

# Rocketeer II

Vol. 5, Issue 23

The official newspaper of the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake community

Thursday, November 17, 2011



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## Force Protection graduates 12 new police officers

By Michael Roach

Editor, Rocketeer II

Standing at attention with their right hands raised, the 12 newest editions to the Navy Force Protection Department of Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake took the Police Officers oath at their graduation ceremony on Nov. 11.

Held at the All-Faith Chapel, the newly-appointed officers were presented to friends and family by their fellow officers and instructors from the Navy Region Southwest Police Academy.

The graduates were Mikel Aikens, Jennifer Barron, William Brooks, Douglas Delaney, Raymond Hoschouer, Shane Hunter, Robert Kight, Jason Knockaert, Norris Potter III and Carlos Sgroi.

China Lake Police Training Officer Christopher Maloney served as the master of ceremony for the event. After an Invocation by Lt. Chaplain Derrick

Graduation, Page 11



Photo by Michael Roach

## Congressmen McCarthy and McKean tour China Lake



Photo by Peggy Shoaf

Holding a full-scale, inert SPIKE shoulder-fire missile is Congressman Howard "Buck" McKean, chairman of the house armed services committee. Standing alongside McKean are (left to right), Steve Felix, from Unrestricted Warfare Office Weapons and Energetics Department Research and Engineering, Assembly Woman Shannon Grove, Dave Janiec, head of Weapons and Energetics Department Research and Engineering and House Majority Whip Congressman Kevin McCarthy. The group toured Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Nov. 10 to get a briefing on Naval Air Weapons Center Weapons Division's capabilities.

## AIM-9X Block II completes back-to-back live fires

By Theresa Goldstrand

NAWCWD PAO

The Navy recently completed two successful live fire test missions on the AIM-9X Block II Sidewinder missile at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

A team from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron THREE ONE (VX-31) conducted back-to-back developmental tests Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 to demonstrate Block II's ability to deliver expanded air-to-air warfare capabilities. One scenario was against an extremely small target flying at low altitudes over the California desert at an extended "beyond visual range."

The second scenario demonstrated the all-weather capability of the AIM-9X Block II and demanded that the F/A-18 test pilot fly below the 1000-foot marine layer of clouds off the California coast at Point Mugu to shoot at the target flying above the clouds. Both events relied on the AIM-9X Block II's multiple enhancements that included improved lock-on

Live fire, Page 11

## WACOM donates to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Foundation



Photo by Michael Roach

Mike Hire (left), Navy Marine Corps Relief Foundation director accepts a donation from Women's Auxiliary Commissioned Officers Mess (WACOM) presented by retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Dick Wright.

## All Faith Chapel

Command Chaplain Lt. Derrick Horne

Rev. James Dowds, Catholic priest

[james.dowds.ctr@navy.mil](mailto:james.dowds.ctr@navy.mil)

### Activities:

Airfield Bible Study:  
each Wednesday from 1130-1230 at the VX-9 Airfield Training Room (on the west side of the Bat's Mess).

Ladies Do Lunch:  
Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 12 p.m. in East Wing.

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9 a.m., East Wing  
Protestant Women of the Cross  
(PWOC)

Mary-Martha and Elizabeth  
Circle: Time and place to be  
announced in Chapel Service

## Rocketeer II



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Public Affairs Officer ..... Peggy Shoaf  
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Correspondence, articles and photos from the following commands should be submitted to the person indicated:

- Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and Explosive Ordnance Detachment Mobile Unit 3: NAWCWD Public Affairs at (760) 939-3511
- Air Test and Evaluation Squadron THREE ONE: Lt. Brian Culver at [brian.culver@navy.mil](mailto:brian.culver@navy.mil), or call (760) 939-3529
- Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE: Lt. Bryan Haney at [bryan.haney@navy.mil](mailto:bryan.haney@navy.mil), or call (760) 939-5525
- Marine Aviation Detachment: Lt. Col. James Coppersmith at [james.coppersmith@navy.mil](mailto:james.coppersmith@navy.mil) or (760) 939-8094
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A YouTube channel is currently under development and can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/NAWSChinaLake>. Use of any of these channels is totally voluntary and not a requirement.

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(HQ): (619) 522-1429



**Military**

**Marine Aviation Detachment celebrates 236 years of the corps**



Photo by Theresa Goldstrand

The United States Marine Corps celebrated 236 years of service to our nation on November 9, 2011. In honor of this occasion, the Marine Aviation Detachment, China Lake, held their traditional Marine Ball at the Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest. A single unoccupied table was set to honor those Marines who gave their all in service to our nation. MAD Commanding Officer Col. Mark T. Johnson asked the audience to remember their fellow Marines that are also celebrating the Marine Corp's 236th birthday all over the globe, and are forward-deployed combat conditions. A solo bell sounded for each of the major military battles that the Marines participated in over the past 236 years including Iwo Jima, Tarawa, Khe Sanh, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.



Photo by Michael Roach

Members of the Marine Aviation Detachment (MAD) China Lake present the cake in honor of the 236th birthday of the Marine Corps to MAD Commanding Officer Col. Mark T. Johnson during the ceremony at Freedom Park Nov. 9. Students from Friends and family members attended the event as did Students from St. Ann's Catholic School and retired Marines. It is tradition for the oldest and youngest Marine present to be the first to eat from the cake as they represent the past, present and future of the Marine Corps.

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## Military

## AC1 Antwon Taylor named NAWS China Lake Sailor of the Quarter



Photo by Michael Roach

AC1 Antwon Taylor

By Michael Roach  
Editor, Rocketeer II

AC1 Antwon Taylor has been selected as the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake Sailor of the Quarter for the second time. It is an honor he attributes to much more than just himself.

Originally from Los Angeles, Calif., Taylor serves as the NAWS China Lake tower chief and vehicle operator course manager at Amritage Field.

Taylor made the decision to enlist in the Navy in November, 1998. "I needed a job, I had a few friends that came into the Navy and they did well, so I figured this was a good career opportunity."

After attending basic training, Taylor was sent to air traffic control school in February 1999. Upon his graduation in September of the same year, he was stationed at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md. for three years. From there, he spent three years working at FACSAC, Pearl Harbor before being stationed on the U.S.S. John C. Stennis.

"I love being recognized worldwide as a United States Sailor," said Taylor. "I love serving my country. I couldn't think of a better job. I'm glad I did it. I'm just a patriot."

In March 2009, Taylor was stationed at China Lake and received his first Sailor of the Quarter award as a Second

Class that same year. "It has definitely been the highlight of my career, coming here, making First Class, becoming the tower chief, [being named] Sailor of the Quarter," said Taylor. "I definitely feel like my career is moving in the right direction."

A family man, Taylor and his wife Adelfa, who serves as the command ombudsman for NAWS China Lake, have three children. "I would like to thank my family first and foremost, my wife and my children for all their support. Every qualification and everything I do, they always cheer and have a little cake," he said proudly.

Taylor was also quick to mention the support he gets from his fellow

Sailors. "[I have an] Outstanding chain of command; it is very supportive here. [Including] Chief Paul Simmons, Command Master Chief Charles Grandin, retired Command Master Chief Robert Corkish and the rest of the CPO mess at NAWS China Lake."

For Sailors who are just starting their careers in the Navy, Taylor had a few words of advice: "Stick with it, there is definitely going to be a rough road, just stay positive, learn from those who have gone through it before, remain professional and things will work out."

Taylor plans to re-enlist for another six years on Dec. 2.

## This week in U.S. Navy History

## Nov. 17:

1917 - USS Fanning (DD 37) and USS Nicholson (DD-52) sink first enemy submarine, U-58, off Milford Haven, Wales.

1924 - USS Langley (CV 1), first aircraft carrier, reports for duty.

1941 - Congress amends Neutrality Act to allow U.S. merchant ships to be armed. Navy's Bureau of Navigation directs Navy personnel with Armed Guard training to be assigned for further training before going to Armed Guard Centers for assignment to merchant ships.

1955 - Navy sets up Special

Projects Office under Rear Adm. William Raborn, USN, to develop a solid propellant ballistic missile for use in submarines.

## Nov. 18:

1890 - USS Maine, the first American battleship, is launched.

1922 - Cdmr. Kenneth Whiting in a PT seaplane, makes first catapult launching from aircraft carrier, USS Langley (CV 1), at anchor in the York River.

1962 - USS Currituck (AV 7) rescues 13 Japanese fishermen from their disabled fishing boat Seiyu Maru, which was damaged in Typhoon Karen.

## Nov. 19:

1813- Capt. David Porter

claims Marquesas Islands for the United States.

1943 - Carrier force attacks bases on Tarawa and Makin begun.

1943 - USS Nautilus (SS 168) enters Tarawa lagoon in first submarine photograph reconnaissance mission.

1961 - At the request of the president of the Dominican Republic, U.S. Naval Task Force sails to Dominican Republic to bolster the country's government and to prevent a coup.

## Nov. 20:

1856 - Cdmr. Andrew H. Foote lands at Canton, China, with 287 Sailors and Marines to

stop attacks by Chinese on U.S. military and civilians.

1917 - USS Kanawha (AO 1), Noma and Wakiva sink German sub off France.

1933 - Navy crew (Lt. Cmdr. Thomas G. W. Settle and Maj. Chester I. Fordney, USMC) sets a world altitude record in a balloon (62,237 ft.) in flight into stratosphere.

1943 - Operation Galvanic, under command of Vice Adm. Raymond Spruance, lands Navy, Marine and Army forces on Tarawa and Makin.

1962 - President John F. Kennedy lifts the Blockade of Cuba.

## Nov. 21:

1918 - U.S. battleships witness surrender of German High Seas fleet at Rosyth, Firth of Forth, Scotland, to U.S. and British fleets.

## Nov. 22:

1914 - The title "Director of Naval Aeronautics" is established.

## Nov. 23:

1940 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt appoints Adm. William D. Leahy as U.S. Ambassador to Vichy, France, to try to prevent the French fleet and naval bases from falling into German hands.

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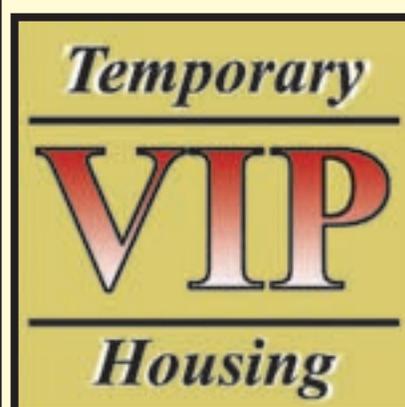
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News

## Larry Medrano receives Employee of the Quarter award

By Theresa Goldstrand  
NAWCWD PAO

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Comptroller Competency selected Financial Technician Larry Medrano as their third quarter Employee of the Quarter.

The Comptroller Competency Employee of the Quarter award is a peer-on-peer process whereby anyone in the group can nominate a co-worker. The selection panel is composed of a group of peers, at least one from each department and site. The award comprises a time-off award, certificate of appreciation and group recognition.

Medrano was selected by his co-workers to recognize his numerous outstanding qualities that include prompt, friendly assistance to customers and coworkers, coupling an extreme amount of patience and politeness while resolving difficult issues.

"I choose to come to Larry



Photo by Joy Lewis

NAWCWD Comptroller Competency financial technician Larry Medrano receives the Comptroller Competency Employee of the Quarter award from Merrie Giles, NAWCWD Comptroller.

every time because he shows extraordinary respect anytime I need help," reads a quote from one of the nominations. "Medrano's dedication and commitment to excellence make

all of us successful. Larry shows the utmost quality in everything he does here at NAWCWD and that is why he has been chosen as the Comptroller Employee of the Quarter."

## New badge request forms in place

Effective immediately, the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake Pass & ID Office will no longer accept the NAWS Visit Request/Visitor Clearance Date requests (1 to 90 day Official Visitor Badge).

In addition, NAWS Badge Request Form, NAWS 5530/1 (Rev. 10/2010) has been replaced. Please destroy any electronic copies of NAWS 5530/1 (Rev. 10/2010) and replace them with the new form, NAWS 5530/1 (Rev. 10/2011). An electronic copy can be found on the NAWS Website: <http://cnic.navy.mil/ChinaLake/InstallationGuide/VisitorInformation/BaseAccess/index.htm>

This badge request should be used when requesting a Community badge, a Community badge with special designators (DoD dependent, volunteer or SSUSD employee, etc.) or an Area Access Indicator Badge. The Area Access Indicator Badge will be required once your blue, brown

or green badge (DoD, civilian, contractor or vendor/supplier) has expired and if you need access to secured areas, secured buildings or have been authorized photo or vouching privileges. It will be used in conjunction with an authorized Common Access Card (CAC), military ID, NCACS badge or a one-day pass.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Employees are reminded that if they plan to host a special event on base, like a party or a holiday luncheon, which includes inviting guests without badges, etc., a Special Event Access Request, NAWS 5530/3 (09-1010) is required. An electronic copy of the form can be found on NAWS Website: <http://cnic.navy.mil/ChinaLake/InstallationGuide/VisitorInformation/BaseAccess/index.htm>. Once the form has been completed, it should be sent to Carol Moody, [carol.moody@navy.mil](mailto:carol.moody@navy.mil), at least two weeks before the event.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011 | 8 PM

# Fate & Fortune

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Gustave Mahler, *Das Lied von der Erde*, selections

Carl Orff, *Carmina Burana*

CURTAIN-RAISER PREVIEW | 7 PM




*Grand*  
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SEASON

ANTELOPE VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
AND MASTER CHORALE  
*David Newby, Artistic Director*

## Command Safety Message

# Holiday travel safety... Planning tips for your trips

With the holidays quickly approaching, traffic safety must be one of our primary considerations. We must be vigilant in our efforts to ensure that we focus on safety before traveling any distance – across the country to visit relatives and friends, or across town to go to a party.

Always use Operational Risk Management (ORM) and plan your trip. Allow enough travel time to avoid fatigue, designate a driver if you choose to drink alcohol, and always buckle your safety belt.

**Safety Tip #1:** Allow extra time in your schedule. At least an extra 30 minutes minimum for local travel is recommended by most transportation agencies. Congested traffic can often be avoided with a little preparation and foresight. Also, be mindful of the heaviest travel days of the year – such as the day before and Sunday after the Thanksgiving holiday. Try to avoid traveling on these days. Don't forget to leave an itinerary with a trusted individual.

**Safety Tip #2:** Winterize your vehicle. Make sure that your car is well maintained and ready for travel. Breaking down in the dark, in bad weather, or in the cold can crush the holiday spirit. It's a good idea to take your car in for a winter "check-up," especially if you are traveling a long distance. Make sure you inspect your oil level, battery, windshield wipers, heater, defroster, antifreeze and brakes before you head out. You also want to be sure that your tire pressure is at the recommended levels as tires can be hazardous in wet weather when they are filled to improper levels.

**Safety Tip #3:** Think before you drive; it's not as hard as it sounds. During the holidays, more than any other time of the year, people are worried, preoccupied, hurried and distracted. That state of mind can make a driver easily agitated and less careful. On the road, this means that you should be more vigilant than usual, give people more distance and be forgiving when someone does something rash or absent-minded.

**Safety Tip #4:** Buckle up! During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is reminding all of us to play it safe this holiday season and buckle up. Not only is it the law, it could help save your life.

**Safety Tip #5:** If you have children, it's also a good idea to pack some "boredom beaters" for

## Calendar Year 2011 OSHA Recordable

### Mishap Update through October:

# 61

- 1) CL Police: Stepped off curb to wipe snow from vehicle's base access sticker and slipped on ice.
- 2) CL Police: Slipped and fell on ice patch going down stairs to help another employee who had fallen on ice.
- 3) J26000D: Slipped and fell on patch of ice while exiting the building.
- 4) N9: Laceration on hand when 8 inch knife slipped while cutting string off of towel bundles.
- 5) 418300D: Strained elbow moving crates while collecting helicopter parts.
- 6) 472400D: Strained back while lowering missile into container during packing operation.
- 7) CL Police: Tripped over floor mat used to cover heater cable at guard post and twisted knee.
- 8) 418000D: Employee was torching metal when hot slag landed in ear canal.
- 9) 52540MD: Attempted to lift air conditioning compressor into back of truck and strained shoulder.
- 10) 418300D: Strained shoulder while climbing a 20 foot caged ladder.
- 11) 476300D: Lacerated finger when attempting to close a 3 inch pocket knife.
- 12) 485500D: Strained back while packing boxes for an upcoming move to a new building.
- 13) N9: Strained back after being knocked down by a child while providing care at SAC facility.
- 14) N9: Rolled ankle when foot slipped off of the side of an uneven sidewalk during housekeeping duties.
- 15) N9: Contusion/strain to top of foot when foot struck crib during fire evaluation drill.
- 16) N9: Pain in left knee while kneeling and standing during tile rip out procedures in pool locker room.
- 17) 470000D: Tripped and fell in CLPL parking lot resulting in multiple fractures.
- 18) 526210D: Lacerated finger while bouncing pry bar on a spool of steel banding.
- 19) Fire Dept: Pulled muscle in back/neck while doing pull-up exercises in Fire Station Dorm.
- 20) 474000D: Hit head on metal structural beam while standing up from a kneeling position.
- 21) CL Police: Allergic reaction to OC Pepper Spray during police training exercise.
- 22) 466200D: Skin irritation from exposure to chemical in water while TDY conducting mishap investigation.
- 23) CL Police: Insect bite to leg resulted in bodily reaction, fever, and swelling at the site.
- 24) N9: Strained back while attempting to stop a run-away utility golf cart during grounds maintenance.
- 25) N9: Finger laceration while trimming meat in preparation for lunch service.
- 26) 526200D: Electric shock experienced when doing a voltage check on a foreign radar system.
- 27) N9: Shoulder pain while changing bed linens during housekeeping of BOQ.
- 28) 741000D: Tripped on aircraft tie down eyelet on airfield tarmac and fell injuring shoulder.
- 29) 52322MD: After light lifting, exited GMV truck and felt pain in lower back.
- 30) 6C0000D: Laceration to finger while using box cutter to scrape stickers off equipment
- 31) N9: Fell in Child Development Center kitchen when foot caught on food serving cart.
- 32) 472200D: Injured back while lifting a test table (125-150lbs) into pick-up truck.
- 33) 783400D: Back and shoulder strain after falling in parking lot.
- 34) 418300D: Fell from forklift while attempting to wash windshield – bruises and strain.
- 35) N9: Pain/pull in groin area when lifting case of toilet paper during custodial duties.
- 36) N9: Shoulder/arm strain when moving "Bounce House" after evening event.
- 37) 753000D: Strained back while lifting and moving a 25" CRT style television set into van.
- 38) 51J320D: Hearing loss sustained that meets OSHA recordable criteria for threshold shift.
- 39) 52610MD: Vehicle mishap while traveling from meeting to primary worksite.
- 40) 783300D: Allergic reaction to suspected spider bite to arm while moving boxes.
- 41) 477100D: Strained shoulder attempting to move 55 gallon drum with no assistance.
- 42) 471100D: Rolled ankle and fell while running down outside stairwell – ankle sprain.
- 43) 535200D: Lacerated leg when hand held grinder kicked back toward employee.
- 44) N9: Strained back when bending at the waist to pick up clean linen bundle.
- 45) CLPD: Strained knee while participating in police training exercise.
- 46) 7J2000D: Laceration to hand when contacting sharp edge of aluminum plate.
- 47) CLPD: Vehicle ran over gate guard's foot as it proceeded through the gate ID check.
- 48) 52540MD: Employee felt pain in his lower back after moving furniture.
- 49) 52540MD: Employee twisted ankle while exiting large truck to refuel at gas station.
- 50) N9: Strained neck and hit head while standing up inside of small school bus.
- 51) 4L1000D: Sprained shoulder while attempting to catch a computer monitor that was falling from a cart.
- 52) 477200D: Fell and twisted ankle when old door came off hinges while trying to open it.
- 53) 472300D: Strained back after kicking furniture dolly out from under work bench being moved.
- 54) 518200D: Tripped and fell while running across parking lot on-duty while TDY.
- 55) N9: Knee pop/strain when standing up from the ground while holding/lifting a child during childcare.
- 56) Fire: Back strain/pain during fire fighter physical training (PT) at the Gym.
- 57) 472100D: Rolled ankle on 2"x4" board while exiting laser test van resulting in multiple fractures.
- 58) 78G000D: Tripped and fell over concrete parking bumper resulting in various injuries.
- 59) CLPD: Pulled/strained leg muscle while running during police training exercise.
- 60) CLPD: Tripped on stair and started to fall backward resulting in hamstring strain.
- 61) 473200D: Laceration to leg when truck door struck against shin during door closure.

the trip. That way you'll avoid that old familiar cry of "are we there yet?" from the back seat. This will lower your stress level and help everyone enjoy the holiday travel experience.

**Safety Tip #6:** Carry a winter survival kit. Include equipment for on-the-road emergencies. If you're traveling in bad weather, prepare for problems by packing flares, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlight, water, snacks and a cell phone car charger.

**Safety Tip #7:** Don't drive while tired! Plan your trip and include rest stops. Driving while tired accounts for one in six crashes that result in serious injury or death. Also, a recent California Office of Traffic Safety survey showed that one in three people admitted to falling asleep while driving. Share the driving if possible. As soon as you feel tired, stop and have a break. Take a 15-minute break every two hours to rest your eyes and refresh yourself. Don't drive for more than eight–10 hours in a day.

**Safety Tip #9:** Never drink alcohol and drive. When attending a party, always designate a non-drinking driver. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving. In addition, if you or a loved one has had too much to drink, call a cab or stay at a friend or relative's house. It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make.

**Safety Tip #12:** The return trip. After enjoying the holiday, sometimes we are in a hurry to get home and may take shortcuts or make poor risk decisions. We may find ourselves increasing our speed behind the wheel and decreasing our rest breaks in anticipation of getting home. This should be avoided. Remember these tips to help ensure you arrive back home from your holiday travels safe and happy.

The Navy recommends the use of TRiPS before traveling. This is the "Travel Risk Planning System." TRiPS is an on-line, automated, risk-assessment tool that also serves as a trip planning and mapping system. TRiPS is available on the Navy Knowledge On-line web site. The system is a road planner that helps recognize – and avoid – the hazards faced on the highway such as fatigue, not buckling up, and driving too far. Make safe and sound travel decisions to ensure your holiday travels don't end in a trip to the emergency room.



**News**

*China Lake employees teach conservation at the Movin on Up program*



Courtesy photo

Robert White of NAVFACSW Utilities & Energy Management Branch presents conservation information to the school-age children at Moving On Up at China Lake. The main topic was the importance of saving energy and water. The children were shown ideas in how they can help save water in and around their home every day and make a difference. They were provided some energy awareness information that they could share at home.

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# FEAD presents STAR awards to contractors

At the end of fiscal year 2011, Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division (FEAD) China Lake announced the construction contractors who were recognized via the Safety Through Awards and Recognition (STAR) program. This award is given only to companies that have demonstrated a corporate proactive safety posture throughout the life of their contracts. The FEAD presented ten STAR award certificates in October 2011, for a total of 29 awards in the fiscal year. The involvement of the safety officers in each project reflects a shared safety commitment resulting in a quality product finished on time and always upholding safety as the number one priority.



Courtesy photo  
Jerry Gilman of Allen Engineering receives a STAR certificate from Lt. Norma Soto-Robles, FEAD director. Jerry Gilman is Allen Engineering's superintendent, quality control and safety representative.



Courtesy Photo  
Mike Spencer, Rockwood Construction superintendent, receives a STAR certificate from Lt. Norma Soto-Robles, FEAD director.



Courtesy photo  
Kelly De Vries, EPI/South Bay superintendent, quality control and safety representative, accepts STAR certificate from Lt. Norma Soto-Robles, FEAD director.

# Community holds first annual Veterans Day parade



Photo by Michael Roach  
Can Do! Veterans and retired Seabees travel along the parade route on their float facilitated by the U.S. Navy Seabees of Indian Wells Valley.



Photo by Peggy Shoaf  
Two Sailors wave to the crowd before making the final turn onto Balsam St. Sailors from various tenant commands at NAWS China Lake were carried along the parade route in a series of vintage cars.



Photo by Michael Roach



Photo by Peggy Shoaf

Above: A Vietnam Veteran rides his Harley alongside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Float as it travels along Balsam Street. Left: Spectators stare up as Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE provides a fly-over for the parades climax.



## Ridgecrest native Ensign Kathleen L. Tidwell receives her wings

WHITING FIELD, Fla. (NNS) -- Rear Adm. David A. Dunaway served as the guest speaker for the winging ceremony that included Ensign Kathleen L. Tidwell, a Ridgecrest native and family friend of Dunaway's, at Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Florida, Nov. 4.

Dunaway served as the commander of the Naval Air Warfare Center, Weapons Division and the Naval Air Systems Command deputy for Test and Evaluation from September 2007 until January 2009.

Tidwell received her "wings of gold" following her completion of initial helicopter training. Fifteen other students achieved the designation with Tidwell and were praised by Dunaway during his keynote speech.

More than 31,000 pilots have achieved this designation as the Navy celebrates the 100th year of naval aviation. Every Navy and Marine Corps helicopter pilot now receives their training at NAS Whiting Field through one of the three helicopter

training squadrons on the base.

Tidwell graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2008 with a bachelor of science degree in Marine Biology. She completed officer candidate school in Newport, Rhode Island in December 2009 and was selected for naval aviation. After aviation preflight indoctrination aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, she attended primary flight training for the T-34C with the VT-28 Rangers in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Tidwell continued her training at NAS Whiting Field with Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 28, flying the TH-57B and Bell 206 JetRanger helicopter. The winging ceremony is the stepping stone to her next phase of training in the fleet, which will continue at NAS North Island, San Diego.

Tidwell is the daughter of James Tidwell and Fong Tidwell of Ridgecrest.



Ensign Kathleen Tidwell stands with her family after receiving her wings. Left to right, James Tidwell, Fong Tidwell, Ens. Kathleen Tidwell, Rear Adm. David A. Dunaway, Kay Tidwell and Kristal Tidwell. Courtesy photo

## American Cancer Society to hold 36th annual Great American Smokeout

ANTELOPE VALLEY/EASTERN SIERRA—As the official sponsor of birthdays, the American Cancer Society marks the 36th Great American Smokeout on Nov. 17 by highlighting the California Cancer Research Act (CCRA) as a chance for California voters to create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

If approved on the June 5, 2012 ballot, the CCRA will increase tobacco taxes by \$1 a pack and invest the revenues in research, tobacco prevention and enforcement programs. CCRA will generate nearly \$600 million a year for cancer research. Once passed, California will be the second largest funder of cancer research in the world.

"The California Cancer Research Act is a groundbreaking opportunity to protect our youth from Big Tobacco and triple funding for the state's tobacco control program," said Becky Stafford of Palmdale,

a two-time cancer survivor, and American Cancer Society volunteer and legislative ambassador. "Recent studies show that raising tobacco taxes by \$1 per pack is one of the most effective ways to lower tobacco use, especially among youth. It will keep 200,000 children from



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becoming smokers, and prevent more than 100,000 premature deaths from tobacco related illness."

The American Cancer Society has long been a leader in preventing tobacco use and in helping people to stop their use of tobacco products. Efforts to increase tobacco taxes, promote clean air legislation, and decrease access to tobacco products

have helped California become one of the most progressive states in the nation for tobacco control.

While smoking rates among California adults have declined steadily during the last two decades, 18-24 year olds in the state are smoking at an increasing rate and

Heart Association; American Lung Association; Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; LiveStrong, The Lance Armstrong Foundation and Stand Up To Cancer.

To learn more about the campaign and how to become involved, go to [californiansforacure.org](http://californiansforacure.org).

are designed for the workplace and can significantly increase chances of quitting for good, reducing risk of cancer and heart disease, among many other health issues. The Society also refers smokers to the California Smokers' Helpline (1.800.NO.BUTTS).

Cancer.org/smokeout contains user-friendly tip sheets and tools for a smoke-free life including calculators and downloadable desktop helpers to assist with planning to quit and succeeding in staying tobacco-free.

### Important facts about tobacco use:

- o Lung cancer kills more than 13,000 Californians each year – more than prostate, breast and colon cancers combined.

- o The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 16,397 Californians will die this year

Smokeout, Page 12

### Graduation, Front Page

Horne, Regional Chief of Police Phillip Candy addressed the new officers with words of advice and encouragement.

"You have completed nine weeks of your training," said Candy who noted that this would not be the end of their learning process, as they would have the opportunity to work alongside more seasoned officers. "I would like to encourage you to continue on with your training outside of the base," he added saying that seeking further education would help them to become better officers.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon was Airfield Operations Officer Cmdr. Daniel Harmon who, through a personal anecdote, highlighted the issues that police

officers are to face everyday by defusing situations while they work to "keep us safe here, so we can keep you safe out there."

Harmon discussed the need for the new officers to balance what they can do with what they should do. "Fair or unfair, you are going to be working in this world of extremes, you are going to be called upon to be the expert... You are going to be wading through that grey area. Do your best, take what you learned here and go protect us."

The graduating class were then presented with their certificates of completion for their nine week course. Officer Roy G. Staten, regional director of training, handed them out while the graduate's family members, or Candy pinned their badges on their shirts to signify their new role as police

officers.

This was followed by the Police Officer Oath which the class took together, standing in front of the crowd.

Stand-out graduates were then presented with their awards for exceptional performance. Potter received the Honor Graduate Award for being the top of his class in academics. Sgroi received the Top Gun Award for his proficiency with the nine millimeter handgun. Finally, Hunter received dual awards for M16 proficiency and physical fitness.

Finally, Lt. Chaplain Horne concluded the graduation ceremony with a benediction. The class then proceeded outside to receive congratulations from loved ones, fellow officers and base officials.

### Live fire, Front Page

after-launch; extended range lofting fly-out profile; two-way data link; and improved all-weather laser fusing against small targets.

"I am very pleased both missions achieved all test objectives. The team has accumulated an impressive record of success with nine successful live fire events in nine attempts," said Capt. John Martins, Air-to-Air Missile Systems program manager (PMA-259). "The tests verify the maturity of the AIM-9X Block II as we prepare for entry into OT [operational testing] this spring."

During both missions, an F/A-18 fired one telemetry-equipped missile against a BQM-74 sub-scale target. The second mission

incorporated the first use of GPS-enabled AN/DKT-89-3 Airborne Telemetry Equipment, enabling highly-accurate, high-rate, three-dimensional time, space and position information to be collected during missile fly-out.

"Designed and built by the government team in China Lake, the AN-DKT-89-3 provides unprecedented real-time and post-flight data accuracy and is an extraordinary improvement in telemetry capability," Martins said. "In the past, it was extremely difficult to estimate how close the missile passed by the target. This enhancement allows us to better quantify missile characteristics and endgame performance against the target."

Health

Smokeout, Page 11

because of tobacco use.

o Due in part to the success of California tobacco control initiatives, lung cancer in California decreased by 29 percent from 1988 to 2008.

o Smoking accounts for approximately \$193 billion in U.S. health care expenditures and productivity losses.

The American Cancer Society and its nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action NetworkSM (ACS CAN), have been successful in protecting the public from cigarettes and secondhand smoke:

California was the first state in the U.S. to ban smoking in indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Since the California Smoke-free Workplace Law went into effect in 1995, survey after survey has shown that Californians support the state's smoke-free law.

Today, nearly 75 percent of the United States population is covered by 100 percent smoke-free workplace and/or restaurant and/or bar laws, despite aggressive efforts by tobacco companies to defeat such laws.

Visit cancer.org/smokeout or call 1-800-227-2345 to learn more about the Great American Smokeout.

Navy issues reminder for O-3 fitness reports

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- An interim change to the Navy Performance Evaluation and Counseling System Instruction announced earlier this year must be applied as reporting seniors prepare annual fitness reports (FITREPs) for more than 18,000 lieutenants Navy-wide, officials said Nov. 14.

According to NAVADMIN 219/11, Navy changed summary group totals permitted in O-3 periodic FITREPs beginning with FITREPs due Jan. 31, 2012.

"We want to remind commands to follow the summary group distribution information in the NAVADMIN because if they use the distribution rules in the instruction their fitness reports will be returned," said Jim Price, director, Performance Evaluation Division, Navy Personnel Command.

According to the NAVADMIN, early promote (EP) recommendations are limited to 20 percent of the reporting senior's summary group and the combined EP and must promote (MP) recommendations must not exceed 60 percent.

The change does allow an increase

Leave Transfer Program

Leave Transfer Program - The employees listed have been approved as leave recipients under the Leave Transfer Program. These employees have exhausted annual and sick leave because of medical emergencies and anticipate being in a leave-without-pay status for at least 24 hours. Employees who wish to help a leave recipient may donate annual leave to the employee by submitting a completed OPM 630-A Request to Donate Annual Leave (Within Agency) form. Send your completed form to Code 731000D Stop 1316, Attn: Madonna Clark, or you can fax to 939-1423. For more information regarding the Leave Transfer Program, please call Madonna Clark at 939-8103 or DSN 437-8103. The 2011 leave year ends on 1 January 2012.

NAME	CODE	NAME	CODE
Avery, Ellie D.	4J3300D	Nutter, Valerie K.	412000D
Baldwin, Barbara	410000D	Osman, Eisa H.	474300D
Best, Loretta L.	685100D	Platon, Rita R.	452200E
Bodine, Brittney J.	731000D	Ray, Randall L.	52132MD
Crapia, Michael D.	NAVFAC	Roberts, Billie Jo	478600D
Dannenberg, Alyse N.	466100D	Robison, Christopher S.	NAVFAC
Depue, Gwendolyn P.	N9120WN	Rodriguez, Patricia	658300E
Freund, Dana R.	685000D	Romero, Jaimi E.	685000D
Gleason, Natasha L.	733000D	Rowland, Raymond	60C000D
Hiser, Mary Ann	474000D	Rubio, Gerardo	413100D
Jackson, Sonja R.	423000D	Schonhorst, William M.	51J30MD
Johnson, Frank C.	671200D	Smith, Brian K.	784200E
Jones, Donald T.	475100D	Sparks, Ashley M	410000D
Kelly, Michael O.	475100D	Tanner, Brett A.	476300D
Long, Bonnie M.	470000D	Tanner, Sarah	451400D
Lovern, Cristina E.	474300D	Turbett, Jennifer J.	52J400D
MacArthur (Mallory), Carol D.	783100D	Villa, Kathryn A.	475500D
Meyer, Lani A.	451000D	Wallis, Joanne	414200E
Meyer, Mark E.	731000D	Wirtz, Anne Marie	4J2400D

in one MP recommendation for each EP quota not used.

"As commands start preparing O-3 FITREPs, they will need to

MANUALLY calculate the allowable numbers of MPs and EPs," said Price.

According to Price, the change in policy provides a mechanism for

controlling performance inflation and identifies top performers early for selective detailing and selection board

Fitness, Page 13

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Community

# Upcoming local events

**El Sol Dance Company performing at Cerro Coso Nov. 19:**

The El Sol Dance Company, a Mexican Folkloric dance troupe, will perform at Cerro Coso Community College Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. in the College Lecture Center. The show is free courtesy of the Associated Students of Cerro Coso. For more information, contact the ASCC Office at (760) 384-6353.

**Thanksgiving Feast-Nov. 25:**

All-Faith Chapel 5p.m. The evening will begin with four short prayers of giving thanks in accordance with the faith groups represented at the chapel: Muslim, Jewish, and Protestant and Catholic. Following that, the feasting begins. The chapel will provide turkeys, potatoes and stuffing. Regular attendees will be bringing various dishes to pass. If you are single, just come! If you are married, please

bring your entire family, and if able, bring a dish to share with others (a salad, a dessert, or side dish). Please R.S.V.P. with the number in your party and if you are bringing a side dish to (760) 939-3506.

**Community Appreciation Free Golf Days - Nov. 25 and Dec. 9:**

Enjoy a free round of golf courtesy of MWR! Tee times recommended. For more information or to set up a tee time, call China Lake Golf Course at (760) 939-2990.

**Hutchens Consort:**

The Indian Wells Valley Concert Association is presenting the Hutchens Consort Dec. 1., 7:30 p.m. at the Parker Performing Arts Center at Burroughs High School. Box office opens at 6:30 p.m. with the doors opening at 7 p.m.

**Winter Wonderland Holiday Festival:**

MWR will be hosting a free Winter Wonderland Holiday Festival open to all eligible MWR patrons Dec. 2 from 5-9 p.m. at the west side main gym parking lot. The event will feature family activities including an ice skating rink, bounce houses, games, crafts, cake walk, music groups and food vendors.

**A Christmas in Ridgecrest - Saturday, Dec. 3:**

Desert Community Orchestra Association presents "A Christmas in Ridgecrest" Dec. 3 in the Performing Arts Center of Burroughs High School at 7 p.m. The program will feature the world premiere of "Magic in the Air" by Rick Lineback along with classic and popular holiday arrangements by Leroy Anderson, Irving Berlin, Arthur Harris and more. The concert will also include accompaniments by the David Hodgson Singers, Suzuki Strings and other local talent. Tickets

are \$10 and can be purchased at the door and Red Rock Books. For information, please telephone Gordon at (760) 446-2060.

**Santa's Art Shop - Dec 3-4:**

Santa's Art Shop is now in its 34th year. Each year, 5,000 holiday shoppers come together with more than 200 art and craft vendors for this two-day event. The Desert Empire Fairgrounds provides over 33,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space for this show, offering holiday shopping for the whole family. Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond, Ridgecrest, Calif.

**Christmas Concert - Sunday, Dec. 4:**

The United Methodist Church of Ridgecrest will hold their annual concert at 4 p.m. Directed by Janice Anderson, the show will include Christmas Choral music by the CK2 Trio and pianist Patrick Rindt, admission is free but donations are accepted.

**Kern Valley Community Orchestra Christmas Concert, Dec. 4:**

The Kern Valley Community Orchestra is celebrating 20 years and will be presenting their Christmas Concert, "A Sleigh Ride," at Kernville Elementary School Dec. 4 at 4p.m. The selections to be performed include Snowflakes, The Christmas Song, Sleigh Ride, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Trepak. New musicians are always welcome and donations will be accepted at the door, for children there is no charge. The school is located at 13350 Sierra Way in Kernville. For more information, call Rick Fankhauser at (760) 379-1616.

Fitness, Page 12

purposes.

The interim change will be followed by an official change in the next revision of BUPERSINST 1610.10C and in the next update to NAVFIT98A, the performance evaluation software used throughout the fleet.

The Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce warmly invites you to join us by participating in Kern County's first Christmas Parade of the 2011 holiday season.



34<sup>TH</sup> LAKE ISABELLA CHRISTMAS PARADE  
**"A CHRISTMAS SALUTE"**  
 A Decade of Remembrance - 9/11 First Responders

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2011  
 START TIME 11:00 A.M.**

The chamber is pleased to announce this year's Grand Marshal, Captain Brett Pierson, from Ridgecrest, Commanding Officer of "VX-9", in honor of all armed forces. The chamber will again be working together with The Salvation Army in sponsoring TOYS FOR TOTS. A breakfast will be held at the Isabella Senior Center from 6:00 am to Noon. Bring in an unwrapped toy and receive a discount. All toys will stay in the Kern River Valley.

For more info, please call the office at 760-379-5236 or log on [www.kernrivervalley.com](http://www.kernrivervalley.com) or email [office@kernrivervalley.com](mailto:office@kernrivervalley.com)

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 Contemporary Service  
 6 p.m. Evening Praise Service/Children's Church  
**Wednesday**  
 9 a.m. WOW - Women's Bible Study  
 11:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
 6:15 p.m. Caravan 4 years - 6th grade  
 6:15 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group  
**James L. Goss, Pastor • Gregory Griffin, Children's Pastor  
 Matthew Connally, Youth Pastor • Jeff Little, Worship & Arts Pastor**  
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# Community Support Programs Events

BACHELOR'S QUARTERS ▼ CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAMS ▼ DINING SERVICES ▼ FAMILY HOUSING ▼ FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER ▼ MWR ▼ NAVY GATEWAY INNS & SUITES

## Community Support Programs

### Aquatics - 760-939-2737

Indoor Pool Lap Swim:  
Mon-Fri 5-7 am, 11 am-1 pm, 5-7 pm  
Sat 8 am-3 pm, Sun 9 am-3 pm,  
Holidays 10 am-3 pm  
Swim lessons, AquaLogix and  
Non-Flex Friday Night Family Swim

### Auto Skills Center - 760-939-2346

November Special:  
Battery/Electrical System Tester - 50%  
off for military/25% off for all others

### Dining Services - 760-939-8662

Paradise Cafe offers all-you-care-to-eat  
buffets, Monday-Thursday 11 am-1 pm

### Fleet & Family Support Center 760-939-4545

Life skills courses, personal financial  
management, relocation and  
counseling services!

### Golf Course - 760-939-2990

18-hole golf, driving range, rental clubs,  
golf cart rentals, specials, Pro Shop and  
Mulligans Grill offering 5-TVs featuring  
sporting events and great food!

### Hall Memorial Bowling Center 760-939-3471

Free Active Duty bowling every week!  
Saturday Xtreme bowling!  
Sunday family bowling!

### Information, Tickets and Tours 760-939-8644

Discounts on amusement parks,  
museums, & the zoo!  
Discount vouchers for hotels in the  
Los Angeles, San Diego & Vegas area.  
Trips every week!

**Outdoor Recreation - 760-939-3006**  
Equipment rental headquarters!  
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### RecStop Liberty Center 760-939-4386

Daily activities and cool trips!  
Wi-Fi, games, video stations, computers,  
tournaments and fun!  
(Eligibility Required)

## WINTER WONDERLAND

Friday, December 2  
5-9 pm  
West parking lot of the  
Sports & Fitness Complex  
**FREE!!**  
*Santa, skating rink and fun to  
kick start your holiday season!*



Here Comes Santa Claus,  
Here Comes Santa Claus,  
Right Down Santa Claus Lane!  
Friday and Saturday  
December 2-3

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

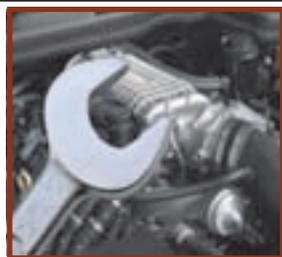
Saturday, December 3  
9 am-Noon  
CastleX Youth Center  
Santa, pancake breakfast,  
crafts and games!  
Adults... \$3 Children...\$2



Universal Trip  
Saturday Dec. 10  
Sign up by 12/3

Information, Tickets & Tours  
760-939-8644

SD Zoo Trip  
Saturday Dec. 17  
Sign up by 12/10



**Monthly Specials!**  
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### China Lake Golf Course

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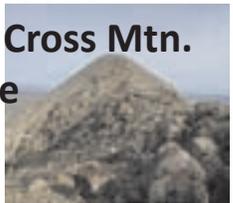
### Mammoth Day Trip

Friday, Dec. 9  
Sign up by 12/5

Outdoor Recreation  
760-939-3006

### Chuckwalla & Cross Mtn.

Full Moon Hike  
Saturday, Dec. 10  
Sign up by 12/5



## NFL Schedule at Mulligans Grill

### Sunday November 20

Raiders at Vikings - 10 am  
Titans at Falcons - 10 am  
Bills at Dolphins - 10 am  
Jaguars at Browns - 10 am  
Bengals at Ravens - 10 am  
Cowboys at Redskins - 10 am  
Panthers at Lions - 10 am  
Buccaneers at Packers - 10 am  
Seahawks at Rams - 1:05 pm  
Cardinals at 49ers - 1:05 pm  
Chargers at Bears - 1:05 pm  
Eagles at Giants - 5:20 pm

### Monday November 21

Chiefs at Patriots - 5:30 pm

### Sunday November 27

Texans at Jaguars - 10 am  
Bills at Jets - 10 am  
Browns at Bengals - 10 am  
Vikings at Falcons - 10 am  
Cardinals at Rams - 10 am  
Panthers at Colts - 10 am  
Buccaneers at Titans - 10 am  
Bears at Raiders - 1:05 pm  
Redskins at Seahawks - 1:05 pm  
Patriots at Eagles - 1:15 pm  
Broncos at Chargers - 1:15 pm  
Steelers at Chiefs - 5:20 pm

### Monday November 28

Giants at Saints - 5:30 pm

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Captain Brett Pierson graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering and reported for flight training at NAS Pensacola. Following primary training at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and advanced training at NAS Meridian, Mississippi, he was designated a Naval Aviator in November 1989 and reported to VS-41 at NAS North Island, California, for training in the S-3 Viking.

CAPT Pierson's first fleet assignment was to the Red Griffins of VS-38 where he deployed aboard USS RANGER for Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and RESTORE HOPE during "Ranger's Last Ride." After RANGER's decommissioning, the RED GRIFFINS transferred to USS CONSTELLATION where he made RIMPAC 1994 before transferring to shore duty. While in VS-38,

CAPT Pierson served as Safety Department Head and was named the 1993 Viking Aviator of the Year.

In January 1995, CAPT Pierson reported to the United States Naval Test Pilot School at NAS Patuxent River. After completing Test Pilot training he reported to the FORCE Aircraft Test Squadron where he served as test pilot for various projects. During this tour, he was awarded a Master's Degree in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee and was named the 1997 FORCE Test Pilot of the Year.

CAPT Pierson returned to the fleet and NAS North Island in 1998 as a Department Head with the World-Famous SCREWBIRDS of VS-33 where he served as Administrative Officer, and Operations Officer. During this tour he deployed aboard the USS JOHN C STENNIS for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH during STENNIS' "Millennium Cruise."

In September 2000, CAPT Pierson reported to the United States Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California, where he served as the Director of Curriculum Standardization and flew as an Instructor Pilot in the T-38 Talon and F-16 Falcon. During this tour he was named the 2002 USAF TPS Outstanding Flight Instructor.

In November 2002, CAPT Pierson was selected for transition to the F/A-18 Hornet for a command tour and reported to VFA-125 and the Strike Fighter Weapons School Pacific for training in the Hornet. In May 2004, he reported as Executive Officer of the VFA-147 Argonauts, and took over VFA-147 as Commanding Officer in September 2005. During his tour with the Argonauts he deployed aboard the USS CARL VINSON in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

In December 2006 he reported to the Pentagon for duty on the Joint Staff where he served as Irregular Warfare Branch Chief in the Warfighting Analysis Division of J8. While on the Joint Staff, CAPT Pierson was awarded the 2007 DoD Modeling and Simulation Award for Excellence for his work developing a model of Counterinsurgency to provide analytic insights into Irregular Warfare and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In October 2009, he left the Pentagon and reported to VX-9 at NAS China Lake for a tour as Chief Operational Test Director and then Commanding Officer.

CAPT Pierson has over 650 carrier arrested landings and 3,500 flight hours in 50 different aircraft including the P-51 Mustang, F-4 Phantom, MIG-15, A-10 Warthog, F-14 Tomcat, and F-15 Eagle. His personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, one Air Medal, one Joint Commendation Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals and various campaign and unit awards. He lives in Ridgecrest, California with his wife, Sylvia, and their dog, Roxie.

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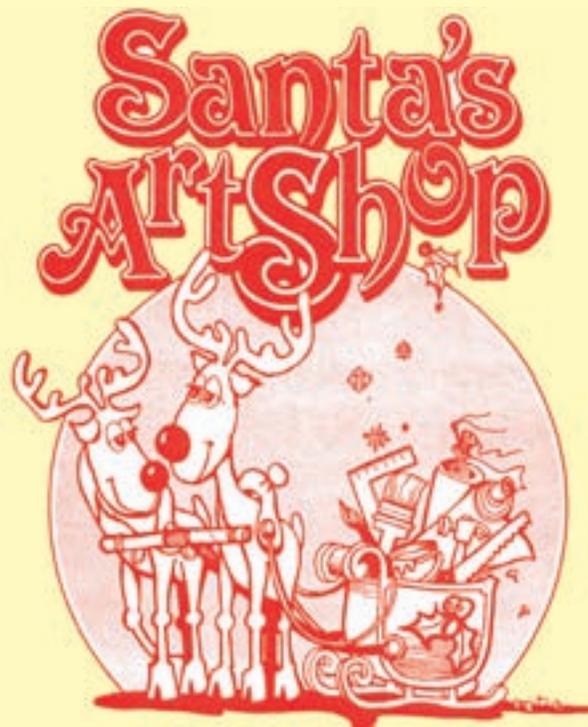
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