

# MECHANICSBURG SUPPLIER

Summer 2012

## NAVSUP, NSA Mechanicsburg Commemorate Battle of Midway

By Debbie Dortch, NAVSUP Corporate Communications

**A Battle of Midway wreath-laying ceremony held at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mechanicsburg commemorated the anniversary of one of World War II's most historic naval engagements, June 4.**

Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Commander and Chief of Supply Corps, Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich delivered keynote remarks to nearly 200 attendees alongside one of the saluting batteries that belonged to the USS Hornet (CV8), which was one of the three U.S. Navy carriers participating in the Battle of Midway.

"The victory at Midway was born out of the mettle of American Sailors, marines, and airmen. Their courage, discipline, and commitment helped set the United States and its allies on the road to victory in World War II," Heinrich said.

Master of ceremonies at the event, NSA Commanding Officer Capt. James W. Smart, opened the ceremony. "We gather here today, as U.S. Navy bases all over the world are gathering, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway with a wreath-laying tribute to all those who fought and all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in this pivotal battle in our Navy's history," Smart said.

Heinrich recognized a ceremony attendee who was a gunner on the USS Atlanta during the battle. "Petty Officer John Balint joined the Navy five days after the attack on Pearl Harbor...he was a gunner on the USS Atlanta during the dark days of World War II," Heinrich said.



*Lcdr. Troy Frazee and Master Chief Sidney Dawson render a salute after they placed a wreath during the base's Battle of Midway commemoration ceremony. (background, left to right) State Representative Mark Gillen, Pastor Mike Leonzo, Reverend Kristian Walker and Joe May also participated.*

Reading from a Presidential Unit Citation for USS Atlanta's outstanding performance at Guadalcanal Nov. 12-13, 1942, Heinrich said, "the citation says that despite being 'struck by one torpedo and no less than 49 shells, the Atlanta, after sinking an enemy destroyer

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*Naval Supply Systems Command Commander and Chief of Supply Corps, Rear Adm. Mark Heinrich talks with the guests of honor, John Balint (dark blue shirt) and family at the base's Battle of Midway commemoration/wreath laying ceremony held on June 4th. From left to right are daughter, Karen, wife, Helen, and son, Richard. Balint was a Second Class Ship's Laundryman who fought onboard the light cruiser USS Atlanta as a gunner during the most decisive battle in the Navy's history. Balint joined the Navy just five days after Pearl Harbor. Heinrich was the event's keynote speaker.*

### Freedom Fest 2012

On Saturday, June 30th, the base held Freedom Fest, an evening of music, food and family fun. About 1,200 base employees and their families attended the event which had something for everyone including: a climbing wall, face painting, a crafts station, bungee run, bean bag toss, a bounce house, an obstacle course, and food and beverage concessions. The local rock band Cheap Sneakers provided the sound track for the event which was capped off by a dazzling fireworks display put on by American Fireworks. Photos of Freedom Fest are on page 6.



**Battle of Midway**

*Continued from front page*

and repeatedly hitting a cruiser which later went down, gallantly remained in battle under auxiliary power with one-third of her crew killed or missing, her engine room flooded, and her topside in shambles.”

Heinrich also read a letter to Balint from then-Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal: “You have served the greatest Navy in the world. It crushed two enemy fleets at once, receiving their surrenders only four months



apart. It brought out land-based airpower within bombing range of the enemy, and set our ground armies on the beachheads on final victory...no other Navy at any time had done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude.”

As the wreath was being laid, Smart said, “Let it be known that this wreath and wreaths being laid around the world are in honor of our Midway veterans. We pause to remember and honor the spirit of Midway in our Navy and our nation. We pause to honor all those who have served or are serving with honor, courage and commitment.”

“Our seagoing men and women in today’s 21st century Navy sail the very waters where the heart of the Battle of Midway took place,” Heinrich said. “You can still hear the sounds of the Douglass SDD-3s and the explosions of the guns of the USS Yorktown bellowing out round after round, the men shouting orders... It is because of these American heroes we gather today and will gather for years to come.”

**Silver Spring Township Navy Man Recalls Battle of Midway**

*By Joe Cress, Carlisle Sentinel*

(Reprinted with permission)

It was the guys outside the gun turrets who really had to worry.

Seventy years ago on Monday, June 4, John Balint was a sailor serving onboard the light cruiser USS Atlanta during what was perhaps the most decisive battle of the Pacific War.

Much of his time that June 4, 1942, was spent waiting inside a metal box for the enemy air attack to come in. The crew had been on general quarters from sunrise to sunset.

“They would have the planes on radar,” said Balint, 88, of Silver Spring Township. “They would tell us ‘Bogies at such-and-such miles away. You get yourself all worked up and ready to open fire.’”

Six months had passed since the Imperial Japanese Navy unleashed a crippling air attack on Pearl Harbor and several airfields on Oahu, Hawaii. Within days, the U.S. was at war, and Balint, a New Jersey native, had joined the ranks of men who enlisted to avenge that Day of Infamy.

Times were bleak. Before Midway, the Japanese military dominated in battle after battle during a campaign of expansion across the Pacific ocean. This winning streak was blunted by a draw during the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May 1942.

This set the stage for an epic engagement off the coast of Midway Island in which three American aircraft carriers ambushed a numerically superior enemy force, structured around four of the six Japanese carriers that had participated in the raid on Pearl Harbor.

By the time Midway was over on June 7, the enemy had lost all four carriers along with the majority of their highly-trained air crews. It was an important turning point.

Balint spent much of the Battle of Midway sealed up in one of three twin five-inch gun turrets mounted on the forward part of the Atlanta. His job was to monitor the controls that elevated and lowered the guns as the ship engaged any enemy aircraft flying overhead toward the friendly carriers.

Balint only caught glimpses of the battle through a narrow view port. Other sailors were fighting from more exposed positions firing 40-millimeter cannon from quad mounts located throughout the ship.

“They had to worry about being dive-bombed or strafed,” Balint said. “They have to learn to fire and drop down out of the way of the bullets.”

In the confusion of battle, multiple mounts on multiple ships homed in on enemy aircraft. Here and there were puffs of black smoke from shell bursts. Balint could see some Japanese go down in smoke and crash into the water, but it was impossible to say which American ship was responsible.

When not on battle stations, Balint was assigned to the deck division that was responsible for maintaining the forward part of the Atlanta.

Balint was humble in the part he played.

“I only followed orders,” he said. “I did what I was told to do.”

Five months after the battle, Balint was on the USS Atlanta when it was sunk during a naval battle with the Japanese at Guadalcanal.

Balint served in the Navy until the end of the war. He returned home to Perth Amboy, N.J., and eventually found work with The Ford Motor Company. He retired in 1981 after more than 33 years with the car company.

# Employee Spotlight

## NSLC CO Earns Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

In this issue we shine the spotlight on Capt. Brian T. Drapp, SC, Commanding Officer, Naval Sea Logistics Center (NSLC) who was recently awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for his ongoing exemplary contributions to our local communities.

The Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, created by Executive Order in January 1993, recognizes military members who “perform outstanding volunteer community service of a sustained, direct and consequential nature.”

In particular, Drapp was recognized for the following accomplishments: his role as president of the Navy Supply Corps Foundation – Mechanicsburg Chapter (NSCF-MC) for the past two years; the work he did to double the amount of financial donations made to charitable organizations; helping reorganize NSCF-MC to align with the national Navy Supply Corps Foundation; and his pivotal role in the creation of the Mechanicsburg Chief Petty Officer Association.

In the citation signed by Rear Adm. Mark F. Heinrich, Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, Drapp was also commended for the positive impressions he has made on many students that will ultimately benefit the future of the Armed Forces and the nation.



The citation went on to state, “You can be justifiably proud of your considerable contributions and accomplishments.”

“I’m extremely honored and surprised to get this award,” Drapp said.

Drapp assumed command of NSLC in April, which is part of Naval Undersea

Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Keyport (Wash.). Capt. Stephen E. Iwanowicz, Commanding Officer of NUWC Keyport, believes Capt. Drapp’s recognition is very well deserved.

“The U.S. Navy has benefitted tremendously from Capt. Drapp’s outstanding skills and expertise. It’s marvelous that he has so enthusiastically applied them to serve his community; it clearly demonstrates the true character of this superb officer,” said Capt. Iwanowicz. “Capt. Drapp has been a terrific addition to the NUWC Keyport team and we’re proud to have him on board.”

Drapp has also been a leader and mentor with the Harrisburg High School Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC).

“These impressive NJROTC students are our future,” he said, “The time our Supply Corps officers spend mentoring these young men and women is invaluable to their success in both school and life.”

In addition to his work with NSCF-MC, Drapp has been visible in the local community in other capacities having been the guest speaker and master of ceremonies for numerous organizations and events, recruited volunteers for various projects, and served as a parade marshal for several Memorial Day parades.

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# Armed Forces Day 2012 Transforms City Island in the Ultimate Extreme Military Makeover

By Sgt. David Strayer, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



**HARRISBURG, Pa – Veterans, civilians, and serving members of the U.S. Army Reserve, the Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg, Defense Logistics Agency and Pennsylvania National Guard organized the annual Armed Forces Day festivities on City Island, May 19.**

Armed Forces Day 2012, which kicked off with a 5K run, was a unique free, fun-filled, family event that transformed City Island into a sprawling military base for the day and featured an extensive array of about 100 military displays, exhibitions, information booths, musical guests, family and children's activities.

"This is the first time I have been to the City Island events for Armed Forces Day," said Holly Hurley, wife to a soldier currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and native of Selinsgrove, Pa. "It's fantastic to just see all of these families and friends here to support our military and the people who sacrifice so much to protect our freedoms."

Thinking of her husband and the challenges he faces on a daily basis gave her the motivation to keep going, Hurley said after the 5K run.

*Continued on page 5*



*Soldiers from Battery A, 1st Battalion, 109th Field Artillery Regiment, fire blank artillery rounds over the Susquehanna River during Armed Forces Day at City Island in Harrisburg, Pa., May 19, 2012. The Pa. National Guard regiment conducts the 21-gun salute at the state capitol's Armed Forces Day celebration each year.*



*(Above) Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Paul J. Smith, NAVSUP HQ, provides information about Navy Food Service, (right) while an AFD visitor grinds out pull-ups, USMC style.*



**Armed Forces Day 2012***Continued from page 4*

After the run, the events of the day kicked into full swing beginning with a military style opening ceremony that featured the national anthem, a 21-gun artillery salute, and speeches by military officials and political leaders including Brig. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman and Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson.

“This day is not only for the military,” said Ammerman, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran and current deputy commanding general of the 99th Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve. “It is for the patriots that captured Bunker Hill, the Marines who stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima, the soldiers that walked the jungles of Vietnam, the pilots who flew the bombing sorties of Desert Storm, and those who supported all of them throughout history.”

The city island events offered something for everyone. After the 5K run and the guest speakers had finished, live music could be heard playing throughout the area as children ran the obstacle course designed to test their physical endurance. Others went through the many military vehicles on display, getting a chance to sit in the pilot’s chair of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and stand in the gunners turret of armored Humvee trucks. Refreshment stands that supported non-profit and military family readiness groups and World War II veterans donning their old service uniforms became commonplace on City Island, at least for one day.

“The strength of the nation is our military, the strength of our military is the [service member] and the strength of the [service member] is support systems of family, friends, and the community,” said Ammerman.

“Without all of these links intact, the chain will break,” he added.



*abc-27 new anchor Dennis Owens (center at lectern) was the master of ceremonies for the Armed Forces Day 2012 opening ceremony. Left to right are: Brig. Gen. Daniel R. Ammerman, Deputy Commanding General of the 99th Regional Support Command; Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson; Capt. James W. Smart, Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Mechanicsburg; Col. Bert Kozen, Pennsylvania Army National Guard State Chaplain; Colonel Lawrence McHale, United States Air Force Reserve; and Maj. Cochanna E. Rush, United States Air Force.*



*This light utility helicopter from the Pa. National Guard was one of about 100 displays experienced by about 10,000 visitors to the 2012 Armed Forces Day event on City Island, May 19th.*

**History of Armed Forces Day**

United in Freedom: Celebrating a Tradition of Tribute to our Service Members

On August 31, 1949, then Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. This single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of all Armed Forces under one department: the Department of Defense. To this day, Armed Forces Day is celebrated annually on the third Saturday of May.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated by parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows on Saturday, May 20, 1950. In Washington, D.C., 10,000 troops of all branches of the military, cadets, and veterans marched past the President and his party. In Berlin, 1,000 U.S. troops paraded for the German citizens at Tempelhof Airfield. In New York City, an estimated 33,000 participants initiated Armed Forces Day under an air cover of 250 military planes of all types. The famed, mothballed “battlewagons” of World War II, the Missouri, the New Jersey, the North Carolina, and the Iowa, were docked in harbors across the country and were open to the public for tours. Precision flying teams dominated the skies, as tracking radar systems were exhibited on the ground.

Nationwide, the American people proudly joined together to honor all the Armed Forces, just as we do here on City Island today, over six decades after that first celebration.





**Mechanicsburg 2012  
Special Olympics**





## Around the Installation



While visiting the command and crew at NAVSUP Headquarters on June 19, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick West, is presented with a 'MCPON Trading Card' at an unveiling ceremony held in his honor. Trading cards are used by NAVSUP to circulate information about the Navy, it's Fleet and it's sailors during public outreach events. MCPON West was honored by being the first 'by name' trading card published in the series.



During a Cooking Demonstration at the NAVSUP Training Galley held on June 19, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Rick West, takes a hands on approach to experiencing the efforts required to put scratch cooking back into the Fleet menus for our Sailors.



During a change of command/retirement ceremony held on May 18th, 2012, Capt. Douglas C. Newell was relieved by Capt. Daniel L. Allen (center) as Commanding Officer of Naval Supply Systems Command Business Systems Center. The occasion also served as Capt. Newell's retirement ceremony where he was honored for 28 years of service to the U.S. Navy.



## Around the Installation



### 10th Anniversary of the DISA Memorial Garden

On May 30th, 2012, Defense Enterprise Computing Center Mechanicsburg honored the 10th Anniversary of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Memorial Garden. Located near the entrance to building 308, the garden is open 24/7/365 for anyone needing a calming place away from the work area. Former members of the DISA family who passed away while associated with DISA are memorialized on a plaque in the garden. Various items are positioned in the garden, all of which help to honor those members of the DISA family now departed. "The items in the garden help to tell an inspirational story," said Mike Valek, the Memorial Garden's committee chairman. "This garden is a place of honor and beauty."



At the 2nd Annual Energy Fair, held on May 30th, base employees learned how renewable and other energy saving technologies can help their organizations protect the environment, increase comfort and shave utility expenses. This year's event featured 20 local vendors and was very well attended.



More than 50 base personnel turned out to participate in the first run of the spring/summer season, the Fitness 5K. MWR will continue to host Fun Runs and walks throughout the summer and fall. Stop into the Fitness Center or MWR Office for details on our next 5K.



# Toastmasters Runs "Deep"

By Lila Howell, NAVSUP N62.5 ERP

**Looking to improve your speaking and leadership skills? Ignite your career? Gain the confidence to speak up?**

You've come to the right place. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped more than 4 million people just like you, from around the world, become more confident speakers and leaders.

Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development, with more than 270,000 members in over 13,000 clubs in 116 countries. This network of clubs and their learn-by-doing program are sure to help you improve.

Toastmasters will give you the skills and confidence you need to express yourself effectively in any situation. Whether you are a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retired, Toastmasters is an efficient, enjoyable and affordable way of gaining great communication skills. You'll learn how to:

- Formulate and express your ideas effectively;
- Be more persuasive and confident when giving presentations;
- Improve your one-on-one dealings with others.

Don't delay! Become the speaker and leader you want to be. Confident, charismatic leaders weren't born that way. As you progress in Toastmasters, you'll get to practice your skills by organizing and conducting meetings and motivating others to help you. Become a better negotiator. Gain trust. Inspire your team.

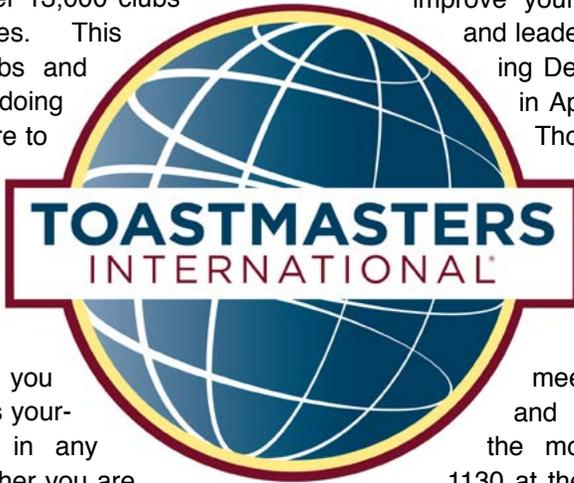
NSA's Going Deep Toastmaster Club has about 20 members and is committed to helping you overcome your fear of public speaking and helping you improve your communication and leadership skills.

Going Deep was founded in April 2003 by Cdr. Thomas DeRosier, a submariner, hence the name Going Deep.

The club meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesday of the month starting at 1130 at the Naval Sea Logistics Center's Patriot Room in Building 307.

Contact the Going Deep Club President, Bill J. Smith, 717-605-2633, or [bill.j.smith@navy.mil](mailto:bill.j.smith@navy.mil).

Visit our next meeting: guests are most welcome. You won't regret it!



The Supplier is an authorized publication for members of the military service and civilian personnel of the Navy and Department of Defense commands and activities located at the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Mechanicsburg. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Navy, and do not imply endorsement thereof. The editorial content of this publication is reviewed, prepared, edited, and distributed by the NSA Mechanicsburg Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 2020, Bldg. 306C, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 17055-0791. For more information please call Mike Randazzo, NSA Mechanicsburg Public Affairs Officer, ext. 2448 or [michael.randazzo@navy.mil](mailto:michael.randazzo@navy.mil).

We are able to continually improve by hearing from our readers. Please share your ideas, stories, and feedback with us. Thank you for reading the Supplier!

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**WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE**

# ITT Destinations

## August

**8/19/12:** Bus trip to RFK Stadium to see DC United versus the Philadelphia Union in major league soccer action; \$60/person includes roundtrip transportation and ticket to the game. Seating is on the sideline in section 211.

**8/25/12:** Bus trip to Citizen's Bank Park to see Washington Nationals play the fighting Philadelphia Phillies and pre-game picnic in the Phillies Party Tent; \$95/person includes roundtrip transportation, pre-game buffet picnic, and ticket to the game. Seating will be in section 307.

## September

**9/16/12:** Bus trip to Yankee Stadium to see the Tampa Bay Rays take on the New York Yankees; \$105/person includes roundtrip transportation and your ticket to the game. Seating will be in section 233A.



### August

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### September

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30						

### Free Classified Ads

The Mechanicsburg Supplier will publish free listings of personal items and services for sale by personnel of the Naval and Defense Activities at Mechanicsburg. Such items and services must represent an incidental exchange between personnel on the installation and not be business operations. Ads are limited to 15 words, one to an employee, and photos are highly encouraged. Work extensions may be used on car and van pool ads only. All others must use a home or cell phone number. Ads are printed on a space available basis.

Please fill out the form below and send it to Mike Randazzo, (Ext. 2448) at the NSA office in Bldg. 306C, fax to 605-5655, or e-mail to michael.randazzo@navy.mil

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Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

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