

# SEABEE COURIER

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## LS1 Rogers named SOY for 20th SRG

By MCC (SCW/SW/AW)  
Ryan G. Wilber  
NCBC Public Affairs

20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) recently announced Logistics Specialist 1st Class (SCW) Latoya Rogers, R41 Leading Petty Officer, as their 2012 Sailor of the Year (SOY).

According to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) SOY instruction, the CNO established the SOY Program to recognize one Sailor who represents the best of Navy by demonstrating both professional and personal dedication, and recognizes Sailors who best represent the large number of superior dedicated professionals serving in a particular type of duty as assigned.

Rogers, a dual military 13-year veteran, said her first feelings after being named 20th SRG SOY were those of being overwhelmed and humbled.

"When I first found out I was overwhelmed. I'm overwhelmed and I'm humbled, because they could have picked somebody else, but I was chosen," said Rogers.

The mother of three said that although she does the best she can on a daily basis, she attributed her success to the good work of her people.

"By them [subordinates] doing what they're supposed to do, and shining and being driven, and them doing their job to the best of their ability, it helps me to be a better leader," said Rogers. I have a good



LS1 (SCW) Latoya Rogers

group of people who work for me."

It takes more than just being a good worker to be selected as a SOY. A Sailor must take on additional responsibilities in the command, put their workers ahead of themselves and be involved in their community. Chief Logistics Specialist Annette Thorpe, Rogers' direct supervisor, said that Rogers exemplifies the well-rounded Sailor.

"LS1 is an outstanding Sailor. She makes sure that her people are good-to-go, not just at work, but also with their families. She takes care of her Sailors all around," said Thorpe. "She cares about her people and she cares about her job."

When asked what advice she had for younger Sailors developing their careers in the Navy, Rogers emphasized humbleness, service to country and taking care of each other.

"Be humble in the knowledge you are serving the country and you are serving each other, work hard to earn something in life and try to make a mark, to learn something and share wisdom with other people, and to overall take care of each other," said Rogers.

## NMCB 133 Task Force Anchor Seabees awarded Purple Hearts

By UT3 Drew Verbis

NMCB 133 Public Affairs  
Two Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, Task Force Anchor, were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in action while deployed to Afghanistan.

The recipients were conducting a convoy mission between forward operating bases in the Helmand Province when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle on Oct. 16.

"This was a near death experience that I don't like to talk about," said Equipment Operator Constructionman Matthew Loper. "I pulled out my shipmate and all I can say is I'm glad we made it."

Loper, a native of Charlevoix, Mich., received the Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. David L. Weeks, commanding general of 411th Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Empire, during an award presentation at Camp Krutke, Afghanistan, Oct. 29.

"General Weeks told me this was something special," recalled Loper. "He asked me how I was doing then he said it's an honor which will last a lifetime. It was moving."

The second recipient, Equipment Operator Third Class Sean Neilson, a Danville, Pa. native, received the Purple Heart while recovering from his wounds at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Va., Oct. 30, from Rear Adm. Mark Handley, commander of the First Naval Construction Division.



Brig. Gen. David L. Weeks, commanding general of the 411th Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Empire, awards Equipment Operator Constructionman Matthew Loper with the Purple Heart for wounds sustained during a mission in the Helmand Province. Loper is deployed to Afghanistan with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, Task Force Anchor, providing engineer support to coalition forces. (U.S. Navy photo by Utilitiesman 3rd Class Drew Verbis/Released)

"We were almost to the destination," said Neilson. "I got that feeling in my gut. I remember saying that something wasn't right and soon after we got hit. I realized I was injured when I tried to stand up because a severe pain shot up my leg and I thought 'what happened to my feet?'"

"I'm proud to receive this award," said Neilson. "I have a long line of military running in the family and my goal is to get my degree and become a (Naval) officer."

"Our two heroes, along with

first responding Sailors, at the site performed brilliantly," said Commanding Officer Cmdr. Nicolas Yamodis. "Months of training before entering the theater paid off throughout these poignant extraordinary moments that no one wants to experience, but we must be prepared for. The mettle and conviction of purpose of the entire team cannot be overstated. They are part of effecting monumental tasks in furthering the Afghanistan government, and I am proud to call them shipmates."

See **HEARTS** page 2

# Navy Legal



## Think before you click: Beware what you or the neighbors download

By Lt.j.g. Tadd C. Blair, JAGC

Region Legal Service Office SE

Can you imagine life without the internet? For most of us, the internet is essential to almost every aspect of our life. We use email to communicate at work. We attend virtual meetings and trainings. We keep in touch with loved ones across the world. The internet allows us to look up the answer to any question in the blink of an eye and download that song we just can't get out of our head. The cyber dream can also quickly turn into a nightmare that could cost thousands of dollars.

Recently, there have been increasing numbers of individuals who have been notified by their internet provider that their Internet Protocol ("IP") address has been identified as a copyright infringer. The letter from the internet provider explains that some entity has filed a lawsuit alleging a copyright infringement has been committed (usually an improper file upload/download). In most of these cases, the entity sends a long list of IP addresses to internet providers requesting that they release the personal identifying information associated with each IP Address.

For some, this is the first time they realize that they may have downloaded something illegally.

For others, they realize that their IP address has been compromised and that they should have secured their wireless router or uninstalled a file sharing program; the IP address could be wrong and the customer associated with that IP address may have never even downloaded any copyrighted material.

Whether you downloaded something without thinking, used a file sharing software (e.g. bit torrent, pirate bay, gnutella), or think your neighbor may have been mooching off of your router, you could be held liable for copyright infringement and ordered to pay anywhere between \$200 and \$150,000 in damages, in addition to attorney fees and court costs! Even if you (or your mooching neighbor) never actually downloaded the copyrighted material, release of your information by your internet provider could lead to threats to settle the case, still potentially costing thousands of dollars.

The letter from the internet company usually informs you that your name, address, and other information connected with your IP address may be released if you do not take action by a certain date. If you receive one of these letters, it is essential that you see an attorney as soon as possible, as

they can help drop your name as a defendant in a lawsuit, get the case dismissed or help prove that you should not be held liable. Think before you download. Just as you would not steal a CD from a music store, you shouldn't download something without permission. File sharing programs may seem like a great way to build your music collection or catch up on that episode you missed, but much of this "free" entertainment is copyrighted, meaning that the download can end up costing you thousands of dollars in a lawsuit. No act online is private, every visit can be tracked. If your network is not secure, not only can your neighbors slow down your internet, but they could download something illegally. If you can't prove that you were not the one who illegally downloaded the file, then you may still be on the hook. If you secure your wireless router and think before you click, you can live the cyber dream without exposing yourself to a cyber nightmare.

*This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney. For legal assistance, contact the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) legal office by calling 228-871-2620 to make an appointment.*

From **HEARTS** page 1

Once called the "Badge of Merit," the Purple Heart, the U.S. military's oldest award, is awarded in the name of the President of the United States and was established by George Washington. A service member must be wounded or killed by enemy

forces to be eligible for the award.

Home ported in Gulfport, NMCB 133 is deployed to Afghanistan and the U.S. Central Command area of operations to assist coalition forces and provide engineering support to the Afghan government.

## Toys for Tots

Staff Sgt. Marvin Perez-Diaz, of I&I, 3rd Platoon, A company, 4th AABN on board NCBC is coordinating the area's annual Toys for Tots campaign. Your contribution of new, unwrapped toys or a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated. Drop off boxes are located throughout Harrison, Hancock and Stone Counties, Keesler Air Force

Base PX and on board NCBC at the Navy Exchange and the Navy Federal Credit Union. Donations are being accepted through Dec. 22. To make a monetary donation, or for more information on Toys for Tots, visit <http://gulfpport-ms.toysfortots.org>.



## Unclaimed Property

**Notice:** NCBC Security has a large amount of unclaimed lost and found property. The unclaimed property is scheduled for destruction Dec. 17. Items range from small to large and can be claimed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Security (building 436.) Proof of ownership (serial numbers, pictures or a detailed description) must be provided to claim items. Call Security at 228-822-5800 for additional information.

**LOST  
&  
FOUND**

December 13, 2012

Seabee Courier

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## Buzz on the Street

By **CECN Lucinda Moise**  
NCBC Public Affairs

**"What do you want Santa to bring you this year?"**



"I want a Princess necklace."

**Zoe**

Child Development Center  
Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.



"Flip-flops and games."

**Bradley**

Child Development Center  
Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.



"A dress and a baby doll."

**Emma**  
CDC

Hometown: Gulfport, Miss.



NCBC Gulfport Security Department personal practice non-lethal weapon, or Mechanical Advance Control Hold (MACH) training, on board NCBC Gulfport Dec. 4. MACH training teaches the use of hand cuffs, batons and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray to stop a situation at the lowest level. (U.S. Navy photos by Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Katchen Tofil/Released)



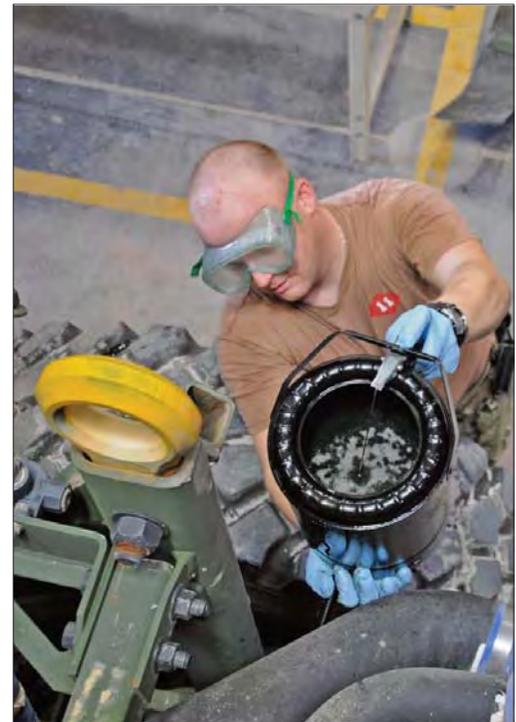
NCBC Gulfport Fire Fighters inspect couplings and drain hoses used on fire trucks at the main grinder on board NCBC Gulfport Dec. 4. The Inspection is an important part of an annual hose testing to insure there are no leaks and/or defects in the hoses or couplings. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Katchen Tofil/Released)

# Around

the



# Center



Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Mike Lovell, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, changes the oil in a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) during a Planned Maintenance System (PMS) check in a 20th SRG, R436, maintenance shop on board NCBC, Dec. 7 (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Katchen Tofil/Released)

# NCBC FRAMES

**Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Cole Kahler**  
Instructor, Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC)

**By CM3 (SCW) Katchen Tofil**  
NCBC Public Affairs



# FREEZE FRAME



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

**BU2: Attending Builder "A" school graduations, because it is rewarding having affected a new Seabee, accomplish a**

**milestone in their career.**

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

**BU2: There is always something different going on every week,**

**keeps work interesting.**

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

**BU2: Always strive for something new and challenging in your career.**

FF: What is your favorite thing about working with the Seabees?

**BU2: Being able to learn some different trades in the Seabees.**

FF: Who was your most in-

fluent mentor during your career, and why?

**BU2: BUC Kellogg, because he inspires me to train my students to the fullest so they can strive to be better.**

## MWR's Twelve Days of Christmas challenge involves more than a partridge in a pear tree

December 13, 2012  
Seabee Courier

**By CEEN Lucinda L. Moise**  
NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Fitness Center personnel threw the challenge flag to all active duty military and invited them to participate in the Twelve Days of Christmas Fitness Challenge at the Fitness Center on board NCBC thru Dec. 14.

During the holidays most people like to spend time with friends and family, and often spending time together translates to eating together. While enjoying off time with family and friends is important, for military members it is also important not to neglect physical fitness while enjoying good holiday food.

According to Kasey Wilczynski, fitness assistant for MWR at NCBC Gulfport's Fitness



**Cmdr. Henry Casey, medical officer for the 22nd/25th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) is one of the participants in the Twelve Days of Christmas Fitness Challenge MWR is sponsoring during December. The challenge is a means of encouraging service members to maintain their fitness levels throughout the holidays.** (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician Lucinda L. Moise/Released)

Center, the fitness challenge was designed to help people stay in shape throughout the holidays.

"We devised the Twelve Days of Christmas Fitness Challenge to keep everyone physically fit during the holi-

days," said Wilczynski.

For each of the 12 days of Christmas there is a fitness activity, such as riding six miles on a stationary bike. All the activities may be done at ones' own pace as long as all 12 are completed by Dec. 14.

Amongst those participating in the fitness challenge is 22nd/25th Naval Construction Regiment's (NCR) Medical Officer, Cmdr. Henry Casey.

"I decided to do the challenge, because I thought it was an interesting way to exercise. The MWR [Morale Welfare and Recreation] and the Navy are doing a good job coming up with ways to keep people motivated to work out," said Casey.

Those who complete the Twelve Days of Christmas Fitness Challenge by Dec. 14 will receive a souvenir workout towel.

### See Something Wrong, Do Something Right!

NCIS has two new anonymous ways to report crimes or suspicious behavior with the use of discreet and secure online or texting tip lines.

**To report information by Cell text:**

1. Text "NCIS" to the short code 274637 (CRIMES) from any cell or smart phone.
2. Receive a response, for example: "Your alias is: S2U5 Call 911 if urgent! If replies put you at risk, text "STOP"
3. Begin dialogue

**To report information Online:**

1. Go to [www.NCIS.navy.mil](http://www.NCIS.navy.mil), click on the "Report a Crime" tab and select the icon for "text and Web tip Hotline."

*There is a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to a felony arrest or apprehension.*



# NMCB 11 Training Days



**Left: Intelligence Specialist 3rd Class Layne W. Duras, from Hillsboro, Ore., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, prepares an intelligence report in the Combat Operations Center tent during a Command Post Exercise designed as a training tool to help prepare the battalion for deployment.** (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Carmichael / Released)



**Sailors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 move equipment for transport and stowage following a Command Post Exercise designed as a training tool to help prepare the battalion for deployment.** (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Carmichael / Released)

## PCU Arlington turned over to U.S. Navy

By MC1 Eric Brown

### USS Constitution Public Affairs

PASCAGOULA, Miss. – Precommissioning Unit Arlington (LPD 24) was delivered from the shipbuilders of Huntington-Ingalls Industries' (HII) shipyard to the U.S. Navy during a ceremony on the amphibious transport dock's flight deck Dec. 7.

"Today is a great Navy day, and I can't tell you how excited I am to be here," said Supervisor of Ships Gulf Coast's Capt. Stephen Mitchell, addressing about 450 Arlington crew members and shipbuilders in attendance. "There is no greater tribute to the warrior spirit and the resolve of the nation than naming this ship in honor of the 184 men, women and children who died in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001."

Prior to the ceremony, many HII employees lined the shipyard streets to watch as Arlington's plankowner crew marched in formation from their temporary offices in the shipyard's precommissioning support building to the ship moored at the HII West Bank facility.

Doug Lounsberry, Director of LPD 17 Programs, began the delivery ceremony by describing the significance of holding this event on the 71st anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

"After this cowardly act, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to the nation and called this attack 'a day that will live in infamy,'" he said. "An unprecedented buildup of our armed forces began, and shipbuilders all over the country leaned in hard to build the mightiest Navy the world had

ever seen, to take the war to the enemy and make them pay the ultimate price.

"Sixty years later, we were attacked in our homeland once again by cowards, misled by propaganda and unbelieving in our resilience and determination to protect our freedom." Arlington is the second of three 9-11 tribute ships [which also includes USS New York (LPD 21) and Precommissioning Unit Somerset (LPD 25)], named in honor of the 2,977 lives lost on "that second day of infamy."

"I believe their spirits reside in the steel and weaponry that make this warship, and that spirit will sail with you wherever you go, wherever you take this namesake," Lounsberry continued. "Be proud of her, and let no one ever forget what she stands for. Take this ship into harm's way, confident that she will protect you, and help you accomplish your missions."

The delivery of Arlington to the Navy was formalized with the signing of the delivery certificates, performed by Lounsberry, Mitchell, Arlington Commanding Officer Cmdr. Darren Nelson, HII's LPD 24 Production Manager Terry Hayes and LPD 24 Ship Program Manager Kari Wilkinson.

Arlington Command Master Chief Mike Riccitiello pinned the "Command at Sea" insignia above Nelson's right breast pocket, and the ceremony concluded with Arlington Sailors setting the first watch, as the battle ensign was hoisted over the warship for the first time, before being lowered to half-mast in honor of the Pearl Harbor attack anniversary.

Arlington's delivery is the latest milestone in the life of the ship, projected to remain in service for 40 years. Previous significant events include the keel-laying (May 26, 2008), launching (Nov. 23, 2010), christening (March 26, 2011) and completion of sea trials (Nov. 5, 2012).

Arlington is the eighth in Navy's San Antonio class of ships, designed to be the most survivable amphibious ves-



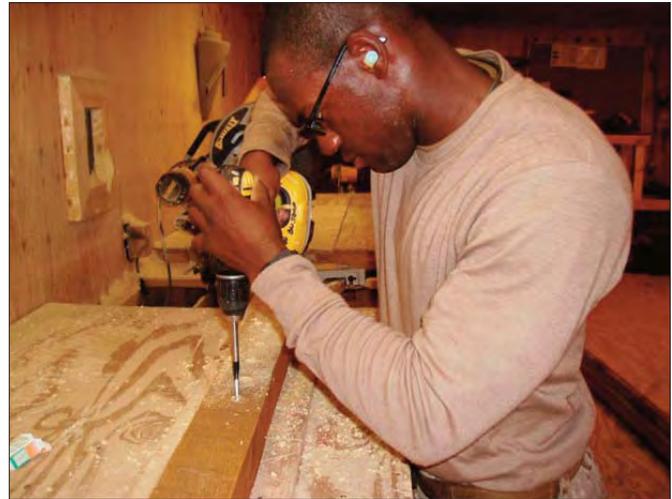
**Precommissioning Unit Arlington (LPD 24) crew members march into the Huntington-Ingalls Industries' shipyard from their temporary precommissioning offices to the amphibious transport dock prior to the ship's delivery to the U.S. Navy Dec. 7. Arlington is named for Arlington County, Va., home of the Pentagon, in honor of the 184 victims and heroes who lost their lives during the terrorist attack there on 9/11.** (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Eric Brown/Released)

sels ever put to sea. The third in the U.S. fleet to bear the name, Arlington will be commissioned in early 2013 and homeported in Norfolk, Va. The ship combines 21st century amphibious shipbuilding and warfighting technologies to support current and future Marine Corps aircraft and landing craft, and will be capable of taking nearly 1,200 Sailors and Marines to the fight.

# NMCB 133 Global Force for Good



**DUSHANBE, Tajikistan - Builder Constructionman Taylor Mendonca, left, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, marks the pitch of rafters for the construction of a Shamsi Base training building during a Global Peace Operations Initiative project. NMCB is deployed with Task Group 56.2, promoting maritime operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 2nd Class Richard Rickert/Released)**



**CAMP KRUTKE, Afghanistan - Steelworker Third Class Joshua Holbert, right, assigned to Task Force Anchor, works on a project in the builder's shop. Task Force Anchor, comprised of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 personnel, is currently deployed to Afghanistan to support engineering operations for coalition forces. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder 3rd Class Michael Morici/Released)**

## NMCB 5 prepares for PACOM deployment

**By MC2 (SCW) Ace Rheume**  
 NMCB 5 Public Affairs

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 and their families attended a pre-deployment fair Nov. 30 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Point Mugu, Calif.

Services ranging from the Fleet and Family Support Center, American Red Cross, NMCB 5 Ombudsmen, and Family Readiness Group were in attendance. These resources provided information for families to use while their Seabee is on deployment.

"The pre-deployment fair is not only a place for food, fun and family time, but it is more so a moment to get the friends and families of NMCB 5 together," said Chief Construction Mechanic Dawn Ayala, homeport liaison and coordinator for the event.

Each NMCB 5 deployment site for Pacific Command (PACOM)

created displays for families to view that included information about each DET, work and living conditions, morale, welfare, and recreational activities and more.

"This is going to be my ninth deployment. From my experience, I know that the more you tell the families, the more information they know, the better and more comfortable they're going to feel when their Seabee deploys," said Builder 1st Class Gordon Brewer, assigned to Det. Guam.

"This is a chance for the Seabees to display and show off where they will be for deployment and what they will be doing for seven months that benefits the community of their area of operation and the future Sailors. It's also a chance to let families meet one another and possibly create friendships to help them through the deployment in any time of need," said Ayala.



**Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 view a display during a pre-deployment fair Nov. 30 at Naval Air Station (NAS) Point Mugu, Calif. Services ranging from the Fleet and Family Support Center, American Red Cross, NMCB 5 Ombudsmen and Family Readiness Group were in attendance to provide information for families to use while their Seabee is on deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ace Rheume/Released)**

### Race Engines, Dirt Bikes, ATV's, Cigarette Boats, Zodiacs

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# *Tis the Season*



Service members, families and civilians affiliated with Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) came together at the Youth Activities Center (YAC) to attend the annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Gift Village event Dec. 7. Sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), the family-friendly fun included children's games, free prizes, vendors, warm cookies and milk and pictures with Santa. Capt. Rick Burgess, commanding officer of NCBC, Santa and Debbie

Brockway, MWR director flipped the switch to illuminate the Christmas Tree and light up the sky. Although the night air was balmy, children of all ages were able to dance and play in artificial snow as they waited in line to visit Santa and tell him their secret wishes. The tree will remain in front of the YAC throughout the holiday season. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jonathan Carmichael, Rob Mims and MWR/Released)



# 'The Meat & Potatoes of Life'

By Lisa Smith Molinari  
Military Spouse Contributor

## A time for hope, cheer and craftiness



During this season of giving, people everywhere are transformed. The Spirit of the Season inspires generosity, compassion and joy in us all. But sometimes, in the midst of all this merriment, our personalities swing wildly in the other direction, resulting in violence, theft, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

What, pray tell, could cause such extreme behavior, you say? The answer is simple: The White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Otherwise known as a "Yankee Swap," "Parcel Pass," or "Dirty Santa," this apparently innocent holiday game rouses merciless thievery and selfish materialism in even the most virtuous of participants.

Case in point: my last bunco group held a white elephant ornament exchange every December. Most members shopped beforehand, picking out something unique, handmade or artistic.

The class clown in me always goes for the laugh, so I couldn't resist when I saw glass blown German ornaments shaped like acorns and walnuts. I bought one of each, envisioning the hysterical laughter that would erupt when, as the recipient opened my ornaments, I would blurt out a joke of questionable taste.

We arrived at the hostess' apartment at the designated hour and placed our tiny packages

under her sparkling tree. Wine glasses filled, chitchat ensued, and we were all enjoying the friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

An hour into the night, we were filling up on hot dip and red and green M&Ms, when the hostess called us into the living room to start the ornament exchange. Light laughter and conversation continued as we casually plopped onto couches and chairs.

We had no idea of the carnage that was about to befall our group.

After some flimsy debate over who should pick first, our hostess announced, "Ok, ladies, why don't we go in alphabetical order, according to the first letter of our middle names."

Three women claiming some derivation of the name "Ann" went first, and they each picked from the wrapped gifts under the tree.

One by one, they gently unraveled the tissue paper from around their chosen ornament. Eyes darted around the room as brains calculated. Just seconds before, we were more interested in cranberry cream cheese spread, but now that merchandise was being revealed, we began to silently strategize.

After four or five women selected from under the tree, the rest of us considered the unopened ornaments before us. Hmm . . . which one should I open . . .

Suddenly someone cried "Steal!" And our mouths began to water. "Yea, it's no fun if we just pick the wrapped gifts, you've got to steal!" I added, wiping the spittle from my chin.

A chant ensued, "Steal! Steal! Steal!" as the designated woman rose from her seat. A tiny grin could be seen on her face as she lunged toward a wooden orna-

ment, snatching it from her victim. We all erupted in hoots and applause, as if the living room had just turned into a Roman Coliseum.

Seething with vengeance, the victim of the ruthless theft plotted her revenge.

The scene quickly turned from one of merriment to mayhem, as my bunco group turned into an unruly mob. As the snarling women snatched ornaments, our host tried to maintain order. "Now, remember ladies, the gift is dead after it is stolen three times."

But the mere mention of "death" only seemed to ignite more savagery.

The last woman to steal shouted, "It's DEAD, it's DEAD!" in a murderous rage, and we all gnashed our teeth as if she was carrying a bloody carcass back to the den.

The final victim had no choice; she had to pick the lone gift left under the tree. It was the acorn and walnut ornaments I had brought, and as she revealed them, I weakly offered my pre-planned inappropriate joke. The women, still wounded from battle, could only force a few bogus chuckles.

As we said goodnight, I realized that we had just had an epic war over meaningless objects that we could purchase for less than \$10 in any local store. But what fun would that be, without the thrill of theft, murder and mayhem in the midst of delicious cookies and twinkle lights?

So remember folks: steal the gift you want before it dies, mercilessly exact your revenge, and have a very Merry Christmas!

Get more wit and observations from Lisa at her blog, <http://themeatandpotatoesof-life.com>.

## CAN DO Christmas

### CAN DO Silent Baked Good Auction . . .

The CAN DO Christmas Charity is holding a Silent Baked Goods Auction throughout the day, Dec. 13. Anyone who is interested in supporting the charity can stop by CCCT/building 260A and submit a written bid, complete with contact information, on a baked item of interest. The bidder can stop by throughout the day to check on their bid and add to their bid if they have been outbid by someone else. All bids begin at \$5.

Donations of baked goods for the auction are needed. Cakes, cookie, cup cakes, brownies and pies would be most welcomed. Anyone interested in donating a baked good is asked to contact one of the CAN DO coordinators listed below by Dec. 10 and bring the item to CCCT/building 260A the morning of the Silent Auction (Dec. 13.) Monetary donations would also be welcomed.

**CAN DO coordinators: UT1 Deangelo, 757-513-8001, UT1 Rygh, 228-547-7240, CE1 Troup, 571-331-0043**



## LADD . . .

### Leaders Against Drunk Driving

LADD is a program sponsored by the NCBC/20th First Class Association. The mission of LADD is to prevent drunk driving on board NCBC Gulfport by providing rides for any service member who needs assistance getting home after an outing that involves alcohol.

~ LADD is strictly confidential. NO REPRISAL!

**Call 228-239-9007**

~ LADD will take individual home only, no stops.

~ Volunteers who stand the watch are on call 24/7.

It is always important to have a plan in place when going out in town, but if your plans fall through, please call LADD and we will pick you up!

100 percent confidential, zero reprisal!

### Think you're tough ... enough to play RUGBY?

"Rugby is a game for BARBARIANS that is played by GENTLEMEN" The newly formed Mississippi Gulf Coast Rugby Club is recruiting players, coaches and fans for the 2013 season right now. We aren't looking for wanna-be tough guys, people who are out of shape or people who don't have time to dedicate three days a week. Once you learn how to play, this sport will supersede your love of any other. Our games last 80 minutes, split into 40 minute halves, and demand a high level of endurance, strength and teamwork. The team is comprised of military and civilians, officers and enlisted, blue-collar workers and doctors, 18 year-olds to 40 year-old men. We are diverse and strong. If you think you have what it takes, come out and see for yourself. Practice is held at Popps Ferry Fields on Tuesday and Thursday at 6 p.m. Bring a friend, if you think they can hang. Mississippi Gulf Coast Men's Rugby Football Club [www.MSGulfCoastRugby.com](http://www.MSGulfCoastRugby.com), <http://HTOSports.com/MSGULFCOAST-TRUGBY> Call Joey at 228-243-2673, Billy at 440-251-4411, Doug at 228-493-6191 or email, [MSGulfCoastRugby@gmail.com](mailto:MSGulfCoastRugby@gmail.com).



# Focus on Education

## Great ways to keep kids reading over the holidays

From StatePoint Media, Inc.

While breaks from school should be fun, they don't have to be breaks from learning. The down time of the holiday season is the perfect time of year to keep kids entertained with books.

And with recent adoption of the Common Core State Standards, which set expectations for what students should be learning so they will be college and career ready, children of all ages will be expected to read more non-fiction.

"As a parent, you can play an important role in helping your children meet the Common Core State Standards while on break," says Donna Elder, senior literacy specialist for the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL). "By using fiction and their interests as a springboard for informational reading, you can make this a fun experience."

Elder is providing reading ideas to feed your children's interests. It's all about offering them books on subjects in which you already know they are interested:

~ For example, if your child enjoyed "The Cricket in Times Square" by George Selden, you can help foster his or her interest in crickets with "Insectiope-dia" by Douglas Florian, "Chirping Crickets" by Melvin Berger, or "Cricket's" by Cheryl Coughlan.

~ After reading "The Snow Child: A Russian Folktale" retold by Freya Little-dale, follow up by encouraging your child to read about the science of weather with "The Kids' Book of Weather Forecasting" by Mark Breen and Kathleen Friestad or "Weather" by Seymour Simon.

~ Teens who couldn't put

down "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins may be interested in learning more about the origins and history of real athletic competitions. Start with "The Olympics: A History of the Modern Games" by Allen Guttman." Or entertain a new-found interest in the outdoors with "The Ultimate Survival Manual" by Rich Johnson or a field guides to birds.

~ Together, visit the non-profit website [www.Wonderopolis.org](http://www.Wonderopolis.org), voted one of TIME magazine's 50 Top Websites of 2011. Wonderopolis is an effective way to teach nonfiction reading, which the Common Core State Standards identify as a critical skill. The site's feature, "Wonder of the Day," is aligned with these standards, examining a new topic daily.

~ Is your child interested in baseball? From historical accounts like "Baseball: A History of America's Favorite Game" by George Vecsey to a book that explains how bats are made, such as "Good Wood: The Story of the Baseball Bat," by Stuart Miller, you can help kids score an academic homerun.

~ Inspire the inner-chef in your children and test their ability to follow instructions with "Kids' Fun and Healthy Cookbook," by Nicola Graimes. Or opt for a picture-book biography like, "Bon Appetit! The Delicious Life of Julia Child" by Jessie Hartland.

Don't let "educational" and "boring" mean the same thing in your household. By seeking out reading material that engages your children on their level on subjects that are meaningful to them, you can help them meet the Common Core State Standards, while having a very merry holiday season.

NCBC School Liaison

Officer

Kevin Byrd is located

at MWR Building 352

1706 Bainbridge Ave.

NCBC, 228-871-2117

or email:

[kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil](mailto:kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil)

## Ground breaking for new Gulfport school

From Harrison County School District Online

On Dec. 5, Henry Arledge along with members of the School Board broke ground at the site of the new elementary school, River Oaks Elementary. The new school will be located on Three Rivers Road. The new school will be built for a capacity of 900 students with room for expansion.

River Oaks Elementary will be



open August 2014 for the 2014-2015 school year and will have 35 classrooms, offices, library, cafeteria, and gymnasium.

**Balfour Beatty hosts  
'Pancakes  
with Santa'  
Dec. 15, 8 -10 a.m.  
at McDonald's  
on board NCBC  
Santa arrives  
at 9 a.m.**



**Balfour Beatty  
Communities**

December 13, 2012

## Parents Guide to School Safety

**What do I do if I feel there is an unsafe condition at my child's school?**

1. Discuss your observations or perceptions with the teacher or principal of the school.
2. If you feel that the situation has not been adequately explained, or appropriate action taken, contact the School District Superintendent or School Board Member who represents you.
3. You can also furnish information by calling the Connections Hotline at 1-888-827-4637 and notifying the operator. Please ensure you list the school, district, county, and exact information to include names of people involved.
4. All calls to the hotline are completely anonymous and if they result in the seizure of a weapon or drugs could result in the caller receiving up to a \$1000 reward.
5. The children of Mississippi belong to all of us, and we must all work together to ensure their safety

For more Harrison County School Safety Information visit the Harrison County School District website at: <http://www.harrison.k12.ms.us/>

Seabee Courier



## Fitness

The holidays may be here, but don't let it get in the way of your workout routine. Make time for a group fitness class. The CBC Fitness Center offers courses as early as 8 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m. Get your heart pumping with some strength/cardio, Zumba or cycling. You can also try out the new low impact aerobics course or center yourself with yoga. For the class schedule, visit us on Facebook at NCBC Gulfport MWR or stop by the Fitness Center today!

## Recreation

Movie Theater: **FREE** every weekend. Grab some popcorn and sit back and enjoy the movie!  
**Friday**, "Lawless," R, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday**, "ParaNorman," PG, 6 p.m.  
**Sunday**, "The Odd Life of Timothy Green," PG, 6 p.m.

## Information, Tickets and Travel:

Looking for a great holiday event for the family? Look no further, ITT

is taking you and your family to Mickey's Music Festival in Mobile Dec. 15 for only \$25! Departing from the ITT parking lot at 11 a.m., and returning approximately 7 p.m. Space is limited - sign up today! (Children ages 6 and under must be in a passenger restraint device, not provided by MWR.)

The last Saints game of the season Saints vs. Panthers will go on sale Dec. 17 at 9 a.m. for just \$52.25/ticket! The first week of sales will be open to Active Duty only. During the second week of sales tickets will be available for purchase to all eligible MWR patrons (Active Duty, Reservists, Dependents, Retirees and DOD employees) with proper ID. Limit two tickets per Military ID card. Parking passes are \$40 for parking inside of the Superdome Parking Garage and will be available on a first come first serve basis. (No refunds or exchanges. All ticket prices are subject to change without warning. ITT is not responsible for lost, stolen or laundered tickets and will not replace them. Resale is prohibited.



About 1,400 military members and their families came out to celebrate the season during the Annual MWR Tree Lighting and Holiday Gift Village held at the Youth Activities Center on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Dec. 7. (Photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

# CHRISTMAS IN THE SOUTH

<p><b>MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA</b>  <b>*STAY AT THE SANDS RESORT MYRTLE BEACH FOR ONLY \$53.25/ NIGHT</b>  <b>*ENJOY CHRISTMAS ON ICE AT THE PALACE THEATRE FOR JUST \$41/AD &amp; \$10/CH</b>  <b>*STROLL THROUGH HOLIDAY EXHIBITS AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS FOR ONLY \$10</b></p>	<p><b>ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>  <b>*STAY AT THE WYNDHAM GARDEN ATLANTA AIRPORT SOUTH FOR ONLY \$55.50/ NIGHT</b>  <b>*ENJOY 5 OF ATLANTA'S MOST POPULAR ATTRACTIONS WITH THE CITY PASS FOR ONLY \$63/AD &amp; \$44.50/CH (3-12)</b>  <b>*TAKE A SPIN AROUND THE ICE SKATING RINK IN CENTINIAL PARK FOR ONLY \$10</b></p>	<p><b>NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA</b>  <b>*STAY AT THE DAUPHINE ORLEANS HOTEL FOR ONLY \$76/ NIGHT (\$120 ON FRI &amp; SAT)</b>  <b>*STEP BACK IN TIME WITH A TOUR TO OAK ALLEY PLANTATION HOME FOR JUST \$48.25/AD &amp; \$21.75/CH (6-12)</b>  <b>*TAKE PART IN THE HOLIDAY TRANSFORMATION OF CITY PARK WITH CELEBRATION IN THE OAKS FOR JUST \$12</b></p>
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All hotels subject to availability. Does not include any black out dates. Not all ticketed events are available through ITT.

Active Duty, Reservist, National Guard, USCG and Retirees are now eligible for a complimentary Universal 3 Day Park-to-Park ticket and Blue Man Group Ticket at children's price! All dependents and DOD employees are eligible for discounted Universal 2 Day, with 3rd Day Free tickets! Call ITT for info!

ITT has Nutcracker tickets available for the performances on Dec. 21 for just \$15/ ticket! Call ITT for more information.

### Liberty Center:

Give back to the community and schedule to volunteer with the Liberty Center. Liberty is arranging a trip to volunteer for the Habitat for Humanity Saturday at 7 a.m. Stop by today and sign up!

Feel like getting away from the base for a little action on the ice. Go check out a MS Surge hockey game with the Liberty Center this Thursday, 6 p.m. Tickets are only \$6. The Liberty Center is located next to the Navy Exchange.

### Navy Outdoor Recreation:

Do you have holiday parties scheduled this season? Outdoor Recreation offers all kind of equipment for gatherings from grills and cookers to children's bounce houses at very affordable prices.

Calling all fishermen! Navy Outdoor Recreation presents the Fishing Rodeo at Seabee Lake, Dec. 22.

To sign up or for more details, call ODR.

**FREE Batting Cage:** No more t-shirts needed. Stop by and take a swing! Rent bats and helmets at no charge from Outdoor Recreation during business hours.

### Food & Beverage

The Beehive has new hours on the weekends and will be open special hours for the holiday season. Head on over every day of the week for good service and good times with friends! Call for details 228-871-4009.

Fight the cold weather by getting a hot breakfast from the Grill. The Grill is located at the corner of Colby and 7th Street and has everything from French toast plates to breakfast burritos or traditional eggs and bacon.

Anchors & Eagles: Open Tuesday-Thursday 2 - 9 p.m. Call now to schedule your holiday event!

### Youth Activities

Its hockey season and time to sign up with the Youth Activities Center to go catch the action on the ice with all of your friends. Enjoy an exciting MS Surge hockey game for only \$7 Saturday, 5 - 11 p.m.

Chocolate is the flavor of the season. Head to the Youth Activities Center on Tuesday from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. for the Triple Play Cooking Club. The club will be making chocolate covered pretzels. Yummy and FREE!

Don't get bored after school. Do something cool at the Youth Activities After-School Program and Power Hour, Monday - Friday, 2 - 5:30 p.m. Call YAC for details.

## For more information about MWR programs and opportunities, contact:

Anchors & Eagles	228-871-4607
Auto Hobby	228-871-2804
Beehive	228-871-4009
Child Development Center	228-871-2323
Fitness Center	228-871-2668
Information, Tickets & Travel	228-871-2231
Liberty Center	228-871-4684
Seabee Heritage Center	228-871-3619
Navy Outdoor Recreation	228-871-2127
RV Park	228-871-5435
The Grill	228-871-2494
Training Hall	228-871-4750
Youth Activities Center	228-871-2251

# NCBC Helping Hands volunteer opportunities

**LONG BEACH ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL SEEKS MENTORS** - Long Beach Alternative School on Old Pass Road in Long Beach is looking for mentors for three high school girls and four high school boys. Mentor duties will include providing direction on assignments, increasing personal accountability and other life skills. Please call Michelle Harrison at 228-865-1956 for more information or to volunteer.

**WOOLMARKET ELEMENTARY**

**SCHOOL SEEKS MENTORS** - Woolmarket Elementary School on John Lee Road in Biloxi is looking for mentors for their male students as they prepare for middle school. Please contact Shirley Hardman at 228-392-5640 for more information or to volunteer.

**COAST SALVATION ARMY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** - Volunteers are need for various projects throughout the year. Contact Shawna Tatge for info, Shawna\_Tatge@uss.salvationarmy.org

**DRIFTWOOD NURSING HOME** -

Want to make a difference in the life of the elderly then volunteer this fall with Driftwood Nursing Home located right outside the Broad Avenue gate. The contact for this volunteer opportunity is Christina at 228-243-3421.

**VOLUNTEER WITH USO** - Volunteering is both fun and rewarding. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please visit <http://www.usovolunteer.org/>. Volunteers are needed at both USO locations - (NMPS 2nd Floor, NCBC and

Gulfport Biloxi International Airport.)

**PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** - Volunteers are needed for the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Champions Tour featuring top golfers - Fred Couples, Tom Lehman, Mark Calcavecchia, Nick Price, & Bernhard Langer March 18 - 24 at the Fallen Oak Golf Club, 24400 Highway 15, Saucier. Volunteer will receive a shirt, hat or visor, a credential for the Week, meals during shift, six good-any-day tickets, a free



round of golf at Grand Bear and admission to a volunteer party at Hard Rock, Biloxi. For details, contact Stephanie Griffis, 228-896-6365.

... Follow Seabee Center on Facebook and Twitter ...

## Seabee Memorial Chapel



**Center Chaplains:**  
**Lt. Cmdr. Paul Smith, Protestant Chaplain**  
**Lt. Yoon Choi, Protestant Chaplain**  
**For information concerning other faith groups, call the chapel office at 228-871-2454**

**Services:**  
**Gospel Service: 8 a.m.**  
**Sunday Catholic Mass: 9:30 a.m.**  
**Weekday Mass: Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.**  
**Divine Worship: Sunday, 11 a.m.**

Watch out for pedestrians . . . Remember, they have the right of way! Unless otherwise posted, the speed limit on board NCBC is 25 m.p.h.

Looking for a way to serve your community? Interested in a law enforcement career? If so, consider volunteering your off duty time and become a Gulfport Police Reserve Officer or a Reserve Community Service Technician. Call Lt. Phillip Kincaid at 228-868-5900, ext. 6189 or email him at [pkincaid@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:pkincaid@gulfport-ms.gov) for additional information.



## Chapel Offerings

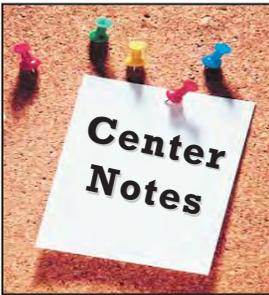
**Looking for a church?**  
 The Seabee Memorial Chapel holds services every Sunday that might suit your needs. Protestant Services include a Gospel Service at 8 a.m. and Divine Worship Service at 11 a.m. Catholic Services include Catholic Mass at 9:30 a.m. There is also Catholic Mass Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m.

**Seabee Pantry**  
 The Seabee Pantry needs restocking. During the holidays, the need for food donations is at its highest level. Please donate as many canned goods and other nonperishables as possible. Donation drop-off sites are located at the Navy Exchange, Chapel, Commissary, Fleet and Family Support Center and Armed Forces Retirement

Home. The Seabee Pantry is for anyone affiliated with NCBC.

**Praise and Worship**  
 The Seabee Memorial Chapel is looking for new members for the Praise and Worship Team for the Divine Worship Service at 11 a.m. Sundays. If you can sing or play an instrument, you are invited to come share your gift.

**Women's Bible Study** Women's Fall Bible Study is held Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. The Fall Bible Study is conducting a six-week study by Jennifer Rothchild - Missing Pieces." Free child care is available. For more information on all offerings that are available, contact the chapel at 228-871-2454.



#### SUPPORT

##### Family Readiness Groups

**NMCB 1 FRG** invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first 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, e-mail nmcbonefrg@gmail.com.

**NMCB 11 FRG** For more information regarding the NMCB 11 FRG, please visit the FRG and Ombudsman website at <http://nmc11.webs.com>.

**NMCB 74 FRG** All families of NMCB 74 are invited to the 74 FRG meeting the third Monday of each month. Meetings are at the MWR Youth Activities Center, building 335, behind the Grinder on NCBC. Socializing begins at 5:30 p.m., and meetings begin at 6 p.m.

Bring a covered dish to share at our potluck dinner. Children are welcome. Email [nmc74fsg@yahoo.com](mailto:nmc74fsg@yahoo.com) or visit our Facebook page at "NMCB74 Fearless FRG" for more information.

**NMCB 133 FRG** invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact FRG President Jaime Royal at 317-730-4064 or send an email to [NMCB133fsg@gmail.com](mailto:NMCB133fsg@gmail.com). To receive updates, log on to the FRG site at <http://www.wix.com/NMCB133FSG/133frg>

##### Gulfport Officer's Spouse Club

The Gulfport 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, email [gosgulfport@yahoo.com](mailto:gosgulfport@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 and 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

##### 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 1, 2nd floor conference room. Contact Lt.j.g. Bowling at 228-313-9035 or [coachcb@yahoo.com](mailto:coachcb@yahoo.com) for information.

##### 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.

**CBC/20SRG Second Class Petty Officers Association** is seeking mem-

bers. Meetings are Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. in the Fitness Center classroom. Contact the Association's Public Affairs Officer LS2 Matthew Wasson at [matthew.t.wasson@navy.mil](mailto:matthew.t.wasson@navy.mil) or President LS2 Earl Simpson at [earl.simpson@navy.mil](mailto:earl.simpson@navy.mil) for information.

**NCBC Multi-Cultural Diversity Committee** is seeking members. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m., at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. Contact BU1 Jerma Cloude at 228-871-2454 for details.

**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 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Contact Post Commander Bill North at 228-863-8602 for information.

**VFW Post 4526** Orange Grove is open daily from Noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. Meetings are the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call 228-832-0017 for more info.

**NMCB 62 Alumni Group** Naval Mobile Construction Battalion

(NMCB) 62 was recommissioned in Gulfport in 1966, and decommissioned in 1989. To become a member, go to <http://nmc62alumni.org> 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. 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 information.

**D.A.V. - Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5** invites Veterans and future Veterans to monthly meetings held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Service Officer, Silva Royer at 228-324-1888 to find out more about our organization and all that is offered to members.

##### HERITAGE

**The Seabee Gift Store** is located in the Seabee Heritage Center Training Hall, building 446. Hours are 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 information on all that is available for customers.



Your Gulfport Commissary . . . It's worth the trip! Visit [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) to see all that the Commissary has to offer!

### NCBC CIVBEEs . . . Are You Up for a Challenge? Announcing the NCBC/Keesler Civilian 'Biggest Loser' Contest

NCBC Civilians (CIVBEEs) have challenged Keesler Air Force Base civilians to a Biggest Loser Team Challenge competition. The competition will kick off Jan. 14 at the Fitness Center during an introduction to Fitness Center equipment. Anyone interested in participating in the six week-long competition must have a doctor's release of good health form turned in to their supervisor. The release states that the participant is cleared to begin an exercise program. Official weigh-in for participants will be conducted Jan. 7 - 11, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Fitness Center. Benefits of participating include access to a free training class during the lunch hour, as well as nutritional classes. Weigh-ins will be conducted weekly during the challenge. The base that wins will have bragging rights to a trophy that will be displayed at the winner's command suite. For more competition information, contact Dorothy Coleman, 228-871-4848 or [dorothy.coleman@navy.mil](mailto:dorothy.coleman@navy.mil).

## NEX Holiday Return Policy means satisfaction guaranteed

By Kristine M. Sturkie

NEXCOM Public Affairs Specialist

This holiday season, the NEX wants to make returning gifts as easy as possible. Since gifts may be purchased well before they are given during the holidays, all NEXs will accept returns through January 31, 2013. This extended return policy applies to original purchases made Oct. 28 - Dec. 24 either in a NEX or through the NEX web store,

[www.myNavyExchange.com](http://www.myNavyExchange.com). Customers are asked to include any packaging material along with the receipt when making a return. Any returns without a receipt will be placed on a NEX Gift Card.

"We know the holiday season can be hectic," said Michael Powers, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) Director, Retail Operations. "We want to give our NEX customers enough time to enjoy

the holidays with their friends and families and still have time to return any gift purchases.

One gift that won't be returned is the NEX Gift Card. It can be used just like cash for most merchandise and service purchases, make layaway payments or place special orders. NEX Gift Cards have no fees and don't expire and can be purchased in varying amounts by both exchange-authorized and non-authorized customers.

**Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline Information . . .** 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).