



Seabee Courier

HOME OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET SEABEES

Vol. 47 No. 13

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

July 1, 2010

SECNAV Independence Day message to the Fleet

On the Fourth of July, 1776, 56 patriots committed their individual colonies to take up arms and win their freedom from an overseas ruler. They came together as representatives of 13 colonies, but left as citizens of a new nation unique upon this earth, dedicated to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What began 234 years ago endures today. The United States is still a bastion of freedom and democracy and remains unique as a nation upon the earth.

At home and abroad, the Navy and Marine Corps established by our forefathers continues to defend that legacy. The example of the thousands of patriots that served in the revolution now embodied in the thousands of Sailors and Marines at war in Afghanistan and Iraq and on patrol across the world's oceans.

So as Americans everywhere celebrate the Fourth in backyard barbecues and with fireworks that recall the red glare of the rockets and bombs during the Battle of Baltimore in September 1814, I'd ask you to remember the legacy that we have all inherited. Take pride in our nation's 234 years of liberty.

For those on the front lines and deployed away from home, know that you are foremost in our thoughts; and to all in uniform, thank you again for your service. Happy Independence Day.

Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy



Battalion maintains rapid training pace in homeport



CAMP SHELBY, MISS - A team of aggressors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 prepare to rush NMCB 18's Entry Control Point using a log to get over the concertina wire. NMCB 74 provided 50 personnel for three weeks in June to assist in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18's Field Training Exercise (FTX) and Final Evaluation Period (FEP) at Camp Shelby, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

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'Bees + 'Big Apple' = Fleet Week!

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First responders . . . ready for anything



Naval Construction Battalion Center and the City of Gulfport first responders work together to decontaminate themselves after finding a Meth lab in a vehicle during an exercise on board NCBC June 17. The exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of Navy security personnel to respond to threats to installations and units. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry Spain/Released)

July Change of Command ceremonies . . .

July 15: NMCB 1 Change of Command, Cmdr. Wiles will be relieved by Cmdr. Saum, Grinder

July 16: NMCB 74 Change of Command, Cmdr. Nevel will be relieved by Cmdr. Hayes, Grinder

Seabee Magazine online . . . The Spring 2010 issue

of Seabee magazine is available on line at: <http://bit.ly/SPSpring2010>. You can also browse through back issues.

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

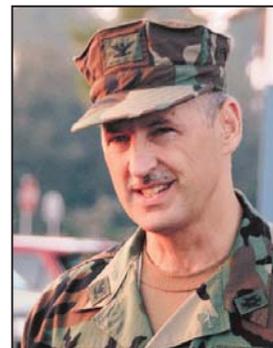
Returning history

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

Soon, very soon, a rich part of the history of our Gulf Coast will be returning. We are proud of each and every recovery and growth step we have made. We rightfully should be! We have chronicled each new and improved facility and documented every deployment. We have seen our spouses leave and welcomed their return. We have seen our contributions grow and have relied even more heavily on each other to get us through long deployments.

In the next few months the Armed Forces Retirement Home will be occupied. This new facility is state of the art and will provide an outstanding living environment for our retired military family.

Some may not know that we all contribute to the operation of this facility. We help honor and care for our own. We throw



Capt. Ed Brown

around the term, "our own" frequently but in this case it is really true. We at Gulfport have always had a close, personal relationship with the home. We get to know the residents and we're proud to honor them. This relationship will be even stronger as they return. We welcome those who have set the path for us and can't wait to get reacquainted.



An artistic rendering of the new Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport scheduled to open this fall.

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.

Passing the time



Equipment Operator 2nd Class Kenneth Little assigned to 20th Seabee Readiness Group (20 SRG) plays catch with Moke, a dolphin rescued during tropical storm Ida in November of 2009. Moke was being transported to Space and Naval Warfare (SPAWAR) U.S. Navy Marine Mammal program in San Diego June 23. Moke had been in the care of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Terry Spain/Released)

CDC takes special guest on summer reading voyage

By MC1 (SCW) Demetrius Kennon
NCBC Public Affairs

The Child Development Center (CDC) on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) invited a special guest to read books to pre-school students at the CDC, June 23, as part of the "Voyage to Book Island" reading program.

Dr. John Kelly, Chief Administrative Officer for the city of Gulfport, was greeted by four and five-year-olds with rambunctious enthusiasm when he arrived to the students' classroom.

"Dealing with pre-school [students] is challenging because you have to get on their level and do things in a fun way, things they can relate to," said Kelly.

Kelly took the children on a voyage to the seashore with a book titled "To the Beach" and went further to explore the depths with a book titled "All the Way to the Ocean."

"Kids always leave a good impression because they are very honest, and you don't

have to worry about what they're thinking," said Kelly. "It's always refreshing when kids can interact with strangers without being shy, and that means the parents have taught them how to use their social skills."

"Voyage to Book Island" is a Department of Defense-wide program designed to keep children engaged in reading during the summer months. As part of the voyage, CDC teachers log the amount of books each student reads or is reading, whether at home or school, and the student with the most books read at the end of each week is rewarded with various prizes. The class with the highest total of books read by all students by the final week earns a special prize.

"We do things like this to encourage parents to read to their children," said Pamela Carlisle, a training and curriculum specialist at the CDC. "It's been a fun voyage, and we were very anxious to have him [Kelly] on board."



Dr. John Kelly, chief administrative officer for the city of Gulfport, visited the child development center on board Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, June 23, to read to four- and five-year-olds as part of the "Voyage to Book Island" reading program. The Department of Defense-wide program is designed to keep children engaged in reading throughout the summer months. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

Navy spouse wins MWR 'Biggest Loser' challenge

By EO2 (SCW) Elizabeth Jacovone
NCBC Public Affairs

The Biggest Loser Challenge was held early March at the Fitness Center on board Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), Gulfport.

The 12-week competition helps motivate military members, Department of Defense personnel and their spouses to become more physically fit.

"Participants have to come in and sign up, grab a workout packet which has nutritional information, how to count your calories and how much water you should drink," said Michael McLaughlin, head fitness trainer at the Fitness Center. "They have to come and weigh in once a month for three months. The winner is [determined by] whoever lost the most body weight percentage, not body fat."

The participants work out on their own. The packet they pick up gives tips on how to exercise including cardio, strength workouts and

also pool exercises.

The Fitness Center uses this formula to see how much body fat the challengers lost; starting weight minus how many pounds you lost divided by starting weight, then taking that decimal and multiplying it by 100 is how the percentage is figured.

Out of 17 participants, only one finished; Laura Turner, a Navy spouse, was the winner of the challenge. She lost 9 percent body fat and a total of 14.2 pounds. Not only did Turner lose the most weight and gain the reward of healthier body, but she also received a massage of her choice.

"I hope that we would have everyone who started the contest finish it. I would like more people to join and try and get it bigger and bigger," said McLaughlin.

This is the second time the fitness center has held this competition; McLaughlin hopes to hold another challenge before Thanksgiving this year.

Sailors who complete motorcycle safety course to get discount at NEX

By Kristine M. Sturkie
NEX Public Affairs

The Navy Exchange, in partnership with the Naval Safety Center and Commander, Navy Installations Command, announced June 17 that it is offering a discount coupon on motorcycle protective gear for all Sailors who complete the Motorcycle Safety Course at their base.

The coupon entitles the Sailor to receive 25 percent off their entire purchase of motorcycle protective equipment sold at select NEXs as well as online at

www.myNavyExchange.com.

"We are happy to partner with the Naval Safety Center to bring this discount coupon to Sailors who have completed their required motorcycle training," said Rear Adm. Steven J. Romano, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM).

"The NEX does all it can to help promote motorcycle safety including selling protective equipment, promoting safety messages and partner-

ing with the Naval Safety Center. We will do all we can to ensure the safety of our Sailors and their families."

"In fiscal year 2009, motorcycle fatalities were down 61 percent in the Navy" said Rear Adm. Arthur Johnson, Commander, Naval Safety Center. "However, we still have more work to do. At least 3,500 Sailors haven't completed their required motorcycle training. We have to close this gap as well. If you know a rider who hasn't been to training, get involved! If you need your three-year refresher course, take responsibility and get to a class! The American people are counting on you to manage risks and ride smart."

Sailors who complete the Navy Motorcycle Rider Training class will receive a coupon from their course instructor and will have 90 days to make their purchase.

To sign up for motorcycle training, go to www.navymotorcyclerider.com or call NCBC Safety at 228-871-4343 for more information.



Student riders weave around obstacles at the 'Bee Grinder' on board NCBC as part of the Basic Riders Course, June 22. During the two-day course taught by rider coach Rickey Morgan, students learn clutch control, smooth breaking, hand and eye coordination and turning fundamentals. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon/Released)

NCTC Senior Riders sponsoring Motorcycle Safety Awareness Day . . .

Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) Senior Riders are sponsoring a Motorcycle Safety Awareness Day, July 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the courtyard in front of the Colmer Dining Facility. This event will provide awareness on proper safety gear and base safety regulations. There will also be vendors along with CBC Safety and the Gulfport Police Department in attendance with static displays of motorcycles, PPE, safety information, and helmet fit tests.

For additional information, contact BUCS(SCW/AW) Brooks, james.c.brooks1@navy.mil.

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**A Reminder from NCBC
Public Safety regarding
Fireworks . . .**

Except for command controlled displays, the possession of explosives and fireworks for sale, storage or use of any description on board NCBC Gulfport property, are strictly prohibited. Fireworks are spectacular to watch, and make great noises, but can be extremely dangerous in the hands of amateurs. Fireworks can turn a joyful celebration into a painful memory when children and adults are injured while using fireworks. NCBC Fire Prevention Division recommends attending public fireworks displays because shows are safer and have better visual displays than what might be accomplished at your home. Stay safe this 4th of July!



Disposable Intelligence . . . Have you ever thought about what your garbage is saying about you? What types of intelligence can an adversary acquire just by looking through your trash can or dumpster? Tons upon tons of wastepaper are being shipped overseas on a daily basis for "recycling." Do you want someone, who could be a potential adversary, on the other side of the world learning about your interests or targeting you as a government employee or contractor? Think about your "disposable intelligence" - think OPSEC!

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NMCB 11 honors 'Seabee Betty' on Guam

By MC2 (SW) Corwin Colbert
Joint Reg. Marianas Public Affairs

U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 honored a Guam native with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Guam Veterans Cemetery June 21.

Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo was born in 1934 in the village of Yona, Guam, Peredo, affectionately called "Seabee Betty" by service members and civilians alike, was a temporary mother and friend to thousands of Seabees deployed to Guam starting in the 1950s until her death in 2003. She hosted welcome and farewell fiestas for Seabees and helped foster a sense of community between military members and the local people.

"For more than five decades, Seabee Betty has reached out to deployed Seabees," said Lt. Christopher Sandmel, of NMCB 11. "Her warmth and hospitality introduced many generations of military service members to the local Chamorro people and culture."

During the ceremony, Lt. Cmdr. William Breckinridge, officer in charge of NMCB 11 Det. Guam, talked about Seabee Betty's induction into the Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, Calif., as only the second civilian to receive that honor. He also spoke about how



Builder 3rd Class Daniel Brown, right, and Construction Electrician 3rd Class Richard Dunaway, both assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, prepare to lay a wreath at the grave of Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo, also known as, Seabee Betty, at a memorial service at Guam Veterans Cemetery in Piti, Guam. (U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero/Released)

numerous U.S. senators, chiefs of naval operations, and other military leadership recognized her for her community service.

"It's remarkable to look back at the life she lived as a friend of the Seabees," Breckinridge said. "It didn't go unnoticed."

Following his remarks, Debbie Peredo-Lujan, daughter of Seabee Betty, thanked everyone for their attendance. NMCB 11 Sailors then

placed a wreath on her grave and sang the Seabee Fight song.

"I really appreciated all the words, and I thank Lt. Cmdr. Breckinridge for having them participate this morning, giving their time to us," Peredo-Lujan said.

In attendance were other members of Peredo's family. Her son-in-law, Joe Lujan, said he remembered when Guam Memorial Hospital was short on blood and Seabee Betty reached out to the Seabees. Some time after, the Seabees showed up to the hospital by the busload ready to donate.

"She was a hero to us all," Peredo-Lujan said. "She was the greatest help to the Seabees."

NMCBs have been on Guam since the island's liberation from Japanese occupation in 1944. Since then, Seabees were responsible for the initial construction on the island's main thoroughfare, Marine Corps Drive, and helped Guam recover from the devastation of typhoons.

NMCBs provide responsive military construction support to Navy, Marine Corps and other forces in military operations, construct base facilities and conduct defensive operations. They are able to work and defend themselves at construction sites outside of their base camp and convoy through unsecured areas.

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Members of the Navy Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, work on the Tactical Operations Center June 20, in the cannery on Camp Nathan Smith, Kandahar City, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Casey A. Collier/Released)

NMCB 133 transforms cannery

By Spc. Casey Collier
22nd Mobile Public Affairs

When one walks into the old cannery warehouse on the western side of the Camp Nathan Smith compound here in Kandahar City, they'll notice a dark expanse dimly lit through broken windows and surrounded by cracked, brick columns that reach from the concrete floor to the 20-foot high ceiling.

But after an initial inspection of the cannery, something more subtle begins to come into view- graffiti on the dusty, white walls, scrawled there in Arabic script by former prisoners that were chained along the very same walls when the can-

nery was used by the Taliban as a prison.

The cannery was erected in the early 1970s, funded by Czech investors, and for nearly 20 years was fully operational, employing more than 1,200 citizens of Kandahar City at its peak.

When the Mujahedeen took over in 1992, they closed the cannery and turned it into a prison.

It remained a prison for nine years until the Taliban fled in 2001. Then, in 2005, the Canadian government took over the property to build Camp Nathan Smith.

Today, the old cannery is changing again.

The sound of pounding hammers and the buzzing of saws echo

throughout. It is the sound of another incarnation, this time as part of an expansion effort to accommodate the influx of future occupants here at CNS.

The battalion in charge of transforming the cannery into a Joint Operations and Tactical Operations Center is a Navy Seabee Battalion.

"The Seabees on the ground here at Camp Nathan Smith have exceeded my highest expectations and have continued to impress me daily," said Officer in Charge, Lt.j.g. Craig Lawson, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133.

"Our small unit leaders have taken

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'Fearless' aggressors of NMCB 74 prepare Reserve battalion NMCB 18 for Afghanistan deployment

By MC2 Michael Lindsey
NMCB 74 Public Affairs

Fifty Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 returned to Gulfport June 21 after spending three weeks helping the 20th Seabee Readiness Group (20 SRG) conduct NMCB 18's Field Training Exercise and Final Evaluation Period at Camp Shelby, Miss.

NMCB 18, a reserve battalion from Fort Lewis, Wash., is scheduled for an eight-month deployment to Afghanistan later this summer.

NMCB 74 provided 35 aggressors to role-play as NMCB 18's opposing force. Communicators, gunner's mates, culinary specialists and intelligence specialists from NMCB 74 also went to the field in support of the FTX/FEP. Twenty-four hour operations were sustained during the three-week exercise, during which Seabees from 20 SRG ran contingency construction scenarios.

"I am proud to have helped a battalion prepare for a deployment to Afghanistan," said Lt. j.g. Tommy Vaughn, NMCB 74's Aggressor Det. officer-in-charge. "We conducted real life scenarios that NMCB 18 could encounter in Afghanistan," . "We repeatedly attacked their det.

sites and their main body sites, and pushed NMCB 18 to make mistakes so they can learn from them before they deploy to a contingency environment."

According to Construction Electrician 2nd Class Casey Cole, 20 SRG weapons and tactics instructor, the aggressors are initially used to probe the battalion's defenses.

Knowledge and use of the rules of engagement and proper reaction to an enemy threat are evaluated and then the scenarios gradually move to more escalation of force type missions.

"We start out easy and build up; we don't want to just come in and overrun their camp, although it happens sometimes," said Cole. "If they do not want to play the game, then we just bring it harder."

During the exercise, the aggressor's normally make first contact with the evaluated battalion's Quick Reaction Force. The QRF stands at the ready and responds to any reports of enemy activity in the camp. The aggressors do their best to present unexpected scenarios that confuse the responding team.

"This has opened my eyes to a lot of things I didn't anticipate," said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Mark Bergen, an NMCB 18 QRF

squad leader. "This training keeps reinforcing that you can't let your guard down. You got to stay on your toes. It's almost like re-programming you because, lets face it, we got it cushy here in the states."

Many of the aggressors agreed that this training is a good opportunity to get familiar with the battalion's weapons arsenal.

"I had a lot of fun shooting the different weapons," said Builder Constructionman Apprentice Randall Oates, an NMCB 74 aggressor. "On one mission I shot an M-14 as a sniper in the grass, and on another mission I manned a .50 cal. (caliber) machine gun mounted on a truck. I would recommend that if you haven't been an aggressor before you should."

Recently returned from an Afghanistan contingency deployment, NMCB 74's aggressors proved a formidable opponent to the reservists assigned to NMCB 18. According to Builder 1st Class Dennis Zeitler, a NMCB 18 QRF squad leader, they [NMCB 18] had their work cut out for them defending against the aggressor's attacks, but their battalion learned a lot.

"They [NMCB 74] had one team sneak in on us and get so close to our people who weren't paying at-



Seabee aggressors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 "play dead" after attempting to rush the Entry Control Point of NMCB 18's Main Body site. NMCB 74 provided 50 personnel to assist in NMCB 18's Field Training Exercise and Final Evaluation Period at Camp Shelby, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Michael Lindsey/Released)

tention that they were knife killing us (simulated). One of the NMCB 74 guys was in the smoke pit and he walks up to [our guy] and says, 'hey man you got a light' and the guy is like 'yeah sure' and gets knife killed. That right there shows a lot of the complacency that we need to deal with," said Zeitler.

The three-week exercise culminated in NMCB 18's successful completion

of their FTX/FEP, and thanks to the efforts of both battalions is ready for their first Afghanistan deployment.

"The Seabees of NMCB 18 are your brothers and sisters. They are going into harms way, so everything you have done here as aggressors was very important and you should take pride in that," said Cmdr. Bruce Nevel, NMCB 74 commanding officer.

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NMCB 7 Det Liberia recognized for QOL improvements

By SWCA Stella Trusty
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 Det. Liberia received commendation certificate from Lt. Col. Daniel Moore, commanding officer, Armed Forces of Liberia's (AFL) 23rd Infantry Regiment, May 10 for camp construction improvements.

The Seabee detachment arrived in Liberia in mid-February to construct two AFRICOM counter-narcotics terrorism projects and conduct discretionary projects in support of the Armed Forces of Liberia Coast Guard, as well as AFL Soldiers and Engineers at Camp Edward Binyah Kesselly Military Barracks.

To date, Det. Liberia has cleared and made significant improvements of an existing 200 meter by 75 meter small arms range for AFL soldiers. This horizontal project pre-

sented a great opportunity to increase the AFL's operational and training readiness while providing invaluable hands on training for Seabee engineering aides and equipment operators in their primary construction skills.

Upon completing improvements to the camp's small arms range, the Seabees created a one acre national cemetery on the EBK compound, dedicated to the Armed Services of Liberia. "I cannot thank the Seabees enough," said Lt. Col. Moore. "Your hard work and skill has blessed this Army, increasing pride and ownership in our installation and military tradition."

Det. Liberia continues its construction of a CNT funded AFL Coast Guard Boat Ramp and a concrete masonry unit perimeter wall. Construction of the Coast Guard boat ramp is currently 50 percent complete and scheduled for completion by early June.

The CMU wall construction has been a success to both the Seabees and AFL Engineers, due to the military to military training evolution between the units.

"The academic curriculum, consisting of program management and CMU construction, is a valued success for both parties to hone managerial skills and construction techniques," said Lt. Aaron Allison, det. officer in charge.

Other camp improvements included the clearing of vegetation, around newly constructed barracks, to create additional parking and minor road repair within the facility.

Acceptance of the Armed Forces of Liberia's Commendation Certificate, on behalf of Cmdr. Jayson D. Mitchell, commanding officer of NMCB 7, were Allison and Chief Builder Joe Williams, assistant officer in charge.



Det. Liberia Officer in Charge, Lt. Aaron Allison, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7, receives an Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) Commendation Certificate from Lt. Col. Daniel Moore, on behalf of NMCB 7, as an appreciation for construction improvements at Camp Edward Binyah Kesselly (EBK). (Official U.S. Navy photo/Released)

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ownership of this expansion project and are looking to exceed the required quality of construction, while finishing ahead of schedule."

NMCB 133, hailing from Gulfport, Miss., has been in Afghanistan since early March, and began construction on the cannery June 12.

The cannery is only part of a larger expansion project, including six office buildings and widened lanes for vehicle travel, which will most likely be complete before the 133rd are finished with the entire project.

"A typical day on this site consists of almost 50 personnel working on two different TOCs/JOCs simultaneously, and the rest of the camp's expansion is being completed by additional Seabees," said Lawson.

In total, the expansion project will provide 25,216 square feet of space on CNS, with the estimated completion date of the project set for later this summer.

Engineering Aid 2nd Class

Zachary Cunningham is in charge of quality control at the cannery site.

"As soon as we get to a site, we are expected to make significant progress, and it's normally with

short timelines," said Cunningham. "Being able to build here, we feel like we're now able to contribute to the mission here."

As the cannery takes on its newest role, and goes through its most dramatic physical transformation since its original construction, it continues to stand as a symbol of change and progress in Kandahar City. The Seabees are glad to be a part of that change.

"I'm just really proud to be here," said Cunningham, "I'm really proud to see all these Americans here. We are working to bring peace to this country. We are working to bring freedom to a country that doesn't have that right now. It's a real good feeling."

This week the graffiti on the cannery walls will disappear behind fresh paint- and with its disappearance will go the remnants of such a time when the cannery housed despair and frailty.

When the construction is done on the cannery and the new doors open, so does a new chapter in the book of CNS, and the building that continues to change along with this city.

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 Cadillacs; **Moss Point:** Tony's Lounge; **Ocean Springs:** Pugs; **Pascagoula:** Carver Village, Bunksmall Apartments, H&H Hideaway
Current "off-limits" establishments are agreed upon and approved by local Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board

Ad Space

Ad Space

Final tournament played, course ready for transformation

By Rob Mims
NCBC Public Affairs Officer

As the final putt ending the Pine Bayou Farewell Golf Tournament fell June 25, so too ended 30 years of golf on board Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport. However, with every ending, there is a new beginning.

"The concept provides a variety of outdoor activities to all personnel and families supported via MWR," said Chad Baldwin, MWR Operations Manager.

Beginning July 1, MWR personnel will start the transition to Seabee Park, which will be focused around the current Grill complex. The Grill will begin to see a transition from a snack food facility to a restaurant and bar.

Next to the Grill, a batting cage and driving range will be installed. There will be chipping and putting areas still in place, as well as four golf holes to allow practice play (walking only).

The current paintball course will be closed and the fence will be removed to make the area more esthetically pleasing; however, a brand new speedball/paintball course will be added for open field action.

The property will also include a dog park and pavilions, running and walking trails, a second RV park and other similar activities. There will be several ball fields (soccer, football) east of Colby along with tables and grills to enhance "Sports Day" activities.

MWR's Outdoor Recreation will move from the Auto Skills Shop into the golf course maintenance facility. This will

NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER
VOLKSLAUF MUD RUN 2010

NEW T-SHIRTS
NEW OBSTACLES
NEW MUD

SAT. SEPT 18 AT 8AM

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http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1863205
www.cnbc.navy.mil/Gulfport/index
FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS

Interested in volunteering? Check out www.volunteermississippi.org for information on volunteer opportunities in your community.

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Capt. Ed Brown, center, commanding officer of Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport and commander, 20th Seabee Readiness Group (SRG) along with Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman, (SCW/FMF) David Porter, left, the oldest hospital corpsman and Hospital Corpsman Kyle Kelly the youngest hospital corpsman, cut the ceremonial cake during the 112th birthday celebration of hospital corpsman, on board NCBC June 17. (U.S. Navy photo by Equipment Operator 2nd Class Elizabeth Jacavone/Released)



**WANTED:
Seabee
Divers!
Underwater
Construction
Team ONE**

**Contact:
S1/CCC@
(757) 462-
3986/3988**

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Buzz on the Street



By MC1 (SW) Terry Spain
NCBC Public Affairs

What do you think of WEBTA - Web Tuition Assistance?



"I think WEBTA is a way for accountability. We as Sailors' should not have to worry about losing our paperwork, and I like the new process."

LS2 Shakira Hammonds
20th SRG

Hometown: Fayetteville, N.C.



"I recently used the new WEBTA and it saved me a lot of time and paper. I think it's a great move by the Navy."

BMCS (SW) Mickey Louis
NCBC

Hometown: Port Arthur, Texas



"I think this was a great transition for the Navy. It cuts the processing time considerably."

LS1 (SW) Deborah Byrd
FISC Jacksonville

Hometown: Hickory Grove, S.C.

Career Fair . . . Fleet and Family Support Center will hold a Career Fair July 15 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Call 228-871-3000 for more information.

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Left: Builder 2nd Class Michael Hansen (left), assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 and Equipment Operator 2nd Class Luis Bonilla, assigned to NMCB 74, are given a lesson in lawn bowling by a New York Lawn Bowling Club staff member during Fleet Week in New York. Seabees from the Naval Construction Force (NCF) set up a static display on USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) to showcase the Navy's construction capabilities while participating in Fleet Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Gregory Motyka/Released)

Right: Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 74 are given a tour of ground zero during Fleet Week in New York. Seabees from the Naval Construction Force (NCF) set up a static display on USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) to showcase the Navy's construction capabilities while participating in Fleet Week. (U.S. Navy photo by Construction Electrician 1st Class Gregory Motyka/Released)

Naval Construction Force demonstrates 'Can Do' spirit at Fleet Week 2010

By NMCB 74 Public Affairs

On May 26, Seabees representing First Naval Construction Division (INCD) met in Norfolk, Va., and sailed to New York City on board USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) for Fleet Week. Seabees from 20th Seabee Readiness Group (20 SRG), Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) 74 and 7, and Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2 participated in the 23rd annual fleet week.

New York City has been celebrating the sea services since 1984. The week of interaction between the service members allowed the citizens of New York and the surrounding tri-state area the opportunity to meet more than 3,000 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in town for the event. "This is a big opportunity for the Seabees to let the public know the capabilities of the Naval Construction Force," said Lt. j.g. Victor Wong, NMCB 74's MWR officer.

The battalion Seabees brought a

loader, Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement (MTVR) Cargo and MTVR Dump on board Iwo Jima to showcase their Civil Engineering Construction Equipment (CESE), while the underwater team displayed a diver's suit. Hundreds of visitors stopped by the static display to learn about the unique capabilities and duties of the Navy's construction force.

Fleet Week is an excellent opportunity to showcase the capabilities of the Naval Construction Force alongside the traditional seagoing Sailors. According to the Seabees who participated, many civilians did not know the Navy has a Naval Construction Force, except for visiting veterans of WWII and Vietnam who served with Seabees during their tours of duty.

No meeting of service veterans would be complete without a couple "sea stories," and Fleet Week was no exception. One Vietnam veteran recounted a meeting between his unit and a Seabee unit while on patrol. He described the

battalion's hospitality and his amazement at seeing bulldozers and graders in the middle of the jungle, wondering how they had gotten there without their knowing, and according to the gentleman's eye witness, he was utterly shocked when his unit discovered that the Seabees had acquired a functioning ice cream machine.

Fleet Week allows everyone involved the opportunity to experience something that they would likely never experience if it were not for the U.S. Navy and the city of New York hosting this yearly event. From the visitors on board the ships and boats to the service members interacting with the citizens in Time Square, a positive impression is felt by all.

"This has been an experience for all of us to remember; embarking onto the USS Iwo Jima in Norfolk, Va., sailing it to Manhattan and letting the public know the "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees," said Chief Steelworker Moshe Alcantara, an NMCB 74 platoon chief.

NMCB 11 participates in Pacific Partnership



CHAMBAK, Cambodia - Equipment Operators 3rd Class Sean Wade, right, and Thomas Wood, from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, level out dirt after the installation of a solar panel to power a fresh-water well at an engineering civic action site. The Seabees are working in collaboration with crewmembers from the Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy (T-AH 19). Mercy is in Cambodia supporting Pacific Partnership, the fifth in a series of annual U.S. Pacific Fleet humanitarian and civic assistance endeavors to strengthen regional partnerships. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jon Husman/Released)

3NCR 'Leaders' participate in CERTEX

By MCC (SW) Terrina Weatherspoon
3NCR Public Affairs

More than 80 members of the Third Naval Construction Regiment out of Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Atlanta, participated in a week long certification exercise at the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss., from June 21 through June 25.

"The CERTEX is the most critical event in a six-month, six-evolution certification process, which each regiment goes through to determine whether they are ready and capable of executing their mission once deployed," said Master Chief Equipmentman Neal Beard, the command master chief for 3NCR. "We have been very aggressive over the last year to identify and to train required skill sets that will allow us to perform our mission in the theater."

"The CERTEX is validation that we understand the basics of how to operate in an expeditionary environment," said Beard. "Whether we deploy to a high risk or low risk area, this exercise is used to test us to make sure we fully understand our responsibilities."

This exercise was the culmination of months of pre-deployment training 3NCR has been participating in during



Engineering Aide 1st Class Timothy Rossow, assigned to the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment (3NCR), maintains the petty officer of the watch position on the watch floor of the combat operations center during a training exercise held on board NCBC, June 21. 3NCR, also known as "The Leaders," is undergoing the culminating exercise of their six-month certification as part of the Seabee Staff Training Program. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Demetrius Kennon)

the certification process in preparation for their mission to Afghanistan in early August.

Each step in the certification process was used to ensure that elements of the

Naval Construction Force have the necessary command and control skills for employment throughout the 1st Naval Construction Division's area of operations, said Keith L. Faust, the exercise de-

sign and operations manager.

The exercise took 3NCR members through a series of response-based scenarios. The scenarios were filtered through the Command Operations Center. The COC is considered the communications hub for large scale operations.

"All information for a particular unit travels in and out of the COC," said Lt. Cmdr. Gerald Wilson, the admin officer for 3NCR. "The COC has a representative from each of the major departments. It provides a real-time snapshot of everything that is going on including movement, personnel, supplies and capabilities of that unit."

"The exercise went well," said Beard. We identified weaknesses and strengths within our regiment improved each day."

Staying positive and receptive to instructor feedback was the key to success, said Capt. Donald Hedrick, the Commodore for 3NCR.

"There is a lot we are doing that is new to a lot of people, and it's going to be a challenge," he said, adding that communication and teamwork are keys to overcoming those challenges. "At this point we don't know what we don't know. This certification process is designed to bridge that gap."

NMCB 7 'Bees demonstrate 'Can Do' spirit in Djibouti

By MC2 Patrick Gordon
NMCB 7 Public Affairs

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 have been lending their support and expertise to Camp Lemonnier and the surrounding communities in Djibouti since relieving NMCB 3 in February.

Seabees first arrived in Djibouti in 2005, and the camp's expansion is largely due to their efforts. But camp con-

struction and maintenance is only part of the Seabees' job here.

"Our main objective here is humanitarian projects," said Engineering Aide 2nd Class Gregg Morris of Pawtucket, R.I. "Normally, Seabees go on six month deployments, but NMCB 7 is currently on a 10 month deployment. I think we can really do a lot of good in the community with that extra time."

Morris mentioned that the current deployment is one of the longest that the Seabees have done in years.

Working alongside Djiboutians, the Seabees are currently tackling several projects, including construction of a school in Comoros and a water distribution concrete pad in Naghad, Djibouti. Most recently, NMCB 7 has been

preparing to drill water wells in Ethiopia.

But once a project is complete, the Seabees job is only half done.

"As Seabees, we really split our time between initial construction and maintenance," said NMCB 7 public works crew supervisor Steelworker 1st Class Lynnette King of Cleveland, Ohio. "If we build a structure, it is under our maintenance for a year."

Through it all, the Seabees of NMCB 7 take pride in what they do and how much they help in and around military installations.

"Seabees can do it from the ground up across the board," said King. "It really feels great to be a part of a team that does so much for people who have so little. It's rewarding and really makes you thankful, too."



Builder Constructionman Joseph Scott, right, Builder Constructionman Selina Rodriguez and Equipment Operator Constructionman Apprentice Corey Moore with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 measure and secure rebar framework on a water distribution pad under construction in Naghad. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

July 1, 2010

Seabee Courier

Focus on Education

Gulfport High clubs send supplies to Seabees overseas

Gulfport, Mississippi, April 12, 2010 - Gulfport High School Admiral Baseball Diamond Girls and Key Club members collected supplies to send to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, which is currently deployed to Afghanistan. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 was deployed in March for approximately five months.



Laurin Richard is a member of both clubs and her father is deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133. Mr. Richards has been deployed 11 times in his military career, three to war zones.

Photo courtesy of Gulfport High School

The Diamond Girls are a student based booster club for Gulfport High's baseball team, and the Key Club is a student-led community service organization associated with Kiwanis Club.

Photo and write up courtesy of Gulfport High School

Two area schools need your help . . .

28th Street Elementary and North Bay Elementary need playgrounds moved. Anyone willing to step up and take charge of the moves can contact Public Affairs Officer Rob Mims at 228-871-2699.

Sittercity . . .

New childcare program for all service members. Find your local babysitters/nannies, with your DoD funded membership to Sittercity! You can also find CDH/FCC providers, military subsidized and authorized access to an installation care providers, and even elder care providers, dog walkers and more. Activate your membership today; there is no cost to you! Go to www.sittercity.com/dod

July 1, 2010

Seabee Courier

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Gulfport schools now offering Kindergarten Camp



From Kevin Byrd
NCBC School Liaison Officer

As the Gulfport School District strives to make your child's initial experience into kindergarten success, we are excited to announce the first annual kindergarten camp.

This camp will be held at your child's school the week of July 26 - 30 from 8- 11 a.m.

While at camp, your child will get a head start on what kindergarten is like. Some of

the areas covered are:

- The physical layout of the building;
- Meeting two teachers your child will see during the school year;
- Learning Centers;
- Library, music, art in the classroom;
- Meeting future classmates.

If you would like your child to attend Kindergarten Camp, please contact the school your child will be attending. The first 30 applicants will be accepted.

- contact schools directly, call:
 - Anniston Elementary: 228-896-6309
 - Bayou View Elementary: 228-865-4625
 - Central Elementary: 228-865-4642
 - Gaston Point Elementary: 228-865-4656
 - Pass Road Elementary: 228-865-4659
 - West Elementary: 228-870-1025
 - 28th Street Elementary: 228-865-4642

School Liaison Officer
Location: MWR, building 352,
1706 Bainbridge Ave. , NCBC
(228) 871-2117 or e-mail
kevin.r.byrd@navy.mil

The School Liaison Officer's main objective is to serve as a link between parents, educators, and the command so the military-connected child can make a smooth school transition. Other duties include creating partners

in education, home school linkage, post secondary preparations, and to act as a conduit connecting educators to Navy deployment and to serve as a subject matter expert for education-related issues.



Liberty Center

Liberty has tons of great opportunities for you to get off base and have some fun! On July 2, the Liberty bus is providing a free Cinemark Movie Shuttle, departing Liberty at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. July 3, the Liberty bus is traveling to NAS Pensacola to check out the Naval Aviation Museum. Bus departs Liberty at noon - trip is only \$3. Sign up by noon, July 2.

The Our Lady of the Gulf Crab Festival is July 4 at 11 a.m. and is FREE. You must sign-up by noon, July 2. The Liberty bus will be providing a free Edgewater Mall Shuttle July 5, which departs Liberty at 6 p.m. July 9, Liberty will be going on a miniature golf trip at Big Play in Biloxi. Trip departs Liberty at 6 p.m. and is only \$8 which includes 18-hole game of mini-golf, 2 slices of pizza and a drink! CPR Fest is July 10 - come see Limp Bizkit, Aaron Lewis of Staind, Buckcherry, Trapt and Sick Puppies at the Coast Coliseum. This trip departs at 3 p.m. and is only \$44. Must sign up by noon, July 9. There will be a New Orleans day trip July 11, which departs Liberty at 10 a.m. and is only \$3. Sign up by noon, July 9.

If you're more interested in on-base activities we have plenty of those for you as well and they're all FREE! July 7 is our Dodgeball Game at the softball fields by the Fitness Center beginning at 6 p.m. July 8 is National Ice Cream Sundae Day - come enjoy a sundae beginning

Movies . . . Get out of the heat and catch a blockbuster! Movies are FREE and shown 7 days a week! Stop by the Training Hall for a schedule or call the Movie Hotline at 228-871-3299.



at 10:30 a.m. in the Liberty Center (while supplies last). July 13 is our Pool Party at the Fitness Center pool at 6 p.m., and July 14 will be a "Last Buck Pizza Party" at 5 p.m. in the Liberty Center; free pizza!!!

July tournaments include; Pool Tournaments July 1 and July 15. Ping Pong Tournaments July 6 and July 27. Bingo - July 12. Foosball Tournament - July 19. Arm Wrestling Tournament July 22. Lastly, we have a Poker Tournament on July 29. All of these begin at 6 p.m. in the Liberty Center and are FREE to enter. Prizes are awarded to 1st and 2nd place! Call 228-871-4684 for more Liberty Center information.

Information, Tickets, and Tours

Senior Special June 1 - July 31: New Orleans Audubon Zoo \$8.75, Aquarium of the Americas \$12, I-MAX \$6.25. Gulf Island Water Park tickets - \$18/person (ages 3 and up). Take your single day ticket to the window and upgrade it to a season pass for \$25 plus tax.

Learning Resource Lab

The Learning Resource Lab is a computer lab used for studying, learning or just surfing the Internet. Everyone with military identification is allowed to use the Resource Lab including active duty, retiree's, reservist, dependants and DOD employee's that are 16 years of age and older. The LRL is located inside of ITT.

Fitness Center

Bench Press Competition is July 7 at 4 p.m. Open to all CBC Fitness Center patrons over 18 years of age. Weight classes, Male: 150 and under, 150-180, 180-200, 200-230, 230 and over. Female: 120 and under, 120-140, 140-160, 160 and over.

The Fitness Center is looking for participants to compete in the "Family Bike Race" which will be held July 10 at 8:30 a.m. on the Grinder. Families are encouraged to compete or just ride at their own pace in the race. There are a limited number of bikes available through Outdoor Recreation so register early for this exciting new event by contacting Xavier at 228-822-5108.

Squat Contest, July 21 at 4 p.m. Must be 18 and over to compete. Do you have the strongest

quads, core, and hamstrings on base? For more info or rules please contact Xavier at 228-871-2668.

All "Group" Fitness Classes are FREE to all Active Duty, Retirees, Dependents, and DoD employees. All eligible Fitness Center customers are welcome. For more information please contact the front desk at 228-871-2668.

Work out while your children have fun! Just because your kids come first doesn't mean your fitness has to come last. Work out at the Fitness Center while your kids enjoy fun filled activities at one of the Child and Youth Programs Activities. Drop in fees are \$3 per hour at the CDC and at the YAC during the After School and Holiday Camp Programs.

Family Fitness Classes: Good news parents! Get a great workout and bond with your child. It's a win-win for everyone! "Tiny Tots" is held Tuesday and Thursday at 8 a.m. and "Stroll-N-Stride" is held Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m.

Intramural Sports

Are you ready for Volleyball? Interested participants must sign up by stopping by the Fitness Center before July 2. The season begins July 12. For more information please contact IM Sports Coordinator, Sam, at 228822-5109.

IM Basketball sign ups are coming in August with the season starting in September. IM Bowling League coming this fall . . . more details to come.

The Racquetball League has concluded and the winner was Chief Steelworker Scott Miller with Twentieth Seabee Readiness Group (20SRG) who went undefeated, 18-0, the entire season. Honorable mention goes to the 2nd place finisher Edward McLaughlin, with (Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering (CSFE).

Child Development Center

Drop in services are available Monday-Friday from 6 a.m.- 5 p.m. for children up to age 5.

Aquatics

Summer Swim Hours: Monday-Friday: 5:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m. PT Lap Swim (Active Duty Only); 8 -10 a.m. Youth Activity Center Program; 10 - 11 a.m. Swim Lessons/Lap Swim; 11 - noon Water Aerobics/Lap Swim; noon - 8 p.m. Open Family Swim

Fun at the zoo



Youth Activity Center summer campers take a cool-off break in the shade during their June 10 field trip to the Audobon Zoo in New Orleans. (Photo courtesy of MWR)

(newborn - 15 years MUST be with a parent); 5 - 6 p.m. Swim Lessons; 8 - 9 p.m. Lap Swim Only (Ages 10 and up). Weekend and Holidays: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Open Family Swim (newborn - 15 years MUST be with a parent). Appropriate swim wear is required/USCG approved floatation devices only for all hours. No food or drink allowed. Learn to Swim! July 19 - 30 (Registration begins July 1); Aug. 9 - 30 (Registration begins Aug. 1). Each session consists of eight, 30 minute classes. The cost is \$35/child. For more information, call 228-822-5103

Outdoor Recreation

For questions concerning "First 4 Fun" trips or to check availability, please call 228-871-2127. July trips include: July 10-Blue Bayou Water Park and Dixie Landin'. Two great parks for the price of 1. Depart at 8 a.m. - cost is only \$40. Great value! July 17-Blood and Sand VIII. Depart at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25. July 17-Gulf Islands Waterpark. Depart at 10 a.m. Join us for cool summer fun for all ages. Only \$20. July 18-New Orleans day trip. Depart at 9 a.m. Bring the entire family and visit the Aquarium, IMAX, and Zoo. Cost is only \$3. July 23 - Comedian Charlie Murphy. Must be 21 and older to attend! Depart at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$28-\$38. July 24-Big Kahuna Waterpark. Depart at 8 a.m. Bring the kids and enjoy the thrills, chills, and spills. Only \$40/person.

Vehicle Storage

Deployment Special -Free stor-

age for first vehicle and 50 percent off each additional vehicle, including all RV's for all deploying troops. Must present a letter of deployment from your command. For more information and space availability, contact your MWR Auto Hobby Shop at 228-871-2804.

Auto Hobby Shop Special

Receive a 10 percent discount on a vehicle lift. An ASE mechanic is on duty during normal working hours to assist you with any automotive questions so feel free to give us a call.

CBC Lake Pavilion

The CBC Park and Lake has many things to offer for your outdoor enjoyment. MWR has three large pavilions for rent that include picnic tables, BBQ grills, lighting and electrical. There are also 11 smaller pavilions for use. These are not for rent; they are first come first served. Also at the park area is a large covered kid friendly playground area, basketball court, sand volleyball court. The highlight of the items MWR has at the lake are the paddle boats. These are at no cost to authorized patrons. There are two deck boxes on the pier that have various sizes of life vests which must be worn at all times while on the water. Contact Outdoor Rec. at 228-871-2127.

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

See MWR page 17

allow passersby to see the hundreds of pieces of recreational and boating equipment they have to offer. The move will also enable a fully utilized and operational Auto Skills Shop which will open up more than four additional indoor bays and a dozen outdoor bays. The last part of the land will be turned over to 20th Seabee Readiness Group for use as a much needed training area. The majority of the transition will be completed by Oct. 1.

"This is what Gulfport needs," said Capt. Ed Brown, commanding officer of NCBC and commander, 20th Seabee Readiness Group. "I believe the improvements add not only to sports, but to Auto Skills and Outdoor Recreation. I believe it will enhance the quality of life programs and will continue to drive the base to provide outstanding service."

To put this plan into effect however, the Pine Bayou Golf Course, as it is currently configured, must be closed. Brown has directed MWR to provide temporary fields where appropriate and allow the existing golf holes to the west of Colby remain open where possible for practice play.

Pine Bayou, which was formally only a 9-hole course, was designed by Willard C. Byrd and built in 1980. In May 1999 another 9-holes were added. Over the past years, support for a full 18-hole golf course has continued to dwindle.

While the MWR staff has made vast improvements, past conditions on the course and competition from local courses has caused a significant erosion of clientele; something had to change. The decision, albeit not arrived at lightly, was to redesign the area so more people could use it.



Buckle up for safety every time . . . Click it or ticket!

NCBC Marquee Message Procedure . . . The electronic marquees located at the Pass Road and Broad Avenue gates are ready to display your messages. Please email your requests at least five days prior to the date you want it posted. Make sure the message is no more than 15 words to allow it to be placed on both marquees. There are space restrictions unique to each marquee, so the messages will be broken down to fit on the marquees properly. We try to accommodate all requests, though not all messages are guaranteed to be posted. Postings are at the discretion of the Public Affairs Office. For more information or to submit requests email bonnie.lindleymcgerr@navy.mil or robert.c.mims@navy.mil.

Ad Space

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Homefront in Focus: The Service Flag

By Beth Wilson
Military Spouse Contributor

I recently moved into a new neighborhood. Part of my normal 'decorating' is hanging a "Service Flag" in my window to honor and support my husband. As I was leaving my home to walk my dogs my new neighbor came over to introduce herself and welcome me to the neighborhood. She pointed to the Service Flag in my window and asked its meaning. I gave her a quick answer but her question gave rise to my own questions. What is the Service Flag...?

The Service Flag, also called "Blue Star Banner" or 'Sons in Service Flag' has a rich heritage. While many may be aware of its popularity during World War II, it was actually first hung in World War I by Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the

front line. This symbol of support gained immediate support by the public and government officials alike. In September, 1917 an Ohio congressman read into the Congressional record: "The mayor of Cleveland, the Chamber of Commerce and the Governor of Ohio have adopted this service flag. The world should know of those who give so much for liberty; the dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother - their children."

The flag, a white field with a red border, displays stars representing those family members who serve. A gold star with blue edges represents a family member that died during service (not necessarily killed in action). A blue star signifies a family member on active duty. The colors are symbolic in that the blue star represents hop and pride and the Gold Star represents sacrifice to the cause of

liberty and freedom.

While blue and gold stars are the only colors specified for use some use silver stars to represent those discharged from service because of wounds or convalescing at home.

Recently both the House of Representatives and the Senate have passed the Silver Star Service Banner Day Resolution. Silver Star Families of America (www.silverstarfamilies.org), an organization supporting those wounded, ill or dying members of the Armed Forces, spearheaded this resolution. May 1 is Silver Star Service Banner Day.

Today the Service Flag is an official banner authorized by the Department of Defense. The DoD specifies that family members authorized to display the (indoor) flag include the wife, husband, mother, father, stepfather, parent through adoption, foster parents,

loco parentis, children, stepchildren, foster children, siblings including step-siblings of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and should be displayed in the residence of the immediate family member.

During World War II the display of the Service Flag was widespread. Virtually each home and organization displayed banners to indicate the number of members of the family or organization serving in the Armed Forces. While not popular during the Vietnam era these flags are again surging in popularity as a sign of support for both the service member and the family supporting them.

Service Flags are available from many sources including your local base Exchange. You can receive a free Service Flag from www.mybluestarflag.com/freebluestarflag. These flags are provided to every service member, "to pay tribute to



Beth Wilson

your hard work, dedication and service to our country by Grantham University.

The Service Flag, a rich tradition. Let us fly ours proudly. Email Beth at beth@homefrontin-focus.com. Check out this Enlisted Spouse Radio at www.blogtalkradio.com/nht.

From MWR page 15

Sreet. The cost is \$5/week or \$15/month. Location is in a high visibility area and is lighted for extra security. For more information, call 228-871-2804.

Shield's RV Park

The MWR Shield's RV Park is located on 9th St. in the north east corner of the installation just north of building 452 - the NCBC Welcome Center/ Metro Housing facility. The park has 68 full service sites. There are 53

pull through sites and 16 back in sites. All sites have full hook ups. These hook ups include 50, 30, & 20 amp outlets. Phone service hook up, sewage, potable water, free cable and WI-FI. The park also has coin operated laundry facilities and full ADA restroom and showers. Hours of operation are Monday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. year round. For more information on space availability and fees, contact the Shield's RV Park office at 228-871-5435.

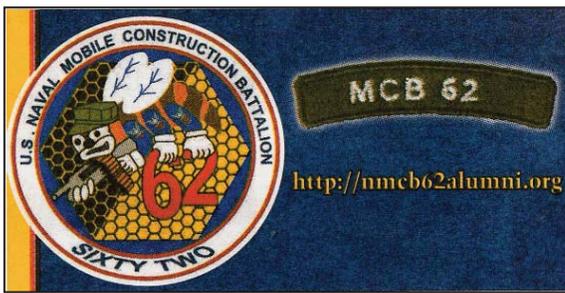


Navy Seabee Veterans of America Island X-1 Gulfport are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time.

Island X-1 Gulfport meets the second Thursday of

each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. For more information contact Joe Scott (Secretary) at 228-669-8335 or elevenoaks58@cableone.net or log onto WWW.NSVA.ORG for an application.

Ad Space



Ad Space

Ad Space

MWR Fun



The Child Development Center (CDC) celebrated Father's Day June 18 with an Ice Cream Social. Although the dad's were treated to ice cream with all the fixings, the children ate their fair share as well. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of MWR/Released)

"First 4 Fun" participants enjoyed a beautiful day of water fun during a canoe/kayak day trip on the Okatoma River June 20. More water fun is happening July 10 with a trip to Blue Bayou Water Park and Dixie Landin'. Interested? Call 228-871-2127 for trip details. (U.S. Navy photo courtesy of MWR/Released)



Runnin' Roos' receive kudos

By *BUCA Stacey Decook*
NMCB 133 Public Affairs

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Air Det. was praised by General Andrew Leslie of the Royal Canadian Army for the expansion projects they completed in Dand District Center, Afghanistan.

The Seabees completed many projects during the expansion of Forward Operating Bases and Command Outposts in Dand District Center, Afghanistan.

Leslie stopped to visit his troops and personally thanked and praised the Seabees for their completed tasking and how it contributed to the overall mission of the Royal Canadian Army as well as the United States Army.

Seabees completed two shower units and the construction of 12 Alaska tents, a 64'x32' platform and wired a power grid for the 12 tents while in Dand District Center. The Seabees also completed four Alaska tents in Walakan and 10 Alaska tents as well as one shower unit and a power grid for the 10 tents in Balanday.

The Seabees enjoyed fantastic ac-

commodations and great cooking that were provided by the Canadians. "The meals were better than home cooking!" said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Jose Zouain. The Canadians worked right along side of the Seabees offering any assistance they could to include tools, cold water, and sunscreen. They gave the Seabees head of the line privileges when they worked extended hours.

The Seabees impressed the Royal Canadian Army so much that they themselves would like to institute a uniformed construction unit similar to the Seabees.

"In any future FOB or COP expansion I will always ask for the Seabees" said Major Popov of the Royal Canadian Army.

"I was impressed by how well our Seabees and Canadians got along both professionally to accomplish tasking and socially after working hours," said Lt. j.g. Mark McCoy, Det. officer in charge.

The projects were a great opportunity and experience to work for and with the Canadian forces. Projects like this reinforce the "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees.



General Andrew Leslie of the Royal Canadian Army thanks Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133's Air Det. for the Forward Operating Base and Combat Outpost expansion projects they completed in Dand District Center, Afghanistan. NMCB-133 is currently in the Central Command's Area of Operations while on deployment in Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Builder Constructionman Apprentice Stacey Decook/Released)

July 1, 2010

Seabee Courier

Ad Space

Ad Space

Ad Space

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 meeting at 6:30 p.m. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided during deployment. 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 NCBC chapel. Children are welcome and baby sitting is provided for children four and under. For e-mail updates, 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 Naval Reserve Training building #114. Bring a covered dish to take part in a potluck dinner. Contact FRG President Angela Boyd at 832-579-8422 or Vice President Tanieka Roshell at 414-530-4189. 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 hansonkl54@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. E-mail noscgulfport@yahoo.com or visit NOSCGulfport.org for information.

NMCRS

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 find out how to become 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.

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. 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 information or for links to Seabee historical sites.

Seabee Veterans of

America Island X-1 Gulfport are seeking Active Duty, Reserve, Retired or Seabees who left the military after a short period of time. Island X-1 Gulfport meets the second Thursday of each month at Anchors & Eagles at 7 p.m. For more information contact Joe Scott (Secretary) at 228-669-8335 or elevenoaks58@cablone.net or log onto WWW.NSVA.ORG for an application.

HERITAGE

The Seabee Gift Store is located in the Training Hall, building 446. Hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 11a.m. to 3 p.m. The shop has 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 at www.seabeesmuseumstore.org/shop/index.php or call the gift shop locally at 228-871-4779.



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