

SKY RANGER



NAS Fort Worth JRB, Texas

Vol. 69, Issue 4

VR-46 Named Squadron of the Year



(PHOTO COURTESY OF CMDR. JOHN KROUSE)

Members of VR-46 pose with the McCampbell Trophy (left), awarded to the squadron for being named the Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve Squadron of the Year. The other trophies are (left to right) the Noel Davis Trophy, designating VR-46 the Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve (CNAFR) "Battle E" winner, the Congressman Bill Chappel Award, for winning the Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing (CFLSW), Operations Excellence Award, and the James M. Holcombe Golden Wrench Award, for winning the Maintenance Excellence Award from Commander, Fleet Logistics Support Wing (CFLSW).

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST
1ST CLASS ERIC DEATHERAGE

Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 46 was recently named the Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve (CNAFR) Squadron of the Year. VR-46 is the first logistics support squadron to win the award, also known as the McCampbell Trophy.

"I am very proud of the work ethic and focus the squadron displays on a daily basis," said Cmdr. John Krouse, squadron commanding officer. "My



feelings are beyond what words can describe."

The award comes in what will be the last year of the squadron. VR-46 is being decommissioned later this year due to defense budget cuts.

Winning squadron of the year during the same year as being decommissioned is bittersweet.

"When we received the news of our shutdown, we realized that we do not get to choose our orders," said Krouse. "But we do get to choose the manner in which we will execute those orders - we have executed them with pride and professionalism."

VR-46's history dates back to 1970. Originally located at Naval Air Station

Jacksonville, VR-46 relocated to NAS Atlanta in July 1972. VR-46 moved to NAS Fort Worth JRB three years ago when NAS Atlanta closed.

Fleet logistics support squadrons operate Navy unique airlift aircraft on a worldwide basis to provide responsive, flexible, and rapidly deployable air logistics support required to sustain combat operations from the sea. Krouse said it takes a special group of people to do it well.

"The men and women that make up VR-46 are exactly the people we want in the U.S. Navy," he said. "They are not limited by a situation, they perse-

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SKY RANGER

NAS Fort Worth JRB, Texas

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER

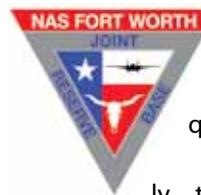


BENNETT

This month we will focus on life's priorities and balance. Basically, what do you consider important in life. Everyone has their own priorities and way to 'balance' their life. I will share a portion of mine with you.

As we travel along life's journey, we must constantly evaluate our priorities and ascertain what is most important; yourself (personal well being), family, and/or career. When finishing college and beginning my career, honestly it was all about me. I knew I needed to graduate, join the Navy, achieve my pilot qualifications and then learn how to be a successful officer and leader. However, in the latter part of my first tour, two dramatic life changes occurred which altered my life's perspective.

I married the love of my life, and second I realized this Navy 'gig' wasn't really about me. First, all of us who are married understand how challenging marriage can be and that to be happy and successful in a relationship takes constant effort. Second, the realization that the Navy is about serving others, not myself altered who I was and how I prioritized my life. Military service is about being a positive part of something much bigger than you. I truly believe our service in the military literally makes a dramatic difference in our world's landscape, future and direction. And in this regard, I learned that to be successful as an officer you must serve the personnel in your charge. They are the ones who actually do the work and accomplish the mission; good officers facilitate and enable



April is the month which recognizes the sacrifices that military children endure. They are the 'silent servers' who unconditionally love and support our Warriors while they fight for our freedoms, liberty and future way of life.

Luckily, years ago a wise man told me that you must have balance in your life; family, career and personal well being. If you succeed in your career, but fail with your family or well being, you have ultimately failed. It is a constant struggle to balance these three impera-

their efforts while improving their quality of life.

Unfortunately, these life priorities, my family and Navy career, were typically in direct conflict.

Usually I put my career before my family, even after we began having children. Of course this caused much consternation and many challenges. I legitimized this reasoning by believing that as the 'bread winner' and becoming a successful officer, I would be providing the best options for my family. My other life priority, taking care of myself, was easy since I was young and 'invincible'.

You must effectively prioritize your life; personal well being, family and career to really be successful.

Therefore, your personal well being, family and career will all share 'center stage' at different times in your life depending on your current situation and environment. To that end, constant communication, understanding and compromise are required to succeed in life. As we all know, it is not easy! Matter of fact, it is a craft that takes a team effort, especially for families. It requires understanding of all members to realize that we all want each other to succeed, but sometimes you or your event which should be the priority has to take the back seat to someone else's in the family.

Applying all of these life lessons and balancing priorities were put into action last week during spring break. Our family decided to go skiing out of state while important business was being conducted aboard the base. As the relatively new CO, how could I leave for a week?

Truly, it was easy. First and foremost, we have an exceptional team here at NAS Fort Worth JRB. They are professionals and leaders who know how to take care of each other and execute the mission. Second, technology is a prolific, wonderful thing. It enables us to communicate and coordinate almost anywhere. Therefore, I was able to conduct required business while on travel.

April is the month which recognizes the sacrifices that military children endure. They are the 'silent servers' who unconditionally love and support our Warriors while they fight for our freedoms, liberty and future

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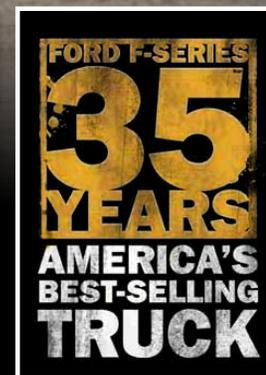
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Navy to Test for Synthetic Chemical Compounds

FROM CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Navy announced March 12 that it will begin random testing of urine samples for synthetic chemical compounds like Spice.

Commanders may take appropriate actions related to health, safety, and security based on a positive result. Every positive sample will be sent to NCIS for further investigation

with a view towards potential disciplinary or adverse administrative action by the service member's command.

"There is zero tolerance for the use of drugs - synthetic or otherwise - in our Navy," said Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk, chief of naval personnel. "Synthetic chemical compound drug use impacts a Sailor's career, their family life and overall well-being while also impacting Fleet readi-

ness. If a Sailor makes a poor choice and uses these types of drugs, they need to know that there will be consequences."

The initial testing will be conducted by a contracted laboratory, with Navy Drug Screening Laboratory capable of conducting in-house testing later this year.

The Navy has been testing urine samples seized from suspects during criminal inves-

tigations for nearly a year. Navy and Marine Corps commanders can have urine samples tested for several of the compounds found in Spice-like products at the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES) when the sample has been collected in conjunction with an ongoing investigation.

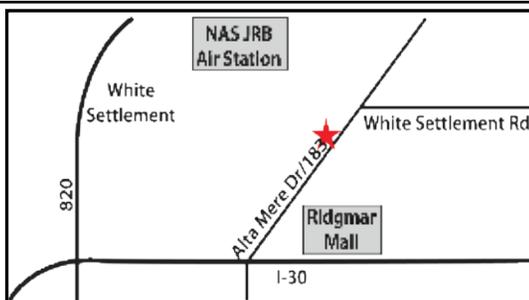
The capacity for testing for designer drugs will continue to expand. During fiscal year 2012 the Navy will invest \$1.73 million to test for synthetic chemical compounds and expects to increase that amount to \$2.9 million in fiscal year 2013.

The Navy continues to educate Sailors on the dangers of drug use to include new and de-

signer drugs through targeted awareness campaigns and continues to work closely with local governments to identify users and distributors.

This program is a key element of the readiness area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

For more information about the testing policy read the NAVADMIN 082/12 and visit www.npc.navy.mil.



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Lance Cpl. Andrew Ryan, a scout observer from Battery I, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, sends an artillery fire mission digitally through his StrikeLink computer during exercise African Lion 2011. African Lion is an annually scheduled, bilateral exercise between the Kingdom of Morocco and the U.S. that involves more than 2,000 U.S. service members and approximately 900 members of the Royal Moroccan armed forces. (file photo by Lance Cpl. Nana Danssaapiah)

14th Marine Regiment to Train with Moroccan Military

BY CHRIS VAUGHN,
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

The Fort Worth-based 14th Marine Regiment, on a steady diet of Iraq and Afghanistan deployments for eight years, is readying itself for yet another deployment to a Muslim country.

Except this time, the country is Morocco, the war is practice, and the objective is cooperation, not combat.

That has led to a whole different level of excitement, and far less anxiety, for the reservists who are shipping out of NAS Fort Worth JRB, where the regiment is headquartered. Morocco, south of Spain and home



to such famously exotic cities as Casablanca and Marrakech, was the first country to seek diplomatic relations with the U.S. in 1777, only two years after the founding of the Marine Corps.

"If they hadn't volunteered me for it, I would have volunteered," said Staff Sgt. John Perkins, a Farmers Branch firefighter who has served in the unit for 10 years. "I've worked with Iraqis and Afghans, but I've never gotten the chance to work in a joint combat operations center in a high-level environment."

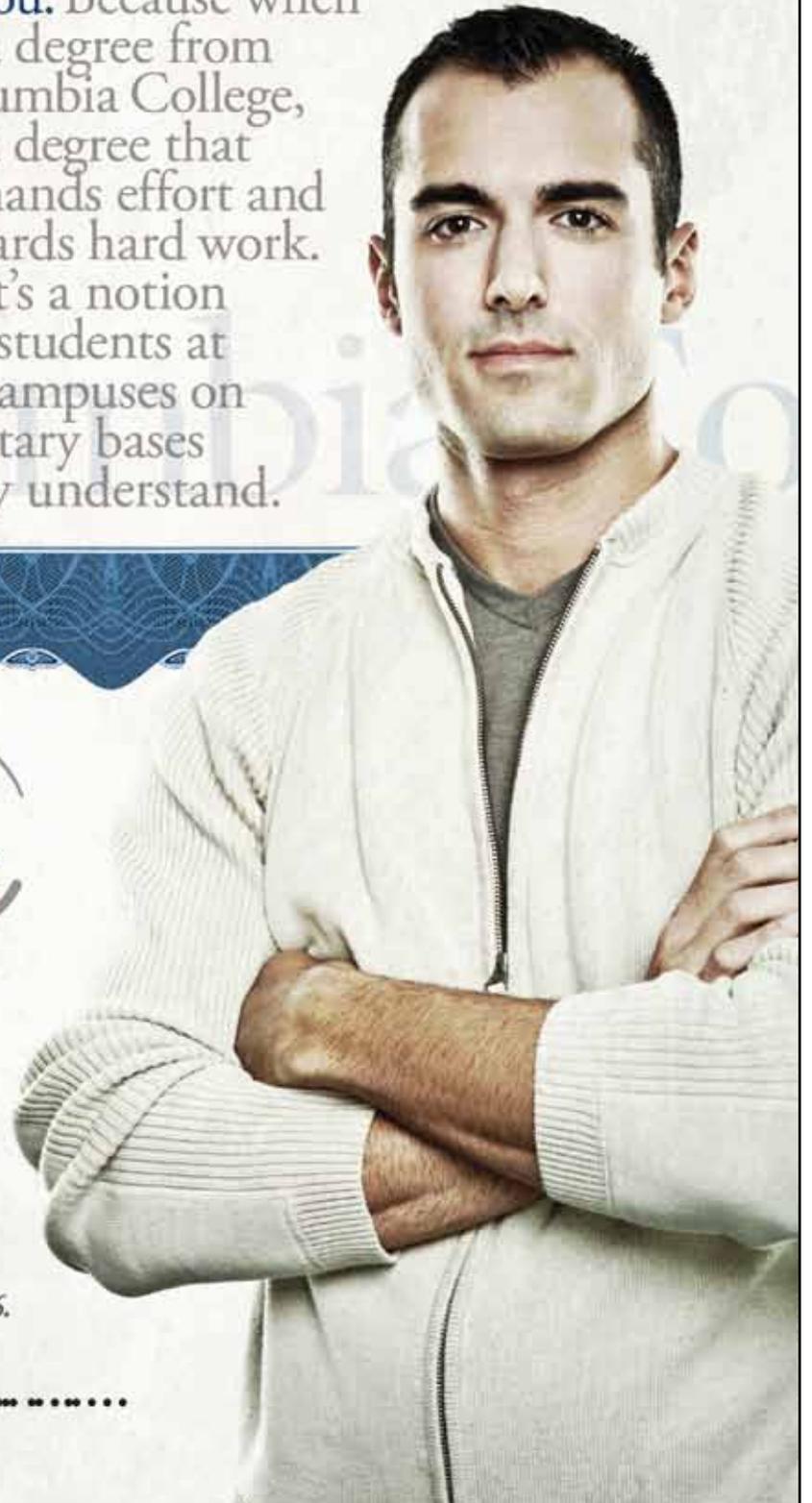
For only the second time,

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Some ERB Sailors Able To Transfer Post 9/11 G.I. Benefits

BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 3RD CLASS ANDREA PEREZ, NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS



MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- Eligible Sailors separating due to the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) may qualify to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependents, officials said March 21.

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. Sailors must receive an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

"If you are selected for separation by the ERB and have ten years of qualifying service, before your separation date, you will be allowed to transfer your benefits to your eligible dependents," said Paul Wilder, the Navy's GI Bill program manager.

Under the current Post 9/11 GI Bill policy, qualified Sailors may elect to transfer all or a portion of their benefits to a spouse or child enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS). For transferability, Sailors must have served at least six years in the Armed Forces and agree to serve an additional four years, in most cases.

An exception to the additional four-year service obligation is outlined in NAVADMIN 203/09 and states that Sailors who elect to transfer benefits must have served at least 10 years in the Armed Forces and if either Navy, DoD policy or federal statute restricts the member from committing to four additional years, members must agree to serve the maximum amount of time allowed by that policy or statute.

"ERB Sailors without ten

years of qualifying service must affiliate with the Reserves and commit to serving four years as a drilling Reservist to transfer their benefits," said Wilder. "There are no waivers for those who do not meet the ten year requirement or for those with less than ten years who choose not to become a Reservist."

Additional Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits for all eligible Sailors or dependents under transferability include:

- * All public school in-state tuition and fees.

- * Up to \$17,500 a year for private or out-of-state school annual tuition

- * Entrance exam fee reimbursement.

- * Monthly housing stipend for non active-duty students enrolled at least part-time.

- * Annual book & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment.

"Approximately 100 ERB affected Sailors have already been approved for a transfer of their benefits," said Wilder. "Sailors who wish to transfer their benefits must do so before their separation date, so it's very important that they do not wait to apply."

Transition benefits are elements of the continuum of service area of the 21st Century Sailor and Marine initiative which consolidates a set of objectives and policies, new and existing, to maximize Sailor and Marine personal readiness, build resiliency and hone the most combat-effective force in the history of the Department of the Navy.

Your Vote Is Your Voice, Do Your Part and Vote

BY MAC JAIMI MITCHELL

As the Voting Assistance Officer, I ensure that citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act understand their voting rights and how to register and vote absentee and provide accurate non-partisan voting in-

formation and assistance.

The 2012 election cycle is approaching. During the 2012 election cycle, a number of important offices will be decided by voters, including President and Vice President, 33 seats in the Senate, 435 seats in the House of Representatives, governorships

in 11 states and 2 U.S. territories, state and local offices, and ballot questions and referenda.

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1986, or UOCAVA, requires states and territories to allow certain U.S. citizens to apply to

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2012 Election Dates

OVER HERE, OVER THERE, DON'T DESPAIR - VOTE!

This chart lists the 2012 State primary election dates in all the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories; primary runoff dates (if applicable); States with U.S. Senate races; number of U.S. Representative seats up for re-election; and gubernatorial races. The General Election is Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

State	Presidential Primary	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	General Election		
				Federal		State
				U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	Governor
Alabama	MARCH 13	MARCH 13	APRIL 24	NO	7	NO
Alaska	***	AUGUST 28	-----	NO	1	NO
American Samoa	***	-----	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	YES
Arizona	FEBRUARY 28	AUGUST 28	-----	YES	9	NO
Arkansas	MAY 22	MAY 22	JUNE 12	NO	4	NO
California	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	53	NO
Colorado	***	JUNE 26	-----	NO	7	NO
Connecticut	APRIL 24	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	5	NO
Delaware	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	1	NO
District of Columbia	APRIL 3	APRIL 3	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Florida	JANUARY 31	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	27	NO
Georgia	MARCH 6	JULY 31	AUGUST 21	NO	13	NO
Guam	N/A	SEPTEMBER 1	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Hawaii	***	AUGUST 11	-----	YES	2	NO
Idaho	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	NO	2	NO
Illinois	MARCH 20	MARCH 20	-----	YES	18	NO
Indiana	MAY 8	MAY 8	-----	YES	9	YES
Iowa	***	JUNE 5	-----	NO	4	NO
Kansas	***	AUGUST 7	-----	NO	4	NO
Kentucky	MAY 22	MAY 22	-----	NO	6	NO
Louisiana	MARCH 24	-----	DECEMBER 1	NO	6	NO
Maine	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	2	NO
Maryland	APRIL 3	APRIL 3	-----	YES	8	NO
Massachusetts	MARCH 6	SEPTEMBER 18	-----	YES	9	NO
Michigan	FEBRUARY 28	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	14	NO
Minnesota	***	AUGUST 14	-----	YES	8	NO
Mississippi	MARCH 13	MARCH 13	APRIL 3	YES	4	NO
Missouri	FEBRUARY 7	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	8	YES
Montana	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	1	YES
Nebraska	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	YES	3	NO
Nevada	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	4	NO
New Hampshire	TBD	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	NO	2	YES
New Jersey	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	-----	YES	12	NO
New Mexico	***	JUNE 5	-----	YES	3	NO
New York	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	27	NO
North Carolina	MAY 8	MAY 8	JULY 17	NO	13	YES
North Dakota	***	JUNE 12	-----	YES	1	YES
Ohio	MARCH 6	MARCH 6	-----	YES	16	NO
Oklahoma	MARCH 6	JUNE 26	AUGUST 28	NO	5	NO
Oregon	MAY 15	MAY 15	-----	NO	5	NO
Pennsylvania	APRIL 24	APRIL 24	-----	YES	18	NO
Puerto Rico	TBD	MARCH 18	-----	---	1 RESIDENT COMM.	YES
Rhode Island	APRIL 24	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	2	NO
South Carolina	REP: JANUARY 21; DEM: TBD	JUNE 12	JUNE 26	NO	7	NO
South Dakota	JUNE 5	JUNE 5	JUNE 19	NO	1	NO
Tennessee	MARCH 6	AUGUST 2	-----	YES	9	NO
Texas	MARCH 6	MARCH 6	MAY 22	YES	4	YES
Utah	***	JUNE 26	-----	YES	4	YES
Vermont	MARCH 6	AUGUST 28	-----	YES	1	YES
Virgin Islands	***	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	---	1 DELEGATE	NO
Virginia	MARCH 6	JUNE 12	-----	YES	11	NO
Washington	N/A	AUGUST 7	-----	YES	10	NO
West Virginia	MAY 18	MAY 18	-----	YES	3	YES
Wisconsin	FEBRUARY 21	SEPTEMBER 11	-----	YES	8	NO
Wyoming	TBD	AUGUST 21	-----	YES	1	NO

Marine Aircraft Group 41 Marines of the Year



Sgt. Laura A. Rodriguez has been selected as the Reserve Marine of the Year for Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. Rodriguez, a 28-year-old from Cameron, TX, has been in the Marine Corps Reserves for five years and works as a supply administration clerk. During the past year in the Marine Corps, her Staff-Noncommissioned Officers and Officers recognized her for her superior work as a Marine Reservist. Rodriguez currently holds an Associates degree in Business Administration, and is working to complete her Bachelor's degree.



Sgt. Austreeia S. Everson has recently been selected as the Active Duty Marine of the Year for Marine Aircraft Group 41, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing. Everson, a 25-year-old from Cleveland, OH, works in operations and training, and assists in running annual training courses for the Headquarters Marines with the MAG. Everson has been in the Marine Corps for six years and has shown superior performance in military education, physical fitness and Marine Corps duties. She continues to set an example for other Marines in the command to follow.



CO MESSAGE

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way of life. With this thought in mind, this trip was imperative for me to spend some quality time with my family, put them first, and focus on us and our well being as a family.

Finally, my message is; find balance in your life, evaluate your priorities constantly and ensure that friends and loved ones understand and share in your day to day, and life priorities. You must ensure that when it is time to 'hang it up,' your most precious friends and loved ones are there with you to celebrate your successes and want to be a part of the next chapter of your life.

God Bless,
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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

FROM JOSE JASSO, USAFR
SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR

April has been designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) throughout the United States. The main goal of SAAM is to create awareness about the crime of sexual assault and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent it.

This year the Department of Defense has decided to continue with our current program theme, "Hurts one. Affects all." The theme truly sends a clear and strong message on the impact of sexual assault and how it affects not only the individual but also our mission readiness. Further, the theme continues to remind us of the importance of intervention, especially Active Bystander Intervention.

There are three components to Active Bystander Intervention:

Assess for safety. Ensure that all parties are safe, and assess whether the situation requires calling authorities. When deciding to intervene, your personal safety should be the #1 priority. When in doubt, call for help.

Be with others. If safe to intervene, you're likely to have a greater influence on the parties involved when you work together with someone or several people. Your safety is increased when you stay with a group of friends who you know well.

Care for the victim. Ask if the victim of the unwanted sexual advance, attention, or behavior is okay. Does he or she need medical care? Does he or she want to talk to a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) to see about re-

porting the matter? Ask if someone he or she trusts can help him or her get safely home.

Active Bystander Intervention can occur at different levels and in many forms, especially before an actual sexual assault takes place. It's much like what we often hear about SAFETY. Pay attention to your surroundings, and "if you see an unsafe act—intervene immediately to stop it and correct it on the spot." That "unsafe act" may be the unwanted sexual advance, attention, or behavior. Whatever it is, do something about it before someone gets hurt. Learn more at www.MyDuty.com.

Another resource is the DoD's Safe Helpline. The free, anonymous and confidential resource can be accessed worldwide, 24-hours a day, to connect with live support professionals. Learn about the DoD's Safe Helpline at www.sapr.mil.

In an effort to create and increase awareness about the crime of sexual assault, DoD policies, and advocacy services, NAS Fort Worth JRB has scheduled the following events:

-Self-Defense Class for Women (April 16). This will be an 8-hour class for women only. The class teaches realistic self-defense tactics and techniques including awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance. The class is limited to 25 women.

5K Fun Run/Walk (April 20). The run/walk will start and end at the Base Fitness Center at 11 a.m. Register by 10:45. Best of all, it's free and participants will get a SAAM t-shirt and other giveaways. We had more than 135 run-

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NAS Fort Worth JRB Advocates Crime Victims' Rights Week

FROM MAC(SW) JAIMI MITCHELL

2012 Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 22-27. This year's theme "Extending the Vision: Reaching every Victim celebrates the vision behind that progress and the ideal of serving all victims of crime.

The vision that launched the victims' rights movement emerged more than 30 years ago. Then, as now, crime victims endured physical and emotional wounds, costly financial burdens, an often hostile criminal justice system, and an alarming public tendency to blame them for the crimes against them.

Victims were often excluded from courtrooms, disrespected by officials, and afforded few rights. They began organizing to confront these challenges and to promote fair, compassionate, and respectful responses to victims of crime. Since the 1980s, the nation has made dramatic progress in securing rights, protections, and services for victims of crime.

The Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, supports a range of programs for crime victims, and seeks to extend those services to those who are underserved.

"Our commitment to 'extend the vision'

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VOTING

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register and vote absentee in elections for Federal office. Citizens covered under UOCAVA include:

*Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction due to their service.

*Dependents of members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine who are absent from their voting jurisdiction

with the member.

Please ensure that you check the www.fvap.gov Web site for your state's registration, ballot request and ballot return deadlines. The site will walk you through the various forms, explain how and where to submit your forms and local election office addresses. If you have any questions or need assistance filling out your forms, please contact MAC(SW) Jaimi Mitchell in building 1336 (Police HQ) or extension 3373.



BRAVO ZULU

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14TH MARINE REGIMENT
continued from page 5

the Marine reserves are commanding a major joint training exercise overseas with the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces. Dubbed African Lion, the exercise falls under the U.S. Africa Command, which didn't exist until 2007 and reflects a greater emphasis on nation building on the continent.

More than 1,200 U.S. military personnel, including 250 Marine reservists from North Texas, will participate in the exercise, which began in early April.

Col. Roger Garay, commander of the 14th Marines, said the U.S. personnel will work with Moroccans on anti-terrorism initiatives, intelligence gather-

ing and combat exercised and will provide humanitarian assistance in remote areas. A 2008 U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks described the Moroccan military as plagued with inefficiency, poor education and corruption.

Active-duty Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., reservists from Marine Aircraft Group 41 in Fort Worth, Army National Guard soldiers from Utah and California, Air Force communications specialists and Navy medical personnel will all play a role.

The U.S. has in recent years sought to improve its relationships with African nations, and the events of the Arab Spring have driven that point home further. Although not nearly as widely known or deadly as upris-

"If we can get the Moroccans to work with their neighbors too, who then might work with us in the future, it promotes stability and cooperation..."

ings in Egypt, Libya and Syria, thousands of people protested for reforms in Morocco in 2011. Morocco was already a moderate Arab state, but King Mohamed gave more power to the parliament and increased the independence of the judiciary.

"If we can get the

Moroccans to work with their neighbors too, who then might work with us in the future, it promotes stability and cooperation," Garay said. "We need more stability in that part of the world."

The exercise has drawn high-level military and civilian interest in the U.S. and Morocco and been given far more support than an ordinary training event, Garay said. The fact that it is being led by a reserve unit is evidence to Garay that the unit has proved its worth over the past eight years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This is precedent-setting stuff," he said. "The Marine Corps is working hard to operationalize the reserves. The reserve outfit we have today has so much capability from having gained

experience in the fight the last few years."

Not every Marine making the trip is a veteran of deployments, however.

Cpt. Stephanie Atwood, a lifelong Benbrook resident now attending college, has never been overseas and never flown on a military airplane. She isn't sure whether there will be any women in the Moroccan military.

"I've wanted to be deployed. I just haven't gotten the chance," she said. "Last year, I wanted to go on this exercise, but I broke my arm. This year, I made sure I was going to go. I want to explore another culture and see how another military works."

(article re-printed with permission)



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NOW HEAR THIS: Base Announcements

2012 NAS FORT WORTH JRB OPEN HOUSE
Save the date!! The base will open its doors to the public with an open house and free concert on May 12 (Saturday) scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

The free concert is scheduled for 7 p.m. and will feature the band Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, best known for hits Face Down, You Better Pray and Pen & Paper (Something Typical). For more information about the band, visit <http://www.redjumpsuit.com/>. Opening that night will be Houston-based alternative rock band, the Crisis.

The entire event is open to the public and free of charge. Parking will also be free.

FORT WORTH'S MILITARY AVIATION HERITAGE

The B-36 Peacemaker Museum presents Bill

Morris, a local Fort Worth historian April 17. The lecture, "Fort Worth's Military Aviation Heritage," will cover the years 1917 to 1960. Morris will talk about the amazing history of military air-power development in Fort Worth and the North Texas area. Fort Worth was a major power in the development of aircraft from the bi-plane in 1917 to the jet aircraft in 1960. Fort Worth was a major player in WWI and WWII. The economic impact of military aircraft in Fort Worth had a tremendous effect on the growth of the area.

RETIRED MILITARY WIVES INVITED TO MONTHLY MEETINGS

All wives and widows of career military men with a valid ID card are invited to participate in the twice-monthly assembly of the Retired Military Wives Club. The Retired Military Wives Club has its business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at the Fort Worth Elks Club, 3233 White Settlement Road. It begins at 11 a.m. The group's social event is on the fourth Thursday of every

month. For details about the club or these events, contact Jean Bonner (817-246-9523) or Judy Corso (817-266-0167).

THE SOCIETY OF MILITARY WIDOWS

Chapter 32 of the National Organization meets at the chapel on base on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11 a.m. for fellowship, lunch and a short business meeting. Widows of all military branches and ranks are welcome. For details, contact Jo Henry at (817-283-0416).

CARSWELL RETIRED OFFICER'S WIVES CLUB

Carswell Retired Officer's Wives Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Fort Worth Woman's Club, 1316 Pennsylvania Ave. The CROWC is open to wives of current and retired officers of all branches. For details, or to make a reservation, contact Lois DiBartolomeo (817-346-8931).

FRA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Fleet Reserve Association's (FRA) Education Foundation scholarship program has been helping deserving students reach their educational and professional goals for decades. The program presents annual awards of up to \$5,000 to eligible full-time students who are U.S. citizens pursuing degrees at accredited colleges and universities in the United States. Scholarship applications are now available and should be postmarked NLT 15 April 12. Visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.fra.org/"](http://www.fra.org/) <http://www.fra.org/> for more information.

COMMAND PERSONAL FITNESS ASSESSMENT

The spring PFA cycle is in April. Weigh-ins are scheduled for April 17. Those using the bike or elliptical will do the PFA April 18. Personnel running and swimming will do their PFA on April 19.

VICTIMS RIGHTS continued from page 8

and 'reach every victim' will overcome every challenge that confronts us now," said Joye E. Frost, Acting Director, Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice. "The vision, determination, and passion for justice that inspired our history will help us transform the future for every victim of crime."

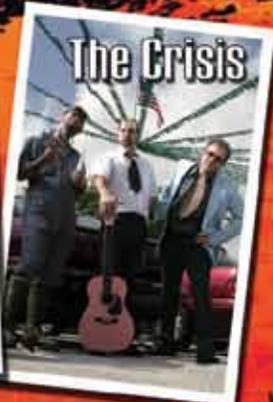
For additional information, please contact MAC Mitchell at 817-782-3373, Connie Dye at 817-782-5287 or Evelyn Mickles at 817-782-7620.

NAS Fort Worth JRB
Presents...

MAYDAY

May 12

Gates Open at 4:00 P.M.

FREE Concert

the Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

Starts at 7:00 P.M.



FREE TO PUBLIC

FREE PARKING FREE ADMISSION



STATIC DISPLAYS

www.cnmc.navy.mil/fortworth

Hotline: 817.782.3094

Facebook: NASFortWorthJRB

Freedom Never Sounded So Good

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Now Taking Private Student Loan Complaints

FROM CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is now accepting complaints from borrowers having difficulties with their private student loans. The CFPB will assist all borrowers experiencing problems taking out a private student loan, repaying their private student loan, or managing a student loan that has gone into default and may have been re-

ferred to a debt collector.

"The ability to work hard and better yourself through education is part of what makes this country so great," said Richard Cordray, Director of the CFPB. "But getting a higher education can mean taking on significant debt - a big decision with a lot of consequences. The CFPB is now the one-stop federal agency where all private student loan borrowers can ask questions, get information, and file a complaint about this important market."

Student loans have now surpassed credit cards as the largest source of unsecured consumer debt. Millions of students turn to private loans to pay for college when scholarships and federal student loans do not cover the full costs. But unlike federal student loans, private student loans do not generally have the same borrower protections such as military deferments, discharges upon death, or income-based repayment plans.

Until recently, private student loan lenders have only been regulated by a patchwork of state and federal authorities. Prior to

the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, there was no federal supervisory program over nonbanks that issued student loans. That authority has now been given to the CFPB. Among its reforms, the law created a private student loan ombudsman to assist borrowers and review complaints. The ombudsman, Rohit Chopra, is also responsible for examining the complaints in order to develop recommendations to Congress and other federal government agencies.

Consumers can get help from the CFPB on student loans in

a variety of ways including by the Bureau website, telephone, mail, and fax. Consumers can file complaints about any kind of student loan. While the CFPB will alone manage the private student loan complaints, the CFPB will work closely with the Department of Education to route complaints that fall under their purview as the overseer of federal student loans. The agencies executed a memorandum of understanding to ensure close coordination. Examples of federal loans include Direct loans, Stafford loans, Perkins loans, and PLUS loans.

Among the complaints that the Bureau anticipates receiving:

- Difficulties making full payment;
- Confusing advertising or marketing terms;
- Billing disputes;

continued on page 13

Recently at the Courthouse

Courts-martial in Navy Region Southeast recently heard the following cases:

At a General Court-Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Chief Petty Officer (CPO) pled guilty to four specifications of aggravated sexual contact of a minor. The court-martial (officer members) sentenced the CPO to 25 years confinement, reduction in rank to E-1, and a dishonorable discharge. A pre-trial agreement suspends confinement 12 years.

At a Special Court-Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Petty Officer First Class (PO1) pled guilty to stealing \$500.00 from a Sailor, failing to pay his debt to a Sailor, and four specifications of obstructing justice. The Military Judge sentenced the PO1 to 30 days confinement, 45 days hard labor without confinement, and reduction in rank to E-4.

At a General Court-Martial convened on board NS Mayport, a Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) was found guilty, contrary to his



pleas, of attempted sexual contact, sexual harassment, and two specifications of assault. The court-martial (officer members) sentenced the PO3 to 60 days hard labor without confinement, forfeiture of \$1,133.00 pay per month for six months, and restriction to the limits of his current duty station for two months.

At a Special Court-Martial convened on board NAS Jacksonville, a Petty Officer Third Class pled guilty to three specifications of indecent conduct and three specifications of disorderly conduct. The Military Judge sentenced the PO3 to confinement for nine months, reduction in rate to E-1, and a bad conduct discharge.

Courts-martial in Navy Region Southeast are tried with few exceptions at NAS Jacksonville, NS Mayport, and NAS Pensacola. Therefore, the location of where a court-martial described above was convened does not necessarily correlate to the command that convened the court-martial.


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For more information contact:
Cassie.Morgan@UTDallas.edu or 972-883-3240.
www.centerforbrainhealth.org

AWARENESS MONTH continued from page 8

ners and walkers last year. Let's make it even bigger this year.

Candlelight Vigil (April 25). This event promotes awareness of crime victims' rights and available services for those that have been impacted by crime. It is in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week and will take place at the Base Chapel at 11:30 a.m.

These events are open to all service members and their dependents, base civilian employees, and retirees—basically, if you have access to the base, you can participate. So mark your calendars and help us promote SAAM. If you have questions about sexual assault, the events, or just want to sign up, you may contact the 301 FW SARC at 301FW.SARC@us.af.mil or call 817-782-3827.

BASE HAPPENINGS



Are There One or Two Ls in Million?

Capt. Robert Bennett, installation commander, signs the first pledge form for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive during base quarters March 1.



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ERIC DEATHERAGE

Shady Business



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ERIC DEATHERAGE

Construction crews erect an awning to shade the front of the installation command headquarters building March 13.

Birthday Run



PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ERIC DEATHERAGE

NAS Fort Worth JRB Chief Petty Officers participate in a CPO Pride Run April 2 to celebrate the 119th birthday of the Chief Petty Officer.

Will Sing for Food



The Reflections Concert Choir performs patriotic songs at the NAS Fort Worth JRB Moreland Dining Facility during lunch March 15. The youth choir, formed in 1997, performs all around the Dallas/Fort Worth area at banquets, retirement homes and churches. They've also performed at the Texas state capitol building and the Naval Memorial in Washington, D.C. The group has recorded 7 CDs.

PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ERIC DEATHERAGE

LOAN COMPLAINTS continued from page 11

-Deferment and forbearance issues; and

-Debt collection and credit reporting problems.

Working with the Department of Education, the CFPB released a Know Before You Owe "Financial Aid Shopping Sheet," which is a draft of important financial aid information that colleges could provide to students and their families, including information about monthly debt payment levels after graduation. The CFPB also launched a Student Debt Repayment Assistant, an interactive tool which tens of thousands of Americans have already used to help navigate their repayment options on student loans.

In November, the Bureau published a notice in the Federal Register to ask students, lenders, servicers, schools, and other members of the public to share

their experiences with the private student loan market. The Bureau received thousands of comments from consumers, industry, and the higher education community, which will be analyzed as part of a report to Congress on the private student loan market, to be released later this year.

The CFPB has been taking complaints in categories of consumer financial products and services since launching on July 21, 2011. The Bureau started by taking credit card complaints. In December, the Bureau expanded and began taking complaints on mortgages and other home loans. And, on March 1, the Bureau began taking complaints on checking accounts.

The Bureau expects financial institutions to respond to complaints within 15 days with the steps they have or plan to take and expects complaints to be closed in 60 days. Consumers are given a tracking number after submitting a complaint and can

check the status of their complaint by logging on to the CFPB website. Each complaint will be processed individually and consumers will have the option to dispute the lender's resolution.

The Bureau sent a letter this week to more than 6,000 university officials across the country notifying them of the new complaint system, so they can direct students and alumni to get help with their student loans.

To find out more information about the Bureau's new private student loan consumer response function and to file a private student loan complaint, borrowers can:

-Call the toll-free phone number at 1-855-411-CFPB (2372)

-Visit online at www.consumerfinance.gov

-Fax the CFPB at 1-855-237-2392

-Mail a letter to P.O. Box 4503, Iowa City, Iowa 52244

Exchange Employment a Quality-of-Life Issue for Military Spouses

FROM AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DALLAS – The job outlook for military spouses continues to trend in the right direction at Army & Air Force Exchange Service facilities. Fresh off Military Spouse Magazine's selection of the Exchange as one of the "best places for military spouses to work" for hiring in 2010, the Exchange is reporting even stronger numbers for 2011.

In the past 24 months, the Exchange hired 11,165 military spouses (5,032 in 2010 and 6,133 in 2011), with 2,308 receiving promotions and 131 deploying in support of troops in contingency locations.

"The Exchange offers programs such as Military Spouse Preference and Spouse Continuity that assist transitioning



military spouses, often allowing them to retain their category and benefits," said the Exchange's Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Susan Simone. "These programs result in a win-win situation that allows the Exchange to retain a valuable associate while allowing the military spouse to build a career within the Exchange."

One such employee is Tay-

continued on page 14

COMMUNITY RESOURCES and ATTRACTIONS

All information is intended for military, DoD, Bureau of Prisons ID-card holders and families. Events and facilities are not open to the general public

Library

1802 Doolittle Ave., 817-782-7735
Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; closed Sunday & Holidays

Get your password for FREE "Freegal," five legal music downloads per week per member. Story time-Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK - April 8-14. Library will have daily story times at 10:30 a.m. all week, random prizes, and premier-Playaway View (audio visual material for youth). Ending the week, join the fun at the new Gazebo! Everyone is invited to a "Gazebo Social on Saturday, April 14 at 1 p.m. featuring treats, DJ, games and announcing the winner of the "name the gazebo" contest.

Earth Day Celebration! - Friday, April 20, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information and giveaways available at booths provided by base recycling, energy/environment department and medical in addition to community organizations. Craft activities will be provided for children.

Mother's Day Program-May 11 at 4 p.m. Stories and activities for children to honor mothers and all significant women in their lives.

Summer Reading Program - Begins the

end of May. Reading is Delicious!

TEXPLEX Center

1815 Military Parkway, 817-782-6122/5505
May 28 (Memorial Day), the grill and ITT will be open holiday hours (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.) featuring \$1 specials. Sports Bar will be closed. Watch for activities in the parking lot. More information to follow.

Information, Ticket and Tours (ITT)

Beginning Memorial Day, ITT will be open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for summer hours.

Located in TexPlex, Bldg. 1815; 817-782-6121/6122.

Six Flags is now open on weekends. Daily tickets and season passes are available Scarborough Faire opens April 7.

Texas Rangers and Dallas Stars offer military discounts on tickets. Contact ITT for information.

Tickets also available for venues in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida and California.

ITT's Caribbean Getaway-Sail away September 24-29 for only \$349 interior/\$389 ocean view stateroom per person. Deposit due by April 23 with final payment by June 1.

Tornado Lanes

There has been no further information on the time frame for the installation of the new lanes and bowling equipment.

Chuckwagon Grill

Monday-Thursday 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Pizza is also available for delivery, 782-5505.
New healthy choices - turkey burger and grilled chicken sandwich.

Lone Star Bar

Tuesday-Thursday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 4 to 11 p.m.

\$2 Tuesdays
Free Munchies on Fridays 4:30 to 6 p.m.
DJ/Karaoke - Thursdays from 5 to 10 p.m.
April 13 - live DJ
UFC Fight, April 21 - Jon Jones vs. Rashad Evans!!

Movie Reel Theater

A new projection system is scheduled for the future. Please join us for FREE movies until the grand reopening. Snacks bar is available. Movie schedules at all MWR locations.
Friday-Sunday, call for times 782-6037.

Lone Star Center

2570 Desert Storm Road, 817-782-5293/7237
The center is the first stop when planning a spring/summer wedding reception or a variety of events including meetings, conferences, change of commands and promotion parties. The center will be closed August through November for repairs and new AC/heat system. Call Sandy Foy for information concerning your

next event.

Vet Clinic

1739 Eisenhower, 817-782-5608
The clinic is now operated by the Army Vet service. Call for information.

Fitness Center

1810 Tuskegee Airmen Drive, 817-782-7770
Spin Classes - Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m.
Yoga Classes - Saturdays from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.
Classes available: step aerobics, Pilates, yoga, spin, Zumba, pump-it-up, adult/ children karate and personal training.
Friday Family Fitness Class - 2 p.m. for ages 6-18. Parents must participate in workout program with their children.

Aquatics Center

3319 Hensley Ave., 817-782-1220
Water Aerobics - 8 to 9 a.m.; \$1 per person.
Details available at the aquatics center for swimming lessons.
Full schedule of classes posted at centers.
Rent the Aquatics Center for a private party at 817-782-6122.

LIBERTY

1815 Military Pkwy. (located in TexPlex), 817-782-3175
Single Service Member Program (17-25 years of age, restrictions apply). Call for additional

information and schedule of upcoming activities.

Auto Hobby/Outdoor Rec/ RV/Boat Storage/Ski/Pontoon Rentals

All are now located at 1145 Hercules Dr. Summer hours begin May 7.
Spring Hours
Monday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday & Wednesday, closed
Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MWR SHRED IT DAYS

Celebrate Earth Week by cleaning out your office spaces, storage rooms, desks and personal items from home at the big mobile Shred It truck, located in the parking lot of bldg. 1815 (TexPlex). Secure shredding on April 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This FREE service is provided by MWR Department. So make plans now to enjoy breakfast, lunch or snacks at the grill (located inside) while doing the spring clean out. On Saturday only, there will be children's activities (weather permitting).

Child Youth Program (CDC)

3320 Sesame Street Drive, 817-782-7520

Action Zone Summer Camp

1145 Hercules Drive, 817-782-7566/7520

Take the Home Energy and Water Awareness Quiz

FROM NELSON WELLS, INSTALLATION ENERGY MANAGER

The more you know how your home uses electricity and water, the more you can control them and save.

1. Which item uses the biggest portion of your home electricity bill?

- a. Water heater
- b. Refrigerator
- c. Heating and cooling
- d. Lighting

If you said **heating and cooling**, you are correct! It accounts for about 46 percent of the typical home's energy use. So it's important to manage your thermostat. Keep it at 68F in winter, 78F in summer. Each degree warmer in winter and cooler in summer adds about five percent to the heating and

cooling portion of your bill.

2. Which item uses the biggest portion of your water bill?

- a. Toilets
- b. Faucets
- c. Clothes washer
- d. Showers

Give yourself a gold star if you said **toilets**. This explains why your water usage goes up so much when you have company for a week. Did you know that toilets made after 1992 use half as much water per flush than older toilets? Toilet efficiency has come a long way! Replace older toilets with more efficient ones if possible. If not, be sure to stop any leaks, which account for 14 percent of a typical home's water usage.

3. Which item affects both your electricity and water bills?

- a. Washing clothes
- b. Taking a hot shower
- c. Making spaghetti on an electric cook top
- d. Relaxing in your hot tub

The answer, of course, is **they all do**. They all use water, and electricity if required to run the washer, heat the shower water, boil water to cook spaghetti and heat the hot tub water. So consider washing clothes in cold water, taking showers or turning off water while shampooing or soaping up. Use a cover on the hot tub when not in use to keep the heat in. Small changes can add up to significant savings.

4. Which game system uses the least amount of electricity?

- a. Playstation 3
- b. Wii
- c. Xbox 360
- d. Playing charades

We're pretty sure charades wins here, but of the three most popular electronic gaming systems, the **Wii** uses about six times less electricity. Be sure to turn systems off when not in use and enable the automatic shutdown mode if it has one. Don't let electronics eat up all the savings you've offset!

5. How much less electricity does a CFL (compact fluorescent light - the "twisty" light bulb) use compared to a traditional incandescent light bulb.

- a. 25%
- b. 75%
- c. 10%
- d. 90%

A CFL uses **75 percent** less electricity than a traditional incandescent light bulb. You know that incandescent bulbs are very hot when on. That means that they are wasting lots of electricity on heat. CFLs do not waste heat nearly as much.

This quiz is to get us all thinking about how our activities at home affect our electric and water bills. The same money-saving decisions at home are also applicable at your office or shop here on base.

More information can be found on energy efficiency at www.jea.com.

MILITARY SPOUSES continued from page 13

na L. England, whose husband James is a Sgt. 1st Class in the U.S. Army. Throughout most of her husband's career, England has worked for the Exchange.

"I started my career with the Exchange in Mannheim, Germany in September 1999 as an Accounting Assistant. I found out how truly awesome my Exchange family was when my mother was involved in a car accident in May 2000, and my daughters and I had to leave Germany and move back home to Navarre, Florida, to care for her and my father.

"The one assurance I had moving back home was that I knew I would have a job and be able to provide for my family without virtually any break in service! Once I arrived at Eglin AFB, I was fortunate enough to interview for three positions and easily went back to work within a

few weeks," England said.

England has enjoyed working in a variety of specialties with her latest assignment being in Human Resources.

"Having the opportunity to work in HR has shown me how supportive the Exchange is and the opportunities we have to assist our military community," said England. "At Patrick AFB, for example, we attend the New Comers Briefing and provide information regarding military spouse preference, the Spouse Employment Continuity Program and Non-Local/Non-PCS transfers to our newly arriving military community. As HR Partners, we contact our sister offices when we receive word our employees are either retiring or PCS-ing so that we can hopefully assist our military families and keep our employees 'in the family.'"

England feels like her fellow associates at the Exchange are more like family than coworkers.

England said, "My Exchange

family once again stepped up and showed how truly awesome they were by helping support me in various ways when my husband deployed (since 2002 Jim has deployed five times - one year each time). My co-workers have always been there to support my daughters and myself by inviting us to dinners, going shopping, attending school functions and games, going to the movies, going to church and by just being there for morale support and guidance. The Exchange not only 'serves the best customers in the world,' we also 'serve the best associates in the world.' I couldn't imagine working anywhere else!"

Stories like this, combined with a commitment to recruit, hire, train and retain military spouses, make the Exchange the employer of choice for the husbands and wives of Soldiers and Airmen, wherever they are called to serve.

New Prices for Childrenswear

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service recognizes that investing in kids doesn't have to break the bank as they have unveiled a new pricing strategy for all childrenswear. The strategy consists of five price points: \$5, \$10, two for \$15, \$15 and \$20.

"From shirts to sleepwear, we are dedicated to helping growing families," said the NAS Ft Worth JRB Exchange's James Osborne, Main Store Manager. "The price points are clearly marked in the stores, making it easy for parents to outfit their kids without busting the budget."

Styles included in the NAS Ft Worth JRB Exchange's new Childrenswear pricing strategy (excluding furnishings, accessories and jackets and coats) range from Exclusive Brands such as Buzz Cuts and Ponytails to nationally-recognized labels including Nautica, Union Bay, Levi's and Skechers, among others.

See related story: "NAS Ft Worth JRB Exchange Shoppers Can Get Connected for Less at Semi-Annual Wireless Sale" on next page...

CLASSIFIED AD

For Sale: 2005 Nissan Altima;
low mileage;
excellent condition;
one owner;
\$7,500;
Call 817-444-2644

NAS Ft Worth JRB Exchange Shoppers Can Get Connected for Less at Semi-Annual Wireless Sale

FROM AAFES PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NAS Ft Worth JRB – The proliferation and popularity of apps on mobile phones continue to grow at an incredible rate. According to a recent Exchange poll, military members, with their mobile lifestyle, have a higher propensity to use

these tools. As a result, their need for the latest in mobile technology is even greater.

To meet military consumers' evolving communications needs, the Army & Air Force Exchange offers great pricing on the latest mobile phone models through its Exchange Mobile Center. The kiosk fea-

tures the hottest phones from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon as well as prepaid options from Boost and a variety of service plans and great accessories, all at competitive prices

In mid-April, many of the latest mobile phones will go on sale with the NAS Fort Worth JRB Exchange's first semi-annual Wireless Sale. The inaugural sale kicks off April 13 with two days of "Door Buster Deals," and runs through April 26.

Shoppers can also enter to win a 55" Samsung flat-screen high definition TV, \$500 Exchange gift card, XBOX 360 Kinect™ bundle or one of dozens of other prizes to be given away. No purchase is necessary to win.

Representatives from AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon will be available to demonstrate phones and answer questions.

"There's no better time to shop and save for that hot new smart phone you've been wanting," said the Exchange's James Osborne, main store manager. "The kiosk at the NAS Fort Worth JRB Exchange is the place to go to find the latest handsets, coolest accessories or just to ask that wireless question no one else can answer."

With a selection of phones from three major cellular service providers – AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon – shoppers can see and compare a variety of each brand's most popular cell phones, tablets and service plans, with knowledgeable associates who provide expert assistance.



A C-9 of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 46 arrives at NAS Fort Worth JRB March 1. The flight was the last overseas deployment scheduled for the squadron. VR-46 is being decommissioned later this year due to budget cuts. VR-46 will continue to fly missions within the U.S. until July. The squadron was recently named the Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve Squadron of the Year. (photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Eric Deatherage)

VR-46 continued from page 1

vere and excel. I challenged them to embrace the adage, 'They will miss VR-46!' They have done exactly that."

During peacetime, VR squadrons provide air logistics support for all Navy commands as well as provide continuous quality training for mobilization readiness. VR squadrons have no counterpart in the regular Navy. They represent 100 percent of the Navy's medium and heavy intra-theater airlift, and operate year-round, around the world, providing the critical link between deployed sea-going units and air mobility command logistics hubs.

Unlike the traditional part-time role of most reserve forces, VR-46 provided continual worldwide air logistics support to the fleet. The Eagles of VR-46 were in a constant state of readiness. They were regularly deployed around the globe to the Mediterranean, Western Pacific and Southwest Asia in support of global missions including Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The unit had its last scheduled overseas deployment return

March 1. VR-46 will continue to fly missions within the U.S. until July. Krouse said their commitment will continue until the day their doors are closed for good.

"The special part is the fact that multiple entities have come into the squadron for visits, surveys and inspections and each has mentioned that you cannot tell that this unit is closing," he said.

VR-46 uses the C-9 to accomplish its mission. The Navy's version of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 was engineered with a cargo door to accommodate passengers and cargo. The Navy C-9 can carry up to 90 passengers, seven pallets of cargo or multiple combinations of both.

The Navy's fleet of C9s is 40 years old or older.

Throughout all those missions and all those years, VR-46 has maintained an impeccable culture of safety. They boast a clean safety record that dates to 1975, more than 117,000 flight hours.

"The men and women of VR-46 have truly embraced the "glass is half-full" attitude and continue to serve with not only pride and professionalism, but at the highest levels," said Krouse.

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