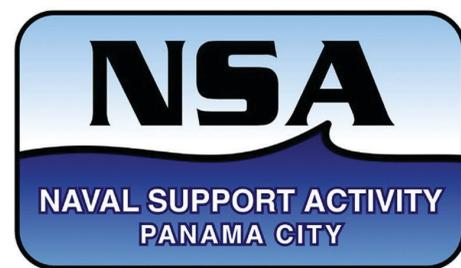


# Coastal COURIER



Vol. 14, No. 13

Naval Support Activity — Panama City, Fla.

July 1, 2005

## Mine Warfare equipment evaluated on HSV-2 Swift

By Dan Broadstreet  
Contributing *Courier* Writer



Photo by JOSN Joseph Moon

While docked at NSA PC, the HSV 2 Swift prepares to get underway to test mine warfare equipment with help from future crewmembers of the USS Freedom and scientific and technical personnel from NSWC PC.

## Coastal Courier survey shows readers want “more”

By Steve Applegate  
NSA Public  
Affairs Officer

More than 250 people responded to the recent readership survey for Coastal Courier, conducted from May 23-June 7, 2005. Results showed that 73 percent of readers strongly agree that the *Courier* provides

accurate information and that 66 percent feel the newspaper provides the information expected from a command publication.

Results indicate that 72 percent of respondents read every issue of the *Courier*, and 90 percent of the respondents are able to get a copy of the paper from their workspace or department. About a third

of respondents indicated they would prefer to receive an electronic version of the paper.

Approximately three quarters of the respondents agree or strongly agree that the newspaper contains information that helps them understand the mission, vision and business strategy of the Navy and commands here at

NSA PC.

The results soundly pointed to the *Coastal Courier* adequately covering technical accomplishments on base, upcoming events and tenant activities. However, some people commented that they would still like to see more local information on

See **SURVEY**, page 5

PANAMA CITY – Designated crewmembers of the first Littoral Combat Ship *USS Freedom*, were aboard the *High Speed Vessel Swift 2* June 23-30 to observe the launch and recovery characteristics of mine warfare-related mission packages and evaluate the ship’s interchangeable mission-module capabilities.

According to the *Swift’s* Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. William Ketcham, the *Swift* is a high-speed multi-mission experimentation platform and is often used to evaluate future Navy ship designs and capabilities, such as those currently being developed for the first Littoral Combat Ship, the *Freedom*.

“It’s an amazingly user-friendly and a wonderfully handling ship,” said Ketcham. “The Navy has leveraged cutting-edge technology to minimize crew members so we can reduce our manning requirements and still get the mission done.”

Emphasizing the ship’s “*swiftness*” in speed, Ketcham said “the *Swift* transited Norfolk, Va. to Panama City at a speed of 38 knots, roughly translating to about 50 miles per hour. The *Swift* made the trip in two days where most conventional ships would have taken double that time.”

The ship docked pier side at the Naval Support Activity Panama City to team crew members from the *Swift* with those of the future Navy ship *Freedom* and with scientists, engineers, and technicians from NSA PC’s major tenant command, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City. NSWC PC is reputed for its expertise in conducting Mine Warfare (MIW) and Mine Countermeasures research and development for the nation’s Littoral Warfare Product Area.

NSWC PC Project Engineer Steve Peffers indicated that the launch and recovery and towing characteristics of the Remote Minehunting Vehicle (RMV) were being evaluated to learn, “what’s the best way to run a launch and recovery system from behind the ship.”

According to NSWC PC Off-Board Systems Branch Head Dan Harris, the RMV will be the primary unmanned vehicle used for minehunting aboard the LCS.

NSWC PC Test Director for RMV Joe Thomas

See **SWIFT**, page 8

# Celebrate 4th of July proudly and safely

This weekend we pause to remember the origins of this great Nation and the sacrifices of those who have contributed to the cause of freedom. It is a great occasion and a reason to celebrate, and as members of the Armed Services and Department of Defense employees we have a special reason to take pride in the occasion.

Today, as you head out on the extended holiday weekend, with plans for swimming, boating, barbecuing, fireworks and other traditional Fourth of July activities, please add one more item to your list: **risk management**. Whatever else you may be doing to celebrate the holiday, include a risk management plan before you

## FROM THE BRIDGE



**Cmdr. Hal Harbeson**  
Officer in Charge  
Naval Support Activity  
Panama City



get underway to make sure you arrive safely at your destination and return to work well rested, healthy and in one piece.

The Navy Safety Center reminds us that forethought and common sense must be exer-

cised when engaging in any activity. To meet the challenge of this extended Fourth of July weekend, they have provided some safety tips to minimize risks in order to avoid death and injury:

• **Driving** - If you are

highway bound, make sure your vehicle is in excellent operating condition. Always carry a roadside emergency and first aid kit and extra water in hot climates. A safety belt is a simple habit and can make all the difference between walking away from a crash or being carried off on a stretcher. The back seat is the safest place for children to ride, and all children must be restrained with the correct safety equipment.

Don't speed. Speeding reduces a driver's ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the road. You never know what's around that next corner: a deer, stalled car, or pedestrian in the roadway. Most importantly, do not drink and drive and equally important,

don't get into a vehicle with a driver who has been drinking and driving.

• **Swimming** - Use common sense: swim where

See **BRIDGE**, page 5

### Naval Support Activity

Public Affairs Office  
101 Vernon Drive  
Panama City, Fla.  
32407-7018  
(850) 234-4803  
DSN: 436-4803

### NSA PC Officer in Charge CDR

**Harold Harbeson Jr.**

**NSA PC Public  
Affairs Officer  
Steven Applegate**

**NSA PC Deputy  
Public Affairs Officer  
Jacqui Barker**

**Coastal Courier Editor  
JOSN Joseph Moon**

## VIEWPOINT:

*“What are you going to do for the Fourth of July?”*



“I'm not doing anything special.”

AO2 Jason Dangerfield  
Aircrew  
NSWC PC Air Ops



“I'm going to the Smokey Mountains and doing some camping along the mountain stream.”

Will Farrell  
Mobile Equipment Mechanic  
PWC Jacksonville



“I've got the watch. Hopefully everyone has a safe weekend.”

AMC Louis Davitt  
Maintenance Control LCPO  
NSWC PC Air Ops



“Providing good customer service down here at the Marina.”

Michael Steinzor  
Senior Team Leader  
MWR Marina

Published biweekly by Florida Freedom Newspaper, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Navy, under exclusive written contract with Naval Support Activity Panama City.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military service and Department of Defense civilian employees. Contents of the *Coastal Courier* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or Department of the Navy.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Florida Freedom Newspapers of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use, or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content is provided and prepared by the Public Affairs Offices of NSA PC, Panama City, Fla. Deadline for article submission to the Coastal Courier is noon Friday prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed, double-spaced, or in an electronic format and submitted to NSA PC, 101 Vernon Avenue, Panama City, Fla., 32408. Material is edited for accuracy, brevity, clarity and conformity to regulations. Photos are U.S. Navy photos unless otherwise noted.

*Coconut creek*

*News Herald*  
*292917*  
*1 X 10*

***Armed  
Forces  
295580  
5 x 11.5***

## Classified Ads

**For Rent** - Long Term - 2 BR/1.5 BA furnished townhouse in Gulf Highlands. Master: king; 2nd: queen; plus sleep sofa in living room. Newer stove, D/W, and W/D. Complex is between Middle and Front Beach Roads near the Post Office. No smokers or pets. Gated secure complex has 11 pools, putt-putt, shuffleboard, lighted tennis courts, exercise room, conference room, and private beach club. Walk to beach, Super Wal-Mart, Post Office, Applebee's, Edgewater Shopping Center, plus much more. Rent \$950 mo including all utilities including local telephone, cable, water, electric, gas, garbage, and lawn service, plus deposit. Available now. Call (850) 249-8788. (11)

**Roommate wanted** - Non-smoking male or female to share 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA house located off North Lagoon. Just 5 minutes from beaches and Navy base, \$400 per month, share utilities. Available now. Call (850) 896-2247 (cell) or (912) 576-8152 (home). (11)

**For Rent** - Large 2 BR/1.75 BA townhouse only 1 mile south of Navy base. Privacy fenced yard, washer/dryer, lots of storage, very quiet area. Pets on approval. No smokers. \$950/mo includes garbage. \$800 dep. Available now. Call 236-6645. (10)

**For Sale** - Ideal 1031 Exchange Property! Panama City Beach Annabella Townhome pre-construction deal. \$35K reserves this NEW 1700 sq. ft, 3/2.5, 2 car garage unit. Hard contract signature for \$285K unit (w/ 10% down). Serious investors call 234-4132. (12)

**For Sale** - 2002 Saturn SL2, Great condition, 38,000 miles. \$8,100. Call 235-5606 or 277-2283. (11)

**For Sale** - '79 Chris Craft 25' Catalina. 350 w/less than 10hrs. Hull is perfect, needs exhaust tube and minor interior repairs. Original 305 with lots of extra parts, \$5,500 neg. Call 890-0606 (12)

**For Sale** - Popup, 1999 Starcraft, light weight model, loaded with air, heat, 2 awnings and more. \$2,800 OBO. Mark 234-4055. (12)

**For Sale** - 1995 Sunbird Neptune 201, 150 Evinrude Oceanpro (new lower unit) SS prop, complete tune up, runs great, Hummingbird mapping GPS, depth finder, VHF radio, new bimini top, new cushions. All new hardware, tires/rims on trailer \$9,000. Call Tony 236-9269. (11)

**For Sale** - Five-piece bedroom set: queen headboard, 2 night stands, armoire, dresser w/large round mirror (minor repair needed to armoire and dresser) \$100; Black Lacquer Entertainment Center \$20; Child's Electric Car \$50 - excellent condition; Bikes: 2 Adult/Teen - \$20 each, 2 kids - \$10 each. Call 249-8998. (11)

**For Sale** - 2001 Ford Expedition XLT, only 56K miles. Triton V-8, Black, power seat, windows and locks, third row seating, rear air, multi CD, sun roof, running boards, roof rack, tow package, alloy wheels, gray leather interior, very clean, \$18,200 OBO. Call (850)

235-9698. (12)

**For Sale** - RBCS reloading dies of various calibers, \$5 each. Sears weight bench and weights \$30. Call 914-0360. (12)

**Lost** - Small black-zippered pouch containing three compact flash cards—media cards (a 512 MB, a 256MB and a smaller one) for a digital camera. Last used at the Auto Hobby Shop. Pouch may say Xtreme on the outside (the brand of one of the cards). Much sentimental value—\$20 reward. Contact Anne/MWR at 235-5900. (10)

**For Sale** - 1997 Chevy Silverado Z71, 5.7L V8, AT/PS/PW/PL, extended cab w/ 3<sup>rd</sup> door, tow package, bedliner, AM/FM/Cassette/CD, white with grey interior, 172,313 miles. Good mechanical condition. Below book at \$7,500. Offers considered. Call John at 819-4949 or Tina at 819-6835. (13)

**For Rent on PCB** - Available immediately. One year old: 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA two story house in Palm Cove (next to Publix on Middle Beach Rd). Approx. 1,800 sq. ft. living area including great room, W/D hook up, blinds and curtain rods, two-car garage, patio, 2 subdivision pools, yard maintenance provided, indoor cats OK w/pet deposit, NO Smoking. Lease required \$1,300/month plus \$1,000 security deposit. 850-624-3134 or 850-234-6824. View model at <http://www.palmcoveusa.com/pelican.htm>, but note a few modifications have been made. (13)

**For Sale** - RBCS reloading dies of various calibers, \$5 each. Sears weight bench and weights \$30. Call 914-0360. (13)

**For Sale** - 1991 Ford Explorer Sport, 4x4, one owner, 5-speed, power windows and locks, towing package, alloy wheels, good condition, \$1,600. Call 235-2164, leave message. (13)

**For Sale** - Set of gym lockers with locks and keys, 5 units wide by 2 units tall. Measures 79 inches long, 64 inches high. \$135 OBO (850) 233-5251 (13)

**For Sale** - Washer, large capacity Kenmore Heavy Duty Plus, white. \$65 OBO. (850) 233-5251 (13)

**For Sale** - SCUBA Tanks, Two 100 cu ft Faber 3000 psi steel, DIN valves. New hydro & VIP. White tanks w/ black boots, excelent condition. \$200 each. 235-5639

The *Coastal Courier* accepts free personal classified ads from personnel of Naval Support Activity Panama City, tenant commands, retired military personnel, personnel assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base units, and adult family members of those people. Articles offered for sale must be the personal property of the person placing the ad.

Ads for any commercial enterprise are not permitted. All items, services, etc., advertised shall be made avail-

able without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser. Classified ads are published on a space-available basis in three consecutive issues and are subject to approval by the editor. Send ads to [joseph.moon@navy.mil](mailto:joseph.moon@navy.mil) or call JOSN Joseph Moon at (850) 234-4803 for details.

**PO FOLKS  
305602  
2 x 3**

**SPINNAKER  
290661  
2 x 5.5**

**SURVEY** from page 1

smaller commands, individual departments or technical projects.

“More” seemed to be the recurring theme from re-

spondents who wrote comments. Readers indicated they would like to have more information on sports teams, results and standings. Several expressed they would like to see more non-work related human-interest stories and community involvement.

The NSA PC Public Affairs Office strives to make the paper representative of the entire base and plans to use information from this survey to improve the publication for our readership. In order to do this we need your help. We need to increase the input of material from all areas of the base. Commands and other activities inside the fence line are always welcome to submit material for the *Coastal Courier*, ranging from achieve-

ments of individuals and groups to special events and new projects or facilities. Individuals can also submit stories and pictures for consideration. All material submitted is subject to approval and editing by the Public Affairs staff according to style, appropriateness and available space. Contact JOSN Joseph H. Moon ([Joseph.moon@navy.mil](mailto:Joseph.moon@navy.mil)) at ext. 4803 for more information on submitting items for the paper.

Jacqui Barker, Deputy PAO for NSAPC, who developed the questions, Chris Velkey, NSWV PC Information Assurance Manager, who made the survey available on the CSS Intranet, and Michelle Torres, who crunched the final numbers, made this survey possible.

**BRIDGE** from page 2

lifeguards are present. They are trained to identify hazards and help you if you get into trouble. Never dive unless you know the water depth and what obstacles are below. Don't let a bad decision leave you paralyzed for life.

• **Boating** - take a boating course, file a float plan, never exceed the boat's maximum capacity, wear a personal flotation device (PFD), keep an eye on the

weather and save the alcohol for later.

• **Barbecue safety** - follow manufacturer's instructions for lighting and extinguishing gas grills. There is a right way and a wrong way. Individuals have been severely burned when gas build up has led to explosions.

• **Fireworks** - the best advice: leave them to the professionals. If fireworks are legal in your area and you decide to light off a few, use

caution! Follow the manufacture's instructions for use. Careless use of fireworks can cause serious injury or death. For more information on fireworks safety, visit <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/articles/fireworkssafety.htm>

• **Alcohol** - moderation, moderation, moderation. Drink responsibly. Know when enough is enough!

As always, remember that the Safety Office is here for any safety related questions that you may have, either in your job or in your off-time recreation. So this weekend, think before you act. Basic precautions for prevention of mishaps, while in the home, on the waterways, on the ball field and on the highway will make this Fourth of July safe and happy, and one that you will live to tell about.

**CUNNINGHAM**  
**297413**  
**2 x 10**

**KINGSBURY**  
**299122**  
**2 x 4**

**HUMIN GRUMIN**  
**298404**  
**2 x 2**

**HABLITZEL**  
**305720**  
**2 x 2**

# Turning Silver into Gold

## Performance can lead to a Naval commission

By Jacqui Barker  
Coastal Courier Editor

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY – Enlisted Sailors looking for their personal keys to the wardroom should be aware that many officer programs are available, but applicants should keep a few things in mind.

Naval Support Activity Panama City Officer In Charge Cmdr. Harold Harbeson is a mustang who served at the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) as the Head Aviation Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer detailer. A mustang is an officer who is a prior enlisted Sailor. Harbeson said many times BUPERS does not receive enough officer packages and he believes that is partly because Sailors are “too self-critical” of themselves.

“If they have a good performance record and they want to be a Naval officer, then they should submit a package. A lot of Sailors don’t think they’re competitive enough,” he said. “Any commissioning program is a great opportunity for enlisted personnel and if you don’t apply, it’s an opportunity lost and an opportunity lost can never be regained.”

Harbeson said two key points review and selection boards look for in officer candidates are sustained superior performance and education and qualifications.

“First, the Navy is changing, not only in the size of the Total Force, but also in what we expect out of our Sailors,” he said. “They’re looking for Sailors who are not only experts in their fields, but who have demonstrated leadership and have sought formal education that’ll qualify or make them more competitive for bigger jobs as a senior officer. The Navy is looking forward to the needs of the future.”

There are two major steps in each application process. First, the completed package, and the Sailor, goes before a local (command) interview boards. If the candidate is found to be officer material, then the package is forwarded to BUPERS to the selection board. The se-

lection board validates the command review and, next, the board reviews the member’s service record to gain a broader perspective of the candidate.

“They look at qualifications, all evaluations, etc., because they want to pick the best of the best,” Harbeson said.

These two boards are mandatory steps, in addition to the required paperwork, that is required for all officer accessions.

An enlisted service member who chooses to turn in the silver belt buckle for gold should keep in mind that there is more to serving as an officer than just receiving a larger paycheck. NSA PC’s Navy Career Counselor Chief Petty Officer Linda Raya says it’s about responsibilities and leadership.

“Many Sailors apply for officer programs to earn more money,” Raya said. “It’s not just about money – it’s about leadership. There are perks to serving as an officer, but you must be prepared for the work too.”

But for those Sailors who are sure they have what it takes to serve as an officer, Raya said the best piece of advice to give to someone applying for an officer program is to ensure the application package is solid – free of errors – and be responsible financially.

“Be prepared for schools, if the program you apply for will send you to college. Some Sailors do not realize they can be kicked out of the programs for getting behind on their finances,” Raya said. “Also, be aware that some programs will not allow you to have dependents.”

The application process takes time and she says the biggest errors are made because applicants are hurried.

“Don’t rush. You have to take the time to put your package together at least six months prior to the deadline,” Raya said. “You want other sets of eyes on it. Attention to detail is the most important thing to remember and that’s what the board is looking at. (You’re not there to represent

## *Navigating a Naval commission*

The following is a snapshot of officer programs available to active-duty Sailors. Personnel interested should consult their command career counselor and OPNAVINST OPNAVINST 1420.1A. Many programs exist, we’re featuring some of the main ones for this *Courier* edition.

### **Limited Duty Officer/Chief Warrant Officer – LDO/CWO**

These are two separate programs that provide the Navy with officer technical managers and technical specialists who exercise leadership in key positions throughout the service.

As officer technical managers of the line or staff corps, LDOs progressively advance within broad technical fields related to their former enlisted ratings. They fill leadership and management positions at the Ensign through Captain level that require technical background and skills not attainable through normal development within other officer designators.

Today, as commissioned officers of the line or staff corps, Navy CWOs possess the authority and are qualified by extensive experience and knowledge to direct the most difficult and exacting operations within a given occupational specialty.

### **Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program –MECP**

This program is an in-service procurement program that gives qualified enlisted men and women a chance to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing and to be appointed as an Ensign, Nurse Corps, U. S. Naval Reserves.

### **Medical Service Corps In-Service Procurement Program-MSC-IPP**

The Medical Service Corps In-Service Procurement Program allows degree-seeking Sailors to apply for a commission. Sailors who apply for MSC-IPP must have a letter of acceptance from an accredited university or college.

### **Officer Candidate School – OCS**

This program is a rigorous course for new non-commissioned, unrestricted-line and restricted-line officer candidates. Over the course of 13 weeks, enlisted Sailors and civilians are transformed into Naval officers. Eligibility requirements for OCS include: U.S. citizenship; excellent moral character and conduct; a four year college degree and excellent physical condition.

### **Seaman to Admiral-21**

Applicants to this program must be 18 years old and must be able to complete degree requirements and be commissioned prior to age 27, with waivers up to 29 years. The Sailor’s command must provide an endorsement by the commanding officer and the CO’s recommendation form in addition to three interview board appraisal sheets. En route to their university assignment, all STA-21 officer candidates will attend Naval Science Institute (NSI), the eight-week course of intensive officer preparation and indoctrination prior to beginning college at an NROTC affiliated college or university. STA-21 participants will then be appointed as an Ensign on the active-duty Navy list. STA-21 is a full-time undergraduate education and commissioning program open to enlisted personnel of all pay grades and ratings who meet eligibility requirements.

### **U.S. Naval Academy**

Approximately 10 percent of every U.S. Naval Academy Sailors applying for a commission through the Naval Academy are prior enlisted. A USNA commission provides a free four-year undergraduate education program. All applicants must obtain a nomination from an official source. Applicants should apply to all categories of nominations for which they qualify.

Admission to the Naval Academy is made through nominations from United States Senators, Representatives, the President and Vice President of the United States, and the Secretary of the Navy. Fleet applicants must apply for a SECNAV nomination.

# Chaplain offers spiritual fitness guidance

From your first day in the military, fitness is a key focus. Whether it was as a recruit at Great Lakes or Parris Island, or at OCS or an Army base; you cannot escape the inevitable physical requirements of serving in the Armed Forces. The military even gives you a personal trainer in the form of a drill instructor, to motivate you to be the best you can be. You might be thinking, "Why is a Chaplain writing about such an unspiritual – some might say ungodly – thing, like physical fitness?" In short, the Bible commends it.

In the New Testament, Paul tells us in First Timothy 4:8 that "... physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." The second part of that verse is the fitness that only you can personally work on. That "godliness" which Paul speaks of is "spiritual fitness." You can be encouraged or commanded to get into shape physically, but your spiritual fitness is totally dependant upon your voluntary efforts.

First things first, though. Why is spiritual fitness important? Our mission statement here at Naval Support Activity is that "We exist to

enable warfighter readiness." Just as we cannot win a war without the great equipment and skills training offered here at NSA PC, the individual warfighter is not totally prepared for war if he or she has not dealt with spiritual matters as well as the physical ones.

In order to be totally prepared, we must deal in advance with doubts and fears associated with an uncertain future. The prospect of combat undoubtedly leads to natural fear, but when those issues begin to affect our outlook, thinking, and ability to do our job; we become a detriment to mission effectiveness.

Why have so many chaplains reported increased numbers of participants in services in Iraq and Afghanistan? It is because when faced with life or death, people naturally realize their



## Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Ben Howard,  
Lt. J.G., USN  
Sea Shore Chapel

spiritual needs.

Wouldn't it be prudent, though, to focus on that spiritual preparation before life and death becomes a daily issue for you? None of us would wait until the day of a marathon to begin to prepare for it, but we all too often neglect spiritual fitness until life throws something at us that reminds us how temporary it is. So spiritual fitness is part of being ready.

How do we "exercise" to become spiritually fit? Most people choose to participate in the faith group of their choice. These spiritual "families" can provide support and training in the tenets of your faith in order to give you the tools necessary to face the problems and complications that life throws at you. For Christians, the Bible should be the daily "diet" that you feed your-

self. Muslims have the Koran, and other faiths have their own religious writings that provide teachings for them to meditate on. Prayer should be a priority for each person who desires to be spiritually ready to face the day.

George Washington prayed for one hour from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m. and from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. every day, in order to spiritually prepare himself to lead our new nation.

Through NSA's command religious program, the OIC provides opportunities for all personnel assigned to Panama City to "exercise" spiritually. The Chaplain's office offers information on local places of worship, base Bible studies on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1145 a.m. to 1230 p.m., and even protestant worship services here on base on Sundays. We are also in the process of finding volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, which gives you a chance to live out and exercise your spiritual values by serving others.

While you are sweating at the gym, on the road, or at the pool this week, ask yourself what you can do to work on your spiritual muscles as well. The Chaplain's office stands ready to assist any way we can. Our number is 234-4487.



**The Bay County Guardian ad Litem Program is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children. If you have been searching for a**

**unique way to help the children in our community, and can volunteer a few hours a month, please call 747-5180 for more information and an application.**



## Leave Donor Update

*The following employees are approved Leave Donor Program recipients:*

Steve Horton, Code E06  
Jeremy "Shane" Dunn, Code XPE  
Ron Oglesby, Code A84

The MWR Fitness Center offers a health screening process using the Polar - BodyAge system. It is used to determine a person's current state of health and assess disease risk. Your chronological age is compared to your body age. A FREE BodyAge assessment is available for active duty, retired military, military dependents, and MWR Fitness Center members. Appointments Call 234-4370

## SWIFT

said lessons learned from the testing could be applied toward the design characteristics for the LCS. Thomas said the vehicle being used was a mock-up built to exact physical-configuration specifications that reflected the real RMV.

Peffer added that, "by using the same hydrodynamic characteristics of the actual RMV, we simulate testing and evaluation at a fraction of the cost as compared to having tested with the real one."

According to the *Freedom's* future Operations Officer Lt. Rich Jarrett, evaluating how MIW mission packages would interface with the Swift's modular "plug and play" architecture were valuable training experi-

ences.

"Because they're demonstrating High Speed Vessel operations that our ship will be conducting, particularly this week in Panama City with pieces of the Mine Warfare Package, that's very important to us," Jarrett said. "It's important because the Mine Warfare Package will be the first mission package that's deployed with the *Freedom*."

Jarrett said that the LCS would also employ a Surface Warfare Mission Module and an Anti-Submarine Warfare Mission Module, "but these will follow in subsequent years."

Jarrett said his enthusiasm for being designated to deploy aboard the *Freedom* was shared by

many other crewmembers. He said his shipmates were particularly interested in evaluating how the MIW Mission packages interfaced with a ship like the *Swift* because of the potential lessons learned and how these might apply to the new LCS Class of ships.

"It's always a great

experience to be a part of a new class of ship, but more so with a ship that's really taking a leap ahead in technology and how we will conduct Surface Warfare, which is unlike anything we've ever done before. Revolutionary, absolutely," Jarrett concluded.



Photo by Dan Broadstreet

Lt. Rich Jarrett and BMC Steven Bolin wait to board the *Swift* to observe launch and recovery of Mine Warfare-related mission packages and equipment.

from page 1

**MAD HATTER**  
**305722**  
**2 x 5**

**TIME OUT**  
**SPORTS BAR**  
**298476**  
**2 x 2**

**#1 CASH EXPRESS**  
**305724**  
**2 x 2.5**

**MULLIS EYE**  
**297788**  
**2 x 6**

**MULLIS EYE**  
**297786**  
**2 x 3.5**

**DR. PIKE**  
**305916**  
**2 x 3**

**PEOPLES FIRST**  
**297444**  
**3 x 5**

**CLASSIFIED PROMO**  
**301028**  
**3 x 6**

**OFFICER** ————— **from page 6**

yourself, but your package is. If your package has mistakes, that doesn't really represent you very well as an officer candidate.)

"You need time to get everything together. You have to get your transcript — high school and or college — and you may be required to take specific tests depending on what program you apply for. You might have to take the ACT/SAT or Officer Aptitude Readiness (OAR), pilot tests, etc," Raya said. "Here at Panama City, we don't administer tests, so you might have to arrange to travel to

Pensacola to take them."

Raya said each applicant should remember that deadlines vary, depending on the program and sometimes deadlines are extended and Raya reminds applicants to constantly check the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) web site for updated Naval Administration messages (NAVADMINs).

Raya said board results announcements take time, so applicants should be patient and remember that "everyone will give you their opinion but you will have to go with your gut for your write-ups."

*Congratulations in Order*



Photo by Rob Cole

NSWC PC Commanding Officer Capt. Vito Jimenez and Aviation Unit Maintenance Officer Lt. Cmdr. Steve Padron attach new collar devices to Senior Chief Petty Officer Aviation Electrician's Mate James G. Hall. Capt. Jimenez decided to perform the Frocking Ceremony in his office to personally extend his congratulations.

**LACIE AUTO PAINTING**  
**289715**  
**3 x 3**

***CLASSIFIED PROMO***  
***291733***  
***6 x 11.5***

***classified***  
**285171**  
**6 x 11.5**

***CLASSIFIED PROMO***  
***264102***  
***6 x 11.5***