



# Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

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Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

February 25, 2010

## Seabees prove they 'Can Do' anything and everything

By U.S. Army Master Sgt. Christina Bhatti-Madden  
Cobra Gold 10 Public Affairs

At four construction sites in Central Thailand, U.S. Naval Construction Forces, or Seabees, are working jointly with Royal Thai Armed Forces, Tentara Nasional Indonesia Angkatan Darat, or Indonesian Army, and U.S. engineers to build multi-purpose rooms at schools in rural communities.

The projects are in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 10, a regularly scheduled joint and coalition multinational exercise hosted annually by the Kingdom of Thailand. This is the 29th anniversary for the exercise, which will consist of a Coalition Task Force, United Nations Task Force, Command Post Exercise, Humanitarian Civic Assistance projects and field training exercises.

"We (Seabees) are wanted worldwide," said Builder 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Mitchell Corley. "We do larger projects that the blue water navy cannot handle."

Corley is a builder assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB 1).

The Seabees have rich history building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips and accomplishing many other construction



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 work with a contingent of Royal Thai Army Engineers and U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers to build a school in Kanchanburi Province, Thailand. This project is one of four that is being completed in support of Exercise Cobra Gold 10, a regularly scheduled joint and coalition multinational exercise hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

projects worldwide.

The earliest Seabees were recruited from the civilian construction trades and were placed under the leadership of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps. It wasn't until they picked up rifles to fight, did they gain a more legitimate spot in the Navy's fighting force, said Corley.

The emphasis on experience and skill has not changed over the

years, making the Seabees an elite force of construction specialists.

"The Seabees are more versed in each individual trade, because they do it a lot more," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Rodriguez, carpenter and electrician assigned to the 176<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, Washington Army National Guard.

See COBRA page 7

## Sailor serving with NMCB 22 dies in Kuwait

The Department of Defense announced that Information Systems Technician 1st Class (SCW) Sean L. Caughman, 43, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Feb. 16, in Kuwait while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22, the "Lone Star Battalion," arrived in Kandahar, Afghanistan in September of 2009. Caughman joined the Navy Reserves in April 2000 and had been with the battalion for the past year.



## Seabees bring more support to surge in Afghanistan

By Judith Snyderman  
Defense Media Activity

Two additional battalions of U.S. Navy Seabees are being deployed to Afghanistan in support of the 30,000 troop surge ordered by President Barack Obama in December 2009.

During a DoDLive bloggers roundtable on Feb. 11, U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Mark A. Handley, commander of the First Naval Construction Division, said extra engineering expertise is needed to build forward operating bases,

pave roads and construct airfields for the increased numbers of U.S. and coalition forces.

Aside from being critical to the success of the mission in Afghanistan, he said the infrastructure Seabees provide, improves the quality of life for troops. "We are the ones who build them a wood floor under their tent, build them a galley [and] build them a command and control facility," Handley said.

See SURGE page 18

**Safe travels NMCB 7**

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**NMCB 133 'Roos conduct DESEX**

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**NMCB 74 Idols**

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**NCBC/20SRG**  
**Commanding Officer**  
 Capt. Ed Brown  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Rob Mims  
**Editor**  
 Bonnie L. McGerr  
**Mass Comm. Specialists**  
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 MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon  
 MC2 (SCW) Gregory N. Juday

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**Public Affairs Officer**  
 MCC(SCW) Jeffrey J. Pierce  
**Mass Comm. Specialist**  
 MC3 Michael Wright

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**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Lt.j.g. Ina Miranda-Vargas

**NMCB SEVEN**  
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**Public Affairs Officer**  
 MCC (AW/SW) Yan Kennon  
**Mass Comm. Specialist**  
 MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender

**NMCB ELEVEN**  
 Cmdr. Michael Monreal  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
 MC1 (SCW) Nicholas Ling

**NMCB SEVENTY FOUR**  
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**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Lt.j.g. Margaret Hansen  
**Mass Comm. Specialist**  
 MC1 (SW/AW) Ryan Wilber  
 MC2 Michael Lindsey

**NMCB ONE THIRTY THREE**  
**Commanding Officer**  
 Cmdr. Christopher Kurgan  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
 MCC (SW/AW/PJ) Ryan C. Delcore

**NCTC Gulfport**  
**Commanding Officer**  
 Cmdr. Stephanie Jones  
**Public Affairs Officer**  
 Chaplain (Lt.j.g.) Rob Guilliams

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## 2010 military census prep underway - make your voice heard

*From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs*

NAVADMIN 001/10, released in January, is the second in a series of military census newsgrams which provide guidance for Sailors to make their voices heard during the 2010 Decennial Census.

Beginning March 15, the Census Bureau will conduct the nation's 23rd decennial census to gather a complete count of the population of the United States to include personnel living on board naval installations and ships with a U.S. homeport.

The decennial census is an in-depth survey used to gain population counts which fuel government decisions on how approximately \$400 billion per year of federal funding is spent in your neighborhood on hospitals, schools, senior citizen centers, emergency services and public works projects.

In addition, the enumeration determines the number of seats a state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sailors will be asked to complete a short military census report containing six questions.

"By participating in the 2010 Census, Sailors of all ranks have an opportunity to help create a better future for those they care about," said Chief Melanie Kinchen, of Navy's Personal Readiness and Community Support Branch, and responsible for coordinating Navy's Census efforts. "I can't imagine any Sailor who wouldn't want to make that difference."

Commander, Navy Installations Command is the lead for executing census procedures on board shore installations and Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command is the lead for afloat commands.

### VA reaches out to Women Veterans . . .

The Department of Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System will conduct a health fair for women veterans at the Biloxi VA Medical Center on March 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will be outdoors, across from building T100 located on the Biloxi VAMC campus. Various health care services and information will be available to women veterans who have served honorably in the U.S. military. There will be food, live jazz music and door prizes. A health prevention gift bag will be given to the women veterans who attend and register. This event is for both enrolled veterans and new enrollees. Veterans who have not yet enrolled to receive VA health care should bring their DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof of honorable military service. For more information about the fair, call 228-523-5149.

## Sailor's Creed

I am a United States Sailor,  
 I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and I will obey the orders of those appointed over me,  
 I represent the fighting spirit of the Navy and those who have gone before me to defend freedom and democracy around the world,  
 I proudly serve my country's Navy combat team with Honor, Courage and Commitment,  
 I am committed to excellence and the fair treatment of all.

# Skipper's Log

## Think Big, Start Small

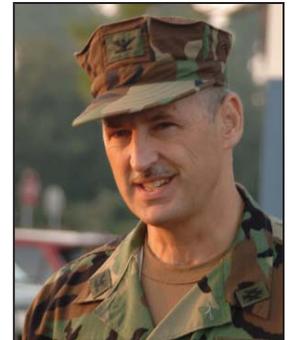
*By Capt. Ed Brown*  
 CO, NCBC/CMDR 20TH SRG

Our challenge when setting goals is that we want it all. We want the perfect house, perfect career, and perfect family life. In our perfect world we have lost 30 lbs of fat and added muscle; we've been promoted and have more money than we need.

All good goals, all good objectives, but it's a little naïve to think it is all just going to magically appear.

Start with a path to success. You don't need to chart your entire college degree before beginning. Heck when you start you don't even need to have a major. If your goal is fitness, it's not about losing all the weight in a short period of time.

When it comes to family and friends trusting relationships don't happen without time



**Capt. Ed Brown**

and lots of work.

Small steps make the big challenges seem a little less daunting. So pick a day and make it family dinner, and talk to each other. Find an easy course on-line to see that college isn't too bad. Commit to changing your afternoon snack from a bag of chips to carrots.

Once you accomplish the first step the rest becomes routine.

### Area Off-Limit Locations

- Biloxi:** Boulevard Night Club, Blue Note Lounge, Henry Beck Park, YaYa's
- Gulfport:** Bunk Small Apartments, Herbal Alternatives
- D'Iberville:** Guitars and Cadillac
- Moss Point:** Tony's Lounge
- Ocean Springs:** Pugs
- Pascagoula:** Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments, H&H Hideaway

Current "off-limits" establishments (all on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are agreed upon and approved by local Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board

### Command Action Line:

Due to limited IG resources throughout the Southeast Region, all Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline work will now be handled by the Region. To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse, contact the Region at: Toll Free 1-(877)-657-9851 Comm: (904) 542-4979 DSN 942-4979 FAX: (904) 542-5587, E-mail: CNRSE\_HOTLINE@navy.mil.

# Black History Month 2010

DoD's theme of celebration this year is: "Reaching out to Youth: A Strategy for Excellence"

## U.S. Navy Ships honoring African Americans

USS *Harmon* (DE-678), 1943-1967. The first ship to be named for an African-American, *Harmon* honored Mess Attendant First Class Leonard Roy Harmon, who posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, Nov. 13, 1942.

USS *George Washington Carver* (SSBN-656), 1966-1993. Named in honor of the noted scientist George Washington Carver (1864-1943).

USS *Jesse L. Brown* (DE-1089, later FF-1089 and FFT-1089), 1973-1994. Named in honor of Ensign Jesse L. Brown, (1926-1950), the first African-American Naval Aviator, who was killed in action during the Korean War.

USS *Miller* (DE-1091, later FF-1091), 1973-1994. Named in honor of Cook Third Class Doris ("Dorie") Miller, who was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during the Pearl Harbor Raid, Dec. 7, 1941.

USNS *PFC James Anderson, Jr.* (T-AK-3002), 1985-\_. Named in honor of Private First Class James Anderson, Jr., USMC (1947-1967), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War.

USS *Rodney M. Davis* (FFG-60), 1987-\_. Named in honor of Sergeant Rodney M. Davis, USMC (1942-1967), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for hero-

ism during the Vietnam War.

USNS *Henson* (T-AGS-63), 1998-\_. Named in honor of the Arctic Explorer Matthew Alexander Henson (1866-1955).

USNS *Watson* (T-AKR-310), 1998-\_. Named in honor of Private George Watson, U.S. Army (19??-1943), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during World War II.

USS *Oscar Austin* (DDG-79) 2000-\_. Named in honor of Private First Class Oscar P. Austin, USMC (1948-1969), who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Vietnam War.

USS *Pinckney* (DDG 91) 2004-\_. Named in honor of Navy Cross recipient Ship's Cook Third Class William Pinckney who rescued a fellow crew member onboard the carrier Enterprise during the Battle of Santa Cruz in October 1942.

USNS *Carl Brashear* (T-AKE 7), 2009-\_. Named in honor of Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (Master Diver) Carl M. Brashear (1931-2006), who joined the U.S. Navy in 1948. He was a pioneer in the Navy as one of the first African-Americans to graduate from the Navy Diving School and was designated a Navy salvage diver. He was the first African-American to qualify and serve as a master diver while on active duty and the first U.S.

Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an amputee, the result of a leg injury he sustained during a salvage operation. After 31 years of service, Brashear officially retired from the U.S. Navy on April 1, 1979.

USS *Gravelly* (DDG 107), (under construction) to be commissioned in fall 2010 - present. Named in honor of Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravelly Jr. (1922-2004), who was the first African American in the U.S. Navy to be commissioned an officer, the first African American to command a warship (USS Theodore E. Chandler); to command a major warship (USS Jouett); to achieve flag rank and eventually vice admiral; and to command a numbered fleet (3rd).

USNS *Medgar Evers* (T-AKE 13) (under construction). Named in honor of civil rights activist Medgar Evers (1925-1963) who forever changed race relations in America. At a time when our country was wrestling to end segregation and racial injustice, Evers led efforts to secure the right to vote for all African Americans and to integrate public facilities, schools, and restaurants. On June 12, 1963, the Mississippi native was assassinated in the driveway of his home.

oo List includes ships of the Military Sealift Command

"Throughout the history of our great nation the fight for justice and equality has been strengthened through our integration of the armed forces. Diversity is our road map for the future, borne of good practical sense, gleaned from our past and irrevocably tied to our future."

Vice Adm. Anthony L. Winns, Naval Inspector General



The Golden Thirteen

In February 1944, the Navy commissioned its first African-American officers. This long-hoped-for action represented a major step forward in the status of African-Americans in the Navy and in American society. The twelve commissioned officers, and a warrant officer who received his rank at the same time, came to be known as the "Golden Thirteen." (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

### Special Black History Month Tribute and Meal at the Galley . . .

The Five Star Colmer Facility will have a Black History Month Lunch Feb. 25 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Military, Civilian, retirees and their families are invited to attend. The menu includes Southern Fried Catfish, BBQ Spareribs, Blackened Grilled Chicken, Hopping John, Macaroni & Cheese, Fried Cabbage w/ Bacon, Seasoned Corn, Cornbread, Garden Salad, Potato Salad, Pecan Pie, Sweet Potato Pie and Black History Month Cake.

## LifeWorks March Schedule of Events

**March 1- 26:** Father and Son or Daughter Fishing Trip - We are looking for a good old fishing story. Submit your favorite fishing story or pictures to the Community Management office or by email to [abradshaw@bbcgrp.com](mailto:abradshaw@bbcgrp.com). The best fishing story winner will receive supplies for even the Best Fishermen! Remember to get them in before the 26th. Winner will be chosen Mar. 30.

**March 12:** Bracelet Making - Residents stop by the Community Management office and make your own fashion bracelet. The fun will begin at 3:00pm. The bracelets will be made

out of coke can tabs and the remaining tabs will be donated to the local VFW where they will be recycled and go toward the purchase of wigs for cancer patients.

**March 1 - 17:** St. Patrick's Day Coloring Contest - Bring your colored picture to the Community Management office and you could win your own bag of gold!

**March 17:** St. Patty's Cupcake Decorating - Stop by the office from 2 - 4 p.m. and decorate your very own St. Patrick's Day cupcake! Don't forget to wear your green!

March 24: Northpointe Preserve Com-

munity Huddle - Residents of the Northpointe Community can meet at the Community Management Office and discuss any ideas for events and make suggestions on various topics.

**March 27:** Spring Fling Family Fun Day - This day has been set aside your some family fun. The event will be held at the softball fields on base located by the gym. A 2-mile circuit walk/run will be held with donations going to the Hearts for Haiti Foundation. Sign up to play in the softball game that will also take place. Teams that are interested in playing should call 228-863-0424 for more informa-



tion. Fliers will be distributed in the near future or you may pick them up at the office!

**March 31:** Yard of Month will be awarded today. Remember to keep your back yard and patio neat and clean too!

# New Keesler shopping complex opens April 6

By Angela Cutrer  
Keesler News staff

The April 6 grand opening for the new \$60 million base exchange and commissary is sure to interest plenty of local shoppers, and for good reason: It's been a longtime coming, thanks to the uninvited appearance of an infamous lady named Katrina. It took almost five years to sweep out her mess, but now the time has come to get ready for the new and improved shopping experience at Keesler. The new exchange will have a 95,250 square-foot sales area and 35,756 square-foot office and warehouse area, said Penny Madison, general manager of Keesler's Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities. The area will also have a 11,000 square-foot food court, as well as a new satellite pharmacy, said Johnny Michael, Parsons Construction, technical inspector for the exchange portion of the job. "The new facilities are larger and more modern and will feel more open and airy," Michael said.

The exchange's main sales floor will contain a Power Zone and a complete garden shop, along with sales areas for shoes, clothing, furniture, household items, bicycles, jewelry, toys, fragrances, books and magazines. The new exchange includes an enclosed mall with 20-foot ceilings and skylights, with concessionaires around the mall hallway. The main sales area can be reached via the mall area or outdoor living area. The food court is located at the west end of the mall, with food concessionaires curving in an arc around the seating area. There's a seating area south of the food court inside an enclosed passageway. There are two entrances: through the food court and the main entrance at the high tower. Mall services include a barber shop, beauty shop, nail salon, optician, optical shop, military clothing store and alteration shop. The concessionaires include GNC, Asian shop, sports memorabilia, art gallery,

flower shop and GameStop. The food court, which opens March 18, features Charlie's Steakery (which will serve breakfast), Manchu Wok, Anthony's Pizza and Subs, Taco Bell, Baskin Robbins and Starbucks. The new Defense Commissary Agency store will have 54,000 square feet of sales area, 10,000 square feet of offices and 32,000 square feet of warehouse space. It has an open ceiling with exposed roof joints. "The commissary, which will feature a full-service deli and a sushi bar, will offer rotisserie chicken, produce, fresh meat, fresh produce, frozen foods, dairy products, health and beauty items, regular groceries and household goods," said store director Gordy Harris.

The commissary entrances will be at the flat top tower; shoppers will enter from either the outside or from the exchange mall. The new commissary sales floor will be 25 percent larger — that's 10,000 square feet more sales floor — than the pre-Katrina commissary. "It will have an open-air concept with wider aisles and eight self-serve checkouts," said Tom McCall, Par-

See SHOP page 16

# Father on board for son staying Navy



Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Brian Thomas (middle) stands at attention with his father, Brig. Gen. Everett H. Thomas, Commander, Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center as Cmdr. Michael Monreal, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11's commanding officer discharges BU2 Thomas. Gen. Thomas flew in for the day to act as the reenlisting officer for BU2 Thomas' reenlistment. Thomas is a member of NMCB 11's Delta company. NMCB 11 is in the training phase of their homeport to prepare them for their future deployment to the Pacific Command's Area of Operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Nicholas Lingo/Released)

February 25, 2010

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Ad Space

Ad Space

# NMCB 7 deploys to Europe, Africa for 10 months

By MC2(SCW) Michael B. Lavender  
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 deployed from Gulfport to various locations throughout Europe and Africa.

The deployment is the battalion's regularly scheduled deployment for 2010 but was recently extended from six months to ten.

"We will be going to support various task forces with general engineering and construction," said Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Pitman, NMCB 7's executive officer. "Our Seabees are building projects to strengthen relationships with countries in Europe and Africa."

While a majority of NMCB 7's Seabees are going to Europe and Africa, the battalion deployed an air detachment of approximately 80 members to assist in Operation Unified Response nearly a month prior to the battalion's actual deployment.

"The air detachment capability is something all construction battalions have," explained Pitman. "It allows us to respond quickly to any military or humanitarian need in the world. In the case of Haiti, one important aspect of our training that made our arrival beneficial to the Haitians was our ability to secure our own living and working areas, and to deploy as self-sufficient for 30 days. Essentially, we arrived



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's advance party, wave goodbye prior to boarding an Omni Air International jetliner on route to Naval Station Rota, Spain, where they will take over operations at Camp Mitchell and spend the next 10 months supporting various task forces in Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communications Specialist Yan Kennon/Released)

able to help and not make the situation more difficult."

The battalion spent an eleven-month homeport training its personnel for the de-

ployment to Africa and Europe.

"We began to train knowing we were deploying to Europe and Africa," said Pitman. "So we tailored our training to prepare us

for those missions. We're very prepared in the areas most Seabees generally train in and we have added additional training for the types of work in specific areas our Seabees may be working in. For example, we have had extensive training to improve our medical posture of our details in Africa."

A normal Seabee deployment is usually an average of approximately six months, but this deployment will be longer.

"We're scheduled to be deployed for ten months," said Pitman. "The extended deployment is part of the Seabee's overall adjustment to be able to provide more forces to support operations in Afghanistan."

With an extended deployment, the battalion has also worked hard to prepare families for deployment as well.

"The reason Seabees exist is to deploy and do the things we do," said Pitman. It's not easy for families but our battalion, base and the Navy has many programs for families that are facing a deployment of their Seabee. We have an active Family Readiness Group, a good Family Readiness Officer. We also held a pre-deployment fair to help prepare families for this deployment. Additionally, we have two Ombudsmen who can assist families. For a deployment, one of the most important measures we can take, is ensuring family readiness, not just a Seabee's readiness."

## Three star general tours NCTC

By Lt.j.g. Rob Guilliams  
NCTC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) welcomed a distinguished visitor Feb. 18. when Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training came on-board to tour NCTC and speak with staff and students.

Hertling has been in this position since September 2009 and is currently traveling to all of the more than 30 sites at which the Army conducts initial military training for its Soldiers. His mission as the DCG, IMT according to the TRADOC website is to "standardize, reinvigorate and evolve training for initial entry Soldiers and recently commissioned junior officers... while providing Soldiers and leaders who can immediately contribute to their first unit of assignment" This tour of training sites is a major stepping stone in that mission.

When asked about plans for changes in curriculum or methods of instruction for the Army students here at NCTC Gulfport, Hertling stated that there is a desire to extend the training for the Army students here to match that of the Navy and Air Force students. Currently Army students go through the "A" and "B" phases which include carpentry and masonry training. They graduate before undergoing the "C, or interior finishing, phase of training. The General said that he would be in discussions with Brigadier General Bryan Watson, the Commandant of the Army's Engineer School about the possibilities of extending the training for Army students here in Gulfport.

Another topic of conversation was a new concept in Army training which is still in the developmental phases. Realizing that the new generation of soldiers entering the military today has been raised on digital media, the Army is developing the Connecting Soldiers to Digital Ap-

plications program. The General displayed a prototype device which uses iPhone-like applications to provide soldiers information on topics such as First Aid, Cultural Awareness in deployed environments, and job specific tasks.

The top mission priority for the Army students at NCTC is to learn the skills of their job specialty; however, Hertling stressed that continuing to transition into the Army lifestyle is also a major part of the training. Continuing instruction in the seven Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage, as well as continuing to develop and build physical, spiritual, and mental health and strength are a key component of developing the warrior ethos in the new soldiers undergoing training here.

"The thing I want the soldiers to realize is that training doesn't end here," said Hertling. "It's something that they will do throughout their careers."



Lt. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, Army TRADOC Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training talks with students in a training lab on board Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) during a visit Feb. 18. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

In summing up the key message that he wanted all students and staff to take away from his visit the general said, "Each person in the military is part of a bigger team. The skills you are learning here are im-

portant because they will be used as part of that bigger team." He went on to add that, "Teamwork is what makes our military strong, and that teamwork includes the families who support our service members."

# Duo with NMCB 1 is in it for the long run

By CM3 (SCW/FMF) Donald R. Wharton Jr.  
NMCB 1 Public Affairs

Over the past weeks, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) One Det. Guam's Alfa Company has been working hard to keep current operations going while also pausing to prepare for the future. The maintenance shops have been working relentlessly behind the scenes to keep equipment operational to support the construction projects. Operations only stopped long enough over the past month to recognize the reenlistments of two chief petty officers continuing their naval ca-



Lt. Matthew Hattivi, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Guam administers the reenlistment oath to Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW) Mark Gilreath in the Light Shop of Camp Covington, Guam. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

reers.

Det. Guam's Alfa Company operates four maintenance shops: light shop, heavy shop, support shop, and inactive equipment maintenance shop. The size and type of equipment will determine which shop is responsible for the maintenance and repair. Construction equipment such as dozers and excavators are maintained by the heavy shop, while vehicles under 25 tons like HMMWVs and dump trucks are maintained in the light shop. Smaller equipment such as generators and pumps are maintained in the support shop. IEM is utilized to store equipment not required by current operations so that maintenance requirements, and the impact on manpower and the maintenance budget, can be reduced.

With several construction projects going strong, the mechanics in the maintenance shops are often unseen, if not forgotten, in the operational frenzy. For the last few weeks the shops have been busy repairing and maintaining equipment vital to keeping projects on schedule. Alfa company's light shop has had HMMWV's come in with everything from blown engines, to leaking gaskets and worn tires.

"A lot was learned from the engine replacement," said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Matthew Geggis. "Not too often do we get a chance to do an actual engine swap. I really enjoy in-depth, technical work like this."

Between the maintenance shops, Det. Guam manages over 380 pieces of civil engineer support equipment. Equipment is rotated through the shops and IEM to maintain equipment readiness. IEM completes the reduced level of routine maintenance required by equipment in storage. But once a piece has been activated from IEM, maintenance and repairs necessary to keep or return equipment to fully operational status becomes the other shops' responsibilities.

While the need to repair and maintain equipment is continuous with Det. Guam's 13 construction projects, Alfa company paused recently to recognize milestone reenlistments for two of their chief petty officers. Both Chief Construction Mechanic (SCW/EW) Mark Gilreath and Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Larry "Chip" Fulbright expect this to be their final reenlistments before retiring.

Chief Gilreath reenlisted for two years Jan. 19, and appeared surprised at the crowd of more than 40 people who crowded into Camp Covington's Light Shop to attend his reenlistment ceremony.

"I truly did not think this many people would show up for me," remarked Chief Gilreath. "I mean, I really appreciate everyone fitting enough time in their busy schedules to show up like this and after 20 years in the Seabees this means a lot to have so much support from everyone."

Chief Fulbright was the second Alfa chief to



Lt. Matthew Hattivi, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Guam shakes hands with Chief Equipment Operator (SCW) Larry Fulbright after his reenlistment ceremony at the Haputo Road Overlook on Guam. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

re-enlist during the month, but unlike Chief Gilreath's re-enlistment in the Alfa Yard, Fulbright held his ceremony at the Haputo Road Overlook located 120 feet above the Pacific Ocean and just a short distance from the Oroto Point Quarry where he works.

"It's funny that I am reenlisting here to finish up my career in the same place I held my first re-enlistment," said Fulbright.

Alfa Company will continue supporting Det. Guam's project tasking for another three months while looking for additional opportunities to support Naval Base Guam and tenant commands.

# Runnin' Roos prepare for deployment with DESEX

By Logistics Specialist Ainixle Xavier  
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Training is always important to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, especially when they're getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan.

The Battalion conducted a Desert Exercise or DESEX, in order to get everyone used to working with their new groups after the re-organization of the unit's personnel into smaller details, detachments and companies that would work as teams during their upcoming deployment.

NMCB 133 was more than ready for the challenge and a chance for everyone to break the ice with their new teams. Each company succeeded in accomplishing the challenges that were presented to them during the one week DESEX.

Alfa Company was called upon to get the Battalion personnel who would be conducting their portion of the DESEX in Camp Shelby and all their required equipment safely transported from

Gulfport. Alfa Company carefully planned and safely conducted the 11 convoys that were required for the transport up to Camp Shelby.

Echo Company was tasked with building Southwest Asia Huts as part of their training. Weather was cold with rain showers throughout the week, but the sailors were about finishing and completing all tasks that were put in front of them. Many said that it was very motivational to see the new Seabees giving the extra effort to learn new things.

"The DESEX was really good training. It built good unit cohesion and showed us our strengths and weaknesses . . . the energy that our new Seabees brought to the projects, more than made up for their lack of experience," said Chief Construction Electrician Nicholas Whitbeck.

As part of being self-ready, Det. 2 and Det. 4 were also challenged with building two SWA Huts.

Each was lead by Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

Tori Anstine and Builder 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Christopher Dutra. Despite the bad weather, they were able to complete both by their deadline.

Headquarters Company is made up mostly of ratings from the sea-going Navy or "fleet rates" as they've come to be known in the Seabees. They come to the battalions, many for three years, and provide their important services, such as administrative, logistical and medical readiness, that enable the battalion to operate during all tactical exercises and deployments.

Headquarters Company conducted communication equipment and medical training during the week and conducted some training in the convoy simulator for two days before heading up to Camp Shelby to try the obstacles at the confidence course.

As NMCB 133 prepares for their deployment to Afghanistan, they can feel more confident in their ability to perform in theatre after their performance during their DESEX.



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 construct a Southwest Asia Hut at Camp Shelby, Miss. during NMCB 133's Desert Exercise where the Battalion learned to work with their new personnel after the unit's reorganization in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder 3rd Class Joseph Coyle/Released)

# Buzz on the Street



By EO3 (SCW)  
Elizabeth Saranto

## What is your favorite Winter Olympic Sport?



*"Speed skating, because it's fun and exciting."*

EO3 Hillary Stefermann  
20th SRG  
Hometown: Carmel, Calif.



*"Figure skating, because it's elegant."*

IT2 (SCW) Sarah Washinton  
25th NCR  
Hometown: Chicago, Ill.



*"Downhill skiing because I used to ski and I enjoy watching them."*

EO1 (SCW) Chris Edwards  
NMCB 133  
Hometown: Albany, N.Y.

From COBRA page 1

Rodriguez, a former Seabee, added that having his Soldiers work with the experts provides them excellent training and specialized knowledge they don't receive in the Army.

The Army provides a little bit of everything in their training, whereas the Seabees focus on one

trade and become experts, he said.

For the Engineering Civic Assistance Program missions in support of Cobra Gold 10, Maj. Carl Beury, U.S. Army, Pacific, Civil Affairs operations officer and lead ENCAP planner said the Seabees were the best fit for the job.

"They do this kind of thing all the time," he said. "Their mission is to deploy and build, so they are

the perfect fit for this job."

Getting to Thailand to support the mission was a long process which had bumps along the way. The NMCB 1 was not the original unit scheduled to participate in CG10, but were last minute replacement for their sister unit NMCB-4.

Living up to their second motto, "Can Do," the Seabees of NMCB 1

made it to Thailand to participate in what Beury said is an important part of CG10.

Lt. Christian Auger, job site commander at the Baan Kroeng Kra Reaon School, in the Ratchaburi, Province said his Seabees are "performing at the highest level possible," and they are glad they are here participating in a great and rewarding mission.



**Last chance to donate to "Hearts Against Hunger" Food Drive . . .**  
**The Hearts Against Hunger Food Drive will wrap up at the end of the month. Donations are still being accepted at Building 60 (the Morell Building), Room 110 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 3:30 pm. All donations go to Twelve Baskets Food Bank in Gulfport for distribution throughout the tri-county area. Contact CBC Public Affairs at 228-871-3662 for more information.**

Ad Space

Ad Space



## Miles for Fallen Heroes Charity (5K and 1-mile fun) Run . . .

will be held March 27 at 8 a.m. Race begins at the Run-N-Tri Company at 9138 Carl Legett Road, Gulfport. Preregistration: \$15, Race Day: \$20 T-shirts to all pre-registered racers, limited T-shirts on race day. Awards to top finishers in each age group. All proceeds go to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Register at [www.run-n-tri.com](http://www.run-n-tri.com). Contact Annie Gundy at 228-332-6262 for more information.

# CFC Campaign wrap up



Lt. Joseph Charles, 20th Seabee Readiness Group (20SRG), gives a presentation during a luncheon held for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on board NCBC, Feb. 18. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 300 CFC campaigns throughout the country and internationally that raise millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by federal employees and military donors during the Sept. 1 to Dec. 15 campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits world-wide. For this campaign season they made a 100 percent contact and went over their 5 percent increase totaling \$778,444; the Seabee Center brought in \$96,025.79. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Elizabeth Saranto/Released)

Safety First! Buckle Up for Safety Every Time!

Ad Space

Ad Space



Construction Mechanic Constructionman Steven Lewis (right), from Boise, Idaho, assigned to NMCB 74, Alfa Company, winner of the "Afghanistan Idol" competition held on Camp Krutke, Afghanistan, gives an encore performance after the vote. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)



Lt.j.g. Darren Sablan (seated), from Sinjana, Guam performs during the battalion's "Afghanistan Idol" competition held on Camp Krutke, Feb. 13. The competition, fashioned after the popular American TV program "American Idol," served as a welcome entertainment for the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 deployed to Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Nine competitors vied for the opportunity to have an entire day off from work. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kenneth Burrell, from Pensacola, Fla., performs an original piece during the battalion's "Afghanistan Idol" morale, welfare and recreation event held on Camp Krutke, Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)

## NMCB 74 presents 'Afghanistan Idol'

By MC1 Ryan G. Wilber  
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

On Feb. 13, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 presented a singing competition to the battalion's Main Body fashioned after the popular American television program "American Idol," and it was a resounding success.

The morale, welfare and recreation event came just after the six-month mark of the battalion's Afghanistan deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. According to NMCB 74's Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Tom Lyons, the competition was planned to offer the battalion some entertainment and relaxing camaraderie after six months of daily hard work.

"It has been a long and arduous deployment. We work long hours out here day in and day out and there isn't a lot of down time where you can just sit back, laugh, forget where you are at and have a good time. Although there was a lot of work and coordination involved with setting up the event, all the pieces fell perfectly into place. The audition skits were hilarious, the judges played the part perfectly, and the contestants' talent was memorable," said Lyons.

Nine contestants participated in the competition. Most sang to a supplied track or used the MWR karaoke machine, while a multi-

talented few sang original songs and played their own instruments.

Not every contestant was a serious competitor however. A few were out solely for comedic relief. A video presentation of parody auditions, which elicited much laughter from the audience, was shown before the competition began.

Vote ballots from the audience were collected and counted directly after the last performance, and Construction Mechanic Constructionman Steven Lewis from Boise, Idaho was named the winner. His prize was one full day off work.

"It was a good experience. If someone asked me to do it again even without a prize, I'd be like 'yeah.' The reward of playing in front of people was good enough. Afterwards it felt good enough that I was satisfied, and even if I didn't get the day off then forget it. It was still fun to play," said Lewis. "It kind of turned into a bigger experience. It was cool. I liked it. It was awesome, and it cheered me up a little bit seeing everybody getting into it."

Victorious or not, fun was had by participants and spectators alike. Many Seabees said that "Afghanistan Idol" was the best MWR event they had ever witnessed.

"I can honestly say that in my entire naval career for the past four years, this is the most fun MWR event I've ever been a

part of or even witnessed. This was the best, definitely," said Utilitiesman 3rd Class Josh Ledestich, "Afghanistan Idol" participant. "It came at a perfect time. After the extension everyone was feeling a little down. I just think it was great timing on the command's part, it was a great idea on the command's part, and I think everyone responded really well to it. I know I did."

"I thought it was a lot of fun and put together really well. I had a good time. It was one of the best MWR events I've been to. It was fun and what the command needed," said Utilitiesman Constructionman Apprentice Jackie Bartz.

"It raised [the morale] a lot. A lot of people were laughing and had a good time there," said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Anthony Szymanski.

The event was coordinated by NMCB 74's MWR Officer Chief Culinary Specialist Billy Hill, who worked with numerous people over a month's time to get the stage set and the participants lined up, while Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey ran the competition's audio visuals.

A pre-show barbecue provided by the Supply Department, cooked and served by battalion volunteers, offered the Seabees a chance to socialize comfortably before the competition began.

"Food is always an attention grabber.

Especially with the extension, anything that brings the troops together for relaxation and prelude to a nice event; it works. People love food. People love to eat, and they could be relaxed in their PT gear," said Construction Electrician 2nd Class Kelton Mortis.

A fun and entertaining evening was had by all in attendance of the event. Spirits were raised through laughter and camaraderie, while members of the battalion got a chance to showcase their various talents and even win a couple prizes.

Based upon its success, it is very probable that NMCB 74 will host a similar event in the future, and Lyons plans to recommend events similar to "Afghanistan Idol" to other deployed Naval Construction Force battalions.

"I would definitely do it again, and I'm actually planning to discuss this event with my fellow executive officers in the other Seabee battalions. It is hard to measure the impact that an event like this has on the battalion, but from my perspective, it is exactly what the battalion needed at this point in deployment. And in five or 10 years when the Seabees think about their tour in Afghanistan, along with all the great construction they accomplished this deployment, I believe they will also remember Afghanistan Idol and the fun we had last Saturday night," said Lyons.

# NMCB 74 Dets improve quality of life, conditions for all in Afghanistan

By NMCB 74 Public Affairs

The Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 are faithfully following in the footsteps of Naval Construction Force history as they prepare the way for the war fighters of Operation Enduring Freedom [or OEF], just as the Seabees have been doing since their inception during World War II.

Although NMCB 74 maintains a 21-acre main body site in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan on Camp Leatherneck, construction support is required throughout the country. In order to support the mission of OEF in Afghanistan, the battalion dispatches details which support remote operations by constructing facilities that increase efficiency.

A detail's primary mission is to improve conditions of forward operating bases [or FOBs,] and command outposts [or COPs.] They accomplish the mission by forming secure perimeter berms and guard posts, forming foundation pads, building wood structures and creating roads that ease travel.

"We are there to establish first, initial operational capability, and then final operating capability of the FOB. That includes putting [Marines] in structures that can withstand the weather, building up the roads so they can maintain mobility on their FOBs, and establishing freedom of movement in the FOB," said Operations Officer Lt. Cmdr. Omarr Tobias.

Planning is paramount for successful construction operations at detachment sites. Often many miles must be traveled to deliver equipment and materials from the main body site to a detail, and according to Builder 1st Class David Fahy, Det. Payne assistant operations officer and a project supervisor, if you run short on something you are pretty much out of luck.

"Lots of planning is involved. We have to get the materials and tools there so we can build, the equipment there so we can work, and the people and the life support for the people there, including tents, generators and environmental control units so we can live. It all requires planning; loading, moving, and security to get there and

back," said Tobias.

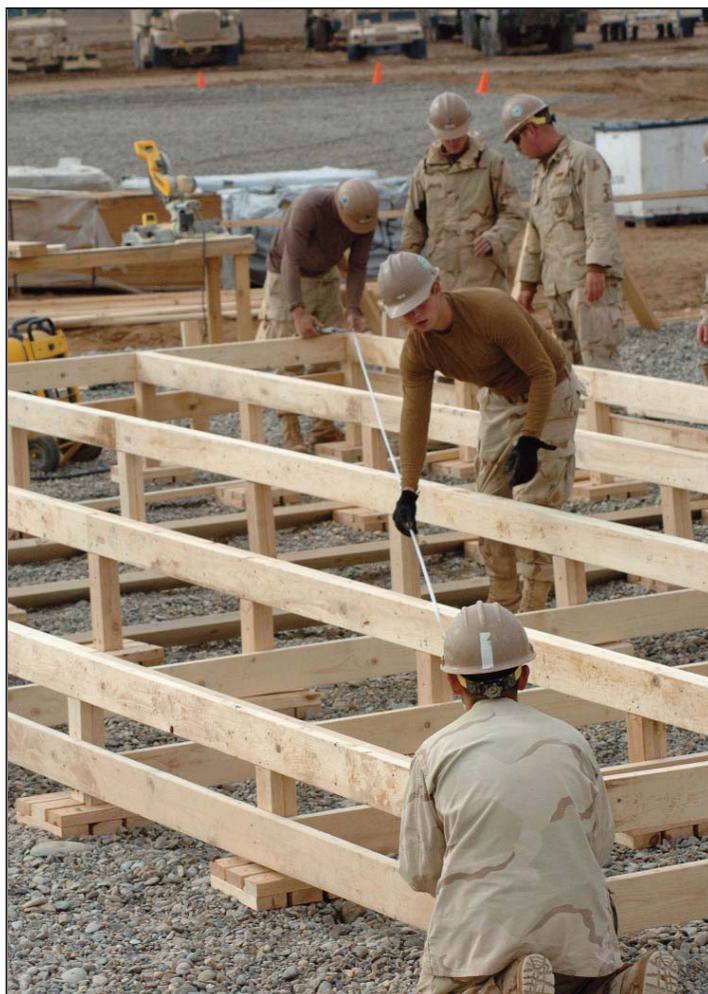
Seabees have traditionally gone ahead of combatant troops to prepare an area where an offensive can be launched easily and effectively, and while they themselves are trained and focused on defensive combat Seabees demonstrate a respect and appreciation for those who take the fight to the enemy. That appreciation is expressed through the quality of their construction.

"This was doing work for the Marines who were actually out there, war fighters, trigger pullers. It was great. They were very happy with the results, very happy about us being there, and constantly commenting on the high quality of work we were doing. It was a very rewarding process working and doing jobs for somebody who really had a high profile, and meant a lot to upgrade their operations," said Engineering Aid 2nd Class Erik Kennerson, Det. Geronimo and lead surveyor and quality control supervisor.

Although improving conditions at a FOB or COP for ease of combat operations is a det's primary mission, improving quality of life for the service members using the facility is important as well. Having comfortable facilities in which to eat and sleep, make a phone call home, or just relax while playing a game can go a long way toward sustaining the morale of the Marines returning from the front lines.

"This is going to be like Leatherneck for a lot of the Marines; a place to come back after being out in the field where there is a nice berthing, phone and recreational facilities, and a dining facility to have a nice hot meal. We're in direct support of that by throwing gravel on the road, getting them out of the moon dust, and prepping the [foundation] pad. Building the wooden structures [for the Marines] is a lot nicer than them living in a tent," said Chief Construction Electrician Joseph Johnson, Det. Payne assistant officer-in-charge and operations officer. "We are supporting the war fighter by building these nice facilities, giving them a nice place to enjoy some luxuries."

Construction operations for a detail in a remote area can be quite different and inherently more



Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, Detail Payne, ensure squareness of the post and beam construction on a 16 foot by 32 foot Southwest Asia hut being built at Command Outpost Payne located in Southern Afghanistan. Detail Payne is one of several detachments from NMCB 74 performing contingency construction operations in remote areas throughout Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

dangerous than operations at the main body site due to its small size and close proximity to hostile forces. According to Builder 3rd Class Dennis Dardano, a Det. Fiddler's Green crew member, the FOB perimeter seems almost close enough to spit on no matter where you are working. Situational awareness is paramount and a security plan is always in place.

It takes planning not only to get a detail to a

project site and carry out the mission safely, but also to get one back safely as well. Tobias states that his plan for their safe return and the return home of the battalion as a whole, is more than just a plan; it is a mission.

"My mission is to finish the deployment strong and bring everyone home with 10 fingers and 10 toes, sound mind and body, just the way we left," said Tobias.

Driving at Night . . . Don't overdrive your headlights.

You should be able to stop inside the illuminated area. If you're not, you are creating a blind-crash area in front of your vehicle.



Whether we are planning events, activities, festivals, or concerts, MWR is always working to support NCBC Gulfport's Active Duty and their Families by planning ways to provide quality experiences for all to enjoy.

Get social with MWR. Visit on Facebook: NCBC MWR is the main MWR page or visit the Liberty page MWR-NCBC Liberty. Go to [www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport](http://www.cnbc.navy.mil/gulfport) and sign up for MWR's e-newsletter. Simply submit your email address, and MWR will send you a weekly E-news email that will include special events, sports registrations, and more. As always, the MWR web page is an excellent source for information on any of the MWR facilities and events. The MWR promotion line, (228) 871-4MWR, is updated with information on MWR happenings, or you can always call the MWR Publicity office directly at 228-871-4010. The MWR Events Calendar can be found inside the Bee Tracks and can also be accessed from the MWR home page. Also, sign up to receive weekly text messages from

MWR. Just text "CBCFun, CBCFitness, or CBCMWR" to 30364 on your mobile phone. Keep in mind that standard carrier-messaging charges may apply.

For more information on registering for E-news or any of MWR's facilities, events and activities, call MWR Publicity at 228-871-4010.

NCBC Gulfport MWR wants to know what you want and how best to serve you! Take this 5 minute survey online and let them know! Just go to:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPZT9V>.

#### Liberty Center

February is such a short month. However, there are still some great trips and events waiting for you! Join us as the New Orleans Hornets take on the Orlando Magic Feb. 26. The cost is only \$17 but you MUST sign up by the Wednesday prior! We'll also be taking care of some sports-related shopping as we travel to Mobile Feb. 27 to the Bass Pro Shop for only \$2- we'll stay as long as you want!

We'll kick off March with a bang as well! March 1 we'll be taking a Mall Trip to the D'Iberville Promenade for FREE-

departing at 5:30 p.m. If you're looking for something a little more rough and tough then sign up to go to the Monster Jam at Miss. Coast Coliseum March 6 for only \$28!! You won't find a better deal for this event so sign up today!

As the weather starts to warm up how about planting a flower for someone special or just to brighten up your own room! March 8 we'll be celebrating Plant a Flower Day and letting you join in the fun by getting your hands a little dirty!! In honor of Johnny Applesed Day and warm weather, stop by the Liberty Center March 11 to get your free apple while supplies last.

If pizza sounds better than an apple, then stop in for our Brainstorming Lunch March 10 when every good idea contributed for a Liberty program (that we haven't yet done) gets a free slice of pizza! Starting at 11 a.m. so think of some great events today!

Remember - the goal of Liberty is to be your home away from home- a place for you to relax, shoot some pool, check your email or just watch a movie. Have a request for trip or event; complaints or commendation please let us know!!! For more information please contact the Liberty Center at 228-871-4684.

#### Auto Hobby Shop

Get your car ready for spring by stopping by for a free Fluid Check every Wednesday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop at 228-871-2804 to make your reservations today.

#### CBC Lake Pavilion

What a deal, be sure to take advantage of this great offer. Reserve one of the three large pavilions for any special event in the month of February and receive a 50 percent discount. Contact the MWR Outdoor Rental Center for more information at 228-871-2804.

#### MWR Vehicle Resale Lot

Have a Vehicle, Motorcycle, RV, Boat or Utility Trailer you want to sell? Put it in the MWR Vehicle Resale Lot located on 5th

Street. Location is in a high visibility area and is lighted for extra security. For more information, contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop today at 228-871-2804.

#### Car Wash

Vacuums, stain remover, shampooer, oh my!! The MWR car wash is located off Marvin Shields Blvd. and Rodgers Ave. MWR also has new shade structures on order for those car enthusiasts who like to wax their vehicles in a covered area. For more information please contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop at 228-871-2804.

#### Youth Activities Center

Iddy Biddy Baseball Registration Coming Soon!! The Iddy-Biddy T-ball program is open to youth 3-4 years who are ready to hit one out of the park. Children must be 3 years old by April 1 to be eligible. Registration is March 1-31. The \$35 fee includes uniform, participation award and an end of season banquet. Call 228-871-2251 for more details.

Spring Break Camp sign ups begin March 25 for all Military and DoD Civilians. The camp program will run March 29 - April 2 for Gulfport and Long Beach School Districts. Camp hours will be held from 6 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and children will need to bring a sack lunch.

Summer Camp Can Do Registration coming soon! Program registration for Military Dependents will begin March 1 and DoD Civilian registration begins April 1. Come to the YAC (Building 335) between 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh my! Get ready to explore the world famous Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, La. Spaces will go fast for this field trip. Only \$5 per person and a sack lunch is needed.

#### Outdoor Recreation

Gather your friends and head over to one of the many trips planned this month: New Orleans Hornets vs. Orlando Magic at the New Orleans Arena Feb. 26. Tickets are \$28. 4th Annual D'Iberville BBQ Throwdown and Festival Feb. 27. No admission is charged. For more information

contact Dana Dawson at 228-224-3516 or 228-871-2804.

#### Aquatics

With the warmer weather only a memory, one might think that going for a swim is no longer an option. MWR Aquatics wants you to know that you can enjoy swimming ALL year long. For more information contact Dana Dawson at 228-224-3516.

#### Information, Tickets, and Tours

Gulf Island Water Park Season Passes are available for \$57.

Base-Wide Yard Sale will take place March 20 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Grinder. For \$10 you get your choice of either 2 tables + 2 chairs or a 10 x 10 canopy. For \$15, you can get both (rain date March 27).

Miss. Surge Hockey 1/2 price vouchers are \$11 for platinum level and \$8.50 for gold level. Come and watch the Surge take on the Fayetteville Fire Ants Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 at the Miss. Coast Coliseum.

Looking for something to do while the kids are out of school this Spring Break? ITT has you covered. Join us for 4 days in Orlando March 28-April 2.

Theme park tickets can be purchased separately. Prices are \$340/single, \$220/double, \$180/triple, and \$160/quad. The deadline to sign up is March 18 and final payment is due by March 25. Sign up today by calling ITT at 228-871-2231 or stop by Building 352.

#### Anchors and Eagles

Attention all chiefs and officers! Do you know where the best place on base to relax and get a cold drink is? A&E is the place for you. Located in bldg 303, Rhodes Hall, Anchors and Eagles is open Tuesday through Thursday 2 - 9 p.m. All other days are by reservation. For information call Michael Sweetapple at 228-871-4750.

#### Beehive Lounge

The Beehive All Hands Club is the best place on base, or in town, to get a cold beverage and hang out with your friends. Located in Building 352, across the street from Pizza Bros, the Beehive has multiple flat screen

See MWR page 17

## At the Movies . . .

### FREE movies, now playing at the Training Hall Movie Theater

- Feb. 25: Carriers, (R), 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 26: Fight Club, (R), 5:30 p.m., Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG), 8:30 p.m.
- Feb. 27: Paranormal Activity, (R), 1p.m.; The Invention of Lying, (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Stepfather, (R), 5 p.m.; Law Abiding Citizen, (R), 7 p.m.
- Feb. 28: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, (PG) Noon; Where the Wild Things Are, (PG), 2 p.m.; Law Abiding Citizen, (R), 4 p.m.; The Invention of Lying, (PG13), 6:15 p.m. and Carriers, (R), 8:30 p.m.
- March 2: Did You Hear About the Morgans, (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
- March 4: Up in the Air, (R), 6:30 p.m.
- March 5: Sherlock Holmes, (PG13), 5:30 p.m., Armored, (PG13), 8:15 p.m.
- March 6: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel, (PG13), 1 p.m.; Avatar, (PG13), 3 p.m.; It's Complicated, (R), 7 p.m.
- March 7: Brothers, (R), Noon; The Blind Side, (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; Leap Year, (PG), 5:15 p.m.; Everybody's Fine, (PG13), 7:45 p.m.
- March. 9, Nine, (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
- March. 11, Brothers, (R), 6:30 p.m.

# Focus on Education

## Military Families get FREE access to Caregiver Network

By Elaine Wilson  
American Forces Press Service

Military families now have free access to an online network of quality caregivers who can assist with everything from babysitting to dog walking.

Sittercity is the nation's largest online source for local babysitters, nannies, elder care providers, dog walkers, housekeepers and tutors, and contains more than a million caregiver profiles, officials said.

Military members and their families can activate their membership by going to <http://www.sittercity.com/dod>.

The Sittercity Corporate Program, funded by the Defense Department, offers military families — including active duty, Guard and Reserve — with a paid membership to the site.

"We believe that access to Sittercity's nationwide network of quality care providers will be highly beneficial to our service members and their families," said Tommy T. Thomas, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

The paid membership enables military families entry to a custom-built Defense Department Web site portal where they can match up caregivers to their situation; gain instant access to care-

giver profiles that include background checks, references and reviews; and find military-certified care providers as well as caregivers who are military-subsidized and authorized access to a military installation.

The site will help meet the unique needs of military families as they face deployments, long hours at work and assignments to remote locations, Thomas said.

"Because of the mobile nature of military life, trusted community resources are often difficult to identify and locate," he acknowledged. "These online tools will help service and family members attain the best match between resource and need."

Thomas said service members and their families can rest assured that they're being provided with top-notch care. The site "links military family members with somebody that the Department of Defense says, 'We've entrusted you to provide this service to our people,'" Thomas said. "If that military member is out on the front line knowing that the family back home has a sense of ease and comfort, life is good for everybody," he added.

While the membership is free, service members will be responsible for the hiring and payment of caregivers, officials said.

## Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship

From School Liaison Officer

Early on the morning of September 11, 2001, Bernard Curtis Brown II, the 11 year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Brown, boarded a plane in Washington, D. C., for a trip to California to represent his school in a National Geographic event. Shortly after takeoff the airliner was hijacked by terrorists and was flown into the Pentagon, killing all on board. Everyone who knew Bernard stated that he was a model child, exceptional student and had a keen interest in science. Bernard was known to be very proud of his dad for his service in the United States Navy.

The Military Child Education Coalition decided that it should find a way to honor the life of Bernard Curtis Brown II and a means to keep his memory alive. With the approval of the Board of Directors and the support of his parents, MCEC endowed a Space Camp Scholarship in his memory.

The Space Camp is a five-day program and is located in Huntsville, Alabama. It is a place where kids come together for a journey they will never forget. Each child learns about space, space travel and space exploration. They also learn what it takes to become an astronaut. At the conclusion of the program each child leaves with a greater appreciation for school and their studies. Attendees also establish bonds of friendship with other attendees that will last a lifetime.

For more information on the MCEC Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship visit our website at [www.MilitaryChild.org](http://www.MilitaryChild.org). The application deadline is March 10.



## NEX rewards students with its A-OK student reward program

From NEX Public Affairs

The Navy Exchange wants to help its customers pay for their children's college education through its A-OK Student Reward Program. Four times per school year, four students will be the recipients of a \$5,000, \$3,000, \$2,000 or \$1,000 U.S. savings bond, denominations at maturity. The next drawing will be held at the end of February 2010.

Any eligible full-time student that has a B-grade point average equivalent or better, as determined by their school system, may enter the drawing. Eligible students include dependent children of active duty military members, reservists and military retirees enrolled in first through 12th grade. Dependent children without an individual Dependent Identification Card must be accompanied by their sponsor to submit their entry. Each student may enter only once each grading period and must re-enter with each qualifying report card.

To enter the drawing, stop by any NEX with a current report card and have a NEX associate verify the minimum grade average. Then fill out an entry card and obtain an A-OK ID, which entitles the student to discount coupons for NEX products and services.

The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) has been offering students a chance to win a savings bond through its A-OK Student Reward Program since 1997. Since the program began, NEXCOM has awarded \$504,000 in savings bonds with the help of its generous vendor partners.

**Need a tutor?** Tutor.com gives students of all ages FREE online help in math, sciences, English, social studies and a variety of other subjects. To access the program go to [www.tutor.com/navy](http://www.tutor.com/navy) and then sign in to Navy Knowledge Online.

Contact the School Liaison Officer  
at 228-871-2117

## Military One-Source Tax Filing Services . . .

Military OneSource brings you H&R Block At Home® (formerly TaxCut) online tax filing through the Military OneSource Web site and telephonic tax consultations by calling our tax hotline at 1-800-730-3802. Prepare your 2009 state and federal taxes with this easy-to-use program. Provided by the Department of Defense, H&R Block At Home® is and free to active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members and their families. You must use the link on the Military OneSource Web site at <https://www.militaryonesource.com> to access our customized product and create your account. Do not go to the public H&R Block Web site to create a user account.

**30 Days Through Afghanistan . . .** The Web-based project, "30 Days Through Afghanistan," kicked off Feb. 8 and aims to bring the people, the mission and the experiences of the men and women assigned to the International Security Assistance force to a worldwide audience through the eyes of Tech. Sgts. Nathan Gallahan and Kenneth Raimondi. Raimondi, a broadcaster, and Gallahan, a print journalist, are traveling throughout Afghanistan for 30 continuous days visiting each of the five regional commands and giving a first-hand perspective of the counter-insurgency mission. The two reporters will produce video and print news stories as well as document daily adventures through blogs and video blogs to showcase the troops in an interactive manner. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://30days.isaf.nato.int>. Twitter users can receive tweets on the team's progress at <http://www.twitter.com/30DaysThrough>.

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# Homefront in Focus: I am SO mad!

By Beth Wilson

## Military Spouse Contributor

"Beth, do you know anything about moving? We are moving to Mayport, Florida [from California]. Shouldn't we get [Dislocation Allowance] DLA?" "I'm no expert," I told her, "but you should get DLA. What's up?" My friend continued to tell me the saga of their move preparations. When her E4 husband went to his YN1 for assistance with his move paperwork the YN1 'encouraged' this sailor not to take his DLA "because if you end up living in housing in Florida you will have to pay it back." Is your head spinning? Or, like my friend, do you think maybe the YN1 is right?

I am mad because I receive phone calls, emails and tweets from spouses asking questions about similar things. I hear from spouses who do not know or fully understand the benefits, processes, procedures and opportunities available to them. With the aggressive deployment schedule the spouse is often the one to weed through the Navy machine.

For those of you who need closure - my husband printed out the instruction regarding DLA, read every word and went over it with this E4. As you may already know, DLA eligibility has nothing to do with where you live if you have a dependent. Silly YN1. Our E4 friend took the instruction back to the YN1 to ask him to process the DLA, which the YN1 refused to do. He said he would not process that paperwork until he had a letter from the receiving command stating that this sailor, indeed, was not living in housing. The E4 made an appointment with his chief. The chief had conferred with the YN1 prior to the meeting and spouted the same thing . . . get a letter from your receiving command. Silly Chief.

Bottom line, E4 friend bypassed the command and went to PSD.

As a result of experiences like this quality of life is impacted, perspective on the Navy impaired, the military is damaged. At this point my friend is not exactly enamored with the Navy and especially their current command. No one wins.

I am just mad enough to take action. There are opportunities to learn, resources and support available. The key is knowing where to turn, what questions to ask, what our resources are and how to access them. I am not the Dear Abby of Navy Spousedom, pos-

sessing all answers, but I have met wonderful people and organizations, discovered resources and developed an arsenal of tools to help me find answers and support. Over the next six weeks this column will focus on re-

sources, support, common issues, and common practices that I hope will set us up for less stress and greater success. Please join me in this series.

I also need your help. What are the issues, questions, resources, that you

have encountered? You may have questions you think are 'silly.' Let me assure you each question is important and you may be asking it on behalf of many. Others may have discovered the key to a smooth move - we want

to hear it! Please drop me your questions or comments at [beth@homefrontfocus.com](mailto:beth@homefrontfocus.com) or on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/Beth\\_Wilson](http://www.twitter.com/Beth_Wilson)). Then join me in this exchange of knowledge and experience.

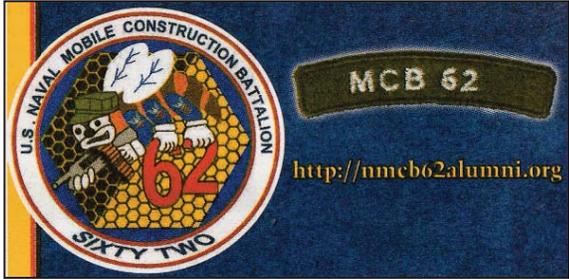
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## Community Notes

### SUPPORT

#### Family Readiness Groups

**NMCB 1 FRG** invites friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Monday of every month at the Youth Activity Center, building 335. A potluck dinner is served at 6 p.m., followed by a 6:30 p.m. meeting. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. For more information, contact FRG President Angela Sourwine, 228-323-0036 or FRG Vice President Rashelle Geddis, 228-224-1475 or e-mail nmcbonefrg@gmail.com.

**NMCB 7 FRG** welcomes friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. To receive FRG information, send an e-mail to nmcb7frg@gmail.com or contact FRG President Deanna Salter at 228-206-0377.

**NMCB 74 FRG** welcomes all friends and family members to join the NMCB 74 FRG. Meetings are the third Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Fleet and Family Support Center. Bring a covered dish to take part in a potluck dinner. For more information, contact FRG President Torell Coquet at torellcoquet@yahoo.com or Vice President Annie Gundy at anniegundy@gmail.com. To receive updates, log on to the FRG website at <http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb-74-fgr/index.html>.

**NMCB 11 FRG** welcomes all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), building 113. For more information contact FRG President Liz Stocking at 717-491-2900 or Vice President Sarah Edwards at 336-215-2211 or email nmcb11frg@gmail.com. Visit the ombudsman and FRG website at <http://nmcb11.webs.com>.

**NMCB 133 FRG** invites all friends and family members to attend FRG meetings the first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Youth Center. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided. Please bring a dish to share. For more information contact FRG President

Kelli Clarke at 727-504-4408 or e-mail hansonk154@yahoo.com. To receive updates, log on to the FRG website at

<http://www.orgsites.com/ms/nmcb133fsg>

#### Naval Officer's Spouse Club

The Naval Officer's Spouse Club meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Youth Center. Children are welcome and child care is provided. For more info, e-mail noscgulfport@yahoo.com. Visit [NOSCGulfport.org](http://NOSCGulfport.org) for more information.

#### Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop is located in building 29 on Snead Street. The Thrift Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers. Child care and mileage are reimbursed. Retail hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers are always welcome. Visit the NMCRS offices at the Fleet and Family Support Center, building 30, suite 103 or call 228-871-2610 to obtain information about becoming a part of the NMCRS volunteer team!

#### Gamblers Anonymous

The Fleet & Family Support Center offers GA meetings every Thursday at 11 a.m. GA is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other. All meetings are confidential and facilitated by GA. Come to a meeting or call Jim Soriano at 228-871-3000 for more information.

#### TRAINING

**COMPASS** is a team of trained seasoned military spouses mentoring other Navy spouses. Classes are intimate and informative. The three-day course is offered the last week of the month. The course and child care are FREE! Contact Kim at 228-832-5343 or Amanda at 228-328-1352 to sign up.

**Naval Sea Cadets** - Gulfport branch are recruiting youth ages 11 to 17 for Sea Cadets, a nation-wide organization that help youth achieve personal success through nautical training. Meetings are the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., building 60, room 105. For more information contact Lt.j.g. Bowling at 228-313-9035 or coachcb@yahoo.com; or AGC Enrique Acosta-Gonzalez at

228-688-5288 or [enrique.acosta@navy.mil](mailto:enrique.acosta@navy.mil).

#### SOCIAL

**Miss. Gulf Coast First Class Association** is seeking new members. Meetings are every Wednesday at 3 p.m. at CBC's Beehive, building 352. Call BU1 Tony Boldrey 228-871-2577 for more information or just come and join us at a meeting.

**VFW Post 3937** Long Beach is open Monday - Thursday from noon until 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon until 10 p.m., Sunday from noon until 7 p.m. The first Friday of the month is Seafood night, the remaining Fridays are Steak night. Breakfast is served from 7 - 10 a.m. on Saturdays. VFW meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Post Commander Bill North at 228-863-8602.

**VFW Post 4526** Orange Grove is open daily from noon to 10 p.m. and located at 15206 Dedeaux Road, Orange Grove. VFW meetings are held the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call Post Commander Bill McNicholas at 228-832-0017 or Sr. Vice Commander Ben Barker at 228-832-3798 for more information.

#### NMCB 62 Alumni Group

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 62 was recommissioned in Gulfport in 1966, and decommissioned in 1989. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Alumni Group may go to <http://nmcb62alumni.org> for more information. The website also contains links to hundreds of Seabee military historical sites as well as reunion information.

#### HERITAGE

**The Seabee Gift Store** is in the new Training Hall, building 446 and is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., phone 228-871-4779. The shop has several command exhibits, as well as a variety of Seabee related memorabilia, DVD's and books. Gift store proceeds support the construction of the new museum in Port Hueneame, Calif. Contact the museum through the web address at [www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php](http://www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php)

From **SHOP** page 4

sons' technical inspector. "The biggest plus for this new commissary is the 1,300 parking spots in front of the complex as opposed to the 197 spots for the (temporary) commissary. "Main exchange hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun-

day. The commissary will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The satellite pharmacy, scheduled to open March 22, "includes a double drive-through service area and expanded space to provide direct patient care," said Lt. Col. Larry Taylor, pharmacy flight commander. "The new location will greatly improve parking

and the patient lobby area. "The new pharmacy will house state-of-the-art robotics and automated prescription dispensing equipment that will enhance patient safety and processing time. The new shopping complex is located at 506 Larcher Blvd. The general contractor is Caddell Construction Co., of Alabama.

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From MWR page 11

tv's, pool table, darts, and daily entertainment. Starting Feb. 6, the new hours will be Monday - Thursday from 4 - 10:30 p.m., Fridays 4 - 11:30 p.m. and Saturdays 5 - 11:30 p.m. Sundays are available by reservation. Remember, "Be Safe, Stay On Base".

## **PINE BAYOU GOLF COURSE**

Check out our Golf Specials! Monday -Thursday 2 for 1 greens fee after Noon. Cart fees have been reduced to only \$9 for 18 holes and NO rider fee will be charged to immediate family members who want to accompany you while you golf. FREE club rentals for all Enlisted (as available). Finally, if you are staying at the Navy Gateway Inn and Suites just bring in your room key for a free greens fee!

## **Fitness Center**

Seabee spouses are an important part of the Seabee mission and your attendance is highly desired.

Mission Nutrition Course is a free class that will show you how to identify and read nutritional information found on food labels and gain behavioral techniques to make better eating choices. Classes will be offered every Thursday from 1 - 3 p.m. and Friday from 11a.m. - 1 p.m.

Outdoor Fitness Fun is a Fitness Program designed to give a total body workout to our family members and Active Duty personnel in an outdoor setting. Tuesday/Thursday from 5 - 5:45 p.m. Meet outside on the field.

Fitness with a Friend Personal Training is available! We would like to offer personal training with up to one friend. Prices are \$45/Family members, \$30/Active Duty. Each session is 75 minutes. Come in and have a consultation with one of our trainers and decide what time is best for you and your friend.

Water Aerobics is back! Our fun and fitness class in the water is here for your enjoyment every Tuesday and Thursday

from 11 - 11:45 a.m. This program gives you a great total body workout while enjoying the benefits of the water. It is intensive enough to give a good workout and low impact enough to not strain bones or joints as a regular aerobics class would.

Aerobic Classes are free to all eligible patrons. Children between the ages of 10 - 15 must stay with their parents throughout the class. Monday/Wednesday classes are: Bosu Strength/Cardio at 9 a.m. and Cycling at 5 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday classes are: Cycling at 9 a.m. and Cardio Kick Boxing with step at 5 p.m.

CBC Biggest Loser Challenge is a 12 week challenge - One more week to sign up!! The first weigh in will be need to be completed by March 5. Your results will be determined by percentage of weight loss. For more details contact Michael McLaughlin 228-822-5107 or stop by the CBC Fitness Center and ask to speak with a Fitness Specialist.

Mark your calendars for the "Family Fun Walk" held April 16 at 4:30 p.m. on the track. All age groups and strollers are welcome, but please no pets. Refreshments will be provided. Come and enjoy a spring time walk with the family. Outdoor Fitness equipment orientations will be offered.

Make an appointment today with Massage Therapist Julie Blackmer by calling 228-871-2668. Please pay with cash or check only!

**IM Volleyball Season** begins March 15 . . . Sign up at the front counter at CBC Fitness Center. Deadline to turn in a roster is March 10. We will need a minimum of six teams to have a season. You can have as many as 12 players on a rosters and a minimum of five players are needed for every game. For more information please contact Samuel Perkins, 228-822-5109 or e-mail samuel.perkins2@navy.mil

## **Need TAX help?**

Active duty service members and their families may contact VITA at (228) 871-4264/4257 to schedule an appointment for FREE tax preparation assistance.

From SURGE page 1

Seabees were among the first U.S. troops to enter Afghanistan at the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 to upgrade and repair airfields. For the past year, they have had two battalions on the ground, mostly assisting the Marines in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. The new additions will also be concentrated in the south, and will bring the total number of Seabees to about 3,800.

Handley said the toughest part of their mission is transporting construction equipment and getting raw building materials into position due to the remote and rugged terrain. "We're moving all of our equipment with a combination of air and sealift. Sealift will go into Karachi [Pakistan] and then over the passes into Afghanistan."

He said it's unusual to deliver the heaviest construction equipment by air, but it's sometimes necessary in Afghanistan because some gear doesn't fit through the passes.

Handley said that the Seabees have enjoyed a great deal of success resourcing materials so far thanks to careful planning. "We have reached very far into the future [as] to what we believe our requirements are going to be and we've anticipated fairly well," he said. He added that the Seabees are getting support from the 30th Naval Construction Regiment with procurement for parts coming from the Defense Logistics Agency and the Army.

The two biggest problem areas, he said, have been getting electrical materials and water well completion kits. Those kits contain valves and other technical components needed to finish water wells after they've drilled and installed pipes.

In addition to the mission in Afghanistan, Handley said Seabees are operating in 20 countries around the world to support a variety of humanitarian, security and community-building operations. In Haiti, he said they have been instrumental in getting materials across the beach for distribution into population centers and they continue to repair port facilities.

For the Afghanistan mission, Handley said he has received uni-

versally strong support from the troops to the notice of additional deployments, which require some schedule adjustments. Once the buildup is complete Handley said there will be two active Seabee battalions and two reserve battalions serving in Afghanistan. Handley noted the reduction in times between the mobilizations of Re-

servists, from five years to 3.5 years, and he said he recognizes the sacrifice they are making. "They are true heroes for leaving a civilian job and career."

He noted that when NMCB 74's current deployment to Afghanistan was extended from six months to eight months, some members of the battalion were

due to complete their six-month assignments and have new orders executed. But Handley said, "Every one of them has gone ahead and extended to do the full deployment. There's a great sense of camaraderie, a great understanding of the importance of the mission and the importance that they have."

Interested in volunteering? Check out [www.volunteermisssissippi.org](http://www.volunteermisssissippi.org) for information on volunteer opportunities in your community.

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5 p.m.,  
Saturday,  
11 a.m. -  
7 p.m.  
(Closed  
Sundays)



## Seabee Memorial Chapel

### Services:

**Protestant: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Divine Worship**

**Catholic: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.,  
Family Choir Mass  
Sunday, 10:40 a.m., Religion Education**

**Monday - Friday, 11:35 a.m.,  
Daily Mass**

**Gospel Service: Sunday, 8 a.m.**

**Center Chaplains:  
Cmdr. Macgregor McClellan,  
Protestant Chaplain  
Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brown,  
Protestant Chaplain  
Lt. Leticia P.J. Rouser,  
Protestant Chaplain**

**For more information concerning other  
faith groups, call the chapel  
office at (228) 871-2454**