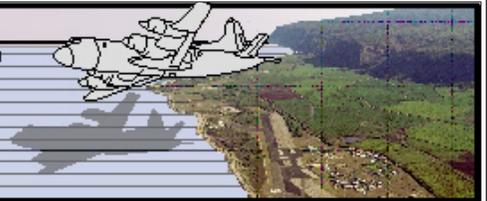


Within Range



Vol. 8 No. 1

Pacific Missile Range Facility

January 26, 2011

PMRF Case Lot Sale begins Friday, February 11!



Patrons take advantage of the previous commissary case lot sale held last October. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.

Take advantage of spectacular savings on popular grocery items at the Commissary On-site Sale. The Pearl Harbor Commissary is hosting an On-site Sale at Bldg. 384, the Air Ops Hangar. The sale will be held at the below dates and times:

Friday, Feb. 11: 0900 - 1700
Saturday, Feb. 12: 0900-1700
Sunday, Feb. 13: 0900-1200

National Guard and Reserve members, military retirees, active-duty military service members, and dependents can take advantage of the great com-

missary savings.

All authorized commissary shoppers are invited to the sale, sponsored by the Pearl Harbor Commissary.

The commissary has expanded its reach to Guard and Reserve members in particular by bringing the benefit to the customer via these On-site Sales to areas with military populations not served by a nearby commissary. Sale items include paper products, soap and cleaning products, canned goods, sodas, sport drinks, water, laundry detergents, and a variety of other products at savings of up to 50 percent!

Commissaries operated by the Defense Commissary Agency provide groceries at-cost to military personnel, retirees, and their families at U.S. military installations around the world. Shoppers can save up to 50 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices.

Customers must present an appropriate Department of Defense ID card that authorizes commissary privileges in order to shop. Cash, checks, debit cards and credit cards are accepted for payment. The use of coupons is highly encouraged!

Commanding Officer's Hot Line: Ext. 4435

You can call the Captain with your question/concern too. Dial 335-4435 any time, seven days a week! The purpose of the hotline (record-a-phone) is to provide all PMRF military members, families, civil service and contractor employees the opportunity to communicate directly with the CO. Some suggestions are:

- Safety suggestions/violations/unsafe practices, ideas to improve safety and promote safety awareness.
- Ways to improve morale, working or living conditions.
- Suggestions on how to save taxpayer dollars, cut costs, save energy, reduce labor manhours, etc.
- Security violations and/or recommendations for strengthening physical security and safeguarding classified information.
- Any positive things (events, programs, policies, benefits, etc.) that you feel are particularly good.
- Any negative things you feel should have the CO's attention.
- Suggestions for improving disaster preparedness (tsunamis, hurricanes, fires, etc.)

You need not identify yourself to leave a message, but if you would like a staffed response, please do so. If reporting a problem, please try to recommend a workable solution. Some of the questions or problems reported will be answered in the Within Range.

A good point of contact for issues involving Navy families is the PMRF Ombudsman, Dawn Gregg who can be reached at: Cell 635-5364 or email at pmrfoambudsman@yahoo.com.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

“AWF1 Scott Barrow calibrates toilets for proper newspaper height.”

Barrow rests during a community relations project in Hanapepe in support of Habitat for Humanity. See related story on page six.

Within Range is published bi-weekly by the Pacific Missile Range Facility Public Affairs Office. Questions, concerns and comments can be directed to the Editor at tom.clements@navy.mil or jay.pugh@navy.mil.

Commanding Officer: Capt. Nicholas Mongillo

Executive Officer: Cmdr. James Wucher

Editor: Tom Clements

Command Master Chief: AFCM(AW/SW) Willie Canaya

Staff: MC1(AW) Jay C. Pugh

P
M
R
F

S
n
a
p
s
h
o
t

PMRF Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program begins February

Story by LNC Harrold Henck

Tax season brings many questions regarding the intricacies of applicable rules and regulations. Gathering W-2s, 1099s, receipts, then tabulating deductions, credits and exemptions can be an overwhelming task for the average sailor. Thankfully, beginning next month, the Navy's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) office will open its doors for service.

"VITA offers sailors and their families free advice and assistance in preparing their income tax returns," according to Lt. Chris Cox, VITA Tax Officer at the Pearl Harbor Naval Legal Service Office. "The program reduces processing time and error rates, as well as protects sailors from rapid refund schemes that are really high-interest, short-term loans."

The Navy's VITA program began as a small pilot program in 1995 in selected locations and has expanded world-wide to include both ship and shore commands.

"Our tax centers range from large sites run by Naval or Regional Legal Services Offices, which prepare tens of thousands of returns, to small shipboard or remote sites, which might prepare only a few hundred returns," said Cox.

The program is operated in

VITA Tax Help:

Who: Open to all Military Members and Dependents

What: Income Tax Preparation

Where: B275, ADMIN

When: Call MC1 Jay Pugh, Ext. 4892 for an appointment

conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which provides initial training for the numerous volunteers who staff the Navy's Tax Centers each year.

"All of our preparers must be certified by the IRS, either through completion of in-person VITA training (taught by IRS instructors on bases worldwide) or learning tax law and passing tests through the IRS's Link & Learn on-line program," explained Cox.

VITA volunteers are taught at basic, intermediate and advanced levels on how to correctly identify filing status, to prepare returns with wages, interest, dividends, social security, and retirement income, as well as self-employed income. Volunteers are also taught how to handle issues peculiar to the military such as PCS moves and combat zone exemptions.

"Each tax season, we spend much of the month of January as-

sembling and training a quality team of tax preparers to work," Cox added. "Tax assistance begins in February."

A testing and certification process is used to measure the volunteer's understanding of the return preparation process. Volunteers can only prepare returns for the level at which they have been certified. At all levels, however, the goal is to provide both education and customer service.

The VITA program, which helps sailors keep more money in their pockets, is a textbook example of "Sailors helping Sailors." The program improves morale and readiness by significantly reducing the effort and cost involved in meeting federal and state tax obligations.

For more information on the program, call Ext. 4892, or visit MC1 Jay Pugh in Bldg. 275.

PMRF gate closures February through May

The PMRF Main Gate will close at midnight February 6th, 2011 and re-open in early May, 2011.

During this time, the north gate (at mile marker 32) will be open for normal and MWR rec-

reational pass user traffic.

All vendor and commercial traffic (vehicles requiring inspection) will be re-routed to the OEG gate located at the end of Kaunualii Highway. For access to PMRF outside of normal business hours

and weekends (vendor and commercial traffic only) please contact PMRF Security Dispatch (335-4523) at least 15 minutes prior to arrival at the OEG Gate.

Sailors use social media to improve advancement

Story by Tom Updike

One year after the creation of the Navy Advancement Center's (NAC's) Facebook page Jan. 13, the social media site continues to add Sailors who seek timely and accurate information about the Navy Enlisted Advancement System (NEAS).

The page was established in January 2010 and currently has 16,000 Sailors who actively review postings and information.

"Sailors should become fans of the NAC Facebook page because it gives them immediate access to a wealth of knowledge with regards to the advancement system," said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Brian Preachers, Naval Support Activity New Orleans department career counselor. "This Facebook page allows Sailors to pull from the collective knowledge of thousands of their peers."

Fans of the page have access to important NEAS information on the "Notes" tab. This link includes information on the final multiple score (FMS), profile sheets, how to prepare for upcoming exams, and much more.

"Even though Facebook users are limited to the number of characters allowed in a wall post, NAC has taken advantage of the Notes option to disseminate more thorough information," said Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW/AW) Melissa Weatherspoon, the Mass Communication Specialist training manager at the Center for Service Support. "The Notes section is similar to a bulletin board, so dialog is an option."

Sailors use the page to help



AS2 Nicholas Crowley looks up information on the Navy Advancement Center's Facebook page. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Jay C. Pugh

each other out by sharing advancement information.

Once advancement results are released, these Sailors reach out to other fans on the page and ask for assistance to look up results by command. An additional 2,500 fans were added to NAC's Facebook page in the two weeks prior to the November E4 to E6 active duty advancement results being released. The NAC NKO portal received 212,272 hits on the day results were released, and Google trends showed NAC's NKO site having the most page visits on the Internet.

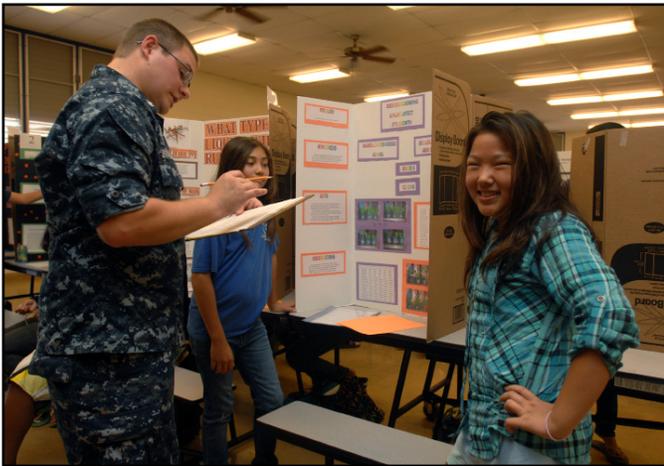
"More and more sailors are turning to the Facebook site as the Navy's point of contact for advancement results. We've had to reevaluate our IT structure to handle the high volume of traffic our Facebook site generates," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate (SS) Jeromie Cook, Command Master Chief at the Naval Education and Training Professional

Development and Technology Center, home of the Navy Advancement Center.

Advancement candidates are comfortable using social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. The NAC NEAS Notes, as well as the interaction and postings by fans, give each Sailor an opportunity to garner a wealth of information. "Knowledge is power as we have all heard, and Facebook provides a medium through which Sailors can seek knowledge," added Weatherspoon.

"As a career counselor, there is no better feeling than to have someone come to you for help after they have already done their research. The Navy Advancement Center Facebook page gives the Sailor a collective point where their research can be conducted so that they have all the ammunition they need to be successful in their career," added Preachers.

PMRF Sailors support science in Waimea



Seven PMRF Sailors participated as judges at Waimea Canyon Middle School's Science Fair held Jan. 13. The Sailors helped judge more than 50 projects in categories such as scientific research, scientific process, involvement and skill. U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.



Aloha! Welcome to:



(From the left) Welcome to AWFAN Stephen Carter who arrives from Pensacola and will serve in Air Ops as an air crewman. Welcome to MA2 Bryson Kaliloo who arrives from

Bahrain and will serve in the Security Dept. Welcome to HMC James W. Oglesby who arrives from Port Heuneme, Calif., and will serve in Medical. Welcome to William H. Johnson who arrives from

Georgia and will serve as a mission engineer. Welcome to Lt. Cdr. Richard Riisma who arrives from Kaneohe, Oahu and will serve in Air Ops and as the Legal Officer.

PMRF's First Class Mess helps Habitat for Humanity



PMRF's First Class Mess sweated a full day's work at Hanapepe. The First Classes moved, sorted and stored construction supplies and inventory at the ReStore thrift shop on Jan. 14. The ReStore raises enough money to fund the building of two new homes a year on Kauai. While the Sailors were not actively working on a construction site, they worked to build affordable housing in support of Habitat for Humanity. U.S. Navy photos by MC1 Jay C. Pugh.



Safety Corner



Risk management key to mitigating mishaps

By April Phillips, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

Following the holiday season, Sailors and Marines across the fleet are returning from leave and getting back to the regular routine at their duty stations in January 2011.

Whenever large numbers of people are returning from extended time away from the job, there's a potential for mishaps to occur due to complacency or skills that have become rusty.

January is also a time when many Sailors and Marines enjoy winter sporting activities such as skiing and snowboarding. There's a greater likelihood for inclement weather, deteriorated driving conditions and slips, trips and falls.

All these factors combine to make this a good time to remember the basics of risk manage-

ment, said Derek Nelson, head of the Media Division at the Naval Safety Center (NAVSAFECEN). Nelson writes the popular weekly "Summary of Mishaps," which is better known as the "Friday Funnies." In this capacity, he pores through the mishap reports received by NAVSAFECEN, and he has noticed some trends.

Other mishap reports he has examined show a general complacency trend. He said one of the major problems is people who are in a hurry and cut corners.

"Whether you're driving or performing a task around the house or on the job, being in a hurry to get things done is a needless risk that too often ends in a trip to the emergency room," said Nelson. "Usually, the person doesn't take time to make a risk assessment beforehand, and therefore, there's no risk management that takes place."

Nelson cited one particularly memorable example; a Sailor was using a gas-powered snow blower to clear his driveway after a winter storm. The blower became clogged, and rather than turning it off to clear it, the Sailor just reached his hand inside the still spinning blades.

"It chopped off one of his fingers," Nelson said.

He also said he hoped Sailors and Marines would take time to reflect on risk management. It doesn't have to be a formal military training session to be effective. "When people simply talk about their experiences, it can be very helpful. Everyone's got a story and sharing that story could help others," he said.



"Two ladders aren't better than one"

Y'know how they say "Two heads are better than one"? And how it isn't necessarily true, if both heads aren't all that smart or careful?

The same goes for ladders. People get into trouble improvising (for example, using a swivel chair instead of a step ladder). But even when they have ladders—and this guy had three of them—it isn't necessarily smooth sailing.

PS – This isn't a real good ad for duct tape, either.

Wish you were here - Photos from the Fleet



U.S. Navy Photo by MC2 Gary Granger Jr.

(Above) JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Jan. 22, 2011) Sailors assigned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville display the colors during the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus military appreciation day show. **(Below left)** SASEBO, Japan (Jan. 20, 2011) Sailors assigned to the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) stand at attention for colors during the ship's change of command ceremony. **(Below right)** MAE SOT, Thailand (Jan. 21, 2011) A Thai monk blesses the first column of new construction for Pa Ka Mai school as Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, from left, Lt. j.g. Kevin Burnett, Builder 3rd Class Jeffrey Coon, Builder 2nd Class Daniel Guillermety, Construction Electrician 2nd Class Jacob Brickley and members of the Royal Thai Military Mobile Development Unit look on. NMCB-11 is building two school buildings in Mae Sot, Thailand during Cobra Gold 2011, the largest joint exercise in the U.S. Pacific Command.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Adam M. Bennett



U.S. Navy photo by BU2 Lonnie Hensley