Lassen's legacy lives on through namesakes

By Ensign Sean A. Brophy, *USS Lassen* Public Affairs

A ceremony was held recently to dedicate the new Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine, Fla.

Cmdr. Clyde E. Lassen, a native of Fort Meyers, Fla., and namesake of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism as a UH-2 Seasprite helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

Drawing heavy enemy fire in the dark of night in North Vietnam, then Lt. j.g. Lassen risked his life to save two downed aviators June 19, 1968. After returning from Vietnam, Lassen continued to serve in the U.S. Navy until he retired at the rank of commander in 1982. Lassen passed away in 1994, but the legacy of his service continues to live on through the nursing home and the ship.

Through the City of Tampa Navy League, a citizen organization that serves and supports United States sea services, *USS Lassen* contributed a commemorative plaque and letter that were presented during the dedication ceremony by Commander Navy Medicine Support Command Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin.

"The 275 officers and crew who sail in *USS Lassen*, which was commissioned in Tampa in 2001 and now forward-deployed to Yokosuka, Japan, serve with pride in knowing that their ship's namesake was an American hero," said *USS Lassen* Commanding Officer Cmdr. H.B. Le.

"In our daily operations, we strive to uphold the legacy of service that Clyde E. Lassen represents. We are glad that we were able to help honor the memory and service of Cmdr. Lassen during the dedication ceremony and feel privileged to share a special bond with the new State Veteran's Nursing Home in St. Johns County," Le added.

Congressman John Mica and Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw were among the distinguished speakers to address the crowd of hundreds who gathered for the grand opening of the new 95,000-square-foot, 140-bed facility. The family of Cmdr. Lassen, veterans, and local community leaders were also in attendance for the dedication ceremony.

The new Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine, Fla., is named after American hero Cmdr. Clyde E. Lassen, the namesake of the forward-deployed Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer *USS Lassen* (DDG 82).
Photo courtesy of Bill Dudley

At a cost of $31 million, it is the first Florida veterans' home to be named after a U.S. Navy veteran and the first Florida nursing home built as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified 'green' facility.

IA business rules released: OSA replacing GSA for enlisted Sailors

By Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Naval Administrative Messages (NAVADMIN) 332/10, 333/10 and 334/10 establish the new business rules for Individual Augmentation Manpower Management (IAMM), Global War on Terrorism Support Assignments (GSA), and Overseas Contingency Operation Support Assignments (OSA) respectively.

U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) and Navy Personnel Command (NPC) conducted a review of the GSA program to find a solution that addresses fleet concerns and feedback from Individual Augmentee (IA) Sailors and their families.

Based on this review, the Navy is implementing a new program, OSA, which was announced in NAVADMIN 171/10. This program preserves the best elements of GSA, addresses fleet and command concerns and provides a clearly defined support structure for IA Sailors and their families.

The OSA process replaces GSA detailing for enlisted Sailors and becomes effective Nov. 1. GSA detailing continues for officers. The new OSA process preserves career choices, volunteerism and predictability that GSA now provides. It also eliminates entitlement inequities, improves fleet readiness, and solidifies IA Sailor and family support. OSA business rules highlights include:

• Enlisted Sailors can apply for an IA assignment through the Career Management System-Interactive Detailing by selecting "OSA Preference" 12-to-nine months prior to their projected rotation date (PRD) and prior to negotiating permanent change of station (PCS) orders.

• Sailors will be able to communicate directly with a dedicated OSA detailing team to discuss OSA opportunities and details regarding specific assignments.

• OSA orders are executed at the end of the Sailor's normal PCS tour. However, Sailors on OSA assignments will be on temporary additional duty (TEMADD) from the existing parent command, which will maintain the traditional command relationship for Sailor and family support.

• If a Sailor elects and is accepted for OSA, they will be administratively extended at their present duty station for the period of the IA assignment plus an additional 60 days for rest, relaxation and to prepare for their next PCS move.

• Standard relief requisition procedures remain in effect to generate a requisition for the OSA Sailor at their original PRD.

• Although the Sailor remains assigned to the parent command, procedures are in place to adjust personnel accounting to count the Sailor as deployed on OSA orders, instead of on board and filling a billet.

• Sailors who volunteer for an OSA assignment will have choice of coast detailing for their follow-on PCS orders negotiation.

• Sailors may request intermediate temporary duty (ITDY) orders to facilitate relocation of their family while serving on the OSA tour.

The new business rules for IAMM, in accordance with NAVADMIN 332/10 include:

• Sailors will be exempt from a second IA tour for a three-year period upon successful completion of any IA tour.

• Sailors must have an end of active obligated service (EAOS) at least 90 days beyond the estimated return from the IA.

• Sailors determined to be high year tenure may volunteer for IA orders provided that a minimum of four months transition exists between return and mandatory separation date.

• Sailors who have submitted and been approved for retirement may volunteer for IA orders provided that a minimum of five months transition exists between return and retirement date.

• Sailors must be E-3 or above at the time of administrative screening.

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Q: Why is the patio of Chili's restaurant not being used? It provides a beautiful location to view the bay.

A: Yes, Chili's does have a great location on base with beautiful views of the bay bridge and surrounding areas, however there are many factors that have prevented our Chili's partner operators from having full-time service outside. The largest factor is the unpredictable weather, sudden rain and gusting winds can make planning any events on this patio very difficult and unpleasant for our guests. Additionally, sanitation requirements necessitate a barrier between the outside and inside of any food service facility. Our front doors to the building have an inner climate controlled vestibule while the waterside patio doors were intended for emergency egress only should a situational need arise.

Q: What are the commanding officer's thoughts on current motorcycle issues including the wearing of orange vests and motorcycles being considered a vehicle which prevents a household from having two cars and a motorcycle?

A: Orange vests are required on base but are optional off base during daylight hours. The CFAY instruction limits residents to two vehicles (two cars or one car and one motorcycle). Unfortunately, there must be restrictions as there are nearly, 20,000 vehicles on base. There is a parking survey being conducted to determine where improvements can be made.

Q: Can spots be established that will allow two motorcycles to share a spot or allow parking in the painted stripped areas?

A: There is nothing in any instruction limiting the number of vehicles in a parking spot. The Traffic Safety Office and motorcycle instructors encourage motorcyclists to share parking spaces. However, bikes cannot park in the painted stripped areas because it prohibits maneuvering and may be a hazard.

Q: USNH Yokosuka is not using untapped resources of spouses who are medical practioners. Although many may not be available to work nights or weekends, they may be available to assist in the shortage. The process to volunteer with the Red Cross is extensive and ineffective. Can something be done to streamline the process?

A1: USNH Yokosuka regularly advertises employment opportunities for medical providers, nurses and staff to support the needs of our patients in a variety of high demand areas. If your specialty falls outside of these high demand areas, we welcome you to volunteer through our partners at the Red Cross and support the community. We currently have 24 volunteers on board and are always interested in more. We understand the application process can be extensive and we'll investigate streamlining measures, but for the sake of our patients we must ensure that every member of our team is properly screened, trained and credentialed.

A2: We appreciate the Town Hall attendee's interest in volunteering through the Yokosuka American Red Cross and apologize for the frustration that was experienced. The process to volunteer at the hospital is extensive but is needed for the patient, hospital and volunteer's protection and assurance. The first step is to complete a Red Cross volunteer application and a background check, which can take up to one week. When the background check is complete, the Red Cross hospital chairperson will contact the volunteer and notify them of required support information. This may include letters of recommendation, official transcripts or credentialing material. The applicant then moves onto hospital orientation classes and training. The process can take up to a few months but is important for the safety of patients. If you have had a specific problem or delay, please contact the Red Cross station manager at 243-7490 or by e-mail to Yokosuka@usa.redcross.org to explain your situation in further detail.