



SKY RANGER

The Electronic Newsletter of NAS JRB Fort Worth, Texas



**Base Announces
Armed Forces
Day Celebration**

**Earn Civilian
Credentials
with Navy COOL**

**The Navy's New
Working Uniform**

**Sailors & Civilians
Of The Year**



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NAS JRB FORT WORTH

COMMANDING OFFICER - Capt. T.D. Smyers
EXECUTIVE OFFICER - Cmdr. William Stewart
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF - CMDCM Ellen Zubke
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER - Mr. Don Ray

SKY RANGER STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF - Mr. Rusty Baker



A Message From The Skipper

Our Operations, Public Affairs and MWR Departments have teamed up to present two events that will make our base *THE* place to be in mid-May.

Friday, 15 May - Trace Adkins in concert! Opening for Trace will be Emily West, sister of Chief Matt Nemmers, who recently transferred from NAS JRB Fort Worth.

Saturday, 16 May – Air Power Demonstration! After a 3-year hiatus, flight demonstrations are returning to NAS JRB Fort Worth in a big way!

Together, these two events make up our Armed Forces Day Celebration. Details can be found in articles throughout this edition of Sky Ranger, but I want to use this dedicated editorial space to explain what all this is about.

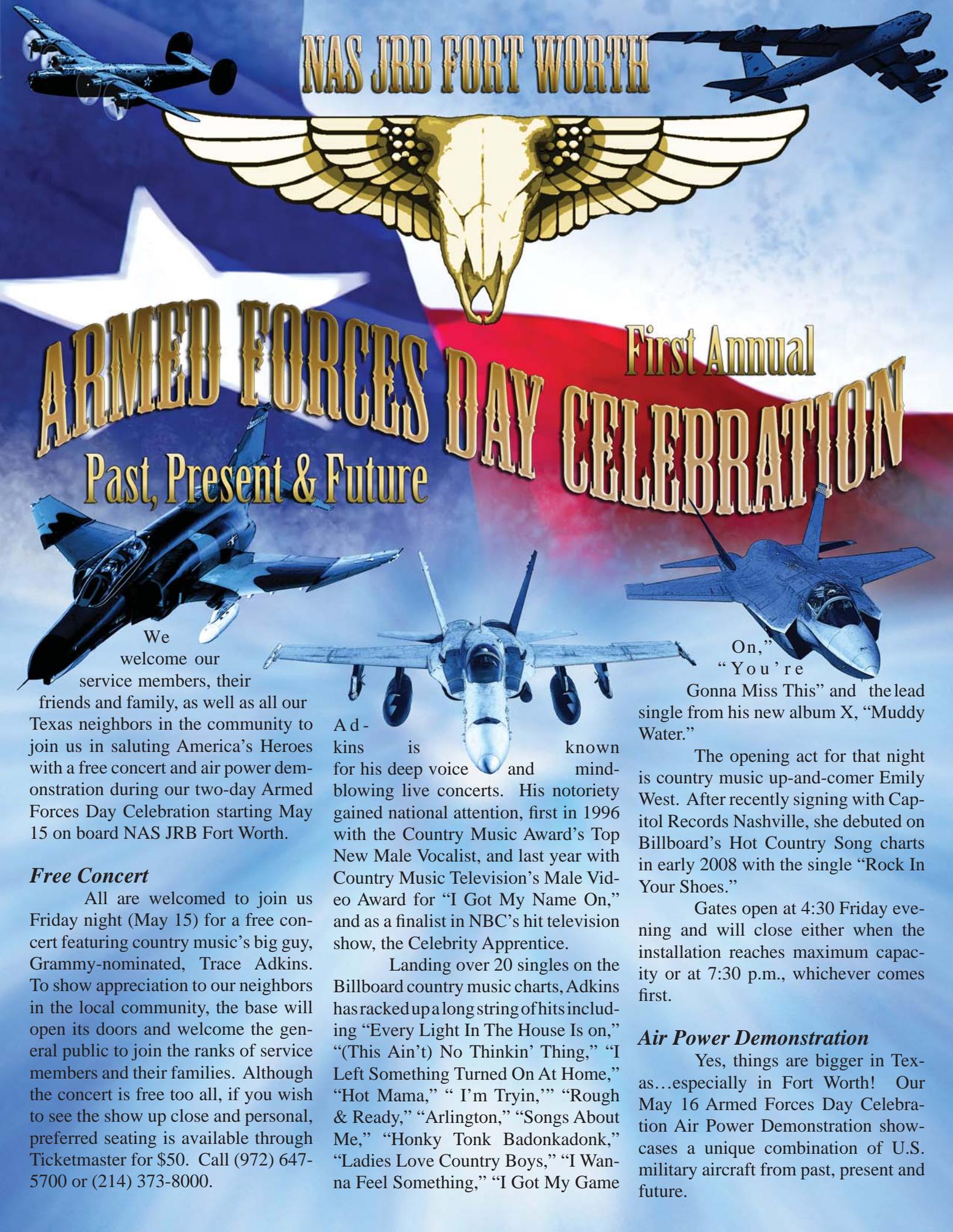
Sure, the Armed Forces Day Celebration is a chance to let our hair down (OK, not really a literal option for most of us) and have some fun; but it's also part of a combined effort to increase public awareness and support of

- NAS JRB Fort Worth's contribution to America's air power arsenal.
- NAS JRB Fort Worth tenant contributions to the Global War on Terror.

By opening up our base to the local public, we'll be breeding good will while opening their eyes up to what really goes on here. When we begin working closely with local civic and business leaders to build a cooperative strategy for the future, this good will and education will pay big dividends in support and understanding. We will effectively have removed some road blocks before we begin the journey.

Make no mistake, this celebration will take quite a bit of teamwork and sweat to pull off! But we'll be taking Sunday and Monday off, afterward for a well-deserved break. After all, it *IS* Armed Forces Day Weekend; enjoy it, and enjoy the shows!





NAS JRB FORT WORTH

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

First Annual

Past, Present & Future

We welcome our service members, their

friends and family, as well as all our Texas neighbors in the community to join us in saluting America's Heroes with a free concert and air power demonstration during our two-day Armed Forces Day Celebration starting May 15 on board NAS JRB Fort Worth.

Free Concert

All are welcomed to join us Friday night (May 15) for a free concert featuring country music's big guy, Grammy-nominated, Trace Adkins. To show appreciation to our neighbors in the local community, the base will open its doors and welcome the general public to join the ranks of service members and their families. Although the concert is free too all, if you wish to see the show up close and personal, preferred seating is available through Ticketmaster for \$50. Call (972) 647-5700 or (214) 373-8000.

Adkins is known for his deep voice and mind-blowing live concerts. His notoriety gained national attention, first in 1996 with the Country Music Award's Top New Male Vocalist, and last year with Country Music Television's Male Video Award for "I Got My Name On," and as a finalist in NBC's hit television show, the *Celebrity Apprentice*.

Landing over 20 singles on the Billboard country music charts, Adkins has racked up a long string of hits including "Every Light In The House Is on," "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing," "I Left Something Turned On At Home," "Hot Mama," "I'm Tryin'," "Rough & Ready," "Arlington," "Songs About Me," "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk," "Ladies Love Country Boys," "I Wanna Feel Something," "I Got My Game

On,"
"You're

Gonna Miss This" and the lead single from his new album X, "Muddy Water."

The opening act for that night is country music up-and-comer Emily West. After recently signing with Capitol Records Nashville, she debuted on Billboard's Hot Country Song charts in early 2008 with the single "Rock In Your Shoes."

Gates open at 4:30 Friday evening and will close either when the installation reaches maximum capacity or at 7:30 p.m., whichever comes first.

Air Power Demonstration

Yes, things are bigger in Texas...especially in Fort Worth! Our May 16 Armed Forces Day Celebration Air Power Demonstration showcases a unique combination of U.S. military aircraft from past, present and future.

The flight schedule features a joint-service mixture of aerial demonstrations, including a local favorite of the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112 F/A-18 Hornet, U.S. Air Force Reserve Biplane, Air National Guard Extra 300L aerobatic aircraft, Air Force Academy Parachute Team and Glider, Lockheed Martin's premier aerobatic demonstration of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, and a fly-by of the Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit bomber.

For the first time on board NAS JRB Fort Worth, Lockheed Martin is scheduled to display the F-35 "Lightning II" Joint Strike Fighter, the future of joint military aviation. The Lightning II is a fifth-generation, single-seat, single-engine, stealth capable military strike fighter with a multi-role performance of close air support, tactical bombing and air superiority fighter missions. It has three separate models, including the U.S. Air Force conventional takeoff and landing variant, the U.S. Navy carrier-based variant and the U.S. Marine Corps short takeoff and vertical-land-

ing variant. The F-35 is manufactured across the runway at Fort Worth's Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company.

A historic heritage flight combination of the F-4 Phantom and F-16 Fighting Falcon is scheduled to honor our veterans of both the past and present. The two aircraft will fly in a close formation as a tribute to the local U.S. Air Force 301st Fighter Wing. The Phantom has also been flown by many of our local Marine and Navy squadrons.

Our special guests, the Chilean Air Force's "Halcones" High Acrobatics Squad, will be the show's finale. Check out the spectacular maneuvers of this five-aircraft display team, as they thrill the crowd with their new Extra-300L aerobatic aircraft.

Other military aircraft on static display include the largest aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory, featuring the B-52 Stratofortress bomber, capable of delivering 70,000 pounds of bombs, mines or missiles to the enemy; the C-5 Galaxy strategic heavy airlift, with a cargo payload of 270,000; the C-17 Globemaster III, a 100-plus troop carrying transport that can take off from unpaved runways as short as 3,500; and the A-10 Thunderbolt II "Warthog" attack aircraft that has a 30 mm Gatling gun, anti-tank cannon for a nose that can fire 3,900 rounds per minute!

The U.S. Army will fly in their entire aviation inventory, including the UC-35 Citation, C-12 Huron, H-60 Blackhawk, CH-47 Chinook and the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter. If that's not enough Soldiering for you, try out the virtual test drive of the Virtual Army Experience; where participants employ teamwork, rules of engagement, leadership and high-tech equipment as you take part in a virtual U.S. Army mission.

The NAS JRB Fort Worth based flying squadrons will also showcase their aircraft, including the Marine F/A-18 Hornet and KC-130 Hercules, the Navy C-40 Clipper and C-9 Skytrain II, the Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon, the Army C-12 Huron and the Texas Air National Guard C-130 Hercules. Local pilots and crewmembers will be on hand to conduct tours of their aircraft and answer any questions.

Not all our demonstrations are in the air. See the Indy Boys' jet-powered exhibition truck, known as the Dodge Ramjet. The 10,000 horse-powered Pratt & Whitney jet engine will take your breath away with a land speed of over 350 miles per hour.

Visit our Web site or call our Air Power Hotline for the most current information on the free concert, schedule of aerial demonstrations and a list of static display aircraft: (817) 782-3094.

Don't forget Friday's Air Demo practice at 11:00 for all service members and their friends and family. ■



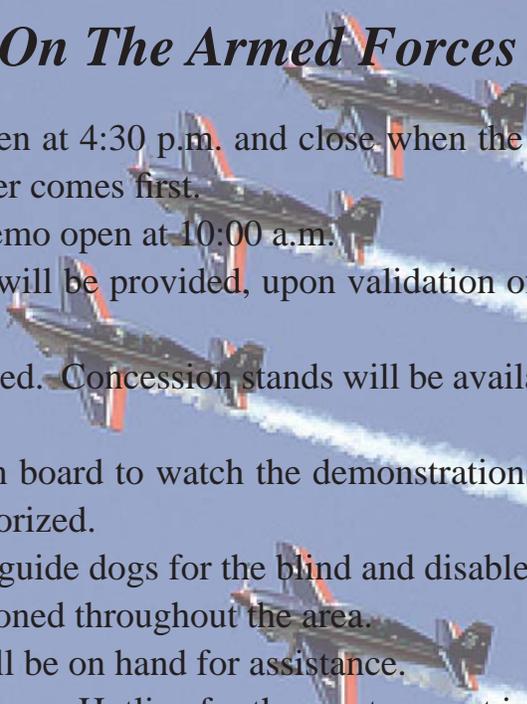
Country music superstar, Trace Adkins, will be headlining Friday night's free concert during the Armed Forces Day Celebration on May 15.



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

Additional Information On The Armed Forces Day Celebration

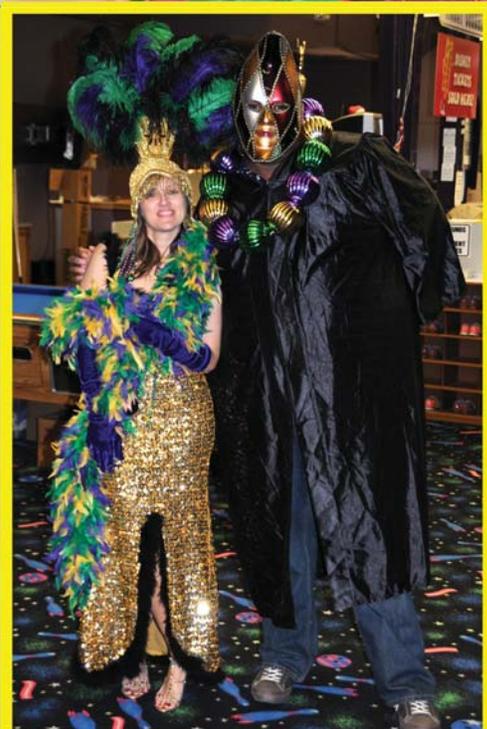
- Gates for Friday's free concert open at 4:30 p.m. and close when the installation reaches maximum capacity or at 7:30, whichever comes first.
- Gates for Saturday's Air Power Demo open at 10:00 a.m.
- Separate parking for the disabled will be provided, upon validation of proper vehicle license or placard.
- No outside food or drink is permitted. Concession stands will be available at numerous locations throughout the installation.
- Portable chairs may be brought on board to watch the demonstrations. Strollers or wagons for transporting children are also authorized.
- All pets are prohibited, except for guide dogs for the blind and disabled.
- Portable rest facilities will be stationed throughout the area.
- Medical stations and personnel will be on hand for assistance.
- Visit our Web site or call the Air Power Hotline for the most current information on the free concert, schedule of aerial demonstrations and a list of static display aircraft: (817) 782-3094.



Photos by Don Ray

Fat Friday?

With Exercise Solid Curtain restricting access to the base on Fat Tuesday, members of NAS JRB Fort Worth kicked off Mardi Gras the Friday before (Feb. 20) with a base-wide parade. King of the parade was commanding officer, Capt. T.D. Smyers, along with executive officer, Cmdr. William Stewart; blue jacket of the year, CS3 Lorenzo Wright; Texadillo mascot Rick Wagner; and Wes Cloud as Santa Claus. Picture below are MWR's Daphne Salinas and Carl Roberts. Special guests included River Oaks City Councilman Jack Adkinson.



Sailors of the Year Luncheon

Story and photos by Rusty Baker

The Sailors of the year for NAS JRB Fort Worth were given a luncheon in their honor at the Moreland Hall Dining Facility on base on Feb. 5. MA1 William Barnett, was named Sailor of the Year, while Junior Sailor of the Year was CS2 Idahoise Oniha and Blue Jacket of the Year was CS3 Lorenzo Wright. Among those presenting awards were representatives from Navy Federal Credit Union, Columbia College, Enterprise Rental Cars, Navy League, Omni National Bank, and Army Air Forces Exchange Service.

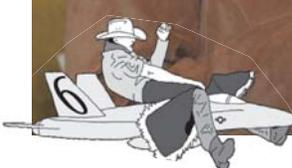
MA1 Barnett had already been transferred to his next duty station for training, so his wife, Julie accepted his award on his behalf and gave a heartwarming speech from both her husband and herself.

Said Julie Barnett, "I want you all to know how honored I am to be accepting this award for my husband. We have been living the military life for over 15 years now, and usually what I am accepting are moving papers and household goods!"

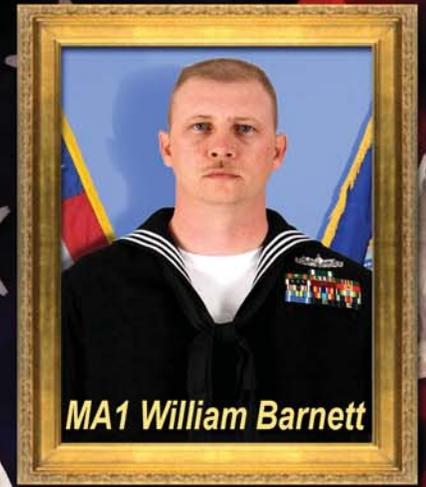
"Bill gives nothing less than his best to each task he commits to. He sets his goals and standards very high and it's a blessing to be recognized by being named Sailor of the Year. But, as is his nature, he wanted me to convey to all of you, his thanks and how much he appreciates the command and his fellow petty officers' support. He is a true believer in team work, and no matter how dedicated and devoted, this award would not have been possible without his fellow Sailors towing the line with him. His desire is to set an example that anyone has the ability to lead and achieve goals higher than expected, as long as you stay true to yourself and strive to do just a little bit more."

"And if I may, I have a few words of my own. The kids and I are very proud of Bill and the priority he places on his military duties. I do feel it is important for all of you to know that, as his family, we are not short changed. He stays very busy, yes, but he is balanced and is there for us, like he is for all of you and the needs of the Navy," said Julie Barnett. ■

MA1 William (Bill) Barnett's wife, Julie, accepts her husband's award for Sailor of the year and gives a heartwarming speech.



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



MA1 William Barnett

Sailor of the Year



CS2 Idahoise Oniha

Junior Sailor of the Year



CS3 Lorenzo Wright

Blue Jacket of the Year

Going Blue To Gray Gets Easier With Navy COOL

The Navy Unveils Its Web-Based Credential Program To Match Sailor's Rates With The Civilian Certifications That Employers Are Looking For

Story by Rusty Baker

Like or not, there comes a time in every Sailor's career where he calls it quits and trades in his Navy Blues for corporate gray. From petty officer to commanding officer, all go through a somewhat bumpy transition into a business world that has become highly technical and gap-fill specific. You can't just walk in to the front door of a multi-million dollar corporation and win a job with your confidence and a power tie. Internet job billboards, electronic resume postings and over-the-phone interviews top the list of a more efficient, yet more impersonal corporate hiring strategy. Today's Navy has become just as technically proficient and demanding as the regular workforce, if not more so; the challenge is equating your Navy rate, position and other accomplishments on paper so you can nail that dream job and not settle for mall cop.

"There were gaps in the labor force, and the military was not filling them," said Mark Stephens, a training certification analyst from the Navy Credentials Program Office located at Corry Station's Center for Information Dominance in Pensacola, Fla.

A steady trend showed that service members were not filling gaps in the civilian workforce after leaving the military. In a joint study, the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Labor (DoL) determined that military personnel leaving the service were not doing a very good job translating their military training, skills and experience. At the same time, civilian employers were not very good at interpreting those military skills. Furthermore, many military personnel did not hold the professional certifications that many of their civilian counterparts possessed.

"A master trainer specialist

can put down on a resume that he's a (NEC) 9502, or Navy instructor, or that he is proficient in Microsoft Office; but what does that tell an employer about competency ratings or certifications," said Stephens.

In most career fields, employers rely on credentials and certifications to determine an applicant's competency, as well as experience, in a skill or trade. The Navy has recently taken the lead in a Web-based program, called Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (Navy COOL), designed to help match civilian credentials to a Sailor's rating, job or occupation. All Navy active duty and reserve enlisted personnel can navigate the site to find their civilian equivalency, learn what it takes to obtain the credentials, and in most cases, have the Navy fund any credentialing fees that align with their rating, job or occupation.

"We've already done all the work," said Stephens, "all a Sailor has to do is search by rating, job or occupation."

Search by Rate

All current enlisted Navy rates are listed on Navy COOL's search page. A storekeeper will find that he can be matched with 24 civilian equivalencies and earn certifications in accounting to wholesale and retail buying. A culinary specialist (CS) might only have six occupational equivalents, but dozens of national certifications are listed to include the American Culinary Federation, Inc., and the Culinary Institute of America, where the Navy will pay for a Sailor to become a certified executive chef (ProChef Level III).

"We can only pay for certifications that align within 80 percent of their rating," said Stephens. "A CS

can't get certified as a welder. The certs have to match the rate and have to be something the Sailor can achieve in his job."

Search by Job

A hospital corpsman has over 30 different jobs in the Navy, from dental hygienist to Fleet Marine Force Medical Technician. Searching by job will better pinpoint those certifications that align with a job description.

Some certification exams can be taken online, some in testing sites in the local area, while others can be achieved with funding from the Montgomery GI Bill.

Search by Occupation

Maybe you've got a collateral duty as a command fitness leader, an instructor or a detailer. These collateral duties can do more than help you advance to the next pay grade; they can open the door to further civilian equivalents and certifications.

"Any petty officer is a leader – he can become a certified manager," said Stephens. "A recruiter can get certified in professional services marketing, professional sales coaching or even human resources."

In the case of Sailors that have returned from a deployment as an individual augmentee (IA) or a Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment Deployer (GSA), a certification may not align with their actual rating, but it may align to the IA job itself.

"It doesn't cost you a dime, just a little time," said Stephens.

Let's say you weren't on top of your game and you flunk a course. If you failed using Navy tuition assistance, you would have to pay it back.

NAVY COOL

Continued on page 9

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



DFW Tuskegee Airmen and Marines join together to support CRP Future

Story and photos by Sgt. Lisa Rosborough

Leathernecks of MAG-41 and MALS-41 took part in a tribute to America's veterans along with two of the first African American military pilots, the Tuskegee Airmen, at Casa Manana Theater earlier this month.

The two-day event, which was held in an effort to benefit the CRP Future Pilots Flight School, an aviation program dedicated to youth ages 8-18, was presented to nearly 1,000 high school students from the Fort Worth and Dallas Independent School Districts. Included in the roundtable discussion was Col. Gary S. Graham, commanding officer of MAG-41 and Maj. Alejandro House, a reserve logistics officer with MALS-41.

House, who is also co-founder and director of operations for the CRP Flight School, is a key player in program development of the school and is very passionate about its mission in expressing the significance of the Tuskegee Airmen to young people.

"The pledge and commitment of the CRP Future Pilots Flight School is to continue the legacy of our world-class original Tuskegee Airmen by educating our local youth in aviation concepts, math, science, aviation maintenance, and piloting principles," said House.

Founded in February of 2008, the CRP Flight School commenced its first high school program in August that same year. According to House, their initial youth activity was a summer internship program, where they referred a Dallas-based Skyline High School senior to an aircraft manufacturing company, allowing the student to refine his skills he learned while at CRP in the field of aircraft maintenance.

Per House, this training ultimately led the student to be selected to attend the U. S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.



Maj. Alejandro House (left) thanks sponsors from DFW American Airlines as they present him with a \$10,000 donation towards programming for the Claude R. Future Pilots Flight School in Dallas. House, a reserve logistics officer with MALS-41, is the Director of Operations at the school. The CRP Flight School is comprised of original Tuskegee Airmen and serves to educate youth ages 8-18 in aviation concepts, math, science, aviation maintenance, and piloting principles.

Currently, House and local DFW Tuskegee Airmen of CRP are working together to assist aviation maintenance students at Dunbar High School in learning aircraft engine theory. When the class completes the course during the first year, the students are taken on a field trip to DFW American Airlines and are able to put their knowledge to the test.

During year two, they will commence the airframe construction and electrical development for their aviation maintenance technician certification.

In providing a brief example, House explained that "the flight students are working towards their Sport Pilot rating, which takes 30 hours of total flight

training. We have one student who has soloed in an aircraft at 15.1 hours and a second who will solo at 20 hours next week."

In addition, CRP Flight School has six flight students on various financial assistance structures for flight training from four different metroplex school districts. House projects that in August of this year, CRP and its team of Tuskegee Airmen will have fully implemented flight training and aviation maintenance courses at A. Maceo Smith High School in Dallas, P. L. Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, and Desoto High School in Desoto, Texas.

In regards to the tribute to Amer-

TUSKEGEE

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

NAVY COOL Continued...

According to Stephens, with Navy Cool, if you fail, the Navy Credentials Program Office pays for it. Albeit, the Sailor can only take the course and fail it once, after that if he wants to re-take the course and passes, he will be certified, but at that point he would have to pay for it himself.

The only stipulations for participating in this program is that you can only perform one certification at a time. You must also have at least one year of service left on your contract.

“How many times have people called me and said, ‘I’m getting out in three months,’ and I have to tell them it’s too late,” said Stephens.

Credential program staffers are waiting on the final word to waive the mandatory one-year requirement for Sailors retiring after 20 years of service, according to Stephens, who is also currently the lead analyst in developing a similar program for Navy officers.

“Navy COOL is primarily a Work Force Professionalization Tool, but it has utility as a retention tool, recruiting tool, and a transition tool,” said Stephens. “The Navy’s payback is better trained, more professional Sailors.”

Other useful information and transitional tools on the Navy COOL Web site include a DoL link to assist in writing resumes and a military-to-civilian salary comparison with both national and state averages. This can be crucial when negotiating for a salary. ■



Senior
Civilian
of the Year

Daphne Salinas



Junior
Civilian
of the Year

Lydia Thorton

TUSKEGEE Continued...

ica’s veterans and the Tuskegee Airmen, a special performance was given by author, actor, and decorated Korean War veteran, James McEachin.

McEachin performed his one-man, two-act play “Above the Call – Beyond the Duty” on the second day of the event at Casa Manana for the CRP Flight School fundraiser, entertaining over 600 guests and helping to raise over \$30,000.

More is on the horizon for CRP Flight School. Their next event will be the Second Annual Aviation Youth Summit during Father’s Day weekend. According to House, the event will host 100 young men from comedian, actor, and radio host, Steve Harvey Foundation’s Boys Camp, along with other local youth at the Dallas Executive Airport.

“We are standing on the shoulders of giants who will help us propel ourselves through the skies of the future,” House said. “It’s a pleasure giving back to our youth and making sure that a program of such survives for the long term.” ■



Outside of the Casa Manana Theatre in Fort Worth, two of the original Tuskegee Airmen, (left) Cpl. Donald Elder and (right) Sgt. John Flanagan enjoy conversation with Vinita Walker of American Airlines and Col. Gary Graham, commanding officer of MAG-41. Both Tuskegee Airmen are on the staff at Claude R. Platte Future Pilots Flight School.



New Working Uniform

By MC2(AW/SW) Marcel A. Barbeau; Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

During a tour of the Jacksonville tri-base area, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West visited Rear Admiral Townsend G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), Feb. 20, sporting a different look for the Navy.

With the new working uniform (NWU) expected to be released for wear in the Southeast in April 2009, local Sailors had their chance to see the camouflage uniform.

"I think this could help improve Sailors' morale," said CMDCM(SW/AW) Joseph H. Curtin, Regional Command Master Chief, Navy Region Southeast. "The feedback we're getting from many Sailors is that they're excited and can't wait to wear it."

According to Curtin the new uniform is extremely easy to maintain.

"It's very comfortable," said Curtin. "Pull it out of the dryer, shake it out, and put it on."

According to Curtin, he thinks the uniform better shows the Navy as a fighting force.

"I think it's a better appearance for a fighting force, as opposed to the utilities that are popularly known as a mechanic's uniform," said Curtin.

Many Sailors agree and are excited about the release of the new uniform.

"I like the new uniforms," said Yeoman Third Class Anthony Mitchell, of CNRSE Flag Admin. "It has a professional military look and I'm excited about them coming out."

"I think it's a fantastic uniform," added Quarter Master Third Class Abraham Velez, CNRSE assistant building manager. "I agree it

identifies us better as a military force."



Photo by MC2 Marcel A. Barbeau

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick West visits Rear Admiral Townsend G. Alexander, Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE), at the region headquarters on board NAS Jacksonville and discusses the correct wear of the new working uniform (NWU).

According to West, the new uniform reflects the Navy's professionalism.

"I think it's an outstanding uniform," said West. "It's a professional reflection of who we are as we progress as a Navy."

One of the looming questions Sailors have is when will they be able to wear the new uniform in public. During his visit to NAS Jacksonville, West provided an answer.

"That's up to the Sailors wearing it," said West. "When Sailors show their chief petty officers that the uniform is worn correctly, and when the force master chief comes to me and says, 'All of our Sailors are properly trained,' then I'm more than willing to make a recommendation to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) that we consider revising the policy on man-

ner of wear."

The uniform change resulted from a survey released several years ago that showed the majority of Sailors wanted a camouflage uniform.

"This was part of the survey," said Curtin. "A large portion of the Sailors said, 'We want camouflage. All the other services have it, why don't we?' The leadership agreed, we did extensive testing, and the Navy came up with this uniform."

According to the new uniform instruction, additional money for the clothing allowance will be reflected on Sailors' Leave and Earnings Statements beginning in fiscal year 2009 and ending in fiscal year 2010. Sailors have until December of 2010 to transition to the new uniform. ■

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



Commander, Navy Installations Command Holds Change of Command

By CNIC Public Affairs

Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale relieved Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Jr., as Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Jan. 30 during a ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

The guest speaker for the change of command was Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead. Roughead spoke of what Conway and CNIC meant to the Navy. He said “They were the integrator for all things related to our fleet. While the fleet is in port and our sailors are ashore. Bob knew what to, how to do it, how to explain it, and how to get the most out of every dollar.”

Conway said of his time at CNIC “I do consider myself blessed, to be afforded both the opportunity and the challenge to once again command; the opportunity to work alongside many talented professionals both military and civilian throughout the world; the challenge to change the shore establishment into an adaptive enterprise supporting the maritime strategy, the fleet, our Sailors, and their families; and I enjoyed every minute of it. Conway was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony.

Vitale said he looked forward



Vice Adm. Michael C. Vitale salutes Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead after being sworn in as Commander, Navy Installations Command during a ceremony held Jan. 30 at the Washington Navy Yard. Vice Adm. Vitale relieved Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Jr., who retired after more than 35 years of service.

to the challenges of taking over CNIC. “Today as I proudly take the helm of CNIC, I can tell you several things about the way we will do business. We will always do our best and we will do it with class and style. We will always do the right thing no matter how hard it is, no matter how long it takes or no matter how much it costs. We will treat everyone with dignity and respect. We will always look for a better way, always trying to improve. Lastly we will remember to enjoy ourselves while we are meeting those challeng-

es because we belong to the world’s greatest Navy.”

CNIC is an Echelon II command responsible for the providing base and operating services to the Navy’s 13 Regions and 73 Installations. CNIC oversees a nine-billion-dollar budget, more than 52,000 facilities and more than 53,000 personnel, managed from a single enterprise.

Vice Adm. Conway retired after more than 35 years of distinguished service. ■

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





Recognizing Athletes

U.S. Army two-time Purple Heart recipient, Roy Johnson (center) stands with honor student/athletes of Fort Worth Independent School District during the Black History Month program at the Moreland Dining Facility on base, hosted by the Heritage Committee. Mr. Johnson appeared as guest speaker for the event and the students received certificates in recognition of National Girls and Women in Sports Day for achieving high academic and athletic success while being a positive influence within the African American community. Awards were presented on behalf of Col Gary S. Graham, commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 41.

FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & ROODEO MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY



NAS JRB Fort Worth Commanding Officer, Capt. T. D. Smyers; Executive Officer, Cmdr. William Stewart; and Command Master Chief Ellen Zubke participate in the Grand Entry during the Fort Worth Stock Show on Feb. 4.

WINNING CAPTION (Photo No. 3)

“Apparently the cold affects some more than others.”

Shawn Wallace, Chief of Police, NAS JRB Fort Worth, TX



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

“VPP applied to the potential hazard of wild animal attacks while jogging on base.”

LCDR Eric Otten

“I get it when people say they ‘wear their hearts on their sleeves’, but this is ridiculous!”

Sam De Sessa, Fire Marshal/Prevention Chief



***Submit a funny and CLEAN caption to
FTWO_INFO@navy.mil***

***Title the subject line:
Photo Caption No. 4***

***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.***



The Stolen Valor Act

By LCDR Clif Hutchinson, SJA, NAS JRB Fort Worth

Over the past few years, there have been a number of stories in the media about non-DoD related civilians who have been caught wearing military awards and decorations that they did not earn. Similarly, some military personnel, retirees, and veterans have also been investigated for wearing medals that they were not legitimately awarded. As these cases continue to pop up, commands may be contacted by law enforcement or civilians requesting assistance.

If a command is asked to investigate such a matter, the issue may be referred to the servicing base Security Department, or Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Resident Agency. The first determination to make is if the alleged offender is an active duty service member or reservist. Active duty service members and reservists fall under the jurisdiction of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Article 134 paragraph 113 makes it unlawful for an individual to wear certain insignia, decorations, badges, ribbons, devices or lapel buttons on their uniform or civilian clothing when they are not authorized to wear such items. Violation of Article 134 may result in disciplinary action (including court martial) and administrative separation from the service.

If an individual is not in an active duty or reserve status and is not otherwise subject to the UCMJ, federal law prohibits certain activities regarding the wearing of military medals or decorations. Currently, many Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) field offices are assuming responsibility over such investigations for ultimate referral to cognizant United States Attorney offices for prosecution in federal court. Due to jurisdictional issues, military legal and law en-

forcement organizations (e.g. base police, Security Department Criminal Investigation Divisions, or military legal offices) lack the authority to investigate and prosecute civilians for such violations of federal law.

The primary statute on this issue in the United States Code (commonly referred to as the Stolen Valor Act) is found at 18 U.S.C. 704 (Military Medals or Decorations). The statute, mostly recently revised in 2006, states that whoever knowingly wears, purchases, attempts to purchase, solicits for purchase, mails, ships, imports, exports, produces blank certificates of receipt for, manufactures, sells, attempts to sell, advertises for sale, trades, barter, or exchanges for anything of value any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

There is also a provision in this statute regarding false claims about the receipt of military decorations or medals, whereby anyone who falsely represents himself, verbally or in writing, to have been awarded any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States faces possible fines

and imprisonment not more than six months, or both.

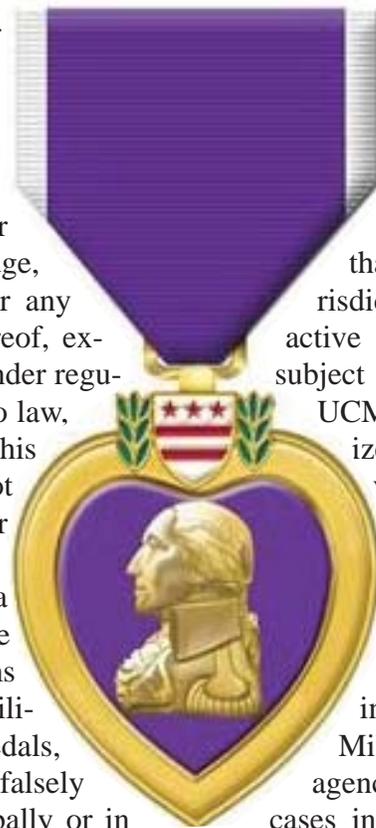
Further, under the Stolen Valor Act, there are enhanced penalties for offenses involving the Congressional Medal of Honor, a distinguished service cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, or Purple Heart, with possible fines and imprisonment not more than one year, or both.

Finally, another federal law found at 10 U.S.C. 771 (Armed Forces - The Uniform - Unauthorized Wearing Prohibited) states that except as otherwise provided by law, no person except a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps, as the case may be, may wear - (1) the uniform, or a distinctive part of the uniform, of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine

Corps; or (2) a uniform any part of which is similar to a distinctive part of the uniform of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps.

The takeaway here is that persons under the jurisdiction of the military (i.e. active duty and reservists) are subject to punishment under the UCMJ for wearing unauthorized awards. Those individuals not subject to the UCMJ (i.e. civilians) may be prosecuted in federal court for violating federal laws related to the unauthorized wearing of awards or uniforms.

Military law enforcement agencies may be contacted in cases involving military personnel; while the FBI or another federal law enforcement agency would likely exercise jurisdiction over a civilian investigation. ■



Navy Mandates Electronic Service Record Accounts

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

The Chief of Navy Personnel released a NAVADMIN Feb. 5 announcing the requirement for all active-duty and Reserve personnel to establish and maintain a self-service Electronic Service Record (ESR) account within the next 60 days.

“Having a self-service account is necessary for updating emergency contact information. Self-service accounts contain other important features, such as enabling Sailors to directly submit PCS (permanent change of station) travel claims upon PCS transfer, update race, ethnicity, and religion information, and view all other ESR service record information,” said Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, chief of naval personnel in NAVADMIN 043/09.

The requirement date for Sailors serving at sea and without connectivity to establish and ESR is 60 days upon return to homeport.

The Navy first implemented ESRs in 2006. The ESR provides individual Sailors, Personnel Support Activity Detachments (PSD), personnel offices holding service records, Navy Operational Support Centers, and customer commands of PSDs, with secure worldwide Internet access to personnel, training, and awards data.

The ESR replaces the paper service record as the single field level data entry point for service record maintenance. Commands are required to use all available ESR functionality.

Self-service accounts can be created at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> or on the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS) ESR server on board ship.

Commanding officers, executive officers and command master chiefs can obtain command level view only access by completing the NSIPS/ESR system authorization request and contacting their local NSIPS area manager. This access provides the user view only capability for all ESR accounts within their UIC(s).

All commands responsible for service record entries are required to initiate updates in NSIPS ESR, however official military personnel file requirements remain unchanged.

NSIPS ESR is the data entry point for electronic service record maintenance. Sailors are responsible for the accuracy of their ESR and must contact the servicing personnel office if any information is incorrect.

The Department of Defense and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) signed an agreement to make the Official Military Personnel Files a permanent series of records, transferred to NARA custody 62 years after the service member’s separation from the military. The new Archival Program Division at the National Personnel Records Center now holds nearly 1.2 million official military personnel files of former US Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel who served between 1885 and 1939. Also available are the records of 150 “persons of exceptional prominence”, including former Presidents, famous military leaders, celebrities, entertainers and professional athletes who served in the military and have been deceased for at least 10 years.

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Did You Know?

DoD Will Begin To Remove SSNs From DoD ID Cards

Removal will occur in three phases (Changes to cards will be made upon ID card renewal)

Phase One: Remove dependent SSNs (Began 2008)

Phase Two: Remove all printed SSNs* (To begin 2009)

Phase Three: Remove SSNs embedded in barcodes (To begin 2012)

** Geneva Convention ID cards will retain the last four digits on the SSN.*



A Dash of Salt

A Series of Articles on Nautical Terms, Phrases and Cliches by Jon Craig

Gun Decking

It is probably unfamiliar to landlubbers but to sailors, “gun decking” means to send in data that consists of guesses, hopes, wishes or dreams and not necessarily hard facts, objectively derived and carefully proven.

In the days before global positioning satellite (GPS), long range aid to navigation (LORAN), radio detection and ranging (RADAR), radio and man-made satellites, determining your exact position on the surface of the globe was a fairly intricate operation. Much of a naval line officer’s career as a midshipman was spent in classes learning the requisite math and how to use a sextant properly. Like riding bicycles or eating sushi, some people are better at it than others.

In both the American and British navies, every ship in a fleet took a “noon sight.” That is, they used their sextant and determined their position at noon of each day. However, with watches and hourglasses of the day being unreliable, the time was based on the admiral’s timepiece. All the ships reported the results of their calculations to the admiral who would have them added together and averaged and then report the average as the position of the fleet. Naturally, if one ship was consistently closer to the average than any of the others, its officers were thought to be excellent navigators and the captain was usually commended by the admiral.

Sometimes they cheated.

To do this, a captain would have his officers take down the position reports from the first few ships to signal, add them together and report the average as his calculated position. You have to be on the open deck to see the sun at noon. Of course you could also see and be seen by the officers on the other ships and they would notice if you seemed to be taking too much interest in their signals and then hurrying below. However, from the gun deck of the ship, while you couldn’t see the sun, you could see the other ships’ signals and you had privacy in which to perform your calculations. Reporting data not honestly achieved, therefore, is known as “gun decking.”

Do you know what the modern equivalent is? “Radioing”. Because if you are sending the data in by radio, it’s pretty hard for anyone to know whether or not you are guessing.

Next month: Charley Noble



Exchange Operations Offer Varying Levels of Support to Entire Military Community

By Sharlene Piskorowski, Army & Air Force Exchange Service Corporate Communications

From NAS JRB Fort Worth to Afghanistan, military installations across the globe are home to more than 3,000 Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) food, entertainment and retail options. When visitors, contractors and civilians see these facilities their first question often is, “Who’s authorized to shop the exchange?”

“Frankly, the BX offers varying levels of service to everyone who comes on base,” said the BX’s Main Store Manager Cathy Orona. “It stands to reason that guests want to take advantage of the tax relief and competitive pricing they’ve heard so much about, but AAFES doesn’t decide who is or isn’t authorized.”

Exchange service authorization actually begins with the House Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the NAS JRB Fort Worth commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I), require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the reserve components and family members, applicable DoD civilians, exchange associates and retirees who possess a basic exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

While authorizations governing who can buy merchandise and services at the BX often apply to a chosen few, the doors to AAFES’ fast food and convenience stores, including the Burger King, Anthony’s Pizza and Robin Hood, are open to virtually anyone looking for a quick bite to eat. In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees, and even installation visitors, to dine at AAFES restaurants as long as their food orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from a Shoppette, an option that is especially valuable late at night considering the Shoppette is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday.

“‘Snack Avenue’ offers a robust selection of single-serve consumables,” said Orona. “Candy bars, soft drinks and even hot dogs can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation.”

Anyone who believes they may qualify for exchange benefits, including access to the main BX, can contact Pass and ID at 817-782-5244 for additional guidance and information regarding possible exceptions at NAS JRB Fort Worth.

Main Store Customer Satisfaction Survey

The NAS JRB Fort Worth Main Store will be conducting a customer satisfaction survey during the period February 21 to March 7.

The survey will collect valuable data from Customers using a touch screen e-clipboard device. The American Customer Satisfaction Index uses customer interviews as input to a multi-equation econometric model developed at the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business. In addition to helping companies and government agencies better understand the satisfaction of their customers, ACSI data has also been used extensively by academic researchers and others interested in studying the dynamics of customer satisfaction.

Each customer that participates in the survey will receive a Customer Survey (CSI) Coupon as a thank you for their valuable time in the completion of our questionnaire/surveys. Each \$5.00 coupon can be used towards any purchase, in any AAFES activity.



Replace Batteries In Smoke Alarms During Switch To DayLight-Saving Time

March 8

Working smoke alarms are among the most valuable lifesaving tools for families and placement of working smoke alarms on each level of a house and outside of each sleeping area, such as in a hallway, will double your chances of surviving a home fire.

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

Don't Let Your Taxes Cause You Undo Strain!

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) office is opened once again, offering free income tax preparation and E-filing at the NAS JRB Fort Worth Chapel by IRS trained volunteers for all active duty personnel and dependents, reservists and retired military. Through this program, services members not only can save hundreds of dollars on tax preparation fees, but they also get their refund in just a couple of weeks.

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call for an appointment: (817) 782-6397

The office is also taking volunteers to support tax filings.

Highlights of tax law changes for 2008

1. Standard deduction \$10,900 MFJ, \$5,450 S, \$8,000 HoH.
2. Cancellation of debt on primary residence (taxpayers with a 1099C).
3. First time home buyers credit.
4. Property taxes paid on a primary residence are deductible up to \$1000 even if not itemizing deductions.

Did you know tax facts?

1. First time home buyers can take a \$10,000 (\$20,000 if joint and 2 IRAs) IRA distribution without penalty.
2. If you work more than one job and/or are getting a work related education you can claim mileage at over .50 cents a mile under itemized deductions.
3. Military VITA sites have expertise in Military and state tax issues many paid preparers don't. Let us take a second look at your return and save you some money.



College Degrees Give Sailors Boost on Advancement Exams

Center for Personal and Professional Development Public Affairs

The Navy's efforts to attract, recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women for their workforce ranks high among its strategic initiatives, and key among those is education.

Sailors with college degrees from accredited institutions were eligible, beginning in August 2008, to submit their academic transcripts to the Navy College Office for an increase in their advancement points.

"Navy leaders have long recognized that a strong educational foundation enhances a Sailor's technical skills, leadership traits, critical thinking skills, and their ability to adapt and overcome the ever-present challenges associated with working in the dynamic maritime environment. The recent changes in advancement policy sets the correct tone for Sailors to Stay Navy and continue their education," Master Chief(SW) Gretchen Boals, Command Master Chief at the Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD).

In November 2007, the Chief of Naval Personnel released Naval Administration (NAVADMIN) message 301/07, which stated enlisted sailors preparing for advancement to pay grades E-4 through E-6 will now be awarded two points for an accredited associate's degree and four points for an accredited baccalaureate degree

or higher.

Sailors preparing for advancement to Chief Petty Officer are also eligible to receive advancement points based on the same point structure as E-4-E-6 pay grades, while Sailors preparing for E-7 through E-9 selection boards will be given favorable consideration for their academic degrees based on the recent updates to selection board guidelines.

Both prior service and in-service degrees are recognized, and similar to awards, academic degrees count for multiple advancement cycles.

During the first cycle to award education points, September 2008, Navy enlisted force stabilization officials noted a slightly larger impact during the advancement cycle than they had anticipated. Of the 89,210 test takers, 2,264 reported a post-secondary degree. The tally surpassed the projected number of degrees reported for the advancement cycle by 731.

There were 21,663 Sailors advanced during the fall 2008 cycle, and from that number, 766 held a college degree. Of those with degrees, 33.8 percent advanced, 33.2 percent would have advanced regardless of education points, and 8 percent would not have advanced if it were not for education points.

"Here at CPPD, we support the learning and development needs of all

Sailors, which is why we are thrilled that E3-E5 Sailors are now being recognized and promoted for both their professional and academic successes," said Boals.

"CPPD is committed to offering academic support in the format that best meets the needs of the Sailor through counseling and academic advisement, the Navy's College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE), Tuition Assistance (TA), and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), among others. Before even considering an academic program, every Sailor's first stop must be their local Navy College Office," said Boals.

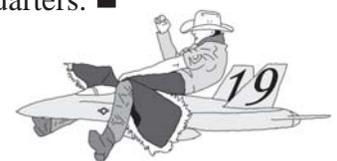
CPPD and the Navy College Program are responsible for a variety of education programs, including but not limited to the administration of the 52 Navy College offices located around the world, as well as the operations of the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE), Academic Skills Testing (AST), and United States Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP).

Sailors interested in starting on a degree or taking advantage of any of these educational opportunities can start by visiting their local Navy College Office or the Navy College Web site <https://www.navycollege.navy.mil>. ■

We Need Your Old Glasses!

The Air Force's 301st Medical Squadron will be conducting an humanitarian mission to Guyana South America in August. We will be conducting eye exams at a hospital near Georgetown, Guyana. The only way we will be able to provide glasses to these patients is by your generous donation of your old eyeglasses.

We have a projected need of 2,500 pair of glasses. We desperately need your help. Please bring in any old glasses that you or other members of your family no longer use. A collection box is located at the 301st Medical Squadron, there is also a collection box located in building 1654, 301st Fighter Wing Headquarters. ■



Women's History Month

National Woman's Day was first observed in the United States on Feb. 28, 1909. International Women's Day, now held on Mar. 8, is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by those seeking to improve the rights of women. In 1987, Congress designated March as Women's History Month, following a ground swell of interest that began with Sonoma County in California designating the week of Mar. 8 as Women's History Week in 1978.

Long denied, now invaluable

Women have only been able to enter the Navy for 101 years, but in that time their contributions have exponentially increased. Today, without the service of the 146,239 women of the Navy Total Force (active, reserve, civilian), the Navy would be unable to meet its missions. Too many firsts have occurred in the last hundred years for a full recounting in this limited space, but following are just a few examples of women who led the way:

- Lelia Jefferson Harvie Barnett worked at the Naval Observatory from 1901-1902 and for the Cost Survey from 1903-1904. At a time when few women were active in the field of science, she conducted physics research and co-authored a number of papers with her husband, Samuel Jackson Barnett.
- Dr. Frances Lois Willoughby, initially commissioned in 1944 into the Naval Reserve, became the first female doctor to serve in the regular Navy (Oct. 15, 1948).
- EMCM Mary Bonnin (ret.) was the Navy's first and only female Master Diver. She retired from active duty in 1996 and continued to work for the Navy as a civilian.
- Capt. Kay Hire was the first woman in the military to be assigned to a combat aircrew (May 13, 1993; VP-62); and went on to become one of the first female Navy astronauts.
- The Navy currently has 24 women serving as admirals or admiral selectees (the most to-date), including Vice Adm. Ann Rondeau, who became a 3-star admiral on July 28, 2006.

Encouraging development

Professional and personal development is an integral part of retaining the best and the brightest, and ensuring everyone can reach his or her full potential. All personnel are encouraged to seek ways to embrace and enhance diversity in the Navy, and to help individuals reach their full potential. Some events this year focused on the development of women include:

- Sea Services Leadership Association (SSLA) Women's Leadership Symposium, June 18-19, Washington D.C.
- Federally Employed Women, July 20-24, Orlando
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference, Nov. 4-6, Long Beach, Calif.

"I look forward to my command tour on USS Freedom. Commanding a combatant was not an opportunity available to female Sailors when I received my commission less than 20 years ago. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Navy women who preceded me. Thanks to their vision and perseverance, today's Navy is truly a diverse team."

*– Cmdr. Kristy Doyle,
Prospective Commanding Officer
LCS 1(Blue Team)*

