



Jax Air News

TOUCHING BASE

Commissary closed Monday

The NAS Jax Commissary will be closed Monday for installation of a new operating system. It will re-open Tuesday morning at 9 a.m.

New Web site created

The Florida Times-Union has created a new Web site featuring welcome home articles from the different area commands. The Web site will be up and running through June. To check out this new site, log on to www.Jacksonville.com/militarysite/welcomehome/.

Tuition Assistance Workshop coming

Navy College Office will be conducting a Tuition Assistance Workshop June 19 from 1 p.m. in Classroom No. 3 at the Navy College Office. First time users and people who have experienced difficulty using the TA process need to attend. For more information, call 542-2477.

Navy tri-base job fair slated

NS Mayport, Kings Bay Subbase and NAS Jacksonville, Fleet Family Support Centers (FFSC) will sponsor the Navy Tri-Base Job Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 24 at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium.

Active duty, separating, retiring and retired service members, military spouses and family members are eligible to attend. Separated service members up to 90 days after separation date, and all other veterans need to bring a copy of their DD-214. Attendees should also bring copies of their resumes and dress appropriately.

The fair and parking is free. For more information, call, 270-6600, Ext. 139.

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Photo by JO2 Andrea Kane

Retired Navy Chief Jim Cunningham Jr. describes his experiences from the Battle of Midway to an attendee during the Battle of Midway Commemoration Dinner June 6. Cunningham, the event's guest speaker, served aboard USS Hammann during salvage efforts for USS Yorktown immediately following the battle. He was at his position on the ship's fantail when the Hammann was sunk by a torpedo in the afternoon of June 6, 1942.

Veterans and guests remember Midway

By JO1 Mike Jones
Assistant Editor

Last Friday, approximately 61 years to the day the Battle of Midway concluded, Navy veterans and guests gathered at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel to celebrate the anniversary of the battle historians have called the turning point in the Pacific in World War II.

On June 4, 1942, the vastly outnumbered, and badly damaged U.S. Pacific Fleet intercepted Japanese warships heading for Midway Island.

U.S. Navy intelligence successfully broke Japanese code and discovered Midway Island would be used as a staging area for future assaults on Hawaii and eventually the U.S. mainland.

Armed with this knowledge, Adm. Chester Nimitz was able to place his

See MIDWAY, Page 12

MCPON visits NAS Jax Sailors

By JO1 Mike Jones
Assistant Editor

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON (SS/AW) Terry Scott visited with NAS Jacksonville Sailors June 6 during an all hands call at the base theater.

During the visit, he took time to express thanks to all Sailors' efforts with Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom and the continuing global war on terrorism.

"I just want to first say how proud I am, how proud the leadership all the way up to the president is of our Navy and Marine Corps team," Scott explained. "We're answering our nation's call."

To the gathered group, Scott described his top three priorities:

Professional development and growth for enlisted leadership, quality of serv-

ice, and recognition of military family members. "I firmly believe in our Navy leadership, from the most junior Sailors up the ranks, to continue to do the right thing," he said. "Also, for me, quality of service is a combination of quality of life and quality of work," he added. Scott also stressed the need for Navy family members to continue to feel a part of the Navy organization.

Scott explained the need for Sailors to remain aware of ongoing Navy initiatives including the development of the Navy Knowledge Online portal (www.NKO.navy.mil) and the Thrift Savings Plan.

Scott concluded the visit answering questions from the audience covering topics from deployment schedules and issues, opportunities for female Sailors, and aspects of the enlisted advancement exams.



Photo by JO1 Mike Jones

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, MCPON(SS/AW) Terry Scott, addresses NAS Jacksonville Sailors during an all hands call at the base theater June 6.

New computer system to improve security, efficiency

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

In an effort to maintain tighter security measures and improve efficiency, the NAS Jacksonville Child Development Center (CDC), Child Development homes and Youth Activities Center have implemented a new computer system.

This new system, called the Child and Youth Management System, was put into place on Monday, and will be tested here for a short time before being initiated at NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay, Ga.

"We are the first in this area to use this new system. We're very excited about this new technology and have been working hard to input all the data required to get this online,"



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

said Deridre Odom, CDC program supervisor.

The new system works like this. Each parent has

and again when they leave. The computer reads who is swiped in and requires them to be swiped out each day before the system can be shut down. If a parent forgets to swipe their card when leaving and tries to use it again the next day, the computer will assume they are leaving that morning.

"It's going to take some time for parents to get used to the swipe cards. We have set up baskets at the front desk so parents can just put their cards in the basket if they don't have time to swipe them, and we will take care of it for them," added Odom. "They can pick up their cards as they come and go and when we need to talk to them, the desk clerk will hold that individual's card."

The new system is also a

complete database maintaining a profile on each individual household. This

See CDC, Page 12

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY 72/89
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY 72/88
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY 72/88
PARTLY CLOUDY

Seven-day forecast available at Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility Jacksonville's Web site:
<https://www.nlmof.navy.mil>

CMC CORNER

Rendering honors to our national Ensign

By CMDMC(SW/AW) Chuck Lawson
Command Master Chief

Out of the travails of our nation's birth, in the midst of a bitter war for independence, our National Emblem emerged on June 14, 1777, a beautiful flag combining the blue of vigilance, perseverance, and justice with the white of purity, and the red of hardiness and valor.

It is an unmistakable symbol of freedom that has lifted the hearts of Americans down through the years, our national Ensign!

Through the hard work and dedicated efforts of many people at NAS Jax, we now have a base-wide announcing system. Its primary use is to communicate throughout the base in cases of emergency, including

evacuation announcements for hurricanes and thunderstorm conditions.

One of the main fringe benefits is that we also now have the ability to play the National Anthem for morning colors and Retreat for evening colors across the entire station.

Since it has been awhile since we have done this, I would like to cover the proper procedures for all hands, military and civilian, during morning and evening colors.

The following is an excerpt from Navy Regulations Chapter 12, Flags Pennants, Honors, Ceremonies and Customs, Section 2, Honors to National Anthems and National Ensign, Article 1206, paragraph 1-10:

"During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present except those in uni-

form should face the flag and stand at attention with the right hand over the heart. Those present in uniform should render the military salute.

When not in uniform, men should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

During colors, vehicles within sight or hearing of the ceremony shall be stopped. Persons riding in the vehicles shall remain seated at attention. Vehicles will remain stopped until "Carry On" is sounded."

Our Flag and National Anthem are living symbols of the men and women who have served and sacrificed in the service of our great country. Let's remember them every time we proudly and reverently stop for morning or evening colors!

The folding of the American flag

Courtesy of CNRSE
Public Affairs

The following is a very interesting, moving and little-known part of our military tradition.

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag exactly 13 times? You probably thought it is done to symbolize the 13 original colonies, but we learn something new everyday!

The first fold of our flag is to symbolize life. The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace

throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for his divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong". The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found

within or without the boundaries of our republic. The eighth fold is a tribute to the ones who have entered the valley of the shadow of death, that we may see the light of day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood and mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this great country has been molded.

The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he too has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews' eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and

glorifies, in the Christians' eyes, God the father, the son and the holy spirit. The 13th fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under Gen. George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Capt. John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Military spouses will feel the effects of a 'crowded summer'

By Sarah Smiley
Special Contributor

This summer, for the first time in decades, all squadrons based out of NAS Jacksonville will be home and not deployed. For our active-duty loved ones, the situation creates a host of problems (parking issues, BEQ arrangements, etc.), but for us dependents, it will cause unusual circumstances as well.

Here below are five things you might notice about this "crowded" summer:

Your husband will finally meet your friend's husband, who has always been deployed when he is home and home when he is deployed. Imagine going out as a group of four and not being a "third wheel!"

You may notice your husband or wife getting home later than usual. Just when you thought the traffic going to and from base couldn't get any worse; there will be a couple hundred extra people here this summer.

There won't be any "geographical bachelorettes" to baby-sit for you and your spouse. "You scratch my back; I'll scratch yours" is a common principle between mili-

tary friends. You know the drill: You baby-sit your friend's children while she and her husband go out on a date because your own husband is deployed.

When it's your husband's turn to leave, the favor is repaid. Get ready to pull out your regular babysitter list this summer!

You may find yourself wishing you could park in the spot marked "Flag Officer." As if shopping at the commissary with children wasn't hard enough, now finding a place to park might be the ultimate challenge.

You can enjoy your summer without the "bittersweet." The military is full of "bittersweets." While one woman is anxiously awaiting her husband's return, another is dreading her husband's departure.

One woman's good news (her husband is coming home) is another woman's bad news (her husband is going to relieve the other guy's ship/squadron).

As military families, even when we are living in the "sweet," we know some of our Jacksonville friends and neighbors are living with the "bitter."

This summer gather your squadron mates to share the sweet and enjoy this unusual summer together!

Hunter's education course set

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission is offering a hunter education course

July 12, 19 and 26 from 1 - 7 p.m. at Hangar 1000 at N A S Jax.

The course is free and includes the required orientation from the NAS Jax game warden to hunt on federal lands. Pre-registration is required by calling (352) 625-2804.



HEY, MONEYMAN!

Hey, MoneyMan!

I just read an article in the Navy Times that is titled, "Corrupt lenders prey on troops." The article also said that these same folks advertise in the Navy Times. If they are "corrupt lenders," why are they allowed to advertise in military newspapers? What's up with that?

MoneyMan Sez:

Good question! I also read the article and thought it did a great job of pointing out the problems for those who go to these high-interest places for loans.

Most of the recommendations made by the National Consumer Law Center were right on track and apparently Mr. Tripoli did a lot of research in looking at the impact these lenders have on our military families.

What the article did not say is that some of those



companies who advertise in the Navy Times charge as much as 365 percent interest! My recommendation is that you write a letter to Navy Times and ask them the same question you sent me.

If they feel they must run the ads, why don't they at least require some disclosure of the rates they charge. Of course, if they advertised 365 percent interest rates they probably would not get much business.

More questions? Call Hey, MoneyMan! at 778-0353.



Sunday Services

You are invited to the following Base Chapel Worship Services this Saturday and Sunday:

Saturday 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass
Sunday 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Episcopal
9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass
11 a.m. - Protestant Worship
6:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service
"The Leading Edge," Hangar 749 at the Base Chapel Center.

Children's Sunday Class - Protestant Sunday School program is at 9:45-10:45 a.m., and Catholic CCD is 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.



Meet A Sailor...

MASN JUNE MURRAY

Job title/command:
NAS Jax Security Department

Hometown: Klamath Falls, Ore.

Family Life: Single

Past Duty Stations: NAB Norfolk, Va.

Career Plans: To get my bachelor's degree in forensic pathology and become an investigator for the CIA.

Most Interesting Experience: Being a junior firefighter.

Words of Wisdom: Live every day like it's your last, because one of these days it will be.



Meet A Civilian...

ARLEEN STARKS

Job title/command:
Contract Specialist, FISC

Hometown: Charleston, S.C.

Family Life: Husband, Darrell - stationed on USS John F. Kennedy, and three sons, Brian, Dominique and Devante.

Past Duty Stations: Retired CPO - NAS Jax, NAS Miramar, Calif., NAS North Island, Calif.

Career Plans: Pursuing a Masters of Education degree at the University of Phoenix and to retire from civil service.

Most Interesting Experience: Beginning a new career after 21 years in the Navy.

Words of Wisdom: God first, family second and career third.

Voting via the Internet

From the Armed Forces News Service

The Federal Voting Assistance Program has begun an Internet registration and voting demonstration for the 2004 election called Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment (SERVE). Thousands of absentee uniformed services members, their dependents, and overseas U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to register and vote from any Windows-based computer with Internet access.

County election officials will use the SERVE system to receive voter registration applications, provide ballots to voters, and accept voted ballots. FVAP Director Polli Brunelli said she is working closely with state and local election officials to ensure that the integrity of the electoral process is maintained. To use SERVE log on to www.SERVEUSA.gov. Visit www.fvap.gov/.

Jax Air News

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VS-32 'Maulers' make history

By Lt. j.g. Tim Watkins
VS-32 PAO

On May 6, the "Maulers" of VS-32 and the VFA-82 "Marauders" made history. Launching from NAS Fallon, Nev., where the squadrons were operating during the Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1 Fallon detachment, the Maulers and Marauders combined to achieve several firsts for naval aviation, with the launch and employment of a Standoff Land Attack Missile Expanded Response (SLAM-ER).

The target was a simulated surface-to-air missile radar site on the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) Sea Test Range. A direct hit reinforced SLAM-ER's reputation as the Navy's most accurate strike weapon.

Used in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, the precision and lethality of the SLAM-ER were already a known quantity. However, its effectiveness in the time sensitive strike role, using real time targeting data against targets of opportunity (TOO), was previously untested.

Breaking new ground, the aircrew received targeting information while en route to the NAWCWD



A VS-32 SLAM-ER missile hits directly above a poster of Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein during the squadron's recent training mission at NAS Fallon, Nev.

range. Target coordinates and imagery were sent via the AWW-13 Data Link Pod using the Tactical Dissemination Module (TDM).

The target was not briefed prior to launch, and the information and imagery provided via the data link were the only targeting information used for the strike.

After transiting more than 400 miles to the launch point, Lt. j.g. Adam Turner of VFA-82 selected the TOO mission for the SLAM-ER, and entered the information provided via the data link.

From an altitude of more than 30,000 feet and a range of more than 50 nautical miles, Turner released the SLAM-ER from his F/A-18C.

As the missile traveled inbound target, missile seeker video was transmitted to all of the strike aircraft. Lt. j.g. Tim Gantz, in a Mauler S-3B located more than 100 miles from the target, assumed control and guidance of the missile.

Using the Stop Motion Aimpoint Update feature of the SLAM-ER, Gantz refined the missile's aimpoint and manually guided the missile to a direct hit.

The successful engagement demonstrated SLAM-ER's time sensitive strike capability and achieved several significant firsts for naval aviation:

- First live SLAM-ER controlled by a Fleet S-3B.
- First use of TDM as the sole source of real time targeting information for a SLAM-ER missile firing.
- First SLAM-ER missile firing to utilize airborne re-targeting to strike an unbriefed target.
- First use of SLAM-ER Software Suite Version 1.9.

While the efforts of the entire squadron will be necessary to ensure future successes with the SLAM-ER, several Maulers were integral to the success of the missile shoot.

AT2 Steven Weiland and AT1 Jason Kelly worked countless hours installing and maintaining the avionics associated with the Maverick Plus and SLAM-ER missile systems.

Lts. Scott Berg, Kent Smith, Mike Turner, Tim Reinhardt, Natalia Henriquez, Korina Saltz, Pete Yao, along with Gantz, spent months training and planning for the event, which they ultimately executed with impressive precision.

And of course, the entire event would not have been possible without the skill



A VS-32 S-3 Viking carries a SLAM-ER practice pod during a rehearsal mission. Photos courtesy of VS-32

and dedication of the entire Mauler Ordnance shop.

Months of rigorous training by the aircrew went into making the missile shoot a success. Provided by the Strike-Fighter Weapons School Atlantic, the Sea Control Weapons School, the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Boeing, and the SLAM-ER Tiger Team from NAWCWD, the training consisted of classroom briefings, simulator training, mission planning, tactical employment training, and numerous simulated missile shots.

All of the training paid off, and VS-32, VFA-82, and CVW-1 proved that they are ready, willing, and able to put this deadly weapon system to use if called on to do so.

With the S-3 Sundown plan already in motion, some might think the men and women of the "Viking"

community would be content to quietly ride off into the sunset.

Nothing could be further from the truth. With new and emerging tactical capabilities, the S-3 community and the Maulers continue to test the limits of their aircraft and its weapons systems.

By employing the latest technology and expanding upon the proven capabilities of the SLAM-ER—already the most accurate weapon in the Navy's arsenal—the S-3 is fast becoming one of the most capable and valuable of all airborne Naval assets.

Together, the Maulers and the CVW-1 team will build upon their historic achievements and ensure the Enterprise Battle Group will depart for upcoming deployment as the most powerful and lethal carrier battle group in history.

VP-30 sponsors recruit division

By Lt. Mike Marrinan
VP-30 PAO

On May 19, VP-30 sent a group of its officers and Sailors to Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. to sponsor a recruit division. VP-30 is one of a number of commands that are part of a program to reach out to the Navy's newest members by sponsoring a recruit division.

This interaction between fleet Sailors and recruits is designed to provide positive role models for young Sailors and help bridge the gap between boot camp and the fleet.

The first visit by VP-30 commissioned Recruit Division 209 of Ship One. During the ceremony, Capt. Brian Prindle, VP-30 commanding officer, spoke to the recruits about the importance of each individual's contribution to the Navy while emphasizing how team synergy was critical to the continued success of the Navy.

Upon completion of the ceremony the squadron members had time to interact with the recruits on a one on one basis answering questions about life in the Navy and what to expect when they finished basic training.

The VP-30 personnel were overwhelmed by the



Photo courtesy of VP-30

VP-30 Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Prindle and AE2(AW) Shawn Diggs present the "Pro's Nest" pennant to the members of Recruit Division 209. Assisting Prindle and Diggs, was Company Commander for Recruit Division 209, Chief Petty Officer Willard Lowe.

motivation of the recruits and the opportunity to directly mentor a shipmate at such an early stage in their career.

VP-30 will attend at least three more events in the training of Division 209. Follow on visits will enable VP-30 to participate in the division's first graded PRT, battle stations training, and graduation.

Providing fleet experience and motivation to

assist the recruits through this rigorous phase of their career has been and promises to be a rewarding experience for the fleet Sailors and recruits alike.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA/P.S.C.; 2c; 7.5"; Black Only; PU 5/18 R001131

ADMIRAL HOMES, L.L.C.; 2c; 6"; Black Only; PU R021126 6-5

New hand at the helm



Photo by HM2 John Veres

Capt. Ralph Lockhart is relieved by Capt. John Sentell as Commanding Officer Naval Hospital Jacksonville as Surgeon General of the Navy Vice Adm. Michael Cowan and Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Annette E. Brown look on at a June 6 Change of Command Ceremony aboard NAS Jacksonville. Lockhart retired after 42 years of Navy service.



ROUND ROBIN & KIDDIE GO ROUND; 2c; 8"; Black Only;

Navy Surgeon General visits NAS Jacksonville

From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Vice Adm. Michael Cowan, the 34th Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery arrived in Jacksonville Wednesday, June 4.

Cowan was in town for the June 6 Naval Hospital Jacksonville Change of Command in which Capt. John Sentell assumed command from Capt. Ralph Lockhart as he retired from the Navy after 42 years of service.

Cowan spoke at a First Coast Health Care Executives (FCHCE) event last Wednesday evening, at Epping Forest. Cowan's presentation was titled "A Sea Change of Medicine" and covered bio-terrorism, the threat of advancing technologies, and the use of "germs" as weapons. He spoke about the tectonic shifts in the paradigms that have been the traditional underpinnings of science, medicine and research," as well as how society can cope with such profound changes. FCHCE asked the speaker to help Jacksonville area healthcare executives and physicians develop a better understanding of the role they play as leaders in these uncharted waters.

FCHCE is a recognized affiliate member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Their mission is to be the premier professional organization for healthcare executives in the community. They offer educational programs, networking opportunities, and promote professional development and interaction among individuals with responsibilities to the administration of healthcare facilities and healthcare related agencies.

On Thursday, the Surgeon



Photos by HM2 John Veres

Following the Naval Hospital Jacksonville Change of Command and reception, Navy Surgeon General Vice Adm. Michael Cowan joined the hospital's new commanding officer and about 25 other motorcycle enthusiasts from the hospital staff on a motorcycle run through Jacksonville. Here, the surgeon general (left) admires the bike of HM1 Jody Shell (right).

General visited Naval Station Mayport where Branch Medical Clinic Mayport Officer in Charge Cmdr. Thomas Balestrieri showed Cowan their new building that is currently under construction.

Speaking at the Change of Command on Friday, as he honored the incoming and outgoing commanding officers, Cowan's went on to address the past, present and future of Navy medicine.

"We do truly stand on the shoulders of giants," Cowan said, referring to past heroes in Navy medicine. "But," he said, "It's not our father's medical department." He said Navy medicine used to be a system that was predominantly a periodic, episodic, reactive healthcare system, a system with little focus on occupational health, population health or preventive medicine. "I call that

drive-by medicine," Cowan said. "Over the past decade, we've shifted our investment portfolio, philosophy, vision and our practice to 'Total Health Protection.'"

Cowan explained this has three equally vital parts.

Part one - we do everything possible to field a force of hyper-healthy, hyper-fit Sailors and Marines that are ready to go into harm's way at a moment's notice to perform the myriad range of missions we require them to do. To have them endowed with the strength, flexibility, endurance and personal stability to stay well and perform their missions while deployed or at war. And for them to return home safe and healthy after the war is over."

"Second," he said, "we go with them to provide a safety net against all environmental haz-



Following the Naval Hospital Jacksonville Change of Command and reception, Vice Adm. Michael Cowan, Surgeon General of the Navy (gesturing), tours the Branch Medical Clinic (BMC) facility that is under construction at Naval Station Mayport. Accompanying Cowan are (from left) Civil Engineers Lt. Jorge Quadros, Lt. Cmdr. Timothy Barnes; Lt. Adam Burch, with Jerry Ferguson; BMC Mayport Officer in Charge, Cmdr. Thomas M. Balestrieri and Flag Aide Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Plummer.

ards we can possibly identify and to detect and mitigate against weapons of mass destruction; biological, chemical or radiological.

Third - should we fail at one and two, we are there for them from the foxhole, to the Medevac chain, to the Ivory tower, to provide world class restorative care to return them to health lost through illness or injury.

Finally, as of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2001, we are fully empowered to help a grateful nation thank its retired warriors by giving them TRICARE for Life."

Cowan said "We have been extraordinarily successful in these endeavors," noting Navy medicine's amazing performance in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also noted the courage and dedication to duty of our young men and women in those wars. He recalled speaking to one recovering corpsman who lost a foot to a landmine while running to aid the Marines he was assigned to. He recalled the Sailor said that he wasn't so concerned about losing his foot but was worried about who was taking care of his Marines.

"If anyone worries about the youth of our nation I don't think you have to," Cowan said. "The young men and women that have gone in harm's way and that we have the privilege of protecting have borne us great pride."

Cowan also lauded those who remained behind, noting that despite the loss of nearly a quarter of the hospital's staff to deployment Naval Hospital Jacksonville's remaining staff, together with activated reservists, "pulled up their socks and tightened their belts" to deliver the same high standard of care they have always delivered.

As for the future, Cowan said, "Our job is to continue building on the success of Navy medicine, to adapt to change where we must and to make progress wherever we can."

He voiced his confidence in Naval Hospital Jacksonville to do just that. "The patients of Naval Hospital Jacksonville and its Branch Medical Clinics do not have to worry about their healthcare," he said. And, he added, neither does he.

Osprey reaches 500 flight hours during test flight

By Ward Carroll
NAVAIR (V-22) PAO

Osprey No. 7 pushed the V-22 Integrated Test Team over the 500-flight hour milestone while conducting a test flight out of Edwards Air Force Base on May 30, a year and a day after the program returned to flight.

"We've averaged more than 40 flight hours a month in the past year," said Lt. Col. Kevin Gross, the ITT's chief government test pilot. "Reaching the 500-hour milestone in a single year is the result of a sound plan carried out by dedicated professionals."

The 500-flight hour achievement comes on the heels of a very successful ruling on the V-22 test program by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics.

In a recent Acquisition Decision Memorandum the undersecretary writes that "the flight testing has demonstrated (the V-22 has) combat maneuvering superior to helicopters; acceptable handling qualities in low speed flight; and



Photo courtesy of NAVAIR

Four V-22 Ospreys perched along the flight line with rotors turning before recent test flights. Over the last 12 months the V-22 Integrated Test Team has conducted more than 500 hours of mishap free flying while executing a very challenging and dynamic test plan.

dynamic shipboard compatibility" among other performance attributes that satisfy "the threshold levels for all of its key performance parameters and reliability and maintainability metrics."

The undersecretary further directs cognizant authorities to make recommendations and take actions that "reflect a more success oriented program."

In another memorandum the undersecretary compliments the V-22 team for "paving the way for the

eventual fielding of this much needed capability to the warfighter." He goes on to state "the Department of Defense is sincerely grateful."

The V-22 Team garnered even more plaudits two weeks later when it received the third annual NAVAIR Commander's Award for Special Achievement.

In the citation for the award Vice Adm. Dyer, the NAVAIR commander, cites "a complete turnaround of the V-22 Tilt-rotor pro-

gram" and labels the V-22 Joint Program Office "a benchmark for multi-disciplined joint service, joint government, and industry co-located Integrated Program Teams."

Col. Dan Schultz, the V-22 joint program manager, said, "I am proud of the entire team's accomplishments as we continue to execute a safe and methodical flight program. From Bell-Boeing that has built a reliable airplane to Rolls-Royce that has produced the Liberty engine to all

the members of Team Osprey as well as the government side of the house, this program has had a great 12 months."

But all of this success and recognition has not slowed the pace of the Osprey program. In the coming weeks the ITT will be conducting developmental testing on the V-22's navigational systems and tactical sensors.

The team will also be doing "pitch up with sideslip" flights to further understand how the aircraft performs and how the

flight control laws might be modified to give the aircraft the optimal characteristics in that regime.

In addition to executing the test plan, the team will also be busy training a new cadre of developmental and operational test pilots for both the MV (USMC) and CV (SOCOM) variants of the Osprey.

"We've got a busy summer ahead of us," said Gross, "but as this year has shown, that's the sort of environment the V-22 team thrives in."



Photo Courtesy of the United States Navy Memorial

The Sulima family (clockwise from top left), GMCS Michael Sulima, MM2 Michael Peter Sulima, PN3 Amber Sulima, and HM1 Michael Patrick Sulima.

Four generations of Sailors celebrate family legacy

By Tami Faram
U.S. Navy Memorial PAO

As a personnelman in the United States Navy, PN3 Amber Sulima knows all about Sailors.

It is not only her job to assist Sailors transferring in or off duty at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, but she is also the fourth in line from a family of Sailors who have dedicated their service to our country.

On May 29, the Sulima family reunited at the U.S. Navy Memorial where a plaque was dedicated in their family name. The plaque forever honors their family's Navy service.

Each member of the Sulima family was present for the plaque dedication ceremony, from 20-year-old Amber, to her father, grandfather and great grandfather

GMCS Michael Sulima, who began serving before World War II, in 1932. He served as a gunner's mate in the Pacific Theater during World War II and went on to serve 32 years of active duty in the Navy through 1975.

His son, HM1 Michael Peter Sulima served 23 years in the Navy from 1957 to 1980. The majority of his time in the Navy was as a hospital corpsman.

Then his son, MM2 Michael Patrick Sulima served six years in the Navy, where he experienced combat in the Persian Gulf War. His daughter, Amber Sulima continues to carry on the family's Navy legacy at NAS Jacksonville.

No-shows a no-no at Branch Medical

By Loren Barnes
Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

OK, you've been sick for a week and all of a sudden you're healed! What's the first thing you should do?

Call the Branch Medical Clinic and cancel that appointment you made for tomorrow!

Branch Medical Clinic (BMC) Jacksonville continues to experience an increase in appointment "no-shows" by clinic patients.

To avoid long waits that were part of the old sick call, all care is delivered by appointment and service members are asked to call the BMC at 542-3500 for advice when they need to schedule, change or cancel appointments.

"Clinic patrons should be aware that failing to notify the clinic when you're going to miss an appointment is not just an administrative problem but it means other patients that might have been seen during that



time-slot will have to wait," said Lt. Wendy Trevino, BMC acting assistant department head.

She reminds patrons that it is important that they use clinic services judiciously. Demanding same-day service in the BMC's Acute Care Clinic (ACC) for care that would be more appropriately delivered by a Primary Care provider overburdens the ACC's staff and detracts from

their primary role of delivering urgent care.

If you're ill and feel you must be seen immediately call the clinic and speak to the Triage Nurse. The nurse on duty can help determine whether you should schedule an appointment with a Primary Care provider or be seen in the ACC.

Naval Hospital Jacksonville and its Branch Clinics assure all its beneficiaries family centered care is simply the best. Delivering that care expeditiously, especially during challenging times, requires cooperation between patrons and clinic staff. The BMC is doing its part with courtesy reminder calls to patients prior to appointments.

To do your part, we encourage commands to ensure that personnel show up for their appointments as scheduled. Service members are asked to give the BMC a heads-up phone call, preferably 24 hours ahead of the scheduled appointment time, should they wish to cancel.

Vet Clinic makes change to no-show policy

From the Vet Clinic

It is the policy of the NAS Jacksonville Veterinary Treatment Facility to make our services available, by appointment, to as many authorized individuals as possible within the constraints of time, personnel and other mission requirements.

Since we are often booked up many days in advance, a missed appointment (no-show) robs us of an opportu-



nity to accommodate another individual during that time slot.

Clients missing one appointment

will be reminded of the clinic's no-show policy. If a client misses two appointments, the person's commanding officer will be notified.

Three no-shows will result in the suspension of privileges to utilize the Veterinary Treatment Facility for routine veterinary care for six months.

A 15-minute grace period will be given before an appointment is considered a no-show.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 542-3786.

HELPING HANDS

Summer Camps

Serve as an activities assistant for Camp I Am Special, Camp Promise and Camp Care. Sessions are throughout the summer.

The minimum age to volunteer is 15. Call Patrick Kennedy at 356-0810 for more information about these special camps for children with disabilities.

Clean-up planned

Assist the City of Jacksonville in a July 4th aftermath clean-up. Coordinate and/or participate in picking up and removing trash and other debris along the oceanfront and waterways. Call

630-1020 to sign up.

Beaches Fine Arts Series Triathlons

The Beaches Fine Arts Series, Inc. provides performing and visual arts free to the public in addition to educational outreach programs in area schools that reinforce the value of art and music to the students.

Triathlon volunteers direct traffic to assure the safety of the competitors or assist with set up, registration, water/food dis-

tribution, race timing, takedown and more.

Minimum age is 13. Triathlon dates are: Saturday and July 12. Call Allison Jones at 543-9829 or 270-2074.

BellSouth Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament

This tournament will be held July 14-19 at Sisters Creek Park, 8205 Heckscher Drive.

Volunteers are needed to assist with answering calls, site

set-up, selling merchandise and beverages, weighing fish, checking out boats, and delivering ice and supplies to tents.

For more information, call Sandy Lancaster 350-3230.

Toast to the Animals Wine Tasting

Come out July 25 to benefit the animals at the Jacksonville Humane Society. Help is needed with the silent auction and registration. Call Chris Whitney at 725-8766, Ext. 206.

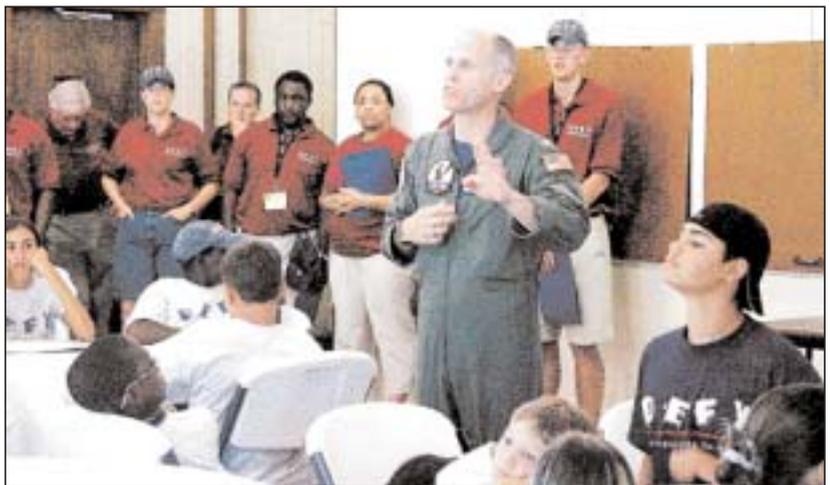
Camp DEFY 2003

DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH



A DEFY member reached to grasp a cow bell hung 60 feet in the air, knowing that his team will not let him fall.

Photos by
JO2(SCW)
Eric Clay



Capt. Brian Prindle, VP-30 commanding officer, awarded each DEFY member a certificate of completion for Phase One of the DEFY program and explained the importance of the program.



DEFY participant, Zachary Walker, takes steady aim as he prepares to shoot an arrow during an archery event.

Local military hosts DEFY Camp

By JO2(SCW) Eric Clay
Staff Writer

NAS Jacksonville and its tenant commands recently took time out from their demanding operational schedules to educate local children, ages nine to 12 years old, on the importance of living a drug-free lifestyle.

The Drug Education for the Youth (DEFY) program consisted of a one-week camp at Camp McConnell, owned by YMCA, located south of Gainesville, Fla. Twenty-one mentors from the Marine Corps, VP-30, AIMD and VP-16 were on hand to ensure the safety of each child and to assist them during the week.

The children who participated in the program, learned character, leadership, and confidence skills in order to become positive, healthy drug-free citizens through activities such as team-building, role-playing, horseback riding, candle making, swimming, singing and rappelling. All activities were taught by YMCA counselors and were overseen by NA Jax DEFY mentors.

"This week has been a lot of hard work, but has been well

worth the effort to make the kids happy and to teach them the importance of staying drug-free," explained AW1(AW) Justin Rogers, a DEFY mentor from VP-30.

Each day, participants attended classes given to promote drug prevention. All DEFY programs are based on teamwork and not peer pressure. DEFY is a multi-phased, one year program that strengthens protective factors, and reduces risk factors that scientific research has directly linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency and violence.

"The DEFY program is all about instilling leadership in children and teaching them how to communicate with one other in a positive way," added YN2(SW/AW) John Green. "Our biggest goal is to help the children, and to let them know that it is okay to be drug free."

During each of the activities, children are taught to trust in each other using a team concept. "We try to instill in each child, that team work is the right way of doing things and good communication is most important," commented Green.

While participating in the rope

activity, participants had to trust their team with their safety. As they climbed to heights of 40-feet or more, they were secured with a safety rope connected to their body harness, and held by their team members. This activity instilled trust and allowed the children to face their fears knowing that others would be there to protect them.

Upon completion of the week-long camp, VP-30 Commanding Officer Capt. Brian Prindle awarded each child with a certificate of completion and congratulated the military mentors for a job well done.

The DEFY program began in 1992 as a special initiative of the Secretary of the Navy when the Navy's Drug Demand Reduction Task Force (DDRTF) was established.

In 1997 the DDRTF implemented the DEFY Risk Reduction program. Several years later, the Navy disestablished the DDRTF and recognized the drug prevention initiatives as the Drug Education For Youth program. The DEFY program office maintains the goals and objectives established under the DDRTF.

Camp DEFY™ 2003

DRUG EDUCATION FOR YOUTH



AT3 Mike Williams from AIMD watches the DEFY children as they relax for the afternoon.



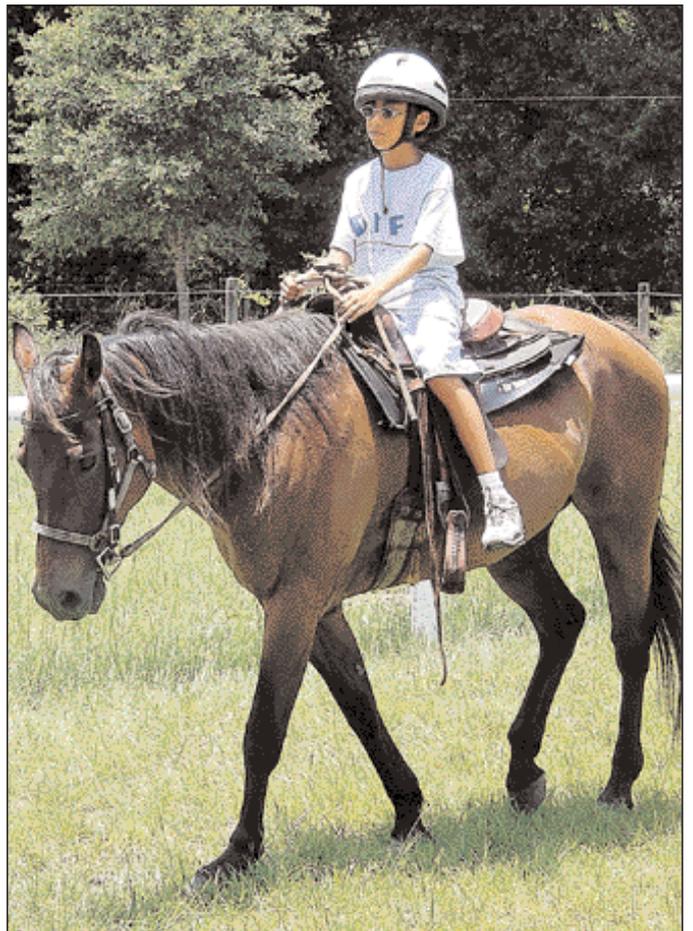
A DEFY member attempts to walk across a wire bridge while being guided by a support person 40 feet below.



Three participants perform a stump dance during the "DEFY Idol" talent competition during the last night of the camp.



A crowd looks on as a DEFY member climbs her way to the top of a rock climbing wall.



Mathias Muller trots around the riding ring on Tulsa, one of three horses ridden that day.

Free tickets offered

From USO

To honor America's service men and women, Walt Disney World Parks are offering active members of the U.S. military including members of the Coast Guard and activated members of the National Guard or Reserves, a complimentary five-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Ticket, valid for admission to Disney's theme parks and water parks through Dec. 19, 2003.

Active service members may also purchase five-day Disney's Armed Forces Salute Companion Tickets for \$99 each (plus tax) for up to five family members or friends.

The tickets are valid for all Walt Disney World parks and places with the freedom to visit multiple parks on the same day. The parks and places include: Magic Kingdom Park, Epcot, Disney MGM Studios, Disney's Animal Kingdom, DisneyQuest Indoor Interactive Theme Park, Disney's Blizzard Beach Water Park, Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, Downtown Disney Pleasure Island, Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex.

To acquire tickets, active duty members must present their military ID cards at any Walt Disney World theme park ticket window. National Guard or Reserve members must show the active duty orders.

The companion tickets may also be purchased at the ticket windows by showing the active duty members Disney Armed Forces Salute Ticket or providing dependent ID cards. Families do not need to have a service member accompanying them to purchase these tickets. Tickets may only be used by the person(s) they are purchased for.

For more information, call (407) 939-7424 or log on to www.disneyworld.com/

military.

Anheuser-Busch is offering free single-day admission to its SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place parks to active duty military, active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as four of their direct dependents, beginning tomorrow through Nov. 11, 2003. The offer also has been extended to all coalition forces serving with United States troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Silver Springs and Wild Waters Water Park are offering free daily admission to both attractions to all active duty U.S. military personal and reservists now through Dec. 31, 2003 and a 50 percent discount on daily admission to their family members (limit of 6) during the same period.

Proper I.D. is required. Silver Springs and Wild Waters are located east of Ocala on S.R. 40, Exit 352 east off I-75 or Exit 268 west off I-95. For more information call Silver Springs/Wild Waters at (352) 236-2121 or visit the Web site at www.silversprings.com or www.wildwaterspark.com.

Wet N' Wild is offering all active duty military members, reservists and National Guard members free admission to their park.

With proper identification, up to four accompanying family members or friends will receive 50 percent off the regularly priced ticket.

For more information, call 1-800-992-WILD or check out their Web site at www.wetwildorlando.com. This offer is good until Dec. 31, 2003.



Photo courtesy of NavHosp Public Affairs

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Habitat for Humanity volunteers DT1 Angel Santiago, HM1 Annette Mason, HM1 Joseph Tarver, HM1 Sarabia Raymund, MS2 Tangela Turner, HM2 Jay Hicks, HM1 Michael Johnson, HM1 Paul Schultz and DT2 Willie Collins (not shown) proudly pose in front of a new home they constructed as part of Habitat for Humanity in Green Cove Springs.

NavHosp Jax volunteers build Habitat home in Green Cove Springs

By Loren Barnes

Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

Two families in Green Cove Springs, a small town just south of Jacksonville, will soon move into beautiful new homes thanks to the hard work of nine volunteers from Naval Hospital Jacksonville. The volunteers worked with Habitat for Humanity to do finishing work on two four-bedroom, two-bath, 1,200 square-foot homes on May 30.

HM1 Joseph Tarver, who coordinated the hospital volunteers, said the project was a labor of love and a lot of fun for the volunteers. Tarver said the crew put about 80 man-hours into the job. While firemen razed another old house across the street to make room for another Habitat for Humanity home, the hospital crew went to work finishing out two houses in the completion phase. The crew finished woodwork, installed doors, and connected electrical receptacles in the homes.

The homes are now finished and ready for the families to move in. Nine more homes are planned for the block that the hospital crew was working on.

To qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home prospective homeowners must



Photo by DT1 Angel Santiago

MS2 Tangela Turner hooks an electrical outlet.

meet income requirements and the new owners must put in 300 hours of sweat-equity labor on their homes and on a home for someone else.

Tarver estimates that Naval Hospital Jacksonville volunteers have helped construct more than 200 homes over the last three years. Volunteers interested in working with Habitat for Humanity can call Tarver at 542-7273.

TSP Open Season under way

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

Open season for Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) for 2003, which runs April 15 through June 30, offers Sailors a chance to begin building future savings or adjust their TSP contributions.

During the open season, active duty and Reservists can choose to invest from 1 to 8 percent of their basic pay and up to 100 percent of bonus, special or incentive pay in TSP within IRS limits.

"If you haven't already done so, now is the time to begin investing in yourself and your future," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing. "TSP offers Sailors an avenue to provide for that future by setting aside some tax-deferred dollars for long term savings."

Working much like a civilian 401(K) savings plan, a Sailor's pre-tax dollars are invested in one of five TSP funds. Each fund has its own risk and return. Taxes are deferred on TSP contributions, meaning no federal (and in most cases, state) income

taxes are paid on contributions or earnings until the money is withdrawn. For those serving in a combat zone, the current ceiling for contributions is \$40,000.

TSP was not designed to replace the military's retirement plans but is a convenient way for Sailors to invest in a variety of investment vehicles to provide additional money for the future. Account balances can be transferred to an eligible retirement plan when a Sailor leaves the service. Thus, the balance can continue to grow tax-deferred.

Nearly 100,000 active-duty and Reserve Sailors have invested in TSP - nearly 20 percent of the force.

Sailors may elect to contribute basic pay, incentive pay or special pay (including bonuses) to the TSP. To be eligible to contribute incentive pay or special pay (including bonuses), Sailors must contribute some basic pay.

Those not receiving incentive pay or special pay (including bonuses) when

making a TSP election may elect to contribute from these types of pay in anticipation of becoming entitled to them. If such an election is made, the election will take effect whenever the specified type of pay is received.

Furthermore, if a Sailor has not yet made a TSP contribution election, but expects to become eligible for bonus pay and wants to contribute some or all of it to the TSP, they must be sure to make a basic pay election before becoming eligible for the bonus pay.

TSP enrollment can be done online through the MYPAY Web site (formerly called Employee Member Self Service (E/MSS)) at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>, or by completing a TSP enrollment form (TSP-U-1) and turning it in to the servicing pay or personnel office. TSP enrollment forms are available at local Fleet and Family Support Centers, Personnel Support Detachments or online at the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Hero bears available

The NAS Jax USO is offering U.S. Hero bears for sale for \$7. All proceeds from this sale will be donated to the USO. The date of birth on these beanie babies is March 12, 2003. The supply is limited.

We now have video email for up to eight minutes. All active-duty members or their families can use this new service at no cost.

For more information, call the USO at 778-2821.

Youth Activities Center gets helping hands

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

With school out for the summer, the Youth Activities Center (YAC) is quite a happening place these days as hundreds of kids spend their vacation at Summer Camp 2003.

Each day, the kids and their counselors participate in such activities as swimming at the base pool, bowling, going on field trips to Adventure Landing and Chuck E. Cheese, doing arts and crafts and numerous other games and fun things.

Leading them through all this and maintaining some sort of organization are YAC staff members and newly hired teen employees. The teens were specifically hired to help with summer camp for an 11-week period. "We got a special grant from MWR headquarters to hire eight teens. They work 20 hours each week directly with our summer camp program. They also participate in career development activities where they will learn such things as writing a resume, learning how to present themselves during an interview and how to fill out job applications. They will also visit several other NAS Jax MWR divisions such as marketing, I.T.T., gym and the Liberty Program to see how they are run and visit Florida Community College at Jacksonville and the University of North Florida to learn what programs and majors are available," explained Erica Hickey, YAC director.

This is the second year, Youth Activities has participated in this program. Since then, it has become much more popular. "Last year, we had very few applicants, this year we had 60 teens apply for the positions. We stopped taking applications in mid-April and did our interviews until the beginning of May. The teens went through one week of training in May including CPR and first aid, and were required to have a background check done just like our employees," added Hickey.

The teens vary in age from 14 to 17 years old and each one is assigned to work with a counselor on a specific team comprised of 10-15 kids. A special coordinator was also hired specifically to manage the teen summer hires and to help them with their career development.

"I started coordinating



Mick Bryan, a teen counselor at the Youth Activities Center, plays a water balloon game with his group of kids during Summer Camp.



Teen Counselor Kristina Ketterer helps make Play-Doh cell phones for some kids in her group during the Youth Activities Summer Camp.

the career development activities sometime in April. It took some time to set everything up, but we have a lot planned for them. My job is to help them, let them know what their jobs are and what is expected out of them," said Amanda Christmas, who also is responsible for writing weekly evaluations on their progress and informing the teens of what areas they need to work on.

Each teen is also responsible for implementing a special event for the end of summer picnic. "They have to see this project from start to finish including all the planning, budgeting and procuring any supplies they need. Last year, the teens came up with some unique activities and games for our picnic," Hickey stated.

One teen enjoys working here so much, he applied and was accepted again this year. "I really love this job. I like working with the kids because you get to have fun while working. I also like being outside and we do a lot of activities outdoors. I also learn responsibility by having this job and learn to control my anger. You have to have a sense of humor and a lot of patience here," explained Alvin Smith, a 10th grader

at Ed White High School. Growing up in a military family has also helped Smith because he can relate to other military kids. "My mom is attached



Teen Counselors Lauren Ervin and Alvin Smith confer on some of the upcoming activities planned during Summer Camp.

to HS-11, and deploying soon, and both my brothers are in the Army so I've been around the military a lot. I don't plan to join though. I want to play football," he said.

Smith said this year is somewhat different than last year because more activities have been added.

"This year, we have more of a balance between the males and females who were hired and a lot more people were interested in the positions here. We are also doing lots more activities - visiting different areas around base and going to the colleges. It will help us out in the future," Smith continued.



Teen Counselor Jeff Zatkos (right) plays checkers with nine-year-old Robert Parker during Summer Camp at the Youth Activities Center.

The teen employment program not only benefits the center, but the teens as well. "We're very excited

about being able to have this program here. We hope to do it again next year," said Hickey.

FFSC offers educational and support programs

The NAS Jacksonville Fleet and Family Support Center Life Skills Education and Support Program is the foremost preventive measure for the avoidance of personal and family problems.

All FFSC workshops and classes are free of charge and available to service members and their families, and civilian personnel aboard the base.

Pre-registration is required. If special accommodations or handicapped access is required, please notify us upon registration. Contact 542-2766, Ext. 127 to register.

The following workshops are available in June:

June 16-19, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Transition Assist-

ance Workshop (retiring)

June 24, 9-10 a.m. - Sponsor Training Workshop

June 24, 1-3 p.m. - Car Buying Strategies

June 25, 9-11 a.m. - Marketing Yourself (for spouses)

June 25, 9 a.m. - noon - How To Have A Healthy Relationship

June 26, 8-11 a.m. - Anger Control Workshop

June 26, 9 a.m. - noon - Florida Family Law Information Seminar

June 26, 1-3 p.m. - Volunteer Service Council

June 26, 3-5 p.m. - Mentor Training

June 26, 6:30-8 p.m. - Military Spouse 101 Resource Fair

June 27, 9-11 a.m. - Debt Management



Photo by PH2 William Roy

USS Hammann (DD-412) sinks with stern high, after being torpedoed by Japanese submarine I-168 in the afternoon of June 6, 1942. Photographed from the starboard forecastle deck of USS Yorktown (CV-5), the USS Hammann pulled alongside Yorktown to assist with salvage efforts following the Battle of Midway. Angular structure in right foreground is the front of Yorktown's forward starboard five-inch gun gallery. Note knotted lines hanging down from the carrier's flight deck, remaining from her initial abandonment on June 4, 1942.

MIDWAY: Dinner honors memory of those lost in battle and those who survived

From Page 1

surviving fleet comprised of three aircraft carriers, USS Hornet, USS Enterprise and USS Yorktown, and supporting ships and squadrons off Midway to stop the advance of the Japanese fleet.

With the combined efforts of the U.S. carriers' bombing and torpedo squadrons, four Japanese carriers and 253 Japanese planes were destroyed, effectively ending the empire's dominance of the Pacific theater.

One hundred and fifty U.S. planes were lost, as well as the Yorktown and USS Hammann which had pulled alongside Yorktown during recovery and salvage efforts.

The event's guest speaker, retired Navy Chief Jim Cunningham Jr., was able to vividly describe the final events of the battle to the assembled crowd. He served aboard the Hammann during salvage and recovery efforts for the crippled Yorktown.

Six decades later, Cunningham described an eerie experience from the afternoon of June 6, 1942.

"After I was relieved of my watch, I went down to the mess hall to get a drink of water," he recalled. "On my way back from the mess hall I noticed a picture that I hadn't really noticed before. It was a picture of a torpedo with a devil riding on it and the word 'Hammann' was on the torpe-

do. I stopped to look at it, and as I was leaving, turned and looked again. Right then, the alarm was sounded for general quarters. As I took up my position on the fantail, I heard one of the other ships call to us, 'Hammann - torpedo headed your way.'"

Cunningham was at his position on the ship's fantail when the fatal torpedo fired from the Japanese submarine I-168 struck. The ship went down three minutes later.

"This night signifies remembrance for all my shipmates who died out there at Midway," Cunningham added. "I'm glad this generation continues to honor all those who served during World War II."

Also during the event, Commander, Navy Region Southeast Rear Adm. Annette E. Brown presented several plaques to various members and organizations for their support for the Battle of Midway Commemoration Dinner. The 20 Midway veterans in attendance each received a commemorative display consisting of a small vial of sand from Midway Island, a spent round fired during the battle and a glass Japanese fishing ball from the period. Event attendees were also treated to performances from Navy Band Southeast.

More information about the Battle of Midway can be found at the Navy Historical Center's website: <http://www.history.navy.mil/midway.htm>.



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Child Development Center Program Deridre Odom inputs some data in the Child and Youth Management System.

CDC: New computer system makes life easier

From Page 1

database contains pertinent information including financial, emergency and medical information pertaining to that child.

"In the past, we have been handwriting all our information on forms and receipts. With this new system, it eliminates all this paperwork. When a parent comes in and pays, they can take their child to class and we can hand them a receipt on their way out the door. There is no more waiting. It will save everyone time and will be much more accurate and secure," Odom explained.

Members of each activity using the new system went through a training class prior to using the new system. "We started training in March. Then in May, we began inputting everyone's data into the computer. It's been a lot of hard work and may be confusing, but we are doing our best to ensure things run smoothly," she continued.

The new system which was first used by the Army, is now being implemented throughout the Navy. "The intent of this program is to take everything on paper forms and keep it electronically filed. This will improve efficiency and provide us and our customers a point of transaction. We are also using it to keep track

Fontainette Dinnall, Child Development Center staff member makes new swipe cards in preparation of the new Child and Youth Management System coming online.



of and manage a master childcare waiting list," said John Bushick, MWR director.

Like all new technology, there may be some bugs to work out. "We hope everyone understands this. If you think there is a problem or you have a question, please let someone know so that it can be corrected," added Bushick.

In the long run, the new system is expected to make things much easier and even more importantly more secure for the families who use these childcare facilities. For more information on this new system, call the Child Development Center at 542-2472.

Opening the door to hope

The Muscular Dystrophy Association's support services help Americans live with over 40 neuromuscular diseases. And our cutting-edge research offers hope for a future without these disabling disorders. Call our lifeline. It's toll-free.

MDA
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A CPC partner

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Provided as a public service.

Fourth annual Midway 5K Run held

By Ryan Adrick
Staff Writer

This year's Battle of Midway 5K Run held June 5, was a huge success with more than 80 runners turning out to participate. The annual event is held each year to commemorate the Battle of Midway, which took place June 4-7, 1942 during WWII.

On hand this year to give the official "start" to the runners was retired Navy Chief Jim Cunningham Jr., a Battle of Midway veteran. Cunningham, a recipient of the Purple Heart and five Battle Stars, is one of 85 surviving members from a crew of 250 sailors aboard the sunken USS Hammann and was the honorary guest for the race.

Cunningham was also at the event to interact with the participants and chat with them about his experiences during the war. "I think it's great that our future leaders and Sailors are here to remember the Battle of Midway," he said.

After the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance, Cunningham signaled, "Anchors Away", and the runners were off.

Awards were given to the top three finishers in the male and female categories.



Capt. Frank Reynolds comes across the finish line to place first in the men's category with a time of 19:26 during the annual 5K Midway Run.

Placing first in the men's category and coming off a win from last year was NAS Jacksonville Branch Medical Clinic's Capt. Frank Reynolds at 19:26. Following close behind and placing second in the men's category was John Prendergast with a time of 19:45. Rounding out the men's top finishers was retired Air Force Capt. John Mann with a time of 20:31.

Placing first in the women's category was AW2 Dawn Dillon of VP-62 with a time of 22:30. Moments

later Carol Kernan crossed the finish line taking second with a time of 23:50. Coming in third place was Dana Coleman with a time of 25:48.

The Midway Commemoration Run is held each year to allow people time to reflect upon this important event in naval history. Each of the first 100 registered participants received free Battle of Midway commemorative 5K T-shirts.

The next MWR-sponsored run will be held in September and October. For more information contact the Fitness Center at 542-3518.



Photos by Ryan Adrick

Retired Navy Chief Jim Cunningham Jr., a Battle of Midway veteran leads the Pledge of Allegiance before the 5K Midway Run June 5.



And they're off! A group of runners participate in the fourth annual Midway 5K Race June 5.

Mulberry Cove Marina sponsors trivia contest

From MWR

The NAS Jax MWR Mulberry Cove Marina is sponsoring their first Extraneous Trivia Contest.

This contest is open to active duty members only. Answer the questions listed below and turn them in to Mulberry Cove Marina located on Ranger Road. The entries with the most number of correct answers will advance to the drawing. The drawing for the grand prize and second place prize will be held on National Ice Cream Sandwich Day, Aug. 2 at 11:37 a.m. at the marina. Ice cream sandwiches will be half-price at that day, while quantities last. You, or a designated representative,

must be present at the drawing to win.

The grand prize package includes a Mitchell 298 Alu spinning reel, two spools of Berkley Ironsilk 14-pound test line, six packs of Berkley Artificial Bait, a Nomad golf putter, and 12 Callaway CBU golf balls. The total prize value is \$250.

The second place prize package includes a Fenwick Seahawk spinning rod, two spools of Berkley Ironsilk 14 pound test line, a bottle of Berkley Power Bait saltwater attractant, a free one-day 15' Boston whaler rental (Florida Boater Safety Card required), and a Page & Tuttle golf shirt. The total prize value is \$175.

The following is the quiz:

What color is the shank of the large anchor in front of the flagpole at MWR Mulberry Cove Marina? _____

What date was NAS Jacksonville officially commissioned? _____

How many computers does Liberty Cove have in the Single Sailor area? _____

Prior to the commissioning of NAS Jacksonville, a commander was the first pilot to land on the unfinished runway at NAS Jacksonville. What model and type of aircraft did he fly? _____

What are the names of the two pigs located on top of the drink coolers in the MWR Mulberry Cove Marina store? _____ & _____

How many putters are hanging on the wall at Mulligan's? _____

In the Jax Air News, how wide is the title "MWR Notes," rounded to the nearest inch? _____

What famous golfer pictured in the MWR Golf Pro Shop is the only individual to win the grand slam of professional golf? _____

Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion is one of the most important laws governing aircraft flight. In 12 words or less, what is this law? _____

How many red and white stars are on the Jax Air News front page banner? _____

NAME: _____

RANK: _____

Local chief wins 'first place' at NAF Key West fishing tournament

From HS-11

NAS Jacksonville ATC Jeffrey Andrews of the HS-11 "Dragonslayers," won first place at the seventh annual NAF Key West Sigsbee Dolphin Fishing Tournament in Key West, Fla. over the Memorial Day weekend.

Andrews was fishing in the tournament with AFCM John Bilinsky and QMC Larry Sullivan and EMC Al Smith, all three former Dragonslayers, who are now stationed at NAF Key West. While fishing on Andrews' boat the "Julie K," they took first place honors with a 29 and one-half-pound dolphin.



MWR NOTES

Escape the ordinary on an I.T.T. trip

Have some fun with I.T.T. - take a trip or treat yourself to a show! Stop by our office located adjacent to the NEX, and sign up for a great trip. Our trips are open to all hands, so bring a friend! For more information call the office at 542-3318.

Here are some of the upcoming events I.T.T. has tickets for:
Suns Baseball tickets – general admission is \$4.

Disney Florida resident four-day play pass - \$107.45. Good until Sept. 30.

The following are upcoming trips:
June 21 - Shop till you drop. Shop at the Millenia and the Premium Outlet Mall in Orlando for \$14.

June 28 - Spirits of St. Augustine. Sail on a 72' schooner and hear ghostly tales for \$36.

Flying Club holding open house

The Jax Navy Flying Club is hosting a home-coming/open house at Cecil Commerce Center on June 21 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at Pavilion 174 at the entrance to the Cecil Commerce Center. All naval personnel are welcome to come out. There will be food, games, and airplane rides. For more information, call 742-9290.

Father's Day lunch

An all-hands Father's Day Luncheon is being offered Sunday from 1-4 p.m. at the River Cove Officer's Club main dining room. The meal will be a reef and beef buffet. The cost is \$17 for adults and \$8.50 per child. Reservations required, walk-ins will not be accepted. Call 542-3041.

NAS Jax Golf Club happenings

A golf and lunch special is being offered for 19 weekdays after noon and weekends and holidays after 3 p.m. This special ends Aug. 31.

Players are entitled to 18-holes, cart, green fees and one lunch menu item. For more details stop in the Pro Shop or call 542-3249.

Aquatics taking reservations

The Outdoor Pool is now open for the summer season. The hours are 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily.

The Aquatics Department staff members are now taking reservations for private parties at the outdoor pool.

The Aquatics staff is eager to help you get you fit. Join them for an aqua aerobics class, Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, or Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and again from 5:30-6 p.m. There is still time to enroll in May swimming classes. Registration is open for all levels. Please contact the Aquatics Department at 542-9290.

The Heritage Cottages

MWR's new Heritage Cottages are now open for only \$60 a night. These cottages make for a great vacation home away from home. They are fully-furnished with plenty of space. Make your reservation now by calling 542-3138/3139.

Veterinary Treatment Facility

Due to vendor price increases, the Veterinary Treatment Facility has been forced to increase prices. We still have the lowest prices around.

The NAS Jax Veterinary Treatment Facility is located in Building 8 at the corner of Ranger Street and Enterprise Avenue. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. It is closed on legal holidays. Pets are seen by appointment only. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 542-3786.

The clinic is limited to services permitted by regulations. These include vaccinations, heartworm testing, fecal testing and minor treatment of the eyes, ears, and skin on an outpatient basis. Heartworm and flea prevention products are available for purchase at the clinic during regular business hours.

Mulberry Cove Marina news

For the month of June, purchase a rod and reel or rod/reel combo and receive two free packs of artificial bait, your choice of colors.

Are fuel prices emptying your wallet? Take advantage of free gas this summer when you rent a 40-hp pontoon boat, whaler, bass boat, 10-hp stump knocker, or Yamaha jet skis.

The NAS Jax Yacht Club offers sailing classes. Now that the weather is warm, and the breezes are strong would be a great time to learn this renowned boating activity. After you've completed your class, the marina has sailboats for rent.

The marina offers free kayak and canoe rentals for active duty Sailors on Thursdays. It's a great way to get acquainted with some of the equipment on hand and have some fun too. For more information on marina events, call 542-3260.

Auto Skills Center

Visit the Auto Skills Center for your professional or hobby car care needs. The center offers an array of services for the novice or professional auto enthusiast. There is an ASE qualified mechanic on hand to assist with questions and tips on servicing your vehicle. The center is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and all holidays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

The Auto Skills Center offers a shop orientation

class on the third Thursday and Friday of each month. Reservations are required for the orientation. Call 542-3227 for information.

Liberty happenings

If adventures and challenges are your cup of tea, then join the crew at Liberty Cove Recreation Center for some real excitement this month. Shipmates get on board for a great week of fun with your Liberty staff.

June 14 - Cruise the St. Johns River to the Jacksonville Landing and watch the Jacksonville Suns Baseball game. This great adventure will cost you just \$7.50.

June 17 - We're heading to GiGi's comedy zone. You must be 21. Sign up begins at 4 p.m. the day of this event.

June 18 - Join us for a Wednesday night dance party and Karaoke at the Budweiser Brew House. The fun starts at 8 p.m.

Liberty Cove is selling Luau tickets at reduced price for single Sailors. For more information on our events, call 542-3491/1335.

Youth classes

Dance classes and Tae Kwon Do classes are available at NAS Jax Youth Gym and Yellow Water Youth Activities. Take advantage of the fun events at the youth center. Monday evenings in June are indoor soccer from 6:15 - 8:15p.m. There are plenty of Friday events in June to keep the kids happy. Tomorrow is pizza and fun for \$3. Call for other Friday events.

If you are interested in registering your child stop by either center or give us a call at 778-9772 (NAS Jax) or 777-8247 (Yellow Water)

Free movies offered

Enjoy free movies at the base theater each Friday evening starting at 7 p.m. and every other Saturday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Bring your own popcorn, soda and snacks. Sit back and enjoy some of Hollywood's premier blockbuster hits. There are no alcoholic beverages allowed in the theater and persons under 17 are not permitted without adult supervision.

Tomorrow, 7 p.m. - How To Lose A Guy in 10 Days (PG13)

June 20, 7 p.m. - Phone Booth (R)
June 21, 5 p.m. - Shanghai Knights (PG13)
June 21, 7 p.m. - Chicago (PG13)

NAS Freedom Lanes offers deals

NAS Jax Freedom Lanes is hosting an intramural bowling league meeting on today at 11:30 a.m. for all interested active duty personnel.

This summer enjoy some bowling fun. Each weekday this month through August, patrons can enjoy three games of bowling (including shoes) or two games, shoes and a hotdog and small drink for only \$6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Active-duty Sailors take advantage of free bowling on Wednesdays from open to close.

The Freedom Lanes fourth annual Luau is June 28 from 6-11p.m. Bring your friends, family and shipmates to this "Island in the Sun" themed event. The event is open to all hands. There will be bowling, shoe rental; all you can eat buffet, DJ, prizes and beverage specials. The cost is \$20 for adults 13 and up, \$15 for children 5-12, \$5 for children 3-4, and children 2 and under are free. A special buy of five adult tickets get an additional ticket for free.

Call the center for event schedules at 542-3493.

Orlando parks salute the military

Operation Salute offers admission for active duty military, active reservists, National Guardsmen and up to four direct dependents. Valid for one complimentary visit to each of the following parks:

SeaWorld - Orlando, Fla., San Diego, Calif. and San Antonio, Texas

Busch Garden - Tampa Bay, Fla. and Williamsburg, Va.

Seasame Place, Langhorne, Penn.

This offer is valid now – Nov. 11. Operating hours vary by park. Please pick up an application at the I.T.T. office.

Visit MWR online at www.nasjax.navy.mil and look for the tab marked MWR this is your tab to unlimited fun. For questions or comments e-mail us at mwrmtg@nasjax.navy.mil.

Jax Navy Flying Club offers classes

The Jax Navy Flying Club is offering the following upcoming classes:

Private Pilot – Monday and Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.
June 23 – July 30
Aug. 11 – Sept. 17
Sept 22 – Oct. 29
Nov. 3 – Dec. 10
Airline Transport – Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
June 21-22
July 19-20

Aug. 23-24	p.m.
Sept. 20-21	July 22 – Aug. 28
Oct. 18-19	Sept. 9 – Oct. 16
Nov. 22-23	Oct. 28 – Dec. 4
Dec. 20-21	Military Comp – Saturday,
CRM/High Altitude –	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	July 12
July 5	Aug. 9
Aug. 2	Sept. 13
Sept. 6	Oct. 11
Oct. 4	Nov. 15
Nov. 8	Dec. 13
Dec. 6	For more information and
Instrument/Comml –	the cost of these classes,
Tuesday and Thursday, 6-9	call 786-9293.

Need a ride? Club 2000 can help

From MWR

NAS Jacksonville has a program called Club 2000. Anyone who is impaired and in a bar, club, lounge, or private residence within St. Johns, Baker, Nassau, Clay or Duval counties can call the NAS Jacksonville OOD office at 542-2338. You will be provided a taxi ride, paid for by the station, to your home within the same five counties.

Anyone (including civilians) in an on-base facility can have the club bartender assist in contacting the OOD.

Club 2000 cards with this phone number can be obtained from MWR in Building 584.

CDC needs home providers

The Child Development Center is looking for home providers. If you are an on-base resident, you will only need to be Navy-certified to become a Home Provider.

If you are an off-base resident, you will have to be state-certified as well as Navy-certified. This program is for dependent female and males. For more information about this program, contact Cathy Yarbrough or Ingrid Robinson at 542-5434 / 5529 / 2472.



FIVE STAR LIMOUSINE SVC; 2c; 2"; Black Only;

ADAMS HOMES OF NW FLA, INC. #1; 2c; 5"; Black Only; PU 6/5 R021131

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The **Navy Wives Clubs of America, NWCA Jax No. 86** meets the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held in Building 612 on Jason Street at NAS Jacksonville at 7:30 p.m. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and every other Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 772-0242 or Pearl Aran at 777-8032.

The **Navy Wives Club's DID #300** meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Oak Crest United Methodist Church Education Building at 5900 Ricker Road. For more information, call 387-4332 or 272-9489.

Clay County Chapter 1414, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, (NARFE) invites all retired and currently employed federal employees to their regular monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Orange Park Library. For more information, call 276-9415.

MOMS Club of Northeast Florida meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting is free and open to all at-home mothers and children who live in the zip code areas of 32206, 32218 and 32226. MOMS Club is a support group for moms wanting a variety of activities for you and your children. The chapter offers monthly meetings, newsletters, activity calendars, playgroups, field trips and service projects. For meeting location or more information, contact Debbie at 751-0671 (debbiekjg@yahoo.com) or Kathi at 751-3400 (katdj28@aol.com).

Submarine Sailors - If you have qualified on a United States Navy submarine in the past or pres-

ent you are invited to join "First Coast Sub Vets." If you have qualified on a submarine from a foreign country, you are invited to join as an associate member. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the American Legion Post 316 on Atlantic Blvd. For more information contact the Base Commander at rjjax@attbi.com or 241-6222.

The **Marine Corps League, Jacksonville Detachment** holds their monthly meeting the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station at 3728 Phillips Highway, Suite 229. For more information call John Leisman at 779-7375.

Girl Scout Troop 333 meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at NAS Jacksonville Chapel Annex. All girls grade 4-6 are invited, adults are also needed. If interested contact Lynne Sebring at 317-2363 or come to the meetings.

St. Joseph's New Directions is a year-round support group for the divorced and separated. Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The meetings start at 6:45 p.m. and are held in the Convent at St. Joseph's main church on Loretto Road. Call 268-1591.

Christian Fellowship Night will be held behind the Chapel in Bldg. 749 from 6:30 - 9 p.m. every Tuesday night. For more information call 542-3051.

The **Association of Aviation Ordnancemen's** meeting is held the third Thursday of each month at the Fleet Reserve Center on Collins Road. For more information, call AOC Chris Johnson at 542-2168 or AOCs Erick Parmley at 542-8589.

The **National Naval Officers Association (NNOA)** holds its monthly meeting on the third Thursday each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Jacksonville Urban League, 903 West Union Street.

NNOA is a non-secretariat, not-for-profit organization sanctioned by the Secretaries of Defense and Transportation to assist sea services in recruiting and training minority officers, increasing awareness of sea services opportunities in minority communities, and projecting a positive Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard image. Interested personnel are encouraged to attend or contact Lt. Herlena Washington at 696-5005 or email WashingtonHO@matcombc.usmc.mil.

The **Navy Jax Yacht Club** will be hosting a Boatex day trip for members to the Jacksonville Suns baseball game on Saturday. The club will be arriving at Metro Park dock by boat for tailgating at 4 p.m., the game to follow at 7:05 p.m.

Food and beverages for tailgating will be provided by Navy Jax Yacht Club. Ticket package is \$10 and includes reserve seating, a hot dog, and a beverage. Members wishing to drive may do so and park by the docks for free. Please RSVP to 778-0805. Any active duty/retired military or active DoD personnel are eligible to join the Navy Jax Yacht Club.

The **Military Officers Association of America** is holding their monthly meeting June 18 at 6 p.m. at the River Cove Officer's Club. For reservations and more information, call Steve Kerlin at 262-0209.

The **Jacksonville Genealogical Society** will

meet June 21 at 1:30 p.m. at the Webb-Wesconnett Library, 6887 103rd Street. For more information, call Mary Chauncey at 781-9300.

The **VFA-131 20th Anniversary Reunion** will be held July 11-12 in Virginia Beach, Va. For more information contact Lt. James Yeats, VFA-131, Unit 60145, FPO AE 09504-6229 or email yeatsja@vfa131.navy.mil.

The **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (Flotilla 14-8)** is sponsoring a one-day Boating Safely program Saturday and July 26 from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mandarin High School. The cost is \$20 per person. For more information, call Bob Strong at 721-1346.

The **Retired Activities Office (RAO)** is offering a retiree seminar Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the NAS Jax River Cove Officer's Club. Presentations will cover pay matters, Survivor Benefit Plan, Tricare for Life, Long Term Care, Tricare pharmacy benefits, PSD benefits, hospital benefits and a spouse workshop. For more information, call 542-2766, Ext. 126.

The **VP-4 Association** is holding a reunion Oct. 6-9 at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. For more information and to register, email VP4assoc@adelphia.net.

USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD 7) will hold their annual reunion Oct. 16-19 in Norfolk, Va. For more information, call Robert McAnnally at (866) 237-3137 or email yuack@megalink.net.

The annual **VP-24 Reunion** is scheduled for Oct. 24-26 at NAS Jacksonville. For more information, write Don Hall, 2003 Jax Reunion Host, 4421 Commons Dr. East, #413, Destin, Fla. 32541 or email djhdestin@cox.net.

Americans can show support through Operation Tribute to Freedom

By Denise Brown

American Forces Press Service

“Uncle Sam Wants You” is a familiar recruiting slogan to generations of Americans. But in this case, it’s an invitation for all Americans to sign up for a different kind of military operation.

Operation Tribute to Freedom, a Defense Department initiative, is a way for Americans to show their continuing support for the nation’s military men and women and share with the Defense Department the different ways in which individuals and communities are expressing this support.

“We receive calls and emails all the time asking, ‘What can I do to support the troops?’” said Allison Barber, special assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs. “People want to

know what they can do to help.”

Americans across the country are already involved in activities showing support for the men and women in uniform, Barber said. “If you’re flying the flag, going to a parade, writing an e-mail to the troops or visiting the DefendAmerica.mil Web site to send a thank you to the troops, all of these activities are part of Operation Tribute to Freedom.”

Many individual groups have started their own grassroots campaigns or outreach campaigns for the troops, she said. Operation Tribute to Freedom is a way to bring these individuals, groups and companies together as part of one team.

“You’re already doing the activities, so join the team and keep supporting the troops,” Barber said, adding that joining the team is an ideal way for Americans to

stay connected with men and women in uniform.

“To join the team, just go to our Operation Tribute to Freedom Web site on www.DefendAmerica.mil, select ‘Join the Team,’ fill in your name, and tell us what you’re doing to pay tribute to the men and women of the military. Once you submit your registration to the team, you’ll be able to download an Operation Tribute to Freedom certificate, making you an official member of the team.”

The program includes a variety of suggestions on how communities and individuals can support the troops.

“We have activities and ideas that are geared for both children and adults,” Barber explained. “Younger children can color a patriotic picture or send an e-mail to the troops.

“Older teens and adults can volunteer at their local Red Cross or local veterans organization, visit injured veterans in a veterans hospital or donate money to Operation Uplink for the purchase of a phone card for a service member. There are activities for all ages,” Barber added.

The Web site also contains a selection of downloadable Operation Tribute to Freedom graphics. The graphics can be used as posters, on T-shirts or as banners, “in whatever way people want to use their imaginations,” Barber added. “And that’s the strength of Operation Tribute to Freedom.”

Although the Web site includes specific ideas for activities to support the troops, people are probably going to come up with more ideas, Barber said.

Barber is also working with the

Weekly Reader, a publication for elementary and secondary school children. “Weekly Reader goes out to more than 7 million children in classrooms throughout America,” Barber said.

Operation Tribute to Freedom will be featured on the Weekly Reader Web site and also in the Weekly Reader distribution during the school year.

“Corporate America has been great in supporting the troops and we’re reaching out to them as well, inviting them as a corporation to join the team,” Barber said. “Operation Tribute to Freedom is a multifaceted campaign that reaches individuals of every age, non-profit organizations, corporate America and schools. It’s a very far reaching campaign.”

Performance Adventure Racing Series returns

From NS Mayport MWR

Get a team together for Northeast Florida's team adventure challenge: The Performance Adventure Racing Series. This is a multi-sport adventure and a test of individual and team achievement — have a day of adventure with friends, family, and teammates.

Race #2 is coming up June 28 starting at 8 a.m. Race #3 will take place on Aug. 23 and there is a choice of either four-hour limit or eight-hour limit races. The BEAR Adventure (a 12-hour limit race) returns on Oct. 12.

The Performance Adventure Racing Series event is a test of teamwork, camaraderie, willpow-



er, and determination — open to everyone - training partners, work buddies, accomplished athletes, those serious about their

fitness, and even weekend warriors. Anyone up to the test and ready to play hard.

The Performance Adventure Racing Series events start and finish at Hanna Park near NS Mayport. Each race combines varied terrain in some of the First Coast's most beautiful, natural, oceanside settings. Two- and three-person teams and solo competitors compete together to complete each segment of the course. Teams will participate in mountain biking, off-road running/trekking, open water paddling, orienteering, and various team mystery challenge events.

You can find more details about Performance Adventure Racing Series online, including more

about the 2003 schedule, at the Performance MultiSports site at <http://www.PerformanceMultiSports.com/ARseries.htm>.

A printable entry form is located at <http://www.PerformanceMultiSports.com/ARseriesEntry.htm> and you can register online for the June 28 race now by going to http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1024440.

Online registration for the Aug. 23 race is at http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1041049.

Online registration for the BEAR Adventure Race on Oct. 12, is at http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1041846

The Military and Public Safety

Program offers specially discounted entry fees, which must be processed by mail through Performance MultiSports with a copy of your active duty military or government public safety identification card — see www.PerformanceMultiSports.com/ARseriesEntry.htm or contact RD@PerformanceMultiSports.com.

If you are up for some adventure and have further questions, please contact Jakson Badenhoop at 285-1552 or email RD@PerformanceMultiSports.com.

Anyone interested in volunteering in the production of Performance Adventure Racing Series as a race official, can email Josephine Jackson at JacksonJ4@educationcentral.org.

JAX SPORTS NEWS & STANDINGS

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. Experience is not required. If interested, contact Al Vandercar at 282-0809.

Navy Southeast

Regional Running and Triathlon Team

Represent the United States Navy in 5K, 10K, marathons, and/or triathlons. The Navy will showcase elite active duty men and women in regional races. Uniforms are provided as well as transportation, entry fees, and lodging costs. Interested runners must compete in sanctioned (USA Track and Field, USA Triathlon Association, or Roadrunners Clubs of America) races and your time must be one of top 10 regional qualifying times. If you have run in sanctioned race and your time meets regional qualifying time, contact your base athletic director.

Southeast Regional qualifying times:

5K	
Men 19:00	Women 24:00
10K	
Men 34:00	Women 46:00
Marathon	
Men 3H 30M	Women 4H

Southeast Regional qualifying times (contd.): Triathlon

Men 2H 30M Women 3H
Triathlon time based on 1.5K swim, 10K run, 40K bike

For more information about any of the sports articles, call 542-2930/3239. Visit the MWR website at www.nas-jax.navy.mil

STANDINGS

Intramural Softball Standings as of June 6

Team	Wins	Losses
Air Ops	13	3
VR-58	12	3
AIMD Bombers	9	3
NAMTra	10	4
VP-30	10	5
VP-16 Red	7	5
VS-31	8	6

Intramural Softball Standings (contd.)

VP-45	9	7
VS-30 Red	7	7
VS-30 Black	6	7
VP-16 White	7	8
HS-75	3	8
VP-62	5	9
HS-15	3	9
HITRON 10	5	10
HS-5	4	10
SERCC	2	13

Open Softball Standings as of June 6

Team	Wins	Losses
CB'S	13	5
VP-16	12	4
Beanie Boys	11	7
NAMTra	8	9
Beef O'Brady's	7	9
Onsite Aviation	1	17

JAX TALES BY MIKE JONES

RICKYSTOUR@YAHOO.COM

