1 Ryan G. Wilber  
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

As Christmas gifts turn into New Years celebrations, the Seabees of "Fearless 74" pass their second consecutive holiday season deployed.

Last year the 'Bees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 were supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, while this year they find themselves supporting commanders in the Africa Command and European areas of operation for the holidays.

Sensitive to the fact that many troops endure more pronounced feelings of separation from their families and loved ones during the holiday season, the leadership of NMCB 74 strove to strengthen the bonds of their deployment family with an extended Christmas weekend, barbecue and sports day competition.

"As we are all away making sacrifices and being away from our

family and friends, I think this is a good bonding opportunity for the battalion to get together in a relaxed atmosphere and have some good camaraderie, some good competition and celebrate the holidays as a battalion and family together in Rota," said NMCB 74 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Richard Hayes III.

Promoting the Navy's "right spirit" initiative, NMCB 74's Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) team organized a non-alcoholic New Years Eve party on Camp Mitchell.

Free snacks and various games were available, along with sparkling grape juice as a substitute for champagne, and following Spanish tradition, 12 grapes to quickly eat as the New Year's bells rang.

From the cheers of the crowd during the Christmas sports competitions to the Seabees in line for a slider and a hotdog, to the New Year's toasts, the feeling around



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 compete in a basketball tournament during the battalion's Christmas Party on Camp Mitchell in Rota, Spain. NMCB 74 celebrated Christmas on deployment for the second year in a row with five sports competitions and a barbecue to foster camaraderie and boost morale. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)

camp was one of togetherness and celebration, even though it was obvious from the phone waiting list the troops' loved ones were always in their thoughts.

"Since we can't be home with

our families on Christmas, it's [sports day] kind of a way for us to create a family inside the command so we don't feel quite as lonely," said Builder 3rd Class Lauralie Gutschmidt.

Fortunately, next year looks promising for a holiday season at home with family and friends, although as every Seabee knows, the world climate will dictate and the mission always comes first.

## NMCB 74 Det Horn of Africa (HOA)



Builder Constructionman Bianca Manzanero and Builder Constructionman Haani Leah assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Det. Horn of Africa (HOA), rinse a mortar mixer used to mix sand, cement, lime and water to create stucco. NMCB 74 Det. HOA is currently deployed to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa to assist in building partner nation capacity and promoting regional stability. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)



Builder 3rd Class Prince Anumah, a Seabee assigned to NMCB 7 Det. Horn of Africa (HOA) applies stucco to the brick walls in a Primary School project in Djibouti. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)



Steelworker 3rd Class Justin Holloway, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 Det. Horn of Africa (HOA), poses with two local Djiboutian children at a Primary School project site. Many Seabees in NMCB 7 Det. HOA form friendships with the local population during their 10-month deployment throughout the U.S. Africa Command area of operation. Once NMCB 74 completes the school, the children will be able to attend the school. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

# Homefront in Focus: Welcome 2011

By Beth Wilson

Military Spouse Contributor  
Happy New Year!

Over the holidays I was hanging out with a few friends and we, of course, talked about that dreaded 'new year's resolution.' We all laughed as we talked about our past attempts at changing our bodies, habits or lives with the start of each new year. Kayla summed up our sentiment confidently stating, "This year I resolve NOT to resolve."

I think you would have enjoyed our conversation. We talked about the struggles, foibles and triumphs of 2010. Not one of us accomplished our 'resolution' but we realized that each one of us absolutely accomplished much by the end of 2010.

Katie and her Sailor purchased their first home. Sue polished up her resume and found a new job - that she loves. Tina and Jeremy welcomed their first child, Luke. Sherry went back to school and is over halfway to a degree in the career of her dreams. Laura launched a photography business. I completed 3 of four classes. We all either moved or endured deployment or both... and we're on the other side. We watched our children grow and continue to de-

velop and mature.

While our conversation started by scoffing at the idea of 'new year's resolutions' our conversation ended with the realization that there is a huge benefit to marking the end of one year and the beginning of another. Our conversation led us through a snapshot of all that was accomplished in 2010. Reflecting on 2010, with its struggles, challenges, joys, triumphs and even our foibles, was encouraging! How was *your* year?

Perhaps you are part of the one percent that accomplishes their resolutions. Congratulations! But if you didn't make or keep a resolution I will bet that you can look back at over the last 365 days and see growth and change.

Each of my girlfriends realized that personally they were 'better' than they were Jan. 1, 2010. Oh, we certainly had our 'moments,' our failures. These are real women; with very real challenges. Sue has a severely handicapped child. Sherry watched her treasured father suffer with a chronic and terminal illness. Laura lost a sister in a tragic car accident. Kayla and her Soldier moved and her soldier deployed 16 days later, he is still deployed. Yet here we are sitting around the table laugh-



ing, stronger, more confident; capable.

I know 2011 will bring its full measure of challenges and hurdles but it will also bear opportunities to grow, to share, to live. So I make no resolution this year. Instead I will strive to live each day fully, to laugh often, to love deeply, and to expect that Jan. 1, 2012 I will look back with a similar sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Welcome 2011!

Connect with Beth on Twitter (@Beth\_Wilson), Facebook (Enlisted Spouse Community) or email her at [beth@homefrontinfocus.com](mailto:beth@homefrontinfocus.com). Check out Enlisted Spouse Radio at [www.enlistedspousecommunity.com/esr](http://www.enlistedspousecommunity.com/esr).

# Groundbreaking held for new Seabee headquarters

By Daryl Smith

Commander, 1st Naval Construction Division Public Affairs

The 1st Naval Construction Division (1NCD) broke ground at a new headquarters building at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., Nov. 30.

The 28,330-square foot Operations Control Facility will provide the staff with improved functional work spaces to support subordinate naval construction force units in order to meet the operational needs of Seabees deployed around the globe.

The lead contractor for the \$9.03 million contract is Noah Enterprises.

Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony were Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander, 1st Naval Construction Division; Capt. Charles Stuppard, commanding officer, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story; Capt. Mark Libonate, commanding officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic; and Carol Curtis, president, Noah Enterprises, Inc.

The new building is scheduled for occupancy in March 2012 and will replace the current 1NCD building, which was originally built as a temporary barracks in 1943. A February 2008 audit determined that the facility must be vacated and demolished due to extensive deterioration. Leased trailers are currently used to accommodate part of the staff.

1NCD oversees more than 16,000 U.S. Navy Seabees who deploy worldwide to provide military construction support and humanitarian assistance. The mission of 1NCD is to organize, train, operate and maintain the naval construction force, to command and control naval construction regiments and Seabee readiness groups and to develop, coordinate and implement policy and requirements to man, equip and train Seabees.

# Battle 'E' awarded to NMCB 18

By MCC Leif HerrGesell  
NMCB 18 Public Affairs

Rear Adm. Mark Handley has announced the recipients of the Battle "Efficiency" Award for Fiscal Year 2010 Naval Mobile Construction Battalions. Reserve Battalion NMCB 14 was selected as Atlantic Fleet best of type and NMCB 18 was awarded as reserve best of type for the Pacific Fleet. NMCB 18 home ported at Fort Lewis, Washington mobilized to Gulfport March 25, and deployed on active duty to Afghanistan in mid July.

Commanded by Capt. John DeBerard, the 550 plus Seabees assumed responsibility for major improvements to 5 Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and the construction of over 12 Combat Outposts (COPs), several strong points, and numerous roadway and bridge improvements.

"Being awarded the Battle "E" is confirmation of the good work that the troops of NMCB 18 and NMCB

40's Air Det have accomplished. No one comes in theater thinking 'Now let's get a Battle "E"!' Every year all of the battalions submit their work for consideration. This year our people did such an outstanding job and made so many personal sacrifices that the numbers told the story," said DeBerard. According to the official message, NMCB 18 completed over 80 projects worth an estimated \$34 million.

In addition to the planned and contingency projects, NMCB 18 took on the task of supporting the Wounded Warriors Unit at Kandahar Air Field by soliciting the donation of comfort items for the troops. The drive collected over 2.5 tons of handmade quilts, clothes and toiletries. NMCB 18 also launched Operation SeabeeLove and collected over 1,750lbs of basic school supplies that were distributed via the KAF Bazaar School to prisons, orphanages and schools in Kandahar City.

The battalion's involvement in combat operations resulted in the issuance of two Purple Hearts and numerous Combat Action Ribbons and other deserving awards. NMCB 18 COP teams operated in defensive support of the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army tactical war fighters.

"Our guys worked really hard prior to deployment so that they could take on this mission and I think their efforts have showed in the outstanding work they've done and the reputation they've earned in theater. Our counterparts in Army and Marine Corps have shown their gratitude in many ways with awards and with official and unofficial thanks. I couldn't be prouder of these Seabees," said NMCB 18 Command Master Chief Kelly Spittler.

NMCB 18 leaders also noted the close cooperation with NMCB 40's Air Detachment and the way that the junior troops of both battalions functioned as a team with one purpose and one mind.

**Recycling  
Reminder**



If there is a wheeled recycling bin in your building please be aware that we all share responsibility for taking the bin to the curb when it has reached its capacity. Please take the time to wheel it to the curb Thursday mornings by 8 a.m. and return it after it has been emptied. You will be doing yourself, your building and your environment a favor.

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From NAVY page 1

Hard choices were made, but they were necessary to make certain we are the most efficient and effective fighting force we can be.

"Secretary Gates' leadership has resulted in reasonable and responsible reforms that will ensure the Navy and Marine Corps remain the most formidable expeditionary fighting force the world has ever known," said Mabus.

"The Navy enthusiastically participated in Department of Defense efficiency efforts," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead. "I am pleased with the rigor undertaken throughout this process, the results of which will contribute to the Navy's warfighting capabilities."

A concentrated effort was taken to identify and eliminate excess overhead costs to protect force structure and invest in modernization. In broad terms, military manpower was enhanced by trading overhead staff and shore billets to buy fleet manning requirements. Specifically, the Department of

the Navy is proposing to use efficiencies savings to:

- Accelerate development of a new generation of electronic jammers to improve the Navy's ability to fight and survive in an anti-access environment.
- Increase the repair and refurbishment of Marine equipment used in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Develop a new generation of sea-borne unmanned strike and surveillance aircraft.
- Purchase more of the latest model F-18s and extend the service life of 150 of these aircraft as a hedge against more delays in the deployment of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).
- Purchase additional ships, including a destroyer, a littoral combat ship, an ocean surveillance vessel and fleet oilers.

In order to achieve efficiencies savings of more than \$35 billion over five years, the Department of the Navy proposes to:

- Reduce manpower ashore and reassign 6,000 personnel to operational missions at sea.
- Use multi-year procurement to save more than \$1.3 billion on the purchase of new air-

borne surveillance, jamming, and fighter aircraft.

- Disestablish several staffs (but not the associated platforms) to include submarine-, patrol aircraft-, and destroyer-squadrons plus one carrier strike group staff.
- Disestablish the headquarters of U.S. 2nd Fleet at Norfolk, Va., transferring responsibility for its mission to the Navy's Fleet Forces Command, also located in Norfolk, Va.

"The initiatives we have undertaken will allow the Navy to address readiness and warfighting capabilities, optimize organizations and operations and ensure that resources are optimized in operations and maintenance initiatives. These savings and changes will enable us to be the Navy the nation needs today and into the future," said Roughead.

During the Cold War, U.S. 2nd Fleet had distinct and significant operational responsibilities. Disestablishing this command would affect approximately 160 military positions. No ships will change

homeport as a result of the disestablishment of 2nd Fleet. The Hampton Roads area, which includes the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Chesapeake, Newport News, Hampton, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, is the location of the world's largest naval station. It is homeport to 77 ships, which includes aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, large amphibious ships, submarines, and a variety of supply and logistics ships, as well as 300 aircraft, 35 aircraft squadrons, 356 tenant commands.

In addition, a number of flag officer billets and Senior Executive Services or equivalent positions will also be eliminated or downgraded. Monetary savings from reductions in senior personnel will be relatively modest and will create fewer, flatter, more agile and effective organizations. Monetary savings from reductions in senior personnel will be relatively modest and will create fewer, flatter, more agile and effective organizations. Furthermore, U.S. Navy Europe, like other service components in which will eventually be re-

duced to a three-star command, will take place over a longer period because of that command's unique role in the NATO transformation effort.

"This Department simply cannot risk continuing down the same path - where our investment priorities, bureaucratic habits, and lax attitudes towards costs are increasingly divorced from the real threats of today, the growing perils of tomorrow, and the nation's grim financial outlook," said Gates, at the conclusion of the announcement.

"These times demand that all of our nation's leaders rise above the politics and parochialism that have too often plagued considerations of our nation's defense - whether from inside the Pentagon, from industry and interest groups, and from one end of Pennsylvania Avenue to the other," he said. "I look forward to working through the next phase of the President's defense reform effort with the Congress in the weeks and months ahead - to do what's right for our armed forces and what's right for our country."



**Attention NCBC Fire Wardens . . .** In addition to the monthly Fire Warden Training which is normally completed on the last Thursday of the month from 2 - 2:30 p.m. at the Fire Department, Fire Wardens will now be responsible for completing annual on-line refresher training from the Navy Fire Emergency Services prior to attending the monthly training session. The training is available at [https://esams.cnbc.navy.mil/ESAMS\\_GEN\\_2/LoginEsams.aspx](https://esams.cnbc.navy.mil/ESAMS_GEN_2/LoginEsams.aspx). After signing in, select "Web Training" and select "Annual Fire Warden Refresher Training - the first training class listed. The training will take approximately 30 minutes. After completing the training, print out the certificate and bring it to the monthly in-house training at the NCBC Fire Department. Please contact Inspector Billy Ducoate at 228-871-3083 if you have questions.

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whether it [the repeal of the 'don't ask don't tell' policy] should be or shouldn't be," Ripka said. "The bottom line is ... those of us who wear a uniform don't have a choice. Our civilian leaders have made this decision, and many of our military leaders have supported the decision. There's ways that we're going to have to implement this thing and we as leaders have to be a part of the solution. If you don't want to lead through this thing then you need to go home, that's the bottom line. There are people who disagreed with other societal changes that happened in our military a long time ago, they went home and our military survived. The military will survive because we have professional leaders."

AD SPACE

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# Senior Enlisted Trainers sought for OCS

By Scott A. Thornbloom  
Naval Service Training  
Command Public Affairs

As Officer Training Command (OTC) began a new year of training tomorrow's Navy leaders Jan. 1, the command is looking to attract a few more senior enlisted trainers to Officer Candidate School (OCS) and several other OTC schools.

Since the Navy established OCS in 1951, officer candidates have been trained by Navy officers and Marine Corps Drill Instructors (DIs). Senior enlisted, or chief petty officers (CPOs), have also played a role in officer training for a number of years. In the 90s, Navy senior enlisted Recruit Division Commanders (RDCs), or "red ropers," were added to the OCS training team.

More like officer candidate commanders instead of recruit commanders, the chiefs, senior chiefs and master chiefs who wear the red shoulder aigillettes work with the Marine Corps drill instructors to train and mentor the candidates. OCS would now like to increase its number of senior enlisted trainers.

"We are looking for chiefs and senior chiefs who are physically fit and motivated and want to make a difference in shaping the future of the Navy," said Master Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Matt Anuci, the senior enlisted advisor and OCS red roper at OTC.

Anuci said it is not well-known around the fleet that RDCs, who many people associate with the Navy's only boot camp, Recruit Training Command (RTC), aboard Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill., are also being assigned to OTC.

"We're such a small command (OTC in Newport), and when you think 40,000 recruits go through RTC each year and you are always seeing the red rope of an RDC (more than 600) there, the natural assumption is that's the only place where there are RDCs," Anuci said. "The Navy also sends E-5 and E-6 RDCs to Great Lakes. Newport is totally different because we only have a select few (currently 12) senior enlisted RDCs."

Anuci said that OCS needs senior enlisted RDCs because of "the opportu-

From E page 6  
superior advancement rates and training programs.

Originally slated for a deployment to the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility, NMCB 4 quickly shifted focus when the president called for a surge of military engineers into Afghanistan. Their efforts were vital to the surge of more than

7,000 troops and 70 helicopters into Northern Afghanistan. They completed more than 100 projects and 400 acres of FOB and combat outpost (COP) expansions. NMCB 4 also performed the largest earth-moving operation by a single battalion since World War II during the construction of Deh Dadi II, a 300-acre FOB in Northern

Afghanistan.

Based in Fort Lewis, Wash., and drawing personnel from 22 states, NMCB 18 deployed to Northwestern Afghanistan in July 2010, where they were cited for improving the operational environment and quality of life under Task Force Endurance and Task Force Keystone. They expended more than 76,000

man-days, including 80 projects valued at more than \$34 million.

"My congratulations to the Seabees of NMCB 133, NMCB 14, NMCB 4 and NMCB 18. Your efforts in support of our supported commanders globally exemplified the Seabee 'can-do' tradition and ethos of our force," said Handley.

## Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport



Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time. Island X-1 Gulfport meets the second Thursday of each month at

Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m.

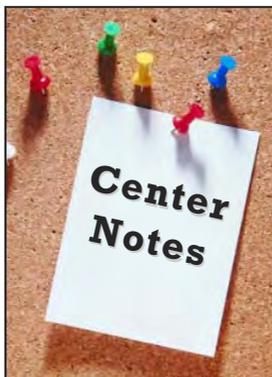
For more information contact Joe Scott (Secretary) at 228-669-8335 or elevenoaks58@ca-bleone.net or log onto WWW.NSVA.ORG for an application.

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#### **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 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. Contact FRG President Mary Belanger, 228-273-4158, e-mail [nmcbonefrg@gmail.com](mailto:nmcbonefrg@gmail.com) or Secretary Krystin Canipe, 704-726-5751, e-mail [nmcbonefrg@gmail.com](mailto:nmcbonefrg@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 NCBC chapel. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided for children four and under. Send an e-mail to [nmcb7frg@gmail.com](mailto:nmcb7frg@gmail.com) or contact FRG President Deanna Salter at 228-206-0377 for e-mail updates.

**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 Naval Reserve Training building #114. Bring a covered dish to take part in a potluck dinner. Contact FRG President Angela Boyd at 832-579-8422 or Vice President Tanieka Roshell at 414-530-4189. To receive updates, log on to the FRG website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb-74-fgr/index.html>.

**NMCB 11 FRG** invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Seabee Chapel Fellowship Hall. Baby sitting is provided. For more information contact FRG President Sarah Edwards or Vice President Robin Coker via email at [nmcb11frg@gmail.com](mailto:nmcb11frg@gmail.com). Visit the FRG and Ombudsman 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 [hansonkl54@yahoo.com](mailto:hansonkl54@yahoo.com). To receive updates log on to the FRG website at

<http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb133fsg>

##### **Naval Officer's Spouse Club**

The Gulfport Naval Officers' Spouses' Club is a social organization that has FUN while helping our community. We meet monthly and have special interest groups for almost everyone! For more information, please email [noscgulfport@yahoo.com](mailto:noscgulfport@yahoo.com). We hope to see YOU soon!

##### **NMCRS**

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, and 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 find out how to become 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 to sign up.

##### **Naval Sea Cadets**

The Gulfport branch of the Naval Sea Cadets 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](mailto:coachcb_yahoo.com); or AGC Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez at 228- 688-5288 or [enrique.acosta@navy.mil](mailto: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. 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. Meetings are 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 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 information or for links to Seabee historical sites.

**Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport** are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time. Island X-1 Gulfport meets the second Thursday of each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Joe Scott (Secretary) at 228-669-8335 or [elevenoaks58@cablone.net](mailto:elevenoaks58@cablone.net) or log onto [WWW.NSVA.ORG](http://WWW.NSVA.ORG) for an application.

**HERITAGE** The Seabee Gift Store is located in the Training Hall, building 446 and open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. The shop has a variety of Seabee related memorabilia, books and DVD's. Contact the museum at [www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php](http://www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php) or call the gift shop at 228-871-4779 for more info.

# AD SPACE

## From OCS page 20

nity to mentor and mold and develop the division-officer-to-chief relationship that is a constant in the fleet."

He also said there is a need for more senior enlisted RDCs at OTC because many of the current 12 will transfer within the next couple of years. As with most commands, the turnover of Sailors, especially chiefs, is constant and continuous. So OTC is always on the lookout for qualified and motivated senior enlisted members to accept orders to OTC.

OTC has also been talking with the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) about detailing chiefs and senior chief petty officers who have previously been an RDC early in their careers. OTC would like to see senior enlisted return from the fleet to a shore duty billet at OTC as second tour RDCs. But this isn't a requirement.

The Shore Special Program Detailer (PERS-4010D) at NPC in Millington, Tenn., periodically sends out message traffic and announcements recruiting for RDCs at OTC.

In a recent RDC recruiting notice, NPC announced the need for hard-charging Navy professionals to provide RDC (NEC 9508) support at OTC. The announcement described the position as one that prepares OCS graduates for service in the fleet as naval officers.

The announcement (made periodically in LINK Magazine or on the NPC website, <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/ReferenceLibrary/Publications/LinkOnline/>), "looks for E-7 RDCs for OTC to function as senior enlisted technical experts and be responsible for the training, administration, good order and discipline and general welfare of assigned students throughout all phases of training."

"This is absolutely the most rewarding job I've ever had, and at the same time is the most demanding job that I've ever had," Anuci said.

OCS is one of five officer training schools located aboard Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island. There is also the Officer Development School (ODS), Direct Commission Officer Indoctrination School (DCOIC), Limited Duty Officer and Chief Warrant Officer (LDO/CWO) school and Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) school. The staff officers, RDCs and DIs also provide training assistance for these schools, especially with the physical training of the students.

Capt. Kenneth Gray, OTC commanding officer, said because the command

provides accession training to 65 percent of the Navy's new officers, "the RDCs at OTC have a tremendously positive influence on the newest generations of naval officers; an influence that lasts for decades."

"My challenge, and my vision for the RDCs is that they will model the very best division officer/chief petty officer relationship that our students should expect to experience in the fleet," Gray said.

Gray said that during the initial stages of OCS training, the RDCs focus on the militarization of the students and developing their discipline. But over time the focus shifts, and by the end of training the RDCs concentrate on mentoring the students and instilling the confidence and competence in them that they will need as leaders.

"Being an RDC at OTC is a challenging yet extremely rewarding assignment, Gray said. "Our RDCs routinely get letters and e-mails from former students that thank them for their training and for being a positive role model. Sometimes these letters can make your eyes water."

Many of the current senior enlisted RDCs agree with their commanding officer and senior enlisted advisor about the job at OCS being very rewarding.

"These candidates are the future of the Navy, and I wanted to come here to be able to make a difference in making sure these future officers are ready to join the fleet," said Chief Machinist's Mate (SW) Jamie Hebert. "It's a chance to mold a competent, confident and disciplined junior officer to send out to the fleet."

Hebert called being an RDC at OTC challenging but a great opportunity to have an impact on the future of the Navy.

"It also gives me sense of pride to carry on the traditions of the Navy and being able to instill some of those traditions, naval heritage or leadership to these individuals coming off the street and joining the Navy," Hebert said.

He also said one of the main jobs of any chief in the Navy, especially in fleet, is to train the newly-commissioned ensigns and junior officers to be a division officer and future leader.

"Here at Officer Training Command, we have that opportunity everyday to train the candidates in a multitude of different facets," Hebert said. "This is definitely a more influential way to get the JOs (junior officers) ready for the fleet."

Senior Chief Yeoman (SW) Patricia

See OCS page 26

From RETURN page 6

'Bee' in the Know . . . Visit <https://www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport/index.htm> to find out what's happening on the Center!

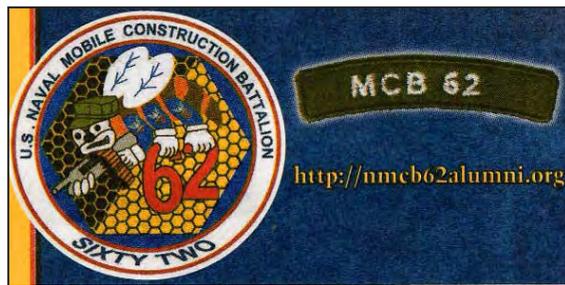
Prior to the battalions scheduled deployment, NMCB 7 was called upon to assist with disaster relief efforts in Haiti, during Operation Unified Response, amidst the aftermath of a 7.0 earthquake which struck the area Jan. 12.

During Operation Unified Response, NMCB 7's Air Detachment made a huge impact supporting the Joint Task Force, while working with Underwater Construction Team ONE, Amphibious Battalion TWO, U.S. Marine Corps and various other joint forces.

"Though the situation was tragic, our Seabees reinforced the value of the Naval Construction Force to the Nation's National Security Strategy and our partner nations," said Cmdr. Jayson Mitchell, NMCB 7 commanding officer.

NMCB 7 turned over its operational responsibilities to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 also home ported here during a Dec.14 ceremony at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

AD SPACE



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**Outdoor Recreation 228-871-2127**

Join Outdoor Recreation Jan. 23 to hike the Tuxachanie Trail located just north of Gulfport. We will leave ODR, Bldg. 456, at 8 am. Bring a lunch to enjoy by the lake, plenty of water to drink and bug repellent to make the hike pleasant. Sign up by Jan. 15, it's FREE and fun for all ages.

Let's go charter fishing aboard the "Mega Bite" Jan. 30. Catch all the running red fish you can handle. Only \$160 per person, you can't beat the experience; eight hours of fishing with everything included: bait, ice, license, and bottled water but feel free to bring your own beverages and food. Don't worry ladies; a private bathroom is on board too. Sign up by Jan.15 to reserve your spot - we can fit seven people and must have a minimum of four.

**Fitness Center 228-871-2668**

Intramural Softball League sign ups have been extended to Jan. 20. Intramural Volleyball League sign ups are Jan. 10 - 24 at the CBC Fitness Center. The point of contact is Sam Perkins, 228-822-5109 or samuel.perkins2@navy.mil. Games will be played Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

**Information, Tickets, and Tours 228-871-2231**

Senior Special- Now through Jan.31, ITT is running a special for all seniors (65+) for the Audubon Aquarium: \$11.50, Zoo-\$8.50, and IMAX Theater-\$6. You can get a combination ticket for all three for only \$25. Jan.29- Laura Plantation/Cabin Restaurant 8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., adults - \$25.25, children 6 -17 years old, \$14.25, kids 5 and under - FREE! Last day to sign up is Jan. 14 at noon.

March 5 - New Orleans School of Cooking, 8 a.m. - 3

p.m., \$33.50 per person. Last chance to sign up is Feb.17 at noon.

March 19 - Yard Sale in Training Hall parking lot. Cost is \$10 to rent two chairs and two tables or \$15 for to rent a canopy, two chairs, and two tables. Sign up by March 4 to participate.

April 9- Global Wildlife Center 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., \$20 for adults, \$15 for children 2 - 11 years old, and children under 2 are free. Sign up by March 25 at noon.

**Liberty Center 228-871-4684**

There is a ton of fun stuff planned for the rest of this month through Liberty! Come check out everything we have to offer! Liberty will have quite a few on-base activities going on, including the following:

Jan. 18 - Liberty will be sharing solutions to keeping your New Years goals and offering FREE food. Jan. 20 is National Granola Bar Day, stop into Liberty for FREE granola bar beginning at 11 am. Come into Liberty Jan. 24 and join us for the Brainstorming Lunch where FREE pizza will be given away for good event ideas. On Jan. 26, FREE Hot Chocolate will be offered all day beginning at 11 a.m. Come into Liberty Jan. 27 and learn how to Dump the Debt at the Financial Workshop offered by Navy Federal at 6 p.m., with FREE food.

Liberty also offers some great off-base trips to include the following: Jan. 15 - don't miss out on the opportunity to go skeet shooting in Alabama; trip departs Liberty at 8:30 am, cost is \$15. Take the trip from Liberty to the World War II Museum in New Orleans Jan. 16; departs Liberty at 9:30 am, cost is \$6. Go rock climbing with Liberty Jan. 19. The FREE shuttle departs Liberty at 5 p.m. Get off base with the

FREE Liberty shuttle to the Crossroads Mall area Jan.21, departing Liberty at 7 pm. On Jan. 23, check out the historic USS Alabama in Mobile; FREE shuttle departs Liberty at 9:30 a.m. On Jan. 28, take our FREE shuttle to Wal-Mart, departs Liberty at 6 p.m. Paintball on base will be held Jan. 30 for only \$5, including 2 hours of play, gear and 500 paintballs! The shuttle departs Liberty at noon.

If you would like to make a difference in the Gulfport community, volunteer for one of our trips! Join the Habitat for Humanity trip Jan. 29, which departs Liberty at 8 a.m. It's FREE and you will earn an LOA!

For all you NFL football fans', coming up Feb. 6 is Super Bowl XLV! The Liberty Super Bowl Party will be held in the Liberty Center. So come relax and watch the Super Bowl on any screen you wish! Also, FREE food will be available while supplies last!

**Vehicle Storage 228-871-2804**

CBC Base Housing Residents: All vehicles and RV's receive 50 percent off the regular storage rate. Must present proof of your residency (i.e. phone bill, cable bill, ect.). Please contact the Vehicle Storage Lot for more information and space availability.

Vehicle Storage Deployment Special -Free storage for first vehicle and 50 percent off each additional vehicle, including all RV's for all deploying troops.

Must present a letter of deployment from your command. **Auto Hobby Shop 228-871-2804**

Stop by during the hours of noon - 4 p.m., Tuesday - Saturday and let us rotate your tires after all of your holiday season traveling.

**Seabee Recreational Park Area 228-871-2127**

The Seabee Recreational Park Area has many things to offer for your outdoor enjoyment including three large rental pavilions that feature picnic tables, BBQ grills, lighting and electrical. There are also 11 smaller pavilions for use on a first come-first served basis. The Seabee Rec Park Area has a large covered kid-friendly playground area, batting cage, basketball court, sand volley ball court, four practice golf holes, chipping and putting green, driving range, paintball field, dog park and walking trail. A highlight of the items MWR has at the lake are paddle boats, available at no cost to authorized patrons. There are two deck boxes on the pier that have various sizes of life vests which must be worn at all times while on the water. **MWR Vehicle Resale Lot 228-871-2804**

Have a Vehicle, Motorcycle, RV, Boat or Utility Trailer you want to sell? Put it in the MWR Vehicle Resale Lot located on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The cost is \$5 per week or \$15 per month. The Resale Lot is located in a high visibility area and is lighted for extra security.

**Car Wash 228-871-2804**

Did you know MWR has a car wash located at Marvin Shields Blvd and Rodgers Ave? Vacuums have high suction power, stain remover, shampooer and a variety of fragrance selections. Wash bays selections include tire and wheel cleaner, presoak, high pressure soap, foam brush, high pressure rinse, clear coat and marine flush for outdoor and inboard boat motors. MWR has also installed a shade structure at the Car Wash for those car enthusiasts who like to hand wash their vehicles in a shaded area.

**Anchors and Eagles 228-871-4750**

A&E is a WIFI Hotspot and is located in Building 303 (by the Pass Road gate). Hours are Tuesday-Thursday from 2 - 9 p.m. A&E is a full service bar with a covered patio for your enjoyment. The rental fee is only \$25/hour; so, call and book your special event. You won't find a better place. Start thinking "Super Bowl" party. **Beehive Lounge 228-871-4009**

Located in Building 352 (next to Grinder), south of the McDonalds, the Beehive has the best atmosphere and friendliest bartenders around. With low prices and within walking distance to anywhere on base, the Beehive is the place for you and your friends to come for worry free fun. Also, the Beehive has FREE WIFI! Start thinking "Super Bowl" party. Door prizes and free food each quarter, while supplies last.

**January Movie Ticket**

Training Hall Theater, Movie Hotline 228-871-3299

Jan. 13 - You Again, PG, 6 p.m.

Jan. 14 - Let Me In, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 15 - Resident Evil: After Life, R, noon; Legend of the Guardian, PG, 3 p.m.; Easy A, PG13, 6 p.m.

Jan. 16 - Devil, PG13, noon; Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps, PG13, 3 p.m.; Legend of the Guardian, PG, 6 p.m.

Jan. 17 - Legend of the Guardian, PG, noon; Nanny McPhee Returns, PG, 3 p.m.; Resident Evil: After Life, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 18 - The Town, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 19 - Legend of the Guardian, PG, 6 p.m.

Jan. 20 - Easy A, PG13, 6 p.m.

Jan. 21 - The Last Exorcism, PG13, 6 p.m.

Jan. 22 - Nanny McPhee Returns, PG, noon; Legend of the Guardian, PG, 3 p.m.; You Again, PG, 6 p.m.

Jan. 23 - Resident Evil: After Life, R, noon; Legend of the Guardian, PG, 3 p.m.; You Again, PG, 6 p.m.

Jan. 24 - The Town, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 25 - Let Me In, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 26 - Resident Evil: After Life, R, 6 p.m.

Jan. 27 - Legend of the Guardian, PG, 6 p.m.

\*\*\*Movies contingent upon training requirements\*\*\*

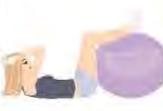
**Heads Up Football Fans . . . Super Bowl XLV will be shown at the Training Hall Feb. 6!**

# Winter Group Fitness Class Schedule

NCBC GULFPORT FITNESS CENTER-BLDG. 445

MONDAY-FRIDAY 4:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M.

SAT/SUN/HOL 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Bosu Strength/Cardio Class</b> taught by Sheila 9:00 a.m.	<b>Cycling Class</b> taught by Joan 9:00 a.m.	<b>Bosu Strength/Cardio Class</b> taught by Sheila 9:00 a.m.	<b>Cycling Class</b> taught by Joan 9:00 a.m.	<b>Bosu Strength/Cardio Class</b> taught by Sheila 9:00 a.m.	
	<b>Water Aerobics Class</b> taught by Taryn 11:00 a.m.	<b>Stroll-N-Stride</b> taught by Josanne 9:00 a.m.	<b>Water Aerobics Class</b> taught by Taryn 11:00 a.m.	<b>Stroll-N-Stride</b> taught by Josanne 9:00 a.m.	<b>Zumba Class</b> Taught by Julie 10:00 a.m.
<b>Total Body Express Class</b> taught by Michael 12:00 p.m.	<b>Ab Blast Class</b> taught by Michael 12:00 p.m.	<b>Total Body Express Class</b> taught by Michael 12:00 p.m.	<b>Ab Blast Class</b> taught by Michael 12:00 p.m.	<b>Total Body Express Class</b> taught by Michael 12:00 p.m.	
<b>Cycling Class</b> taught by Josanne 5:00 p.m.	<b>Boot Camp</b> taught by Shelia 12:30 p.m.	<b>Cycling Class</b> taught by Josanne 5:00 p.m.	<b>Boot Camp</b> taught by Shelia 12:30 p.m.		<b>Martial Arts</b> Taught by Kevin 1:00 p.m.
<b>Zumba Class</b> taught by Julie 6:00 p.m.	<b>Cardio Kickboxing Class</b> (with step) taught by Josanne 5:00 p.m.	<b>Zumba Class</b> taught by Julie 6:00 p.m.	<b>Cardio Kickboxing Class</b> (with step) taught by Josanne 5:00 p.m.		
	<b>Martial Arts</b> taught by Kevin 6:30 p.m.		<b>Martial Arts</b> taught by Kevin 6:30 p.m.		

## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

**Ab Blast moderate/high intensity** Core conditioning and abdominal exercises

**Boot Camp moderate/high intensity** A 30 minute circuit style class using body weight for resistance.

**Bosu Strength/Cardio moderate/high intensity** Uses a Bosu to strengthen the body using various exercises using bands/weights.

**Cardio Kickboxing (with step) high intensity** Punch, kick, and block your way through this fun workout!

**Cycling moderate/high intensity** Sprint, climb, and jump your way through an exhilarating ride in the comfort of our group cycle room.

**The Martial Arts moderate/high intensity** traditional Okinawan Karate (Shorin Ryu), where the student will learn about basic/intermediate/advanced) blocks, strikes and kicks, as well as self-defense (tuite).

**Stroll-N-Stride (Get fit with your child) low/medium intensity** Come out and achieve fitness goals by enjoying cardio and circuit training outside on our new outdoor equipment and on the track. Children of all ages are welcomed and strollers are encouraged.

**Total Body high intensity** Uses bands, kettle bells, dumbbells, and body weight resistance.

**Water Aerobics moderate intensity** It is extensive enough to give a good workout and low impact enough to not strain joints or bones as a regular aerobics class would.

**Zumba moderate/high intensity** Known as Zumba Fitness Party- Combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body using aerobic/fitness approach to achieve a unique blended balance of cardio and muscle-toning benefits.

All cycling classes will be held in the Cycling Room (last class in the east hallway).  
 All other classes in the Multipurpose Room (only class at the end of the west hallway).



# Do you really know what your garbage can contains?

By CBC Environmental

Sometimes your garbage is a bit more than just trash. You could have hazardous waste lingering in your waste bin.

Household hazardous waste is the leftover portion of any product containing warning labels such as caution, poisonous, toxic, flammable, corrosive, reactive, or explosive. Many common household products are hazardous such as batteries, pool chemicals, drain opener, motor oil, charcoal lighting fluid, paint, most cleaning products, even silver polish.

When hazardous products are disposed with your regular garbage, they end up in standard landfills. At those types of landfills; or even in route to the landfills, hazardous products can cause fires, leach into ground water or release toxic fumes. Ideally all hazardous waste should be separated from regular household garbage so that it can be disposed in a controlled manner.

When household hazardous waste is separated from regular garbage, it is either recycled or goes to a special landfill that controls the dangerous characteristics of the waste.

Manufacturer companies and most businesses, including all work areas on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, have special containers and management procedures for hazardous waste. That alone is not enough to protect the environment. Different agencies have estimated that each person accumulates approximately 30 pounds of hazardous waste

each year. That may not seem like much but start adding up all the waste from people in your neighborhood and no one would want that pile of waste in their backyard.

There are several types of hazardous waste that can be recycled, such as paints, used oil, fluorescent bulbs and the most recent category called e-wastes. Electronic waste, generally called e-waste are all the components and gadgets that you plug in that are not appliances or tools. Items like computers, monitors, modems, routers, televisions, keyboards, printers, fax machines, cell phones, laptops, even speakers and cables are classified as e-waste.

If you store hazardous products such as paint or polish because of limited use, check your stored products every few months and make sure that the containers are not compromised. Due to temperature changes in garages and outdoor storage sheds, the product may not function as intended and can create a safety hazard in the storage area. A household hazardous waste collection day is a great time to clean out your storage area.

Local county waste management offices have designated days throughout the year to collect household hazardous waste. Harrison County (228-214-1405) and Jackson County (228-872-8340) each generally host a household hazardous waste disposal day in April. Hancock County (418-424-7210) has varies days throughout the year for specific types of recyclable hazardous wastes such as paint, tires, appliances



and electronic waste. Stone County has facilities that will accept used oil, tires and batteries. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (601-961-5171) can refer you to the appropriated locations within Stone County. Check your trash bill and local area paper for advertisements of these special events.

Most likely, the only time you accumulate a lot of household hazardous waste is when you are cleaning out the house pending a move. Harrison County, in addition to special collection days, accepts household hazardous waste one Saturday a month. Call the Beautification Commission for more information.

Household trash should no longer be a one bin for all containers. Hopefully you are already separating paper, plastic and glass for curbside recycling in your area. Household hazardous waste recycling and proper disposal involves setting your household hazardous waste aside until your county has a collection day or making an appointment for a turn-in. It takes the extra mile to participate in this type of recycling/disposal but the end result of a safe and healthy environment is a noble cause.

## Security Note: Put it in writing . . . The First 20 Minutes Can Save Lives

Actions taken within the first 20 minutes of any incident can be critical. In the event of an active shooter, the actions you take can mean the difference in survival or becoming a victim. If there were an incident involving an active shooter, does your facility have a plan in place to save lives?

Imagine sitting in your office gazing out the window and you see someone walking through the parking lot with an unauthorized weapon. Emergency plans you create today should include instructions on how to lockdown your facility. Do the occupants in your building know what to do to immediately secure occupied spaces and prevent intruder entry?

The easiest way not to become a victim is to establish and utilize lockdown plans. If you are unable to evacuate to a nearby interior room with no windows, make the room look unoccupied. Lock the doors and turn off the lights. Close all windows, blinds, and curtains. Turn off the ringers on all cellar telephones. If the door has a vision panel, cover it. If you are unable to cover the panel, move to an area that is out of sight and remain silent.

There are a few things to consider and include when developing a lockdown plan. Things like; is there a Mass Notification System in the building? How is the Mass Notification System activated and who has ability to activate the system? How can outside help be requested and what specific steps should be implemented during a lockdown?

All units on board NCBC Gulfport are required to have written emergency procedures in place consisting coverage of bomb threats, fires, tornados, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, explosions, civil disturbances, hazardous material incidents, lockdowns and loss of utility services. Facilities should also have procedures in place for other incidents or threats specific to your area of responsibility.

If you require assistance in getting your emergency plans updated, contact Mr. James "Bull" Bullard, the NCBC Physical Security Officer by e-mail at james.k.bullard@navy.mil or by phoning 228-871-3561.

From OCS page 22

Arnold, presently the only female RDC at OTC, called it great duty for any female chief.

"This is an amazing tour and by far the best of my 22 years," Arnold said. "I would encourage female and male chiefs to come here. This is where you can share your experiences. This is where these young men and women are looking for guidance and direction in their lives. And this is where the chiefs that come here as RDCs are able to share those experiences and give that guidance to start these future officers out on the right foot."

Whether a first-time RDC at OTC or a second-tour RDC, all senior enlisted coming to OTC to train and mentor officer candidates need to attend RDC school at RTC. Even if the chiefs had been to the "C" school before, they need to refresh and be updated on any changes to the training of both recruits and officer candidates.

All Sailors looking to wear the "red rope" attend RDC School at RTC prior to duty. However, for RDC chiefs going to Newport, the few weeks of shadowing RDCs with recruit divisions at RTC isn't required. These chiefs go directly to OTC and receive a couple weeks of the training that is needed for OCS.

Arnold said there have also been discussions at OTC on adding OCS curriculum to RDC School, but she feels the hands-on training senior enlisted RDCs receive upon first arriving to OTC is effective.

"I think what we learn here when we arrive at OTC is tailored perfectly to the job we need to do," she said. "There is nothing better than to have the hands-on training of shadowing an OCS class, and then everything else comes with time. The great thing about the program here is we're allowed to make changes, to tailor it to our own teaching styles and be the chief."

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



## **GULF COAST USO**

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# Seabee Memorial Chapel

### **Services:**

**Sunday Catholic Mass: 9 a.m.**

**Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 11:15 a.m.**

**Protestant Service: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**

### **Center Chaplains:**

**Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brown,  
Protestant Chaplain**

**Lt. Yoon Choi  
Protestant Chaplain**

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