

JAX AIR NEWS

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NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

May 10, 2001

Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast luncheon features astronaut

NASA astronaut Cmdr. Michael Lopez-Alegria will speak at the Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast 2001 Kickoff Luncheon Thursday, May 17, at 11:45 a.m., in the NAS Jacksonville Officers' Club.

Lopez-Alegria, a 1980 U.S. Naval Academy graduate, earned his wings in 1981. NASA selected him in 1992. He has been on two missions aboard shuttles Columbia and Discovery, logging almost 28 days aloft, including more than 14 hours walking in space.

Lopez-Alegria has logged 4,000 hours



Cmdr. Michael Lopez-Alegria

piloting more than 30 different aircraft.

Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast 2001 will be held at NAS Jacksonville Saturday, May 19. Festivities begin with a parade down Gillis Street at 9:30 a.m. followed by opening ceremonies at Hangar 30 at 10 a.m. Events, which conclude at 4 p.m., will feature aerial demon-

strations, static aircraft displays, and nearly 200 booths. The event and parking are free.

Visit www.nasjax.navy.mil and click on Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast for more information.

Depot wins CNO Safety and Occupational Health Award

By Kelly Hinchey

NADep Jacksonville Public Affairs

Naval Aviation Depot Jacksonville was presented the Fiscal Year 2000 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Award for Achievement in Safety Ashore April 10.

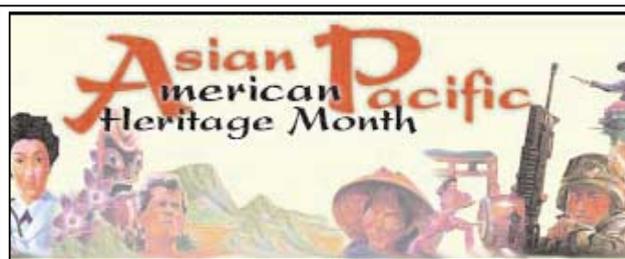
OSH Director, Chris Williamson, accepted the award for the command at the Naval OSH (NavOSH) Professional Development Conference in San Diego. The purpose of the CNO OSH Award is to recognize activities for the quality of their safety program and record of achievement in mishap reduction. The Depot won the award for contributions in mishap prevention.

With more than 120 different occupations throughout the facility, the overwhelming task of incorporating ergonomic standards into every trade began with an employee-based ergonomic team. The continuing efforts of NADep Jax employees have had an

enormous impact on making the facility a much safer place to work.

Since the Depot began the ergonomics program, the number of mishaps has dropped steadily each year. In fact, ergonomic solutions are credited with cutting the total number of cases to half of what they were just four years ago. The associated costs (lost time, medical costs, etc.) per claim have also dropped. Lost time is down and medical costs that once averaged \$5,000 per claim are now under \$1,000. These solutions led to increased employee morale and a safer environment.

NADep Jax Ergonomic Program Manager, Barbara Wright, was also recognized, earning the CNO Fiscal Year 2000 Award for Individual Achievement in Safety and Occupational Health Ashore. She was lauded for contributing to the CNO NavOSH Program through a Navy-wide website established for naval activities to share ergonomic intervention success stories titled "1001 NavOSH Success Stories."



WASHINGTON - The 20th annual observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated throughout May. The theme for this year's observance is "Asian/Pacific Americans Emerging Together."

The annual observance started May 4, 1979, as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. Eleven years later, President George Bush extended the week-long observance to a month-long celebration during May 1990. Ultimately, on Oct. 23, 1992 the entire month of May was declared Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

In encouraging Navywide participation of the observance, Acting Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Pirie, Jr. said in a message, "This special time of observance provides an opportunity to promote awareness and increase understanding of the Asian/Pacific American culture and its unique diversity. Through education and celebration all Americans can reflect on the myriad contributions Asian/Pacific Americans have made in building our wonderfully diverse nation. We, in the Department of the Navy believe that there is strength in diversity and deeply appreciate the integral part that Asian/Pacific Americans play on the Navy-Marine Corps team."

On June 21, during a White House ceremony, 22 Asian American World War II soldiers were finally recognized for their heroism when they re-

ceived the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. These soldiers were also inducted into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on June 22, 2000. Eight of the 22 soldiers were killed in action. Seven have died since World War II, and seven attended the induction ceremony. Our country will forever be indebted for the heroism they displayed in preserving America's precious rights.

These valiant soldiers joined 10 other Asian/Pacific Americans already honored with the Medal of Honor. Included is Navy Fireman 2nd Class Telesforo Trinidad.

Trinidad, a Filipino American, was awarded our nation's highest honor following a boiler explosion aboard the USS San Diego on Jan. 21, 1915.

"Trinidad was driven out of fire room No. 2 by the explosion, but at once returned and picked up Fireman 2nd Class R.E. Daly, whom he saw to be injured, and proceeded to bring him out," the citation states. "While coming into fire room No. 4, Trinidad was just in time to catch the explosion in fire room No. 3. Without consideration for his own safety, Trinidad passed Daly on and then assisted in rescuing another injured man from fire room No. 3. His face was severely burned by the blast from the explosion fire room No. 3."

Trinidad was a native of New Washington Capig, Philippines.

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Jax Air News online: www.nasjax.navy.mil

Meet a Sailor... RP1 John E. Houston



Job Title: Health Educator at the Wellness Center

Hometown: Shreveport, La.

Past duty stations: USS John F. Kennedy

Hobbies: Fishing, playing basketball.

Family Life: Wife, Jackie; children, Ja'nea and La'Jackqueline

Career Plans: Retire and start my own business.

Most Interesting Experience: Working at Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

Words of wisdom: "Take care of your family."

Meet a Civilian... Sandy J Fischer RN



Job Title: Health Educator at the Wellness Center

Hometown: Hannibal, Mo.

Past duty stations: NARC Wellness Center NAS Jax and GTMO.

Hobbies: leisure time: likes to ride bikes, walk, needlework, travel, and an investment club

Family Life: Two daughters, Dana and Robin; four grandchildren, Shelby, Nathan, Sophie and Henry, one cat Salem.

Career Plans: To do another tour overseas, maybe to Cuba.

Most Interesting Experience: Being the Health Promotion Officer in GTMO. It is both challenging and rewarding.

Words of wisdom: "From the 'Four Agreements:' Make your words impeccable. Assume nothing. Don't take things personal. Do your best every day."

Joint Chiefs, America honor service members and spouses

May has been designated as National Military Appreciation Month. This is a time for all Americans to reflect on the sacrifices made by millions of our fellow citizens who have served the cause of freedom throughout our history.

We also set aside May 11th to recognize the sacrifices made by the wives and husbands of those who wear our country's uniform. It is appropriate that we do so, because service in today's military really means service as a team — the member and the spouse. Both roles are critical, and both roles ensure the success of our missions at home and abroad.

I am proud to say that the American people hold in high esteem our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coastguardsmen who protect this nation and safeguard its principles.

Our men and women in uniform show great courage and fortitude in the face of danger as they carry out their mission to

preserve freedom.

Military spouses, too, face daunting challenges. They must manage the unique demands military life places on them and their families. Dealing with deployments, family separations and frequent moves requires great sacrifice and a special commitment.

For more than two centuries, military spouses have proven that they are up to these challenges. Their support and dedication provide a vital element of stability to service members and to our military communities.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff and I join all Americans in paying tribute to the members of our Armed Forces — active, Guard and Reserve — and their spouses for all they have done, and all they continue to do, to serve our nation.

Gen. Henry H. Shelton

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Stand For Children Day involvement encouraged

Commander, Navy Region Southeast encourages all commands and department personnel and their families to join the 'Stand for Children Day' event taking place on June 2 by participating in a leisurely walk beginning in downtown Jacksonville at the Treaty Oak in Jessie Ball DuPont Park on Prudential Drive, crossing the Main Street Bridge and ending at the Jacksonville Landing. The walk commences at 8 a.m.

Featured speaker will be Capt. Mark S. Boensel, NAS Jacksonville commanding officer.

This event promises to be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the day with your families. Activities taking place at the Landing following the walk will include mini-train rides, dancing, carnival games and prizes for the children. There will also be free health clinics and interactive booths sponsored by local childcare and safe-

ty representatives. The event is free and open to the public and there will be continuous entertainment for children including face painting, clowns and much more.

'Stand for Children' is a nonpartisan membership organization developed by the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, DC. The purpose of this sixth annual event is to build a strong voice for children, create awareness surrounding issues that affect children and to generate new advocates for children.

For more information or to sign up for the walk contact Dianne Parker, NAS Jacksonville FFSC at 542-2766, ext. 30 or MMCS(SW) Arden Battle, NAS Jacksonville afety at 542-3082. Navy commands or departments interested in providing some type of activity or demonstration at the Jacksonville Landing for the kids should also contact Parker.



It's free!

It's free! Give yourself the gift of a Navy CREDO Retreat. Personal growth retreats are offered May 17 - 20. For more information, or to register, call CREDO at 270-6958.

CREDO

JAX AIR NEWS

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Stray and feral cats aboard NAS Jacksonville

Editor's Note: *The following is a letter to the base community from NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark S. Boensel.*

Recent activity outside the gates of NAS Jacksonville and an article in the May 4 edition of the Florida Times Union focused on the issue of trapping and removing stray and feral cats from the base. Please allow me this opportunity, through a rational, factual and unemotional presentation to educate the public and hopefully, settle the controversy regarding control and disposition of stray and feral cats on this installation.

First, let me establish that neither was Captain Steve Turcotte, my predecessor in command of this air station, nor am I, insensitive to the feral cat situation. In fact, we both are adoptive owners of feral cats; Captain Turcotte of a cat here at NAS Jacksonville, and I of a cat at my previous home in San Diego, Calif. We both adopted these animals and have spent considerable amounts of our own time and money to spay/neuter, vaccinate and care for them.

With that as a baseline, I want to assure you that the decision made aboard NAS Jacksonville regarding stray and feral cats was not made in an arbitrary or capricious manner; extensive consultations have been made with medical, veterinary medicine, environmental, and wildlife experts. After carefully and seriously considering this installation's circumstances, all of these experts recommended the course of action chosen - to trap and turn over to Duval Animal Control, as the only practical and effective means of controlling the stray and feral cat population and protecting the health of the human population on the air station.

Proponents of the trap-neuter-return (TNR) method of control cite Norfolk Naval Shipyard as an effective example of TNR on a military installation. Since that program has only been in effect since December 2000, I contend that it is much too early to determine its success or failure. If the program is effective there, and I hope it is, I would still say that the specific environmental circumstances present at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard are profoundly different than here at NAS Jacksonville. Norfolk Naval Shipyard is, in

nearly its entirety, an industrial installation. This is not the case at NAS Jacksonville.

NAS Jacksonville supports over 24,000 people during its daily operation. A relatively small portion of the installation is dedicated to strictly industrial purposes. The vast majority of the air station is dedicated to non-industrial uses. The station includes on its several thousands of acres, more than 800 separate structures, 407 family houses with a permanent human population of over 1,470, several large bachelors quarters which house more than 1,500 people, a hotel, a large child care and child development center which daily serves more than 245 children, a large after school care/youth activities center, several food and beverage outlets, large forested areas with thousands of animal species, and a fully operational 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week airport. NAS Jacksonville is, in fact, essentially a small city.

An additional factor to consider at NAS Jacksonville is the large population of raccoons living on the installation. We have found that many of these animals have the raccoon rabies virus and that this virus has now been transmitted to the feral cats on the station. This situation, particularly considering that many of the feral cats live in housing areas, makes protection of human health of utmost concern.

NAS Jacksonville conducted extensive studies of TNR a possible method of control. As part of the process, other installations that utilize TNR were examined. We found that at one military installation, with a configuration similar to NAS Jacksonville, that within three years of instituting TNR, the stray and feral cat population has more than tripled from 200 to more than 800 cats. Along with this increase also came the predictable problems associated with hugely expanded population - many, many sick and malnourished cats.

As we are aware of the tragic and heartbreaking results of rampant animal overpopulation, NAS Jacksonville is taking proactive steps to educate our personnel about the tenants of responsible pet ownership. We believe that education, along with a regularly and responsibly administered stray and feral cat population control program will alleviate and eventually eliminate the hazards to both the human and fe-



line population of the air station.

As commanding officer of NAS Jacksonville, one of my primary responsibilities is to ensure that safe and healthy human living and working conditions are maintained on this installation. Considering all the relevant factors, Captain Turcotte's decision on methods used to control the stray and feral cat population on this air station is absolutely consistent with this responsibility, and is identical to the policies employed by the municipalities surrounding NAS Jacksonville. I firmly support his decision, and do not intend to change NAS Jacksonville's policy.

M. S. Boensel
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Naval War College offers programs in Jacksonville

The Naval War College's College of Continuing Education will continue offering its nonresident seminar program in Jacksonville for academic year 2001-2002. This highly acclaimed program parallels to a major degree the course of study followed by students in the College of Naval Command and Staff taught at the Resident College in Newport, R.I.

In the Jacksonville area, evening classes (one night per week for 32 weeks) will be offered in one core course area: Strategy and Policy.

However, if there is sufficient student interest, a second course in Joint Maritime Operations will be taught as well. Classes begin the last week in August and end the last week in April.

The seminars are lead by top quality,

adjunct faculty members from the Jacksonville area. Students can earn an NWC Command & Staff diploma, JPME Phase I credit, and up to 20 graduate credit hours after completing all three core courses. All books and materials are provided on a loan basis, and there is no tuition charge. Enrollment is open to USN/USMC/USCG O-3 above, USA/USAF 0-4 or above, or DoD GS-11 or above.

Applications will be accepted beginning May 15. Call either Petty Officer First Class F Flint Banther at 904-542-3320 ext. 551 or Professor David Fay at 904-771-2100 for information and an application, or log on to CCE's web site at cce.nwc.navy.mil to apply on-line. Applications are due by July 27.

Summer Spiritual Journey

Have you ever asked, "If God is loving, why does He allow ...?" Join us on a journey May 15 - July 24 as we explore a 10-week study from God's Word why bad things seem to happen to good people.

Guest speakers May 15 will tell their story; Precept Kids class provided 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 Bldg. 749.

Call the Chapel at 542-3051 for more information.

Prelude to Midway

Coral Sea vets recall life, combat aboard Lady Lex

By Jeff Hilton
Staff Writer

Editor's note: The Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, 1942 claims historic importance by being the first encounter where navies engaged without being in gunnery range. Planes launched from aircraft carriers more than 150 miles apart were the opponents' main battery.

Both the Japanese and the American-Australian task force could claim victory at Coral Sea.

The Japanese sank a destroyer and an oiler. Their attack on the large carrier USS Lexington (CV-2) led to it being scuttled. They withdrew from Coral Sea believing they had also sunk the carrier USS Yorktown (CV-5) only to have her attack them again a month later in the Battle of Midway.

U.S. carriers sank the light carrier Shoho and, perhaps more significantly, damaged one of two fleet carriers so severely it could not participate in the tide-turning Battle of Midway. The air wings of both Japanese fleet carriers were decimated.

Coral Sea blunted Japanese plans to invade Australia and their push to occupy islands in the southeastern Pacific that would preclude the safe passage of ships trying to reach Australia from America. The battle helped stop Japan's strategy to own the Pacific.

Melvin Bell, Fred Hartson and Wood Richmond are all pushing 80 years old.

They can claim membership in America's greatest generation - those who survived the Great Depression and contributed to victory in WWII. The three retired chief petty officers are enjoying life now.

These Northeast Florida residents will never forget where they were late in the afternoon of May 8, 1942 - wearing lifejackets in the warm waters of the



U.S. Navy photo

The USS Lexington (CV-2), underway sometime before 1938, launches aircraft. By May 1942 Lexington's bow was squared off and her eight-inch guns had been removed.

Coral Sea watching their ship die.

Until shortly after 5 p.m. that Friday, the three served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lexington (CV-2). They worked in three of the four squadrons comprising Lexington's Air Group. That they didn't know one another at the time was indicative of how busy wartime squadron life is. Fifty-nine years would pass before they met.

Lexington and her sister ship, USS Saratoga (CV-3), were laid down as battlecruisers but converted to carriers while under construction in the mid-1920's. They were the largest ships of



Photo By Jeff Hilton

Fred Hartson, left, Melvin Bell and Wood Richmond all survived the sinking of their ship, USS Lexington, May 8, 1942 in the Coral Sea.

their type in the world, displacing 41,000 tons and topped with an 888-foot flight deck. Lexington was so popular that some Sailors who put her in service in 1927 as young seamen were now seasoned chief petty officers who had never served aboard another ship.

Bell, Hartson and Richmond came to "Lady Lex," by different paths. Their lives aboard the ship known as "Queen of the Flattops" prior to May 8 were not much different than other enlisted men of Lexington's Air Group.

In their Navy, "You didn't talk to a chief unless he wanted to talk to you," Hartson said, "You were lucky to talk with a Third Class (Petty Officer)."

Sailors reported to ships with a seabag and hammock - both frequently weighing more than the man carrying them.

Carrier life often included living

quarters that doubled as a dining room. After the evening meal, tables were hoisted to the overhead and hammocks were hung, often four high. After reveille, the process was reversed - hammocks were tied up with seven marlin hitches and tables came down. A couple of junior Sailors would be dispatched to the ship's galley with large tureens and return with semi-steaming scrambled eggs, frequently the powdered type, as well as pots of coffee. Meals were served family-style and in order of seniority with junior Sailors often finding their portions much smaller than those senior to them. "I was onboard three days before I got any meat," said Richmond who was so junior he sat on a bench instead of at the table, "Even

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Coral Sea: Vets recall

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then, I had to stand up and grab it.”

Luckier Sailors would have had fixed racks to sleep in. They would have eaten on mess decks after passing through a cafeteria-like serving line. Regardless of where they ate, dining at sea aboard this carrier could be a challenge. Lexington's sleek hull made her prone to roll.

“I remember holding on to my seat with one hand and holding my tray with the other as the ship rolled,” said Bell.

Sailors just might have one or two



Melvin Bell in WWII
Bell recalls the stale air in berthing was made worse by smoking. “You could smoke almost anywhere,” he said.

fans pushing non-air conditioned air through compartments housing dozens of shipmates. Again, seniority determined who slept closest to the fans.

Bell was born in California. As youngest in a family with seven siblings during the Depression, Bell's father was hard pressed to feed them all. As was common then, Bell moved in with family friends, farmers living near Medora, Ind.

He graduated high school there and enlisted in June 1940. By August he was a boot camp recruit in Norfolk, Va. making the transition from civilian to Sailor.

In short order he was a seaman striking for Boatswain's Mate Third Class aboard the battleship USS Idaho (BB-42). The uniform of the day in the “Battleship Navy” was dress whites. Bell's battle station was high above the ship's main deck in an anti-aircraft fire control director, not 40 feet from the ship's stack.

The first time the ship went to battle stations he learned the billowing black smoke the ship discharged did not make for a clean uniform. After every trip aloft Bell, along with many of his shipmates, combined their shower with laundry duty by stripping off their whites and scrubbing them in a bucket. “I had to scrub for hours to get those whites clean,” he said.

His distaste for stack gas and scrubbing whites plus the prospect of working with his older brother, Frank, motivated him to request a transfer to Scouting Two aboard Lexington. Bell joined the squadron in May 1941.

If he thought the Idaho's smoke and

scrubbing whites was tough, his brother, an Aviation Ordnanceman Chief was tougher. “He assigned me to every dirty detail there was... but I learned a lot,” Bell chuckled, “he wasn't going to be accused of playing favorites.”

Under Frank's tutelage, Melvin tended to the weapons on SBD “Dauntless”

dive bombers. The newest Bell in Scouting Two learned the teamwork needed to hang large bombs. He mastered attaching arming wires to them. Thin wires that broke when the bomb was released allowed the falling bomb's nose prop to turn then safely arm the

Continued on page 6

KUDO CORNER

The following people were recently recognized by Commanding Officer, Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, Jacksonville with Volunteer Service Medals:

ACCS(AW/SW) Bobbi Johnson
OSC(SW) James Daniels

OS1(SW) Jeffery L. Johnson
ET2 Gregory D. Finn

Coral Sea: Vets recall

Continued from page 5

warhead. Bell also synchronized and loaded the .50 caliber machine gun to fire between the blades of the Dauntless's propeller. Safe synchronizing required the gun to be unloaded. Bell tells of an ordnanceman who did not check the gun, "He put a round right through the center of a blade... he was taken off the job," Bell said.

Fred Hartson grew up near the water in the Navy town of Newport, R.I., the same place he would attend boot camp in the summer of 1940.



Fred Hartson sporting his flying garb in 1941. could only dog paddle.

Obligated as they were to ensure he possessed a fundamental swimming ability, his boot camp instructors extended his boot camp by two weeks. Even with the extra time Hartson still only swam the length of the pool using the dog paddle.

Hartson reported for duty aboard Lexington on Christmas Eve 1940 in Long Beach, Calif, "with my seabag and hammock."

Initially assigned to ship's company, Hartson had his eye on planes crowding the flight and hangar decks from the start. "I worked hard to get into the Air Group... I got out (of ship's company) as fast as I could." By late 1941, he was an Aviation Machinist's Mate second class (AMM2) in Torpedo Two and understudy plane captain for his commanding officer's TBD Devastator torpedo bomber. Plane captains were responsible for fueling, cleaning and getting the plane ready fly.

Hartson was also flying as radioman and tail gunner in a plane that seemed well designed for carrier landings and takeoffs. "A TBD would come in like a fat albatross at about 105 knots, slower if you wanted." Most takeoffs didn't require the whole deck, "Even with a torpedo you could get up just about the forward elevator...They put the TBDs on the fantail," said Hartson, "the Wildcats (fighters) and SBDs always launched first." His plane was always parked on the starboard stern (right rear), "It was a great spot," he said of the view that let him see the whole flight deck.

When there was time to relax, Hartson liked resting being topside. "On Sun-

day's at sea, I used to go up on the fuel hose nets and watch the bow of the Lex and porpoises bobbing along." The nets were more than 40 feet above the water.



Wood Richmond in 1944.

In May 1942, Wood Richmond worked in Bombing Two. He was barely five months out of aviation school in San Diego. He had only been working in his Dauntless squadron about a month after spending his first 90 days enjoying one of several "pleasurable" grinds most new seamen experience aboard ship - three months of nothing but dishwashing duty.

After his scullery tour, "I was graduated up to plane pusher," the Kansas City, Mo. native said. On the flight deck, "I spotted (moved) planes, washed them and was a parts chaser."

Like thousands of young Sailors before him, Richmond was subject to the typical Navy humor of his supervisors who tasked him to, "Bring me a bucket of steam ... or a mile of shoreline." He took it in stride and smiled, saying, "I never did have to go for any prop wash."

Richmond remembered an incident that convinced him large guns and aircraft don't mix. Lexington carried four, twin eight-inch gun turrets, more suited for heavy cruisers than carriers. "They fired them once... I remembered we had to replace a lot of fabric on rudders and ailerons," a testament to the blast the guns generated on nearby aircraft. In late March 1942, the big guns were removed in Pearl Harbor to add more anti-aircraft guns.

Soon the big ship was underway for the Southwest Pacific. After spending the months since the attack on Pearl Harbor conducting raids on Rabaul and the Solomon Islands, Lady Lex was now on her way to make history.

The removal of the big guns soon contributed to Hartson becoming a plane captain. "There he was, walking away," Hartson said speaking of his mentor, a senior second class petty officer with orders to attend flight training. "He walked around the corner and right into a turning prop... I made plane captain that day." Removing the turrets had opened up several new "spots" or parking places on the flight deck. His mentor was not yet accustomed to the new "spots." It cost him his life and validated that even then, flight decks were very dangerous work sites.

To be continued May 17.

Battle of Midway Dinner details:
See Community Calendar, page 22.

CV-TSC's Howell reenlists at the Jacksonville Landing

By FC1(SW) Anthony Glossenger
CV-TSC Ashore PAO

AW2 Charles Howell re-enlisted for three years on April 20 at the Jacksonville Landing Courtyard.

It was a perfect day with a clear sky and bright warm sunshine along the St. John's River.

The ceremony attended by Howell's wife, Sabrina, and daughter, Ali, as well as CV-TSC Ashore personnel was officiated by CV-TSC Ashore's Officer-in-Charge Cmdr. David A.

Ruth as re-enlisting officer. A celebration was held at the Landing following the ceremony. Howell's next assignment is Patrol Squadron (VP) 9 in Hawaii.

The personnel of CV-TSC Ashore wish him and his family "fair winds and following seas."

Re-enlisting Officer Cmdr. David Ruth, OIC CV-TSC Ashore, Howell's daughter, Ali and wife, Sebrina and Howell (right) following the re-enlistment ceremony.



'Any Day in the Navy' photo shoot now underway

WASHINGTON (NWS) — Each year, the Navy solicits photos from around the world for the special "Any Day in the Navy" issue of "All Hands" magazine. This year's photo shoot will run during the entire month of May, and all hands are encouraged to participate.

The photo shoot is designed to capture quality photos of Sailors, Marines, Department of the Navy civilian employees, Naval Reservists and their family

members at work and at play. The best photos will highlight those daily tasks that contribute to mission accomplishment and quality of life, and which show the richness of life in today's Navy.

Photos should illustrate how Sailors and Marines "work, live and fight."

This year's photo shoot is being expanded and will run during the entire month of May to allow more time and flexibility, with the intent of receiving

the broadest variety of photographs.

Selected images will be published in the October 2001 issue of "All Hands" magazine.

Photos should reflect the diversity of both people and capabilities in the U.S. Navy and must be shot during the month of May 2001.

Submissions should be mailed to: "All Hands" magazine — Attn: Photo Editor, Naval Media Center, 2713

Mitscher Rd. SW, Anacostia Annex, DC, 20373-5819. Be sure to mark all packages: "Any Day submissions."

Questions should be directed to the "All Hands" managing editor, JOCS(AW) Dave Desilets. Send e-mail to desilets@mediacen.navy.mil, or call DSN 288-2637, or (202) 433-2637. Information is available at <http://www.mediacen.navy.mil/pubs/allhands/>.

'Pelican' volunteers lend support to 'Paint the Town'

By: Lt.j.g. Chris Artis
VP-45 APAO

Members of Patrol Squadron (VP) 45 gathered in Westbrook Park April 28, to participate in Jacksonville's "Paint the Town" project.

The program asks for volunteers to help paint and refurbish homes of senior citizens around Jacksonville.

Fifteen of VP-45's finest were on hand to re-paint the home of Mrs. Betty Dosman, a retired senior citizen of Jacksonville.

By the end of the day, Dosman had a newly painted house and the mighty Pelicans of VP-45 had a new friend.

VP-45 wasted no time getting started. The "Pelicans" grabbed paintbrushes, paint and ladders and attacked the house at every angle as if they had been refurbishing houses all their lives. The volunteers left no exterior portion of the 70-year-old home unpainted. Each member of the squadron paid particular attention to the trim, railings and valences around the house, carefully detailing each part as if it was their own home. All through the morning, the "Pelicans" worked feverishly to complete their mission by painting the entire home. So dedicated to this objective were the volunteers that when offered a free lunch, VP-45 declined. "Let's just keep going and finish the job," exclaimed AW1 (AW) Sydney Harris. All members were in agreement, and so the "Pelicans" persevered until the job was done.

Just as the "Pelicans" were finishing with the last

touches on the house, Dosman, came out to meet the hard-working painters bringing new life to her home. The 85-year-old widow sat and talked with members of VP-45 expressing her gratitude to each volunteer that gave up their Saturday to come help her.

She said that none of the refurbishing could have been accomplished without the dedicated assistance of the squadron volunteers.

By 1 p.m., VP-45 had completely finished painting the home and Dosman was very pleased with the outcome. VP-45 was proud to have made a difference.

VP-45 continually looks for opportunities to serve and give back to the Jacksonville community.

The "Paint the Town" project provided just such an opportunity.

The "Pelicans" are thankful to have been given the opportunity to contribute in such a direct way to the community. By committing themselves to beautifying Dosman's home, the "Pelicans" found a way to boost the spirit and personal pride of their new friend.

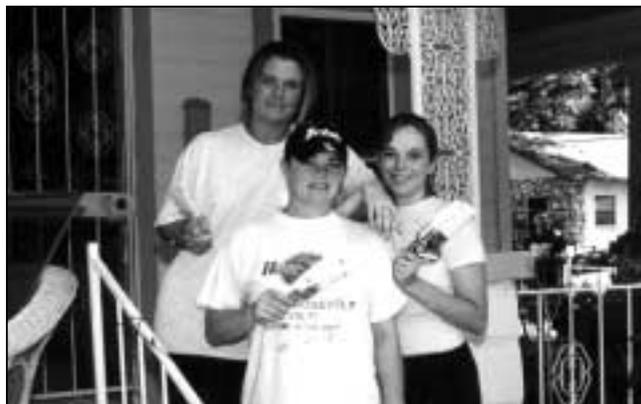
In so doing, each member of the "Pelican Team" demonstrated their deep "Pelican Pride" and took great satisfaction in contributing to the Jacksonville community. "Pelican" Pride!



AW3 Monica Boyd and
AW1 Sydney Smith



Members of VP-45 stand in front of their masterpiece.



AW2 Gerald Jones, AW3 Monica Boyd and AW2 Stacey Stults

Navy Medical, Dental Corps exchanges scrubs for coveralls, to 'Paint The Town'

By Loren Barnes
Editor

Navy volunteers have continued to make the difference in Jacksonville's annual "Paint The Town" community betterment program.

"Paint The Town" is a volunteer effort through which volunteers, including hundreds of personnel from the Navy working with the USO's Shipmates With Heart Program, pitch in to help with home repairs for elderly citizens in need.

Local Navy medical commands have led the charge in organizing manpower for this program.

Some highly involved commands include Naval Hospital Jacksonville with 56 people contributing 560 hours of labor, Naval Dental Center Southeast with six people contributing 48 hours, the Branch Dental Clinic with nine people working 64 hours and Blount Island Command with 38 people contributing 304 hours.

USO's JoAnn Dilling said the ball starting rolling for these volunteers when HM2 Adolph Herrera of Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Family Practice Clinic working with HN John Ramirez of Branch Medical Clinic began pulling together volunteers.

Before long, things just took off. The hospital volunteers, doctors and corpsmen alike, turned out in mass for the effort. They did everything from scraping paint to building a couple of wheelchair ramps.

Wheelchair ramp construction is an area the "Shipmates with Heart" program has always been a key player. Navy volunteers build an average of 105 ramps per year.

Dilling said the volunteers all seemed to have a great time and several were more than happy to come back for more, volunteering on several occasions.

The neighborhood residents benefiting from the work appreciated the help Dilling said. "Many of these people have never lived anywhere else but in the homes they're in and they don't have the money to keep them up as well as they'd like to," she explained. They were very grateful."

Dilling also said the improvements often increase community pride in the neighborhoods as a whole. "With the sprucing up, it is hoped that the entire neighborhood will have the incentive to try to maintain the new look."



Wheelchair ramps such as this one constructed by area Medical and Dental Corps volunteers can make an enormous difference in residents' lives.

Volunteers from the dental team take a break during a recent "Paint The Town" project.

Photos courtesy of USO and Naval Hospital Jacksonville



Ruiz and DeBolt take over prime parking for Navy Relief

By Lt.j.g. Josh Keever
VS-31 PAO

The Sea Control Squadron (VS) 31 "Topcats" wrapped up their Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society fund raising

efforts this past week. The "Topcats" raised over \$7,000, more than 170 percent of their assigned goal. The Navy takes care of its personnel and the "Topcats" showed their dedication by having an outstanding drive. VS-31's Com-

manding Officer Cmdr. James Gregorski, donated his parking spot for a week to the most generous "Topcat" contributor. Despite being deployed with the Truman Battle group, Cmdr. Chuck Tamblyn, commanding officer of VS-22, also showed his generosity

by offering his parking spot to the "Topcats" for a week. AME2 Jose Ruiz and Lt. Cmdr. Jeff DeBolt were the top contributors for the command and will be enjoying the convenience of those prime-parking spots for the next week.

Continued on page 11



"Topcat" Commanding Officer, Cmdr. James Gregorski, presents his coveted parking spot to AME2 Jose Ruiz. Ruiz was the top contributor for Navy Relief and will enjoy the parking spot for a week.



The lucky winners of the "Topcat" Navy Relief Plane Wash Cmdr. James Gregorski, AK3 Laclondria Brown, LT Steve Kulikowski, AD1 Nathan Most and ATCS Craig Clayton.

'Topcat' in the Spotlight: AME3 Travis Holland

By Lt. j.g. Josh Keever
VS-31 PAO

AME3 Travis Ryan Holland was born Feb. 15, 1980, in Houston, Texas. Holland lived there for six months and then moved to Gadsden, Alab. where he spent the rest of his adolescent years. His parents, Howard and JoAnna Holland, still reside in Gadsden with the rest of his family. His father works as a brick mason while his mother works as a department head at a local nursing home. Holland has three siblings, two brothers and one sister. The oldest is Stephen, followed by his sister Rachael, and finally his twin brother Nathan. Holland is very proud of his three nephews and has one more on the way. His entire family still lives in Gadsden Ala., and are very close. Holland fondly remembers his family sitting down together for dinner every night while growing up. He also remembers that they weren't allowed to watch TV while eating. Holland went to Etowah High School and graduated with the class of 1998. He played a lot of golf and enjoyed fishing in his spare time. In addition, he was active in the school choir for four years. Holland kept busy during the summers working for his father. He enjoyed the extra money and says it kept him out of trouble.

Following high school, Holland

signed up to enlist in the Army. The night before he was to leave for boot camp a Navy recruiter called him and told Holland that he didn't have to go in the Army. The recruiter managed to talk Holland into joining the Navy instead. He left home for the first time in his life August 5, 1998, and marched off to boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill. After completing Boot Camp, Holland attended AME "A" school in Pensacola, Fla. Holland received his first set of orders and joined the "Topcats" on Dec. 28, 1998. Since being a "Topcat," Holland has made one deployment and is starting his second

set of work-ups. Holland is currently trying to re-enlist under the Guard 2000 program. If everything goes through he will be leaving the Topcat family this September. He plays a very important role in the "Topcat" AME shop and his knowledge and expertise while he missed. Holland hopes to be stationed in Virginia. He enjoys reading and studying his Bible in his off time and plans on going back to school to become a landscape architect. He enjoys working with his hands and likes the outdoors. We congratulate Petty Officer Holland as this week's "Topcat in the Spotlight."



'Topcats': Fund raising

Continued from page 10

In addition, The "Topcats" held a plane-wash raffle over the past few weeks to help raise money for the Society.

Members of the "Topcats" purchased votes for the individual they thought could best wash an S-3B aircraft. This was one raffle no "Topcat" wanted to win. The "lucky" winners were AK3 Laclondria Brown, AD1 Nathan Most, ATCS Craig Clayton, Lt. Steve Kulikowski, and Cmdr. James Gregorski.

The "Topcat" Line Division provided on-the-job-training (OJT) and the five lucky "Topcats" did a great job washing Aircraft 706.

Skipper Gregorski got to wash one of his jets and lose his parking spot all in one day. However, the two comforts lost that day were a small price to pay for the money raised for Navy personnel and their families. The "Topcats" once again showed their hard work, pride and dedication to helping Navy Relief.

NAVY NEWS

Greenville Collision Report Released

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — The report on the Feb. 9 USS Greenville (SSN 772) collision with the Japanese fishing training vessel Ehime Maru was released last week by the commander of the Pacific Fleet. With the report's release, Adm. Thomas B. Fargo announced the causes of the accident and held accountable the submarine's commanding officer and several members of the crew.

A court of inquiry was convened in March to investigate the accident. The court of inquiry produced a comprehensive and detailed investigation report that was presented to Adm. Fargo on April 13. The report included findings of fact, opinions and recommendations. With enclosures, the report was approximately 2,000 pages.

Adm. Fargo identified two fundamental causes for the accident. An inadequate acoustic and visual search was conducted by the ship in preparation for surfacing and the ship's watch team failed to work together and pass information to each other about the surface contact picture.

"The commanding officer, USS Greenville, created an artificial sense

of urgency in preparation for surfacing on Feb. 9 when prudent seamanship, the safety of his submarine and good judgment dictated otherwise," Adm. Fargo told a news conference at Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor. "This tragic accident could and should have been avoided by simply following existing Navy standards and procedures in bringing submarines to the surface."

The ship's commanding officer at the time of the accident, Cmdr. Scott D. Waddle, appeared before Adm. Fargo on April 23 at admiral's mast. Waddle was charged with dereliction in the performance of his duties and the negligent hazarding of a vessel. He received a punitive letter of reprimand and was directed to forfeit one-half his pay for two months. The forfeiture was suspended for six months. Adm. Fargo also directed that Waddle be detached "for cause" from his previous duties as commanding officer. Waddle had been temporarily reassigned pending the outcome of the investigation.

The officer of the deck (OOD) at the time of the accident, Lt. j.g. Michael J. Coen, also appeared at admiral's mast before Adm. Fargo on Monday and was counseled on the proper performance of his OOD duties.

Other Greenville crewmembers whose

actions were questioned in the wake of the accident include the ship's executive officer, chief of the boat, sonar supervisor and fire control technician of the watch. Adm. Fargo forwarded to the Submarine Force Pacific commander the court of inquiry's recommendation the fire control technician be taken to captain's mast by the Greenville's commanding officer for dereliction in the performance of his duties. The investigation determined he failed to maintain a contact evaluation plot and failed to report a closing contact within 4,000 yards of Greenville. That contact turned out to be Ehime Maru. The others were recommended by the court of inquiry to be admonished by the Greenville commanding officer.

"I have held Cmdr. Waddle and members of his crew accountable for their failures in the performance of their duties. Punishment has been awarded where appropriate," Adm. Fargo said.

When asked about the impact of the 16 civilians on board Greenville that day, Adm. Fargo said, "The report is very clear that the civilians on board were not directly the cause of this collision. We've had a distinguished visitors program, we've been embarking civilians in the Navy for 50 years. I think it's important to our nation. We can do this safely and will do it safely."

He added, "We will prevent accidents of this nature by respecting the importance of our responsibilities and the value of well-honed and time-tested op-

erating procedures."

As part of his action on the court of inquiry report, Adm. Fargo directed a case study on the accident be prepared and briefed to every Submarine Force Pacific commanding officer and prospective commanding officer, and then used to train the officers of each ship of the force. He also ordered the watch team proficiency on Greenville be evaluated after the arrival of the newly reporting commanding officer.

All of this "will serve to remind all that no matter how apparently routine the mission, there is nothing about going to sea that is forgiving," said Adm. Fargo.

The entire report can be viewed on the Pacific Fleet web site at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil>.

Navy reenlistment rates improving

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In recent testimony to the Senate Armed Services committee, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Chief of Naval Personnel, indicated that the Navy is making progress in efforts aimed at winning the "war for talent."

According to Ryan, more Sailors are making the decision to "Stay Navy" as a result of "positive and personalized leadership, mentoring of juniors, and a variety of other targeted initiatives and

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programs." These successes are evident in recent statistics showing significant increases in the numbers of Sailors reenlisting and fewer separating at the end of obligated service.

Thus far for the fiscal year, Navy reenlistment rates across all terms of service are up 6.4 percent from the same time last year.

The increase in the number of Sailors who decide to reenlist can be attributed to the combined effects of leadership, involvement in professional development, expanded reenlistment bonuses, enhanced special and incentive pays, increased advancement opportunity and significant quality of service improvements.

These gains have resulted primarily from reenlistments under the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) program, which continues to be the Navy's most cost effective and successful retention and force-shaping tool.

Retaining experienced and trained Sailors for longer periods of time increases stability in the force and lessens the requirement for new accessions.

Based on these positive retention trends allowing a better balance be-

tween recruiting and retention efforts, the Navy recently reduced its FY01 recruiting accession mission by 1,348 to an overall goal of 55,000 accessions.

Beyond expanding the SRB program, the Navy's recent retention investments include efforts by the Center for Career Development in providing the fleet with the tools necessary to enhance retention efforts. It also includes the Detailer Communication Initiative, a proactive contact strategy where detailers initiate early and frequent contact with Sailors and their respective command career counselors to discuss future assignments and options.

Navy efforts also include increased enlisted advancement opportunities resulting from expanding authorization for mid-grade petty officers to more closely match fleet requirements.

"In order to maintain the momentum we have begun to observe in most areas," said Ryan, "we need the support of Congress to continue leveraging our recent successes, capitalizing on the commitment of Navy leadership, innovative recruiting, and retention and attrition-reducing programs."

For more information contact Cmdr. Betsy Bird at (703) 614-2000.

Navy commissions new destroyer: *USS Lassen*

TAMPA, Fla. (NNS) — More than 3,500 people attended the Navy's ceremony to commission its 32nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, USS Lassen (DDG 82), on April 21 at the Florida Aquarium pier.

The ship is named for Vietnam War hero and Medal of Honor recipient Clyde E. Lassen, who was recognized throughout his career for risking his life and that of his crews to rescue two downed aviators while under fire at night in a severely damaged UH-2 Seasprite.

Repeatedly lauded for his courage, skill and dedication, Commander Lassen earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic rescue on June 19, 1968. Vice Adm. Edward Moore Jr., commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, who keynoted the ceremony, reflected on these qualities, noting that they will serve as a daily reminder to crew of the need for "brave, bold, relentless leadership" in the face of trying circumstances.

"Forty years ago, then-President Kennedy challenged Americans to not ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," Moore said. "Clearly, this crew is heeding that call to service. We can see it in their faces."

Following Moore during the program was one of the two downed aviators, who harkened back to the Vietnam conflict, the limited support from a nation where many questioned the war and the need for "keeping the faith."

"The bad memories that people have from Vietnam are not a result of what any of our men did," said retired Navy Capt. John Burns. "Rather, they are the recollection of what was done to our men."

Linda Lassen, wife of the ship's namesake, and Barbara O. Pilling, wife of retired Adm. Donald Pilling, former vice chief of naval operations, were also on hand as the ship's sponsors, giving the order to "bring our ship to life."

With a motto, "From Courage Life," the USS Lassen set sail for her homeport in San Diego on Monday — two days after her commissioning and one day after more than 3,000 people toured the vessel.

Lassen will conduct sustained combat operations at sea and is capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously.

It is equipped with the AN/SPY-1D phased array radar, the most powerful air search radar in the Navy's inventory.

The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

Cmdr. Sean O'Connor, a native of Rumson, N.J., is Lassen's commanding officer.

The crew of 32 officers and 348 chiefs and enlisted personnel will operate the 513-foot-longship, capable of reaching speeds in excess of 30 knots.

'Checkmates' leave their mark on the Arabian Gulf

By Lt. Brian McIntosh
VS-22 PAO

The Sea Control Squadron (VS) 22 "Checkmates" departed the Arabian Gulf on the April 27, aboard USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), after four months of flying in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Operating in Fifth Fleet's Area of Responsibility, VS-22 conducted Electronic Surveillance missions, Maritime Interdiction Operations, and Armed Reconnaissance in support of Operation Southern Watch. They also participated in Exercise Beacon Flash (with the Omani Air Force), and completed all day-to-day mission requirements with alarming success.

The "Checkmates'" achievements are exemplified in the proficiency and efficiency in which the squadron conducted daily operations aboard the fleet's newest aircraft carrier. The maiden voyage of USS Harry S. Truman, with Carrier Air Wing Three, embarked on Nov. 28, 2000.

After carrier qualifications, passage across the Atlantic Ocean and operations in the Mediterranean Sea, the Checkmates transited the Suez Canal on the Dec. 27, effectively becoming

Fifth Fleet's greatest asset. In the first week of January, the Truman team became the most formidable force in the Arabian Gulf, and began flight operations immediately in support of Operation Southern Watch. Truman and Carrier Air Wing Three maintained a continuous presence in the Arabian Gulf for over four months. During this time, the "Checkmates" set the new standard for excellence aboard Truman.

Many of the "Checkmates" accomplishments are apparent in the numbers and statistics resulting from the previous five months. Others can only be recognized by the high morale and sense of accomplishment that the "Vidars" can proudly call their own. In approximately 120 days of deployment in the Arabian Gulf, the "Checkmates" flew more than 2,100 hours, logged over 1,000 arrested landings, and completed their commitment in the Gulf with an astonishing 96.2 percent sortie completion rate. These numbers alone cannot do justice to the excellent job the "Checkmates" have done in their support of Operation Southern Watch, but they do indicate



The "Checkmates" of VS-22 make a fly-by over USS Harry S. Truman.

how high the "Vidars" have set the bar. In addition to the collective efforts of the squadron, Lt. Eric Meier won his way into the much-coveted award of Top Five Nuggets for the third line period, while Lieutenants Brent Blackmer and Bradley Slocum placed in the Top 10 Pilot ranks, chosen from all cruise-seasoned pilots in the Air Wing.

The "Checkmates" of VS-22 have completed the largest portion of their journey, and done so with amazing success. Operation Southern Watch, Fifth Fleet, and the Truman/Carrier Air Wing

Three team benefited greatly from the exemplary manner in which the "Vidars" conducted their day-to-day responsibilities and even more so by the level of excellence proven in their outstanding achievements. In the coming month, VS-22 will continue its transit through the Arabian Sea, past the Red Sea to the Suez Canal, and in to the Mediterranean Sea. After two brief, but well-deserved port visits, USS Harry S. Truman and CVW-3 will exit the Strait of Gibraltar, and begin the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean on their way back home.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Sea Cadets seek trainers

The United States Sea Cadet Corps, Mayport Sea Cadet Program is currently seeking male and female personnel for two training sessions.

The dates are June 16 - 23 and July 28 - Aug. 11 at Ft. Stewart, Ga.

Navy personnel are needed to teach Navy topics. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was established by the Navy League of the United States in 1958 at the request of the Department of the Navy to allow young people, both male and female, to sample military life with no obligation to join any branch of the armed services.

Cadets are taught seamanship and maritime subjects with an emphasis on the Core of Values, Honor, Courage and Commitment, and the importance of staying in school, not using drugs and alcohol or becoming members of a gang.

The Mayport Program is located in Bldg. 1338 C12 Hangar, NAS Mayport.

If anyone is interested in participating as trainers, they can participate via no cost orders per OpNavInsts 5760.5B and 57690.2C.

Call Lt. Cmdr. Garfield Jones NSCC(SW) at 515-1904 for information.

Navy Marine Corp volunteers honored

By JO2 Eric Clay
Staff writer

Christy Gaudio, wife of Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio, honored Navy Marine Corp Relief Society volunteers at a luncheon at her home last Friday. Rear Adm. Gaudio was away on official business at the time. The event, catered by the MWR catering staff, had a big turn out of NMCRS volunteers. Chairman of Volunteers Nancy Stephenson opened the luncheon by welcoming more than 50 volunteers. Retired Captain Dave Faraldo, head of NMCRS Jacksonville, welcomed the volunteers by saying, "It is my role to welcome the VIPs to the luncheon and the volunteers are the most important people here, without the volunteers NMCRS's work could never be accomplished."

During the ceremony, several awards were given to the volunteers. Receiving a Superior Service Award was NMCRS Jacksonville Chairman of Records Donna Barnes.

She received the award for her numerous volunteer hours spent updating the NMCRS's records. Her efforts resulted in NMCRS Jacksonville becoming the first NMCRS to upload to the world headquarters.



Donna Barnes, Chairman of Records displays her Superior Service Award after receiving it at the luncheon.

Recognition was also given to Helen Harms, a volunteer who knitted more than 500 sweaters for the NMCRS's Newborn Babies Program. On hand was Kim Mckenny, an NMCRS volunteer and her daughter, Kaylee Rose. Kaylee was the 500th baby to receive one of Harms' sweaters.



Kim Mckinney with her daughter, Kaylee Rose stands with Helen Harms, a NMCRS volunteer knitter who has completed more than 500 baby sweaters.

Thrift Savings Plan offers Sailors greater opportunity to save for future

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Military members will soon have the opportunity to add to their retirement savings with the start of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) "open season" to begin this fall.

"The Navy decided to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan because it is the right thing to do for our military members," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

Any member of the uniformed services serving on active duty and any member of the Ready Reserve in any pay status may participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, a government retirement and investment program meant to encourage voluntary personal savings. TSP is not a replacement for the 20-year retirement plan already in place, but a supplemental investment plan similar to "401K" plans offered by civilian corporations.

The "open season," when Sailors will be able to enroll, is 60 days long with the first scheduled "open season" to begin October 9, 2001 through December 8, 2001. Anyone already in the Navy that doesn't enroll during this period will have to wait for the next semi-annual 60-day "open season" to enroll. New accessions will be able to enroll during initial training. Active duty Sailors that take advantage of the initial enrollment season

will begin to see TSP deposits from their pay account on January 1, 2002.

In the past, TSP investments were limited to 5 percent of base pay, but recent changes in TSP law has increased the base pay investment limit to 6 percent in 2001 with a one percent increase every year until 2006 when the cap is eliminated. IRS law limits annual tax-deferred contributions to \$10,500 in 2001. Non-taxable contributions from Combat Zone Tax Exempt Pay and Hazardous Pay are not subject to the \$10,500 limit, however, IRS law does impose a limit of 25 percent or \$35,000 (whichever is less).

There are five investment options to choose from that vary in associated risk and anticipated percentage earnings. The TSP is a retirement account and the money can't normally be withdrawn, without penalty, until you reach the specified age (currently 59 1/2) in TSP law.

Like the civilian TSP program, military participation in TSP will be managed by the Federal Thrift Investment Board. The Navy's role will be to help provide Sailors with information and to help them establish their initial TSP account through their personnel support office. For information on the Thrift Savings Plan and its benefits, go to the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Area bicycle police put to the test at NAS Jax

By JO2 Eric Clay
Staff writer

Bicycle policeman from throughout the area came to NAS Jacksonville April 31 to complete training leading to International Police Mountain Bike certification. The class was made up of 40 policemen from St. Johns County, Putnam County, NAS Pensacola and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and NAS Jacksonville's Bicycle Police Unit. This course, which is offered four to five times a year on a need-to-have basis, is also open to other agencies depending on space availability.

The training meets the guidelines set forth by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for bicycle police units and is a part of the state-accredited course for police officers. NAS Jax offers the only sanctioned course in North Florida. To be prepared for the class, the police officers need proper safety equipment including a helmet and gloves as well as front and rear lights on their bikes.

The instructor for the class was "JJ" Faro, the Police Bicycle Unit Supervisor at NAS Jax. Faro has been a part of the police bicycle unit for seven years and also works for Green Cove Springs Police Department part time. Faro has been teaching this certification class for more than six years. He has traveled to other bases including Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico to teach this class to other members of the Department of Defense. He belongs to the International Mountain Bike Police Association.

When asked what a person should do to be a good bicycle police officer Faro said, "They must have good verbal skills, work well with children, be in good shape and have good balance." Faro added, "A good bicycle is needed that has a front suspension able to handle all terrain, otherwise after long periods of patrolling, a police officer may have tender elbows." He explained, "Department store bikes are good for riding, but for a bicycle police officer a tougher manufactured bicycle must be used."

The class is organized over a 40-hour instruction period, broken into two portions. The instruction is taught to simulate actual incidents and the proper procedures needed to handle them. The two sections include classroom instruction and an outdoor obstacle course.

The classroom portion is a day and a half long, during which preventive maintenance is taught. This includes such things as how to fix flat tires and

make basic equipment repairs on the road. During this portion, the police officers are also trained to answer questions that children may ask them. Faro said, "The children look at the bicycle police officers as an authority on bicycles, so we need to have the answers to their questions."

The outside segment is where the rubber really meets the road. This portion involves proper procedures for takedowns, arrest, chasing, riding in crowds and community policing. An obstacle course was set up with cones to simulate crowds. The police officers had to maneuver through these cones, without touching any of them. One touched cone simulates running into a person in a crowd. If the officer fails the obstacle course training they don't get certified. The program is basically intended to lay the groundwork for ongoing training and experience that the officer should pursue at his home department. The police officers also learned night procedures, so that they can be ready at all times and occasions.

The bicycle unit at NAS Jax is an important part of the NAS Jacksonville Police team. The bicycle unit is proactive and reactive. It is used for community oriented policing which includes such things as monitoring motorist seatbelt use compliance and responding to housing complaints.

They are also instrumental in crowd control at base-sponsored events such as Scout Blast, air shows and the Navy Run.



A Flagler County Sheriff's Department member participates in the obstacle course training.



Charles Sisak and John Shaffer of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office apprehend a suspect.



A Flagler County police officer performs a high-speed stop.



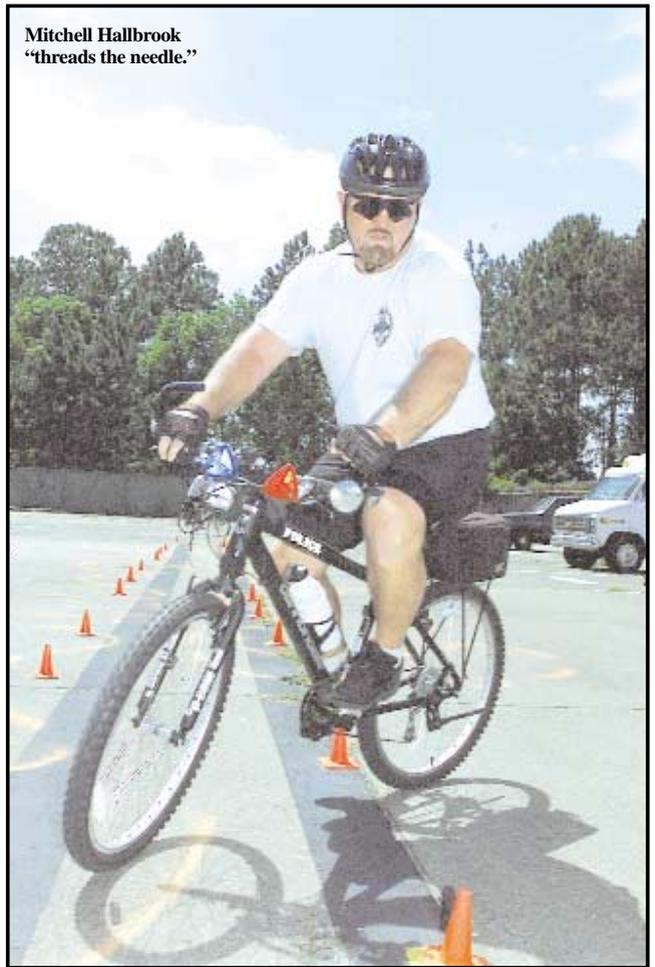
Police officer John Bunn “threads the needle” during the obstacle course training under Jerry “Deuce” Syrek’s watchful eye.



John M. Shaffer of the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office performs a rapid dismount.



The police officers hold a suspect using the “pyramid of shame” technique.



Mitchell Hallbrook “threads the needle.”



Class members run through a slow speed drill.

Photos by PH2 (AW) Leigh A. Francisco and PH3(AW) Lamon Bradford

Colombia College holds Graduation Ceremony at NAS Jax

By JO2 Eric Clay
Staff writer

Colombia College held its ninth annual commencement ceremony at All Saints Chapel aboard NAS Jacksonville last Friday. Keynote speakers for the commencement were Wallace T. Lovin, director Colombia College, Jeannie Fleming, director Navy College Office, Gerald T. Brouder, president Colombia College. Retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer S. A. Carroll gave the commencement address.

"Though years may take us far and lead us separate ways, Though each may seek a star to light the unknown days; Yet we have walked together here a pathway clear and fair. Its memory shall never fail, Colombia, we are there, we are there," is the Colombia College Alma Mater which reflects the feelings of their graduates:

Graduates of 2001

Associates in Arts

Knyetta D. Austin
Pamela J. Ferris
Jay C. Picard
Clarence R. Bates
Sonya Goddette
Jose Roman
June G. Bednarik
Kenneth J. Guthrie
Jeanette M. Ross
Raymond P. Camacho
Joan L. Howell
Scott Shrimp
Brian C. Carnley
Randy Jaerger
Joseph M. Waldo
Willie J. Cook



Allen M. Keelen
Joseph M. Tucker
Kenney Cooper
Stephen J. King
Nathaniel Woods, Jr.
Terry L. Dodd
Jose Lopez
Cherl P. Yarbrough
Clyde Edgison
Richard W. Palmer
Lashawn M. Young
Lee F. Pearce
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration
Eugene Bolden
Stanley K. Eudy
Michael P. Krieger
Betsey Clark
David Allen Gober
Maxine A. Lopez (Summa Cum Laude)
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Shawn G. Gray
Todd E. Monk (Summa Cum Laude)
Lisa S. Tallant
Raoul J. Hosein

Robert P. Mugler
Thomas S. Valentin (Summa Cum Laude)
Jesse L. Johnson (Cum Laude)
Roberta M. Simons (Magna Cum Laude)
Samantha B. Waters
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice
Gerilynn R. Bartin
A. L. Kelly
Eric Rand
Robert Drews
Tracey I. Mitchell
Malakia Thomas
Diane J. Ham
Stanley C. Putman
Rickie Valentine
Jeffery A. Johnson
Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science
Warren J. Dunklin
Jerome Weison
Bachelor of Arts in General Studies
Charles J. Curry
Joel A. Doane
Robert R. Supinger Jr.

Joel B. Dillard
Marcelo C. Ganacias
Terry W. Tillman
Daniel E. Hartman
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Andrew D. Barnes
Benita L. Carter
Jane Blair Rapanick
Tonya C. Boyd
Sharon M. Fortson
Tracey B. Turner
Sheri K. Osment
Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
John Anderson
Toxie H. Givens III
Jason T. Jerris
Elijah G. Baker
James M. Gostage
Kenneth Joyner
Dorri A. Barker
Carl R. Guckenberger Jr.
Michael B. Linde
Jerry Brewster (Summa Cum Laude)
Gary Allen Hauf
Daniel Lyman (Magna Cum Laude)
Jose E. Estrada
Brenda R. Hunt (Magna Cum Laude)
Gerald R. Fitzgerald
Carlos Irene
Stephan Mathis
John R. Meyer
Martin R. Schultz
Sheryl L. Swift (Summa Cum Laude)
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems
Marcia L. Boullis
Patrick Pieters-Kwiers

Navy College Learning Center: real learning, real results

The Navy College Learning Center (NCLC) is a free education benefit available to all active duty and adult military identification card holders. The NCLC offers individualized, self-paced, computer-based programs of study. The quick-start, fast results program features PLATO Fastrack courseware (language arts, math and reading comprehension) that equips students with basic academic skills. In addition, this program is excellent preparation for standardized tests including the ASVAB, CLEP, SAT, ACT, GRE, TABE, and college placement exams. Although there are no grades, the program's benefits are clearly seen by the success of its students. Success stories are written everyday at the NCLC as life long learners use the Center to enhance and improve their academic skills for personal, career and educational advancement. Perhaps in their success, you will see that the path to success has been laid and you too can reach your education goals. Congratulations to the following:

Success Stories

HA Sonetta Holliday, Branch Medical Clinic

HA Sonetta Holliday used the Center's mathematics program as a stepping-stone for the College Mathematics CLEP and DANTES college algebra test. Sonetta's pre-algebra skills were fresh so she went directly to our advanced math program. Sonetta completed both the beginning and intermediate algebra programs and had progressed significantly through the advanced algebra course prior to taking the CLEPs. Sonetta succeeded with her test scores and has both the college math credit and college algebra credit toward her degree.

AFM Maureen Gregg, family member

Maureen Gregg came to the Center with the goal to take the College Mathematics CLEP. She has attained that goal and more by completing the entire FASTRACK Series. She is actively and diligently working to complete the intermediate algebra and trigonometry.

In the meantime, with nervous anticipation she signed up to take the College Mathematics CLEP exam. Maureen rushed out of the CLEP exam into the Center to announce that she had passed the exam. She successfully obtained the college credits she desired and met her goal with the help of the NCLC.

Completions March 2001

PLATO FASTRACK Curriculum (Language Arts, Math and Reading)

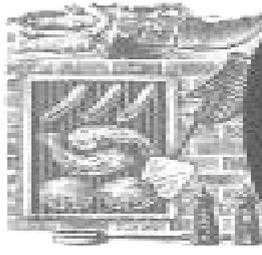
This accomplishment puts these dedicated and well-prepared students in an elite 10 percent of our student population. ET1 Troy Yarbrough, FMP MOCC LANT AW2 Andreas Parker, AMPO Specific Courseware

The following students completed specific courseware offered by the Learning Center to accomplish their goals.

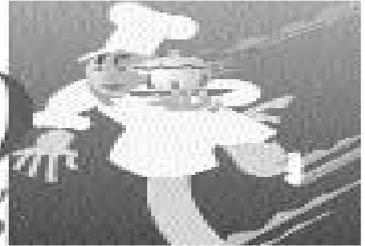
Language Arts
ADAA Kris Lundborg, VP-30
AVCM Scott Ryan, NAMTraU
Mark Norris

AS3 Jeremiah Merrill, AIMD
Reading
AVCM Scott Ryan, NAMTraU
James Everett, VP-30
ATAA Eric Puente, NAMTraU
AS2 Marlan Albery, NAMTraU
Math
Jerri Lundberg
Beginning Algebra
AW2 Andreas Parker, AMPO
Jerri Lundberg
ETAA Frank Shorey, NAMTraU
HM2 Donald Banks, Naval Hospital
Trigonometry
AKC Surujnarin Singh, FACSFA
Social Studies
ATAA Eric Puente, NAMTraU
Vevencia Singh, family member
AT2 Debbra Stevens, NAMTraU
Natural Science
AT1 Roland Garcia, AIMD

The Learning Center is located in Building 110 adjacent to Navy Campus. Call Tawanna or Maryanne at 542-3676 to see how their flexible schedule can accommodate yours.



What's Cookin'?



AT THE GALLEY

Meal hours

Monday through Friday
Breakfast 6 to 7:30 a.m.
Lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays
Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.
Brunch 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Dinner 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Meal costs

Breakfast \$1.50
Brunch/Lunch \$3
Dinner \$3

Note: The Galley Menu is subject to change. The food service officer is authorized to make changes to the general mess menu to provide substitutions for food items not in stock or to permit timely use of perishable stocks.

Thursday

Breakfast
 Sausage Patties
 Home Fried Potatoes
 Blueberry Pancakes
 Assorted omelets
 Corned beef hash
 Grits
 Boiled eggs

Lunch
 Creole macaroni
 Buttered noodles
 Turkey gravy
 Steamed carrot rings
 Corn bread
 Taco salad
 Turkey a la king
 Fresh mashed potatoes
 Steamed cauliflower
 Beef barley soup

Dinner - Mexican/Spanish
 Fiesta

Beef & burritos
 Mexican rice
 Stewed tomatoes
 Spanish soup
 Soft & hard tacos
 Mexican corn
 O'Brien potatoes

Friday

Breakfast
 Sausage links
 Omelets and eggs to order
 Boiled eggs
 Grilled ham slices
 Fried hash browns
 Oatmeal
 Waffles

Lunch

Spicy baked fish
 Steamed rice
 Tomato gravy
 Steamed broccoli
 German style coleslaw
 Chicken fried steak
 Risssole potatoes
 Succotash
 New England clam chowder

Dinner

Braised beef w/noodles
 Baked potato
 Simmered squash
 Pepper pot soup
 Rock Cornish hens
 Rice pilaf
 Peas and carrots

Saturday

Breakfast
 Grilled bacon
 Cottage fried potatoes
 French toast puffs
 Omelets and eggs to order
 Minced beef w/toast
 Farina
 Boiled eggs

Brunch

Baked chicken sandwich
 Mixed vegetables
 Beef rice soup
 Cottage fried potatoes
 French toast puffs
 Onion rings
 French fried potatoes
 Grilled bacon
 Farina
 Eggs to order

Dinner

Spaghetti w/meat sauce
 Steamed carrots
 Doubly good chicken soup
 Veal Parmesan
 O'Brien potatoes
 Steamed green beans
 Spaghetti noodles

Sunday

Breakfast
 Grilled bacon
 Home fried potatoes
 Apple fritters
 Omelets and eggs to order
 Grits

Brunch

Chili dogs
 Corn on the cob
 Cream of mushroom soup
 Home fried potatoes
 Apple fritters
 French fried potatoes
 Baked beans
 Minute steaks
 Grits
 Eggs to order

Dinner

Barbecue chicken
 Herbed green beans
 Rice pilaf
 Onion gravy
 Beef balls Stroganoff

Cauliflower Parmesan
 Oven browned potatoes
 Chicken corn chowder

Monday

Breakfast
 Corned beef hash
 Cottage fried potatoes
 Pancakes
 Omelets and eggs to order
 Oven fried bacon
 Grits
 Boiled eggs

Lunch

Beef lasagna
 Lyonnaise rice
 Calico corn
 Beef noodle soup
 Lemon baked fish
 Buttered noodles
 Peas w/onions
 Marinara sauce

Dinner

Salmon cakes
 Oven-glo potatoes
 Mixed vegetables
 Chili conquistador
 Club spinach
 Garlic bread
 New England fish chowder

Tuesday

Breakfast
 Oven fried bacon
 Hash brown potatoes
 Boiled eggs
 Creamed beef w/toast
 Oatmeal
 Omelets and eggs to order

Lunch

Beef stew
 Steamed egg noodles
 Brown gravy
 Corn on the cob

Oven fried chicken
 Steamed rice
 Club spinach
 Chicken gumbo soup

Dinner

Pepper steak
 Steamed rice
 Steamed broccoli
 Cream of potato soup
 Baked fish portions
 Cottage fried potatoes
 Lima beans

Wednesday

Breakfast
 Oven baked sausage links
 Hash brown potatoes
 Blueberry pancakes
 Omelets and eggs to order
 Glazed doughnuts
 Minced beef w/toast
 Farina
 Boiled eggs

Lunch

Roast turkey
 Mashed potatoes
 Collard greens w/ham hocks
 Beef vegetable soup
 Corn bread dressing
 Swedish meatballs
 Turkey gravy
 Cream corn
 Steamed rice
 Brown gravy

Dinner

Grilled hamburger steak
 Potatoes au gratin
 Succotash
 Brown gravy
 Pork chop suey
 Fried rice
 Steamed cabbage
 Old fashioned bean soup
 Waldorf salad

Battle of Midway commemoration dinner

June 1 at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on Jacksonville's southbank. WW II Navy dive bomber pilot Richard "Dick" Best will be the guest of honor. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. Active duty ticket prices are: E-6 and below, \$15; E-7 to O-4, \$30; and O5 and above, including civilians and retirees, \$40, no cost for

Battle of Midway veterans and their spouses. Contact NAS Jacksonville, YN2 (AW) Dave Scholz at 542-2934/4545; NS Mayport, Lt. Tony Boyter at 270-7354 Ext. 113, or Lt. Tim Norton at 270-6581; and NSB Kings Bay, Lt Suzette Maffett at (912) 673-2617 or CWO3 Andrew Pickens at (912) 673-2001 Ext. 4643.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center offers numerous workshops for military members and their families. Programs include Life Skill Education, Deployment Support, Parenting, Children and Adolescent-Teens, The Navy Family Ombudsman, Family Advocacy Prevention, Transition Assistance, Financial Education and Spouse Employment

Assistance Career Development Resource. For a full listing of upcoming classes, dates and times, call the FFSC at 542-2766.

The Navy Wives Club of America, NWCA Jax #86, meets the first

Continued on page 22

Summer's almost here: *Time for work, school physicals*

No more pencils, no more books, no more teachers... You know the rest.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Family Practice Clinic, is encouraging parents to schedule sports, camp and school physicals for their children early this spring. Scheduling early will avoid the annual crunch at the end of summer.

During this physical appointment immunizations can be updated, labs drawn if required, sports physicals can be documented, work physicals can be completed, and all with the ease of a single phone call and single visit.

Starting the week of May 14, Family Practice Clinic members can call Central Appointments at 542-4677, Option # 3 and get scheduled to see your child's Primary Care Manager. Get your physical done now before vacation trips, summer school, and all the fair-weather distractions our Florida summer brings.

Call Central Appointments at 542-4677 and push Option # 3 to book your school or sports physical now. If you are not a Family Practice Clinic member, call the TRICARE office and enroll in Family Practice, then schedule your child's appointment.

Note: Due to a national shortage of the tetanus vaccine the local school boards have waived the tetanus requirement for junior high school students for one year. However, to enter elementary school, children must have completed the three-shot hepatitis B immunization series and either have documented a varicella vaccine or a case of chickenpox.

Remember, the way to guarantee access to Naval Hospital Jacksonville is to enroll in TRICARE Prime. Call 542-9164 for enrollment information.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville begins new E-Mail Baby Service

HM2 (SW) Scott Morgan, a hospital medical photographer, takes a digital photo of Marcos Antonio Gutierrez held by his mom, Norma.

Sailors on deployment from the Jacksonville area no longer have to wait on snail mail to see a photo of their newborn baby. Naval Hospital Jacksonville's Medical Photographers regularly visit the hospital's Maternal Infant Unit to take digital photographs of newborns.

With the parents' permission, the photo is immediately e-mailed to ten people of their choice, including dad if he's deployed.



Photo by HM3 Erica Rodriguez

Jax Tales

By Mike Jones - mikejones43@hotmail.com



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MWR NOTES

ITT

Call 542-3318

Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays: 9 a.m.-2p.m.

Purchase your Ticket and Ride at the ITT Office for only \$10 for every Tomcat home game. If you already have a ticket, hop on board the Tomcat shuttle for only \$4 per person.

Tickets are \$6.50 for home games. Bus departs from the Budweiser Brew House at 6 p.m. Sign up at ITT. **Specials**

- Universal Orlando salutes the Armed Forces with a Military Recognition Two Day Special. The ticket is valid through May 20. City Walk admission is included for \$65.55 adult.

- Walt Disney World Four Day Play Passes on sale now at ITT. The pass is for Florida residents. Cost is \$100. Valid until Sept. 30 (not valid July 4).

- 2001 Entertainment book is on sale at ITT for \$16, (\$4 off regular price).

- Six Flags Over Georgia tickets are on sale at ITT for Military Appreciation Days, through May 31 for \$19.

- Pepsi 400 Tickets - The Daytona Speedway Pepsi 400 tickets will go on sale for the July 7 Race Under the Lights, late May. Tickets will be \$46.

- Ride 'The Storm' - Wet N Wild Water Park in Orlando, Florida will kick off the summer season with their new ride 'The Storm.' Tickets at ITT are \$22, adults and \$17.75 for children.

- Biltmore Estates - Treat yourself to a weekend in the mountains in Asheville, N.C. May 26-27. The Biltmore Estates Winery will be hosting Alfresco Jazz Weekend. Purchase your tickets at the ITT Office to tour through Biltmore Estates.

- NAS Jacksonville Travel Fair - Win vacation packages, Walt Disney World tickets, Universal Studios tickets and much much more at the June 7 Travel Fair from 10-2 p.m. Get information from the travel vendors from all over the Florida/Georgia Region. It's free to enter and you can win just by registering your name. The Fair will be located in

the NEX parking lot, under the big tent.

- Hit The Road With ITT - ITT kicks the summer off with a group travel program. We will have historical trips, educational trips, and fun in the sun trips. We do all the planning and leg-work, all you have to do is show up and have a good time. Stop by the ITT Office today. June's highlights are as follow:

June 13 - Kennedy Space Center
 June 16 - Cumberland Island Adventure
 June 17 - Deep Sea Fishing Excursion
 June 21 - Walt Disney World Trip
 June 23 - Savannah Day Tour
 June 30 - North Florida Special
NAS Jax Leisure Travel Program
 Call 1-866-909-9091 or go online at: www.mwrleisuretravel.com.

Liberty Events

Call 542-3491/1335

Paintball Trip - May 12. \$10/active duty and \$25/guests (18 and over). Includes transportation, ammo, and safety equipment.

May Birthday Celebration - May 17, 7 p.m. Includes cake, presents and a pinata.

Full day deep sea fishing trip on the K-2 in St. Augustine - May 19. \$40 active duty \$50 for guests. Space is limited. Deadline to sign-up is May 16.

Ping-Pong Tournament and Free Pizza - May 22. Sign-up and pizza at 6 p.m. and the tournament starts at 7 p.m. The tournament is free, winner receives \$30.

Spend Memorial Day Weekend, May 26 - May 28 in Key West. - The cost is \$60/person including two nights lodging (two in a trailer) and transportation. Open to a maximum of 18 people.

Free Pizza and a Movie-Wednesday, May 30. Free pizza at the rec center at 6 p.m. and then catch the van to the Orange Park Mall for a free movie. Sign-up begins at 3 p.m. the day of the event.

Trips are open to active duty and guests 18 and over, tournaments open to active duty only.

Battle of Midway Run

May 30 at 11:30 a.m. off Permitter Road.

This 5k Run/Walk is open to all hands and is free. First 100 people to register receive an event t-shirt. Forms located at the Base Gym or Fitness Source. Call 542-3518.

Free Movies

Free Movies are shown in the Base Theater located on Jason Street.
 May 11, 7 p.m.: *Bait*
 May 18, 7 p.m.: *Highlander: Endgame*
 May 19, 5 p.m.: *Godzilla 2000*
 May 19, 7 p.m.: *What Lies Beneath*
 May 25, 7 p.m.: *Love and Basketball*

NAS Jax Youth Activities

Call 778-9772

Open Recreation: Tuesday and Thursday: 6:15-8:15 p.m.

Gym Open: Monday and Wednesday from 6:15-8:15 p.m. and Saturday:12-3 p.m.

Friday Night Activities: 6:15-8:15 p.m.

May 11 - Games & Prizes-\$1

May 18 -Ice Cream Social-\$3

May 25 - Free Movie Night

Teen Activities take place from 6:15-8:15 p.m., unless noted otherwise.

Open Recreation: Tuesday and Thursday

May 21 - Ultimate Journey

May 16 - Swimming Trip

May 23 - Pool Tourney

May 30 - Movie Night

Yellow Water Youth Center

Call 777-8247

Teens Only: Mondays, 6-8 p.m.

Open Recreation: Tuesdays, Thursdays from 6:15-8 p.m.

Girl Scouts meetings are held Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.

Friday Night Events

May 11: Field Night-\$2

May 18: Spring Splash-\$2

May 25: Movie Night Free

Open to Ages K-17, unless noted and takes place from 6-8 p.m.

Saturday Dance Class -10-11 a.m.

Tae Kwon Doe - Call Either Center.

Aquatics News

Call 542-3239/3720

Outdoor Pool Opening!

Weekends - now open 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Starting May 28 open seven days a week - Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday - 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday - 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Caribbean Celebration on Memorial Day - May 28 - Live steel drum band, games, prizes, food and more! Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Adult Fitness Club

The Adult Fitness Club meets at the indoor pool on Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15/active duty and reserves and \$20/all other authorized users. There will be eight coached practices.

Call 542-3239/3720.

Aquatics

- Summer Swimming Lessons

Instruction begins June 4.

Monday - Friday: Outdoor Pool, 8-10:45 a.m.

Monday - Friday: Indoor Pool, 5-8 p.m.

Session One: June 4 - June 15

Session Two: June 18 - June 29

Session Three: July 9 - July 20

Session Four: July 23 - Aug. 3

- Lifeguard Training Classes

Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Session One: June 18 - June 29.

Session Two: July 9 - July 20.

Budweiser Brewhouse

Lunch Specials are offered every Wednesday. Social hours are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 4-6 p.m.

Thirsty Thursdays: 4-6 p.m.

JB the DJ plays on May 11 and May 25 starting at 8 p.m.

Call 542-5009.

Sun Splash Barracks Bash

The sixth annual Sun Splash Barracks Bash is set for May 9 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. between Barracks #822 & #846. Highlights include a free chicken/ribs dinner, X-tremely cool games, a DJ, giveaways and more! The event is sponsored by Liberty and AT&T *No official endorsement intended.

JAX SPORTS

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

The North Florida Military Officials Association is looking for individuals to officiate soccer, softball, football, and volleyball at NAS Jax. Scorekeepers are also needed for basketball and softball leagues. Experience is not required. If you are interested in officiating or scorekeeping, contact Al Vandercar at 282-0809.

Women's Varsity Softball tryouts

Jay Harmon will be conducting tryouts for the women's varsity softball team May 9, 11 and 14 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 at the McCaffrey Softball Com-

plex. Tryouts are open to active duty, dependents over 18, retirees, and civilian employees assigned to NAS Jax. The varsity team represents NAS Jax in community and regional level tournaments. Interested personnel should sign up at the base gym.

Ultimate Frisbee League forming

The NAS Jax Athletic Department is forming a new Ultimate Frisbee League. The league is open to NAS Jax active duty only. Personnel interested in joining the league should contact the gym.

Intramural Skeet League forming

The Intramural Skeet League is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel and is a Captain's Cup event. All interested personnel should stop by the

gym to get the required paperwork to join the league.

3 on 3 Sand Volleyball League meeting May 11

The league is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel and is a Captain's Cup event. The meeting will be held at the Gymnasium on Friday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Intramural Golf League meeting May 16

The league is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel and is a Captain's Cup event. The meeting will be held on the deck outside Mulligans on Wednesday, May 16 at 11:30 a.m. All team

captains should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

Summer Basketball League meeting May 18

The league is open to all NAS Jax active duty personnel. The meeting will be held at the Gymnasium on Friday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. All interested personnel should attend the meeting to discuss rules and to get the required paperwork to join the league.

For more information about any of the sports articles, call Bill Bonser, Sports Coordinator or Mike Gorman, Athletic Director at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail us at dbonser@nasjax.navy.mil or dgorman@nasjax.navy.mil. Visit the MWR website at www.nasjax.navy.mil/mwr.

Community Calendar

Continued from page 20

Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held in Building 612 on Jason Street, NAS Jax. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. For information call 772-0242 or President Barbara Howard at 471-1444.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association Unit 126 is today at

10 a.m. Nominations for officers for the unit will be made at this meeting. For information call 771-2936.

USO Night at the Zoo May 12, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The event is open to all active duty military and family. Tickets are \$1 for ages 4 and up and include a Train Ride.

Get your tickets in advance at the USO office, Bldg. 1050, NAS Jacksonville front gate, to avoid standing in line at the Zoo. Call Charlene at 778-2821.

The Ladies Auxiliary and VFW Post 1988 will be hosting a Senior Citizens Dinner, May 13 at the Post Home located in Green Cove Springs, Highway 7.

Dinner will be served at 1 p.m. followed by music and door prizes. All seniors in the area are welcome to come as guests of the Post and Auxiliary. Call 284-0775.

The Retired Officer's Association of Northeast Florida dinner business meeting for May will be held at the Of-

ficers' Club, NAS Jacksonville, on May 16 at 6 p.m. Active and retired officers of the uniformed services, spouses and guests are invited. Guest speaker is Addiction Counselor Noellie Drygas who will be speaking on "Humor and Aging." Advance reservations required 48 hours prior to the meeting. Call 269-2942.

Clay County's 13th annual Concert on the Green is May 27, at Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club. For information call 269-1046.