



SKYRANGER

The Electronic Newsletter of NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas

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Space Shuttle Visits Fort Worth - Possibly For The Last Time

Story by Rusty Baker, photos by MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

The Space shuttle Endeavour and its Shuttle Carrier Aircraft/Orbital Vehicle (SCA/OV) arrived at NAS JRB Fort Worth for an overnight stay on the afternoon of Dec. 10.

Weather conditions along the SCA/OV's cross-country trek to NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, Fla., caused officials to plan the overnight diversion to Cowtown.

This is the first time since March 26, 1997, that NAS JRB Fort Worth has been utilized as an alternative landing site for NASA's space shuttle ferry-flight program.

The orbiter, NASA 911, is one of two modified 747's used to transport the Endeavor.

Due to the SCA/OV's combined weight of 710,000 pounds, 223,640 of which is the shuttle alone, at least 10,000 feet of runway is required to safely land. NAS JRB Fort Worth's runway length is 12,000 feet, thanks to its former life

as a Strategic Air Command base.

Due to the extreme weight of the shuttle, the orbiter can only travel between 900 and 1,100 miles before landing to refuel. Because of this, the SCA/OV "puddle jumped" from Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.; to Biggs Army Airfield at Fort Bliss (El Paso), Texas; to Fort Worth.

After its overnight stay on base here, the SCA/OV lifted off on the morning of Dec. 11, and briefly deviated to Houston for a quick fly-over photo opportunity in NASA's old stomping grounds.

After that, the craft was eastward bound to Barksdale AFB, La. Unfavorable weather generated

around Florida postponed the shuttle further, as it remained in Louisiana for yet another overnight stay.

Weather played a large factor in the shuttle's journey home. Ferry flights must be conducted during the day, in cloudless skies with no hint of precipitation or crosswinds heavier than 25 knots per hour. To avoid freezing conditions, and to protect the orbiter's systems, the flight is limited to an altitude of approximately 15,000 feet at a speed of 250 knots per hour.

To end the \$1.7 million-dollar trek, the SCA/OV took off from Barksdale and made a straight shot to Kennedy Space Center on Dec. 12.

Endeavour's next mission will be to rendezvous with the International Space Station. The launch is scheduled for next summer. The space shuttle program will be retired in 2010. There are approximately 10 flights remaining before NASA transitions to Moon and Mars space travel. ■



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NAS JRB FORT WORTH

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GRAPHICS
MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons & Mr. Rusty Baker

Farewell & good luck to MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons in his next duty station in Bahrain. Simmons has been a staff member of the Sky Ranger since its re-release and has contributed greatly to its overall look and design.



A Message From The Skipper

Happy New Year, NAS JRB Fort Worth!

2009 will bring our 15th anniversary as a new kind of installation - the joint base.

We were the first joint base as the concept of developing interservice warfighting efficiency through collaborative efforts at home caught on first at Reserve bases. Joint Reserve Bases, or JRBs were born in name and/or function at Fort Worth, Willow Grove, New Orleans and Atlanta.

In fact, our's was the only of these first JRBs that began life as something other than a Naval Air Station. While some of our tenants moved here in the wake of NAS Dallas' closing, the new JRB would rise from the ashes of a base closed a year earlier - Carswell Air Force Base.

Almost fifteen years later, I find myself pondering my New Year's resolution for 2009. In this milestone year, I resolve to author a brand-new installation strategy for the next fifteen years - a strategy to rebuild our aging infrastructure; forge new joint relationships among our tenants and uncover new warfighting efficiencies that will enhance our viability and lethality.

Now THAT is a resolution worth sticking to!



What Can We Do To Make The Sky Ranger Soar Higher?



*Your Opinion Matters! Now's The Time To Make Your Voice Heard
E-mail Your Sky Ranger Feedback To: FTWO_INFO@navy.mil*

Enroute to departure on Dec. 11, the Space shuttle Endeavour and its modified 747 orbiter taxi past the NAS JRB Fort Worth Air Traffic Control Tower and Operations area.



Photo by MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

Joint Efforts Provide Better Services For All

Story and photos by MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons

In a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Air Traffic Control Tower, Navy Capt. T.D. Smyers, Commanding Officer NAS JRB Fort Worth, and Air Force Col. Kevin Pottinger, Commander 301st Fighter Wing, combined their ATCT employees under one roof in the spirit of jointness to become a more efficient operation.

Empty office space and the opportunity for a cooperative work environment were the catalysts for this change. The “new” Air Force offices were previously uninhabited but were furnished to accommodate the equipment and employees who now occupy them.

“What this has done for us, in terms of the joint force team, is it’s en-

abled us to put more [AT] controllers in the tower to enhance our service that we provide to the tenants including the 301st,” said Smyers. “Those are the solutions we will continue to try. You all have my commitment that we will continue to seek those win-win situations where everybody does better.”

“It’s great being part of this joint team,” Pottinger added. “Getting everybody together down here is going to improve the operational capability of, not only the 301st Fighter Wing, but the entire Joint Reserve Base. That’s what we’re here for and we appreciate everyone’s support.”

Prior to this endeavor, one to two Sailors manned the flight-clear desk 16 hours per day, providing airfield personnel and pilots with

pertinent information. The Sailors processed flight plans, transferred NOTAMs and updated the pilot status board. The addition of Air Force employees to the staff will not eliminate the need for sailors as watchstanders on the FDC, but it will greatly reduce the number of hours they are required to spend there.

“We will be able to train more efficiently,” said Air Traffic Controller Third Class Cornelius Jones about how this change will affect the day-to-day production of ATCT service members. “Not being on the desk will allow us to put more people in training positions in the radar and tower. It frees us up; we don’t have to have two [watchstanders] on the desk which will make training go a lot smoother.” ■



Refurbished Computers Allow Families to Keep in Touch with Deployed Service Members

Attributed from an Operation Homelink Press Release: www.operationhomelink.org

Operation Homelink, a Chicago-based all volunteer, non-profit organization, in cooperation with Operation Military Kids-Texas, presented 125 refurbished computers to families of deployed service members at the Naval Operation Support Center, on base, on Dec. 7.

The computers, donated by Waltham, Massachusetts-based Raytheon Company, will enable military families to communicate, via e-mail, with their family member deployed overseas.

Local Sea Cadets and Young Marines assisted with distributing the computers to families of the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division of Texas Army National Guard; 301st Fighter Wing of the Air Force Reserve and various other Army and Navy Reserve units stationed at or near NAS JRB Fort Worth.

Operation Homelink was founded in 2003 with a mission of facilitating e-mail communication between American service members deployed overseas and their families back home. Most service members have e-mail access on ships and even in desert outposts. However, some military families are often not able to afford a computer and must rely on expensive phone calls or U.S. mail to stay in touch. Operation Homelink addresses this problem by providing a refurbished computer to the spouse or parents of troops within the lowest level pay grades (E-1 to E-5). These computers were generously donated by Raytheon Company which has now donated over 400 computers for Operation Homelink's mission of supporting military families and wounded service members. Raytheon and Operation Homelink first teamed in May, 2007 when the company donated 110 refurbished computers to

families of the Mass. National Guard and another 130 computers in January, 2008 at the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C. Raytheon has also donated 50 laptop computers to wounded members of the Special Operations Command based in Tampa, Fla. To date, Operation Homelink and its donors have provided computers to over 2,850 military families and service members.

According to Operation Homelink representatives, the organization is "looking for a few good corporations", like Raytheon, willing to step up in support of the brave men and women making enormous sacrifices for their country by simply donating their old laptop computers.

Large donations (minimum 50) of used laptop computers (min. Pentium III 1.2 Ghz) are needed for

us to help the thousands of military families wishing to communicate with their deployed loved one and recovering wounded warriors. This donation requires no monetary donation, is tax-deductible, and also reduces the number of computers filling our landfills, according to Operation Homelink representatives.

More detailed information can be found at www.operationhomelink.org.

Operation Military Kids is a partnership of Army Child and Youth Services, the Department of Agriculture's National 4-H program, and other organizations. In Texas, Operation Military Kids efforts include the Speak Out for Military Kids, Hero Packs and Operation Huggables programs, as well as Ready, Set, Go! Training and a portable technology laboratory. ■



Young Marine volunteers assist families of deployed service members by carrying their refurbished computers to their cars. Operation Homelink presented 125 computers, donated by the Raytheon Company, to awaiting families at the Naval Operations Support Center here on Dec. 7.

WINNING CAPTION (Photo No. 1)

Awkward silence prevails after the XO wins the turkey raffle.

ET1(SW) Bryan Rountree; Ground Electronics Maintenance Division



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

I knew we should have put the paper down before we brought the bird in.

Shawn Wallace, NAS JRB Chief of Police

Do you think these shoes make my feet look big?

TSgt. Bridget A. Petru-Pecikonis, 301st LRS

It's put your right foot in and shake it all about...No, your military right!

SMSgt. Pearletta B. Ullrich, 301st SFS

Maybe the Hokey-Pokey is what its all about.

Martin Agee



CAPTION THIS PHOTO (NO. 2)

Submit a funny and CLEAN caption to

FTWO_INFO@navy.mil

Title the subject line:

Photo Caption No. 2

The winning caption will be displayed with the photo in next month's Sky Ranger.

Runners up will be listed as honorable mentions.

Please give us your name, rank, unit and phone number.



<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/FortWorth>



Advancement Info and Advice Available Free Online

By Ed Barker, Navy Education & Training Center Public Affairs Office

Buyer beware! Some sites on the Internet are charging Sailors money for advancement information, which is available free from the Navy Advancement Center.

Sailors are wasting their money by paying for what is available free of charge; the most current and authoritative advancement information for active duty and Reserve Sailors is available from their Career Counselor and by going online to the Navy Advancement Center's Web site at <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>.

"Everything you need to be successful on the advancement exam is available for free from the Navy," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate Robert McCombs, Command Master Chief for Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC), Pensacola, Fla. "In fact, our sites are where the commercial venues get a lot of their information. Sailors don't need to go out and buy commercial products in order to advance."

Professional military knowledge and rating specific references for advancement are just a click away. Two of the most popular products available through the Advancement Center Web site are the Sailor's Profile Sheet and the Advancement Exam Strategy Guide, advised McCombs.

The Profile Sheet is specific to the individual Sailor, and uses results from previous examinations to show the Sailor where his or her weaknesses are in comparison to their peers. It shows them what areas they need to improve in order to be competitive on the test. Sailors can use their Profile Sheets to build their study program by topic and subtopic.

The Advancement Exam Strategy Guide contains a bibliography specific to the examination that the Sailor will be taking. "A Sailor can go to the exam section, look up their specialty, and download their information including the bibliography," said McCombs. "We give them the references we use for exam questions, so it's just a matter of becoming familiar with the material." To help Sailors understand what skills and knowledge exam developers are assessing, specific rating information is broken down by pay-grade into topic and subject areas for all exams in their rating. This section of the Web site also includes information on "how to prepare for and take an advancement exam."

"If a Sailor uses their past Profile Sheet(s), which shows their weak areas compared to their peers, along with the bibliography and topics/subtopics, they can develop a more focused study product than any com-

mercial product can provide," said McCombs.

Kirk Schultz, head of Advancement Assessment Concepts at NETPDTC, related that there are many other Navy-sponsored Web sites Sailors can visit to help with their advancement needs. "Since just about everything has gone electronic, many Navy and Department of Defense instructions are available through the Web. Additionally, we intend soon to provide the capability for Sailors to link to many of their references directly from the Advancement site," said Schultz.

"Our site has features and helpful tools to better prepare for upcoming exams such as access exam to statistics by rating, non-resident training courses, as well as final multiple computations charts," said McCombs.

Sailors without direct access to a computer should see their Educational Services Officer or Command Career Counselor for instructions on where computer access can be obtained and for other information they need to prepare for their next advancement examination.

For more information visit the Navy Advancement Center's Web site at <https://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil>. For more information on Naval education and training, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil>. ■

AAFES no longer accepting Voyager Gas Credit Cards

AAFES was notified that GSA will end their contract with Voyager, replacing it with Wright Express as the credit card provider for all GSA and GSA Fleet customers on 29 November 2008. GSA and GSA Fleet customers will no longer be able to use the Voyager card as an acceptable form of payment. GSA and GSA Fleet customers have already been issued Wright Express Cards for use. Due to the short notice, AAFES will not have the POS system upgraded to accept Wright Express at the pump until mid-2009.

Arrangements are being made that will allow AAFES stations to take the Wright Express card, however customers paying for fuel with the Wright Express card must physically go into the store to pay. This should be in place by mid January 2009. Until that time AAFES will not be equipped to accept Wright Express cards. ■



<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/FortWorth>

Exceptional Family Member Program: Keeping your EFM file current

Recently a Service Member contacted their detailer for orders; he/she wanted a special school that would aid his advancement opportunities with follow on orders to a specific assignment. The detailer, wishing to fill his request, reviews the Sailor's detail screen only to find that the Sailor's Exceptional Family Members file was not current. Before the detailer could release the orders and fulfill this Sailor's request an update package was requested. By the time the Sailor has his family EFM file updated, screened and processed, school quotas were filled and the available billet was now no longer available.

Lesson learned! Know your EFM update timeframe and UPDATE your file prior to negotiating for orders. Your detailer's job is to ensure you are provided with career enhancing assignments to a location where your family member's special medical and/or educational needs are going to be met. This is the Navy's commitment to you and your family.

Did you know there are several methods available to access EFMP Category status information to include the EFMP Query tool at www.npc.navy.mil/CommandSupport/ExceptionalFamilyMember. The purpose of this tool is to provide more modern, responsive, and flexible information to assist services members in meeting the specialized needs of their family members by required services are available at gaining commands. EFMP category status information can also be retrieved from the enlisted data verification record, office data control record or the career management system.

Your EFM file must be updated prior to your three-year expiration date for categories 1 through 5 and within six to twelve months for category 6. You should also update your EFM file at least nine months prior to your PRD date. Updated applications confirm that the special medical or educational needs still exist or that they may have improved or worsened significantly. This information has a direct bearing in coordinating your next assignment and is important information to your detailer. If you have been divorced and/or the family member (s) no longer reside with you or your family member is deceased, notify the local EFM Program Coordinator promptly so you may be disenrolled.

Contact your command POC or the EFM Coordinator at your local military treatment facility to begin updating your EFM file(s). For additional information please feel free to contact us at our toll free customer call center number 1 866-U-ASK-NPC. ■

Sailors of the Quarter honored at River Oaks Holiday Parade



NAS JRB Fort Worth's current Sailor of the Quarter, Culinary Specialist First Class Benedict Cayamanda, and Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Yeoman Third Class Thomas Knight, ride in the back of an antique car during the River Oaks Holiday Parade on Dec. 5. Jack Adkinson, Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce President, said, "the Sailors did an excellent job representing the Navy and they received great responses from parade attendees."



MAG-41: A Driving Force in the Community

Story and photo by Sgt. Lisa Rosborough

Marines at MAG-41 and its attached squadrons have been very busy since the start of FY09. With several community relations themes and major events taking place within the Dallas-Fort Worth area and throughout the Marine Corps, leath-er-necks took the responsibility of being proactive in nature, seeking methods to meet the unique challenges and needs of neighboring communities.

Career Day at W. J. Turner Elementary School in Fort Worth Nov. 7

Sgt. Daniel Brewer, Operations Noncommissioned Officer, and Sgt. Christina Macias, Supply NCO, pose with third grade students during Career Day at W. J. Turner Elementary School. Sgt. Brewer emphasized the importance of school and how it opens doors for a great future. Sgt. Macias desires to become a teacher once leaving the military.



National Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign; October - November 2008.

In support of National Domestic Violence Month during October, MAG-41 and its attached squadrons sponsored a National Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign. Marines donated items of urgent need to the SafeHaven Women's Shelter of Tarrant County.

2008 Fort Worth Veteran's Day Parade Salutes Women in the Military:

(from left to right), Sgt. Lisa Rosborough, Cpl. Shawanda Woods and Sgt. Jessika Kendrick of MAG-41 receive certificates of appreciation on behalf of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, S.S. Stephens Hopkins, Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter, in recognition of their participation at the Fort Worth Veterans Day Parade. This year's Veterans Day Parade theme was to honor women in the military. ■





USMC Medal of Honor recipients and Vietnam veterans, Col. Bob Modrzejewski (Ret.), left, and Sgt. Robert E. O'Malley (Ret.), right, with MAG-41 Career Retention Specialist, Cpl. Salvador Becquer at the Medal of Honor Foundation Patriot's Award Dinner on Oct. 18. Photo by Sgt. Lisa Rosborough.

As a student of world conflict and security studies, I was truly honored in being in the presence of true heroes. They are the ones who put everything on the line, including their lives to secure the name of democracy. I must say that I was overwhelmed being amongst them that evening. These were the guys I was reading about in World War II classes in college and all I remember was being in complete awe about their contributions in that war and the other conflicts those men in attendance were involved in. They were so humble and courteous in letting us know they were proud of us in our service during the war of terror. I felt truly honored in being recognized by these men who are the iconic symbols of our core values of our Corps and this great country. These men will truly live forever in our country's history.

Cpl. Salvador Becquer

Being around gentlemen of this stature had me in awe. I wish every Marine could have experienced what I did. I was able to shake hands and speak with history, men of great valor and courage. Something about these men touched me though. . . their humbleness. They kept thanking us for what we're doing and that they were thankful of our contributions.

Sgt. Louie Sanchez



Medal of Honor recipient and Vietnam veteran, SgtMaj. Jon R. Cavaiani, (Ret.), right, and MAG-41 Color Sergeant, Sgt. Louie Sanchez at the Medal of Honor Foundation Patriot's Award Dinner on Oct. 18. MAG-41 provided Color Guard support for the event. Photo by Sgt. Lisa Rosborough.



Artists Wanted To Create & Compete For Naval Aviation Logo

In 2011, the Centennial of Naval Aviation will commemorate 100 years of naval aviation history, tradition and progress.

If you have artistic and/or graphic skills, this monumental celebration's unveiling is an opportunity for your work to get national exposure!

The Centennial of Naval Aviation committee is accepting submissions for the official logo of this year-long celebration. The committee will unveil the selected design to the public and give special recognition to the designing artist.

Additionally, the chosen logo will be featured in various print and visual media publications, advertising applications, and official documents and merchandise.

The centennial will recognize the full scope of Naval Aviation, including aircraft, personnel, ships, and industrial and technological innovations.

The contest is open to all aviation and military enthusiasts. Deadline for submissions is Jan. 30, 2009. Design guidelines and submission information can be found at <http://www.cnaf.navy.mil/centennial/>.

The examples shown are the top two submissions for the NAS JRB Fort Worth Public Affairs Office, MC2(AW) D. Keith Simmons (top) and Mr. Rusty Baker (right).





Houston-Air Force Match Up For Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl

Two of the nation's top offensive teams with a Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl history will be facing each other for the second-time this season on a neutral field as the University of Houston will meet the United States Air Force Academy here on New Year's Eve at Texas Christians University Amon G. Carter Stadium.

Both teams will be seeking their first bowl win at Amon G. Carter Stadium December 31 as the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will be aired live on ESPN starting at 11 a.m. An ESPN Regional Television (ERT) owned-and-operated event, the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl will match schools from Conference USA and the Mountain West Conference for the second-time after Utah defeated Tulsa 25-13 in the 2006 contest.

The 2007 Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl featured Air Force against Cal where the Bears rallied to post a 42-36 win over the Falcons before more than 40,000 fans last New Year's Eve. Houston will be returning to Amon G. Carter Stadium for its second bowl appearance as the Cougars were downed 42-13 by Kansas in the 2005 post-season contest billed as the Fort Worth Bowl.

"We are excited about our match up as Houston brings the nation's No. 2-ranked passing offense to Amon G. Carter Stadium while the Air Force Academy has ranked among the country's best rushing teams the past 22 seasons." said Tom Starr, the Executive Director of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. "We expect a lot of offense, but it appears the roles are reversed for this game with Houston a quick-striking offense while Air Force features a ground assault. It should be a high-scoring game."

Air Force won the initial meeting this season between the two teams with a 31-28 victory over the Cougars as the September 13 game was moved from Houston to SMU's Ford Stadium due to Hurricane Ike. The Falcons rushed for 380 yards in jumping to a 31-7 lead in the first-ever meeting between the two schools. Houston sophomore quarterback Case Keenum passed for three touchdowns in the final 20 minutes of the contest as the second-year starter from Abilene, Texas, accounted for all four scores and 437 total yards against Air Force (75 rushing and 362 passing).

For the second-straight year, the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces

Bowl will feature a first-year mentor as Kevin Sumlin replaced Art Briles as the 12th head coach in Houston history and the first African-American to lead the Cougar program. Sumlin was an assistant coach at Texas A&M (2001-2002) and Oklahoma (2003-2007) the previous seven seasons.

With a 7-5 record, Houston will be playing in its fifth bowl game in the last six seasons. Defeating both teams that competed in the 2008 Conference USA title game, the Cougars posted a 6-2 league mark. Houston opened C-USA play with a 41-24 win at East Carolina as Keenum passed for 401 yards and three touchdowns. In a 70-30 victory over Tulsa, Keenum passed for 402 yards and six touchdowns while rushing for one score against the Golden Hurricane.

Keenum out-performed Texas Tech's Graham Harrell in 2008 to lead the nation in passing yardage as the Cougar connected on 375 of 554 passes for 4,993 yards and 43 touchdowns. Harrell completed more passes (406), but had only 4,747 passing yards and 41 touchdown passes. Oklahoma's Sam Bradford (4,464 yards, 48 TDs) and Texas's Colt McCoy (4,021, 32) trailed Keenum in passing yards. ■

General Petraeus To Receive Great American Patriot Award

Gen. David Petraeus has been named the 2008 recipient of the Great American Patriot Award presented by Armed Forces Insurance, according to Jim Breen, the chairman of the Military Affairs Committee of the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl. A distinguished graduate from the U.S. Military Academy in 1974, Petraeus is the current Commanding General, Multi-National Force - Iraq (MNF-I) since January 26, 2007. He will be honored at half-time during the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl game December 31. Petraeus will conduct the coin toss between the two teams along with leading an induction ceremony for new recruits. ■



How You Can Prevent Identity Theft

By Mr. Bill Van Deren, Legal Technician, NAS JRB Fort Worth

The holiday season is quickly approaching and many of us will be out and about shopping for those special people in our lives. We will be writing checks, using our credit cards or debit cards, and with that, showing forms of identification.

Once again it is time to remind everyone of the very real threat of identify theft.

In recent news, the federal government uncovered a multi-million dollar identity theft ring. This was high-tech stuff. In this case, investigators stated that they estimated initial losses at more than \$2.7 million dollars and they have only scraped the surface. Let this be a wake-up call to all of us.

Identify theft and identity fraud are real problems in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal information in some way to perpetuate a fraud or scam, usually for financial gain.

Criminals may obtain personal information or account numbers by digging through your trash, watching over your shoulder as you key in an access code, hacking into computer lines, or obtaining access to private files.

Identify theft is against the law. Several federal laws apply, including the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act passed by Congress in 1998 which makes it a federal crime to use, without authority, the identification of another for the purpose of committing a crime, including fraud or theft. Several states have Penal Codes which prohibit the use of another person's identity to commit fraud.

**How to prevent
being a victim:**



1. Before revealing information, know exactly what it will be used for and who you are giving it to. Be very careful about phone solicitations. Ask that written applications be mailed to you if you are interested in a phone solicitation "deal." Check with the Better Business Bureau if applying for credit with an unknown company.
2. Pay attention to billing cycles and review your account statements.
3. Know your surroundings when punching in an access code – is anyone looking over your shoulder?
4. Don't carry around extra cards with personal information on it. Destroy old cards and notify banks and credit companies if a card has been stolen or lost.
5. Tear up and shred unwanted pre-approved credit applications that you get in the mail before you throw them away.
6. Tear up and shred billing statements or other account information before throwing them away.
7. Keep private information in a safe place.

8. Review your credit history by ordering a copy of your credit report from a reputable credit bureau. Notify the bureau immediately if anything on your report does not look right.

What to do if you are a victim:

1. Contact the fraud departments of each major credit bureau and put a "fraud alert" on your files so that no new credit can be granted without your approval. (See box insert below.)
2. For any accounts that have already been opened, contact the security department of the credit companies and close the account. Change the passwords for legitimate accounts.
3. File a report with your local police and send a copy of the police report to each bank, credit company, and any others who may need them.

For more information, go to the Federal Trade Commission's Identity Theft Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. If you have been a victim, call the FTC Identify Theft Hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338). ■



760 Sproul Rd.
P.O. Box 390
Springfield, PA 19064



P.O. Box 2104
Allen, TX 75013



P.O. Box 740241
Atlanta, GA 30374

To order a Credit Report call...

1-800-916-8800

1-888-EXPERIAN
(397-3742)

1-800-685-1111

To order a Report Fraud call...

1-800-680-7289

1-888-EXPERIAN
(397-3742)

1-800-525-6285

<https://www.cnic.navy.mil/FortWorth>

Tax season is still a few months away, but it's not too early to start planning for it. Several areas of tax law and policy uniquely affect military personnel. Understanding those provisions ahead of time can save you and your family time, energy and maybe even some money.

Combat Pay – If you are a member of the Armed Forces who serves in a combat zone or a qualified hazardous duty area, you can exclude certain pay from your income, generally referred to as “combat pay.” The month for which you receive the pay must be a month in which you actually served in a combat zone or were hospitalized due to injuries or illness sustained while serving in the combat zone. For enlisted members, warrant officers and commissioned warrant

officers, you can exclude from taxes all pay earned during that month. For commissioned officers, you can exclude all pay up to the highest rate of enlisted pay (plus imminent danger/hostile fire pay received) for each month you served in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

The “Boomer” Deduction – The IRS and federal tax courts have determined that for sailors assigned to two-crew fleet ballistic missile submarines, the submarine is the sailor's tax home for tax deduction purposes. Therefore, when the sub deploys and is being manned by the other crew, the sailor is “forced” away from his tax home (the submarine), thereby turning his living expenses during that time (rent, meals and utilities) into deductible expenses. Sailors can use Form

2106 to itemize expenses on their return. Also remember that a naval vessel in dry dock can't be considered a sailor's home for tax purposes, so any days the boat is in dry dock or refit cannot be used for calculating Form 2106 expenses.

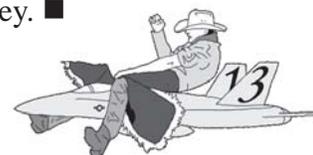
Filing Extensions – The deadline for filing tax returns, paying taxes and filing claims for refund is automatically extended if you serve in the Armed Forces in a combat zone

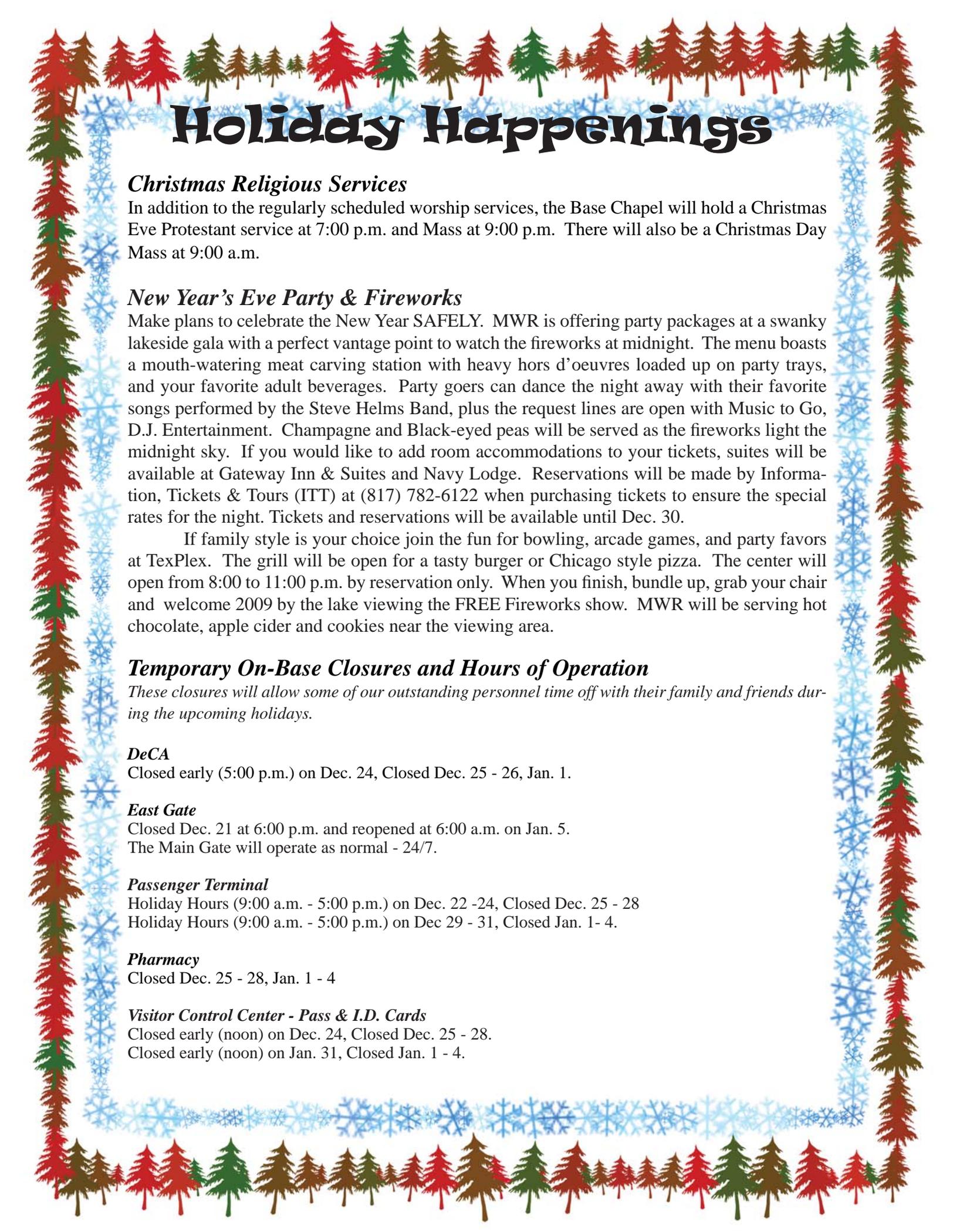
or qualified hazardous duty area, are deployed overseas in support of operations in a qualified hazardous duty area, or are deployed while participating in contingency operations. If any of these situations apply to you, your spouse is entitled to the same extension. Extensions last for 180 days after the last day you are in the combat zone or contingency operation. In addition to the 180 days, your deadline is extended by however many days you had left to meet the deadline before you left. (For example, if you deployed in mid-January, you would have three months plus 180 days to file your taxes after you return.) However, remember that if you qualify for a refund, delaying filing will delay receiving your refund. You may want to see your Navy Legal Assistance Office to get a tax power of attorney for your spouse to file taxes during your deployment, expediting the process of getting a refund.

Where and How to File – Active duty personnel and their dependents are eligible to have free tax return preparation services provided by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers at all US military installations. At these centers, IRS-trained volunteers can help with your return and help you maximize your tax savings. These centers will be open shortly after e-filing begins on 19 January 2009. Additionally, www.militaryonesource.com will offer free online tax filing, a great option for basic tax returns.

For more information, go online to <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p3/index.html>. Fort Worth legal assistance offices can be found at (817) 782-6009.

This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney. ■





Holiday Happenings

Christmas Religious Services

In addition to the regularly scheduled worship services, the Base Chapel will hold a Christmas Eve Protestant service at 7:00 p.m. and Mass at 9:00 p.m. There will also be a Christmas Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Party & Fireworks

Make plans to celebrate the New Year SAFELY. MWR is offering party packages at a swanky lakeside gala with a perfect vantage point to watch the fireworks at midnight. The menu boasts a mouth-watering meat carving station with heavy hors d'oeuvres loaded up on party trays, and your favorite adult beverages. Party goers can dance the night away with their favorite songs performed by the Steve Helms Band, plus the request lines are open with Music to Go, D.J. Entertainment. Champagne and Black-eyed peas will be served as the fireworks light the midnight sky. If you would like to add room accommodations to your tickets, suites will be available at Gateway Inn & Suites and Navy Lodge. Reservations will be made by Information, Tickets & Tours (ITT) at (817) 782-6122 when purchasing tickets to ensure the special rates for the night. Tickets and reservations will be available until Dec. 30.

If family style is your choice join the fun for bowling, arcade games, and party favors at TexPlex. The grill will be open for a tasty burger or Chicago style pizza. The center will open from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. by reservation only. When you finish, bundle up, grab your chair and welcome 2009 by the lake viewing the FREE Fireworks show. MWR will be serving hot chocolate, apple cider and cookies near the viewing area.

Temporary On-Base Closures and Hours of Operation

These closures will allow some of our outstanding personnel time off with their family and friends during the upcoming holidays.

DeCA

Closed early (5:00 p.m.) on Dec. 24, Closed Dec. 25 - 26, Jan. 1.

East Gate

Closed Dec. 21 at 6:00 p.m. and reopened at 6:00 a.m. on Jan. 5.
The Main Gate will operate as normal - 24/7.

Passenger Terminal

Holiday Hours (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) on Dec. 22 -24, Closed Dec. 25 - 28
Holiday Hours (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) on Dec 29 - 31, Closed Jan. 1 - 4.

Pharmacy

Closed Dec. 25 - 28, Jan. 1 - 4

Visitor Control Center - Pass & I.D. Cards

Closed early (noon) on Dec. 24, Closed Dec. 25 - 28.
Closed early (noon) on Jan. 31, Closed Jan. 1 - 4.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S POLICY ON EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY & DIVERSITY

**“STRENGTH LIES IN DIFFERENCES, NOT IN SIMILARITIES.”
- STEPHEN COVEY**

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NAS JRB FORT WORTH LEADERS TO ENSURE SAILORS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT VALUES DIVERSITY AND FOSTERS MUTUAL RESPECT. CONSISTENT ADHERENCE TO A FAIR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (EEO) POLICY IS AN INSEPARABLE PART OF SOUND LEADERSHIP AND READINESS.

EEO IS MORE THAN FAIR TREATMENT. IT'S THAT, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S ALSO THE LAW. IT IS MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO ENSURE A WORKING ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENDER, RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION, RACE, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR ETHNICITY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MISSION IS:

“TO ENSURE MISSION READINESS, EVERY MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY MUST BE AFFORDED AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF THE NAVY TEAM. UNPROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR DESTROYS TRUST AND CONFIDENCE AND COMBAT READINESS, AND IS CONTRARY TO OUR CORE VALUES OF HONOR, COURAGE, AND COMMITMENT.”

NEGATIVE BEHAVIORS SUCH AS UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION ADVERSELY AFFECT GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE, AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

IT'S NOT COMPLICATED; SIMPLY TREAT YOUR SHIPMATES WITH THE RESPECT DUE THEIR SERVICE, AND DEMAND THE SAME.



T. D. SMYERS