



Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 47 No. 8

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

April 22, 2010

20th SRG Shore Sailor of the Year



George Schloegel, mayor of Gulfport, presents the city Chamber of Commerce plaque to Builder 1st Class Anthony Boldrey for his selection as the 20th Seabee Readiness Group Shore Sailor of the Year at the Training Hall on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, April 8. Among the awards presented was the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Five Star Accreditation to the Colmer Gallery. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

NMCB 7 earns Battle 'E' for LANTFLT active duty battalions

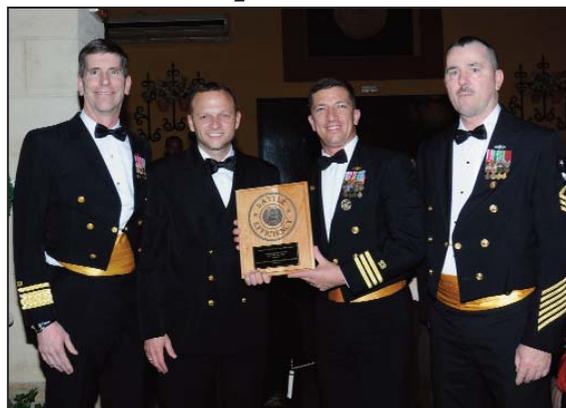
By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Yan Kennon
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 was recognized for outstanding achievements during Fiscal Year 2009 and awarded the Battle "E" as the top active duty battalion in the Atlantic Fleet March 26.

Commander, First Naval Construction Division and Naval Construction Forces Command (1NCD / NCFC) Rear Adm. Mark Handley, awarded the Seabees of NMCB 7 with the 2009 Battle Efficiency Award (Battle "E") during the battalion's Seabee Ball celebration in Rota, Spain, an event that celebrated the Seabees 68th birthday.

The criterion for the Battle Efficiency Award is the overall readiness of the command to carry out its assigned wartime tasks, and is based on a year-long evaluation. To achieve the award, a ship or unit must demonstrate the highest state of battle readiness.

During the award grading period, "The Magnificent Seven" completed more than 53,000 man-days of construction on 74 projects in support of Marine Corps, Army and Special Operations units within the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. During their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom,



Cmdr. Jayson Mitchell, commanding officer Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, and Command Master Chief Curtis Cassell receive the Battle Efficiency Award from First Naval Construction Division Commander, RADM Mark Handley and Command Master Chief Wade Howk during the 2010 Rota Seabee Ball. NMCB 7 was selected as "Best of Type" for 2009 from all Active Duty Naval Mobile Construction Battalions in the Atlantic Fleet. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Yan Kennon/Released)

the Seabees of NMCB 7 performed the largest tactical airlift movement in Naval Construction Force history during a mid-deployment shift from Iraq to Afghanistan.

For many of the battalion's Sailors, like Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SCW) Michael B. Lavender, this is the first time they have received a Battle "E" in their naval career.

"I am extremely proud of the way this battalion performed throughout

its last deployment," said Lavender. "I will transfer in two months, and it is great to see that our hard work and dedication did not go unnoticed."

The Pacific Fleet winner of the Battle "E" was the Seabees of NMCB 5. Reserve units receiving this award were the Seabees of NMCB 25 (Pacific Fleet) and NMCB 24 (Atlantic Fleet).

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Seabee Day 2010
May 8, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Free fun for all!



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Public Affairs Officer
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 Chaplain (Lt.j.g.) Rob Guilliams

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OTH Upgrade So you say there's a chance?

By Lt. Corey Bean, JAGC
 NLSO Central,
 NAS Corpus Christi, Texas

Mark Twain said, "A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes." His quip aptly describes the rumor that persists in the fleet that upgrading an other than honorable (OTH) discharge to an honorable or general discharge is easy if not automatic. In reality, discharge review boards approve less than one percent of applications to change a discharge characterization.

The source of the rumor that a recipient of an OTH can easily upgrade the discharge is Giles v. Secretary of the Army from 1980. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the Army could not base an OTH solely on the results of compulsory urinalysis secured during the course of treatment in the Army's Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Control Program. But the court's ruling only applied to discharges under those circumstances and only before Jan. 1, 1975.

To successfully upgrade an OTH, the discharged service member must first appeal to the discharge review board for his or her respective service. Then the applicant must convince the board that their discharge characterization was either "improper" or "inequitable." Improper means that the original characterization was erroneous because it violated regulations or the law. For instance, if a service member is discharged with an

OTH for a PFA failure and no other reason, the board would find the discharge is improper because the regulations do not allow an OTH in that case. Inequitable means the characterization of discharge is unduly harsh given the traditions and policies of the service. For instance, giving an OTH for a first time drunk driver who had 16 years of honorable service and a bronze star with combat "V" may be inequitable.

Then again, it may not be. Because there is a presumption of regularity in government affairs, anyone petitioning a board to change a discharge characterization has the burden of showing that the government committed error when it approved the OTH. The discharge review board is careful not to substitute its own judgment for the judgment of the board that granted the original OTH or the separation authority that approved it. The discharge review board only upgrades discharges when it concludes that, given the facts presented to the original board, giving the OTH was clearly wrong.

Any person discharged may apply to his own service's discharge review board by submitting DD Form 293 Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the United States. Navy and Marine Corps petitioners send their packages to the Naval Discharge Review Board at https://afls4.jag.af.mil/NAVY_D

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Skipper's Log Perceptions

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

All people perceive and react based on previous experiences. When we talk, we use words, emotion, even voice tones based on what prior experiences have told us works. The problem is that when people hear, it is based on their experiences, which may be radically different from yours. It's amazing that we can ever communicate at all.

For those that are well understood and successful in life and business, they understand that it's not what's said that counts, but what's heard.

The important part of "getting through" to be heard is not by being louder, or more demanding, but by figuring out why the person on the receiving end isn't understanding.



Capt. Ed Brown

How? Ask questions; be clear of the level of importance. Be sure if you are asking for help or asking for something to be done that timelines and measurable terms are used.

"I'd like you to pick me up at 0830 so we can be at the event at 0900" is very different than "let's get there early." It's all about clarity.

16th Annual Retired Seabee Reunion Gulfport, Miss.

May 1, 5 p.m. - midnight,
 Donal Snyder Community Center

Capt. Ed Brown, CEC, USN
**Guest Speaker . . . Everybody come
 for a weekend of fun!**

**Contact Bob Smith, 228-424-1185 or
 Dan Huffman, 228- 545-8176 for details**

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.

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.



Archbishop Timothy Broglio, archbishop for the Military Services, USA, confirms four Catholic youths during an evening Mass at the Seabee Memorial Chapel on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, April 8. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

Archbishop of Military Services makes visit to Gulfport Seabees

By MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon
NCBC Public Affairs

The archbishop for the Military Services (USA) visited Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport, to officiate a confirmation ceremony held at the Seabee Memorial Chapel, April 8.

Archbishop Timothy Broglio confirmed four teens. Confirmation, or Chrismation, is the second of three sacraments of Christian initiation in the Catholic Church, which include Baptism and Eucharist, or Holy Communion.

The archbishop is responsible for the pastoral care of Catholics and their families in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and federal government employees operating around the world.

"I've been in this position for about two and a half years," said Broglio. "I've probably done about 75 [confirmations ceremonies], and they were all special."

The archbishop has traveled the world performing these services at various Naval commands, but explained this is

his first time at a Seabee base.

"It's interesting because you hear about these different forces or specializations within the armed forces, but it's quite different when you see firsthand what they do," he said. "Just to hear what they [the Seabees] were able to do in Haiti, for me, was very impressive."

Broglio, who heads the Archdiocese in Washington D.C., was escorted by Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brown, NCBC command chaplain.

"For a man of his position to come and officiate this service was something we all looked forward to," said Brown. "It is a blessing for the families of those who were confirmed as well as for the congregation."

Though Broglio is not military, he's committed to learning about the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps in order to provide all the same Catholic services to the military that are offered to civilians.

"It's a way of responding to the mission that I received from Jesus Christ to go out and minister to people everywhere," the archbishop said.

NCBC Navy Gateway Inn ... Tops in Management and Operations

By MC1 (SW) Terry Spain
NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Navy Gateway Inns and Suites won its first Zumwalt Five-Star award since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The Zumwalt Five-Star rating is awarded for the overall excellence of an installation's entire Navy Gateway Inns and Suites (NGIS) operation, including enlisted and officer quarters, distinguished visitor quarters and flag officer quarters.

"The staff at Navy Gateway Inns & Suites has worked incredibly hard to achieve this accomplishment. The enthusiasm and eagerness of the staff has been the greatest contribution to the success of receiving this award," said Simone Tomlin, NGIS Gulfport Lodging Manager, and Manager Of The Year winner.

NGIS Gulfport has made proactive changes to ensure that all Sailors and Seabees traveling to Gulfport and lodging in the Gateway Inn are given great customer service and hospitality.

"In the past year we have



Employees of the newly-accredited Five-Star Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, Gulfport, display excellent teamwork while assisting a Seabee with lodging questions. The Zumwalt Five-Star rating is awarded for the overall excellence of an installation's entire Navy Gateway Inn and Suites (NGIS) operation, including enlisted and officer quarters, distinguished visitor quarters and flag officer quarters. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry Spain/Released)

completed numerous self-help projects as well as started two major renovation projects. Our consistent training and certification has made our staff of 59 personnel more professional," Tomlin stated.

Since January and the increased Seabee support in Afghanistan, NGIS Gulfport has serviced more than 3,000

personnel.

"I am very honored and proud to work for NGIS, and I love and support our Seabees and Sailors. They are the reason we can enjoy our freedom," said Tomlin.

For additional information about Navy Gateway Inns and Suites, visit www.dodlodging.net.

NMCB 22 returns to family, friends



Family and friends of Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 22 eagerly await the arrival of their loved ones at the training hall on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, April 13. NMCB 22 is returning from a seven-month deployment in support of contingency operations in the Central Command area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

Seabee Center recognized as 'Leader' for environment

By MCI (SCW) Demetrius Kennon
 NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport, was recognized for their environmental contributions over the past year with the Envision Heightened Awareness Nurturing Conservation and Environmental Excellence (enHance) award, April 7.

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) enHance program is designed to encourage voluntary environmental stewardship by recognizing committed environmental leaders, thus nurturing the reduction of waste and conservation of resources, resulting in long term economic benefits and continuous environmental enhancement.

The enHance program is open to regulated and non-regulated

businesses, industries, government agencies, schools, associations, community groups, and other similar organizations.

The three levels of membership in the program are Associate, Steward and Leader, for which NCBC is now a member.

"We are a leader in the environmental arena for compliance," said Jeff Muehlmann, NCBC environmental director. "There are numerous private sectors in the MDEQ enHance program, but we are the first federal entity to be recognized and accepted into it."

Eligibility for the program involves a number of prerequisites including implementing an environmental management system (EMS).

"It's a DoD [Department of Defense] requirement per an executive order that all bases have an

EMS," said Muehlmann. "Last year, we worked very diligently and were able to bring online an EMS program for the base."

Leadership is a quality familiar to both military and civilians alike. The enHance program uses this quality to improve upon environmental management throughout the community.

"As part of being a leader for the enHance program, we're required to be mentors to the public as well - entities that aren't necessarily part of the enHance program," Muehlmann said.

"So they contact MDEQ. MDEQ refers us as an entity to consult with, and then we work with those various private sectors and provide them what we've done to enhance our program."

Through this program, NCBC will continue to lead the way in

environmental stewardship by networking and mentoring other organizations in the community.

"We look at this award as being just the beginning of our journey in our commitment to environmental excellence and stewardship and not an end," said Capt. Chris LaPlatney, executive officer of NCBC. "We look forward to continuing partnership with the state. We hope that this will be an opportunity for us to spread the word about the importance of this program and about the role the base plays as stewards of our environment."

NCBC will be celebrating Earth Month with an Earth Day celebration at 10 a.m. April 22 at the Colmer Galley Mall. The celebration will feature environmental exhibits and a puppet show.



Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) earns the Envision Heightened Awareness Nurturing Conservation and Environmental Excellence (enHance) award for 2010. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)



LifeWorks
 © Balfour Beatty Communities

May

Memorial Day Trivia – Submit your Memorial Day Trivia to the Community Management office or email your answers to abradshaw@bbcgrp.com. The correct answers will enter your name into a drawing for a \$25 gift card!

Got Green? – This is your world too! What does your family do to save the earth? What ideas do you have? Submit a video to the Community Management office of your family's plan or idea to save the earth. The video can be a skit, music video, etc. The family with the best video will receive tickets to "Ship Island".

May 5: **Cinco de Mayo** - It's fiesta time. Join us at our little casa for some fiesta food, crafts, and non alcoholic margaritas. The fun will begin at 2:30 pm. If you have a favorite dish you would like to bring to the fiesta please feel free! The address for the fiesta is 610 Palm Court, in the Pinewood Community.

May 7: **Mother's Day Crafts** – Join us for Mother's Day Crafts at the Community Management Office from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

May 8: **Seabee Day 2010** - Fun for the whole family! Open to the public! Look for Balfour Beatty Communities! Event will be held by the gym.

May 14-15: **Community Yard Sale** – Spring Cleaning? Don't toss those items; sell them at the Community Yard Sale. Resident's - place your items in the front lawn, garage, or carport. Sale hours: Friday, noon – 5 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Signs and flyers will be distributed for advertisement!

May 26: **Magnolia II Community Huddle** –Residents of Magnolia II can meet at the Community Management Office today at 3:30 pm to discuss any concerns, ideas for events or make suggestions on various topics!

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Firefighters Camp . . .

Want to be a firefighter when you grow up? NCBC Gulfport Fire and Emergency Services along with MWR will be holding a weeklong Firefighters Camp June 21-25 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This camp is open to DoD Military and Civilian family members, age 13-17. If you have questions, call the Fire Department at 228-871-2414 or the Youth Center at 228-871-2251. The deadline for applications is May 21.

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Seabee Center Earth Day 'Partnering for a Greener Future' celebration April 22 . . .

Plan to stop by the Colmer Galley Mall between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday, April 22. Learn about conservation, experience "Tails and Scales" – a live animal exhibit, listen to "Grumpy Old Men" perform musical selections and walk through exhibits from the Mississippi Museum of Natural History and the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. Children will also enjoy a watershed puppet show with professional puppeteers which also begins at 10 a.m. at the Training Hall. Come out and learn more about the environment.



SEABEE DAY 2010



FREE

Naval Construction Battalion Center
Gulfport, Mississippi

FREE

Food

Exhibits

Games

**Saturday
May 8, 2010
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Free Community Event
Open to the Public**

Fun for the whole family!

Join us for Entertainment, Food, Car Show,
Kids Play Area, Petting Zoo and More!

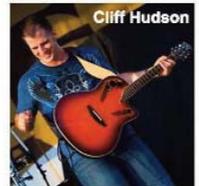
Music by Ment2B, Cliff Hudson and Jennifer Donovan!

Free Parking

Enter the base via the Pass Road Gate and follow the signs to free parking.



Car Show starts at 9:30 a.m.



Cliff Hudson



Jennifer Donovan

NMCB 74 returns from Afghanistan deployment

By MC2 Michael Lindsey
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

On April 18, 168 Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74's Delayed Party arrived in their homeport of Gulfport, Miss., marking the completion of a successful eight month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

NMCB 74 deployed in August of 2009 for a scheduled six month deployment. NMCB 5 transferred authority to NMCB 74 at Camp Natasha, located on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan on August 18, 2009 and immediately NMCB 74 began their mission of building and expanding camps, forward operating bases [FOBs] and combat outposts [COPs] spread across the country.

"I am overwhelmed with pride

and impressed with the accomplishments of NMCB 74 during this deployment. The quantity of work accomplished is unprecedented," said Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Bruce Nevel, "The most rewarding aspect of our work over here is when we hear from the warfighters how grateful they are and what a positive impact we have made in their ability to perform their mission and quality of life in Afghanistan."

NMCB 74 provided contingency construction support in several different locations with many detachments and details spread across Afghanistan operating at the tip of the spear. They were in direct support of not only U.S. forces, but NATO and International Security Afghan Forces (ISAF) forces as well.

"You should be proud of the ac-



Lt. Gregory Hazlett, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 battalion chaplain, is welcomed home by his wife and newborn son at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) homeport reunion for the Delayed Party of NMCB 74 April 18. The Battalion is returning from an eight month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. NMCB 74 will now begin its homeport training cycle to prepare for its next deployment to the European/African area of operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)



A Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74, is welcomed home by his family at Naval Construction Battalion Center April 18. NMCB 74 has just returned from an eight month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

complishments of the battalion as well as your own individual accomplishments and sacrifices. It is a team sport over here and our chain is only as strong as the weakest link. Whether you were on a project, working for Camp Maintenance, in the BAS (battalion aid station), the armory or the public affairs office, no one person's contribution was any more or less significant than another. NMCB 74 made history this deployment and every one of us should be extremely proud of that fact," said Nevel.

In late December, not long after 74 had celebrated its mid-deployment party, Nevel announced to his troops that the deployment was being extended two months; a result of President Obama's planned 30,000 troop surge in Afghanistan.

"News of the extension was a huge challenge!" said Victoria Vanginkel, a Command Ombudsman. "We had a lot of upset

spouses, and we had to tell them that it wasn't our Commanding Officer's decision and that it came down from much higher level. It was hard, but I think it was worth it and it made a lot of people stronger, especially the newer spouses that didn't think they could make it through these things."

Not only was NMCB 74 affected after the president's announcement. The entire Seabee community was affected, including a deployment cycle change and two additional battalions (NMCB 4 and NMCB 133) deployed to Afghanistan, resulting in multiple Seabee battalions in the country at one time. It would be easy to say that NMCB 74 made history during their unprecedented deployment, and set up the other battalions for continued success.

"I feel proud to have been a part of this historical deployment," said Gunner's Mate Seaman Mark Sorokey. "It feels good to know

that our hard work and sacrifice was in direct support of the war effort against terrorism."

NMCB 74 transferred authority back to NMCB 5 on April 10. The ceremony was held on the recently completed Seabee camp, Camp Krutke, located on the expansion area of Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

"Everything has changed," said Nevel. "From our Seabee camp to berthing, logistic processes and MWR assets, even the battlespace AO [area of operation]. This is going to be a completely different deployment for NMCB 5 than their previous experience in southern Afghanistan."

Now that NMCB 74's remaining troops have returned home, after just a few days rest the battalion will begin its homeport training cycle in preparation for the next deployment. NMCB 74 is scheduled for their next deployment to the European/African area of operations later this year.



Constructionman Dara Flaherty (right) and Constructionman Brandon Wood cut scabs for king post trusses that will be used to support the new roof for one of the three school buildings at the Toros Elementary School in Marawi, Philippines April 15. Nine Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 Det. Philippines Seabees are assigned to Joint Special Operations Task Force-Southern Philippines. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Cmdr. John Perkins/Released)

'First and Finest' Seabees renovate Philippine school

By Lt. Cmdr. John Perkins
Joint Special Operations
Task Force-Philippines

Navy builders assigned to the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P) have begun renovations to a Muslim elementary school in Marawi, a city located in the southern Philippines.

Navy Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 Detachment Philippines began the renovation project April 11 by removing decrepitated roofs, windows and doors at the Tores Elementary School.

"The children had bowls on their desk because the roofs leaked when it rained," said Builder 2nd Class Jody Brommer, the team leader for the project.

Following the demolition, the construction detachment started fabricating parts for the king post trusses that will support one of the school's roofs. The Seabees will build and install new roofs,

glass windows with screens, new internal walls, and doors to all three buildings of the school and will construct the school's first ever restroom.

"We weren't fortunate enough to have a bathroom," said Noraniah Usman, the Tores barangay (neighborhood) Chairwomen. "Whenever students need to use the bathroom, they have to go home."

"We are very fortunate to have the Seabees here; this is very big for us," she emphasized.

Once the entire project is complete, the school will be able to educate more children.

"We teach kindergarten through the fourth grade," said Monalica Ali, the school's kindergarten teacher. "We hope to add grades five and six when the renovations are done."

The Seabees plan to complete the first building by May 14 before the detachment returns to their homeport in Mississippi. For Brommer,

this is a rewarding project to wrap up their time in the Philippines.

"The kids got excited when the construction began," Brommer said. "We get to see the good things we are doing. This makes us feel good to do something for the people."

Brommer is more than happy to continue to bare the Seabee reputation in the Pacific Fleet.

"We [Seabees] have built quite a reputation, and people are excited when they see the Seabees," she said.

For the Tores neighborhood leader, the renovations are about the future of the children and stated this is something the community will not forget.

"They [children] will be very appreciative of what the American government has given them," Usman said.

"We are very thankful for the work of the U.S. Seabees and for many generations to come this gift will be passed on."

NMCB 133 works to expand airfield in Western Afghanistan

By ET3 Andrew Brieno
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Several Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 arrived at Shindand Airfield in Afghanistan to provide general engineering support for the airfield's expansion in early March.

Seabees bring all the necessary skills and equipment required for the airfield's expansion.

The NMCB 133's team that arrived in Shindand was received by its counterparts from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 who have been deployed to the site since November 2009. The 'Runnin' Roos' of NMCB 133 began their turnover of tools, equipment and materials with NMCB 22 as soon as they hit the ground in Shindand. A quality turnover is important because it allows the incoming unit to get a clear picture of what has been going on, what needs to be done and what resources they have available to accomplish the mission.

Current construction operations, support equipment such as bulldoz-

ers and trucks, building materials and supplies were smoothly transferred from NMCB 22 to NMCB 133 in only two days.

"NMCB 22's Detail Shindand had a very successful deployment. Their professionalism was obvious during the turnover, and they truly set us up for success" said Lt. Sterling Ingram, NMCB 133's Detail Shindand officer in charge.

Seabees of NMCB 133 were anxious to get to work and quickly picked up where NMCB 22 had left off. Seabees from NMCB 22 had constructed two wooden buildings for an Army aviation battalion but had been unable to install lights and electrical wiring. Construction electricians from NMCB 133 stepped in and began installing the required equipment and the buildings will soon be ready for use by the Army.

Meanwhile, equipment operators were busy with graders and bulldozers preparing more than 150 acres of land to be turned into aircraft parking, a landing pad for

See AIRFIELD page 20



Engineering Aide 2nd Class Zachery Cunningham and Utilitiesman Constructionman Ryan Finucane from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 use surveying tools to gather information for drawing a topographical map of over 120 acres of land. NMCB-133 is currently in the Central Command's Area of Operations while on deployment in Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Brenton Royal/Released)



**StarBase Atlantis
Summer Program**

Dept. of Defense sponsored hands-on opportunity for students entering 5th or 6th grade to learn space and aviation, math, science and technology. With four FREE sessions to choose from there's a date that fits into everyone's summer schedule. Seabee Center SBA summer sessions begin June 1. Space is limited! Call 228-871-3469 for details or visit the NCBC website at <http://www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport/index.htm> for information and an enrollment application.

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SE Region committed to greener future

By MC1 Monica R. Nelson
CNRSE Public Affairs

Commander Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) kicked off the Earth Day by signing a proclamation April 16 urging the Navy's Southeast community toward environmental stewardship, environmentally-healthy mission partnerships, and energy conservation.

"As stewards of the Earth, our mission must always be performed in a manner that protects the environment, prevents pollution, and protects our natural, historic and cultural resources," Rear Adm. Tim Alexander, CNRSE, said. "The Navy will continue its evolution toward a green fleet and its commitment to a high standard of stewardship. I urge all personnel to conserve energy, protect the environment and participate in your local Earth Day events."

Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville, NAS Pensacola, NAS New Orleans and Naval Seabee Base Gulfport already have activities planned to foster environmental stewardship on their bases April 22. NAS Pensacola has been doing beach clean-ups since the middle of the 1980s.

"We have 17 miles of shoreline at NAS Pensacola," said Mark Gibson, natural resources manager for Navy Facilities Engineering Command Pensacola. "We have nine adopt-a-beach base groups who do quarterly clean-ups, and this past September was the 22nd consecutive year NAS Pensacola participated in the International Coastal Cleanup. Earth Day is a great opportunity for us to get the Navy community to come out, roll up their sleeves and invest in the environment by picking up the debris that washes up on Pensacola beaches."

Coinciding with the Navy's Earth Day 2010 theme of "Partnering for a Greener Future," Navy Region Southeast is a member of the Gulf of Mexico

Alliance, the South Atlantic Alliance, the Southeast Partnership of Planning and Sustainability, as well as many other local and regional partnerships. According to Southeast Region Environmental Program Manager Camille Destafney, partnerships provide the opportunity to learn partners' values and missions, and to educate them on the Navy's mission, resulting in greater understanding and opportunities to further all missions while protecting the environment.

"Over the past 40 years, the Navy has made huge strides in environmental stewardship and protection of our natural resources," said Destafney. "Forty years ago, no one understood hazardous substances and the impact they have on health; today we understand that and have laws in place to regulate them. The Navy has embraced and become a leader in the environmental movement."

For more news from Commander Navy Region Southeast visit www.navy.mil/local/cnrse.

New RAO opens on Seabee Center



Ivan McAllister, NCBC Retiree Activity Office (RAO) Director, discusses policies and ideas at the opening of the RAO office, located at the Welcome Center, building 452. The RAO office is available for retirees of all branches of service, and offer assistance and information about retiree benefits, TRICARE, entitlements and programs, and on-base functions and base facilities. The office will be open on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers are encouraged and if you are interested in helping out at the RAO, contact Ivan McAllister at 228-822-5163 or 228-376-8114/8111. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry Spain/Released)

Seabee Gift Shop hours expand . . . Beginning May 1, the Seabee Gift Shop located inside the Training Hall, building 446, will be open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in addition to current hours of Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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Mississippi Resort Classic Offers Free Admission for Military Day April 30 . . .

All active or retired United States military personnel with a military ID are invited to enjoy complimentary admission for themselves and their families on Friday, April 30, at the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic at Fallen Oak in Saucier. The tournament will conclude Sunday, May 2, with special military events as part of the closing awards ceremony. Friday is the first day of competition and military personnel will also serve as standard bearers for each group of professional golfers. "The support we have received from the military bases here has been

overwhelming and we are honored to invite those who safeguard our freedom to be our guest and enjoy the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic," said Steve Nieman,

tournament director. More than 200 military personnel have pitched in as volunteers for the week as well. The Classic is one of 26 official events on the Champi-

ons Tour for 2010, and the field of 78 players will compete for the \$1.6 million purse and a \$240,000 first prize. Competitive rounds in the 54-hole event are set

for Friday through Sunday. The popular pro-am tournaments will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, and they are open to the public with paid admission.

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New guidance can help Sailors for 'Perform to Serve'

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager
Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

A Navy message released April 12 announced policy, timeline, and procedural changes to the Perform to Serve program.

"At a time when retention is at an all-time high and attrition is at an all-time low, we have to make sure we keep the right number of people while maintaining a quality level that enables us to sustain a work force for the future," said Fleet Master Chief (AW/SW/SCW) Scott Benning, Navy Total Force/Manpower, Education and Training Fleet Master Chief.

"PTS continues to evolve to ensure performance based opportunity is maintained for our best and brightest Sailors."

NAVADMIN 128/10 provides the timeline when PTS applications should be submitted, eliminates the Page 13 "commitment of intent to reenlist" entry, addresses Navy Reserve affiliation options, and explains exceptions to PTS for limited groups of Sailors.

Working with their chain of command, Sailors should consult their career counselor and submit a PTS application no later than 13 months before their end of active obligated service (EAOS) or projected rotation date (PRD) if service obligation will be required.

Commands may submit applications 15 months prior to EAOS/PRD if they will be de-

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April 22, 2010

Seabee Courier

Buzz on the Street



By EO3 Mikayla Mondragon

**What do you think
about the future plans
for the golf course?**



*"It will provide more
outdoor activities, es-
pecially for people who
live on base."*

BUCN David Frankart

CBC

**Hometown: Fayetteville,
N.C.**



*"It's a good idea, but I
really wish they would
consider putting in a
putt-putt course."*

BU2 James Vanhorn

NMCB 11

Hometown: Argillite, Ky.



*"This is an excellent
idea, because not
everyone plays golf.
This is a much bet-
ter use of space."*

BUCN Bianca Manzanero

NMCB 74

Hometown: San Diego, Calif.

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Seabee progress in Haiti saving lives

By MCC (SCW) James G. Pinsky
NAVFAC Public Affairs

Work performed by Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7's Air Detachment is having a significant and immediate impact saving Haitian lives at Camp Petionville in Port-au-Prince.

"Although we are less than half way through the mitigation construction, we have already seen the result of our hard work," said Camp Petionville project leader, Navy Lt. Jason Killian, a Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officer assigned to Joint Task Force (JTF) Haiti's J7 engineers. "There was a heavy rain on Friday that put our work to the test. As we walked through the camp at night we were praised by the Haitians who live there for our work and thanked for keeping them out of the possible flood."

Camp Petionville is a 50,000-man internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Port-au-Prince situated on a resort retreat in the Petionville suburb of Port-au-Prince. The camp began when small bands of survivors displaced by the Jan. 12, 2010 earthquake settled in and around the spacious land. As word spread throughout the region the population grew and the relief organization J/P HRO, chaired by Sean Penn, began managing what became known as Camp Petionville.

Penn asked the military to help - and they did.

"At our request, the military engineers (JTF-Haiti) did an original assessment of Camp Petionville and from that meeting we felt that the current situation put people at high risk particularly related to floods and mudslides," said Penn. "With the proper action these effects could be

mitigated to save lives."

JTF-Haiti's answer for Camp Petionville's problems was NMCB 7's Air Detachment.

"The Seabees came in and did another assessment that jived pretty close with the Army assessment, so it helped validate that we had some very serious problems and they needed to be dealt with immediately," said Penn.

JTF-Haiti responded quickly reaching out to the Seabees at NMCB 7 teaming them up with their own engineers from JTF-Haiti's J7 department and the United Nations, and non-governmental organization (NGO) engineers who went right to work at Camp Petionville earning immediate praise from Penn.

"The U.S. Military has been the pace-setting face of humanitarianism in this country," said Penn. "Since the very beginning with the 82nd Airborne up to now with the huge participation by the Seabees, it has been, to the man, such an impressive effort here. The interaction has been respectful, humane and heartfelt. It has made a real impression here and it has helped the NGO's because it's one more face of concern," said Penn.

The plan to help Camp Petionville was drafted by JTF-Haiti's J7 department which is a combination of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Air Force engineering professionals from around the globe.

"We are operating together on this project as a seasoned team working through issues, tackling logistical challenges, changing the design to meet the demands, and taking care of the people that we are here to help,"

said Killian.

According to Killian, the scope of work for the Seabees at Camp Petionville falls into three basic engineering categories: flood control and drainage, landslide prevention and shoring, and safety and egress. Flood control and drainage will be addressed with an entire grid of primary and secondary drainage ditches throughout the camp. For landslide prevention and shoring a variety of methods from wood shoring to sand bag walls will be used to stabilize the hillsides that have been excavated and are in danger of falling, and for safety and egress 600 meters of fence will be placed along the main drainage ditch to prevent water from falling into the water during a heavy rain along with building a gravel roadway complete with deep v-ditches and culverts also to control water runoff.

The help for the Haitians arrived faster than Penn expected giving the famous Hollywood actor turned humanitarian a crash course in just what a Seabee is, and what the legendary "Can Do!" spirit is all about.

"The Seabees are decisive, clear gentlemen of the first order and they have my highest level of confidence," said Penn. "The changes here have been so dramatic and so fast even without their own gear, their equipment. They found equipment to use either from NGO's or contractors, and the work they have been able to do has been a miracle."

Part of that miracle has been the Haitians themselves who have contributed by the hundreds in a cash-for-work program run through the United Nations.

"The efforts of the cash for work laborers is the main fac-



A young Haitian boy greets Utilitiesman 3rd Class Jhamel Richmond, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 Air Det., as he and fellow Seabees walk the main roads throughout the 40,000 man Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp, Petionville. The Seabees and JTF-Haiti's J7 Engineering department, comprised of NAVFAC and Army Corps of Engineers personnel, are working with USAID and the Haitian government to improve living conditions for the more than 40,000 Haitians at Camp Petionville. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communications Specialist James G. Pinsky/Released)

tor in our success," said Killian. "We are currently running 160 people in this system and plan to have more than 240 soon. They want to work to help their neighbors and they put forth a solid effort every day to make their camp a better place to live."

The Seabees and their leadership understand the critical role their work plays at Camp Petionville.

"My Seabees, led by Builder 2nd Class Thomas Camara, are focused on the importance of their work and the impact they are making on a daily basis," said Lt. Beau Brooks, officer in charge, NMCB 7 Air Detachment. "They remind me everyday what it means to be a Seabee, what is really important, and that in the end it's all just about people helping people for a better life tomorrow."

Hug them at home . . . Belt them in the car . . . Buckle Up for Safety, every time!

NMCB 133 'Roos establish comms in Afghanistan

By ET2 Brandi Chopie
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

As Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 hit the ground in Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, troops knew this deployment would be like no other.

There would not be the pre-existing camp or equipment and project turnover that usually accompany a deployment.

NMCB 133 had to start from the very beginning; meaning no tools, no civil engineering support equipment (CESE) and no communications.

The S6 department was fully prepared to set up all voice and data communications equipment required for a fully functional command. The first few days were challenging because they had very little experience setting up their Ruggedized Deployable Satellite [RDSAT] Terminal. They successfully established communications with Port Hueneme with the help of the 22nd Naval Construction Regiment (22 NCR).

The dedication did not end there as they ran over 5,000 feet of Category-5 networking cable, giving them the opportunity to supply the command with ten Secure Internet Protocol Routing Net-



Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 set up a Ruggedized Deployable Satellite (RDSAT) used for communications during the set up of the Battalion's combat operations center in Kandahar, Afghanistan. NMCB 133 is currently in the Central Command's area of operation while on deployment in Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ryan C. Delcore/Released)

work [SIPRNET] workstations, thirty-two Non-Classified Protocol Routing Network [NIPRNET] workstations and five DSN

phones.

Lt. Cmdr. Jeffrey Powell, NMCB 133's executive officer, was pleased to announce the accomplishments of the

Battalion's S6 Shop on their "NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos" Facebook page. "I'm pleased to be writing this from a computer on our very own

network . . . the communications department has been working around the clock to get us up and running on both voice and data. A huge BZ to Chief [Michael] Pittenger and all of the ET's and IT's on their amazing effort!" wrote Powell.

Once the network was up and running work continued on other projects such as conducting an inventory of \$5 million dollars worth of gear, including but not limited to, antennas, field phones and printers, had to be inventoried.

Plenty of training had to be completed as the tasks were being accomplished since five personnel in the communications department had never been deployed with a Seabee unit. This training proved useful when the S6 Shop was able to quickly set up three detachments with the required communications equipment required to do their mission prior to their departure from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

The S6 department was acknowledged for their dedication as one of their own, Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jonathan White was named Seabee of the Week for Headquarters Company for the last week of March.

NMCB 74 turns over to NMCB 5 at Camp Krutke

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Andrew Aldinger (right) and Equipment Operator 2nd Class Sam Suthaimer, both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5, Alfa Company, work together with Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Joe Bruno (left), assigned to NMCB 74, Alfa Company, to raise the hood of a scraper in order to perform an engine inspection for

the Battalion Equipment Evaluation Program (BEEP). NMCB 74 is currently conducting their BEEP, a battalion's formal turnover of all vehicles and civil engineer support equipment, with NMCB 5 at Camp Krutke, Afghanistan.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan G. Wilber/Released)





The Snack Bar

Have you heard about the new place to eat? The Snack Bar, is located inside of the Training Hall, Building 446, and is the newest place to eat on base. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Monday-Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5 - 9 p.m., Friday 10:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. and 5 - 10 p.m., Weekends 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. Call 228-871-4775 to place your carryout order.

Stop by and spin the giant prize wheel now until April 30 for your chance to win free food.

Enjoy free samples: April 22 is Frito Pie and April 23 is Roast Beef Po-Boy.

Flip 4 It Friday is April 23 and ONE DAY ONLY! Place your order and flip the coin. There is a 50/50 chance that MWR will have to pay for your meal!

It doesn't stop just yet . . . stop by April 26 - 30 enjoy FREE jalapeno poppers or mozzarella sticks with any order.

Beehive Lounge

Now a wi-fi hotspot! So come on over to surf the web while you enjoy a nice cold beverage. Open Monday-Saturday. For more info, call 228-424-6892.

Movies . . .

For the latest movies playing at the Seabee Heritage Theater go to:
https://www.cnic.navy.mil/navycni/groups/public/documents/document/cnicp_a150830.pdf or call the Movie Line at 228-871-3299.
 Movies now shown 7 days a week!

Youth Activities Center

Summer Camp 2010 . . . Don't Miss Out!

Summer Camp sign ups are in full swing. The Summer Youth Program will run 11 weeks beginning May 24 and ending Aug. 6. Many field trips, special classes, activities and swimming days are planned to keep your 5-12 year old busy all summer! At the time of registration you will need to bring the following items:

- 0 Current LES or pay stub
 - 0 Family Care Plan for Dual or Single Active Duty
 - 0 Proof of age (5-12) and dependant status
 - 0 \$5 registration fee & first week payment
- Summer Camp Theme Weeks:
 Week 1: Crazy Carnival; Week 2: Super Safari; Week 3: Super 80's; Week 4: Splish Splash; Week 5: Under the Sea; Week 6: Patriotic; Week 7: Lazy Luau; Week 8: Reach for the Stars; Week 9: Oopy-Goopy; Week 10: Survivor; Week 11: Back to School

Jr. Counselor In Training Program . . .

We're ready to put you to work! We need 6-8 highly qualified teens between the ages of 14-17 to be junior counselors during the Summer Camp Program. Pick up an employment application at the Youth Center today. Completed applications must be turned in by April 30. For more details call Ms. Jennifer Bush 228-871-2251.

Career Launch for Teens . . .

The YAC will offer a "Career Launch", a program that teaches teenagers basic interview, application, and resume skills May 3 from 6 - 7 p.m.

ITT

Gulf Island Water Park Season Passes are \$52 . . . get them while supplies last. The park opens on May 8.

The circus is coming April 29-May 2! Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus tickets range in price from \$14-\$32.

Wizarding World of Harry Potter opens June 18 at Universal Studios Orlando. Get your tickets now; they range in price from \$80.50 - \$126.50.

For more information contact ITT at 228-871-2231.

Fitness Center

IM Flag Football sign ups are April 26 - May 10 with the season starting May 24. Games will be played on Mondays and Wednesdays. The team roster will consist of 15 players max and needs to be turned into the IM Coordinator, Sam Perkins, no later than May 17. A hold harmless agreement must be signed by each player prior to play. Once the deadline is met the forms will be emailed to the team members.

3-on-3 Basketball Tourney for Seabee Day, May 8. The games will be played at the old gym from 10 a.m. until complete. There will be a max of 15 teams with five players on each team. There is no cost involved and trophies will be awarded to 1 and 2 place winners.

Outdoor Recreation

Call ODR to save your space on the shuttle to the 18th Annual Crawfish Festival April 24 beginning at noon for just \$2. If crawfish isn't your favorite, maybe the Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus will get you laughing. Tickets start at \$14 for the 7 p.m. show April 30. Please keep in mind that space is limited. Also, ODR is offering transportation to and from the 4th Annual International Festival as well as the Ocean Springs Renaissance Faire May 1 and May 2. Visit the newly renovated office in the front of the building 397 or give us a call at 228-871-2127.

Liberty Center

The month of April is winding down, but here at Liberty we are revving up! We have an exciting couple of weeks planned so come into Liberty and let us entertain you.

Join us as we travel to Pensacola to check out the National Aviation Museum. This trip will depart at 8 a.m. April 24 and only costs \$20. On April 25 the bus will take you to the Crawfish Festival at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum. Trip will depart at noon and there is a \$10 cover once you



Personnel Specialist 3rd class, Gary Johnson, takes a swing at a pitch during a softball game between the CBC (Fleeter's) and Morale Welfare Recreation at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport (NCBC). The two teams are participating in NCBC spring softball league which runs until mid-May. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry Spain/Released)

NCBC Softball Standings as of April 13

Team	Won	Lost	Pct.
USCG	4	2	.667
20th (R436)	3	2	.600
CBC	3	2	.600
Supship(Scrappers)	3	2	.600
CBC (Fleeters)	3	2	.600
NCTC (Minitar)	2	3	.400
MWR (MWR's Finest)	0	5	.000

get there so don't forget to bring cash. If you are ready for a night on the town Liberty has your solution. The Night on the Town Shuttle will be headed to Skeeter's Pool Hall April 30 at 6 p.m. and is FREE.

If you prefer activities on base then join us April 23 for Movie on the Lawn. Be sure to bring a blanket. April 28 is Night Time Munchies beginning at 8 p.m.

Let's not forget about all of the Liberty Tournaments. April 26 is our Racquetball Tournament held on Racquetball Courts in the Fitness Center

beginning at 6 p.m., April 27 is our Ping Pong Tourney which will begin at 11 a.m. in the Liberty Center.

Our first ever Twister Tourney will be held April 29 at 6 p.m. If you prefer video games, the Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 Tournament will be May 4 at 5 p.m.

Auto Hobby

There is now an ASE mechanic on duty to help assist you with any automotive questions. Feel free to give us a call at 228-871-2804 Monday - Friday from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Focus on Education

USM offers Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth

The University of Southern Mississippi's popular Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth is scheduled for July 6-25 at the university's Hattiesburg campus.

The three-week residential program serves eligible students currently enrolled in grades seven through 10.

A cooperative effort with the Duke University Talent Identification Program, the program provides a balance of educational, cultural and recreational experiences.

Students will be housed in Southern Miss residential halls and will be supervised by residential counselors when they

are not in class. They will participate in quality learning experiences that allow them to progress at a rate and a level appropriate for high-ability students.

Course selections include pre-calculus mathematics, human anatomy and physiology, criminal justice, creative writing, polymer science, political science, psychology, forensic science, and debate.

To be eligible, applicants must have earned qualifying SAT or ACT scores in the seventh grade. Required qualifying SAT and ACT scores differ depending on the academic course chosen. The cost of the program

is \$1,500.

Limited scholarships are available based on financial need. Deadline for application is April 30.

For more information, write to Director, The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; or call 601-266-5236 or 601-266-5246; or send an e-mail to gifted.studies@usm.edu.

Information, including descriptions of course selections and an application form, can be found by visiting the center's Web site at <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

Island Lake Summer Camp opportunity for military families

Camp tuition is being provided at no-cost through a generous offer from the Island Lake Camp owners who wish to support military families by providing each of the Armed Forces Service Branches free spaces at the camp. Parents are responsible for transportation either to/from the camp or one of the bus pickup points - Queens or Yonkers, N.Y.; Paramus or Livingston, N.J.; and Philadelphia, Pa.

Island Lake Camp offers youth a chance to participate and develop their interest in a variety of camp offerings, to include: mountain biking, circus techniques, dance, skate boarding, pioneering, gymnastics, science, theatre, horseback riding, technology, music, water sports and a myriad of other activities.

Under the supervision of qualified, conscientious and nurturing staff, youth will experience the excitement of unique challenges and the satisfaction of

success. Youth receive interest-based instruction to help develop poise and mastery of skills in a variety of areas.

Interested youth must submit an essay addressing the question, "What it would mean to me to get to go to Island Lake Camp this summer". Camp selection priority will go to youth affected by current or recent parental deployment and should indicate such in their essay. All Air Force entries must be submitted electronically no later than May 1 to David.Brittain@pentagon.af.mil or fax to 703-604-0323.

Military campers who have previously attended an Island Lake Camp session are eligible to return for a minimal fee of \$200 as are their siblings.

For camp information, families can visit the Island Lake Camp website at www.islandlake.com and direct all Air Force camp selection questions to David Brittain at 703-604-6427.

Coastline Community College set for summer sessions

Coastline Community College's Online Summer Sessions begin June 21 and end Aug. 15.

Students may register for classes from April 19 until May 26. Late registration begins May 27 and concludes June 9.

For additional information, contact Dr. David Drye at ddrye@coastline.edu, or stop by the registration office in building 60, room 239 or call 228-871-3439.

School Liaison
Officer
Location: MWR,
Building 352
1706 Bainbridge
Ave. , NCBC
(228) 871-2117



Watch for the opening of the new Liberty Center within the next couple of weeks. Located next to the Navy Exchange, the Center will offer a wide range of recreational activities for single Sailors and geographical bachelors. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Mikayla Mondragon/Released)

New, improved Liberty Center to open shortly

By EO3 Mikayla Mondragon
NCBC Public Affairs

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will be closing the old Liberty Center and making way for a new Liberty Center located next to the Navy Exchange. MWR hopes to have it up and running by the end of April. The Liberty Center will be available to all single Sailors and geographical bachelors.

The single Sailors' center will offer ping pong, foosball, several pool tables, a computer lab, a theatre, video game room, reading area, and three TV and movie rooms with a variety of movies to choose from. For relaxation, vending machines, recliners, and couches are also available throughout the center.

"The new Liberty Center is much bigger and I think it will be utilized more because of its better location. It's much more inviting with a lot more to do," said Construction Mechanic

Constructionman Zachary Benson, assigned to the 25th Naval Construction Regiment (25 NCR).

The Liberty Center will be a dual facility that will include a learning resource lab for service members and their families. The lab may be used for staying in touch with deployed spouses, Navy Knowledge Online (NKO), paying bills, or taking a few online courses.

The Information, Tickets and Tours (ITT) office will also be relocating to the new Liberty Center. The ITT office offers tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, cruises, travel and much more. For more information on the ITT office please call 228-871-2231.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the opening of this new and improved Liberty Center.

For more information, call 228-871-4684 or MWR marketing at 228-871-4010.

S.A.M.E. Scholarship Opportunity . . .

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Post of the Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E.) is awarding two annual scholarships of \$1,000 to students who exemplify the qualities and accomplishments of a promising engineer career.

Applications are due by July 1, with presentation tentatively scheduled for Aug. 18. For scholarship requirements and an application go to

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/Gulfport/CNICP_A153702.



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Homefront in Focus: Savy Spouse Series

By Beth Wilson
Military Spouse Contributor

Stephanie, a National Guard wife, and I talk on almost a daily basis. She is a friend and co-host of my show. Today's conversation totally 'cracked me up.' Steph's husband is on AT. He spoke with Stephanie last night relaying the week's progress: running the PFT, and a myriad of other acronyms, forms and procedures. Finally I stopped Steph and asked for a translation: what is AT, AKO, PFT and all the other things she so easily rambled off. I need Rosetta Stone!

It's not just the acronyms, it is the customs, procedures and culture. Why does everyone play freeze tag in the morning and at dusk? I can take your left arm but cannot hold your hand? The uniforms, the insignias, the terms. You're my 'sponsor'? I thought you were my husband. Yes, I do have my own Social Security number, in case you wondered.

So where does a spouse turn for translation and orientation to the terms and culture? There are several resources to get us started off on the right foot. As Navy spouses there is a book you can order for free (yup, even the shipping is free) called "Sea Legs: A Handbook for Navy Life and Services" (the title refers to a nautical term of finding your balance on a rolling ship at sea). Sea Legs is available through Navy FamilyLine (www.enic.navy.mil/NICN/HQQ/AboutCNIC/FamilyLine/index.htm). Order as many copies as you like at nsfamilyline@aol.com or call 1-877-673-7773. Don't forget to check out all the information on their site.

Another resource I love (and wish the Navy had a counterpart) is the elearning found at www.myarmyonesource.com. At the top right corner of this page you'll see Online Training. Clicking on it will take

you to a menu of courses including three levels of AFTB training. AFTB is Army Family Training. While these courses are Army-centric you will find a great deal of military information, cultural information and much more. Check out the other classes – Battlemind Training for Spouses, Financial Training for Spouses, and much more. You'll learn a lot from these classes.

Military One Source (www.militaryonesource.com). Logon to this site and set up a profile. Doing so will customize the site for you as a Navy (Army, Guard, etc.) spouse. There is more information, resources and tips there

than one column can contain. Visit this site often.

The 'big Navy's' Fleet and Family Programs Office (<https://www.nffsp.org>) and their Facebook page contains information. Your local Fleet and Family Support Center may also have a Facebook page so be sure to search that out.

Finally there is a program I highly recommend for new spouses to help acclimate to the military successfully: COMPASS (www.gocompass.org). COMPASS is a spouse-to-spouse mentoring program. In a few 'sessions,' complete with free child-care and refreshments, you will

meet other spouses, learn the military culture, get off on the right foot and enjoy the wisdom and experience of seasoned Navy spouses. COMPASS is a great program even if you are an experienced spouse but just relocated to a new installation. Check out the website for the chapter near you and their upcoming class schedule.

Becoming familiar with the language, customs and culture of your service member's branch is key to our thriving as military spouses. The good news is there are many resources to help us do just that. Questions for Beth? Drop her a note at:



Beth Wilson

*beth@homefrontinfocus.com.
Tune into Enlisted Spouse Radio at www.blogtalkradio.com/nht for more talk, resources, entertainment and information.*

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ployed during the regular processing months, or for Sailors who require early approval for special programs or decommissioning.

Applications are required for Sailors in paygrades E-3 to E-6 with less than 14 years of service, regardless of reenlistment intentions. According to the NAVADMIN, commands may submit applications for ineligible Sailors by selecting "no" to question one, "Is member eligible for reenlistment?" This enables accountability of all Sailors, according to the message.

The new message eliminates the requirement for Sailors to sign a Page 13 stating their reenlistment intentions. However, commands are required to submit a Page 13 to BUPERS 320 when a Sailor with PTS ap-

proval no longer desires to reenlist.

"All members of the command leadership team should read NAVADMIN 128/10 in its entirety and remain fully engaged in the conduct of timely career development boards, counseling and mentoring," said Benning.

PTS was first launched in 2003 as a method for the Navy to shape manning to match mission requirements. It is a centralized reservation system used to manage reenlistments. While most Sailors are permitted to reenlist in their current rate, Sailors in overmanned ratings may be offered reenlistment in an undermanned rating.

When PTS began, it applied only to "first-term" Sailors in overmanned ratings but has grown. Last year, the Navy expanded PTS to Sailors E-3

through E-6 with six-to-10 years of service (Zone B), and then to Sailors E-3 through E-6 with 10-to-14 years of service (Zone C). Performance is a critical factor in PTS selection. Sailors in paygrades E-1 and E-2 cannot apply to reenlist.

Commanding officers must ensure PTS applications are screened and certified for accuracy in accordance with MILPERSMAN article 1440-060 and notify BUPERS 320 of any action that may adversely affect PTS eligibility. Actions may include loss of a security clearance, three Physical Fitness Assessment failures in a four-year period, reduction in rate, submarine disqualification, elected separation, non-judicial punishment, refusal to obligate service for orders, and high-year tenure.

More guidance is available in NAVADMIN 128/10.

No Cell Phones Please . . . It is against NCBC Gulfport policies to talk on a cell phone while driving on base. Offenders will receive a 2 point penalty for the first offense followed by a 30 day driving suspension for the second. Please don't do it.

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Questions on Recycling?
Call CBC Recycling at:
(228) 871-4738



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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 Mary Belanger, 228-273-4158, e-mail nmcbonefrg@gmail.com or Secretary Krystin Canipe, 704-726-5751, 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 aniegundy@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 third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Seabee Chapel Fellowship Hall. For more information contact FRG President Sarah Edwards, Vice President Robin Coker, Secretary Krysta Thomas or Treasurer Jennifer Babb via email at 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 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 every 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.

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 now located in the Training Hall, building 446. Hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and starting May 1, the gift shop will be open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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 Hueneme, Calif. Contact the museum through the web address at www.seabeeemuseumstore.org/shop/index.php or call the gift shop locally at 228-871-4779.

From **AIRFIELD** page 7

medical evacuation and a future camp expansion called a life support area [LSA]. Other Seabees worked on a multitude of smaller projects to support base operations such as installing tent floors, improving workspaces and performing camp maintenance tasks.

One crew led by Builder 3rd Class Benjamin Staub built desks and cubicles for computers and phones in a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) tent being setup by Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). The Seabee support accelerated the completion of the MWR tent which provided free

internet and phone access for deployed personnel at Shindand Airfield. The Seabees' "Can Do!" attitude was evident throughout the base and impressed many personnel from other branches of service.

For more news from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, visit www.navy.mil/local/nmcb133/.

FOCUS on FITNESS

By EO3 Mikayla Mondragon
NCBC Public Affairs Affairs

Racquetball

Fit Tip:

Maintain cardio fitness through racquetball

Racquetball is a cardio exercise that offers both aerobic and anaerobic benefits. This stop-and-start activity forces your body to use all major muscles groups resulting in quicker reflexes and building strength.

If you are looking for some more variety in your workout, there is plenty of running, stopping, jumping and lunging with racquetball. For more information on racquetball or other fitness opportunities at the Fitness Center call 228-871-2668.

Members of the Fire Department on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) play racquetball at the base gym, April 6. For more information on other fitness opportunities call the Fitness Center at 228-871-2668. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon.)



Navy to eliminate little-used physical fitness waiver

From Navy Personnel Command
Public Affairs

The Navy announced plans April 12 to discontinue waivers that allow Sailors who exceed Navy body-fat standards to receive a passing score for the semi-annual physical fitness assessment (PFA).

The Department of Defense Body Composition Assessment (BCA) Exception Waiver allows commanding officers to waive BCA criteria up to the Department of Defense maximum standard if the Sailor can achieve an overall score of excellent or better, with no single event scored below a good. Approximately 1,595 BCA waivers were granted for ac-

tive-duty Sailors in 2009.

According to NAVADMIN 131/10, the waiver will be discontinued beginning with the Fall 2010 PFA cycle which starts July 1. Sailors who exceed Navy BCA standards will be scored as a PFA failure in the Physical Readiness Information Management System (PRIMS). The change will also be incorporated in the next Physical Readiness Program instruction update.

"Obesity is linked to serious medical conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke, gallbladder disease and cancer," said Bill Moore, director of the Navy's Physical Readiness Program. "Doctors generally

agree that the more obese a person is the more likely he or she is to have health problems."

According to OPNAVINST 6110.1H, the Navy's Physical Readiness Program instruction, the upper limits for the BCA are 22 percent body fat for males age 17-39, and 33 percent body fat for females age 17-39. Sailors age 40 and older are allotted one additional percentage point.

"Most Sailors have a significantly lower level of body fat than the upper allowable Navy limits," said Moore.

For more information, read NAVADMIN 131/10 and visit the Physical Readiness Program section available at www.npc.navy.mil.

NEX customers will receive five cent credit for using eco-friendly bags

By Kristine M Sturkie
NEXCOM Public Affairs

Navy Exchanges worldwide are initiating a new program to help customers save money and help the environment. Beginning April 21, customers will receive a five cent credit toward their purchase for each eco-friendly reusable bag used to bag their purchase. Customers may either bring their reusable bag into the store or purchase a reusable bag from the NEX.

"The Navy Exchange System is continually working to find ways to help save its customers money and to help the environment at all its locations worldwide," said Rear Adm. Steven J. Romano, Commander, Navy Exchange Serv-

ice Command (NEXCOM). "We are hoping that this program will encourage patrons to reduce, reuse, recycle and save by promoting the use of reusable shopping bags. This program will also help reduce the amount of disposable plastic bags used at the NEX which will save money and keep additional plastic bags out of the waste stream."

The five cent credit program applies to all NEX retail and direct run service facilities where bags are normally provided. It does not apply to our contract operations such as food vendors and mall kiosks that are operated within NEXs. The program also does not apply to disposable plastic bags that are being reused.

A reminder from NCBC

Safety . . . Motorcycle Safety Training is mandatory for all Sailors who ride motorcycles. Sign up on line at: <http://www.navy-motorcyclerider.com> or call NCBC Safety at (228) 871-4343 if you have questions.

In order to improve the skills and knowledge of motorcyclists, it's **mandatory for all Sailors** who are motorcycle riders to attend motorcycle safety training courses. Courses are available at no cost. There are three types of courses: **Basic Rider Course (BRC):** A two day course required for all military who ride motorcycles. Then depending on the type of motorcycle owned the next class is either:

Experienced Rider Course (ERC): A one day course for standard cruiser or touring motorcycle greater than 500cc. Must complete no later than three years following BRC.

Military Sport Bike Rider Course (MSRC): A one day course required for all sport/tour-



Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Amanda Burge, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, suits up for the range portion of the Basic Riders Course (BRC) at the 'Bee Grinder on board NCBC, April 14. For more information on the BRC, or to sign up, visit www.navymotorcyclerider.com. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 3rd Class Mikayla Mondragon/Released)

ing bike riders. Must complete no later than 60 days following BRC.



GULF COAST USO
3001 6th St., Building. 306,
(228) 575-5224
Office hours: Monday-Friday,
8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday,
11 a.m. - 7 p.m., (Closed Sundays)



Seabee Memorial Chapel

Services:

Sunday Catholic Mass: 9 a.m.

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

Protestant Service: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Gospel Service: Sunday, 11:45 a.m.

Center Chaplains:

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brown,

Protestant Chaplain

Lt. Leticia P.J. Rouser,

Protestant Chaplain

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

From OTH page 2

RB.htm. Army petitioner send their packages to the Army Discharge Review Board at <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil>. Air Force petitioners send their packages to the Air Force Discharge Review Board http://boards.law.af.mil/AF_DRB.htm.

Supporting documentation must be filed with DD Form 293. Bare assertions that the discharge is improper or inequitable will not be successful. A petitioner may appear in person in front of the board on his own behalf or through a legal representative.

Rather than thinking it can easily be changed later, the best course of action and advice for service members facing an OTH is to elect to have an administrative board hear the case prior to separation. If the service member waives the board, the separation authority can still approve and OTH. If the service member elects the board, the separation the board cannot recommend a harsher discharge than an OTH and facts may surface which cause the members of the board to recommend a more favorable outcome.

The Gulfport RLSO SE can be reached at 228-871-2620. This article is not intended to substitute for the personal advice of a licensed attorney.

**Seabee Day 2010
May 8,
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
FREE and open to
the public!**

From E page 1

NMCB 7 and its detachments are currently deployed to various locations throughout Europe and Africa as part of the battalion's regularly scheduled 2010 deployment, with the main body of the battalion operating from Camp Mitchell at Naval Station Rota. In January, the battalion deployed an air detachment of 85 Seabees to assist in Operation Unified Response, in response to the 7.0 earthquake that struck the country of Haiti Jan. 12, 2010.

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