

Officials break ground on new CDC

Child Development Center staff members and Public Works personnel look on as Jim Sackett, Leetex/Hill & Wilkinson construction company project manager; Capt. Charles Gibson, NAS Meridian commanding officer; and Deridre Odom, Child and Youth Program director, break ground on the new Child Development Center on board NAS Meridian, Dec. 14. The center, which accommodates military and civilian employee's dependents, is programmed for 9,175 square feet which is nearly triple the size of the current 3,410 square foot building built in 1984. The new center will accommodate 66 children and 24 staff members. CDC daily functions will include child care for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old. It will have one infant room, two pre-toddler rooms, one toddler room and one pre-school room. Each age group will also have its own outdoor playground. The project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The building will utilize state-of-the-art technology, including photovoltaic panels and solar hot water heaters, to maximize energy and resource efficiency. When completed the center will achieve a Sil-



Photo by MC2 Flordeliz Valerio

ver Certification in Leadership in Energy and Environment Design, in accordance with the Navy's sustainable building initiatives. The contract cost is \$5,520,100 and completion date is set for Fall 2011.

-- By Penny Randall