



Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 49 No. 02

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

January 26, 2012

Seabee Ball Fashion Show
Feb. 3, 6 - 8 p.m.
Training Hall

Early retirement option approved for some ERB separating Sailors

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

As announced by NAVADMIN 025/12, released Jan. 20, the Navy will offer voluntary early retirement to certain Sailors separating due to the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB).

The National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law Dec. 31, 2011, reinstated the authority for the Department of Defense to implement Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) for Sailors who have completed at least 15 years of service.

TERA is a temporary, voluntary program that offers voluntary early retirement at a reduced monthly retirement pay to eligible members with 15 to 20 years of active service.

"Our Sailors have served honorably and our Navy is committed to doing all we can to help them and their families successfully transition to the civilian sector," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West. "We have aggressively pursued the option to offer early retirement benefits to eligible Sailors since Temporary Early Retirement Authority was granted. This is the right thing to do, and it ensures we provide the strongest possible transition benefits to those who qualify for retirement under TERA."

Sailors who will have com-
See **EARLY** page 24



Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Michael McCracken of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 uses a Navy extendable-boom forklift to steady a vehicle teetering off a bridge on Highway 101 as Santa Barbara County firefighters attach ropes and chains to pull the vehicle back onto the roadway near Buellton, Calif., Jan. 12.

(Photo by Leah Thompson, Santa Maria Times/Released)

Seabees rescue family from crash on California highway

By MCC (SCW/SW/AW)
Jesse A. Sherwin III
NMCB 3 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 and the 31st Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) helped to rescue a family involved in a car wreck on Highway 101 in Buellton, Calif., Jan. 12.

Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Frankie Cruz, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Michael McCracken, and Equipment Operator Constructionman Clinton Roberts of NMCB 3 along with Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Shawn Legg, Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Benjamin Mead, and Construction Mechanic 3rd Class (SCW) James Winters from the 31SRG helped to rescue the

family of the wrecked vehicle by operating a forklift to keep the car from sliding off the bridge while rescue crews extracted the family of three.

"As the fire department was cutting the car to get the family out, it kept on slipping over the bridge and faced a 100 foot fall," said McCracken, the forklift operator. "I talked to the fire captain in charge and he was excited to hear that we had an extendable-boom forklift just 200 to 300 feet behind the wreck and he said to go get it."

"They [the Seabees] came up, they all got out and wanted to know if they could help maybe with traffic or something else," said Officer Danny Maher, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officer. "They had a

large forklift with them, and we were able to obtain and have them use so they could support the BMW as it was teetering on the side of the bridge; they supported the BMW so the fire department could get in and extricate the parties."

The forklift was being transported back from Fort Hunter Liggett where NMCB 3 had finished a pre-deployment certification exercise in mid-December. The Seabees off-loaded the forklift to stabilize the car so rescue crews could use the Jaws of Life to extract the mother and her two young children.

"The mom and two children are all alive, and we had a hand in it," said McCracken. "That is the biggest thing that I got out of it."

See **RESCUE** page 13

INSIDE

- A 'Plan B' for service members. 3
- NMCB 7 on deck in Afghanistan 6
- Building a dream 16

Welcome Home NMCB 1 Delayed Party! As we went to print, the happy homecoming was taking place. Check the NCBC Gulfport facebook page for all the great photos.

NCBC/20SRG
Commanding Officer
 Capt. Rick Burgess
Public Affairs Officer
 Rob Mims
Editor
 Bonnie L. McGerr
Mass Communication Specialist
 MCC (SCW/SW/AW)
 Ryan G. Wilber
Special Contributors
 BU3 (SCW) Cassandra Locke
 UTCN Daneia Johnson

22 NCR Commander
 Capt. Kathryn A. Donovan
Public Affairs Officer
 MCC Jason Carter

25 NCR Commander
 Capt. Darius Banaji
Public Affairs Officer
 MCC (SW/AW) Scott Boyle

NMCB ONE
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Mike Saum
Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. Jonathon Charfauros
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC1 (AW/NAC) Aron Taylor

NMCB SEVEN
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. James G. Meyer
Public Affairs Officer
 MCC (SCW/AW/SW) Yan Kennon

NMCB ELEVEN
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Maria Aguayo
Public Affairs Officer
 Ensign Timothy Palik
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC1(AW) Jonathan Carmichael

NMCB SEVENTY FOUR
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Richard Hayes
Public Affairs Officer
 Lt. j.g. Sonny Rowland
Mass Comm. Specialist
 MC2(SCW) Michael Lindsey

NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Nicolas D. Yamodis
Public Affairs Officer
 MC1(SW/AW) Steven Myers

NCTC Gulfport
Commanding Officer
 Cmdr. Bill Whitmire
Public Affairs Officer
 Chaplain (Lt.) Rob Guilliams

The Seabee Courier is an authorized publication for members of the military services and their families. Content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the DoD or the U.S. Navy and does not imply endorsement thereof. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U. S. Government, DoD, the Navy, NCBC Gulfport or The McClatchy Company of the products and services advertised. All content in this newspaper shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The Seabee Courier is published 22 weeks a year by The McClatchy Company, a private firm in no way connected with the DoD, under an exclusive contract with the U. S. Navy. The Seabee Courier solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources, but the Public Affairs staff reserves the right to edit and/or rewrite material selected for publication to conform with journalism standards. The deadline for material is close of business Wednesday the week prior to publication. Your comments are always welcome. The Seabee Courier office is in Building 1, Room 205. The mailing address is 4902 Marvin Shields Blvd., Code 15, Gulfport, MS 39551. Phone: 228 871-3662, E-mail: seabeeCourier@navy.mil

NCBC accepting applications for Ombudsman Chair

By Paula Ingram

Fleet and Family Support Center Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) is looking for candidates to fulfill the duties of Ombudsman Assembly Chairperson. The Chairperson will play a key role in helping area Ombudsmen maintain mission and family readiness.

Qualified applicants must be an active duty spouse and a current Ombudsman and must possess knowledge of the chain of command and military lifestyle. Good judgement, sound leadership skills and a demonstrated ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing are all required for this position.

Duties and responsibilities include:

~ Practice and enforce application of the Ombudsman Code of

Ethics during all assembly meetings and activities.

~ Preside over all meetings of the ombudsman assembly

~ Call special meetings as required.

~ Provide information and support to area ombudsmen.

~ Team with the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) ombudsman coordinator to plan and schedule monthly training to meet the needs of the assembly. Prepare and distribute an agenda for all meetings.

All interested applicants should submit a resume to Charlotte Williams, 228-871-3320, no later than Feb. 2.

For more information about the qualifications and responsibilities, contact Paula Ingram at the FFSC, 228-871-3457 or refer to OP-NAVINST 1750.1G, enclosure (6).

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, 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.

Fraud, Waste, Abuse Line

Due to limited IG resources throughout the Southeast Region, all Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline work will now be handled by the Region. To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact the Region at: Toll Free 1-877-657-9851 Comm: 904-542-4979 DSN 942-4979 FAX: 904- 542-5587, E-mail: CNRSE_HOTLINE@navy.mil.

Skipper's Log

Something Special

By Capt. Rick Burgess
 CO/CBC/CMDR 20TH SRG

As usual, there are a lot of great things happening on board the Naval Construction Battalion Center. First I would like to say Bravo Zulu to all who contributed to the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign. The event, spearheaded by Lt. j.g. Canon Pattillo, raised more than \$105,000. That is \$25,000 more than our goal.

Another BZ goes to MWR's Child and Youth Programs, which includes the Child Development Center, Youth Activities Center, Child Development Homes, Teen Center and similar programs at Stennis, for earning outstanding scores during a recent unannounced inspection of their programs. All of their scores were higher than the Navy's national average. This tells me that our people running these programs take immense pride in being the very best and providing a superior level of service for our families.

Saving lives is not something that occurs every day at NCBC, but several folks at the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society's Thrift Store did just that. During the NMCRS birthday celebration event, a patron began choking on a piece of food. Fortunately, alert military spouse and nurse, Kristen Hausken, and volunteers Michele



Capt. Rick Burgess

Ponte and Christine Crosby were able to perform the Heimlich Maneuver to dislodge the food and ultimately save the patron's life. Other volunteers assisting were Alyssa Dardano, Valerie Hildreth and Valerie Merit. BZ to these ladies for their quick thinking and action!

Finally, the last Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 are finally back from Afghanistan. Thank you all for a job well done. We're glad that you are home safe and sound!

I am thankful I can be a part of such an extraordinary organization that puts every effort into going that extra mile. You are all something special. Keep up the great work!

Sailor's Creed

I am a United States Sailor,
 I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me,
 I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world,
 I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment,
 I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

Around the Center



Equipment Operator 3rd Class Kareshia McGriff sings "Yesterday" by Mary Mary at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony held at the Training Hall on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Jan. 12. The ceremony's guest speaker was Dr. John R. Kelly, Gulfport's Chief of Administrations Officer. Logistics Specialist 1st Class Latoya Rogers was the Master of Ceremonies for the program. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder 3rd Class Cassie Locke/Released)

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Command Master Chief Joe Perrone returns salutes from members of the khaki community as he is piped ashore at the conclusion of his retirement ceremony Jan. 12. Seabees from around the world gathered at the Training Hall to celebrate the milestone occasion. (U.S. Navy photo by Utilitiesman Constructionman Daneia Johnson/Released)



Prospective chiefs on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) gather at the old gym to take the Navy-wide Chief Petty Officer advancement exam Jan. 19. Sailors are given three hours to answer 200 questions that test their knowledge of their rating and basic military requirements. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)



Navy-Marine Corp Relief Society (NMCRS) Director Alice Huffman along with volunteers of the NMCRS Thrift Shop celebrate the 108 birthday of the NMCRS on board NCBC, Jan. 20. Located in building 29, the Thrift Shop is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturday of every month. (U.S. Navy photo by Utilitiesman Constructionman Daneia Johnson/Released)



When hopes are dim, Aim High

By Rob Mims
NCBC Public Affairs Officer

Very rarely can one escape the news of budget cuts and force restructuring, including Perform to Serve and Enlisted Retention Board and the stress that comes with these potentially horrifying announcements. At Gulfport, some Seabees are finding themselves without a job or soon will.

There is some good news for those who are getting served with discharge papers but still want to be associated with the military in some form or fashion. It comes in the form of the Air Force Reserve - they are hiring.

"We are poised to recruit prior service people," said Master Sgt. James Scapperotti, In-Service Recruiter with Air Force Reserve Recruiting at Keesler Air Force Base. He said most members being sent home from the Navy can transfer directly from active duty into the Air Force Reserve, in most cases, the next day. The only caveat is when a member has an Individual Ready Reserve requirement (usually for members who have less than eight years of service), then it takes a little longer since he must get the member released from their IRR obligation. He also said that in most cases, individuals can keep their same rank.

People who are wondering about redoing basic training need not worry, they don't have to. They are looking for good non-commissioned officers. "As NCO's, their experience and expertise is very valuable to the Air Force Reserve," said Scapperotti.

Some enlisted members may even qualify to join the Reserve as an officer if they have a bachelors degree. If so, they will attend a twelve week Officer Training School at Maxwell AFB, Ala.



Those who need more college to get their degree, unlike active duty, can use their 9/11 GI Bill while being a member of the Reserve.

However, the Air Force Reserve also offers a 100 percent Tuition Assistance program, up to \$4,500 a year. According to the Air Force Reserve, members can earn credits toward an associates degree at the Community College of the Air Force while in school and receive specialized training that may help members earn valuable licenses, such as Federal Aviation Administration Certificates. Some training, such as pilot's training, that may not be available on Active Duty, may be available in the Reserve. As in most careers, higher education is very important. However, having a degree is not necessary to join as an enlisted member.

Also, many of the jobs being cut from the Seabees transfer over in the Air Force Reserve in Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (REDHORSE) units and Civil Engineer Squadrons.

REDHORSE units are located at five Air Force Reserve bases including 556th RED HORSE Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla., 555th RED HORSE Squadron, Nellis AFB, Nev., 307th RED HORSE Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La., 560th RED HORSE Squadron, Charleston AFB, S.C., and the 567th RED HORSE Squadron, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. "We have other Civil Engineer squadrons located at most Air Force Reserve Wings," said

See AIM page 12

NCBC TAC opens for business

By Lt.j.g. Maren Sheppard, JAGC
NLSO Central Detachment Gulfport
NCBC's Tax Assistance Center
(TAC) opened its doors Jan. 23. The
TAC provides free tax preparation
assistance to service members, their
dependents, and any Reservists on
active duty for more than 29 days
during the 2012 tax season, pro-
vided the taxpayer has an adjusted
gross income (AGI) of \$58,000 or
less.

This tax season the Volunteer In-
come Tax Assistance (VITA) center
will be shifting to a self-service pro-
gram for most eligible taxpayers –
Military OneSource will be providing
an online extension of H&R Block at
Home. The service is free for all ac-
tive duty, guard and Reserve per-
sonnel and their families as well as
anyone who is a legal representative
of a child of a military member who
is deployed or separated from the
child.

Self-service is available on a first
come, first serve, walk-in basis (no
appointments are needed) Tues-
days, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
While service members complete
their returns trained tax volunteers
will be on hand to offer guidance in
tax preparation, allowing for fast
and free filing. In addition, appoint-
ments will be available Mondays and
Thursdays.

Taxpayers should bring the follow-
ing documents with them: social
security cards for all family members
and spouses; W-2's, 1099's, mort-
gage statements, 1098's, total of
payments made for college tuition
and books, etc.; last year's tax re-
turns (if available); checkbooks; ap-
plicable receipts for Schedule A
(charity and medical) and adjust-
ment items; and if filing in the sta-
tus of Married Filing Jointly, both
taxpayers must be present to "sign"
the return or present a signed
Power of Attorney for taxes.

The TAC is located in Building 60,
room 250 and is open Monday
through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For
questions or to make an appoint-
ment the TAC can be reached at

January 26, 2012
Seabee Courier

4

70th Annual Seabee Ball CAN DO since '42



March 3, 6 p.m. – Midnight

Guest Speaker Rear Admiral Kurt Tidd,
Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern
Command, U.S. Fourth Fleet

Cocktails: 6 p.m., Dinner: 7 p.m.

Menu

Choice of Entrée

Seared Breast of Chicken topped with a Crimi-
ni Mushroom demi glaze
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables

Top Sirloin Steak seasoned and char-grilled
topped with a Crimini Mushroom demi glaze
Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert: White Chocolate Mousse w/Berries

Uniforms

E1 – E6: Service Dress Blues with Large
Medals

E7 – O3: Dinner Dress Blues

O4 & Above: Dinner Dress Blue Jacket

Civilians: Formal

Ticket Prices:

E1 to E6: \$20

E7 and Above: \$40

Ticket Sales and Information:

See your Command Rep

Free Child Care at CDC with purchase of
ticket! First come, first serve

\$15 Youth and Teen Lock-In:

March 3, 5 p.m. to March 4, 7 a.m.
with purchase of a ticket

Safety is like a lock, but you are the key . . . Before you do it, take time to think through it!

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE



**NCBC
Valentines
Blood Drive**
Feb 9,
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Chapel
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Liberty Center

Donors with appointments will be given priority. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code SEABEES for the Chapel or SEABEESLIBERTY for the Liberty Center site.

Presenting donors will be registered in the February drawing to win a pair of airline tickets.

Did you know that you can renew your NCBC DOD sticker online? Check it out at <https://www.pid.cnbc.navy.mil>. Ensure you have all of your vehicle, drivers license and insurance information prior to starting the process.



AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

NMCB 7 assumes authority from NMCB 1 in Central Command

By NMCB 7 Public Affairs

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 assumed command of construction operations in Afghanistan from NMCB 1 during a Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony at the Battalion Headquarters at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan on Jan. 18. NMCB 7 is one of two Seabee Battalions currently deployed to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operation.

"All the Seabees of NMCB 7 are very motivated to begin work to provide engineering support across Afghanistan to assist in counter insurgency operations and bringing stability to the country," said Cmdr. J.G. Meyer, NMCB 7 Commanding Officer.

NMCB 7 deployed to the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan (CJOA-A), from its homeport of Gulfport, Miss. Jan. 9, to provide a highly responsive and maneuverable engineer force and resources to conduct contingency, mobility and general engineering support operations across supported commander's lines of operation throughout CENTCOM, to improve the operational capabilities of Coalition Forces.

"The Seabees of NMCB 7 have trained very hard in our homeport preparing for this deployment and are ready to execute the mission," said Meyer. "I could not be prouder of these Seabees and I have every confidence in their pending success."

As part of the Naval Construction Force (NCF) Force Flow, NMCB 7 was designated as the replacement Battalion for the mission and responsibilities previously owned by NCMB 1, with the Battalion's Mainbody component located at Kandahar Airfield, and several task-tailored detachments operating throughout southern Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Bahrain.



Command Master Chief Curtis Cassell, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 command master chief, passes the Battalion flag to Master-at-Arms 1st Class Lisa Chambers to be raised to signify that NMCB 7 has assumed authority of contingency construction at Kandahar Airfield. NMCB 7 and its detachments are one of two Seabee battalions conducting contingency construction and deconstruction in support of the International Security Assistance Force as part of Task Force Forager, operating in the U.S. Central Command area of operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Yan Kennon/Released)

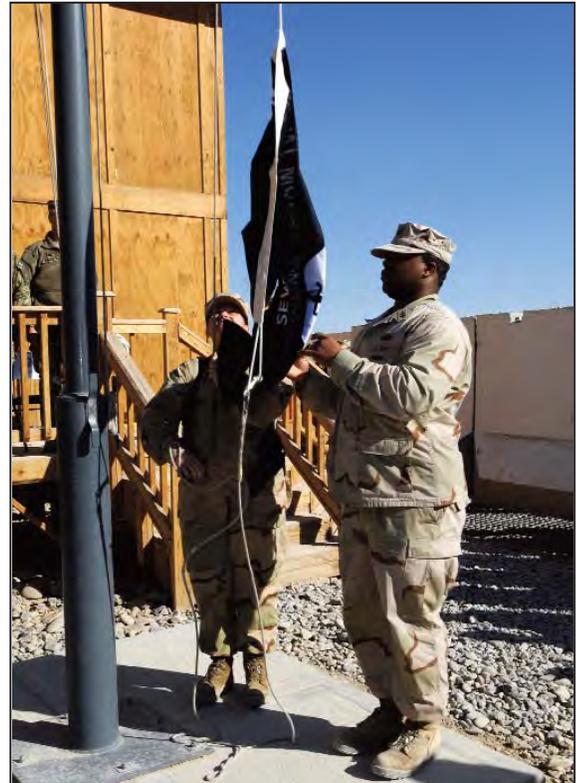
As an integral element of the engineer force of Task Force Forager (TFF), NMCB 7 will serve under the direction of 30th Naval Construction Regiment, whose homeport is located at Port Hueneme, Calif. Task Force Forager, consisting of Navy Seabees and U.S. Army Engineer Forces, supports the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) through direct tactical infrastructure development, improvements and deconstruction, engagement with Afghan Security Forces (ASF) and Afghan National Army (ANA) engineers, convoy security support and theater Freedom of Movement (FoM) routes, and mission-specific construction in support of combat operations.

The highlight of the Transfer of Authority ceremony came as NMCB 1 lowered its Battalion flag, to signify the end of their deployment; immediately followed by the raising of NMCB 7's Battal-

ion flag, to signify that NMCB 7 assumes authority.

"NMCB 1 provided a great turnover to help us succeed," Meyer said. "Their hard work and efforts were greatly appreciated to ensure a smooth and successful Relief in Place (RIP) / Transfer of Authority (TOA)." NMCB 1 was deployed throughout the CENTCOM AOR from May 2011 through January 2012 and is scheduled to return to its homeport in Gulfport, Miss.

Following a 10 month deployment to Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean in 2010, NMCB 7 commenced a 12-month homeport training cycle that involved the achievement of dozens of skill and general training for the various construction ratings, small-arms and crew service weapons qualifications, operation planning, embarkation, and a Battalion-level two week Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Camp Shelby, Miss. that



Master-at-Arms 1st Class Lisa Chambers, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, and Chief Boatswain's Mate Tyrus Jackson, assigned to NMCB 1, raise NMCB 7's battalion flag to signify that NMCB 7 has assumed authority of contingency construction at Kandahar Airfield and various sites throughout southern Afghanistan, Bahrain and Kuwait. NMCB 7 and its detachments are one of two Seabee battalions conducting contingency construction and deconstruction in support of the International Security Assistance Force as part of Task Force Forager, operating in the U.S. Central Command area of operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communications Specialist Yan Kennon/Released)

exercised the core capabilities of a NCF unit. The FTX also exercised the Battalion's mobilization and demobilization process, camp construction and operation, construction project execution, logistic support and convoy operations, and camp, convoy, and project defense, climaxing with the Battalion successfully completing their Final Evaluation Problem (FEB) portion of the exercise, a graded evolution that ultimately classifies a Battalion as "Deployable".

NMCB 7, often referred to as the "MAGNIFICENT SEVEN", is one of the original 10 Seabee battalions authorized by the Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, in 1942, and is currently one of nine active NMCBs in the NCF, a military engineering force of nearly 17,000 Active and Reserve Component Seabees operating worldwide. Upon completion of their current deployment, NMCB 7 will decommission on Sep. 30 as part of the Fiscal Year 2012 force reduction plan.

Command Flag 5K Run . . . All commands are invited to come out and run with their command guideons at the Command Flag 5K Run Feb. 24, at 6:30 a.m. in front of the NCBC Fitness Center. Civilian facilities are also encouraged to make their own guideons and participate.

Lunchtime 3 on 3 Basketball League . . . Sign ups are taking place at the NCBC Fitness Center through Jan. 31. League starts Feb. 6.

Hard Chargin' Graduates



Master Chief Steven Boomer, Charlie Company Commander presents the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Honor Graduate award for Builder "A" School Class 12050 to Builder 2nd Class Nathan Williamson at the course graduation ceremony. After graduation, Williamson will be assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Charlie Company Commander, Master Chief Steven Boomer presents the Honor Graduate award for Steelworker "A" School Class 12030 to Steelworker Construction Recruit Ethan Kerber. Kerber's next assignment is Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 3 homeported in Port Hueneme, Calif. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Echo Company Commander, Senior Chief Builder Joe Daniel presents the Military Excellence Award for Builder "A" School Class 12050 to Builder Construction Recruit Thomas Jobe Jr. After graduation, Jobe's next duty station is Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) NMCB 26. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)



Senior Chief Builder Joe Daniel, Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Echo Company Commander, presents the Military Excellence Award for Steelworker "A" School Class 12030 to Steelworker Construction Recruit Andrea Foley. Foley's next assignment is Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

AD
SPACE

**Wanted:
UCT Seabee
Divers!!!**



Underwater Construction Team ONE is searching for highly motivated Seabees and CEC Officers looking for a career and lifestyle change.

Join an ELITE force and travel as a small, professional team. Execute specialized construction, diving and demolition skills with the latest and greatest technology and equipment.

Contact UCT CCC/Diver recruiting team @ (757) 462-3988/4313 or Email YNC Aberle at christopher.aberle1@navy.mil; EA2 Potamitis at marios.potamitis@navy.mil; or visit www.facebook.com/seabee.diver for more information

. . . Follow Seabee Center on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information . . .

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

Buzz on the Street



By UTCN Daneia Johnson
Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?



"The Ravens will win because Ray Lewis and Ray Rice are beasts."
UTCN (SCW) Matthew Grave
NMCB 133
Hometown: Lincoln, Neb.



"I think the Baltimore Ravens will win because they have the best defense in the NFL."
YN2 Domonique Green
NCBC
Hometown: Jacksonville, Fla.



"The New York Giants will win. They upset the team that held the best record in the NFL this season and defense does a great job of containing the opposing quarterback."
BUCN (SCW) Kimberly Miller
NMCB 74
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.

NCBC FRAMES

Master-At-Arms 1st Class Danielle Metz, CBC
By BU3 (SCW) Cassie Locke, NCBC PAO

FF: What single experience during your career stands out the most and why? **MA1: The experience that stands out the most has been being stationed here with the Seabees. I wasn't confident I would enjoy my tour here being I am a Fleeter but this has been by far the best duty station.**

FF: What has been your biggest motivation throughout your career? **MA1: My biggest motivation throughout my career has been to do my best in taking care of my troops. I guess you could say when I help my troops I am living vicariously through them in hopes they decide to do what is going to help them in their Navy careers.**

FF: What advice would you give to future



Seabees/Sailors?

MA1: Stay positive and stay focused! The Navy is changing and unfortunately there are some exceptional Sailors having to go home. Don't settle for a good job, settle for outstanding!

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

MA1: My favorite part about working with the Seabees is the support they have for one another. Formations and accountability are not a priority in the Fleet but

with the Seabees they have shown me the importance of it all.

FF: Who was your most influential mentor during your career, and why?

MA1: MACM Paula Necaise and MAC Alicia Curry are two leaders I

look to for guidance and have the utmost respect for. They are leaders who give "tough love" but are always there for their Sailors. I find myself to be very lucky to have been stationed with both of them.

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

NCBC Gospel Sound Choir Competition 2012

Gospel Choirs interested in bringing joy to the Seabee community are invited to



share their musical talents at the NCBC Gospel Sound Choir Competition 2012. The event will be held Saturday, March 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Training Hall. Registration forms (\$50 per choir) and tickets (\$2) are available at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. Proceeds from the event will be donated toward the establishment of an installation memorial for the fallen. For more information, you may contact RP2 De'Angelo Wynn at 228-871-2454 or Cmdr. Ruth Goldberg at 228-871-3504.

Underwater Construction Team (UCT) ONE Seabee Diver Recruiting Trip Feb. 22 - 23, 2012



Wednesday, Feb. 22:
2 - 3:30 p.m. - Meet with Seabee battalions (building 1, main Conference Room)

4:30 - 5 p.m. - Meet with Seabee "A" school students in Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Conference Room

Requirements:

~ Must be in Seabee ratings: BU, SW, EA, UT, CE, EO and CM with ASVAB of VE + AR = 104 and MC = 50

~ Must be able to pass UCT Diver Screening and PRT (Swim - 14 minutes, Push-ups - 42 in 2 minutes, Curl-ups - 50 in 2 minutes, Pull-ups - 6, Run 1.5 miles in 12 minutes, 45 seconds). * Refer to MILPERSMAN 1220-100, Exhibit 1 for full details on Diver PST*

Refer to MILPERSMAN 1306-912 for more information and program details.

Come out if you have what it takes to become a UCT Diver!!!

AD
SPACE

Scapperotti. And while normal tours are one weekend a month and two weeks a year, Reservists, in many cases, can find deployments to go on if they want. The bottom line is "You're staying affiliated [with the military]," he said.

According to the Air Force Reserve, members will typically join the Air Force Reserve unit of their choosing. Through the course of their career, they will not be transferred to another location unless they request it.

Believe it or not, the majority of benefits offered as an active duty member are offered to Reserve members. Some of these include continued use of the commissary and exchange, continued access to TRICARE health care insurance and continued access to Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). But maybe one of the most important is the continuing growth of retirement benefits.

The time a member serves in the Air Force Reserve is added to their time already served on Active Duty.

"I've had people who come in with 12 years," said the recruiter. "If they do eight with us, they can earn a retirement."

The formula to find out the probability of prior service members being able to join the Air Force Reserve is simple; subtract the number of years of active duty and/or active reserve from the member's age, if the result is less than 40, the member may be eligible to join.

Scapperotti said members can enlist for three to six years, but must be able to complete 20 years total service by age 60.

For members who have been affected by Perform to Serve and Enlisted Retention Board, the Air Force Reserve is offering an opportunity for continuing service.

"Whether you're separating today or a year from now, it's not too early to plan for your transition," said Scapperotti.

To learn more, go to <http://afreserve.com/> or contact Master Sgt. Scapperotti at 228-377-7116 or email at james.scapperotti.1@us.af.mil.

Recruit Military Hiring Fair . . .

Feb. 2, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mercedes-Benz Superdome,
New Orleans, La.



A hiring fair for Veterans and military spouses. Additional information available at <https://events.recruitmilitary.com/events/new-oreleans-opprtunity-expo-february-2-2012>

Military.com/NCOA Career Expo . . .

March 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Courtyard by Marriott at Gulfport Beachfront
1600 East Beach Boulevard, Gulfport
Companies from accounting, administrative, advertising, aerospace, banking, government, healthcare and many more
Please pre-register at <http://www.military.com/career-expo/>

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

**Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
annual
Seabee Ball Fashion Show
Feb. 3, 6 - 8 p.m.
Training Hall**

Donations of gently used gowns, accessories and shoes to give someone else the opportunity to “gussy-up” for the 2012 Seabee Ball are still being accepted. Models are also needed. Gown sale proceeds go to help NMCRS services. Call 228-871-2610 for more information.

From RESCUE page 1

Maher said the family can thank the quick work of U.S. Navy Seabees who were traveling back to their base at Port Hueneme when they came upon the accident.

“We were just in the right place at

the right time,” said McCracken.

NMCB 3 is an expeditionary element of U.S. Naval Forces providing construction, engineering and security services in support of national strategy, naval power projection, humanitarian assistance and contingency operations.

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD SPACE

January 26, 2012

Seabee Courier

14

FOCUS on EDUCATION

Great day at the movies



Quarles Elementary School students collect their popcorn and drinks in preparation for the movie they are about to see at the Training Hall on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Jan. 19. Quarles students were given the opportunity to attend a movie as a reward for perfect school attendance. The event was hosted by Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC), as part of the Partners in Education (PIE) program. (U.S. Navy photo by Utilitiesman Constructionman Daneia Johnson/Released)

Defense Department launches website for military children

By National Center for Telehealth and Technology

The Defense Department launched a new website for children experiencing the challenges of military deployments.

The highly interactive website, <http://www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org>, was created by psychologists at DOD's National Center for Telehealth and Technology.

It helps children of deployed parents cope with the stress, changing responsibilities, and concern for the safety of their parents, officials said.

The center, known as T2, developed the website with informative videos, educational tools, and engaging games and activities for three age groups: 6 to 8, 9 to 12 and 13 to 17. The

site features monitored online social network forums for the groups to safely share their experiences with deployments.

MilitaryKidsConnect.org is the first DOD website to connect children in the widely separated active, reserve, and National Guard military communities, officials said.

"Since 2001, an estimated 2 million children have said goodbye to a parent headed to deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan, other places around the globe, and on ships at sea," explained Kelly Blasko, a T2 psychologist. "Military children are deeply affected by the separation of their parent's deployment. We've seen that in their hearts, kids deploy too."

The website has features that

will help children, parents, and educators navigate the wide range of practical and emotional challenges military families must live with throughout the deployment cycle, Blasko said.

"While military children are very adaptable given the constant changes and stressful nature of military life," she added, "deployment puts a unique stress on family relationships at home, which can also affect the deployed service member. The DOD now has a website to help the youngest members of the military community."

The National Center for Telehealth and Technology serves as the primary DOD office for cutting-edge approaches in applying technology to psychological health.

Health Watch

Medical Homeport

By HM1 Clarissa Villa
NBHC Gulfport

Your Branch Health Clinic here at Gulfport - under the leadership of Naval Hospital Pensacola - is revolutionizing the way primary care is provided by Navy Medicine.

From facility modifications, to creating a team-based environment, Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) Gulfport is taking patient and family-centered care to an entirely new level by incorporating a concept known as Medical Home Port.

The Medical Home Port approach emphasizes team-based comprehensive care that meets the complete primary health and wellness needs of patients. Under this concept, enrolled beneficiaries are assigned to a team of health care professionals that cover the areas of readiness, prevention, wellness, behavioral health, and disease management.

"The Medical Home Port concept enables us to offer our beneficiaries better care and better outcomes by leveraging the benefit of an established relationship between the patient and their team members," said clinic officer in charge, Lt. Cmdr. Joe Mstrangelo.

The Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery selected eight initial test sites to develop lessons learned and best practices with the ultimate goal of fully implementing Medical Home Port across Navy Medicine in 2012. As part of this plan, Naval Branch Health Clinic Gulfport successfully launched "Med Home" in 2011, with teams "Honor" and "Commitment." Since this program's implementation, the Gulfport clinic has seen improvements in its process flow, access to care, and most importantly patient outcomes.

Recognized as an immediate success, NBHC Gulfport's Medical Home Port program has already achieved national recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Six other clinics under Naval Hospital Pensacola simultaneously attained the same recognition.

NCQA, the gold standard indicator that an organization is well managed and delivers high quality care, recently recognized all seven practices with Level III certification, the highest possible score achievable.

If you have any questions on Medical Home Port or would like more information, please contact the medical clinic's Customer Representative, Mrs. Deborah Sekul at (228) 822-5725 or Deborah.sekul@med.navy.mil. You can also access information through the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery's website at <http://www.med.navy.mil/BUMED/Pages/MedicalHomePort.aspx>.



NEX A-OK Student Reward Program

Military families with students who hold a B-grade point average are eligible to win U.S. Savings bonds of \$1,000 - \$5,000 through the Navy Exchange program. For details on this program and other student discounts go to the NEX website at:

<https://www.mynavyexchange.com/command/community/a.ok.program.html>

NCBC School Liaison Officer
MWR, Building 352
1706 Bainbridge Ave. NCBC
228-871-2117
email: kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil

Gulfport Seabees build dreams for community

MC2 Michael Lindsey
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

A group of 15 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 volunteered their off-duty time to help with the construction of a St. Jude's Dream Home charity project in Biloxi, Jan. 21.

The \$384,000 project has been made possible entirely through donations and volunteer labor from more than 20 local businesses and citizens within the community. Brandon Elliot, the owner of Elliot Homes and lead contractor for the project said he was grateful to have the Seabee's skilled labor for the day and dubbed the occasion "Seabee Day" in honor of their contribution.

"They (Seabees) are amazing workers," said Elliot. "They are helping us put the siding on and also plumbing and electrical," said Elliot. "We are happy to have them and we are hoping they stay along to help us get closer to our goal."

Seabees are deployed all over the world supporting military and humanitarian missions abroad with their construction engineering capabilities. Builder 3rd Class Lauralie Gutschmidt has seen different types of construction after two deployments with NMCB 74 and said she loves to see community projects come together and often volunteers to expand her skills.

"It's fun to come and work a project like this because it's not what we normally do," said



A group of 15 Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 are pictured with other volunteers at the project site of a St. Jude's Dream Home construction project in Biloxi, Miss. Jan. 21. The \$384,000 project has been made possible entirely through donations and volunteer labor from more than 20 local businesses and citizens within the community. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

Gutschmidt. "I do a lot of framing construction, block work, concrete, but it's not often that we get to do some of the detailed stuff . . . it's al-

ways fun to get away and build outside of the Seabees and give back to the community."

Senior Chief Utilitiesman An-

drew Detwiler, the leader of the Seabee group who organized and recruited the volunteers, said that each Seabee

See **BUILD** page 25

January 26, 2012

Seabee Courier

16



Measure twice, cut once

Builder 3rd Class Jerry Keppler, a native of Decatur, Ill., assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's Camp Maintenance Department, uses a skill saw to cut plywood during the construction of a shipping crate used to move heavy materials from the Battalion's Mainbody site, at Kandahar Airfield, to detachment sites throughout southern Afghanistan. NMCB 7 and its detachments are one of two Seabee Battalions currently conducting contingency construction and deconstruction in support of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) as part of Task Force Forager (TFF), operating in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operation. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Yan Kennon/Released)

Guatemalan officials recognize U.S. Seabees, Marines for community improvements

By Lt. Matthew Comer

High Speed Vessel-Southern Partnership Station 2012 Public Affairs

A recognition ceremony was held at Escuela Oficial Rural Mixta Aldea Magueyes in honor of U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 Seabees and U.S. Marine and Guatemalan construction specialists, Jan. 11.

The ceremony was held in appreciation for the completion of a 12-day construction project as part of High Speed Vessel-Southern Partnership Station 2012 (HSV-SPS 12).

"I would like to thank all the people involved, especially SPS-12 on behalf of the children in this community," said Byron E. Anavisca Sandoval, community president. "We are looking forward to this year because our children will get to enjoy the rewards of education because of the work done here."

The project was led by project manager Marine Staff Sgt. Mario Vargas, whose family emigrated from Guatemala to the U.S. The team of two Marines, 18 Seabees and 12 Guatemalan military construction specialists demolished and replaced the school and bathroom roofs and installed more than 300 feet of fencing and security wire.

"My father and family are from Guatemala and it has been an especially great experience for me," said Vargas. "I put everything in my heart into this school so the children here are able to learn as my children are able to learn."

The team also installed a new

securable entrance, replaced the water purification system and painted the school. The improvements will allow the school to reopen after a flood forced its closure last year.

"It is a wonderful pleasure for me to see the transformation of this school," said Cmdr. Todd Smith, commanding officer NMCB 23.

"It is great to see the work NMCB 23, the Marines and our Guatemalan partners have done here and the difference it will make."

Parents, teachers, and children of the school, as well as Seabees, Swift service members, and representatives from the Guatemalan Pacific Naval Base attended the ceremony. In total, more than 70 people attended the occasion.

"When I was a student, I remember Sailors coming and doing what they are doing here," said Guatemalan Capt. Carlos Luis Sanchez, representative from the Guatemalan Pacific Naval Base. "To the children of public schools, this will give you the opportunity it gave me. Because of this, you will be able to reach your dreams."

This is the first of two construction projects in Guatemala, where Seabees and Marines have been working closely with Guatemalan partners to renovate local schools.

The construction project is one event during the two week HSV-SPS 12 partnership with Guatemala. Service members from each of the armed services



Equipment Operator 2nd Class Michael McAfee, left, assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 23 embarked aboard High Speed Vessel (HSV 2) Swift, and Guatemalan Army Corps of Engineers soldier Cesar Augusto Ixim cut segments of pipe for a fence being built at Escuela Rural Aldea Magueyes 1. NMCB-23 will complete minor structural, electrical and plumbing repairs to the school during a HSV-Southern Partnership Station 2012 project. Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean, Central and South America. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jennifer Grier/Released)

are working with the host-nation partners, exchanging information regarding medical and veterinary practices, small unit leadership, and port security.

Southern Partnership Station is an annual deployment of U.S. ships to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility in the Caribbean, Central and South America. The mission's

primary goal is information sharing with partner nation service members and civilians in the region.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet supports U.S. Southern Command joint and combined full-spectrum military operations by providing principally sea-based, forward presence to ensure free-

dom of maneuver in the maritime domain, to foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners and to fully exploit the sea as maneuver space in order to enhance regional security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American regions.

Area Off-Limit Locations

Biloxi: Boulevard Night Club, Blue Note Lounge, Henry Beck Park, YaYa's; **Gulfport:** Bunk Small Apartments, Herbal Alternatives; **D'Iberville:** Guitars and Cadillacs; **Moss Point:** Tony's Lounge; **Ocean Springs:** Pugs; **Pascagoula:** Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments, H&H Hideaway
Current "off-limits" establishments are agreed upon and approved by local Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board.

Got Gowns?

Don't let your old ball gowns sit in the closet another year collecting dust. Donate your gently used gowns to Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) for the Fashion Show and Sale. We are

now accepting donated gowns, shoes and accessories Monday-Friday at NMCRS, building 30 and the Thrift Store, building 29, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please call 228-871-2610 for information.

Upcoming Events

Long Beach Community Bike Ride- Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m. Enjoy a 2.5/5 or 10 mile bike ride.



Rock Wall Sunday - Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., FREE. Stop by and try your luck at the MWR Climbing Wall.

Bilcoi Boat and RV Show - Feb. 12 at 12:30 p.m. \$5 shuttle fee and \$5 admission charged at the gate. Call ITT at 228-871-2231 to sign up.

Military Basketball Invitational - Feb. 18 & 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call Sam at 228-822-5109 for info.

Command 5K Flag Run - Feb. 24 at 6:30 a.m.

Group Fitness Classes

-Strength/Cardio-Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m.
-Cycling-Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.
-Water Aerobics-Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m.
-30 Minute Pump-Monday and Wednesday at Noon
-Zumba-Tuesday and Thursday at Noon, Monday and Wednesday at 6 p.m., and Saturday at 10 a.m.
-Yoga-Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m., Monday and Wednesday at 11 a.m., and Thursday at 5 p.m.

Movie Schedule

Friday, Jan. 27 - No movies will be shown due to Special Event - New Years Salute Wrestling at Old Fitness Center from 7 - 9 p.m., FREE for everyone!

Saturday, Jan. 28 - Dolphin Tale rated PG at 1 p.m. and I Don't Know How She Does It rated PG13 at 3:30 p.m., and The Help rated PG13 at 6 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 29 - The Big Year rated PG13 at 1 p.m., Moneyball rated PG13 at 3:30 p.m., and Abduction rated R at 6 p.m.

Schedule Subject to change pending military mission requirements.

228-871-3299 Movie Hotline



Jan. 26

•CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS TOURNAMENT (Liberty Center) FREE, 6 p.m., Prize for 1st place

•PUZZLE MAKING NIGHT (YAC) FREE, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Jan. 27

•NEW YEARS SALUTE WRESTLING EVENT (Old Fitness Center) 7 - 9 p.m. [doors open at 6 p.m.] FREE Meet & Greet YAC 3 p.m. Meet & Greet Liberty 4 p.m. Autograph session at Beehive Lounge at 9:30 p.m.

•MOVIE NIGHT ON THE BIG SCREEN! (YAC) 6 - 9 p.m. \$2/person; every Friday

Jan. 28

•UFC FIGHTS (Beehive Lounge)

•2012 SENIOR BOWL (Liberty Center) \$3 transportation and 1 free ticket. Noon

•GET YOUR SURGE TICKETS (ITT) Only \$12 for a blue level voucher good for any home game.

•TOP OF THE HOPS BEER FESTIVAL SHUTTLE (Outdoor Recreation) Purchase your event tickets at ITT and let them know you need a ride. Be responsible.

•SLIDELL ROCK CLIMBING (YAC) 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., \$8/person

Jan. 29

•BASS PRO SHOPS TRIP (Liberty Center) FREE shuttle, 10 a.m.

•PASS CHRISTIAN OYSTER FESTIVAL (ITT) 12:30 p.m., \$2/person, Min of six people

Jan. 30

•BRAINSTORMING LUNCH



Jan. 30 (continued . . .)

(Liberty Center) Give us new event ideas and you get FREE pizza. 11 a.m.

Jan. 31

•PING PONG TOURNAMENT (Liberty Center) FREE, Prize for 1st place, 7 p.m.

•BACKWARDS DAY AND INDOOR GAMES (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE

Feb. 1

•BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE

•FEBRUARY CAR SPECIAL (Auto Hobby) Let us check your vehicle fluid for free!

•CYPRESS LANES BOWLING TRIP (Liberty Center) FREE shuttle, 6 p.m.



Feb. 2

•SUPER BOWL ARTS AND CRAFTS . . . WEAR YOUR TEAM COLORS! (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE

•3 ON 3 BASKETBALL TOURNEY (Liberty Center) 6 p.m. in the Fitness Center, FREE, Prizes for 1st place team.

Feb. 3

•LOCAL HOCKEY ACTION TONIGHT (ITT) Stop by to get your tickets for only \$12!

•EDGEWATER MALL TRIP (Liberty Center) FREE shuttle, 6 p.m.

Feb. 4

•SKATING AT GOLDEN GATE SKATELAND (YAC) Noon-6 p.m., Only \$5 and limited to 30



Feb. 4 (continued . . .)

•MOBILE MARDI GRAS MUSEUM (ITT) \$5 shuttle fee and admission charged at the door.

•D'IBERVILLE PROMENADE MALL TRIP (Liberty Center) FREE shuttle, 1 p.m.

Feb. 5

•SUPER BOWL PARTIES -Training Hall (ITT) -Liberty Center - 4 p.m. until the game is over. FREE pizza and chicken wings. -Beehive Lounge-Doors open at 4 p.m. with FREE snacks during the game.

Feb. 6

•TEXAS HOLD EM POKER TOURNAMENT (Liberty Center) 7 p.m., FREE, Prize for 1st place

Feb. 7

•YOUTH ONLY TORCH CLUB MEETING AND GIANT JENGA CONTEST (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE

•GULFPORT PREMIUM OUTLETS TRIP (Liberty Center) FREE shuttle, 6 p.m.

Feb. 8

•PRESIDENT'S DAY TRIVIA CONTEST AND VIDEO GAME CHALLENGE (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE

•POOL TOURNAMENT (Liberty Center) 7 p.m., FREE, Prize for 1st place

Feb. 9

•BOYS NIGHT ONLY & BASKETBALL SHOOTOUT (YAC) 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., FREE



•AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE (Liberty Center) 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Chapel Offerings:

Women's Bible Study takes place every Wednesday from 10 - 11 a.m.

LIGHT is a Young Adult Group for members of the military. Meetings are Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Seabee Pantry – As the holidays have come and gone, so has the Seabee Pantry food stock. Donations are now being accepted. Drop off locations are: Navy Exchange, Chapel, Commissary, Fleet and Family Support Center and the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Everyone affiliated with NCBC is eligible to draw from the Seabee Pantry.

Drummer needed – The Chapel is in need of a drummer for the Protestant Service Worship Team.

NCBC Gospel Sound Choir Competition 2012 - Gospel Choirs interested in bringing joy to the Seabee community are invited to share their musical

talents at the NCBC Gospel Sound Choir Competition 2012. The event will be held Saturday, March 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Training Hall. Registration forms (\$50 per choir) and tickets (\$2) are available at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. Proceeds from the event will be donated toward the establishment of an installation memorial for the fallen.

Contact the Chapel at 228-871-2454 for more information.

Overseas Coupon Program
Donate expired coupons to families overseas by dropping them off at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. Military families can use the coupons up to six months after their expiration.

NCBC Dual Blood Drive, Feb. 9, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Chapel; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Liberty Center. Donors with appointments will be given priority. To schedule an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor



code SEABEES for the Chapel or SEABEESLIBERTY for the Liberty Center site. Presenting donors will be registered in the February drawing to win a pair of airline tickets.

The Five Love Languages Workshop - Just in time for Valentine's Day. Come and strengthen your relationship by discovering you and your partner's "love language." Open to individuals and couples (married and non-married). This fun, interactive workshop will be offered at the Base Chapel Feb. 8, at two separate times: 9:30 a.m. - noon (lunch is included) and 6 - 8:30 p.m. (dinner is included). Contact Cmdr. Ruth Goldberg for more information or to register at 228-871-3504 or the Base Chapel at 871-2454.

Seat Belts Save Lives . . . Buckle Up Every Time!



AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE



The Department of Defense is making it easy for you to ensure your vote is heard. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is designed to assist all service members, family members and citizens living outside the United States cast a ballot for their candidate of choice.

To get started, log on to: <http://www.fvap.gov/> to register to vote or to request an absentee ballot.

Register and request your ballot for upcoming primaries.

Voters from these States should visit the FVAP.gov web portal to register and request their absentee ballot for the February, March, and April 2012 Presidential Preference Primaries (P) and State Primaries (S) listed: **February Primaries (30-Day Notice):** Missouri (P): Feb. 7, Arizona (P): Feb. 28, Michigan (P): Feb. 28

March Primaries: (60-Day Notice):

Georgia (P): March 6, Massachusetts (P): March 6, Ohio (P,S): March 6, Oklahoma (P): March 6, Tennessee (P): March 6, Vermont (P): March 6, Virginia (P): March 6, Alabama (P,S): March 13, Mississippi (P,S): March 13, Illinois (P,S): March 20, Louisiana (P,S): March 24

April Primaries: (90-Day Notice):

District of Columbia (P,S): April 3, Maryland (P,S): April 3, Texas (P,S): April 3, (This is a change, the election was originally scheduled March 6), Wisconsin (P): April 3, Alabama (Primary Runoff): April 24, Connecticut (P): April 24, Delaware (P): April 24, New York (P): April 24, Pennsylvania (P,S): April 24, Rhode Island (P): April 24



Seabee Memorial Chapel

Services:

Gospel: 8 a.m.

**Sunday Catholic Mass: 9 a.m.
Daily Mass: Tuesday, 11:15 a.m.**

**Protestant Service: Sunday, 11 a.m.
Protestant Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.**

Center Chaplains:

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

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

NCBC Helping Hands Volunteer Opportunities

Harrison County Youth Court is looking for volunteers to make a difference in the life of a child. There are two ways to help – become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (C.A.S.A.) or volunteer to become a mentor for C.H.A.N.G.E. (Cultivating Healthy Achievements in the Next Generation of Excellence). Contact Beth Casey at 228-865-7000 for more information.

Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence is opening a domestic violence shelter in Pascagoula to provide a safe place for women and children from Jackson and George counties. The following "wish list" items are needed by the adults and children residing in the shelter: Cleaning supplies, over the counter medications such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, allergy, cold, indigestion for children and adults,

Band-Aids, rubbing alcohol, peroxide, ointment, toiletry items (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, brushes, body wash, soap) toilet paper, paper towels, diapers, wipes, Kleenex, bath towels, sheets, blankets and pillows. Phone 228-205-4502 for more information.

Sqwish Sqwash Challenges is looking for volunteers to serve as motivators during the Braveheart Challenge, Jan. 28, the Blazing Mud challenge Jan. 28 and the SEAL Tough Challenge Feb. 4 in Andalusia, Ala. A large percentage of proceeds go to Wounded Warriors.

If you are interested in volunteering or taking part in any of the events, visit the website at <http://www.sqwishsqwashchallenges.com>.

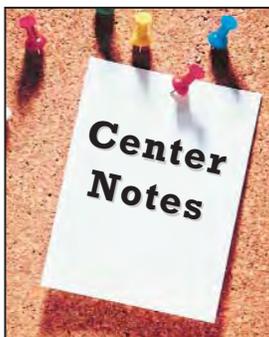
**New Years Salute
Wrestling Event
Old Gym, Jan. 27
Doors open at 6 p.m.
7 - 9 p.m.
FREE!
Sponsored by MWR**

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

Career Counselor Note

Customer Service Center: 1-866-U-ASK-NPC, 1-866-827-5672 or DSN 882-5672, provides valuable information to active duty, reserve personnel and retirees and family members, ranging from personnel issues to verifying employment for Sailors who have applied for a home mortgage loan. The center receives, sorts and delivers thousands of selection board packages to the appropriate promotion boards entering them into an electronic database. This means you can track your package and know if it was received by the correct promotion board within 48 hours of receipt by the Customer Service Center. You can also get answers by email CSCMAILBOX@NAVY.MIL.



SUPPORT

Family Readiness Groups

NMCB 1 FRG invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Monday of every month at the Youth Activity Center, building 335. A potluck dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. Contact FRG President Mary Belanger, e-mail nmcbonefrg@gmail.com.

NMCB 7 FRG welcomes service members, family and friends to attend FRG meetings the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the MWR Youth Activities Center, building 335. Child care is provided during deployment. Please contact the FRG at nmc77frg@gmail.com for more information.

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 and friends of NMCB 74 are invited to the 74 FRG meeting the third Monday of each month at the MWR Youth Activities Center, building 335 off Bainbridge Ave., behind the Grinder on base. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share at our potluck dinner. Children are welcome and child care is provided during deployment. For more information regarding the NMCB 74 FRG please email nmc74fsg@yahoo.com. Check out the 74 FRG website at <http://nmc74fsg.zymichost.com>

NMCB 133 FRG invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact FRG President Kelli Clarke at 727-504-4408 or e-mail hansonk154@yahoo.com. To receive

updates log on to the FRG site at <http://www.orgsites.com->

[/ms/nmcb133fsg](http://ms/nmcb133fsg)

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, please email noscgulfport@yahoo.com. We hope to see YOU soon!

NMCRS

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers, and child care and mileage are reimbursed. Retail hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Visit the NMCRS offices at the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30, suite 103 or call 228-871-2610 to find out how to become a part of the NMCRS volunteer team!

Gamblers Anonymous

The Fleet & Family Support Center offers GA meetings every Thursday at 11 a.m. GA is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other. All meetings are confidential and facilitated by GA. Come to a meeting or call Jim Soriano at 228-871-3000 for information.

TRAINING

COMPASS is a team of trained seasoned military spouses mentoring other Navy spouses. Classes are intimate and informative. The three-day course is offered the last week of the month. The course and child care are FREE! Contact Kim at 228-832-5343 to sign up.

Naval Sea Cadets

The Gulfport branch of the Naval Sea Cadets are recruiting youth ages 11 to 17 for Sea Cadets, a nation-wide organization that help youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., building 1, 2nd floor conference room. For more information, contact AGCS Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez at 228-688-5288 or enrique.acosta@navy.mil, or Lt.j.g. Bowling at 228-313-9035 or coachcb@yahoo.com.

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 members. 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.was-son@navy.mil or President LS2 Earl Simpson at earl.simpson@navy.mil.

VFW Post 3937 Long Beach is open Monday - Thursday from Noon until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from Noon until 10 p.m., Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. The first Friday of the month is Seafood night, the remaining Fridays are Steak night. Breakfast is served from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturdays. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Contact Post Commander Bill North at 228-863-8602.

VFW Post 4526 Orange Grove is open daily from Noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. Meetings are the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call 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 of the Alumni Group may go to <http://nmc62alumni.org> for information or for links to Seabee historical sites.

Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time. Island X-1 Gulfport meets the first Thursday of each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. Contact Joe Scott (secretary) at 228-669-8335 or elevenoaks58@cableone.net or log onto www.nsva.org for information.

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.seabeeuseumstore.org/shop/index.php or call the gift shop at 228-871-4779 for more information.

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

Homefront in Focus: Make New Friends, but Keep the Old

By Beth Wilson

Military Spouse Contributor

Did you ever sing a little song when you were young that went like this: *"Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold"*

A few months ago I started humming this jingle which led to a look at the lyrics.

Make new friends hmmm . . . that sounds a little like strong encouragement, just shy of a command. During the last few months I've reassessed my relationships. Being sick provides time to ponder many things. I think I took the 'Strong, Independent Military Wife' thing to extreme. I became a bit of an island. Oh sure, I have friends all over the country. But I have two best friends; one in Washington, D.C. and one in Dallas, Texas and I'm in California. My other friends I realized, I kept at the 'outer marker' to use an aeronautical term. They were never allowed to get closer.

Ladies, I don't know - maybe I was just tired of saying goodbye. Maybe I was lazy and it certainly takes work to develop fulfilling friendships. Maybe I got used to being 'alone.' I'll let a shrink figure that part out. The bottom line is I didn't make new close friends.

There are certainly different levels of friendship. You know there are those friendships that are 'surface.' You know, the mother you sit with at the soccer games but that is about all you know about her. Then there are those you share a bit more of yourself and learn more about. Maybe it is a co-worker you see daily or a fel-

low fund-raising committee member.

But then there are those you will let into your inner circle. Okay, ladies, I know you know what I mean. These are the ones, the select few that get to see the real condition of your linen closet and the ring around your toilet bowl. They see you at your worse and you trust them to love you anyway. And you love them . . . warts and all!

I recently spoke to a group of military wives. We did a round table discussion on the subject of friendship. Does any of this sound familiar to you? "I don't have time to find that 'girlfriend' at every new duty station." "The challenge is moving. It's hard to say goodbye and frankly, I don't want this cycle of looking for a local girlfriend only to say goodbye." Or, "With Facebook I can keep in contact with my friends so I don't feel the need for local friendship as much."

But friendship is a give and take. We might not think we need that local 'sista' (although we do) but we are needed by others! There are new moms, new military spouses, first deployment sisters who need you. And in reaching out to them you will find how much you needed them.

Next week I'm going to tell you about persistent Debra. The woman who wouldn't let me keep her at the outer marker . . . and all that I learned. In the mean time, make new friends, they are silver; keep the old, they are gold, and at today's precious metals price that is great wealth!

Three second mistake

By Rob Mims

NCBC Public Affairs Officer

Recently I read a story about a colleague who lost his son. No, he was not killed while deployed. He was not killed doing a dangerous job or act. He was killed when he was hit by a young lady as he was riding his bicycle.

She took her eyes off the road for three seconds to look down at her cell phone. She wasn't drunk or high. She, by all appearances, was a happy, healthy 18 year old girl who had never been in trouble with the law. Now, she is being charged with Homicide by Negligent Operation of a Vehicle. It is a class G felony. A FELONY! That means serious jail time and a lifetime of sor-

row and regret.

What was so important that she couldn't have waited 5-10 more minutes to say? What was so important that she would essentially travel the length of a football field at 65 miles per hour with her eyes closed for three seconds? What was so important that she was willing to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees to send?

What was so important that she can justify calling a prison cell home for the next two to 20 years?

What exactly did she need to say that needlessly could have added to the more than a half a million people injured because of inattention behind the wheel? What was the vital message that caused a son, a



brother, an uncle, a friend to join more than 6,000 others who lose their lives annually due to distracted driving accidents? What was it that made her kill?

What was it? What the heck was it? - The answer to these damning questions is no laughing matter ...
"LOL."

From EARLY page 1

pleted at least 15 years of active service as of Sept. 1, 2012, and who were considered, but not selected for retention by the ERB, will be eligible for early retirement benefits under TERA.

Eligible Sailors who desire early retirement under TERA must submit an application. As TERA is not an entitlement, all eligible members must apply to receive benefits, and all applications may not necessarily be approved. Eligible Sailors who wish to apply for TERA will have their ERB results held in abeyance to facilitate their application for voluntary retirement.

Navy Personnel Command (NPC) will contact every eligible Sailor or their command to ensure all eligible sailors are aware of this benefit.

A NAVADMIN outlining detailed application procedures for voluntary early retirement is forthcoming.

Sailors whose TERA application is approved will be retired voluntarily no later than Sept. 1, 2012, and will not be entitled to involuntary separation pay

(ISP). However, Sailors will remain qualified for enhanced ERB transition benefits until their retirement date.

"We strongly encourage Sailors who are eligible for voluntary early retirement under TERA to discuss this option with their families and with their command retention team," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott Van Buskirk. "Additionally, we're encouraging Sailors to continue to take advantage of the multitude of transition assistance benefits and resources available to them during the next few months."

Sailors eligible to apply for early retirement should request to remain in the Navy through Sept. 1, 2012. As referenced in NAVADMIN 025/12, NPC is now accepting Short Term Extension (STE) requests to extend a Sailors Soft End of Active Obligated Service (SEAOS) to Sept. 1, 2012, to ensure eligible Sailors have the opportunity to receive TERA benefits. Sailors should submit a request for an STE to PERS-81 via e-mail to pers-81(AT)navy.mil for expedited processing and approval. Be-

cause of their time-sensitive nature, commands are encouraged to expedite these requests.

Once program application procedures are established, Sailors may still be able to separate prior to Sept. 1, 2012 if their application is approved and they have accumulated 15 years of service.

ERB Sailors who will reach 15 years of service after Sept. 1, 2012, will not be eligible for TERA and must separate in accordance with ERB policies no later than Sept. 1, 2012, or at the end of their operational deferment, as applicable.

For more information on the ERB visit the NPC Web page www.npc.navy.mil or contact the NPC customer service center at CSCmailbox@navy.mil or 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

More information on ERB transition assistance can be found on the NPC Web page at <http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/boards/ERB/Pages/TransitionInfo.aspx>.

For more information, visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy.

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE



Left: **Brandon Elliot**, contractor for the **St. Jude's Dream Home** construction project in **Biloxi, Miss.**, hands **Lt.j.g. Tai Obasi**, a **Civil Engineer Corps** officer assigned to **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74**, a circular saw so she can cut lumber while volunteering **Jan. 25**. The **\$384,000** project has been made possible entirely through donations and volunteer labor throughout the community. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

From **BUILD** page 17 _____
came of their own free will without coercion or incentive and hopes to do more work for projects in the near future.

"I am impressed with the turnout of volunteers from my battalion," said Detwiler. "It really shows a lot of character for these young Seabees to spend their Saturday volunteering for a project like this. I'm proud of each of them."

According to Elliot Home's

webpage: <http://www.mylotthome.com/Visit-DreamHome.aspx>, there will be a raffle drawing for a one in 7,500 chance at winning the Dream Home for \$100 (per ticket). The goal is to raise \$1 million dollars in tickets sales and donations, all of which will go directly to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital where no patient is turned down and all services are free of charge.

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE

Coast Mardi Gras Parades



Saturday, Feb. 4

Gulfport, Orange Grove Carnival Association - Dedeaux Road, 2 p.m.
 Ocean Springs, Elks Mardi Gras Parade - Downtown, 1 p.m.
 Pascagoula, Krewe of Little Rascals - Pascagoula Beach Park, 1 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 5

Harrison County, Lizana Parade - Lizana School Road, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11

Vancleave, Mystic Krewe of Pine Island - John's Bayou Road, 1:30 p.m.
 Pass Christian, Timber Ridge Women's Mardi Gras parade -

Henderson Avenue, 2 p.m.
 Gautier, Men's Club parade - Highway 90, 7 p.m.
 Long Beach, Carnival Association of Long Beach - Downtown, 6 p.m.
 Biloxi, Second Liners Club parade - Division Street, 1 p.m.
 Bay St. Louis, Krewe of Kids - Dunbar Avenue, 11 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12

Waveland, Krewe of Nereids - Highway 90, 1 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17

Ocean Springs, Ocean Springs Carnival Association - Government Street, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 18

Gulfport, Krewe of Gemini - Downtown, 2 p.m.
 Moss Point, Parade of Classes Association - Downtown, 3 p.m.
 Pass Christian, Krewe of Legacy - Vidalia Road, 1 p.m.
 Pascagoula, Jackson County Carnival Association - Downtown, 1 p.m.
 Diamondhead, Krewe of Diamondhead - Community center, Noon

Sunday, Feb. 19

D'Iberville, North Bay Carnival Association - LeMoyné Blvd., 1:30 p.m.
 Pass Christian, St. Paul Carnival Association - Highway 90, Noon

Monday, Feb. 20

Biloxi, Children's walking parade - Biloxi Town Green, 11 a.m.
 Wiggins, Wiggins Mardi Gras - Downtown, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Gulfport, Krewe of Gemini - Downtown, 5:30 p.m.
 Bay St. Louis, Krewe of Diamonds - Downtown, 1 p.m.
 Biloxi, Gulf Coast Carnival Association - Downtown, 1 p.m.;
 Krewe of Neptune - Downtown, 3 p.m.

Parades are subject to change. For the latest parade route information, check out <http://www.wlox.com/story/16477818/mardi-gras-parades-2012>

Krewe of Medics holds 24th annual Mardi Gras Ball



The Krewe of Medics held its 24th annual Mardi Gras Ball Jan. 14, at the IP Casino Resort and Spa in Biloxi, Miss., with "Under the Sea" as its theme. This year's court included Airman 1st Class Michael Velez-Grieco, 81st Medical Support Squadron; Staff Sgt. Brittney Velez, 81st Medical Group; Maj. (Dr.) Kraig Kristof, 81st Surgical Operations Squadron; Denise Landry, 81st MDG, as Queen Amphitrite; Lt. Col. Craig Lambert, 81st Medical Support Squadron commander as King Poseidon; Col. Martha Stokes, 81st MDG; Brad Jones, chief operating officer for Humana Veterans Healthcare Services, and 1st Lt. Kelly Miller, 81st Inpatient Operations Squadron. More than 200 guests attended the event. (U.S. Air Force photo by Steve Pivnick/Released)

17th Annual Training Technology and Information Systems Expo

Feb. 9

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Roberts Maintenance Facility, KAFB

Expo is free to all DoD, government and contractor personnel with Keesler AFB gate clearance. The Expo will feature 40+ exhibitors (including Keesler Training Groups).

For more info:

1-877-332-3976 or to TRSS point of contact, Larry Monroe, DSN 597-7799 or 228-377-7799.

Attendees can pre-register at <https://fdaexpo.com/register.php?id=96>

AD
SPACE

AD
SPACE