

Rocketeer II

Happy Holidays

Vol. 5, Issue 25

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

Thursday, December 15, 2011



VX-31 and VX-9 off limits during open house

China Lake's Open House is scheduled for Dec. 16, due to operational requirements VX-31 will not be participating in this year's event, and therefore cannot support tours of their spaces.

Employees are asked to not take guests to Hangar 3 or the VX-31 flight line during the Open House. Everyone's cooperation and support of VX-31's operational commitments is greatly appreciated.

The curation facility, Bldg. 01022, located on the corner of Cobra and Blandy, will be open for visitors from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Docents will be on hand to discuss the preserved artifacts.

ET2 Burchiel builds robot while deployed

By Michael Roach
Editor, Rocketeer II

While deployed aboard the U.S.S. Ronald Regan, Electronics Technician Chief Petty Officer Second Class (ET2) James Burchiel found that he had some extra time on his hands. The result: a Mobile Articulated Robotic Computer (MARC).

It was all about "the challenge," said Burchiel. "I was bored, on a six-month deployment, and I needed something to push my talents and push my skills and it [MARC] was one way to do it."

As an electronic technician at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Burchiel maintains the meteorology equipment. But while deployed, MARC was a way for him to not only pass time but to master some of the complexities in his field. "It stands two and a half feet tall," stated Burchiel. "The main controller is a Pico ITX computer with a gigahertz processor and a gig of ram. Other daughter cards include: Robotics Connection serializer board, Robotics Connection ranger

MARC, Page 7



Photo by Michael Roach

ET2 James Burchiel works on his mobile articulated robotic computer (MARC).

James Irvine recognized for 43 years

By Theresa Goldstrand
NAWCWD PAO

Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) commander Rear Adm. Mat Winter and executive director, Scott O'Neil, presented James (Jim) Irvine with the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service (NMCS) award in recognition of his 43 years of exceptional service and personal commitment to the Navy and NAWCWD. The NMCS award certificate, medal and citation were given to Irvine in front of his peers in the admiral's conference room on Dec. 5.

In his long and illustrious career, Irvine's work was essential in the development and improvement of the Sidewinder AIM-9M missile system, extending its lifespan and safety. Additionally, Irvine represented China Lake on a national level as the senior research analyst for the Naval Air Warfare Center's Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) Study Committee where he lead the Technology Study Program to identify emerging technologies and to determine their



Photo by Mike Hunsinger

In recognition for 43 years of exceptional service, NAWCWD commander Rear Adm. Mat Winter and executive director, Scott O'Neil present James (Jim) H. Irvine with the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service (NMCS) award Dec. 5.

military potential and probable effect on future warfare.

Winter remarked, "Of his long distinguished career, one of the things that really hits home is Jim's thirst for knowledge and continued desire for discovery and understanding. His work

tells me that he not only has a thirst for knowledge, but he has a thirst and the desire for others to learn as well. That is something that is a core attribute of what I see here at the weapons division — individuals that have desire to transfer

Irvine, Page 13

Suspicious device closes front gate

By Peggy Shoaf
NAWS PAO

The discovery of a potentially hazardous/explosive device during a routine vehicle inspection at approximately 7:20 a.m. Dec. 3 caused a temporary base closure and evacuation of nearby businesses.

According to Watch Commander Lt. Bill Willard, China Lake Police Officer Matthew Griswold saw a suspicious item under the front passenger seat of a SUV.

Following procedures, Griswold called Willard over to inspect the item. A Marine Corps veteran, Willard recognized the item as potentially hazardous. The main gate was immediately secured and the area evacuated.

A command post was set up and the NAWS Chief Duty Officer, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Fire Division, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and Ridgecrest Police Department were notified and responded.

The Ridgecrest Police and Kern County Sheriff departments, along with the Highway Patrol, blocked traffic on China Lake Boulevard and Inyokern Road and evacuated some local businesses.

Members of the EOD Mobile Unit Three Detachment China Lake arrived on scene and rendered the object safe, taking it for further inspection and for proper disposal.

According to Willard, the owner of the vehicle stated he was on a recreational dive about 10 years ago in the waters around San Clemente Island when he and his dive partner found the device in two pieces on the ocean floor. They took the pieces to the dive boat and re-assembled it. He said it had been stored in his mother's home until about a month ago, when he put it under the front seat of his vehicle and forgot about it.

"This is a good example of what people shouldn't do when they find pieces of ordnance as these are the type of items that badly injure or kill people," said Nick Wiruth, Explosives Safety Officer, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake. "Any suspicious-looking item

Package, Page 13

MCPON sends holiday message

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(SS/SW) Rick D. West released the following holiday message to the Fleet Dec. 12.

"Shipmates and Navy families,

Can you believe another year is almost over? It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy! It seems we were kicking off 2011 just yesterday and here we are, about to usher in 2012.

With the traditional festivities of December upon us, I want to wish you all the happiest possible holidays, and to say thank you for the outstanding service and support you provide to our Navy and nation. I continue to be humbled by your selfless dedication and the outstanding job you do every day around the globe.

We faced some challenges this year and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future, but we will get through them together as we have done for the past 236 years. The Navy, after all, is a team sport and in 2011, we enjoyed many operational successes together that are worth celebrating. They are your legacy ... the deployments,

the steady presence in difficult places, the helping hand when natural disasters left vulnerable people in their wake.

You and your Shipmates worked hard and sacrificed often. As you visit with loved ones, scour the shopping malls, or hit the ski slopes during these joyous weeks, take a moment to reflect on the special appreciation America has for you and your family. Be proud of your accomplishments, and share sea stories with moms, dads, siblings, aunts, uncles, and old buddies.

Most of all, be safe and enjoy the holiday season to its fullest. Celebrate responsibly: You are important to our Navy family and we need every one of you to return recharged for the next adventure. Don't let bad judgment ruin the New Year or your life. Look out for each other, and keep an eye on your Shipmates who may be having a difficult time.

It's also important that we remember the thousands of our Shipmates who are deployed, on station around the world vigilantly keeping the watch, ready to answer our nation's call. They are there ensuring we have this chance to deck



Official Navy photo

the halls, gather around family dinner tables, and belt out Auld Lang Syne in a storm of confetti.

Thank you again for serving our great Navy and preserving our nation's freedom. Sailors and families, you are truly among this country's greatest gifts.

Happy holidays Shipmates, and HOOYAH!

Very Respectfully,
MCPON"

For more news from Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/mcpo/.

Rocketeer II



NAWS China Lake

Commanding Officer Capt. Jeffrey "DD" Dodson
Executive Officer Cmdr. Lee "Navin" Johnson
Public Affairs Officer Peggy Shoaf
Editor Michael Roach
Managing Editor Jessica Armstrong

Publisher

Publisher Paul Kinison
Business Manager Lisa Kinison
Production Manager Robert Combs
Advertising (877) 247-9288

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- 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, or call (760) 939-3529
 - Air Test and Evaluation Squadron NINE: Lt. Bryan Haney at bryan.haney@navy.mil, or call (760) 939-5525
 - Marine Aviation Detachment: Lt. Col. James Coppersmith at james.coppersmith@navy.mil or (760) 939-8094
 - Naval Facilities Engineering Command: Patricia Sbrocca at patricia.sbrocca@navy.mil, or call (760) 939-0082
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 - Navy Expeditionary Combat Command: CWO3 John Hammond at john.d.hammond@navy.mil, or call (760) 939-6341
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Rev. James Dowds, Catholic priest

james.dowds.ctr@navy.mil

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Naval Air Weapons Station:
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Weapons: www.navair.navy.mil/nawcwg

Social Media

NAWS China Lake can now be found on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NAWSChinaLake>, Twitter at https://twitter.com/NAWS_CL and Flickr at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nawschinalake>.

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.

Rocketeer II online:

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Aldelia Taylor
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Military

This date in Naval history

Lt. Brian "Lumbergh" Culver surpasses 1,000 flight hours

Dec. 15:
 1943 - The Chief of Naval Operations issued the Bureau of Naval Personnel Circular Letter on non-discrimination in the Navy V-12 program.
 1944 - Congress appoints the first three of four fleet admirals.
Dec. 16:
 1821 - Lt. Robert F. Stockton and Dr. Eli Ayers, a Naval surgeon and member of the American Colonizing Society, induce a local African king to sell territory for a colony, which eventually became the Republic of Liberia.
 1907 - The Great White Fleet departs Hampton Roads, Va., to circumnavigate the world.
 1922 - USS Bainbridge (DD 246) rescues 482 people from the burning French transport Vinh-Long.
Dec. 17:
 1846 - Ships under Commodore Matthew Perry capture Laguna de Terminos during the Mexican War.
 1941 - Adm. Chester W. Nimitz is named commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, relieving Adm. Husband Kimmel. Adm. William

Pye becomes acting commander until Nimitz's arrival.
Dec. 18:
 1902 - Admiral of the Navy George Dewey receives orders to send his battleship to Trinidad and then to Venezuela to make sure Great Britain and Germany's dispute with Venezuela was settled by peaceful arbitration not force.
 1944 - Adm. William Halsey's 3rd Fleet encounters a typhoon northeast of Samar. Destroyers USS Hull (DD 350), USS Monaghan (DD 354) and USS Spence (DD 512) sink, while 21 other ships are damaged.
 1965 - The River Patrol Force is established in Vietnam.
Dec. 19:
 1870 - After a month at sea in a 22-foot boat, Coxswain William Halford, the lone survivor out of a crew of five, reaches Hawaii to seek help for the crew of USS Saginaw, wrecked near Midway Island. Rescuers reach the 88 Saginaw survivors on Jan. 4, 1871.
Dec. 20:
 1822 - Congress authorizes the 14-ship West Indies Squadron to

suppress piracy in the Caribbean.
 1941 - Adm. Ernest J. King is designated commander-in-chief in charge of all operating Naval fleets and coastal frontier forces, reporting directly to the president.
 1964 - USS Richard E. Kraus (DD 849) completes a successful emergency mission, aiding the disabled American merchant ship SS Oceanic Spray in the Red Sea.
 1974 - Clearance of the Suez Canal for mines and unexploded ordnance completed by joint task force.
 1989 - Operation Just Cause begins in Panama.
 1998 - Operation Desert Fox in Iraq ends.
Dec. 21:
 1861 - Congress declares Naval personnel eligible for the Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award.
 1943 - USS Grayling (SS 208) sinks its fourth Japanese ship in three days.
 1951 - The first helicopter landing aboard a hospital ship takes place aboard USS Consolation (AH 15).



Photo by Theresa Goldstrand
 Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 31 search and rescue pilot Lt. Brian "Lumbergh" Culver surpassed 1,000 flight hours in the Sikorsky H-60 helicopter. Culver reached his milestone in the SH-60B, SH-60F, HH-60H, and MH-60S rotary-wing aircraft. Culver displays the coveted Sikorsky 1,000 hour patch that he received in honor of his achievement.

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Military

Community honors WWII Veterans

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Photo by Michael Roach

Photo by Michael Roach

Retired U.S. Navy Captain Mark Storch, meets local Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II veteran Charles Harvey during a Dec. 7 luncheon on the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

US Navy Seabees of Indian Wells Valley unveil their new banner to be used at different parades and events during their monthly breakfast Dec. 7. The group, comprised of active and retired Seabees, holds their breakfast meeting on the first Wednesday of every month.

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News

Sponsoring brighter futures



Photo by Michael Roach

Representatives of local schools hold the donations provided to them by the China Lake Chapter of the International Test and Evaluation Association (ITEA). ITEA awarded Ridgecrest Charter School, Immanuel Christian School, Murray Middle School, James Monroe Middle School, and Burroughs High School grants totalling \$30,538.74 to support science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) educational initiatives. The grant money will be used to foster excitement and appreciation of these subjects in order to increase the chances that students will pursue careers in engineering, science or math.

MARC, Front Page

board [and a] Lynxmotion 32 servo control board.”

In total, the robot has eight sensors including four infrared trip sensors, three ultra-sonic ping sensors and a webcam, according to Burchiel. “For storage I use a 250 gigabyte, two point five [inch] laptop hard drive with windows XP and Microsoft Robotics Development Studio 2010 loaded on it.”

“I used a lot of off-the-shelf components. Some of the control circuitry I got from Lynxmotion, or Robotics connection. I used a Pico ITX motherboard for the main board, for the brain,” said Burchiel “Its got a serialized board in it from Robotics Connection, Bluetooth and Wifi. Its got a lot of capabilities. Some of the parts were donated by Robotics Connection; they sponsored a lot of the components.”

Burchiel is a Red Bluff California native, a small town north of Sacramento. He has been in the Navy for seven years, working at his trade. “When I was a kid, my father did swimming pools and landscaping. I was really heavy into computers, but now that electronics has become my profession, all I want to do is go play in the dirt; go work in my garden. It’s ironic how that works, the grass is always greener on the other side,” said

Burchiel.

Burchiel built MARC by himself. It was a project that he says he never intended to finish, but one that he took on simply to sharpen his skills, it began as a hobby.

Burchiel is now looking toward improvements that he can make to MARC, which, for him, means a new set of challenges. “Right now, it was just mainly a proof-of concept, you know? To be able to access him [MARC] via the internet using Microsoft Remote Desktop that way you can seize control of him from anywhere in the world,” said Burchiel. “One upgrade I am working on right now is the battery. I have some power supply issues. I have two nickle cadmium seven point two batteries on there that I need to upgrade so that way I can get more than fifteen to twenty minutes of use out of it before it dies. I built a little, two-pronged plug so that he can plug himself into outlets.”

Though most people would consider building a robot that could be accessed from anywhere in the world an accomplishment worth mentioning. Burchiel simply states that he was bored and it sounded like good entertainment. “It was just a tinker-toy, just so I don’t get rusty and so I could improve my skills. I’m just looking to apply some of the skill sets that I have been given by the Navy.”

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Command Safety Message

Be safe this holiday season

During this holiday season we all look forward to special gatherings and celebrations with friends and loved ones. Our homes will be decorated to enhance the atmosphere of the holidays. Holiday decorations can be joyful, but can pose dangers if improperly displayed. Every year, thousands of injuries and deaths occur around the holidays. While the information may not be new to you, sometimes we become complacent and need some holiday safety reminders to help prevent a mishap. Residential fires and mishaps during the holiday season are especially tragic. Applying Operational Risk Management (ORM) while preparing your own home for the holiday, as well as while traveling and visiting others, will help you avoid tragedy during the upcoming holiday season.

TREES:

- Artificial trees should be fire resistant. Look for a statement specifying this protection when purchasing an artificial tree.

- If buying a live tree, ensure it is fresh. Follow the tips below to check for freshness:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.

- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles is a clear sign that the tree is too dry.

- Place tree away from fireplaces and other sources of heat.

- Cut off two inches of the trunk of a fresh tree before placing the tree in a sturdy stand.

- Check water level of a fresh tree daily.

- Keep tree out of the way of traffic and properly secure the tree.

- Discard the tree shortly after Christmas.

- Do not burn your live Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood burning stove. Use tree recycling options in town.

DECORATIONS:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

- Use decorations marked for "outdoor use" or weatherproof lights outside of the home.

- Purchase lights or electrical decorations which are listed by an approved testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

- Consider using energy efficient LED lights that don't get as hot.

- Throw away all decorations with broken or cracked sockets, frayed wires, or cracked lights.

- Don't run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters.

Calendar Year 2011 OSHA Recordable Mishap

Update through November :

65

- 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.
- 62) 434100D: Stepped on wooden pallet edge that collapsed resulting in loss of balance and strained foot.
- 63) 473100D: Jarred/strained wrist when socket wrench malfunctioned and slipped.
- 64) 526000D: Abdominal strain removing overhead oil fill plug from radar tower during fluid check.
- 65) N9: Severe arm swelling/redness as a result of a bee sting while caring for children in toddler playground.

- Never overload outlets. Use no more than three strands of lights on a single extension cord.

- Never run outdoor cords across lawns, driveways, or traffic areas

- Unplug all decorations before going to bed or leaving the house.

- Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.

- Keep decorations with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.

- Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food.

- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.

CANDLES:

- Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn.

- Place candles where they cannot be knocked or blown over.

- Use sturdy, safe, candleholders.

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

- Avoid using candles in bedrooms and sleeping areas.

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.

FIREPLACES:

- Before starting a fire, remove all decorations from the area and be sure that the flue is open.

- Always use a sturdy fireplace screen.

- Do not burn wrappings or evergreen boughs. These can burn extremely fast, throwing off sparks and burning debris. Safely dispose of wrapping paper with your normal trash collection.

- Don't forget to have your chimney inspected and cleaned as recommended.

- Finally, never leave your fire unattended.

TRAVEL:

- Plan your trip. Use the Navy's Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) <https://trips.safety.army.mil/navy>.

- Get adequate rest before traveling. Take frequent rest breaks and alternate drivers.

- Never drink alcohol and drive.

- Always drive with headlights on for increased visibility.

- Be prepared for winter driving conditions.

- Slow down...what's the hurry.

- Always buckle your safety belt.

Finally, make an emergency plan and use Operational Risk Management (ORM) during the holiday from preparation and decoration all the way through post-holiday clean-up. Celebration and joy can quickly turn to sorrow and anguish because basic safety guidelines were neglected and a mishap was the result. It really can happen to you, so be careful and have a safe and healthy holiday season!



News

Friends of Rachel collect for the troops



Courtesy photo
Military dependents who are Burroughs High School students and members of the Friends of Rachel club sponsored a collection for U.S. troops. With donations from Burroughs and other SSUSD schools they collected 237 pounds of items. WACOM donated money to help defray the shipping costs.

PV power system to be built onboard Station

By Peggy Shoaf
NAWS PAO

Beginning this week, SunPower Corporation., will begin mobilization to build a 13.78 megawatt solar photovoltaic power system on approximately 118 acres located on the southwest corner of the installation (across from Burroughs High School).

SunPower will construct, operate and maintain the system and sell the power to the Navy for 20 years through a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) enabled by federal legislation under 10 USC 2922a, while MetLife, the financier, will own the system.

The solar technology will generate the equivalent of more than 30 percent of China Lake is annual energy requirements, helping to reduce costs by \$13 million over the next 20 years. The system requires no initial out-of-pocket expenses to the Navy and will deliver increased energy independence as well as reliable, emission-free solar power.

This project is another step in accomplishing the Secretary of the

Navy's energy strategy to improve our energy security, efficiency and independence by obtaining or producing at least 50 percent of our total ashore energy requirements from clean energy generation, said NAWS Commanding Officer Capt. Jeffrey Dodson.

It will benefit multiple parties by reducing the Navy's dependence upon the public energy grid, freeing up electricity for public consumption while providing clean energy without damaging the environment, Dodson continued. The process also uses minimal water, which is another plus for the system.

An added bonus is that the local economy will benefit from the creation of approximately 140 jobs designated to support the construction of the plant.

Commercial operation of the plant is expected to start in the fall of 2012. It will be an unmanned plant using 31,680 Buy-American-Act-compliant photovoltaic panels.

Questions can be directed to the NAWS Public Affairs Office at (760) 939-1683.

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Holidays in full swing at China Lake



Photo by Michael Roach

Members of the Naval Air Weapons Station command pose with Santa on the golf course after enjoying their holiday safety meeting at Mulligans Grill.



Courtesy photo

Command chaplain Lt. Derrick Horne, and pastor, Father James Dowds, from the All-Faith Chapel at China Lake held a joint tree-trimming ceremony at the chapel Nov. 30. The annual pizza party, combined with decorating the trees and chapel has become a favorite occasion for many of the local youths.



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Chad Dobrowolski (left) and Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Daida from the Marine Aviation Detachment at are two of the many Marines who will be collecting toys for local children (ages infant through teen) during the holiday season.



Photo by Michael Roach

Military spouses gather and package holiday cookies at China Lake's Fleet and Family Services Center for single sailors and Marines at China Lake on Dec. 6. The activity, known as the cookie brigade, was followed later in the week by the group decorating the doors of the Single Sailors barracks.

Marines collect for Toys for Tots

Marines from Marine Aviation Detachment China Lake will again aid the Marine Corps Reserve in helping to make the holiday season enjoyable for children in need. Boxes have been distributed throughout the communities of Ridgecrest and China Lake to collect new, unwrapped and inoffensive toys to be given to local children.

The Marine Corps Toys for Tots

organization is a 501 (C)(3) not-for-profit charity that started the annual toy collection program as a nationwide community outreach in 1948. Since its inception, Toys for Tots has distributed over 350 million toys to children in need.

Donations will be accepted at box locations through Dec. 17. All donations are tax-deductible. Although Toys for Tots prefers

to maintain the spirit of the program through donations of toys, alternative donations will be accepted.

Toys will be distributed at Methodist Church Dec. 17.

For questions regarding donations, donation locations or receiving a toy for a child, please call local Toys for Tots coordinator Ann Ryan at (760) 384-4817.



Photo by Michael Roach

Navy Exchange Manager, Simon Lupton, hands over a free lunch to ADHC Fredy Giron as part of a giveaway that was available to all active duty military in honor of the holidays.



Photo by Theresa Goldstrand

Santa Claus visited the Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) THREE ONE's families at their annual holiday party Dec. 2. Family members enjoyed refreshments while children raced and stomped on yards of bubble wrap lanes and romped in two separate bounce houses. All gathered and watched with excitement as Santa flew in and landed near VX-31's Hangar 3 in an MH-60S helicopter from the Dust Devil's search and rescue program. Children then sat on Santa's lap and shared their "wish list" with him before receiving an early Christmas gift.



Photo by Michael Roach

Children write their letters to Santa during the Winter Wonderland hosted by Morale Welfare and Recreation Dec. 2.



Photo by Michael Roach

Children and adults alike enjoyed the make-shift ice skating rink at MWR's winter wonderland.



Photo by Peggy Shoaf

AC Jennifer Bermudez and her son gather goods for Thanksgiving baskets assembled at the Salvation Army Nov. 19. The community service project was sponsored by All-Faith Chapel. A total of 15 volunteers participated from VX-9, VX-31, Marine Aviation Detachment and Branch Medical. Over 300 Thanksgiving baskets were assembled.

Health

USFF Holiday Safety Standdown emphasizes suicide prevention, responsible alcohol use

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) kicked off the holiday season Dec. 9, with a safety standdown at Naval Support Activity, Hampton Roads, for the headquarter's nearly 1,000 civilian and military staff members.

Rear Adm. Mark D. Guadagnini, chief of staff, USFF, said it is important to use the holiday season to have fun, spend time with loved ones and recharge for the New Year, but most importantly, to be safe over the holidays.

"Before you do anything, stop and ask yourself, 'what's my plan?'" said Guadagnini during the event's opening remarks. "Figure out what success looks like, and see how you get from here to there."

USFF's safety office touched on a wide variety of safety concerns during the holiday season, but provided an added focus on the

responsible use of alcohol and suicide awareness.

"Unfortunately the holidays always bring a spike in suicides, and in most cases there are signs that the person is contemplating taking their own life. Often, all it takes is for someone to reach out and show concern to prevent the act," said Capt. Ted Carrell, fleet safety officer. "The holidays also see too many injuries and fatalities involving alcohol and motor vehicles."

To address these issues, guest speakers with first-hand experience shared their stories with the staff.

Advocates for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Bob and Kaye Walsh shared their emotional story about the loss of their daughter to a drunk driver in 1997.

"You never get over the death of a child. I will never be called

USFF, Page 13

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
Andrews, Douglas K.	52300ME	Nutter, Valerie K.	412000D
Avery, Ellie D.	4J3300D	Osman, Eisa H.	474300D
Baldwin, Barbara	410000D	Platon, Rita R.	452200E
Best, Loretta L.	685100D	Puckett, Kenneth D.	45P200E
Bodine, Brittny 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
Halsey, Kelsey M.	J25000D	Rubio, Gerardo	413100D
Hiser, Mary Ann	474000D	Saint-Amand, David C.	685100D
Jackson, Sonja R	423000D	Schonhorst, William M.	51J30MD
Jones, Donald T.	475100D	Smith, Brian K.	784200E
Kelly, Michael O.	475100D	Smith, Nicole A.	486M00E
Lake, David R.	451200D	Sparks, Ashley M	410000D
Lee, Victor D.	475100D	Sweany, Carolyn J.	J17000D
Long, Bonnie M.	470000D	Tanner, Brett A.	476300D
Lovern, Cristina E.	474300D	Tanner, Sarah	451400D
MacArthur (Mallory), Carol D.	783100D	Turbett, Jennifer J.	52J400D
Martin, Nicole R.	52700ME	Villa, Kathryn A.	475500D
Meyer, Lani A.	451000D	Wallis, Joanne	414200E
Meyer, Mark E.	731000D	Wirtz, Anne Marie	4J2400D

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Community

USSF, Page 12

mom again. I will never be called grandmother," said Walsh.

In 2008, Chief Master-at-Arms Terri Ellis felt a similar loss when her husband, a Department of Defense police officer, took his own life.

"If I can reach just one person and let them know that help is out there, convince them that life is worth living, then I've made an impact," said Ellis.

The presentations provided an opportunity for the USFF staff to reflect on the role safety plays in their daily lives.

Chief Culinary Specialist Carrie Lownds said the presentations were moving, and hearing the personal stories of loss will have a great impact as she goes into the holiday season.

Carrell reinforced the day's themes as the standdown came to a close.

"Practice personal risk management. Common sense needs to be more common," said Carrell. "Everyone is valuable to our organization and we need you to come back from the holidays happy, healthy and wise."

Irvine, Front Page

knowledge and not just absorb it and keep it for themselves. It speaks volumes of your (Jim's) character, of your technical competence and your continued dedication to our mission, and I say thank you for all that."

When asked by O'Neil if he was going to be at China Lake for another 43 years, Jim said, "I don't know whether I can do that, but if I have my way, you will be able to give me my 45 year service pin in a couple of years. I have enjoyed this (working at NAWCWD) immensely. It has been really interesting and this organization gives lots of opportunity to people."

Package, Front Page

should be reported to the local Police or Sherriff's Department as soon as possible and under no circumstances should you touch or move the item."

The incident is still under investigation by NCIS.

Questions can be directed to the NAWS Public Affairs Office at (760) 939-1683.

Portions of Lauritsen closed to pedestrians

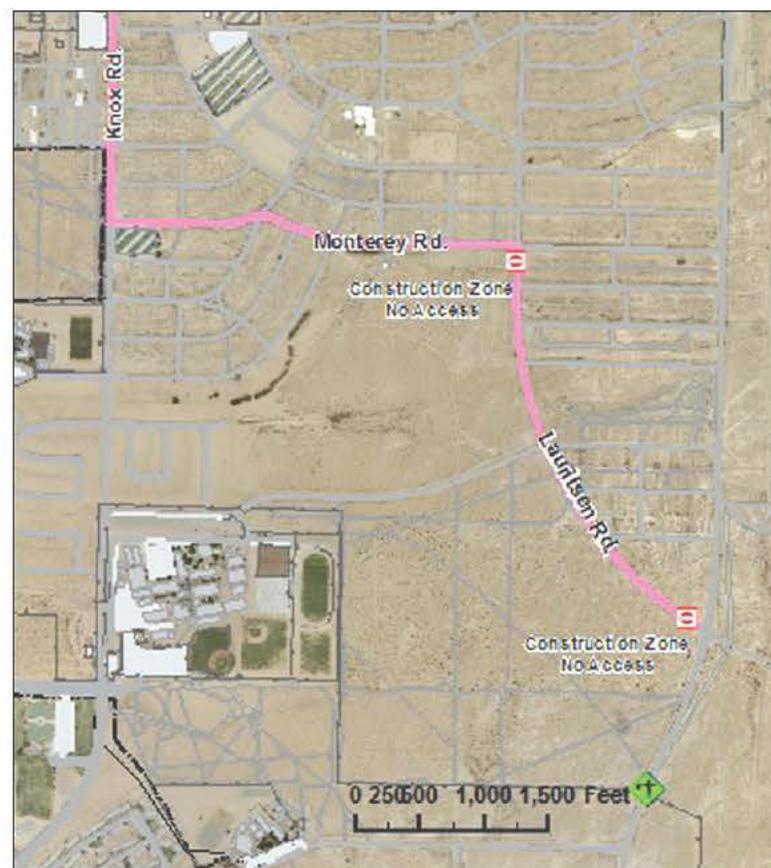
Construction on a new 13.8 MW photovoltaic solar plant is scheduled to begin Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The construction site will be located in the southwest corner of Main site and, as a result, Lauritsen Road, between Richmond Road and Monterey Ave., will be closed to all traffic, including bicyclists and pedestrians.

Roadblocks will be placed on Lauritsen Road at the Monterey and Richmond roads intersections. It is requested that all personnel adhere to the roadblocks.

Expect significant construction-related traffic in the form of vehicles, equipment, material and personnel to be in the secured area. The closure has been implemented for safety reasons and bicyclists and pedestrians are advised to identify and use an alternate route during the construction phase.

Please contact the Public Affairs Office at (760) 939-1683 with any questions.



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9:00 pm Service of Lessons and Carols
Adult Choir, "Silent Night" by Candlelight
Message: "GOD'S NATIVITY"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011
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Sat 8 am-3 pm, Sun 9 am-3 pm,
Holidays 10 am-3 pm
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Auto Skills Center - 760-939-2346

December Special:
Tire Machine - 50% off for military
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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

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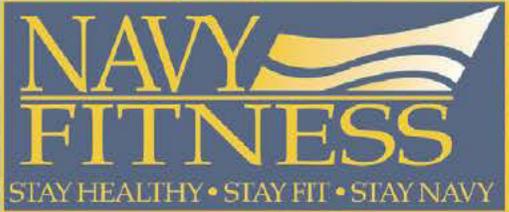
Opening serve, January 9 • Sign up by January 4

Polar Bear Plunge

Saturday, January 28 • 9 am • Sign up by January 4

LifeGuard Training

Monday-Friday, March 19-24 • 9 am-5 pm
Sign up January 1-20



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Lisa Harper

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Lisa Harper has been working in travel since January 2005. "I first worked for United Express/SkyWest Airlines at my local airport," she recalls. After an injury on the job that limited her to deskwork, she remained in the industry and took a job with CWT Sato Travel as a travel counselor at her local navy base, arranging official military and government travel.



Today, she is a franchise owner with Cruise Planners/American Express, having joined the team in March this year, and a Sandals Certified Specialist and a Norwegian Cruise Line Freestyle Certified Agent, as well as a honeymoon and destination wedding specialist. She appreciates the challenge and fun of vacation planning (as opposed to the official travel she organized at Sato—"leisure is significantly more fun and less risky," she says).

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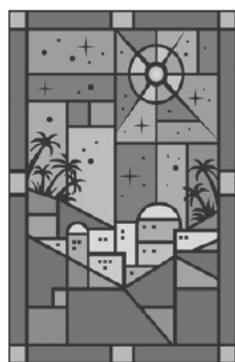
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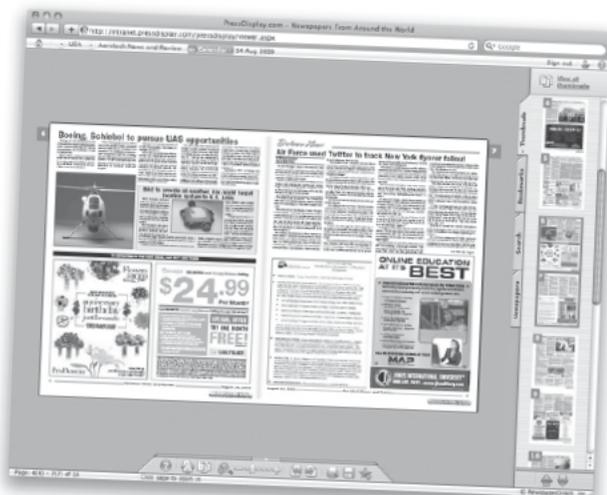
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The **ONLY** personnel eligible to place free ads in the Rocketeer II are:

- Active Duty Military and DoD personnel stationed at NAWS China Lake and their dependents, and retired military.

The **ONLY** Classified ads that are available as free ads to above listed personnel are:

- Pets - Free To Good Home
- Roommate Wanted
- Lost & Found
- Cars & Trucks (Except RV's)
- Furniture & Appliances
- Misc. For Sale
- Garage & Yard Sales
- Motorcycles
- Misc. Wanted

All other categories are paid.

If you are eligible use the form below:

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One word, phone number, price per space.

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- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
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| • Lost & Found | • Motorcycles |
| • Cars & Trucks (Except RV's) | • Misc. Wanted |
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| • Misc. For Sale | • Rooms For Rent |

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PAID CLASSIFIED AD FORM

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOMES FOR SALE | <input type="checkbox"/> MOBILES FOR RENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSES FOR RENT | <input type="checkbox"/> MISC. FOR RENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APTS FOR RENT | <input type="checkbox"/> ACREAGE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOTS | <input type="checkbox"/> INCOME PROPERTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOTELS & MOTELS | <input type="checkbox"/> FARMS & RANCHES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL RENTALS | <input type="checkbox"/> MISC. FOR SALE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOANS | <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> PETS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION VEHICLES | <input type="checkbox"/> CARS & TRUCKS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MOTORCYCLES | <input type="checkbox"/> FURNITURE & APPLIANCES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WORK WANTED | <input type="checkbox"/> MISC. WANTED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOST & FOUND | <input type="checkbox"/> GARAGE & YARD SALES |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> MOBILES FOR SALE | <input type="checkbox"/> CONDOS FOR RENT |

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CASH _____

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DATE _____

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