

# Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES



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Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

April 21, 2011

## Seabees welcome new Force Master Chief

By NAVFACENGCOM HQ  
Public Affairs

The top enlisted Seabee position changed faces April 15 during a ceremony held at the Seabee Memorial in Arlington, Va.

Master Chief (SCW) Douglas R. Dickey became the Seabees' 15th force master chief when he relieved Master Chief (SCW) Michael E. Holdcraft.

"I am truly honored, privileged and humbled to be the force master chief for our Seabees," he said to the crowd of Civil Engineer Corps officers, Seabees and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) employees. "There has never been a better time to be a Seabee, and the demand for Seabees has never been greater. Our brothers in arms know we are capable and ready to support them as they carry out their missions every day."

Prior to taking the reigns as force master chief, Dickey served as command master chief for the 31st Seabee Readiness Group, located at in Port Hueneme, Calif.

A native of Bremerton, Wash., Dickey enlisted in the Navy in 1981 and attended basic training in San Diego.

Rear Admiral Christopher J. Mossey, NAVFAC commander and

## NMCB 74 'Bees pave the way in Rota



Equipment Operator Constructionman Ross Platt, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, removes fresh asphalt from the screed area of the paver with a shovel during road construction as part of a pavement project on Naval Station Rota, Spain. NMCB 74 is currently deployed to Camp Mitchell, Spain, supporting Commander, Task Force (CTF) 68. The work conducted by the Seabees is in direct support of the forward presence as described in the Maritime Strategy. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)

See FORCE page 13

NMCB 133 'Roos Pacific Moves  
page 6

Ambassadors in Hardhats, NMCB 74  
page 7

UCT-1 Liberian Water Construction  
page 16

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**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Ensign Timothy Palik  
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**Public Affairs Officer**  
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# OPINION

## Why didn't I know about that?

**By Rob Mims**  
 NCBC Public Affairs

In the information age, vital communication can get lost in the mix and the noise. More than a few times I have heard "Really, that happened? Why didn't I know about that?" Or "I would have gone if I had known about it." My general response is, "It was in all the Public Affairs products on base."

I know most people don't have time to absorb information the way we used to twenty years ago; however, one must take on some personal responsibility when it comes to receiving the information.

In Public Affairs, we pride ourselves on having multiple avenues of communication on board NCBC. We take the time to dig up events that are happening, process information we receive from others and generally have it out on one avenue or another within a couple of hours of notification.

I am not bragging, but that is pretty good. I know most of you have a smirk on your face thinking, yeah, whatever. But, the job of Public Affairs is to get the word out; however, our regulations and manuals do not address "making people use the information passed." The only thing we can do is tell you where to receive everything we put out.

First, Base Website. The NCBC base website at [www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport) is the holder of more information than can be processed in one sitting. It is updated daily with at least a photo of the day.

Second, Seabee Courier. The base newspaper is a pretty good news and information source. It comes out every two weeks and can be found on newsstands around base. It is also electronic and can be found on the base web site. It can also be e-mailed as an Adobe PDF file to you; seabeeCourier@navy.mil.

Third, Inside the Gate. If you have seen it, you know it contains bits of information about events happening over the next few weeks. It is sent out to everyone on base and to others who have requested it. It is a great source to help plan your week. If you want to receive it, send an e-mail to [bonnie.lindleymcgerr@](mailto:bonnie.lindleymcgerr@)

navy.mil.. Subject: IIG

Fourth, Social Media. A good majority of people have Facebook and/or Twitter; NCBC is no exception. We use it to communicate with people near and far who have a vested interest in the base and our people. It helps families stay informed if the member is deployed or forgets to relay the information. We also use it during emergencies such as hurricanes or other events. The great thing about social media is that it can be linked to your phone in the form of text messages. The Seabee Memorial Chapel, MWR and most units on base have social media sites.

Fifth, All User E-mail. The Public Affairs Office has access to all email addresses on base. Emails are sent out when information important to command leadership needs to be passed. It is probably a good idea to read them before pushing the delete button.

Sixth, Base Marquees. Most people know that the marquees at Pass Road and Broad Avenue are not operating right now. New marquees are being designed for those entrances and at 28<sup>th</sup> Street Gate, and will be in place as funding comes available. The Pass Road sign will be moved to a better location as will the Broad Ave. sign. The exact location for the 28<sup>th</sup> street sign is to be determined. There are three operational marquees at the base Fitness Center, Training Hall and Fleet and Family Support Center.

Within a few months, we hope to have one other avenue of passing information. Upon receipt of funding, the Public Affairs Office will launch the base commanders' access channel. It will contain information about events and activities on base. This avenue will help newcomers, transients and base residents alike know what is going on from the comfort of their room or home. It will also be on most televisions throughout the installation.

That is seven ways to receive information about all the news, great programs and events this base has to offer.

So, maybe the next time you feel uninformed and out of the loop regarding base news and activities you should ask yourself, "Am I doing my part?"

## Regional Legal News:

At a general court-martial held onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville April 12, a third class petty officer led to and was found guilty of three specifications of wrongful possession and receipt of child

pornography.

The military judge awarded confinement for five years, reduction to E-1, and a dishonorable discharge. The pretrial agreement limited the confinement to 24 months.

## Leading from the Front Do You Know?

Commanders may issue an order that only English be spoken in a work place when they have a legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for the rule, (e.g., to ensure everyone on the bridge understands the orders to the helm). It must be clear that the purpose of such an order is to foster uni-



formity of action and operations within a work place. Find out more regarding this regulation by reading OPNAVINST 5354.1F.

**NCBC Road Work/Road Closings Continue . . .** Milling and paving continues on board NCBC. Road closures include: Intersection of Morrell and Marvin Shields Boulevard. Intermittent closures will also occur at 8th Street, from Colby Ave to Ammo Fence; Colby Ave from 1st Street to 11th Street - both lanes; Intersection of Colby Ave and White Pine Circle; Intersection of 1st Street and Pinewood Drive; 7th Street from Colby Ave west to Golf Course fence; and Kidd Ave. Repaving and reconfiguration for the intersection located at 7th Street and Bainbridge Avenue has begun. At the completion of all work,

the intersection will become a four (4) or all way stop. Additionally, Bainbridge Avenue north of 7th Street will be widened to accommodate equipment traffic and a left turn lane. The NCTC troop walk will be moved to the west side of the intersection and a red 4 way signal flasher will be installed over the intersection. Use extreme caution and observe all caution and notice signs at the subject intersection. The work is scheduled to be performed throughout April. Detour signs and flag men will provide direction when streets are inaccessible.



## 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).

# New 'app' for Center housing residents to try

## From Balfour Beatty Communities

Placing a maintenance work order for family housing just got a whole lot easier and more user-friendly for residents at NCBC Gulfport. Balfour Beatty Communities is pleased to announce that it has launched a new web-based work order system on their website at Ncbcgulfporthomes.com where residents can now report and track the status of their maintenance work orders from their home as well as view Community Bulletin Board announcements.

"We were hearing from our residents that they wanted to see where their work order was in the system, so we reviewed a number of applications that would be the best fit for our residents and we believe that this new app will increase customer satisfaction and they'll know that we are listening," said Courtney Collier, Community Manager for Balfour Beatty.

To utilize the new applica-



tion, residents must first obtain a registration code from Balfour Beatty's Community Management office 228-863-0424 and then simply create a user account. To set up an account, residents should go to the website ncbcgulfporthomes.com, click the "Submit a Service Request" link under "Valuable Links" on the website and enter in their personal information.

In addition to the added features of the new application, once registered, residents will receive email notification of completed maintenance work orders as a follow up to ensure that the service was satisfactory.

"We're always looking for ways to keep resident satisfaction high and we are hoping that this is just one more step towards that goal," said Collier.

# Around the Center



Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) students from Fitchburg, Mass. practice operating a simulated grader and excavator at the Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) Simulator building on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) during their school's Leadership Training trip April 18. JROTC program provides youth with much-needed skills in citizenship and leadership. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator Constructionman Devida Pope/Released)

Builder Constructionman Jonathan Tyner, from Marietta, Ga., receives his cover from Cmdr. Bill Whitmire, commanding officer of Naval Construction Training Center, during a graduation ceremony for Builders on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) April 13. Tyner is a reservist assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14 and will be eligible for early advancement for being the top honor graduate of his class. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator Constructionman Devida Pope/Released)



Guest speaker Ken Wooden, Child Lures Prevention's Ambassador for International Child Safety Efforts, speaks to professionals, paraprofessionals, and command leaders during one of two free Child Lures Awareness and Prevention Seminar sponsored by Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) April 12. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator Constructionman Devida Pope/Released)

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Navy Lodge celebrates the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony for the new Navy Lodge expansion. The expansion will be 44,000 square feet with an additional 50 rooms which will include family suites. Rear Adm. (select) Glenn Robillard, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command was on board for the cornerstone laying. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator Constructionman Devida Pope/Released)



April 21, 2011

Seabee Courier

3

**Easter** Sun, Apr. 24, 2011

**Easter Revival @ Seabee Memorial Chapel**

- Thursday, April 21 @ 18:00 on the Chapel lawn
- Friday, April 22 @ 18:00 on the Chapel lawn
- Saturday, April 23 @ 15:00 children's egg hunt
- Saturday, April 23 @ 15:30 Revival in the Chapel
- Saturday, April 23 17:00 Free BBQ dinner after the revival
- Sunday, April 24 @ 06:30 Easter Sunrise Service at Seabee Lake

POC: Chaplain Brown NCBC Memorial Chapel (228) 871-2454



# Earthwise

## Water conservation tips

**By Cliff Plante**  
Resource Efficiency Manager  
NAVFAC SE

April is Water Conservation Month. This is a time to “reflect” on what we can do to help promote saving water while at work as well as at home. Additional information concerning what you can do to participate in the effort is available at the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission site:

<http://www.mswcc.state.ms.us>.

Sometimes people have the misconception that water is “free”. As we all know, that is not true. Be sensible! The Earth might seem like it has abundant water, but in fact only one percent of all water on the planet is available for humans. Buy fixtures and products that are water efficient – you can use less water to get the same job done just as well. When you go shopping, look for the WaterSense label to find water efficient products.

There are several things that we can do to reduce water consump-

tion and the associated costs. I have listed a few of those opportunities below:

~ Repair leaky faucets promptly. One faucet leaking one drop per second can waste 2,400 gallon of water a year. That’s 13 years worth of drinking water for one per person.

~ Repair “silent leaks” in the toilet. If food coloring put in the tank ends up in the bowl without flushing, it leaks. Repairing the leak will save up to 200 gallons of water a day.

~ The average person use 80-100 gallons of water per day in the home. The top three uses for water in the home are toilets, bathing and washing clothes.

~ Make it a full load! The average washing machine uses 40.9 gallons of water per load. If you’re in the market for a new washer, shop for a High Efficiency washer that needs less than 28 gallons of water per load. To achieve even greater savings, wash only full loads or be sure to choose the

appropriate load size of the washing machine. As an added bonus, the High Efficiency or “HE” as they are labeled washing machines spin at a much higher RPM than a conventional washer, removing more water out of the clothes and reducing the drying time required.

~ Use cold water rather than hot to operate your food disposer. This saves the energy needed to heat the water, is recommended for the appliances, and aides in getting rid of grease. Grease solidifies in cold water and can be ground up and washed away.

~ Don’t use the “rinse hold” on your dishwasher for just a few soiled dishes. It uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.

~ If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a more water-efficient model.

~ Shorten showers by a minute or two and you’ll save up to 150 gallons per month.

## NEXs to begin using plastic bags made from recycled material

**From NEX Public Affairs**

Navy Exchanges (NEXs) worldwide have a new plastic bag it will begin using for customer purchases. The new plastic bag is made with at least 35 percent recycled material. Unlike the previous NEX plastic bags which were white, the new recycled bags have a gray body color based upon the high level of recycled material used in its production.

“The new plastic bags are made by Hilex and is made in the U.S.A. with at least 35 percent recycled material,” said Mike Powers, Navy Exchange Service Command’s (NEXCOM) Retail Director. “So, if customers choose to use plastic bags rather than recyclable bags, they can feel comfortable knowing they are still helping the environment.”

For those customers who prefer to use a reusable bag, NEXs give a five cent credit for each eco-friendly reusable bag used to bag a customer’s purchase. Customers may either bring their reusable bag into the store or purchase a reusable bag from the NEX.

Become a Facebook fan and follow the NEX on Twitter.

**Why waste a cool planet? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

April 21, 2011

Seabee Courier

4

### 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.

# Ad Space

# Ad Space

**No more social security numbers on service members I.D. cards . . .**

Did you know that DOD will begin to remove social security numbers from military I.D. cards in June? The removal will occur in three phases. For more information on the removal process, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard)

**Disposable Intelligence . . .** Have you ever thought about what your garbage is saying about you? What types of intelligence can an adversary acquire just by looking through your trash can or dumpster? Tons upon tons of wastepaper are being shipped overseas on a daily basis for "recycling." Do you want someone, who could be a potential adversary, on the other side of the world learning about your interests or targeting you as a government employee or contractor? Think about your "disposable intelligence" - think OPSEC!

Ad Space

Ad Space

Ad Space

# NMCB 133 Seabees, Philippine Armed Forces work toward mutual goals during Balikatan 2011

By E03 Kareshia McGriff  
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 joined together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines this March for the 2011 Balikatan exercise.

The term "Balikatan" is a Tagalog word which means "shoulder-to-shoulder." NMCB 133 is working bilaterally with a composite force: the 4<sup>th</sup> NMCB and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Additionally, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mechanized Infantry Battalion is providing security for U.S. forces in the vicinity of the job site.

Despite the lack of tools and materials, the American Seabees have embraced the different techniques shown to them by the Filipino Seabees. Likewise, the Filipino Seabees welcome the technology that the American Seabees bring to the exercise. Crew leaders and quality control have their work cut out for them; continuously checking to ensure that the foundation of the structure is sturdy and level while ensuring construction methods are employed correctly.

"Details JSOTF-P and Balikatan are hard at work in the Republic of Philippines and working jointly with U.S. Special Forces and Philippine Seabees. The work they are doing is very important and will further contribute to the economic and social development of communities of strategic interest to the Armed Forces of

the Philippines and the U.S.," said Lt. Cmdr. Joshua Gamez, NMCB 133's Operations Officer.

Both American and Filipino Seabees have demonstrated the importance of building relationships as well as structures throughout the exercise.

Both units have been tasked with working together to construct a two-room school building, and a four-stall latrine. This exercise has allowed two forces, diverse in culture, language, and ethnicity, to come together to achieve a common goal.

These Seabees have embraced their technical and cultural differences and are getting the job done quickly and efficiently. Seabees can be found laughing and bonding with one another, trading occupational secrets, and learning each other's backgrounds daily.

"My favorite part about working with the Filipino Seabees is the unity; the mixing of two cultures," said Equipment Operator Constructionman Larry Hill.

Although the school and latrine aren't complete, the community makes it a priority to show their admiration and gratitude for the efforts of the Seabees. The ground breaking ceremony that took place at the Lubigan Elementary School on March 12, showed the Seabees exactly how much their work and hard efforts meant to the children and the community.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and Filipino Seabees from the Armed Forces of the Philippines' (AFP) 4th NMCB pour concrete footers during the "2011 Balikatan Exercise." The term balikatan is a Tagalog word which means shoulder-to-shoulder. NMCB 133 is working bilaterally with a composite force: the 4th NMCB and 3rd Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the AFP. NMCB-133 is currently on deployment in the Pacific Command's Area of Operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Jonathan Pilon/Released)

Songs and dances of appreciation from the children were a joy to witness. Words of encouragement and motivational speeches were given by the local barangay leaders and the military service leaders who are executing the Balikatan exercise in the Tarlac province.

"I like assisting the community in making their lives better," said Construction Mechanic Nathan M. Smith.

These Seabees have provided resources, knowledge, and motivation to each other while creating a spirit of unity and friendship.

April 21, 2011

## 'Roos clean up Japanese high school in support of Operation Tomodachi

By Lt.j.g. Benjamin Dunn  
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 provided support for Joint Support Forces Japan (JSF-J) March 30 at a local Sendai, Japan, high school affected by the March 11 tsunami and earthquake.

Seven NMCB 133 Seabees operating out of Camp Sendai in the Miyagi Prefecture, were part of a 50-person joint-forces team tasked with supporting cleanup efforts at the Ishinomaki Technical High School.

More than 800 students, school staff and local resi-



Construction Electrician 1st Class Rodney Barr from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 and members of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force clean up the Ishinomaki Technical High School in Ishinomaki, Japan. The school was damaged by the March 11 tsunami that destroyed Sendai and surrounding areas in Japan. NMCB-133 is currently on deployment in the Pacific Command's Area of Operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Benjamin Dunn/Released)

dents were isolated on the second floor of the high school for two days without running water, while the first floor was flooded with mud and debris in the rush of the tsunami.

Service members from the U.S. Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy, in conjunction with the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), joined school officials and students with the cleanup of the classrooms, common spaces and student hall. Heavily soiled walls and workstations were scrubbed. Floors were cleared of mud and mopped, and damaged furniture and debris were removed as the school was restored to working order.

"It was great to go out and get involved with the cleanup and assist in the recovery effort. You could tell the students and school staff were excited and very appreciative to receive our support," said Builder 1st Class Matthew Culberson, a Seabee from NMCB 133 who participated in the cleanup.

The Seabees, and civilian and military leadership, collaborated on site to direct the efforts. Seabees are

See CLEAN UP page 25

Seabee Courier

# Seabees in Ethiopia, Ambassadors in hardhats

By MC2(SCW) Michael Lindsey  
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

Approximately two dozen Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa (Det. HOA) are currently working on several water wells and a new school for the people of Ethiopia, but is not just these physical things they hope to leave behind. These Seabees hope to be remembered as welcome neighbors and good ambassadors once they are gone.

Currently deployed to Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), the Seabees there are drilling and repairing several water wells and are building a school from the ground up. Lt.j.g. Jose Mora is the officer-in-charge for the Seabee detachment in Ethiopia who says he is happy to have the unique opportunity.

"So far we have provided clean water to remote villages that were getting their water from the same sources as their animals," said Mora. "We are also building a new school house to help a community educate their youth... I can say that I have never done anything more rewarding than what we are doing here."

CJTF-HOA's mission in Ethiopia is a part of the U.S. Maritime Strategy of building partner nation capacity. Their goal is to increase trust and confidence among the people in their own government, enabling it to create and maintain a stable, secure environment where education

and prosperity takes hold and violent extremist ideology is rejected. Mohamed Ahmed Hashi is an Ethiopian native who has worked as a linguist and driver for CJTF-HOA since its establishment eight years ago. He has seen many different facets of CJTF-HOA and its success over the years and can bear testament to the importance of their mission.

"For the most part, I have seen happiness from the peoples faces and gratitude from the Ethiopian government, but I have also seen a few instances when I go to do campaigns like MEDCAP and VETCAP and I would see people wearing an Osama Bin Laden shirt or something like that... some locals are trying to spread that idea, you might say they have their own civil affairs missions going on too."

Hashi said that he is amazed by the dedication of the Seabees, especially of the water well team who work around the clock in the dirt during their drilling operations, and was fortunate enough to be present at the time the team finished their first well in the remote village of Jedane.

"The Seabees did magic when they hit the pump for the first time! You should have seen the people's faces. When you give people water in their village, people who actually walk kilometers and kilometers just hoping to find water, usually dirty water, imagine how that changes their life. It's the greatest gift you can give to anybody," said Hashi.

Not far from Jedane is the other



Above left: Builder Constructionman Shawn Wilkins and Engineering Aide Constructionman Apprentice Shawn Boyd, Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 Detail Horn of Africa (Det. HOA), take a break from their latest project to do pull-ups with local students in Gende Gerade, Ethiopia. Above right: Builder Constructionman Amanda Miller and Travis Johnson, assigned to NMCB 74 Det. HOA build lumber forms to create concrete columns for a school under construction in Gende Gerade, Ethiopia. NMCB 74 Det. HOA is deployed to assist Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in building partner nation capacity and promoting regional stability through construction engineering support in accordance with the U.S. Navy's maritime strategy. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

half of the detachment, a crew of Seabees building a school from the ground up in the small town of Gende Gerade. The building will be a 108-foot by 30-foot, single story brick and concrete structure divided into four classrooms. It was designed by a local Ethiopian engineering firm to match existing buildings in the area.

Chief Builder Christopher Jefferies is the mission commander for the project and says that they are often visited by curious students coming

from one of the overcrowded school buildings nearby. He explained that when his crew has free time they engage with the children by playing soccer or holding pull-up contests.

"Since our arrival we have been treated like family by everyone that we've come into contact with," said Jeffries. "The students at the school are wonderful and provide us with constant entertainment. At times, it's hard to figure out whether the students are more interested in us or the construction of their new school-

house."

Hashi said the Seabees in their hard hats represent an America that wants to help people and that they are excellent ambassadors to Ethiopia.

"Those kids will grow up and say 'I learned in a school that was built by Americans,'" said Hashi. "And then maybe one day they'll see American military walking by and remember the Seabee who was there building his school when he was a kid. Imagine the connection."

April 21, 2011

## NMCB 1, PWD Mid-South partner for training

By Dave Wainwright  
PWD Mid-South

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 are hard at work constructing a new bath house at the Navy Lake RV Park as part of pre-deployment proficiency training. Led by Crew Leader Steelworker 2nd Class Nicole Frazer and Job Leader Builder 1st Class Jeffrey Boutot, the project site is cleared, compacted, rough plumbing and electrical are in and forms are prepped for foundation placement.

Lt. Cmdr. Isabelle Detter, public works officer, Public Works Department Mid-South states, "We are blessed by the fact that something that is beneficial to our sailors provides such outstanding training opportunities for the Seabees."

Ronnie Miles, MWR director for Naval Air Station (NSA) Mid-South seconds the sentiment and is thrilled to provide a modern, up to date, newly finished facility to the Sailors and patrons at Navy Lake.

"Without the Seabees help, this

project would not have executed," said Miles. "This is a win-win for everybody."

According to Frazer, this is a "dream job" for Seabee training, because it is rare that they get a project from start to finish, bringing it up out of the ground, all the way to roof. More importantly for their training, is the opportunity to work all ratings as a team.

Frazer went on to say that the Seabees were enjoying staying in the trailers provided by MWR at the job-site and were excited that the rain was holding off long enough to rough in the plumbing and electrical in preparation for pouring the foundation.

Several Seabees chimed in that the severe thunderstorms and high winds were a little scary and



Construction Electrician 3rd Class Bianca Barreto works on the underground utilities at the Navy Lake Bath House project on-board Naval Support Facility Mid-South in Millington, Tenn. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

forced evacuation to safe shelter, but other than that, the conditions were ideal. Luckily, RVs and

Seabees came through it without a

See BATH page 23

Seabee Courier

7

# Navy offers one-time, limited restoration of expired PTS quotas

## From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Navy announced April 1 that it is offering some Sailors the opportunity to request restoration of their Perform to Serve quotas after more than 16,500 were rescinded last month because they were unused for over one year.

In accordance with NAVADMIN 352/10, Perform To Serve (PTS) quotas issued before Oct. 1, 2009, expired March 1. Despite multiple communications emphasizing the pending rescission, some Sailors simply failed to act, while others may have been unable to do so because of duty location or limited access to the Fleet Ride program. However, Navy has sought to mitigate the impact for select Sailors who demonstrated intent to stay by negotiating orders by affording them the opportunity to request a restoration of their PTS quota.

The majority of the 16,000 unused quotas were previously granted to Sailors that now intend to separate or are eligible to apply for PTS in the future. Approximately 4,400 Sailors are beyond their PTS window and will not have the opportunity to reapply. Roughly 1,000 of these 4,400 Sailors may be eligible to request a quota reinstatement, if they meet one of the following criteria:

~ Sailors who received Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders prior to March 1.

~ Sailors who had orders generated before Feb. 28, but had not yet been released.

~ Sailors who executed their PCS orders before March 1, but did not meet obligated service agreements in accordance with their orders.

~ Sailors who are eligible for a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB), extended their EAOS to earlier than Sept. 30 and were ineligible to reenlist prior to March 1 because the SRB window of opportunity was too short.

~ Sailors deployed from Oct. 1, 2010 through March 1 who had limited access to career counselors or the Fleet Rating Identification Engine (RIDE).

Sailors who meet the exemption criteria must submit a NAVPERS 1306/7 to their respective Enlisted Community Manager (ECM) prior to April 30 and clearly articulate which category of exemption they believe they fall under. Those Sailors who have PCS orders need to submit copies with the NAVPERS form. Those Sailors whose quotas are reinstated will have 45 days from ECM

approval to reenlist.

In an effort to ensure Sailors do not lose their PTS quotas in future months, Navy leadership is encouraging command leadership teams to take monthly PTS briefs from their Career Development Team (CDT). This will give commanding officers the opportunity to ensure Sailors receive proper career counseling and identify those who may be at risk. Leadership teams should also ensure Sailors re-apply every month while in the PTS window in order to compete for a quota.

While command leadership is an important source of PTS information and guidance, Sailors must take an active role in their enlistment planning. Sailors have a personal responsibility to manage their careers and must keep in mind that if they don't use their quota, it will be offered to someone else who desires to reenlist.

For more information, visit the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) Fleet RIDE/PTS website at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/PerformtoServe/> or call the NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC. Sailors can also review the "PTS Plain Talk for Sailors" pamphlet at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/PerformtoServe/>.

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### **Flash Light Easter Egg Hunt . . .**

Balfour Beatty Communities will sponsor a Flash Light Egg Hunt April 22 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. on the Community Pool House Lawn in the Magnolia Place Neighborhood on Holloway Drive. Call 228-863-0424 for more information.

### **MWR Youth Activity Center Easter Egg Hunt . . .**

Bring the little ones to the Month of the Military Child Easter Egg Hunt, April 23 from 10 a.m. - noon. Featuring carnival games and prizes, spider crawl, moon bounce and more.

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## Buzz on the Street



By EO CN Devida Pope

What would you do if you were CNO for the day?



"I would grant everyone Navy-wide an all day Sports Day."

**CM3 Randall Guthrie**  
NMCB 1  
Hometown: Kim, Colo.



"I would purchase all new computers and new electronics Navy-wide to make operations smoother.

**YNSN Dominique Murphy**  
NMCB 1  
Hometown: Mt. Vernon, N.Y.



"I would give everyone the day off."

**BUCR Laushane Boone**  
NMCB 1  
Hometown: Freeport, Fla.

## NCBC frames...

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (SW/AW) James Cain

By Builder 3rd Class (SCW) Cassandra Secher

FF: What single experience during your career stands out the most? Why?

IT2: Being stationed at Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tenn. Working at NPC gave me the opportunity to see how decisions are made in the Navy. I saw the order writing process, worked on BUPERS Access, BUPERS Online, and JASS. It was just a great experience that I was able to be a part of at that time in my career.

FF: What has been your biggest motivation throughout your career?

IT2: My family. My mother, seeing her smile; my father before he passed last year, knowing that he knew I was working hard to take care



of my family. That I had become that man that he and my mother had raised me to be. My wife and children, even when I am tired and frustrated, I think about them and that keeps me going.

FF: What advice would you give to future Seabees/Sailors?

IT2: Keep God first. Stay true



to yourself, know who you are and never settle. Make a decision and stick with it.

FF: What is your favorite part about being/working with the Seabees? Why?

IT2: I have been on numerous ships, squadrons and worked at NPC. And now working with the Seabees, I have worked

with every part of the Navy.

FF: Who was your most influential mentor during your career? Why?

IT2: Senior Chief Information Systems Technician Perry from my first command, USS Spruance. She pushed me to do my best and under her I excelled from being a timid young Sailor to being the #1 Radioman tech controller on the Spruance.

Need a new ID Card or an update to Deers? Don't wait in line. Get in and out fast by scheduling an appointment at <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil>

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## Chapel Corner



### **Seabee Food Pantry:**

Non perishable items please.

Donation drop off points are:

Navy Exchange, Chapel, Commissary, Fleet and Family Support Center and Armed Forces Retirement Home.

### **Praise and Worship**

**Team:** Come out Sunday to see the newly formed Praise and Worship Team perform contemporary Christian music at the 10:30 a.m. Protestant service.

**Group 4:12:** A young adult group for military members, every Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Fellow Hall of Seabee Memorial Chapel.

### **Marriage Enrichment**

**Retreat:** May 6 - 7, Seabee Memorial Chapel

### **Vacation Bible School:**

June 13 - 17, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Looking for volunteers to help with VBS.

### **Catfish Fridays for**

**Lent:** Every Friday, March 11 - April 15, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. \$7 per plate. Delivery - 228-342-1087

### **Easter Revival:**

April 21: Chapel lawn, 6 p.m.

April 22: Chapel lawn, 6 p.m.

April 23: Childrens Easter egg hunt at 3 p.m.; Revival Chapel, 3:30 p.m.; Free BBQ dinner after Revival

April 24: Easter Sunrise Service, Seabee Lake, 6:30 a.m.

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## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

A time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families. Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will provide Free Family Portraits to "Construct Memories for Our Children" - April 27, 9 - 11 a.m. and 2 - 5 p.m., "First Come, First Served", FFSC, building 30. Call the FFSC at 228-871-3000 for more information.

**Starbase Atlantis Summer Program** - Are your children between the ages of 9 and 12? Are you looking for something fun for them to do this summer? Sign them up for a week at SBA camp. Each session is 5 days long, runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily and is FREE. This DOD-sponsored hands-on opportunity for discovery in science, technology, engineering and math fills up fast, so send in your application fast! Call 228-871-3735/3469 for more information or go to

[https://www.cnic.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/@pub/@southe/@gulfport/documents/document/cnicp\\_a198259.pdf](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/@pub/@southe/@gulfport/documents/document/cnicp_a198259.pdf) for an application.



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From FORCE page 1

chief of civil engineers, welcomed the new force master chief while recognizing the former's outstanding work.

"The Seabees have always been blessed with special leaders, and Force Holdcraft was absolutely the right leader at the right time. He led lasting improvements to how we support, train and develop our Seabee community," said Mossey. "As we reflect upon his extraordinary achievements over the past three years, we are very fortunate to have another gifted leader pick up the baton and carry it forward. Master Chief Dickey is exactly the right person to build upon Force Holdcraft's accomplishments and the Seabee community's support to the Navy."

Holdcraft, who retired after 32 years of honorable service, became Force Master Chief of the Seabees in April 2008, after serving as the command master chief for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, Amphibious Construction Battalion Two, and the 30th Naval Construction Regiment.

For more news from Naval Facilities Engineering Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/navfachq/](http://www.navy.mil/local/navfachq/).

**Community Relations Requests . . .** ALL community relations support requests must come through the NCBC Public Affairs Officer. This includes requests for volunteers, color guard, speakers, 'Bee float appearances and special activities. This is to help ensure the requests are in the best interest of the Navy and best utilize taxpayer assets. All requests for equipment and vehicles will be scrutinized and are subject to the approval process. A volunteer request form can be found on the base website at: [www.cnic/navy.mil/gulfport](http://www.cnic/navy.mil/gulfport). For more information, please call Rob Mims, NCBC Public Affairs Officer at 228-871-2699.

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# DOD launches new hotline to help victims of sexual assault

From DOD Public Affairs

The Department of Defense launched its newest initiative to support victims of sexual assault April 15.

Using DoD Safe Helpline, service members can “click, call or text” for victim support services for themselves or others. The free, anonymous and confidential resource can be accessed worldwide.

In addition to improving victim care, secure and confidential access to Safe Helpline was developed to encourage victims to come forward when they might not otherwise.

“The underreporting of sexual assault poses a serious challenge to military readiness,” said Clifford L.

Stanley, under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. “We believe the Safe Helpline will provide DoD sexual assault victims with a variety of support outlets, which will lead victims to report sexual assault, seek needed information, and receive care.”

Safe Helpline offers three access options designed for service members:

Users can log on to <http://www.SafeHelpline.org> to receive live, one-on-one confidential help with a trained professional through a secure instant-messaging format. The website also provides vital information about recovering from and reporting sexual assault.

A second option is to call the telephone hotline at 877-995-5247 to speak with Safe Helpline staff for personalized advice and support. Safe Helpline staff can also transfer callers to installation-based sexual assault response coordinators (SARC), on-call victim advocates, civilian rape crisis centers, or to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The third option is for users to text their location to 55247 inside the United States or 202-470-5546 outside of the United States to receive automated contact information for the SARC at their installation or base.

Further information on Safe Helpline can be found on <http://www.SafeHelpline.org> or at <http://www.sapr.mil>.

## 'Bee in the Know . . .

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

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Liberty Center  
228-871-4684

Join us as the Liberty bus travels to the Crawfish Festival at the Miss. Coast Coliseum April 23 and 24. The trip will be departing Liberty at noon and there is a \$10 cover once you get there so don't forget some cash. We'll also be going indoor rock climbing at Slidell Rocks April 28. The FREE shuttle departs at 5:15 p.m. and it only costs \$12 when you get there! If you're ready for a night out in Gulfport, Liberty has your solution! The off base movie shuttle will be headed to the Cinema Theatre April 29 at 6 p.m. (It's FREE). If you'd rather just go shop, the Liberty bus is going to the Gulfport Premium Outlets May 2 at 6 p.m., it'll take you for FREE, just sign up in Liberty to reserve a spot!

If you prefer activities on base, Liberty has some options for you. April 26 is our Movie on the Lawn which begins at dusk - be sure to bring your own blankets. Our Cinco De Mayo Fiesta will begin at 6 p.m. in the Liberty Center. There will be different Mexican dishes for tasting, a variety of different salsas, margaritas and strawberry daiquiris (virgin), and a jalapeno eating contest! Come in and have some fun!

Let's not forget about our tournaments! April 25 is our Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament at 6 p.m. and April 27 is our FIFA Soccer Tournament at 6 p.m. as well. All tournaments are free to enter and have prizes for the winners!

Information, Tickets, and Tours  
(ITT) 228-871-2231

Travel to the New Orleans Zoo April 30

from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Ticket and transportation costs are \$23.50 for Adults and \$19 for Children (2-12 years old). The last day to sign up is April 25, with a 10 person minimum.

New Orleans Senior Special! Come and experience the Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Zoo, IMAX theatre or all three at discounted rates for seniors age 65 and older.

Discover the ultimate Rock 'N' Roll experience at Graceland May 28-30. The full Graceland experience will take you from Elvis' humble beginnings through his rise to superstardom. Last day to sign up is May 20. Minimum of 10 people needed.

New Orleans School of Cooking May 14, from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Come learn how to cook authentic food "Nawlins" style at the New Orleans School of Cooking. You will learn how to cook shrimp and artichoke soup, crawfish etouffee, and pralines. \$33.50/person. Sign up by May 6. Minimum of 10 people.

Auto Hobby Shop  
228-871-2804

The Auto Skills Center now has a new diagnostic machine to help trouble shoot your vehicle, just stop by every Tuesday through Thursday between noon and 4 p.m. Let us check your vehicle before you take it to your mechanic. It may be something simple you can repair yourself and save money. Beginning May 2, there will be \$15 charge for the diagnostic scanner. Seabee Recreation Park  
228-871-2127

Located at Seabee Rec. Park is a large covered kid friendly playground area, basketball court, sand volley ball court, four

practice golf holes, chipping and putting green, driving range, paintball field, soccer/football field, walking trail, batting cage, dog park, and most importantly Seabee Lake with paddle boats.

Anchors and Eagles  
228-871-4750

Attention all Chiefs! A&E sponsors a Right Hand Man Social the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. So, grab your Right Hand and come on down for light snacks and a good time. Regular social every Thursday 3:30 p.m. with light snacks.

Beehive Lounge  
871-4009

Looking for a place for a Dart League? The Beehive has three new dart boards, new darts and can reserve the dart room for your league needs. A DJ will be onsite May 7 from 7-11 p.m.

There will be more live music with a band May 14 at 7 p.m. Stay tuned for more information.

The Grill 228-871-2494

There are only a few more days left to try our special of the month - the Specialty Sausages! Smoked Sausage with fries for only \$4.25. Top it with peppers/onions, mustard/ketchup, chili, bbq, or wrapped in bacon.

Fitness Center  
228-871-2668

Stop by the Fitness Center in May to pick up a NEW group fitness class schedule with new classes such as 30 Minute Pump and Pilates. Since you love Zumba so much we have added a lunchtime class.

Sign up today for Lifeguard Training Class (American Red Cross Certification) coming May 18-May 24. \$150/person and a 6-person minimum for this class to be held. To register please call Alex at 228-822-5103.

Power Lifting Contest will take place on June 18. There will be 3 weight classes for males, females, and teens. The contest will consist of three lifts for the Bench Press, Squat, and Deadlift. For more details and proper technique contact Michael



at 228-822-5108. Sign ups begin May 18. Intramural Sports  
228-822-5109

Intramural 5K will be held May 20 at 6:30 a.m. Captains Cup Points will be awarded for Active Duty (anyone can run, but only Commands will get Captain's Cup Points). Call Michael for more information at 228-822-5108.

Co-Ed IM Softball League sign-ups are May 2-May 13. Season starts May through the end of June or early July. Open to all Active Duty, DoD Employees and Retirees. The number of games played will be determined by the numbers of teams that sign up. Max players per team are 15; Captain's Cups will be awarded.

Outdoor Recreation  
228-871-2127

There is still time to take advantage of the April Camping Special at ODR. Get a 20 X 10 tent, up to 4 sleeping bags, 2 lanterns, and a camping grill all for only \$15/day or \$25/weekend.

ODR's May Special: Rent a Jon-boat and get a 40 qt. cooler plus two rods and reels at no charge.

We are taking the charter fishing trip of a lifetime. Join us as we go to Cocodrie, La., for the weekend of May 14-15. The fish camp feeds you breakfast, lunch, and dinner plus snacks while fishing. Lodging is included plus all your bait, rods, reels, fishing license and cleaning of the catch. You must sign up by May 1 to reserve your spot. You won't be disappointed!

Take a sunset cruise aboard our pontoon boat Thursday, May 12 at 6:30 p.m. Bring your own beverages and we will do the rest. Reserve your seat by May 9.

May is here and the sun is shining bright. It's time to hit the water parks. We are headed to Waterville USA in Foley, Ala., May 22. The price is \$38 for adults and only \$28 if you are less than 42" tall. Last day to get your seat is May 15.

The rodeo is here. Jackson County Sheriff's Rodeo is free for children under 6, \$10 for children 6-12 and only \$15 for adults. Sign up by May 15 to go check it out with

Outdoor Rec. Seats will go fast, don't miss this buckin' good time!

Play Paintball for only \$10/person and get 500 balls. The new bunkers are in place and we have brand new guns so come on over and check it out. Reserve your time now!

Call ODR for information on all of the activities at 228-871-2127.

Youth Activities Center  
228-871-2251

Movie Nights on the Big Screen are April 22 and April 29 from 6-9 p.m. Youth and Teens - Are you looking for somewhere to go on Friday nights? Then this is the place for you. New movies, with friends, and snacks for only \$2. Limited to 50 spaces each Friday.

Aquafina Pitch, Hit, and Run Event April 27, from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - FREE. Designed to encourage youth participation and emphasize the "fun" element of baseball. Prizes will be awarded to all participants.

Youth age 12 and up Golden Gate Skateland trip April 30 from 5:30-11:30 p.m. Calling all skaters! If you don't have skates, don't worry; we will rent them for you. Please remember to bring socks and money for the snack bar. Only \$6/person and limited to 30 youths/teens.

Children ages 12 and under are invited to attend the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the West Ball Field (located near the Fitness Center) April 23 from 10 a.m. - noon.

Many games, activities, and prize giveaways are planned, so don't miss out. Free Easter bags will be provided to all.

The Teen Center  
228-871-2251

The Teen Adventure Summer Camp program will run approximately 11-weeks beginning May 23 and tentatively ending Aug. 5. Teen Adventure Summer Camp will provide a variety of traditional and non-traditional camp activities. Weekly camp activities will include group games, arts and crafts, swimming, field trips, and special activities for 13-17 year old participants. Register in person or call .

## Movie Ticket

Training Hall Theater, Movie Hotline 228-871-3299

April 21, The Kings Speech, R, 6:30 p.m.

April 22, Little Fockers, PG13, 6 p.m.; Tron Legacy, PG, 8 p.m.

April 23, Yogi Bear, PG, 11:30 a.m.; Season of the Witch, PG13, 1:30 p.m.; True Grit, PG13, 3:30 p.m.; The Kings Speech, R, 6:30 p.m.

April 24, Tangled, PG, 11:30 a.m.; Chronicles of Narnia: Dawn Treader, PG, 1:30 p.m.; Yogi Bear, PG, 3:30 p.m.; 127 Hours, R, 6:30 p.m.

April 25, Black Swan, R, 6:30 p.m.

April 26, Little Fockers, PG13, 6:30 p.m.

April 27, Tron Legacy, PG, 6:30 p.m.

April 28, The Kings Speech, R, 6:30 p.m.

April 29, Country Strong, PG13, 6 p.m.; Season of the Witch, PG13, 8 p.m.

April 30, Yogi Bear, PG, 11:30 a.m.; Chronicles of Narnia: Dawn Treader, PG, 1:30 p.m.; Harry Potter Deathly Hallows Part 1, PG13, 3:30 p.m.; The Kings Speech, R, 6:30 p.m. May 1, Yogi Bear, PG, 11:30 a.m.; Tangled, PG, 1:30 p.m.; Tron Legacy, PG, 3:30 p.m.; The Green Hornet, PG, 6:30 p.m.

May 2, No Strings Attached, R, 6:30 p.m.

May 3, Sanctum, R, 6:30 p.m.

May 4, The Dilemma, PG, 6:30 p.m.

May 5, The Mechanic, R, 6:30 p.m.

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

# UCT-1 rebuilds Liberia from the seafloor up

By IT3 Orin Shulte and  
CM2 (SCW/DV) Tory Madsen  
UCT-1 Public Affairs

*"We have been asked by our task force to deploy to the West coast of Africa and construct a boat ramp and floating pier for the Liberian coast guard, developing overall international relationships between the Liberian government and the United States. We have a lot of hard, technical work ahead of us. Much of your time and effort has gone into getting us this far. This is will be the crown jewel of our deployment so let's finish strong."*

As the words of Chief Steelworker (SCW/DV) Daniel Lowry resonated through the warehouse on Camp Mitchell, Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1, Construction Dive Detachment (CDD) Charlie prepared to embark on their final construction job for their deployment cycle. They had already had a successful deployment completing international divers training in Odessa, Ukraine, constructing a floating pier for the Cameroon Rapid Intervention Battalion, and restoring port security barrier sections for the Royal Spanish Navy in Rota, Spain. Now, constructing the boat ramp and floating pier for the developing Liberian Coast Guard would be the culmination of the Seabee divers' six-month deployment. With pinpoint focus and unwavering determination, the first chalk of Seabee divers made the transit to the air terminal, loaded their gear, and set off for Monrovia, Liberia.

For the developing Liberian gov-

ernment, the construction of a floating pier and small watercraft boat ramp would play a critical role in combating narcotics trafficking and terrorism. Liberia's burgeoning Coast Guard has no current operational port to conduct training or real world missions to contest these threats. With the installation of the pier and boat ramp the Liberian Coast Guard will be able to provide the security and safety that the country has been working toward since 2003.

Completing the mission in Liberia would be a huge undertaking. Dive Det Charlie would be totally self-sufficient, having the majority of materials and gear flown in on three C-130 chalks from Rota, Spain. The pier materials would be making the voyage via ship across the Atlantic from UCT 1 headquarters based in Joint Expeditionary Base - Little Creek. The pier materials were scheduled to arrive a week and a half after the project started. Having no support from any adjacent units operating in country, all the construction, diving, mechanical operations and maintenance, excavating, and surveying would rest solely on CDD/Charlie.

After touching down at the air terminal, work began instantaneously. Gear was unloaded and then transported to the Liberian Coast Guard Freeport Station where Dive Det Charlie began the initial preparations for project material storage.

Several CONNEX boxes had to be moved to support UCT 1's future diving operations near the water.



**Liberians and Americans tour the new floating pier constructed by Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 Det Charlie just after the ribbon cutting ceremony.** (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Engineering Aide (SCW/DV) Christopher Munch/Released)

The recompression chamber was assembled in one of the CONNEX boxes and the MK-3 surface supplied diving system was placed directly in front of the chamber. The setup gave the Seabee divers an optimum work environment. The Seabee divers would be suited up and hatted right on the beach where they would walk directly to the pier project site to complete their underwater cutting and welding objectives.

Sitting on dive station, staring at the murky waters of the African Atlantic, the Seabees submerged themselves beneath the sea and began the initial execution of the pier project. They began jetting and scrubbing operations to prepare the piles for cutting. While the Seabees worked relentlessly underneath the surface, members from CDD/Charlie tackled the prefabrication of the Geoweb® which would form the concrete boat ramp.

Having already started on underwater cutting and welding operations and construction of the boat ramp, piecing together the pier sections would be one of the last major obstacles for the Det. Piece by piece, bolt by bolt, pontoon by pontoon, the six sections of the pier were constructed. The sections were then finished with a wooden deck and placed on the beach in preparation

for install.

Each morning as the African sun began to gaze across the horizon, development on the project was more than noticeable. Within a week all the pier sections were splashed into the water and connected between their hinge plates, all piles had been cut and were awaiting friction collars, and concrete pouring had begun with the boat ramp. Using pumps to pour the concrete became a tiresome and strenuous ordeal for the Dive Det CHARLIE mainly due to the hose becoming compacted with aggregate. Requiring several replacement parts and a lot of ingenuity the boat ramp was constructed over several days. The ocean tides were another hindrance to completion. Washout was a daily occurrence forcing the crew to due daily inspections of the boat ramp. Finally two days before the ribbon cutting ceremony, the concrete lay solid on the bottom of the seafloor.

Now that all major construction was accomplished, a gangway had to be mounted and Sea-Flex anchors installed from the mooring tubes to the friction collars. The forklift contractors were utilized to lower the gangway into place and mount it from the quay wall to the deck of the pier sections. The process was swift and unobstructed, taking less

than a day. The installation of the Sea-Flex anchors was another story. Taking a few days to eye splice the line being used and attaching the anchors to the friction collars, the pier was finally secured and the project completed.

The efforts of many days of intensive labor and countless dives, plus fabrication, construction had finally come to completion. At the ribbon cutting ceremony the Liberian Minister of Defense, the Liberian Coast Guard, and the US Embassy commended CDD/Charlie on the exceptional achievement that they had accomplished in such a short time.

U.S. Ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield explained, "I would like to thank you for the work you accomplished in completing the pier and boat ramp for the Liberian Coast Guard, said Thomas-Greenfield. The completion of this project is a major contribution to the goals of this mission which is to help Liberia rebuild after more than 15 years of conflict." "More important than the completion of this project is the manner in which you accomplished the job. It is always difficult to take over a project in its final stages but you handled the job with professionalism, pragmatism, and perseverance, solving seemingly in-



**Members of the Liberian Coast Guard help Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 1 Det Charlie move the Geoweb into place during construction of floating pier and boat ramp.** (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Engineering Aide (SCW/DV) Christopher Munch/Released)

# NMCB 28 wraps up Southern Partnership Station 2011



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 28 offload their equipment from High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) following a five-month deployment in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS) 2011. SPS is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean and Latin America involving information sharing with navies, coast guards and civilian services throughout the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeffery Tilghman Williams/Released)

# NMCB 133 Seabees help those left behind

By Lt. Duc Huy T. Nguyen and  
Lt. Nathan V. Chenarak  
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Sasebo and Yokosuka details constructed animal shelters in support of Operation Tomodachi this March.

The Seabees constructed the animal shelters to house pets left behind by dependents who were unable to take them during the evacuation from Honshu Island after the March 11<sup>th</sup> 8.9 magnitude earthquake near Sendai, Japan.

The earthquake caused a tsunami that damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, located in the town of Ōkuma, Fukushima, Japan, causing its nuclear reactors to release radioactive contamination to immediate areas, posing a threat to surrounding cities including Yokosuka, Japan.

Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka (CFAY) initiated its Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) plan to include the execution of the volunteered departure initiative for all U.S. dependents. Detail Yokosuka Seabees were tasked as standby Bus Captains in case of a mandatory evacuation of all mission critical personnel was needed.

As the number of dependents leaving the country for safe havens back in the U.S. continued to rise, so did the number of abandoned pets. Strict airline regulations regarding the number of pets passengers are allowed to carry on board forced many distressed passengers to leave their pets behind.

NMCB 133 Detail Yokosuka was tasked to convert a section of a warehouse into a Pet Overflow Relocation

Center in support of Operation Tomodachi in order to solve the pet housing issue. The Seabees configured eight cabinets for use as kennels, relocated eight existing kennels to the new centralized location, and renovated an existing warehouse.

Fortunately, an emergency evacuation of all personnel was not needed as the nuclear situation began to stabilize.

I'm glad the installation cares about people's pets. I have a dog that is like a family member back home," said Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Daniel McCluskey, from NMCB 133. Det. Sasebo also has a warm heart for animals and they take care of a dog named Zoey who's their mascot.

Detail Yokosuka's primary mission is to conduct operations in support of Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka by performing specific construction tasking and training. The base's overall mission is to maintain and operate base facilities for the logistic, recreational, administrative support, and service of U.S. Naval Forces Japan, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet and other operating forces forward-deployed in the Western Pacific.

In response to installation readiness, NMCB 133's Detail Sasebo was tasked by Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo (CFAS) to construct temporary animal kennels next to the veterinary clinic in support of Operation Tomodachi. In the event that the CFAS Veterinary Clinic reached capacity, seven large dog kennels and twelve small animal cages were constructed to house potential evacuees' pets. This task was completed in two days and assisted the base with its proactive planning to support an influx of military and dependent evacuees.

Details Sasebo and Yokosuka arrived in Japan in early March, successfully relieving Details from NMCB 11



Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jeremy Evans from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Detail Yokosuka uses a drill to assemble pet kennels for a pet shelter aboard Commander, Fleet Activates Yokosuka (CFAY). The kennels will support Navy families' pets who are left behind during "Operation Pacific Passage," the Department of Defense mission to provide support for the voluntary relocation of dependents from designated areas in Japan. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Jamal Redding/Released.)

after their 10-month deployment to the Pacific Command Theater of Operation. Details Sasebo and Yokosuka continue to execute their assigned construction tasking and are on standby to provide additional general engineering support to CFAS and CFAY and their tenant commands, as well as any future support required for Operation Tomodachi.

April 21, 2011

Seabee Courier

## On-line skills program helps Sailors, families, DON civilians with college, career changes

**By Ed Barker**  
NETC Public Affairs

The Navy's Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) logged its 10,000th Navy user April 12, less than one year since transitioning to a solely Web-based program.

"Sailors looking at a change of rating should start with their Command Career Counselor," said Master Chief Navy Career Counselor (SW/SCW/AW) Tod Shuls, Naval Education and Training Command force retention program manager. "The OASC is one of the tools that we can use to get Sailors where they need to be career-wise, and counselors review and track individual progress and verify completion of the program."

The OASC is a self-paced academic skills improvement program that evaluates an individual's reading level, vocabulary, and math ability. The program then designs customized individual lessons to increase proficiency in each of these academic areas.

Participants start by taking a pre-test to establish their areas that need improvement. After each module completion, a post-test is given to determine improvement. Participants can choose the length and depth of the courses based on needs and time available, including an abbreviated review with shortened lessons.

"The OASC helped me not only increase my ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) score by nearly 20 points, but also helped me prepare for college

placement exams," said Ship's Serviceman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Ashlei Alexander, assistant to the Career Counselor at Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. "I'll be using the OASC again soon for a college math test I'm about to take."

The program gives Sailors 24-hour world-wide access to OASC from any computer with an internet connection. Each lesson is supported by interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, and videogame-style, multiple choice or dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets help students gauge how well they are mastering the material.

"The OASC is accepted as one of the qualifiers that Sailors must have to retake the ASVAB," said Tom Smith, enlisted education coordinator for the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). "One justification choice is showing that they have improved their educational and academic skills since their initial test, and the OASC online courses are accepted as demonstrating positive improvement in education. The test that current active-duty and Reserve service members take to improve their ASVAB score is the AFCT (Armed Forces Classification Test)."

In addition to around-the-clock access from any Internet connection, the OASC is also available to Department of Defense family members and government civilians at no charge.

## National conferences develop outstanding future leaders

**By BUC Jamie Harris**  
NCTC Public Affairs

This year, outstanding students from across the nation took part in a unique leadership development program being held in 35 cities across the country. Themed Courageous Leadership, the National Young Leaders State Conference (NYLSC) helps young scholars take an introspective and highly-personalized assessment of their leadership skills and abilities.

Throughout the four-day program, scholars built a working "tool kit" of strategies to help them successfully dream, create, and implement plans that will change how they view their role as leaders in their communities.

"The steps each person takes in discovering their own leadership strengths can be a very personal process," said Marguerite Regan, Dean of Academic Affairs for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors NYLSC. "The National Young

Leaders State Conference will help students get at the heart of their innate talents and skills and will also help them identify how best they can serve within their communities."

The NYLSC curriculum focuses on an introspective and highly-personalized assessment of each student's leadership skills and abilities. The scholars will be challenged to step forward in a manner that is decisive and confident, to grasp the concepts of leadership that will be taught and to act upon their dreams of making a difference in the world while maintaining the courage of their convictions.

The Congressional Youth Leadership Council is a non-partisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, CYLC is committed to fostering and inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential. To date, members of the U.S. Congress have joined this commitment by serving on the CYLC Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. In



**Bradley Harris, son of Chief Builder Jamie and Mrs. and Harris, attended the National Young Leaders State Conference March 17 - 20. Bradley's father is an instructor stationed with Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC).** (Submitted photo)

addition, more than 50 embassies participate in the CYLC's Honorary Board of Embassies. For additional information, visit us at [www.cylc.org](http://www.cylc.org).

**HRSC SE Course Offerings . . .** Human Resources Service Center Southeast is sponsoring the following courses for civilian and military employees on board NCBC: Total Financial Wellness, May 24-25, \$269; Customer Service, June 14, \$132; Writing Skills Workshop, June 15, \$135; English Grammar Review, June 16, \$132; and Federal Appropriations Law, June 27 - 30, \$635. For a list of courses available in the Southeast Region, go to: <http://www.public.navy.mil/donhr/hroffices/southeast/Pages/Training.aspx>. Point of contact for more information is Lucy Galster DSN 868-2641 or commercial 228-871-2641.

**Coastline Community College Summer Term . . .** Registration is happening now through May 18 for the summer term of Coastline Community College which runs from June 13 - Aug. 7. Stop by the Navy College Office, building 60, room 239 or call Dr. David Drye at 228-871-3439 or e-mail [DDRYE@COASTLINE.EDU](mailto:DDRYE@COASTLINE.EDU) for additional information.

NCBC School Liaison Officer is located at Building 352, and may be contacted at (228) 871-2117 or [kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil](mailto:kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil)

# Navy's PA training ranked as one of nation's best

By Larry Coffey  
NMSC PAO

The Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) training program in San Antonio where Navy PAs train will be listed April 5 by U.S. News and World Reports as the 13<sup>th</sup> best PA program among more than 140 PA graduate schools in the nation.

A story in the 2012 special edition of U.S. News and World Reports Best Graduate Schools will appear on newsstands, announcing that IPAP based at Fort Sam Houston was chosen in a three-way tie with Northeastern University in Boston and Stony Brook University - SUNY in Stony Brook. The selection was based on peer assessment surveys within the PA discipline and can be viewed now at [http://gradschools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-](http://gradschools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-health-schools/physician-assistant-rankings)

graduate-schools/top-health-schools/physician-assistant-rankings.

"I am very proud of our PA training program," said Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin, Navy Medicine Support Command commander and the Navy's Medical Service Corps director, which includes PAs. "Our physician assistants are charged with the care of our most important resources in the Navy and Marine Corps - our people. So, it is essential that we provide the best training possible. Our joint training program at Fort Sam Houston accomplishes this in part by combining the best of the military services."

The quad-service IPAP is taught by Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard instructors, and is comprised of students from those services and the Marine Corps. Phase I

of IPAP is a grueling 67-week course of academic training at Fort Sam Houston. Officer candidates are provided 2,640 contact hours of medical education and must successfully complete 95 written examinations and six lab practical exams.

Navy and Marine Corps students complete Phase II together, which consists of 13 clinical rotations at Naval Medical Center, San Diego, and at private facilities in the San Diego area.

During 55 weeks of training, students have 2,810 hours of clinical rotations, direct patient care, research work and classroom study, said Lt. Cmdr. Ron Perry of the Health Care Interservice Training Office and an IPAP instructor from 2006 to early 2011. Students also submit a master's thesis to the University of Nebraska.

The students graduate with master's degrees in PA studies from the University of Nebraska, which was ranked number 16 by U.S. News and World Reports. The students are commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy's Medical Service Corps, Perry said.

"The IPAP is the world's largest PA program, graduating approximately 225 PAs annually, while maintaining the high-quality reputation for which it has become known, Perry said.

"All program graduates are well-prepared to provide high-quality patient care in a wide variety of settings like inpatient, outpatient, primary and surgical care," Perry said. "They provide this care both in the U.S. and abroad."

The top five PA programs were Duke University at num-

ber one, University of Iowa and University of Utah tied at number two, and Emory University in Atlanta and George Washington University in Washington, DC, tied at number four. All rankings were based solely on peer-assessment surveys sent to deans, other administrators, and/or faculty at accredited degree programs or schools in each discipline, Robert Morse reported. Respondents rated the academic quality of programs on a 5-point scale: outstanding (5), strong (4), good (3), adequate (2), or marginal (1). IPAP was rated 3.7.

Our mission is to provide the uniformed services highly competent, compassionate PAs," Perry said. "We are committed to training PAs who model integrity, strive for leadership excellence, and are committed to lifelong learning."

## DoD Civilian Retiree Card



Civilian Retiree

www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard

### DoD Civilian Retiree Card Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the purpose of the card?**  
Since many retired DoD civilians have no way of identifying their association with the Department of Defense, this card provides them with a trusted credential to establish their identity and affiliation. Some, but not all, military installations allow retired civilians access to MWR facilities with proper identification.

**Who is eligible to receive the card?**  
Civilians who have retired from any DoD Service Component or Agency. Civilian retirees from other Federal agencies are not eligible.

**When can I get this card?**  
When you are in receipt of your DoD retirement pay.

**Where can I go to get the card?**  
Contact your nearest RAPIDS site ([www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home)). Customer service hours vary.

**What do I need to bring with me?**  
Two forms of ID from the OMB I-9 document list. One must be a federal or state issued picture ID. Visit [www.form9.com](http://www.form9.com) for more information. Also bring proof of pay grade at retirement.

**Does the card expire?**  
Yes. It is renewable every four years.

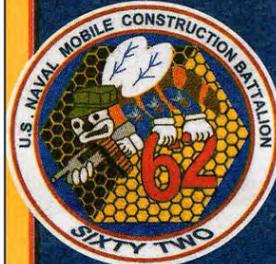
**If I already have a retiree card from my DoD Service Component or Agency, do I need this card?**  
No. It does not convey any additional privileges.

**Is this card optional?**  
Yes. This is an optional card that can be issued for civilian retirees that use base MWR facilities.

The installation commander retains the authority to restrict access to MWR facilities for reasons such as local demand, facility capacity, and security concerns.

**Who may I contact if my retirement record does not show in DEERS?**  
You may contact the Civilian Benefits Information Line by email at [benefits@cpms.osd.mil](mailto:benefits@cpms.osd.mil) or by phone at (703) 696-6301.

For more information regarding the DoD Civilian Retiree card, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/smartcard)



MCB 62

<http://nmcb62.alumni.org>

April 21, 2011

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Seabee Courier

**Postal Note . . .** The Contract Post Office will be closed April 22, due to floor maintenance. The Official Mail Center will close at 11 a.m., all outgoing mail will secure at 10 a.m. The Contract Post Office will open for normal operational hours April 23.

19

## Volunteers Needed

**Pass Christian Boys and Girls Club** - Six volunteers are needed to fix a pool table leg and assemble an air hockey table at the PC Boys and Girls Club. Call Leah at 228-326-5643 for more info.

**Roof and Stair Repair** - A resident of Ocean Springs is asking for assistance to make repairs to her roof. If you can help, please call Shirley at 228-875-4700 or 228-217-2034.

**Building project** - Volunteers are needed to help construct a covered area for wheel chair ramp and covered area for RV for a disabled couple in Saucier. Please contact Gail Preston at 228-209-0503 or email her at crazygailtoo@cableone.net

**Renewing our Rivers** - Volunteers are needed for a cleanup event at Ansley Preserve in South Hancock County April 29. The area is part the Department of Marine Resources Coastal Preserves and was impacted tremendously by debris during Hurricane Katrina. We can use up to 60 additional personnel to assist the other volunteers in relaying the debris out to the dumpsters. We will also be cleaning up debris by hand that will not require cutting up. We will be supported by several "Marsh Buggies" with cranes and will be rigging larger items for removal as well. For more information, call BU2 Resendez at 228-547-2536 or EO1 Pojcky at 228-493-6169 to sign up. Transportation, lunch, bug spray and sun screen provided!

**North Gulfport, Grade 8 Test Proctors** - May 3 and May 10 - 12 from 7:10 a.m. - noon. A continental

breakfast will be served. All proctors must attend testing security training even if they have volunteered as proctors previously. If interested, contact Emie Bankston, 228-864-8944 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., or call 228-297-5549 after hours, or send an email to ebankston@harrison.k12.ms.us

**Orange Grove Elementary** needs 30 people to serve as test proctors, May 10 - 12 from 7:15 a.m. - noon. Contact Stephanie Schepens, 228-832-2322 or 228-365-0204 or e-mail sschepens@harrison.k12.ms.us for more information.

**A STORM is Coming** - There is a battle brewing as a storm is coming May 21 and 15 athletic SEABEES are needed to be the "Hurricane." Battlestorm is a game being played to teach boys and girls about disaster preparedness and hurricanes. This is a month long commitment. The team will receive professional training on how to play the game. To volunteer, please contact Rob Mims at 228-871-2699 or Robert.c.mims@navy.mil. Go to [www.battlestormgame.org](http://www.battlestormgame.org) to learn more.

**8th Annual Smokin' the Sound & Smokin' the Lake** - Volunteers are needed May 12 - 15 to assist with Smokin' the Sound at Point Cadet in Biloxi and Smokin' the Lake, May 21-22 at the Dock Bar and Grill on Seaway Road. Duties include selling wrist bands and directing spectators to viewing areas. Various shifts are available and lunch will be provided. For more information, checkout [www.smokinthesound.com](http://www.smokinthesound.com); to volunteer call NCBC Public Affairs, 228-871-3664.

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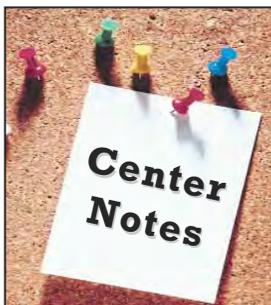
## April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month . . .

The age group with the greatest proportion of distracted drivers was the under-20 age group - 16 percent of all drivers younger than 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. (NHTSA). Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves.) Using a cell phone use while driving, whether it's hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of .08 percent. (Source: University of Utah)

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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 Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the NCBC chapel. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided for children four and under. Please contact FRG President Dawn MacKenzie at 850-748-6242 or Vice President Laura Linder at 402-369-4090 for more information.

**NMCB 11 FRG** For more information regarding the NMCB 11 FRG, please visit the FRG and Ombudsman website at <http://nmcb11.webs.com>.

**NMCB 74 FRG** All families and friends of NMCB 74 are invited to the 74 FRG meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month at the MWR Youth Activities Center, Bldg. 335 off Bainbridge Ave. behind the Grinder on CBC base. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share at our potluck dinner. Children are welcome and child care is provided during deployment. For more information regarding the NMCB 74 FRG please email [nmcb74fsg@yahoo.com](mailto:nmcb74fsg@yahoo.com). Check out the 74 FRG website at <http://nmcb74fsg.zymichost.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 sit-

ting 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 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. For more information call 228-832-0017.

### **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 first Thursday of each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Joe Scott (Secretary) at 228-669-8335 or [elevenoaks58@cableone.net](mailto:elevenoaks58@cableone.net) or log onto [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org) for an application.

### **HERITAGE**

The Seabee Gift Store is located in the Seabee Heritage Center Training Hall, building 446 and is 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.

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## Homefront in Focus: FRG Makeover?

By **Beth Wilson**

**Military Spouse Contributor**

FRG or Family Readiness Groups, every deploying command has one. They are an organization authorized by the command and DoD installations. Members are typically spouses but can include parents, siblings, grandparents, adult children and significant others. FRGs plan and host social, informational and morale building activities to support family readiness. And FRGs suffer from chronic lack of participation. Why?

It may be time for a Ty Pennington-style extreme makeover. I know the FRG is a sacred Navy institution but, hear me out. Have you been frustrated by the very real challenges of the FRG? In my years as a Navy spouse I have yet to be part of an FRG that wasn't wrought with drama, gossip and even downright cruelty. Deployment is a challenging time for all, the Sailor, the spouse and the children. Stress can bring out the best in us . . . or the worse.

There are other issues with the current FRG structure. Spouses without children can feel 'left out,' that the FRG is for those with children resulting in events structured around children. The FRG can further accentuate 'drawbacks' of the rank structure. While we hold no rank our Sailor's rank seems to define our place in the social setting of the Navy. Chief's spouses have their group, officer spouses have their club and the FRG seems to be junior enlisted and chief spouses. A Sailor's shared rank does not ensure friendship.

What about spouses new to an installation but not part of a deploying command? It is very rare for a non-deploying command to have an active FRG. So a newly relocated spouse, living off base, can feel very disconnected with limited opportunities to meet other spouses.

Formerly the FRG was a valuable way to stay abreast of command information, resources and readiness and friendship. But today I often hear from my Sailor and Ombudsman. With the internet many resources are at my finger tips.

Friendship . . . how have you developed most of your circle of friends? Is it not from shared interests? Friendships are developed at work, church, and through activities we enjoy. Par-

ticipants in the FRG have one connection point - our Sailor's command. Perhaps that is not the most effective way to foster supportive relationships to enhance our lives as military families.

What if rather than a command-based organization we had base-wide special interest groups? What if we had a Bunko club, a workout club, a scrapbooking club, a book club, a dinner club, a Wii Club, a geo-caching group, a dog-owner's group and the list could go on. Participation would increase because it is an organization that interests us. When women, especially, get together they talk about their lives, challenges, resources, ideas and best practices. It occurs naturally through friendship.

I know the command needs to have informational meetings. Host a quarterly Dessert & Coffee or facsimile to welcome spouses to the command. Host information meetings based on need or quarterly but call them that - informational/preparatory meetings. Develop a command welcome packet and handbook for the SPOUSE (think electronic). Enhance the newsletter; launch a private, member's only site for other information or connection. Call for those interested in serving on a committee to organize kid's events or other events. If there isn't interest and participation then you know it is not considered important to the quality of their lives.

I don't have all the answers but I am aware of an officer spouse club on the west coast that curtailed monthly meetings. In its place they launched interest based groups; Bunko, Photography, Book club and more. Participation skyrocketed. They restructured their board to accommodate the new model and developed an online bulletin for the exchange of information. They now hold only quarterly 'meetings.' I love this model!

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank our amazing FRG leaders, board members and committees that work tirelessly to build a successful FRG. Thank you for all you do.

Is it time for an FRG extreme makeover?

*Chat live with Beth and her team each Tuesday evening on twitter, Facebook and Enlisted Spouse Radio ([www.blogtalkradio.com/nht](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/nht)). Don't miss the fun!*

From BATH page 7

scratch.

The project, Mill-800, Renovate Navy Lake Bath House, valued at \$126,000, began Feb. 22 and should be completed by May 8. Frazer said that even though the rain and some material deliveries had slowed the project a little, the DET expects to complete on schedule.

This project was submitted over a year ago during a Naval Construction Force "Call for Work." Projects

throughout the country were submitted for consideration and then evaluated for training value. The Navy Lake Bath House was chosen from a wide range of projects for scope, skill requirements, training value and ability to execute.

PWD Mid-South, Facilities Management Branch hopes to design and submit future projects which will benefit the installation and the Seabees to improve quality of service to those who work, live and seek recreation on board Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

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

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**Installation Antiterrorism Note . . .** All personnel should be alert and inquisitive about strangers, especially those seen loitering, taking photographs or notes near the installation's perimeter or gate areas. Be suspicious of items that don't belong in the area and be alert for abandoned parcels. All suspicious activity should be reported immediately to Security at (228) 871-2361.

From PIER page 16

surmountable challenges in a difficult working environment while maintaining an upbeat attitude. You are a model to your Liberian colleagues and you have made the United States proud. You have upheld the Seabee 'Can Do' flame and I personally congratulate you on behalf of the entire US Embassy for a job extremely well done."

Over the course of a month a nation's security was

strengthened tenfold. Liberia now possessed the capabilities to efficiently train and play their role in counterterrorism and counter-narcotic trafficking that has plagued its waters for decades. The Liberian Coast Guard has been attacking their training with new fervor and hopes to begin real world missions in the up-coming year. As for Dive Det CHARLIE, they take pride in knowing that they provided a critical puzzle piece for the developing nation's security and that their underwater construction mission was an overall success.

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## A reminder from

### NCBC Safety . . .

Motorcycle Safety Training is mandatory for all Sailors who ride motorcycles. Sign up on line at: <http://www.navymotorcyclerider.com> or call NCBC Safety at (228) 871-4343 if you have questions. In order to improve the skills and knowledge of motorcyclists, it's

**mandatory for all Sailors** who are motorcycle riders to attend motorcycle safety training courses. Courses are available at no cost. There are three types of courses:

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

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

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



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From CLEAN UP page 6

intimately familiar with disaster recovery operations, especially to those of NMCB 133 and other Atlantic-based battalions whose Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss., homeport was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Disaster recovery is a primary mission of the U.S. Naval Construction Force, who train extensively for and excel in contingency operations.

The school's vice principal requested assistance with cleanup efforts to restore the school in time for the student's entrance exams.

Ishinomaki Technical High School was the first of many schools identified by the JGSDF slated to use U.S. forces in cleanup operations. The JGSDF has requested U.S. military assistance in clearing mud and heavy debris from the school grounds of over 40 damaged schools in the Miyagi Prefecture.

One of the benefits of cleanup projects like this is, once schools are re-opened, students return to school and parents are free to return to work, and to contribute more to the recovery of their homes and towns. As children return to school, a sense of normality can be established while progress toward recovery is achieved with a greater sense of hope in the wake of the disaster.

NMCB has provided engineering and disaster-recovery subject matter expertise, and advisement of Naval Construction Force capability during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in the region.

Operation Tomodachi is a joint effort between the combined forces of the U.S. Military and the Japan Self-Defense Force aimed at facilitating recovery efforts in northeastern Japan.

For more news from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, visit [www.navy.mil/local/nmcb133/](http://www.navy.mil/local/nmcb133/).

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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.

Protestant Sunday School, 9 a.m.

*Easter  
Sunrise Service  
will be held at  
6:30 a.m. at  
Seabee Lake*

*(inclement weather site -  
Chapel)*

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