



Coastal Courier

Vol. 20, No. 1

Naval Support Activity Panama City Fla.

January 26, 2011

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Pearl Harbor survivors honored 69 years after devastating attack



Guest shake hands with Ronnie Everitt, Steve Rula, Doris Chrastina and Julie Cheshire after the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony held in the Long Glass Conference Center. Guest watched a slide show depicting grim scenes of crippled ships burning in Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2
DAVID DIDIER
NSA PC PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt said "December 7, 1941 is a day that will live in infamy." Sixty-nine years later, guests gathered in the Long Glass Conference Center at Naval Support Activity

Panama City to remember the actions of that day.

America's armed forces were dealt a devastating blow during the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, resulting in the deaths of more than 3,400.

On that morning a total of 321 Japanese planes took part in the raid, with an additional

39 fighters flying as a secondary line of offense. The enemy's plan of attack was simple, direct and very effective. It was one of the largest air strikes during this time period and caused severe losses to American defenses, destroying 188 aircraft.

Within the first minutes of

See Page 4

NSA PC Housing Residents give Balfour Beatty Communities High Marks

STORY BY **BALFOUR BEATTY COMMUNITIES**

Naval Support Activity Panama City's Balfour Beatty Communities were among those which scored "Outstanding" in the 2010 annual independent survey of housing residents. These surveys determine how well private companies meet the needs of their residents.

CEL & Associates compiles customer satisfaction survey data from thousands of properties across the United States. This year, Balfour Beatty Communities showed improvement in all performance benchmarks within the categories of Service and Condition of Property. As a result, Balfour Beatty's overall score improved by 6.5% to reach 87.5%, exceeding the "Outstanding" minimum score of 85% by which all privatized Navy installations are measured. Additionally, the survey return results exceeded expectations this year with a whopping 45% return.

Naval Support Activity Panama City exceeded the national average with a 100% return on surveys sent out.

Installations in the Navy Region Southeast Project include Charleston, SC; Kings Bay, GA; Mayport, FL; Jacksonville, FL; Key West, FL; Panama City, FL; Pensacola, FL; Whiting Field, FL; Gulfport, MS; Meridian, MS; and Fort Worth, TX. Balfour Beatty has owned and operated these properties since October 2007.

Holly Costello, Regional Vice President of the Community

Management Office was extremely pleased with this year's results, "I'm just thrilled that our staff's efforts are recognized and that our philosophy of responding promptly and professionally to our residents' needs, creating a welcoming community for our Navy families and managing each community and home as if it were our own is evident and residents appreciate all our hard work."

Several neighborhoods achieved a "Best in The Industry" rating for service satisfaction. Seven of the eleven communities in Balfour Beatty's Navy Region Southeast Project received "Platinum" awards, which score 90% and above; these award winning neighborhoods are located at Gulfport, Jacksonville, Kings Bay, Mayport, Meridian, Panama City, and Whiting Field. Running a close second were the "A List" awards, 85% and above, for service satisfaction at an additional three neighborhoods which are located at Charleston, Fort Worth, and Pensacola.

Exceeding the norm once again, NSA Panama City Housing area's received Platinum A List Awards with an average 93.55 service score.

These outstanding resident satisfaction results follow Balfour Beatty Communities recent award of receiving recognition as an industry leader in supporting the defense community. On 10 Aug 2010, Balfour Beatty Communities was selected by the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) to receive the 2010 ADC Private Sector Partner of the Year Award. Bal-

four Beatty Communities was selected, in part, "for consistently providing a high quality of service that promotes partnership with the military, and for exceeding expectations with the superior services they offer to defense communities throughout the country."

What's next? "First, I would like to thank the residents for their tremendous response to the survey; we appreciate their input and we believe that there is always room for improvement," comments Ms. Costello. "Our goal now is to not only continue to offer the same quality service but also incorporate our residents' suggestions in the survey and take action on those items. As a result, we are working to bring all of our neighborhoods into the CEL "A List" award category or even better, the Platinum Award level."

Balfour Beatty Holiday Lights Contest Winners

First Place
Troy Naquin

Second Place
Ryan Knoblauch

Third Place
Stephen Burkey

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Building reefs for the future

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MC2
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Naval Support Activity Panama City is working in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to create a new "Living Shoreline" to occupy 3000 ft. of waterfront on the base.

The Living Shoreline is the product of \$125,000 in grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center, the Fish America Foundation and the American Sports fishing Association. The project is expected to continue through July 2011.

The base and FDEP are constructing 200 reefs and installing 75,000 salt marsh grass plants along NSA PC's shoreline in an effort to combat erosion and restore a natural wildlife habitat area. Each reef is made up of oyster shells compacted into mounds a little bigger than a household bathtub.

"The oyster reefs are there to reduce the wave energy," said Jonnie Smallman, NSAPC environmental manager. "This is so the grass we plant along the shoreline have a chance to become established."

Since the Base was established the natural shoreline that once bordered the bay has over time been replaced with Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC) ramps, helo pads, seawalls and piers. Building these man-made shorelines has caused the degradation of the natural properties of a marsh.

"We've had an erosion problem for some time," said Smallman. "Anytime you put hard sea walls or hard landscapes in, you create erosion problems in the natural areas around them."

The marsh grass is also expected to remove excess pollution caused by storm water runoff and provides a habitat for aquatic animals and birds.

To date, 175 reefs have been established along the shoreline



Sailors from Naval Support Activity Panama City work together with civilians and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to construct reefs made with oyster shells. The reefs will absorb wave action from disturbing the delicate marsh grasses that will be planted at a later date. They will also serve as a breeding ground for salt water game fish and oysters.

with the help of 1500 volunteer hours.

Oyster reef installation will continue on Thursdays and Fridays of the each week until all reefs have been installed, according to Smallman. Marsh grass planting will continue in the late winter or early spring of 2011.

People interested in volunteering must be U.S. citizens and 16 years of age to help with the reef-building portion of the project. Families and community service groups, including children 10 years of age and up, can participate in the grass-planting. All community volunteers must be scheduled in advance.

For more information on volunteering, contact Smallman at 235-5739 or send an email to jonnie.smallman@navy.mil.



Oyster shells are loaded onto floating platforms in the staging area. The platforms will then be taken by boat to an area where workers can transport them over the water.



Volunteers work to build a reef made of oyster shells. The reefs are compacted to prevent them from breaking up during heavy wave action. Two hundred reefs a little larger than a household bathtub are expected to be created.

Pearl Harbor

Contd from cover

bombs and torpedoes hitting American shores, all of the battleships adjacent to Ford Island suffered great casualties. USS West Virginia (BB 48) and USS Oklahoma (BB 37) were among the first. An armor-piercing bomb mortally wounded USS Arizona (BB 39) by igniting the ship's forward ammunition magazine, killing 1,177 sailors as a result.

Naval Support Activity Panama City took time to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women who lost their lives that day, and those who survived.

NSAPC Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Ryan Knoblauch gave a speech of what happened on that day and how it relates to the more recent attack on the United States with the events that unfolded September 11, 2001.

Guests of honor at the event were survivors from the attack and their families. Steve Rula, Army was stationed at Scofield Barracks, provided security for public utilities in Oahu. Ronnie Everitt, Army, stationed at Fort Kamehameha, near Hickam Field, in Harbor Security, working with 12" guns. Julie Cheshire, daughter of Major General Howard Davidson, Army Air Corps, Commander of

Wheeler Field, lived with family in Hawaii at the time of attack. also attending was recent widow of a survivor, Doris Chrastina, her husband William Chrastina, was assigned to Pearl Harbor Naval Station running 50 foot liberty launch.

Honored guest were presented with plaques and flowers during the event as tokens of appreciation from a grateful nation.

Steve Rula was presented with a medallion for his service in World War II by the Non Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA) local Chapter President Tom Donahue, as part of Honor, Remembrance and Legacy Program. The program was established by the NCOA in 2004 as a way to honor the military members who protected America during World War II.

During the ceremony, President Roosevelt's radio address to a shocked nation provided a gripping narrative to a slide show depicting grim scenes of crippled and burning ships in Pearl Harbor.

"It was a good ceremony that gave respect to the people that gave their lives to defend our country and Pearl Harbor," said Religious Program Specialist Seaman Recruit Brett Persinger who was inspired by the event honoring the survivors. "It's always nice giving respect to those people who have gone before us and now it's my turn to defend this country."



Honored guests rise for the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem at a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony December 7, 2010 in the Long Glass Conference Center.



Steve Rula was presented with a medallion for his service in WWII by Capt. Tom Brovarone and the Non Commissioned Officer Association (NCOA) local Chapter President Tom Donahue.



Guests filled the Long Glass Conference Center to observe the Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation accepting scholarship applications for upcoming academic year

STORY BY **BALFOUR BEATTY COMMUNITIES**

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation is now accepting academic scholarship applications for the 2011-2012 academic year to reward high school and undergraduate students of military members residing in family housing in need of financial assistance and recognizing their educational and leadership efforts.

Family housing residents at NSA Panama City with high school and undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation Scholarships for the 2011-2012 academic year; valued up to \$2,500. The application, details and requirements can be found at www.bbcommunitiesfoundation.org. The application deadline is April 15, 2011.

Balfour Beatty Communities, responsible for the privatized family housing at NSA Panama

City, formed Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to honoring military personnel – active, disabled and fallen – and their families in 2009.

One of the primary goals of the Foundation is to promote the pursuit of education and a commitment to community leadership through educational scholarships to the children of active duty military members that reside in family housing.

Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation was proud to award

21 academic scholarships to students residing in its communities across the country for the 2010-2011 academic year.

According to Bruce Robinson, president and CEO, “Balfour Beatty Communities is committed to providing a quality living environment that supports the diverse interests and needs of our military families. Through Balfour Beatty Communities Foundation, we say thank you for the work that you do and the sacrifices military families make.”

Manned dive bell testing for new diving system completed

STORY BY **NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The Navy successfully completed dive bell testing for its new Saturation Fly-Away Diving System (SAT FADS) Dec. 2., at Naval Experimental Diving Unit (NEDU), Panama City, Fla.

The testing is helping to make progress toward a critical saturation diving capability to support Navy salvage and recovery operations around the world.

Saturation diving is a diving technique that allows divers to avoid the deadly effects of decompression sickness, so they can work at great depths for long periods of time.

Pierside testing included transferring divers from the dive bell system to the ocean in preparation for a 1,000 ft. saturation dive scheduled for 2011.

The SAT FADS system is

designed to support six divers for a period of 21 days, with an additional nine days of decompression in deep water sustained diving operations to depths of 1,000 feet sea water (fsw) for aircraft and ship recovery or salvage operations. The system will replace two decommissioned Pigeon-class submarine rescue which operated to 850 fsw.

“These tests prove the capability for the system to successfully launch the manned dive bell, exit divers from the bell on excursion dives, recover them and return safely to the surface,” said Paul McMurtrie, SAT FADS program manager. “There were many procedural lessons learned from the testing which we’ll use to streamline our processes and enhance diver safety.”

The entire SAT FADS system measures 40 feet x 70 feet and includes the main deck decom-



Divers man the Saturation Fly-Away Diving System (SAT FADS) for testing at Naval Support Activity Panama City. The system is designed to support six divers for a period of 21 days, with an additional nine days of decompression in deep water.

pression chamber, manned dive bell, bell handling system, command and control center, and two auxiliary support equipment containers, bulk helium storage racks. Living quarters are located in the deck decompression

chamber.

System testing will continue through additional operational evaluations, a series of manned dives pier-side, and culminate with a 1,000 foot deep ocean saturation dive in 2011.

NSA PC conducts burns

STORY BY NSA PC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Bay County residents living near the Naval Support Activity Panama City may soon see plumes of smoke rising from the station again as the Navy conducts controlled burns of undergrowth in its forested areas.

NSA PC Environmental officials request authorizations through the Florida Division of Forestry to burn areas with overgrown vegetation at several locations on the Navy's property between the Hathaway

Bridge and Magnolia Beach Road. The first burn may take place as soon as Wednesday, January 5, 2011.

With proper weather conditions, a "prescribed" burn could be conducted during any favorable weather period January through August 31, 2011. Ideal weather conditions include a slight breeze, moderate humidity, and ground effects that would dissipate the smoke and ash vertically.

Florida statutes outline requirements to conduct controlled burns using acceptable

practices that benefit the public and the environment. Prescribed burning is used to protect property and save lives, but also for ecological, forestry and wildlife management.

Prescribed burning is an excellent way to reduce the undergrowth, according to NSA PC Natural Resources Manager Jonnie Smallman. "With prescribed burning, we reduce the fuels that feed wildfires, lessening the chance that someday the forested areas could suffer a catastrophic fire," Smallman said. Prescribed burning is an

efficient and economic tool for wildlife habitat enhancement and management of an ecosystem dependent upon periodic, low intensity fire for maintenance of biological integrity.

The burning will be done between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. For Navy employees and housing residents, everyone is requested to stay clear of the areas being burned. Only NSA PC and Division of Forestry Personnel with responsibilities inside the burn area will be permitted past checkpoints.

Energy Tips

1. If you change your own motor oil, recycle the old oil. One gallon of used motor oil when recycled yields the same amount of refined lubricating oil—2.5 quarts—as 42 gallons of crude oil.
2. Replace light switches with motion or occupancy sensors. Good locations include the garage and exterior or security lighting areas.
3. Seal heating and cooling ducts in unconditioned spaces. Leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling system efficiency by as much as 20 percent.
4. Plant a tree and take care of it. If every American family planted just one tree, all of these trees would remove more than a billion pounds of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere every year.

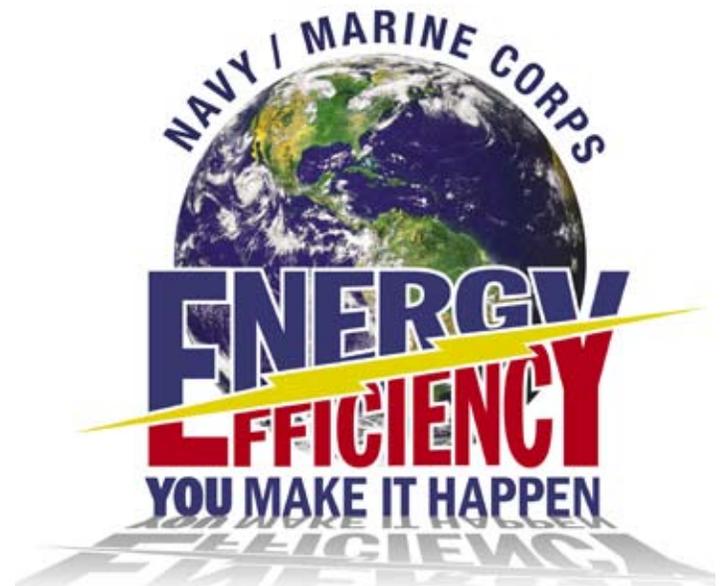
Myth vs Fact

Myth

Building a wood fire in your open masonry fireplace will help reduce your energy bills by warming the house and reducing the amount of heat your furnace needs to provide.

Fact

Starting a fire in your open hearth fireplace may actually increase your heating bills. The warmth from a fire on the hearth generally doesn't radiate through the house; the heat gain is confined to the room with the fireplace. A considerable amount of heated air from other parts of the house (provided by your furnace or other conventional heater) can flow into the fireplace, go wastefully up the chimney, and be replaced by cold outside air. The thermostat will sense the lowering of the indoor temperature and respond by turning on the furnace to make up the heat lost. You may want to use your masonry fireplace because you like the romantic aspects associated with its usage, but realize that this may increase your heating bills.



Navy Region South East Sailors of the Year Recognized



Sailors of the Year from around Navy Region Southeast visit the Duval County Veterans Memorial wall downtown Jacksonville, Jan. 12. The Sailors toured the Jaguars stadium, Jacksonville Landing, and the Budweiser Brewery during their day downtown. Navy Region Southeast (NRSE) Regional Sailor of the Year is Air-Traffic Controller Petty Officer 1st Class Sarah Hawell. Naval Support Activity Panama City Sailor of the Year Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Kayon Ricketts (third for the left) U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Chief Petty Officer Monica R. Nelson

NSA PC Motorcycle training and driver improvement schedule announced

To register for motorcycle training and driver improvement courses, please utilize ESAMS or online via www.navymotorcyclerider.com. All courses are under contract from Cape Fox Professional Services in Pensacola. For questions regarding classes, please contact Mr. Jim Buckles, DSN 922-3100 X1485, or COMM: 850-452-1300 X1485.

AAA-DIP - AAA Driver Improvement Program (mandatory for military below age 26)
 +BRC - Basic Rider Course (Motorcycle)
 +ERC - Experienced Rider Course (Motorcycle)
 *MSRC - Military Sport Bike Course (Motorcycle)

March
 23 AAA-DIP
 24 ERC
 25 MSRC
 26-27 BRC
May
 18 AAA-DIP
 19 ERC
 20 MSRC
 21-22 BRC

July
 20 AAA-DIP
 21 ERC
 22 MSRC
 23-24 BRC
September
 21 AAA-DIP
 22 ERC
 23 MSRC
 24-25 BRC

November
 16 AAA-DIP
 17 ERC
 18 MSRC
 19-20 BRC

+ - Reserved for active military, DoD civilians, retirees, and military dependants.
 * - Mandatory for all military personnel riding sport bikes. Civilians may also attend.

