

Rescue at sea

HS-11 flies to aid of 'man overboard'
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Sales are good!

Commissaries close out a good year
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"Red Lions" change command

Slaughter takes helm today
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Jax Air News

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TOUCHING BASE



'Any Servicemember' Web sites announced

Just in time for the holidays, Americans have a new way to show their support to military men and women, through the Internet.

The Defense Department has announced a cyber-alternative to the "Any Servicemember" and "Dear Abby" traditional mail programs, which are suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks.

Messages can be sent to any or all branches of the military through the Navy LIFElines Services Network on the Web at www.LifeLines2000.org, or AnyServiceMember.Navy.mil.

Servicemembers logging into the site receive messages for their branch of service and home state. Since all messages are viewed on the Internet, the military's e-mail service is not affected.

"Operation Dear Abby" was founded by the newspaper advice columnist and delivered mail to servicemembers overseas during the holiday season for more than 17 years.

The "Any Servicemember" mail program began during Operation Desert Storm in 1990, and continued to grow during operations in Bosnia, starting in 1995.

Other alternatives for supporting deployed servicemembers can be found at www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2001/b10302001bt556-01.html.

Just a click away . . .

Video Teleconferencing helps bridge gap for deployed Sailors

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

Although they've been separated by thousands of miles for a couple months now, the families of VS-32 were given the opportunity last week to spend some time with their loved ones on deployment. While they weren't able to actually hug each other, they could see and talk to one another thanks to some modern technology called Video Teleconferencing (VTC).

The squadron, along with HS-11 is currently deployed onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) fighting the War in Afghanistan.

"We started offering VTC to our deployed squadrons about two years ago. I've done five deployments myself and know what it's like to be away from your family. We have the capability to bring them a little cheer and give the families some peace of mind so we're happy to be able to provide this to them," said Cmdr. Dave Ruth, officer-in-charge, Carrier Tactical Support Center of Shore. "Our everyday job is to provide Tactical Support to the squadrons. This is totally different and fun. The staff here gets a lot of personal gratification doing this."

"This is the best part of my job. It really makes me feel like I'm doing something to help those men and women out there. Being on a ship, away from your family is really hard. This lets them see their families and makes them feel better knowing everything is alright back home," added ET3 Thomas Rowland, who helps run the system.

The process is fairly simple but takes a little planning. After offering the services to the deployed squadrons, a date and time is set for each individual family. The squadron coordinates on the ship's end while the command ombudsman coordinates with the families here. Each family is given 10 minutes to chat.

"Once everything is set up, we



Photos by Kaylee LaRocque

Jenni and baby Holly, seven months, spend some time chatting with their loved one, Yusmani, an airframe mechanic with VS-32.

connect our VTC system to Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARS) in Charleston, S.C. On the other end, the ship is also connecting to SpaWars through a satellite link. The signals meet and SPAWARS turns their high-speed satellite connection into data we can use. Once the connections match, we're in business," explained Roland.

As the families come in, they are ushered one at a time into a small room equipped with a computer. A small camera on top allows their loved one on the other end to see them. There is a slight voice delay and the video might drop out for a couple seconds if the ship moves, but overall according to Ruth the problems have been minimal. "The

See Click, Page 3



Andrea shows off her growing stomach to her husband, Tom, a pilot with VS-32 onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). The couple is expecting their first daughter in February, a month before he comes home.

'You'd better watch out . . .'



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Seventeen-month-old Frances Lionel, Jr. tells Santa what he would like for Christmas at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony held last Friday. See story and more photos Pages 8-9.

NAVETS fulfill their desire to 'Stay Navy'

By JO3 Jackey Bratt
Staff Writer

Recruiting is fascinating and exciting in a period of unprecedented challenges. The Navy recruiting mission serves to attract and enlist the best and brightest young men and women to ensure that we remain the greatest Navy in the world.

It's equally important to keep Sailors in our fleet and maintain retention during its all time high. Unfortunately, exceptional family problems, frustrations from previous commands, not receiving the orders requested, or the idea that the civilian economic opportunities outweigh the decision to stay Navy often lead Sailors away from re-enlisting.

Sometimes, especially, during times such as these,

some choose to return to the Navy family. When they do, it falls to the Navy's Transient Personnel Units (TPUs) to streamline their assimilation.

"I was very frustrated with the way the Navy's advancement system worked," said AW2 Michael Nemeth, who is currently attached to TPU aboard NAS Jax. Nemeth served 12 years before returning to the civilian world. After being discharged from the Navy in November 1998, he worked as a commercial designer of security systems for three years.

"I missed flying," said Nemeth. "Everyday I'd drive by this base, see the P-3s soaring through the sky, and would want to be part of that again."

He could not grasp working for a civilian company until his retirement. The calling to return to the fleet

and his nation's service played repeatedly in his mind, a desire Nemeth shared with his wife, Jacqueline.

"My wife has been extremely supportive of all the decisions I make with my life," Nemeth said. "She is my solid foundation, and I thank her for that."

Nemeth recently found out that he and Jacqueline will be living in Misawa, Japan for his first tour since coming back into the Navy.

Approximately 97 Navy veterans (NAVETS) stand alongside Nemeth who are being processed back into the Navy onboard NAS Jax.

The Navy has five TPUs. They are located in Jacksonville, Norfolk, Great Lakes, Puget Sound, and San Diego. Historically, the Navy brings in approximately 4,000 NAVETS a

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WEEKEND WEATHER



FRIDAY 60/76
ISOLATED SHOWERS



SATURDAY 61/75
VARIABLE CLOUDINESS



SUNDAY 61/76
VARIABLE CLOUDINESS

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

Beware of Christmas crooks

From the Crime Prevention Officer

Have you done all of your Christmas shopping? If you are like me, probably not. And a lot of crooks haven't either!

Here are some tips to ensure that you don't do their shopping at your expense.

Always park in a well-lighted, well-populated area. But don't park right next to cars occupied by people just hanging out. If you don't feel comfortable about stopping, find another parking spot. Once stopped, keep your doors locked until you have observed your surroundings and are ready to exit your car.

Shopping malls are favorites of pickpockets - especially at this time of the year. It's hard to watch your money while carrying packages at the same time. So don't overload yourself with packages. If someone bumps into you, see if you still have your purse or wallet.

Ladies should keep purses closed, zipped or secured. And carry them with a firm grip close to your body to make them harder to grab; thus, less inviting. But don't have the straps wrapped tightly around your wrists, arms or shoulders. It's better

to let a purse-snatcher have the purse than to get hurt. And remember not to leave it unattended in the shopping cart while at the supermarket.

Men should carry their wallet in an inside coat or front trouser pocket. It's easier to watch your wallet when it is front of you rather in the back.

If you plan to buy on credit, carry only those credit cards you intend to use and leave the others at home. When you do use one, make sure to get carbon copies with your receipt. Crooks have been known to go "dumpster dipping" to get credit card account numbers.

Many shoppers take their purchases to their cars and then return to the mall to continue their shopping. If you do that, too, then leave nothing where a thief can see it. Put everything in the trunk. A thief won't hesitate to break a car window to get something of value.

When you get all your shopping done and the gifts are finally under the tree, remember to close the blinds or shades. That's the time that crooks do their "window shopping."

Please be alert out there and have a very nice and safe Christmas.

VETS AND MORE . . .

Don't leave empty-handed

By Byron E. Hodges
Veterans Service Representative

As a former Casualty Affairs Officer for much of my professional career, I have stood before many grief-stricken spouses, children and parents of deceased servicemembers suddenly faced with the realization that life is temporary and uncertain.

For those who have not tasted the bitter cruelty of losing a close family member, it only takes one Sept. 11, 2001, to remind us of the frailties of man.

There are two absolutes concerning death - it is absolutely unpredictable and unavoidable. It stands to reason then, that we should take a moment to reflect on the possibility that our loved ones may one day have to face life without us. Though difficult to discuss or even think about, this should be an integral part of any estate planning.

Providing for the next-of-kin of a deceased active-duty service member is a joint effort by the member's service organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As a reminder, let me briefly address what your next-of-kin can expect to receive if the unthinkable should happen - that is, the death of an active-duty servicemember.

What the service organization provides:

A large part of what your surviving next-of-kin will receive depends on the decisions that you, the servicemember, make. Decision-making begins with whether or not to obtain up to "one-quarter of a million dollars" (\$250,000) worth of low-rate life insurance in the form of the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI). This very inexpensive benefit speaks for itself. Nothing else needs to be said. Benefits are paid to the servicemember's designated representative(s).

Soon after the death of the servicemember, the next-of-kin will receive a check in the amount of \$6,000. This "death gratuity" payment is made to assist with immediate expenses pending receipt of the SGLI.

The law allows a reimbursement of up to \$6,900 for burial expenses for active-duty personnel.

AD unpaid pay and allowances owed to the member at the time of death will be paid to the person or persons designated by the member on the DD Form 93. This benefit includes unused leave, pay, and other allowances.

Other special benefits provided by the service organization include transportation of remains and certain family members for

funerals, relocation entitlements, I.D. cards with commissary and BX privileges, and health benefits.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free monthly annuity paid to the surviving spouse and children of deceased active-duty and veterans who die of service related injuries or illnesses. Spouses receive a monthly annuity of \$935 with an additional \$234 for each child under the age of 18. In some cases, parents may be eligible for DIC, with income limitations.

In addition, the Dependents and Survivors Educational Assistance Program provides up to 45 months of educational assistance at the rate 4608 per month for a surviving spouse and child.

Among the non-monetary benefits provided by the VA are burial in national cemeteries, headstones, flags, and Presidential Memorial Certificates.

Let me also encourage you to contact the Social Security Administration for benefits available through their agency.

Tune in next week for a discussion of benefits provided on behalf of deceased veterans.

If you have questions on these or other VA-related benefits, contact the NAS Jax Veterans Affairs office at 573-6312.



Meet A Sailor... YN2 CHRISTINA LUPTON

Job title/command: Administrative Assistant ,
Readiness Command SE

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Past Duty Stations: Fleet Tactical Support Squadron
(VR) 54, New Orleans, La.

Family Life: Married with two children.

Career Plans: To become an officer.

Most Interesting Experience: The birth of my children.

Words of Wisdom: "If you believe, you will achieve. Success is the key.
Never let anyone tell you differently."



Meet A Civilian... TERENCE CONWAY

Job title: Family Housing Budget Analyst, NAS
Jacksonville

Hometown: Omaha, Neb.

Past Duty Stations: USS Estes, USS Witfield County, USS
Bauer, USS Ajax

Family Life: Married to Carmen, sons, Corbin and Derrick

Career Plans: To retire again in the future.

Most Interesting Experience: "Married for 31 years, but who's counting?"

Words of Wisdom: "How old would you be if you didn't know
how old you was?" - Satchel Paige

Letters to Santa

The *Jax Air News* will publish selected Letters to Santa in the Dec. 20 issue. Based on the amount received, we will print as many letters as our space allows so Santa will have a better chance to see what the children from NAS Jax are hoping to receive in their Christmas stockings this year.

Letters can be mailed to the *Jax Air News*, Box 2, NAS Jacksonville, Fla., 32212-5000 or dropped off to the office, Room 219, Building 1 by tomorrow. Letters can also be faxed to 542-1534.



NAS Jacksonville Chapel Advent – Christmas Religious Services

Catholic

Dec. 15, 5 p.m. - Third Sunday in Advent

Dec. 16, 9:30 a.m. – Third Sunday
in Advent

Dec. 16, 11:45 a.m. – Joint Christmas
Cantata – Potluck

Dec. 19, 7 p.m. – Advent Reconciliation
Service

Dec. 22, 5 p.m. – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dec. 23, 9:30 a.m. - Fourth Sunday
in Advent

Dec. 24, 11:15 p.m. – Christmas Carols –
Meditation

Dec. 24, midnight – Midnight Christmas
Mass

Dec. 25, 11:30 a.m. – Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 29, 5 p.m. – Feast of the Holy Family

Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m. - Feast of the
Holy Family

Jan. 1, 11:30 a.m. – Mary, Mother of God

Jan. 5, 5 p.m. – The Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 6, 9:30 a.m. – The Epiphany of
the Lord

Protestant

Dec. 16, 11 a.m. – Advent 3

Dec. 16, 11:45 a.m. – Joint Christmas
Cantata – Potluck

Dec. 23, 8:30 a.m. – Advent 4

Dec. 23, 11 a.m. – Advent 4

Dec. 24, 7 p.m. – Christmas Candlelight
Services

Jolly Holiday with Santa and Mrs. Claus set for tomorrow at Yellow Water Housing

If you missed Santa Claus at the tree lighting ceremony you have another opportunity to catch him and Mrs. Claus tomorrow night at Yellow Water Housing. Jolly Holiday With Santa and Mrs. Claus aboard is scheduled for 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Yellow Water Youth Center. The event is open to all ages, and

features free photo opportunities with the jolly old elf and Mrs. Claus. Other highlights of the evening will include fun with face painting, hayrides, refreshments, games and more. The festivities are free and open to K-17 and families. For more holiday happenings aboard NAS Jacksonville see page 14.

Sunday Services at the Base Chapel

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

Saturday 5 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. - Protestant Communion

9:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass

11 a.m. - Protestant Worship

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

"Train up a child in the way he should go
and when he is old, he will not depart from it."



OOPS, WE ERRED!

The photo information in last week's Family Fun In The Oldest City – PAL Day

feature misidentified AT3 Etan Cohen of VS-30 as SN Brian Kanne.

CREDO

It's free!

It's free! Give yourself the gift of a Navy CREDO Retreat. The next Personal Growth Retreat is Jan. 24-27. For more information, or to register, call CREDO at 270-6958.

Jax Air News

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Ellen S. Rykert, Military Publications Manager
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Randy Dew, Advertising Sales Representative • 904-264-6424, ext. 18

NAS Jacksonville Commanding OfficerCapt. Mark S. Boensel
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Staff WriterJO3 Jackey Bratt

Civilian Staff

Military Publications ManagerEllen S. Rykert
Staff Writer.....Kaylee LaRocque
Design/Layout.....George Atchley



The crew of "Dragonslayer" 611 hoists the man overboard victim from the sea.

'Dragonslayers' pull Sailor from the sea

By Lt.j.g. Matt Polzin
HS-11 PAO

The "Dragonslayers" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 11, currently embarked on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, provide Search and Rescue (SAR) services for the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). These services were called upon on Nov. 20 when a ship's company Sailor fell overboard.

Just prior to the Sailor falling overboard, the crew of "Dragonslayer" 611 was on the flight deck conducting a routine crew exchange and refueling operation on a turning SH-60F helicopter. This procedure is known as a "hot pump/crew switch."

In the midst of the evolution, "Man Overboard" was announced over the ship's intercom system. Upon

hearing that call, the HS-11 flight deck crew sprang into action, rapidly and safely providing fuel and assisting the crew change like a professional NASCAR pit crew.

The new crew consisted of pilots Cmdr. Brent Canady and Lt.j.g. Tre McQueen, Crew Chief AWCS(AW) Larry Favors, and Rescue Swimmer AW3 Jay Harris.

With all refueling functions completed and all crewmembers safely aboard, they quickly launched and immediately sighted the survivor.

The pilot at the controls, Lt.j.g. Tre McQueen, executed a standard daytime search and rescue (SAR) approach to a 10-foot, 10-knot, low approach to the survivor. Once on top, he gave the command to deploy the rescue swimmer.

After receiving the proper clearance from the pilot, Harris jumped from the helicopter and safely entered

the water. He calmly swam to the survivor and surveyed the situation.

Realizing that the Sailor was in shock, Harris carefully secured him in the rescue strop and then attached himself to the survivor to ensure the safety of the hoisting evolution. Harris' extensive rescue swimmer training enabled him to effect the rescue flawlessly.

As the crew chief in the cabin of the helicopter, Favors provided verbal commands to McQueen to position the helicopter in a steady hover above the rescue scene.

Upon receiving the ready to raise signal from the rescue swimmer, he hoisted the two men into the aircraft. While proceeding to the ship, the aircrewman provided basic first aid in order to stabilize the survivor.

With "Dragonslayer" 611 safely recovered on the flightdeck, the survivor was



The flight crew steps onto the flightdeck of USS Theodore Roosevelt after its successful rescue.

turned over to medical.

Canady, HS-11 commanding officer, had the following to say about the day's events, "The 'Dragonslayer' team once again performed flawlessly. The entire evolution from launch, rescue

and ultimately the safe recovery back aboard took less than ten minutes. I am proud of everyone involved in this rescue operation."

The "Dragonslayers" also received praise from Capt. Richard O'Hanlon, USS

Theodore Roosevelt commanding officer, for the expeditious rescue of the ship's company Sailor.

With this rescue, the "Dragonslayers" added one more proud event to their command history.

CLICK: Teleconferencing bridges deployment gap

From Page 1

hardest part is the initial hookup. Once we get going, everything usually runs smoothly," he said.

"This is so exciting. We email everyday, but this way we actually get to see him. Our baby was four months old when my husband left. She's seven months now and just started saying, 'Dada.' I really hope she'll talk for him," said Jenni shortly before she went in to greet her husband, Yusmani, an airframe mechanic with VS-32.

This week, HS-11 families will have the chance to talk with their loved ones.

"We've also included VP-5 which is currently deployed to NAS Signonella, Sicily. They may not be at sea, but they are still away from home. We try to give this opportunity to every deployed squadron," Ruth stated.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to security reasons, the families requested their last names not be used in this story.

Looking for back issues
of Jax Air News?
Check out our
archives online.

www.nasjax.navy.mil/JAX_AIR_NEWS/home.htm



Seabees, 1st Lt. assist steam pipe removal

By JO2 Mike Jones
Assistant Editor

Military and civilian employees at NAS Jacksonville may notice a slight difference to the base landscape during their drive to work on Birmingham Road.

Approximately two miles of above-ground pipes are coming down. The removal of the pipes, part of a steam utility service used on base since the 1940s, comes in conjunction with the NAS Public Works Center's (PWC) \$11-million steam decentralization project. Construction of a new state-of-the-art steam utility service on base was completed in April.

"We're working with the station facilities department, 1st Lt. And Seabees to remove and demolish these decommissioned, abandoned overhead lines," said Lee Merrill, Utilities Department Head, PWC Jacksonville. "To date, we've removed the section south of the Mustin-Birmingham intersection between the Chapel and the Officers' Club."

Before the structures could be dismantled, Merrill said the pipes were stripped and separated into smaller pieces.

"Some of the piping does contain

asbestos," he said. "Via contractor, we've removed the asbestos from any of the lines prior to the Seabees and 1st Lt. members coming in to help."

The remaining asbestos-free pieces will be turned over to MWR Recycling, where they could be sold to the community. Profits from the sale of the pieces will be used to fund other base projects, Merrill said.

The new steam decentralization project is expected to save the base approximately \$850,000 in utility cost avoidance. Steam production requirements will be reduced by 34 percent, and fuel usage decreased by 28 percent, conserving natural resources and reducing air emissions.

"Previously, we had one steam plant serving more than 100 buildings," Merrill said. "Now, we have that plant plus four additional others serving groups of buildings within the vicinities of those plants."

In addition to the cost-saving benefits, Merrill said the removal of the pipes greatly enhances the base landscape.

"Mustin and Birmingham Roads see a lot of traffic — people coming into work or going towards base housing," he said. "The removal of the pipes will significantly improve base appearance along those areas."



Photo by JO2 Mike Jones
Steam pipes such as these are coming down as the base transitions to a decentralized heating and cooling system.

Public Works Center buys new sweeper

By Kaylee LaRocque
Staff Writer

It's a daily job that never ends. But it's one of those tasks that could mean the difference between life and death for the pilots and aircrew who use the runways and airfield at Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

Each day, the entire airfield must be carefully swept and checked for any type of debris such as stones, grass or metal objects. Even the smallest stone could cause serious damage to an aircraft.

Although most of the squadrons here conduct foreign object debris (FOD) walkdowns each morning, with about 240 acres of airfield space, there is no way they can cover the entire area. This is where the airfield sweeper comes in.

This giant machine picks up any type of object as it's driven across the runways, taxiways and parking areas.

"Our old sweeper has been used so much that we were in dire need for a new one. We've been trying to



Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Roger French of Air Operations demonstrates the capabilities of the new airfield sweeper.

get one for a long time but didn't have the funds," said Dave Lane, assistant airfield manager.

Thanks to the Public Works Center (PWC) Jacksonville, that need was taken care of recently when it purchased a brand new Schwarze A-7000 airfield sweeper.

"We bought the new sweeper for \$116,000. Our department owns the sweeper and rents it out to Air Ops. We also conduct all

the maintenance on the vehicle," explained Chuck Wilson, transportation supervisor for PWC.

"This is a state-of-the-art sweeper. It has all the newest technology and does a great job cleaning our airfield. We really needed to purchase a new one," added Wilson.

The old sweeper will be sent to Whitehouse Outlying Field and will be a backup for the new machine here.



AW2(AW/SW/NAC) Andrew Worth helps teaches a Boy Scout a lifesaving technique.

'Dusty Dogs' help train the future

By Lt. Eric Young
HS-7 PAO

The "Dusty Dogs" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 7 recently teamed up with 15 members of Boy Scout Troop 12 from Mandarin. The "Dusty Dogs" helped the Scouts earn their emergency preparedness and lifesaving badges.

Five of the "Dusty" Aviation Warfare Specialists (AWs) volunteered to come in on a Saturday morning to help demonstrate lifesaving techniques to 10 Boy Scouts working on their lifesaving badges. Five troop leaders attended the event as well, and everyone involved

agreed that all had a great time.

Kathy Moemke arranged the joint effort after watching a helicopter crew practice search and rescue techniques in a hover over the St. Johns River, and thought it would be a great experience for the troop if they could be involved somehow.

Without any point of contact, Moemke called NAS Jacksonville where she was put in touch with HS-7.

AWCS(AW/SW/NAC) Les Hatfield, AW2(AW/SW/NAC) Andrew Worth, AW2(AW/NAC) David Brandon, AW2(AW/NAC) Scott Hatch, and AW3(NAC) Christopher Carringer gladly volunteered to meet the troop at the base gym pool to teach these young men rescue techniques.

More than 35 years of combined rescue swimmer experience added training realism to lifesaving techniques, emergency preparedness and basic first aid as well.

Afterward, everyone hopped back into the pool for a friendly game of water polo.

Moemke says that the troop "thought it was wonderful, and would love to do it again." In fact, she is already making arrangements to do it again next year.

As for HS-7, Brandon said he "had a great time doing it, and enjoyed not only teaching the kids some of the things he's learned about lifesaving, but also by giving them a glimpse of life in the Navy."

Inspecting the winter blues



Photo by JOC Bill Austin

Naval Healthcare Support Office Officer-in-Charge Capt. Chuck Rosciam inspects Sailors as part of the seasonal uniform shift to winter blues.

**Navy-Marine Corps
Relief Society**



**Make Us Your First Resource;
Not Your Last Resort!**

542-3191

CNRSE staff provides P.A.L.S. for West Riverside students

By JO2(SCW) Eric T. Clay
Staff Writer

Rev. Sally Lorie of Jacksonville's West Riverside Presbyterian Church started the Positive Adult Leader for Students (P.A.L.S.) program six years ago. This mentoring program was established for at-risk children in elementary school grade levels.

Commander Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) staff currently provides a number of volunteers for this program to spend time with West Riverside Elementary school children.

CNRSE P.A.L.S. Coordinator LN1 Susan Noel said, "The P.A.L.S. mentoring program serves as a great avenue for adults to provide an invaluable community service to elementary school children in need of leadership. A P.A.L. is someone who adopts a child and becomes not only a listening ear, a motivator, a homework helper and a positive role model, but also a friend. This is my third year as a P.A.L. and I find it extremely rewarding."

P.A.L. volunteers work with their children on an average of 30-60 minutes a week; this will help build the children's self esteem. The volunteers' work also helps the children with day-day problems and give positive reinforcement.

During the program, the children learn to count on others and that they do not have to endure life on their own. Paterno said, "The volunteers and their visits



IT1(AW/SW) Rod Williams tests his student's spelling skills.
Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric T. Clay

build the children's self esteem. The children look forward to the visits and have a positive attitude toward coming to school now."

The P.A.L.S. volunteers help in tutoring the students in spelling, math, and all their other subjects. They do this by giving spelling tests and using flash cards for math.

Most of the time, the children are rewarded by the P.A.L.S. volunteer for a good job. If a child is doing poorly, the volunteer will encourage the child to do better and help the child for a longer period of time. This ensures the child that he or she are not alone and that the volunteer will stick it out with the child.

Each year more P.A.L. volunteers join the program. The volunteers are both military and civilian employees from NAS Jacksonville.

This is the first year that IT2 (SW/AW) Rod Williams has been a part of this pro-

gram. Williams visits with his student at least once a week.

"I try to visit as much as my schedule allows. I feel that I have a commitment to my student. The more that I am there, the more he will trust me," Williams said. "If he does his best, I reward him with fast food or other things that I can bring him and if he doesn't we talk about the importance of education and working our hardest."

In addition, at the beginning of this school year, the CNRSE staff had a donation drive called "Load Up The Bus" program. This program supplied the students with various school supplies such as paper, crayons, rulers and storage boxes for pencils.

The P.A.L.S. Contact Coordinator is Libba Ashbury can be contacted at 388-2772 or 388-4308. Kelly Paterno is the P.A.L.S. School Contact and she can be reached at 381-3900.

NAVETS: Many return to active service

From Page 1

year. Jacksonville is currently bringing in about 1,000 of them.

Leading the way to successful re-entrance into the armed forces in Jacksonville are TPU Commanding Officer Cmdr. Cindy Tabert, and Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Walter Frank Smith. Adorned with the American flag, plaques, pictures, and paintings of Navy pride, this TPU unit is the gateway to the fleet. It is a dedicated environment ready to take on the needs of the Navy. Helping transition the Sailors back into the fleet is the number one priority of the TPU staff.

"Our job is to keep them focused and on the right track to success," said Tabert. "We are able to do that here because of our motivated, professional, and compassionate staff. Few jobs in the Navy are as personally rewarding as TPU duty. You really feel you make a difference in the lives of Sailors," she concluded.

ABE1 (AW) Lester Coats, TPU's leading petty officer meets with each Sailor as soon as they check in. He informs them on the expectations for both the Sailor and the staff.

"I see a lot of talent and a lot of good people that the Navy let go," said Coats. "I feel rewarded that I get to be part of a unit that helps maintain or re-establish these good men and women."

The staff at TPU helps the Sailors with closing issues concerning their rating, medical/dental re-establishment, pay issues, and updating the Sailors on the latest information the Navy has to offer. Various

Cmdr. Cindy Tabert, Transient Personnel Unit (TPU) commanding officer, addresses a group of Navy veterans (NAVETS) being processed back into active duty at NAS Jacksonville's TPU.



By JO3 Jackey Bratt

ratings, such as Radioman

(RM) no longer exist, so when a NAVET comes back in, they will be assigned a new rating. It may be a simple change to an Information Technician (IT), or they may have learned a new trade while in the civilian world and be assigned a rate that has nothing to do with their prior rating. Some Sailors may need a refresher on how to access email and how to access a Navy web site to see the changes that have taken place since they got out. Therefore, Smith has developed a computer-learning center for the Sailors temporarily assigned to TPU. Both Tabert and Smith meet with the NAVETS twice a week to listen to any concerns the veterans have. "Tabert and her staff are outstanding at keeping us informed," said OS2 Neil Goldberg, currently attached to TPU. Like many Sailors, Goldberg came into the Navy in 1986, an 18-year-old, and fresh out of

high school. He said that his time in the service taught him many things.

"I found out what it meant to be part of something while I served."

He went to the Naval Reserves in June 1999, serving in the Mobile In Shore Undersea Warfare (MIUW) 207.

"I missed the Navy," said Goldberg. "I tried to carry over things I learned in the Navy into my civilian job and it just wouldn't work." Goldberg realized the civilian life was not for him.

"I weighed the pros and cons from the civilian world and military life and it was easy for me to decide to go back Navy." After speaking with his wife, Joann, and daughters, Lindsay, 7, and Amber, 5, Goldberg started his processing back into the Navy.

These adaptable, energized, and re-newed professionals tackle life and the Navy's tough mission through extremely dedicated service, long hours and hard work, by simply telling their Navy story.



NAS Jacksonville Commissary Sales Store Cashier Maxine Roque greets customers as she hands out coupons at the store entrance.
Photo by JO2 Mike Jones

DECA celebrates decade of savings for customers

By JO2 Mike Jones
Assistant Editor

The Defense Commissary Agency (DECA) recently marked a milestone, reaching its 10-year anniversary as an agency this fall.

For customers shopping at the commissary aboard NAS Jacksonville, that anniversary translates into a 30.4-percent savings.

NAS Jacksonville Commissary Store Director Randy Eller said that savings has come about with the implementation of several cost-reducing programs.

"The Marketing Business Unit (MBU) out of DECA headquarters does all of our buying," he said. "By doing this mass-buying and good buying, we're getting the prices reduced."

Eller said shoppers can find enormous savings through the commissary's new Best Value Item (BVI) program.

"There's a little yellow sign which hangs off the shelves that reads, 'BVI,'" he said. "That's telling you it's the best price in Jacksonville. No store in this town can beat that price."

"There are approximately 577 BVI products currently available at the commissary, Eller added. "We sell at cost," he said. "When we get those products in from MBU, we add no additional markup in price."

Eller encouraged all commissary patrons to take advantage of additional

savings with coupons.

"We average roughly \$3,500 a day in coupon redemption," he said. "The customer is getting even more savings when they use coupons."

To make things even easier, Eller said coupons are distributed to customers as they enter the store, and are often located in dispensers near corresponding products.

"The commissary is a very valuable benefit to those who use it," Eller said. "If patrons aren't using it, they're taking money out of their own pockets. It's dollars they've lost and we don't want that."

In addition to the savings, Eller said the construction currently taking place at the commissary will enhance the shoppers' experience.

"We're about to become a DECA Superstore - the largest category of DECA stores," he said.

Patrons will get the chance to enjoy even bigger savings tomorrow through Sunday during the commissary's holiday sidewalk sale. "We'll have giveaways and prizes as well," Eller said.

Customer feedback is always welcome and encouraged, Eller said.

"There's patron suggestion boxes posted throughout the store, and I'd love to answer any questions they have face-to-face," Eller said.

For more information, call the commissary at 542-3431.

A moment of silence



Members of NAS Jacksonville Healthcare Support Office pause for a moment of silence Dec. 11 in observance of the three-month anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
Photo by JOC Bill Austin

KUDO KORNER



AEC(AW/SW) Walter T. Smart, AE2(AW) Jeffrey E. Redd, AM3 Paul E. Barsness, and AO2 Bradley J. Henlen

The "Dusty Dogs" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 7 recognized some of their outstanding performers at Quarters on Nov. 21. Cmdr. Andrew T. Macyko, HS-7 commanding officer, personally presented four awards for superior performance:

**Plane Captain of the Month
(October)**

AM3 Paul E. Barsness

Sailor of the Month

AO2 Bradley J. Henlen

**Navy and Marine Corps
Achievement Medal**

AEC(AW/SW) Walter T. Smart
AE2(AW) Jeffrey E. Redd

HEY, MONEY MAN!

Hey, MoneyMan!

I purchase a cup of coffee almost everyday at a local coffee shop that offers customers wallet cards that say, "Every seventh cup is free!" The card also says "good towards any of our gourmet coffees, cappuccino, latte, café mocha, or house latte." Normally, I purchase the house latte which cost around \$2.50. When I had purchased six cups and asked for my "free" one, I was told that I could only get a house blend that they sell for 99 cents. I asked the cashier and the manager about this discrepancy and they both told me that it was company policy. I believe that this is false advertising. It is not the cup of coffee now, it is the principle. Can they do this and whom should I contact?



MoneyMan Sez:

Well, let's see. Suppose Burger King had a card that says, "Buy six Whoppers and get the seventh one free" but they give you a 99-cent hamburger after you have purchased six Whoppers. Not good, unfair, and I believe this would be false advertising. Is there some small print that you missed? Is this some local coffee shop that misprinted the promotional cards? What to do? I suggest you go back to the coffee shop and make sure they realize they are not living up to their advertisement. Ask them to either change the card or the policy. If they still refuse (which I doubt would happen), contact the local Chamber of Commerce, the Better Business Bureau and the local Consumer Affairs Office. More importantly, tell all your friends about your experience. It is a lot easier to keep current customers than to attract new ones and an unhappy customer who is willing to talk about their unfair treatment can do a lot to impact the bottom line.

**More questions? Call Hey MoneyMan!
At 778-0353.**

ITT Giving Tree: You can brighten someone's Christmas

Give a gift from your heart this Holiday Season and help a fellow Navy Family have a brighter holiday by participating in the Giving Tree Program. Stop by the ITT Office and pick an ornament off our Giving Tree. Each ornament allows you the opportunity to make someone's Holiday

Season a little brighter this year by purchasing them a gift off their wish list. The Giving Tree is located inside the ITT Office across the street from the Post Office on Enterprise Avenue (right next to the Tailor Shop). For more information, call the ITT Office at 542-3318 ext. 8.



Navy College Learning Center holiday hours

In order to accommodate students' needs, Navy College Learning Center will offer a modified schedule for the holidays.

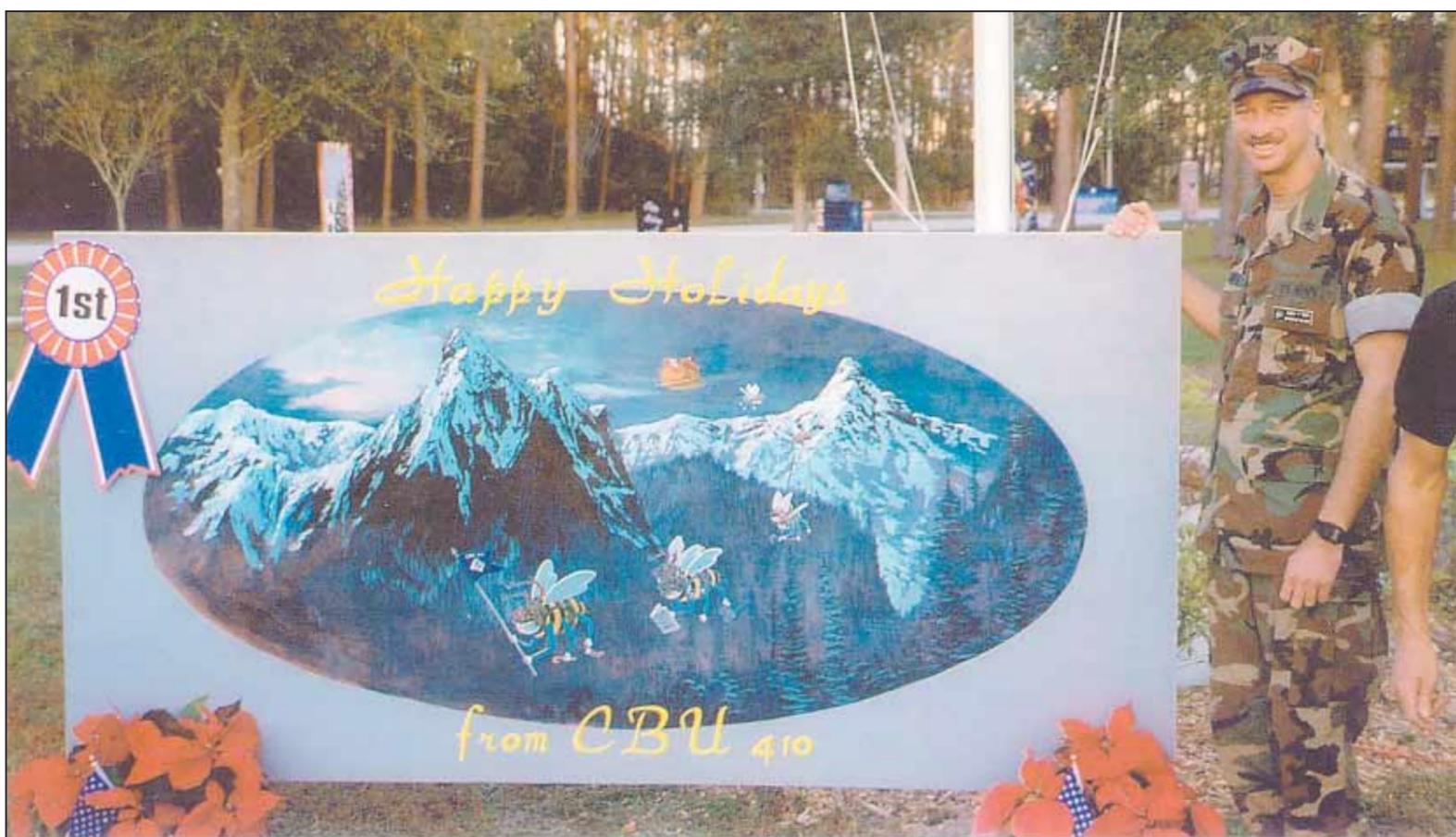
NCLC will be open on Fridays in December from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Dec. 14, and 21. These hours will compensate for closed hours during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's.

During Christmas week, NCLC will be open on Dec. 24, 26, 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be closed on Christmas Day and Dec. 29.

NCLC will also be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. It will resume with normal hours beginning Jan. 2, 2002.

For more information, call 542-2477.

TREE LIGHTING 2001



UT1 John Smith displays the Holiday Christmas Card he painted for CBU-410's submission to the annual contest.

Families welcome Santa at tree lighting



Five-year-old Maitland Smith gets her face painted by Lollipop the Clown.

By Glenn Mebane
MWR Marketing Office

Patriot's Grove was the scene of the annual NAS Jacksonville Christmas tree lighting ceremony last Friday.

The event kicked off with the arrival of Santa Claus and his merry elves onboard the base Fire Department's Fire Engine No. 1. Santa brought holiday cheer with candy and toys for all of NAS Jacksonville's good boys and girls. Hundreds of families lined up to visit with Santa and to have free photos taken with him.

Clowns provided some fun entertainment for the families waiting to see Jolly Old St. Nick. Children lined up to get their faces painted with holiday designs while others checked out Daffie T. Clown, who created Rudolph the Reindeer balloons.

This year's ceremony was kicked off by Rear Adm. Jan Gaudio, commander, Navy Region Southeast who presented several awards throughout the night. The awards included the Navy Family Appreciation Week award which went to Lt. Tani Corey for her essay titled "Sacrifice."

NAS Jacksonville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark Boensel and Station Command Master Chief Chuck Lawson officiated the Christmas tree lighting ceremony for the evening. Boensel gave welcoming remarks to the hundreds of families, and retirees gathered for the occasion. Chaplain Simon Peter Ignacio offered a heart-felt prayer for the season, then led the audience in a humbling rendition of "Silent Night."

Afterward, Boensel signaled all lights be turned out and the countdown began.

"BLINK!" The official lighting of the Christmas tree was done. The tree light-



The Child Development Center Children's Choir performs a number during the event.

ing was received with wonderment and surprise from the children and with cheers from adults in attendance.

The MWR Holiday Card Contest was also judged and awards were presented to the winners. The contest, which was sponsored by MWR, was an opportunity for units and squadrons to win money for their MWR funds. Cards are displayed along Yorktown Boulevard. The quality of the submissions made the choices tough for the judges.

Boensel and Lawson presented the awards as follows: First place (\$500) went to Construction Battalion Unit (CBU) 410. Accepting the award was Lt. Ben Puig and UT1 John Smith. Second place (\$300) went to Veterinary Services. Accepting was SPC Shakerian Adams, Sarah Jackson, Jack Smith and Cindy, a military working dog. Third place (\$200) went to Patrol Squadron (VP) 45. Accepting was YN2 Laura Smith, AO1 Uliandia Brooks.

The evening continued with music provided by the Navy Band Southeast Brass Ensemble. It played a variety of inspirational, traditional, classical and jazz music. The NAS Jacksonville Child Development Center Children's Choir also performed.

Boensel gave special thanks to the NAS Jax Fire Department and Base Security, MWR and all the behind the scenes workers that help make the event a success.

TREE LIGHTING 2001



Daffie T. Clown creates some Rudolph the Reindeer balloons for a group of fascinated children.

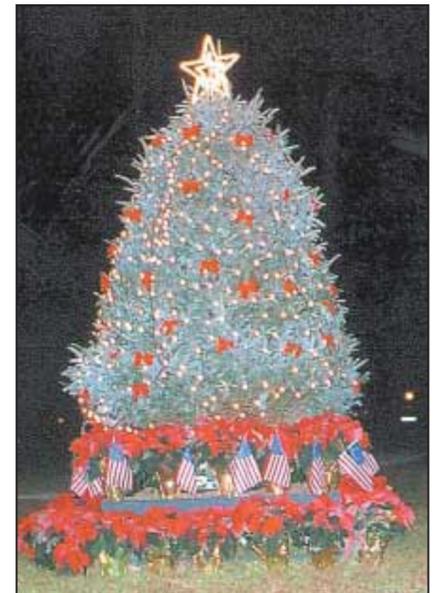


Santa and his elves arrive onboard Fire Engine No. 1 at the tree lighting ceremony.

Photos by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay
and Kaylee LaRocque



The Navy Band Southeast Brass Ensemble provides some holiday tunes during the event.



This 12-foot Christmas tree stands bright at Patriot Grove.



The Corey family smiles happily as they receive a getaway vacation to Orlando from Adm. Jan Gaudio, Commander, Navy Region Southeast. The family won the vacation as part of an essay contest sponsored by MWR for Navy Family Week.

Sailor's contest-winning essay details husband's sacrifices

Navy Family Week was celebrated the week of Nov. 17-24. In recognition of NAS Jacksonville family members, an essay contest was held asking people to explain why they are proud of their Navy family members.

This year's winning entry was submitted by Lt.

Tani Corey of Navy Hospital Jacksonville in recognition of her husband, Mark. The Corey's and their children, Chase and Shay, received one-day family passes to Universal Studios in Orlando, a dinner show at Medieval Times and a two-night stay at Homewood Suites.

Lt. Corey's winning essay:

As a "stay-at-home dad," my husband makes sacrifices that are not often acknowledged by friends or family. He readily agrees that this role was not what he envisioned six years ago. However, without his support, my military service would not be possible.

His experience has been speckled with challenges that would not be embraced by most fathers. Hundreds of dirty diapers, irregular work hours, overseas duty stations, and being alone with two toddlers for two weeks of temporary duty only describe a few of the hardships that must be overcome in the line of duty at home.

After recently receiving a promotion, I wish that he could also receive advanced recognition for the important part that he plays in keeping our family values. He certainly reflects the Navy Core Values of honor, courage, and commitment. He honors our family for putting our needs before his own. He has the courage to be responsible for the character building of two small children. Ultimately, he has proven his commitment to our family and our marriage for 10 years.

Photo by Kaylee LaRocque

Slaughter takes helm of HS-15 'Red Lions'

By Lt. Steve Merritt
HS-15 PAO

Cmdr. John M. Slaughter will relieve Cmdr. Phillip L. Beachy as Commanding Officer of the "Red Lions" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 15 (HS) 15 during a 10 a.m. change of command ceremony today in Hangar 123 on NAS Jacksonville.

HS-15 is part of Carrier Air Wing 17 and flies the SH-60F and HH-60H Seahawk helicopters in the conduct of a multitude of missions including antisubmarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, combat search and rescue, and naval special warfare support.

Beachy was born in Palo Alto, Calif., in May 1960. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and received his commission through NROTC. Following flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator in December 1983.

His operational tours included his junior officer tour with the HS-3 "Tridents" where he flew the SH-3H Sea King and his department head tour with the HS-6 "Indians" where he flew the SH-60F and HH-60H Seahawk helicopters and served as the Operations Officer.

Beachy also served as a Tactical Action Officer onboard USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72). His shore duty tours included HS-1 as an instructor pilot and overseas duty on the headquarters staff of Commander in Chief, United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany. He attended both the Naval Postgraduate School in



Cmdr. Phillip L. Beachy

Monterey, Calif., and the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. receiving a Master of Science Degree in Applied Sciences at Monterey and a master's degree in Strategic Studies and National Security Affairs at Newport.

Commander Beachy reported to HS-15 in June 1999 as the Executive Officer and assumed command in September 2000. After the Change of Command, he will take over as executive assistant to AIRO I at the Headquarters, Naval Air Systems Command at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

Beachy has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), and the Navy Achievement Medal. Among his various other campaign, unit, and service awards are four Battle Efficiency Awards.

Born and raised in Newport Beach, Calif., Slaughter was commissioned in 1983 through the NROTC program at the University of California at

Berkeley where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He reported to flight school in Pensacola where he received his wings of gold in January of 1985.

Slaughter's initial flying tour was with the "Eightballers" of HS-8 in San Diego, where he flew the SH3H and served in various billets in the Maintenance Department. He next served as an instructor pilot at HS-10, the West Coast Fleet Replacement Squadron, where he first flew the SH-3 and later was in the first cadre of transition pilots to the H-60. He subsequently served a tour on the staff of Commander, Carrier Air Wing 15 at NAS Miramar in San Diego where he was Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Officer and staff Administrative Officer.

He next went to Washington, D.C. where he was an intern on the Joint Staff, worked at the Naval Air Systems Command's Multi-Mission Helicopters Program Office (PMA-299) on SH-60F issues, and

assisted in the Helicopter Requirements shop of the Chief of Naval Operations' staff.

Slaughter then transferred to Jacksonville where he had his department head tour with the HS-7 "Dusty Dogs," serving as the Administrative Officer and the Operations Officer.

Prior to reporting to HS-15 as Executive Officer in September, 2000, Slaughter served at Patuxent River, Md., assigned to the Naval Air Systems Command as Assistant Program Manager for Systems Engineering for the SH-60F and HH-60H in PMA-299.

Slaughter has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

He and his wife, Ann, have two daughters, Allison and Shannon, 8, and 7.

The squadron's new Executive Officer is Cmdr. Dave Swain.



Cmdr. John M. Slaughter

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Navy Wives Club of America, NWCA Jax No. 86, meets the first Wednesday of every 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. Call 772-0242 or President Barbara Howard at 471-1444.

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.

Girl Scout Troop 333 meets every Wed. 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.

Monthly family night potluck dinner will be held at the Middleburg Presbyterian Church Sunday at 6 p.m.

The 13th Annual Turkey Shoot, sponsored by the North Jax Shrine Club, is every Friday and Saturday until Dec.22 from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and \$5. Proceeds benefit the Shriners Hospital.

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 at the Lil' Angels room at St. Josephs' main church on Loretto Road. Call 268-1591.

The 13th Annual Florida Shrine Bowl fielding the finest senior football players from high schools throughout the state will be played on tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. The game will be held at the Orange Park High School football field. The cost is \$7.50 for five adults and \$3 for children. For football game information call 642-5200 ext. 10.

The St. Johns River City Brass Band will perform "Sounds of the Season" Saturday at 4 p.m. at the San Marco Tour of Homes, Whatley Park on Hendricks Ave. The event is free.

The first annual **Orange Park Christmas Pageant** will take place Saturday and Sunday at the Orange Park United Methodist Church at 7 p.m.

Planet Radio and Dave and Buster's "Freedom Fighter

Appreciation Day" will be held Sunday from noon-10 p.m. Active duty military with valid I.D. will receive two \$10 power cards (while supplies last).

Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment December Nature Programs will be held Dec. 17, 20, and 27. For more information concerning these programs contact their offices at 630-3555.

Asthma Support, Care and Education meets to discuss asthma concerns Dec. 18, 6:30- 7:30 p.m. in the Cardiology Conference Room on the first floor of the Wolfson Children's Hospital at Baptist Medical Center. The group is led by Jackie Livingston. For more information call Charlene March at 743-5157.

The Retired Officers' Association of Northeast Florida December Dinner/business meeting will be held at "The Zone" Dec. 19. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Advanced reservations are required 48 hours prior to the meeting, contact the reservation chairman at 269-2942.

The regular monthly meeting of the Fleet Reserve will be meeting on Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. The location for the meeting is the Branch Home, 7673 Blanding Blvd. For more information contact Frederick J Peterson 771-2936.

The World Famous Budweiser Clydesdales will be at the Jacksonville Brewery Dec. 20-24. Stable viewing is from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and hitching is from 1-3 p.m.

The Middleburg Presbyterian Church will host hayrides and children's caroling on Dec.23 from 5-6 p.m.

Celebrate The Season With Holiday Parties with all of your friends at your neighborhood community center. the Jacksonville Department of Parks, Recreation and Entertainment for games, food and fun! Holiday parties will be held at 24 neighborhood community centers throughout the city on Dec., 20 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The events are free and open to the public. For more information call the center nearest you, or 630-4100.

The Christmas Eve Family Service at the Middleburg Presbyterian Church will begin at 7 p.m. and the candlelight Communion service at 11 p.m.

National Black Nurses Association monthly meeting will be held Jan. 14 at St. Vincent Hospital. The meeting will start at 6 p.m. For more information call Dorothy Banks at 542-7748/7432.

NAVY NEWS

Rumsfeld: Taliban, Al Qaeda leaders to face justice

WASHINGTON (NNS) — News reports say Taliban leader Mohammed Omar has asked for personal amnesty, but Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the United States is opposed to any such deal.

Rumsfeld said Mullah Omar is the person most responsible for harboring the al Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan.

"There is no question what the position of the United States of America is, and that is that we have as our principal objectives seeing that we deal effectively with the senior al Qaeda leadership and the Taliban leadership," Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon press conference.

Rumsfeld said the U.S. objective remains "to bring justice to them or them to justice."

Rumsfeld said that no deal over Omar has been struck.

"I don't believe it will happen. If it does happen, I suppose, as Adlai Stevenson said, 'We'll jump off that bridge when we get to it.'"

Rumsfeld said a number of times that he does not believe "there will be a negotiated end to the situation that's unacceptable to the United States."

Rumsfeld said the United States is interested in seeing that the terrorists and those who harbored them are punished and stopped from launching terrorist attacks.

"They've done some terrible things on this Earth," he said. "I'd like to see us take control or know that the control is in the hands of people who will handle the conclusion similar to what we would do."

Many Afghans who fought with the Taliban and al Qaeda will probably melt back into the Afghan society, Rumsfeld acknowledged. But he said he is concerned most about the foreign al Qaeda fighters.

"You don't want them milling around the country and you don't want them leaving the country because they're just going to go out and kill people in some other country," the secretary said. "So they need to be stopped. You may have to impound them until sorts and dispositions can be made."

He said there are still pockets of al Qaeda and Taliban fighters throughout Afghanistan. There are also areas with there are no opposition forces providing security. "It would be premature to suggest that once Kandahar surrenders we relax and say that takes care of that because it doesn't," Rumsfeld said. "There are still a lot of senior al Qaeda and senior Taliban people left. We went in there to root out the terrorists, find them where they are. Our job has got a long way to go."

Rumsfeld also recognized the bravery of the U.S. servicemen killed and wounded in Afghanistan Dec. 6.

"Our condolences go to their families and their loved ones," he said. "These men were engaged in a noble and important cause, and their families have every right to be proud, as we all are, of their commitment and their sacrifice."

Navy Lifeline Helps Americans send Season's Greetings to Troops

By Otto Kreisher
Copley News Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The threat of anthrax-laced mail has forced the military to prohibit Americans from sending "any service member" letters to the thousands of U.S. troops who will be deployed over the holidays during the war on terrorism.

However, the Navy has tapped its worldwide communications capabilities to offer a high-tech alternative to allow the morale-boosting holiday messages to reach troops worldwide.

The Navy is making an Internet site normally used for internal information exchanges available to the public for sending brief electronic messages to service members.

The Navy-run "LIFELines" Web site will carry greetings to members of any service, not just the Navy, Cmdr. Rudy Brewington said.

In just its first few days of operation, the any-service-member program has carried more than 3,000 messages, Brewington said.

"The American people feel really close to our service members, recognizing the sacrifices they are making," he said. "This is a way for them to reach out and say, 'Thank you.'"

The idea of sending mail to unknown service personnel sometimes is called "Operation Dear Abby" because the advice columnist in 1967 encouraged her readers to send greeting cards or letters to the troops for the December holidays.

Thousands of such letters were sent during the Desert Shield-Desert Storm deployments a decade ago and were popular among the troops in the Persian Gulf. There was another burst of activity when U.S. troops were sent on peacekeeping missions in the Balkans starting in 1995, the military said.

With the surge of patriotism following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it was likely that Americans again would flood the military mail system with greetings for "any service member" during the upcoming holidays.

On Oct. 30, however, the Military Postal Service Agency issued a notice discouraging the letter-writing effort because of the letters carrying anthrax to news media or political offices.

To use the Navy system, log onto the LIFELines Web site at <http://www.lifelines2000.org>, or an alternative site the Navy has created at <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>.

People can designate one of the five services or send the message to any service, Brewington said. People also can choose to send a message to someone from a specific state, he said.

Vietnam War MIA Identified, Laid to Rest at Arlington Cemetary

WASHINGTON (NNS) — The remains of a U.S. Navy pilot, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been



U.S. Navy photo by PH1 Greg Messier

Camp Rhino, Afghanistan, Dec. 2, 2001 — An Equipment Operator from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 uses a front-end loader to smooth over a desert landing strip code named "Rhino." The landing strip requires constant attention due to the deep ruts created by heavy transport planes. "Rhino" is a forward base of operations strategically located inside Afghanistan.

identified and returned to his family in the United States. Identified is Cmdr. John A. Feldhaus, of Lawrenceberg, Tenn.

Feldhaus was buried with full military honors Nov. 20 at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. He is survived by four children and seven grandchildren. His widow, Suzanne, died in 1987.

During the service, Navy F/A-18 Hornets performed the traditional flyover with aircraft assembled in the "missing man" formation. Among his medals, Feldhaus wore the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.

On Oct. 8, 1966, Feldhaus took off from the carrier USS Oriskany (CVA 34) in an A-1H Skyraider on an

armed reconnaissance mission over Thanh Hoa Province, North Vietnam.

As he and his wingman entered heavy clouds, Feldhaus radioed that he had been hit by enemy ground fire and his right wing was on fire.

His wingman never saw Feldhaus' aircraft again, but he did report seeing a fireball on the ground which he believed to be an aircraft crash.

The wingman and another aircraft searched the area of the crash without success. They saw no parachute and heard no emergency radio signals. The visual search was hampered by enemy ground fire and deteriorating weather. The search continued for several days, but revealed

nothing.

In October 1993, a joint U.S./Vietnamese team led by Joint Task Force-Full Accounting conducted an investigation in Thanh Hoa Province where they believed the crash occurred, but they found no aircraft debris or remains.

Between 1996 and 2000, another four investigations or excavations were conducted in Vietnam, yielding aircraft debris, pilot-related artifacts, personal effects and remains.

The U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) used mitochondrial DNA to confirm the identification.

The process involved matching a skeletal fragment to that of a Feldhaus

family member.

"There is finally some closure," wrote Jeff Feldhaus, one of two surviving sons, in an e-mail interview. "It's been a long time in coming ... 35 years. I am glad he is home and to be buried where he belongs with all the other heroes of our country."

There are currently more than 1,900 Americans unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia.

For more information on Arlington National Cemetery, go to <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org>.

On the go with USO's NoHoHO

USO's NoHoHO Program is available again this year. This program provides hotel rooms at some of the nicer hotels in our area, for military members living in barracks or aboard ship. The cost is \$10 per night, not per person, for up to four in a room. The rooms are available Dec. 18-28. You may use as many of those nights as you need as long as availability lasts.

Reservations must be made through your USO office, Bldg. 1050, front gate, NAS Jax. It's a great deal for those who are unable to go home for the holidays, those who would like to have family or friends visit them here, or for those who just like to get out of the barracks for a while during the holiday season.

The hotels in our community offer these rooms each year as an expression of appreciation for the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces, many of whom are far from home and family at this special time of year.

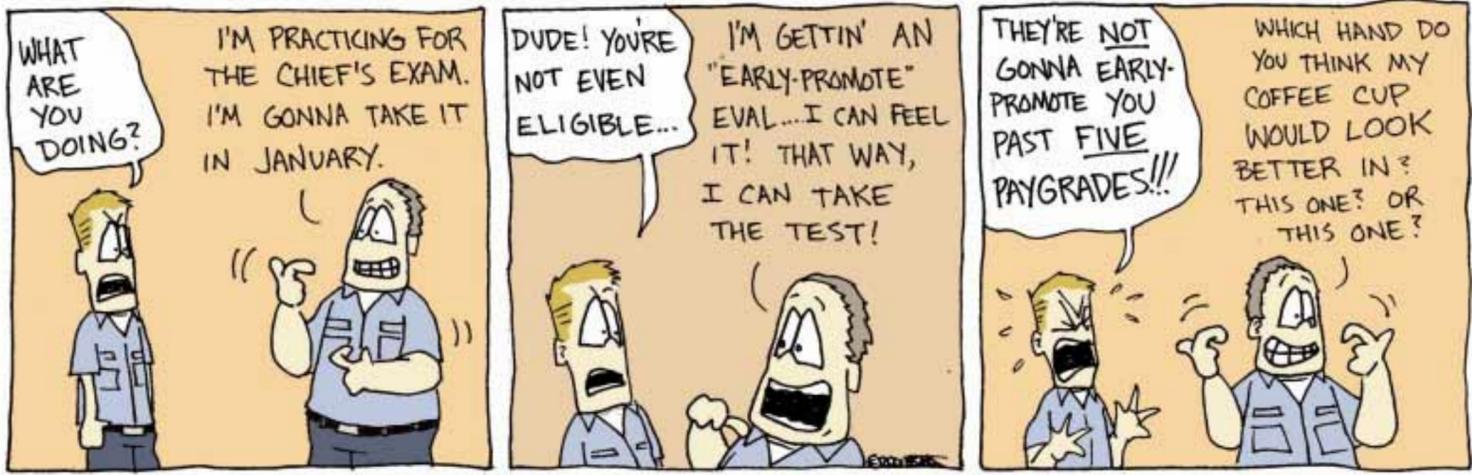
For more information, contact JoAnn or Charlene at USO, 778-2821/542-3028.

Kennedy Space Center is offering free admission to all active duty and military retirees, their families and two extra children under 12. This offer includes everything available including tours, IMAX, etc. The offer is good until Dec. 31.

Each week through Dec. 24, the Jacksonville Zoo features Santa's Village, reindeer, animal encounters and entertainment. Pictures are available with the reindeer. The USO has discounted tickets.

JAX TALES

BY MIKE JONES - mikejones43@hotmail.com



Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society



Make Us Your First Resource:
Not Your Last Resort!

542-3191



Walinda Qualls records a DVD message, courtesy of the Navy Exchange Message From America program, to send to YN2 Rene'e Martin deployed aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

NEX, corporate sponsors connect Navy families during the holidays

This holiday season, the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) will be doing all it can to bring a bit of home closer to military members. NEXCOM will be giving free and discounted phone service to many military members stationed throughout the world.

"We know how difficult it is to be away from home during the holiday season," said Rear Adm. Steven Maas, commander, NEXCOM. This year will be especially difficult with so many military members involved in Operation Enduring Freedom. By offering discounted and free phone calls, it will enable many service members to call their loved ones during the holidays."

During December, all Navy Exchanges worldwide will be selling over-the-counter AT&T prepaid phone cards at a 20 percent discount. The regularly priced \$44.99 phone cards with 50 calling units will be just \$43.99, the \$14.99 phone with 150 calling units will be \$11.99 and the \$29.99 card with 300 calling units will be \$23.99.

Prepaid phone cards sold through vending machines will contain 20 percent more calling time. NEXCOM is also working in conjunction with MWR to bring free prepaid phone cards to military members around the world.

"This December, MWR is giving every active duty Navy member worldwide a free 15-minute AT&T prepaid phone card," said Mary Hov, program manager of NEXCOM's Personal Telecommunications Program Office. "However, these cards can only be used within the United States, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. So, we're asking military members stationed overseas to come to their nearest Navy Exchange to exchange MWR's Enduring Freedom prepaid phone card for our 50-unit Liberty prepaid phone card. This will allow them to take advantage of this great program."

For those military members and Department of Defense personnel stationed at the isolated duty stations of Diego Garcia and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,

NEXCOM will be, for the third year, providing them free prepaid telephone cards during the winter season.

NEXCOM along with MWR are discounting the per-minute cost of a phone call aboard deployed ships that have the afloat personal telecommunications system (APTS). The discounted price will be 50 cents per minute instead of the normal 41 per minute on Dec. 23 and 24.

"The associates in NEXCOM's personal telecommunications program have been working hard with AT&T and others to bring our military service members these great discounts over the holiday season," said Maas. "It is our way of saying Happy Holidays and Bravo Zulu for a job well done."

NEX, Sony: Message From America

Now through Dec. 21, the Navy Exchange will videotape (with a signed release form) a three-minute message to your loved one serving overseas. After videotaping the Exchange will provide you with a DVD and an envelope for mailing. The service is free, the only cost is postage. You can send your messages Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The NEX is partnered with Sony to provide this program.

Circuit City: Record messages to deployed loved ones

Circuit City and CBS have teamed up to videotape holiday wishes and messages of support for deployed service members. Some of these messages will be broadcast on CBS prime time television and copies will be provided to the USO and Armed Forces Network so that they can be shown to military personnel abroad.

For family members with a valid military ID your personal message will be recorded onto a DVD, for you to send to your loved ones serving our country overseas.

The Orange Park Circuit City is participating in this program. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Navy League seeking nominations

From the Secretary of the Navy

The Navy League of the United States (NLUS) is a national organization of more than 77,000 members and approximately 330 councils throughout the United States and overseas. NLUS advocated a strong Department of the Navy team.

Each year, the Navy League presents annual awards in recognition of outstanding individual achievements in leadership, maritime affairs, scientific progress, engineering excellence, logistics competence, and service to community and country. All active duty Navy and Marine Corps members are eligible.

The NLUS awards are:

- John Paul Jones Award for inspirational leadership: recognizes a Navy officer.

- Adm. Claude V. Ricketts Award for inspirational leadership: recognizes two Navy enlisted persons (one E-7 or above; one E-6 or below).

- Capt. Winifred Quick Collins Award for inspirational leadership: recognizes a Navy or Marine Corps woman officer and a Navy or Marine Corps enlisted woman.

- Lt. Gen. John A. LeJeune Award for inspirational leadership: recognizes a Marine Corps officer.

- Gen. Gerald C. Thomas Award for inspirational leadership: recognizes a Marine Corps enlisted person.

- Stephen Decatur Award for operational competence: recognizes a Navy officer or enlisted person.

- Gen. Holland M. Smith Award for operational competence: recognizes a Marine Corps officer or enlisted Marine.

- Robert M. Thompson Award for outstanding civilian leadership: recog-

nizes a civilian who has furthered the cause of seapower.

- Rear Adm. William S. Parsons Award for scientific and technical progress: recognizes a Navy or Marine Corps Officer, or a civilian.

- Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for literary achievement: recognizes a Navy or Marine Corps Officer, or a civilian, for a notable literary contribution that has advanced the cause of seapower.

- J. William Middendorf II Award for engineering excellence: recognizes a Navy enlisted person in an engineering rating group.

- Adm. Ben Moreell Award for logistics competence: recognizes a Navy or Marine Corps officer and a Navy or Marine Corps enlisted person.

- Vincent T. Hirsch Maritime Award: recognizes an individual whose efforts or achievements have contributed to increased public awareness of the importance of the U.S. Flag Merchant Marine.

- Within the Naval Intelligence community, the Naval Intelligence Foundation Award is presented for leadership in providing excellence in the operational intelligence support to the Fleet. This award recognizes an officer of the sea services, in the grades of O4, O5, or O6, selected

from among those nominated by afloat or shore-based commands.

Nomination packages (original and one copy) must be submitted and received by Dec. 31. Late submissions will not be considered. Each package shall contain a cover letter, nomination achievement/justification section and a proposed citation.

The cover letter must include:

- Nominees's full name, rank/rate and SSN in upper right hand corner
- Current duty station
- Home of record
- Length of service (for military nominees)
- Point of contact: commercial phone/email address
- Achievements: may be in paragraph/bullet format. Avoid acronyms.
- Citation: should be in standard paragraph form.
- Separate packages should be provided for each person nominated. Mail nominations to Awards Board, Attn: Louise Halse, Navy League of the United States, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705, Arlington, VA 22201-3308.

For more information call (703) 528-1775 ext. 553 or email lhalse@navyleague.org.

Awards will be presented at the Centennial Navy League Convention in New York City June 28 - July 2, 2002.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

Make Us Your First Resource; Not Your Last Resort!

542-3191



Volunteers, toys needed

The Children's Christmas Party of Jacksonville, Inc. and the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots have partnered to collect and distribute toys to more than 10,000 needy children at a holiday party at the Prime Osborn Convention Center on Dec. 22 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the week prior, volunteers are needed to decorate the convention hall, sort and stage toys, assist at the party, and help out with clean-up.

Get into the holiday spirit and join the fun! If you can work a few hours on any of the days shown above or would like additional information about the party, please contact Joan Lamer at (904) 350-1616 or e-mail christmaspartyofjax@hotmail.com.

Toys are being collected at several sites in the community including: Jax Navy

Federal Credit Union, Navy Federal Credit Union, Publix, Gordon Chevrolet, Toys R Us, McDonald's, Wal-marts, Papa John's Pizza, Haverty's Furniture stores, Hooters, Applebees, Century 21, Best Buy, M&L Motors. On base drop-off sites include: Jax Navy Federal Credit Union, the station headquarters in Building 1, NavComTelSta, Building 4, and the Armed Forces Reserve Center, Building 531, adjacent to the Birmingham Gate on Roosevelt Blvd. The Marines' Campaign will run through Dec. 17 for collections at most of these locations. Toys can still be dropped off up to Dec. 20 however at the Reserve Center. The campaign is looking for new toys, especially toys for children 10-16 years old.

For more information call 542-0971.

MWR NOTES

Tickets for the holidays

Give a great gift this Christmas and stop in I.T.T. and purchase theme park tickets, Entertainment Coupon books for 2002, Dinner Show tickets and more. I.T.T. is located next to the Tailor Shop on Enterprise Avenue. For ticket or trip information, call I.T.T. at 542-3318.

Holiday Figure Skating Show

If you did not win tickets at the Christmas Tree Lighting, head to I.T.T. They will be giving away free tickets to Skate World's Holiday Figure Skating Show on Dec. 22 at 5 p.m. Fifty skaters, ranging in age from 4 to 23, will participate in this annual holiday show. Many Navy family members will be taking part in the show such as 8-year-old Brittany Anne Lauschke. Her father is currently serving on the USS Mason in Norfolk after serving three years at Ground Electronics aboard NAS Jax. The title of this year's event is Home for the Holidays with a patriotic theme finale. In addition to free admission to the show, ticket holders will receive a discount on the public skating session, which immediately follows the show. The tickets are first come first served. Call 542-3318.

Letters to Santa

MWR is helping out Santa and his elves this Christmas by collecting names of children who live in base housing either at NAS or Yellow Water. Call in the names of those children who would like to receive a letter from the Jolly Old Man himself and the elves will have their letters to them by Christmas. To register names, call 778-9772.

Stop by the Giving Tree

I.T.T. wants you to help share in making a Navy Family's holiday special by stopping by and picking an ornament off the Giving Tree. Each ornament has the age of the person and items that are on the top of their wish list this Christmas. Drop your gift off with the ornament back at I.T.T. and let the elves do the rest. Feel good about yourself this holiday and help out a Navy Family have a memorable holiday as well.

Free Florida attractions

Explore Busch Gardens, Sea World and Kennedy Space Center for free this month. Active duty gets free admission to Busch Gardens and Sea World now through Dec. 31. ID holders of active duty receive free admission their first visit and 25 percent off each additional visit (active duty must be present). All active duty and retired United States military personnel, as well as their spouses, will receive free admission to KSC visitor complex by showing proper military identification for the rest of this calendar year. In addition, up to two children ages 12 and under will receive complimentary admission when accompanied by an adult with qualifying military ID. Call I.T.T. for details on these free deals.

Enjoy a Florida holiday

Why do the driving or the planning? Take your friends and family on a great I.T.T. adventure. I.T.T. trips are open to all!

- Mickey's Very Merry Christmas is tomorrow. The festivities start in downtown Disney for holiday shopping and the evening will incorporate a night of celebrating with Mickey and all his friends at the Magic Kingdom. The cost includes transportation and park admission; \$47.50 and \$37.50 (ages 3-9).
- Mount Dora's Holiday Fair is a shopping experience you won't want to miss on Sunday. The cost is only \$11.25 per person and includes Renninger's Antique Center, Holiday Fair and more.
- Last chance shopping on Dec. 22. Why hassle and look for a spot? Take the I.T.T. shuttle to the Avenue's Mall for only \$2.50 per person. We have two departure times and two return times, stop by and sign up today.

Specials at

Mulberry Cove Marina

The weather is on our side this holiday, so why not get outside and enjoy life on the water?

Jet Skis- \$25 per hour every weekend in December.

Boat rentals are 25 percent off in December (active duty and their family members only).

All retail is 15 percent off at the Marina Store.

We have new motors in our line of logo-wear, great gifts for the whole family. Call 542-3260 for info.

Mulligan's holiday events

Get in tune at Mulligan's on Dec. 19 for the annual sing-a-long of traditional and non-traditional holiday tunes. During this festive event the winners of the Command Wreath Contest will be announced. Wreaths are being accepted now through Dec. 18 at Mulligan's and you do not have to be present to win. Call 542-2936.

Have Santa swing by the Golf Shop

Swing on by NAS Jax Golf Club and purchase an ideal gift for someone this holiday. The Golf Club will be running a 9-Hole Christmas Scramble on Dec. 24. The cost is only \$20 per player and includes cart, green fees and prizes. Ladies, don't forget the Ladies Clinic is being held every Friday at 4:30 p.m. and is designed for all levels of players. It is a great time to meet new people and

socialize with friends. The cost for the ladies clinic is only \$10 per person and is open to all lades base-wide. For more information on Golf or if you are interested in scheduling a group or private lesson call the Pro-Shop at 542-3249.



Housing residents get outside and get decorating

If you live in base housing at NAS or Yellow Water you could be the winner of a holiday feast for your family by decorating your door and taking part in providing holiday joy to your neighbors. Ensure all your decorations are up by Dec. 16 as the judges will be going out Dec. 17 and 18 to determine this year's Door Decorating Champions. To register, all you have to do is call 778-9772 and they'll get your address on the judge's route.

Kids Bingo and Tropical Freeze 2001

Kids Bingo will be held at The Zone on Dec. 22. The cost is only \$10 per child and includes bingo cards, bingo marker, lunch and some great prizes. The doors open at 11 a.m. After Kids Bingo, head out to Mulberry Cove Marina and take place in Tropical Freeze 2001. Tropical Freeze 2001 is designed for the entire family to come out and experience snow right here in Florida. A snow sled run will be entertainment for all as well as free hot dogs and sodas. For information on Kids Bingo call the Bingo Office at 542-2209 and for The Tropical Freeze, please call Family Activities at 778-9772.

Bowling for the holidays

Looking for something to do while your children are out on Christmas break? How about bowling? NAS Lanes offers All You Can Bowl every Tuesday from 4-9 p.m. for only \$5 per person (shoe rental not included). Bumpers are available for children to make their game more enjoyable. NAS Lanes will also be open Christmas Day, so after you open your presents and are looking for something to keep everyone entertained come on by. The Bowling Center Pro-Shop also has a wide variety of items to fill anyone's stocking, so come see what we have to offer. Call 542-3493.

The Zone offers holiday treats

It's not too late to put your order in for a delicious platter of food for entertaining this season. The Zone has a variety of platters to go to fit any occasion and budget. Call us today and place your order at 542-3521. We also have cold kegs to go.

The Zone features different lunch specials Monday-Friday and active duty military get \$1 off food purchases on Mondays. The Delivery Zone brings food to you anywhere on base and delivers a variety of subs, salads, wings, pizza and more. Call 542-3900 for food delivery.

Free movies offered

Free movies are held every Friday and every other Saturday at the Base Theater on Jason Street. Movies are open to all. Please do not leave children under 18 unattended and bring your own snacks.

Dec. 14, 7 p.m. - The Score (R)
Dec. 15, 5 p.m. - The Grinch (PG)
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. - Crazy/Beautiful (PG-13)

To read about these movies, head to the MWR Tab on www.nasjax.navy.mil.

Liberty events

Where is Santa? Liberty has lost Santa and active duty are searching all over the base to find him and collect the \$200 NEX Gift Certificate Rewards Money. Everyday, new clues are posted in Liberty Cove to help find and rescue Santa so he is back in time to deliver presents to all the boys and girls.

Spend Christmas Eve Bowling with Liberty starting at 11 a.m., and on Christmas Day, enjoy holiday festivities that always include free food and prizes.

Free airport shuttles are running and pre-registration is a must to take advantage of this great deal. Call 542-3491.

The Liberty Program provides activities and programs targeted towards active duty that live on-board NAS Jacksonville to give them a place to kick back and relax. Tournaments are open to active duty only and guests 18 and over may go on trips with an active-duty member and come to Liberty Cove with an active duty sponsor.



AT THE GALLEY

Meal hours	Dinner	Vegetable soup
Monday through Friday:	Salisbury steak	Salisbury steak
Breakfast 6 to 7:30 a.m.	Rice pilaf	Tossed green rice
Lunch 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Green beans	Glazed carrots
Dinner 4:30 to 6 p.m.	Chicken chow mein	Brown gravy
Saturday, Sunday and holidays:	Scalloped potatoes	
Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.	Stewed tomatoes	Dinner
Brunch 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Chicken noodle soup	Liver w/onions
Dinner 4 to 5:30 p.m.		Rice pilaf
Meal costs:	Saturday Breakfast	Steamed succotash
Breakfast \$1.50	Baked sausage links	Zesty bean soup
Brunch/Lunch \$3	Hashed brown potatoes	Creole chicken
Dinner \$3	French toast	Baked potatoes
	Omelets and eggs to order	Steamed broccoli
	Corned beef hash	Brown gravy
	Grits	
	Boiled eggs	Tuesday Breakfast
Note: The Galley menu is subject to change. The food service officer is authorized to make changes to the general mess menu to provide substitutions for food items not in stock or to permit timely use of perishable stocks.	Brunch	Cottage fried potatoes
	Baked sausage links	Texas hash
	French fries	Rolled oats
	Mixed vegetables	Grilled bacon
	Chili macaroni	Boiled eggs
	Coleslaw	Pancakes
	Old fashioned soup	Eggs and omelets to order
	Eggs to order	
	Dinner	Lunch
	Barbecue beef cubes	Braised pork chops
	Steamed noodles	Buttered noodles
	Steamed carrots	Green beans Parisienne
	Chicken mushroom soup	Mushroom gravy
	Grilled ham steaks	Swedish meatballs
	Parsley boiled potatoes	Steamed rice
	Southern style green beans	Corn O'Brien
	Pineapple sauce	Beef barley soup
	Coleslaw	
	Lunch - Fiesta Special	Dinner
	Mexican chicken	Oven fried fish
	Mixed vegetables	Lyonnais rice
	O'Brien potatoes	Vegetable supreme soup
	Beef tacos	Macaroni/cheese
	Beef fajitas	Cantonese ribs
	Refried beans	Steamed carrots
	Mexican rice	Herbed broccoli
	Beef noodle soup	
	Blueberry crisp	Wednesday Breakfast
		Home fried potatoes
	Dinner	Farina
	Swiss steak	Boiled eggs
	w/brown gravy	Eggs and omelets to order
	Rice pilaf	Grilled ham slices
	Whole kernel corn	Blueberry pancakes
	Fresh pork ham	Grilled bacon
	Egg noodles	
	Green peas w/mush-rooms	Lunch
	Tomato rice soup	Stuffed fish fillets
		Steamed broccoli
	Friday Breakfast	Minestrone soup
	Minc'd beef w/toast	Spaghetti noodles
	Hashed brown potatoes	Spaghetti w/meat sauce
	Oatmeal	Club spinach
	Boiled eggs	Garlic bread
	Grilled sausage links	Orange rice
	Pancakes	
	Omelets and eggs to order	Dinner
		Szechwan chicken
	Lunch	Pork fried rice
	Parmesan fish	Vegetable stir fry
	Lyonnais potatoes	Brown gravy
	Steamed asparagus	Stuffed peppers
	Corn chowder	Simmered egg noodles
	Ginger pot roast	Beef tomato soup
	Steamed rice	Southern fried okra
	Lima beans	
	Peanut butter cookies	
		Lunch
		Baked tuna and noodles
		Franconia potatoes
		Harvard beets

NavHOSP JAX NEWS

Understanding TRICARE's access standards is easy

From Naval Hospital Jacksonville Public Affairs

To ensure that beneficiaries who use the Department of Defense (DoD) Military Health System receive medically necessary care when they need it, DoD leadership developed access standards for TRICARE Prime enrollees. What's important is ensuring that access to care is easy, fast and cost effective/logical.

TRICARE's standards for access are easy — one day or less for urgent care, one week for routine care, one month for specialty or wellness care, 30 minutes or less in the provider's waiting room, and 30 minutes or less travel time to the primary care provider's office.

Emergency services are available and accessible within the TRICARE Prime service area 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In an emergency, TRICARE beneficiaries should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.

Access standards give TRICARE leaders a tool to measure the actual waiting and drive times beneficiaries experience and to fix problems when they occur. By measuring access to care, DoD leaders can improve customer service. Their goal is to provide beneficiaries the world's best access to health care. To ensure they receive evaluation of illness in a timely manner, TRICARE Prime enrollees have access to primary care manager services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Besides making access to care easy to track and improve, DoD leaders also realize those long waits at the provider's office squander away valuable time. That's why the standards for access also measure how fast beneficiaries receive care for non-emergency situations at the provider's office. TRICARE's goal of beneficiaries being treated within 30 minutes of their arrival at the provider's office is very ambitious compared with other health plans.

With the aid of TRICARE's health-care finders, even referrals from primary care managers are handled rapidly. If a beneficiary needs to see a specialist, the care is arranged swiftly through TRICARE's vast provider network. In some regions, the services of a health care finder are available to beneficiaries 24 hours a day, seven days a week. TRICARE's access standard for travel time to the specialty care provider's office is 60 minutes.

TRICARE's worldwide Nurse Advice Line is the logical solution to a variety of health care access needs. Sometimes, all a beneficiary wants to do is ask a question. Why wait to schedule an appointment with a provider, when a qualified health professional can answer questions over the telephone?

Another practical feature of TRICARE is the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) program. DoD offers this convenient benefit so that TRICARE beneficiaries don't have to drive to a pharmacy every month to receive drugs for chronic conditions. To use the NMOP, patients simply call Merck-Medco at 1-800-903-4680 to determine eligibility and obtain mail order envelopes with order forms. For a nominal co-payment, patients may obtain up to a 90-day supply of drugs. That's the kind of convenient access to care TRICARE leaders like to promote.

Even if a health plan is easy, fast and logical to navigate, though, problems can

occur. How leadership deals with problems is another form of health care access. For example, TRICARE provides assistance with enrollment, claims and health plan questions through the TRICARE Service Center (TSC) located at 1210 Kingsley Ave., Suite 1 in Orange Park.

TSC contractor representatives are available during regular business hours to provide information about all aspects of TRICARE's health benefits. In addition, Health Benefits Advisers (HBAs) are available to answer questions at Naval

Hospital Jacksonville and the TRICARE Customer Assistance Program (TCAP) Office located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville's Navy Exchange Complex.

And, that's all there is to understanding TRICARE's access stan-

dards. Following is a list of the categories of care with the corresponding TRICARE access standard. When reading this list, remember that a health care provider using professional standards and clinical judgment may specify more appropriate appointment guidelines, based on the needs of the patient.

Emergency — a sudden or unexpected condition or the acute worsening of a chronic condition that is threatening to life, limb or sight and that requires immediate medical treatment to relieve suffering from painful symptoms.

Under a recent TRICARE policy change, emphasis is placed on the symptoms that prompted the emergency room visit rather than the final diagnosis. This is called the Prudent Layperson Standard, which means that someone with average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect that the absence of medical attention would result in placing a person's health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part. If you experience an emergency, go directly to the nearest emergency room or dial 911.

Urgent Care — medical attention for a condition that, while not life or limb threatening, could become more serious if not treated. Examples of urgent care include eye or ear infections and suspected bladder infections. When traveling away from home, this type of care, requires the authorization of a primary care manager.

If a beneficiary is enrolled in TRICARE Prime, urgent care must be obtained at the primary care manager's office. If a beneficiary is not sure where to go for treatment, he or she may contact a health care finder by calling

1-800-333-4040 — The services of health care finders are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Urgent care is provided in one day or less.

Routine Care — is medical care for symptoms-such as colds and flu or low-back pain- for which intervention is required, but is not urgent. The maximum waiting time for routine care is one week.

Well Care — is medical care to promote health maintenance and prevention, for example, Pap tests. The maximum waiting time for well care is four weeks.

Specialty Care — is provided by a specialist in TRICARE's provider network after referral by a primary care manager. The maximum waiting time for specialty care is four weeks.

For more information on access standards, contact the hospital's Health Benefits Center by calling 542-9164 or the TRICARE Service Center at 1-800-444-5445.

A smile for Santa at kids' Christmas party



Photo courtesy of JOC Bill Austin
Eight-year-old Antonio Moore enjoys an early present from St. Nick during NAS Jacksonville Healthcare Support Office's annual Kids' Christmas Party Dec. 8.

DEERS — Keep your data current

The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) is the key to unlocking your TRICARE benefits. Make sure DEERS has your correct personal information, including your home address and names of all your family members. If your DEERS eligibility is not current, you cannot use the TRICARE program-a benefit you have earned through service to this nation.

You can update your DEERS information by calling DEERS at 1-800-538-9552. The best time to call the Telephone Center

is between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., (Pacific Time) Wednesday through Friday to avoid delays. You can also visit Naval Air Station Jacksonville's Personnel Support Activity Detachment (PSD) located in Building 789. Contact PSD by calling 542-3728.

Fax address changes to 831-655-8317 or mail the change information to:

DSO
ATTN: COA
400 Gigling Road
Seaside, CA, 93955-6771

Manatees on the move; seasonal boat-speed zones go into effect

From Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida's waters are cooling down, and manatees are beginning to move south to the warmer waters of springs and power plants.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding boaters that many Florida waterways have seasonal boat-speed zones that change this time of the year as manatee migration takes place.

According to Kipp Frohlich of the FWC's Bureau of Protected Species Management, boaters should follow four important guidelines to ensure they are doing their part to protect manatees during this period, when the marine mammals are particularly vulnerable to boat traffic. They are:

- Abide by posted boat speed zones
- Stay in marked channels
- Wear polarized sunglasses to improve vision
- Give manatees plenty of space as they rest in warm water areas

Manatees prefer water temperatures above 68 degrees F and, if exposed to colder temperatures for prolonged periods, can become sick or even die. Manatees tend to travel to the same areas each winter.

"If you boat near any of these manatee congregation spots, or in known manatee travel routes, please slow down to the appropriate speed for the area you travel," Frohlich said. "Scan the water near, or in front of, your boat for any swirls that look like huge footprints, a repetitive line of half-moon swirls, a mud trail or any breaking of the surface by a snout or a tail. If you see a manatee, give it plenty of room. The manatee may not be alone. It may have a calf or be traveling with other manatees that are close by."

Boaters who see an injured, dead, orphaned or tagged manatee, or one that is being harassed, should call FWC law enforcement officers on VHF Channel 16 or by mobile phone at *FWC. The Resource Protection



Hotline number is 1-888-404-FWCC. A law enforcement officer will assist with the rescue or recovery or provide the appropriate follow-through.

"If possible, you should stay nearby the manatee and report its location and direction of travel, but

don't interfere with its movement or try to capture it," Frohlich said. "The more information you provide, the better the chance an injured or orphaned manatee can be rescued, rehabilitated and returned to the wild to reproduce again."



Manatees are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. The Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act of 1978 designates all of Florida as a manatee sanctuary. For

more information, interested persons can write to the FWC at 620 S. Meridian St., OES-BPS, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600 or call (850) 922-4330 or visit its Web site at: www.floridaconservation.org/psm.



Photos by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Classifieds
Start on
Page 20

In Gear

A weekly look at the automotive market



The 2002 Isuzu Axiom is a crossover vehicle meant to draw people who want a truck to be more like a station wagon.

— Dan Scanlan/special

Universally accepted

Isuzu mixes station wagon with SUV to form Axiom

By Dan Scanlan
Special to Jax Air News

It looks like something out of a movie, which in fact it was. (Remember Spy Kids?)

It is also another example of how Isuzu takes some of its most outrageous concepts and makes them real life. (Take the VehiCROSS, first shown as the 1993 VX-4 concept.)

The result this time is the angled, bluntly aggressive 2002 Isuzu Axiom, a cross between a funky station wagon and macho sport-utility vehicle — a crossover vehicle meant to draw people who want a truck to be something bit more like a station wagon, yet not. This is the same company that hasn't sold a car stateside in years, opting to sell sport-utility vehicles and trucks ranging from mild (Rodeo) to wild (VehiCROSS). Now they have come a bit closer to a car-like vehicle with the Axiom, based on the squinty-eyed ZXS concept truck shown at the South Florida International Auto Show in late 1999.

The production result starts with an aggressive nose with wide-mouthed bumper and lowered air intakes, then a slim grille flanked by slitted headlights. The rest has a swept-back, streamlined look with sharp sheetmetal, edgy fender flares and creased belt-lines. The beltline under the rear windows taper to meet a gently descending roofline, ending with a blunt tail with creased rear bumper and designed back lights. The whole deep metallic Garden Green Mica vehicle rides on chiseled six-spoke alloys wearing Goodyear Integrity P235/65R17-inch radials. Fit and finish of the body and paint were good.

The high style seen outside is visible inside too, done in a dark green over tan leather and plastic with touches of chrome and pewter.

Both front bucket seats are firm and supportive, with power slide and seat back rake as well as power lumbar for the driver. But they feel a bit too low for comfort. The four-spoke tilt steering wheel is swathed in leather, offering a good view of the 120-mph speedometer, 8,000-rpm tach, gas and temperature gauges. A tall instrument stack tower trimmed in pewter plastic trim is centered on an Integrated Monitor screen with digital compass, outside temperature and digital clock with time set by a satellite link to

the U.S. Atomic Clock. Tap one of the buttons below the screen and you'll be able to access mileage, miles to empty, stopwatch and odometer. The screen also handles the radio station and climate-control readings. And if you don't know what Isuzu hopes you will do with the Axiom, the month/date/year display reads "Go Farther" first when you first fire it up. Overhead, a three-frequency HomeLink system is integrated into the auto-dim rear-view mirror, while the power moonroof has a one-touch open feature.

The eight-speaker AM-FM-CD-cassette stereo's black-button design merges with the climate-control buttons below. The stereo sounds great, and has a six-disc CD player hidden under the amply-padded center console arm rest. But the silver stereo buttons and the black climate-control buttons are so close in shape that you might change a station when you want to turn on the defroster. And the CD player reduces the under-armrest storage to nothing, while the glove box and door-map pockets are big.

A pewter-accented knob sits to the left of the steering wheel, allowing easy switching from two-wheel-drive to four-wheel-drive high or low range. And as a concession to the hard plastic center dash, Isuzu pads the sides where your knee might impact, although the vinyl inserts look cheap.

In back, you will find a split folding seat with good head and leg room for two. The cargo space behind it has 35.2 cubic feet of space with the seats in place, plus a cargo net, 12-volt outlet, four tie-down hooks and security cover. The rear hatch opens upward, but tall folks need to watch their noggins — its interior surface is less than six feet off the ground.

The Axiom's 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6 is shared with the larger Trooper, but gets breathed on to hand over 230-horsepower — 15 more than in its bigger cousin. With our 2,900-mile-old Axiom's four-speed automatic transmission, we managed to get to 60 mph in a decent 8.5 seconds with decent passing power even with three on board. It is supposed to deliver 16 mpg city/20 mpg highway. We averaged 14.5 mpg.

Since the Axiom is based on the Isuzu Rodeo's box-section ladder-type frame, it does handle a bit like a truck-based SUV, although its mostly car-like on smooth roads, helped with independent front and five-link rear suspension system. Isuzu's Intelligent

BEHIND THE WHEEL



— Dan Scanlan/staff

A tall instrument stack tower trimmed in pewter plastic trim is centered on an Integrated Monitor System screen with digital compass, outside temperature and digital clock with time set by a satellite link to the U.S. Atomic Clock.

Suspension Control system monitors vehicle speed, engine speed, cornering and shock-absorber settings and 17 different damping levels in comfort and sport settings to help brake dive, acceleration squat, and body roll. It also allows the driver to select between Sport or Comfort mode to get a firmer ride and sportier feel, or soften it for a more comfortable ride quality.

We found the comfort setting was perfect for most surfaces, while the "Sport" setting seemed to improve road feel when tackling smooth winding roads. On most roads, you couldn't tell the difference between the settings. But hit some irregular concrete, and you hear and feel some rumble off the road, especially if you are on the firmer sports suspension setting. We also found the rebound off bumps and railroad crossings very stiff when in the "Sports" setting, although the Axiom handled pretty well for an SUV in the firmer setting. Push it hard in a turn, and there is some lean and front-end understeer, with precise if a bit overboosted power steering. In some drenching rains, we appreciated the Torque-on-Demand four-wheel-drive system, which transfers up to half of the engine's torque to the front wheels if the rear wheels start spinning and made the Axiom feel very sure-footed in the wet.

When we headed off road, the TOD system could be shifted quickly into four-wheel-drive and

then very capably tackle deep sand, grass and dirt, allowing us to easily tackle steep little hills. There was good ground clearance as well as good approach and descent angles thanks to short front and rear overhangs. And when you set the suspension on the softer setting, the ride was very nice if a bit springy as it absorbed bumps. But set the suspension on "Sport," and you will really bounce, with a very springy rebound when you land.

All four-wheel-drive versions have all-wheel disc brakes and standard ABS. The brake pedal had a precise, controllable feel to it. Jam on the brakes from 60 mph, and the Axiom's nose will squat down as it stops very quickly, almost as if it's digging in its nose. It almost felt as if the rear tires left the ground! We felt only moderate fade after a few hard, fast stops.

Axioms in 2WD start at \$25,985; XS 2WD at \$28,305, 4WD at \$28,465 and our XS 4WD at \$30,785, the latter getting standard four-wheel anti-lock brakes, automatic climate control, power driver's seat, power windows/door locks/mirrors, AM/FM stereo with cassette and the armrest-mounted CD player, the 17-inch wheel and tire combination, keyless entry and rear window wiper, plus heated leather seats, power passenger seat, power moonroof with sunshade, fog lamps and chrome bodyside moldings. With destination, the manufacturer's suggest-

2002 Isuzu Axiom XS Specifications

Vehicle type	4-door, 5-passenger mid-size sport-utility vehicle
Base price	\$30,785 (As driven — \$31,330)
Engine type	DOHC, 24-valve aluminum V-6
Displacement	3.5-liter
Horsepower (net)	230 hp at 5,400 rpm
Torque (lb.-ft.)	230 at 3,000 rpm
Transmission	4-speed automatic
Wheelbase	106.4 in.
Overall length	182.6 in.
Overall width	70.7 in.
Height	67.2 in.
Front headroom	39.9 in.
Front legroom	42.1 in.
Rear headroom	39.1 in.
Rear legroom	35 in.
Cargo capacity	35.2 cubic feet/85.4 w/rear seats folded
Towing capacity	up to 4,500 lbs.
Curb weight	4,180 pounds
Fuel capacity	19.5 gallons
Mileage rating	16 mpg city/ 20 mpg highway
Last word	Wild shape, good off-road manners, big insides, but more SUV than crossover wagon

ed retail price was \$31,330.

The Axiom is set to compete against domestic competitors like the Pontiac Aztek and Buick Rendezvous as well as imports like the Lexus RX300, Toyota Highlander and Nissan Pathfinder. Built in Lafayette, Ind., 55 percent of its parts are domestic, while it costs a bit less than most of the import and some of the domestic competition. Its styling is very funky, while its interior design looks good and feels a bit plasticky, while offering lots of room, cargo space and useful equipment like a good stereo.

Those looks may turn some people on, or off, depending on what statement they want to make. The good news is the Axiom will take them off road if they want, then handle them pretty comfortably on road. But it feels more trucky than some of those afore mentioned vehicles.

Dan Scanlan is the automobile writer for The Florida Times-Union. He test-drives new vehicles on Northeast Florida's roads, averaging about 200 miles of combined highway and city traffic during a weeklong test. The test vehicles are provided by the manufacturer according to their schedule, and represent a broad spectrum of sizes and prices. The prices listed are manufacturer's suggested retail prices.

JAX SPORTS

NAS Jax falls short of flag-football title, loses to Mayport

By Bill Bonser
Special Contributor

The NAS Jax Athletics Department hosted the 2001 South Atlantic Regional Sports Flag Football Tournament Dec. 1-2. There were 10 teams representing Guantanamo Bay (GITMO) Cuba, NAF Key West (2 teams), NAS Atlanta, NSA Mid South, HM-14 Norfolk, SuBase Kings Bay (2 teams), NavSta Mayport, and NAS Jax.

Mayport won the tournament the year before and NAS Jax finished as runner-up. NAS Jax hosted the tournament in 1998 when NAS Jax defeated Mayport for the championship.

The athletic department showed the teams Southern hospitality by providing them with a free cookout at lunchtime on Saturday.

The weather couldn't have cooperated any better as the skies were clear and the temperature was in the Mid-60's.

The double elimination tournament kicked off at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 1 with Kings Bay I defeating NAF Key West Weapons 21-0 and GITMO defeating Kings Bay II 26-12. NAS Jax demolished its first two opponent's NAS Atlanta, 46-8 and GITMO, 55-7. By winning both games, NAS Jax was guaranteed a third-place finish.

In order for NAS Jax to make it to the championship game, it had to face its nemesis and defending champions Mayport. Mayport advanced to the winners bracket finals by recording defeats over NAF Key West 25-6 and Kings Bay I 30-6. The showdown



Mike Gorman, NAS Jax MWR athletic director, presents the championship trophy to Reginald Alexander, NavSta Mayport coach.

between NAS Jax and Mayport was going to be a great one as both teams were scoring points and playing great defense.

The winners bracket final game started at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 2 and NAS Jax drew first blood to take a 7-0 lead. Mayport responded with a catch and long run for a touchdown as one of the NAS Jax defenders went for the interception on the play. Mayport's pass for the point-after attempt was knocked to the ground and NAS Jax held on to a 7-6 lead. NAS Jax had a slim 13-12 lead at half time. The game remained tight in the second half, but Mayport scored a touchdown late in the game to take a 30-26 lead and NAS Jax could not respond in time.

NAS Jax had to play Kings Bay I immediately after, losing to Mayport. Kings Bay I was also playing its second consecutive game after defeating NAF Key West, 24-19. The winner of this game would wind up in the championship against Mayport and the loser would go home with third place. NAS Jax proved to be stronger as it easily defeated



ABOVE: Carlton Sells (No. 50) hauls in a pass and heads up field while NAS Jax defender Kenny Whitlow closes in on him.

Photos by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay



RIGHT: NavSta Mayport's Coty Colbert stretches the ball out to get a first down.

Kings Bay I 31-7 to get another shot at Mayport.

Mayport was in the driver's seat because it had a game in between rest and it would have to be beaten twice by NAS Jax. On

the other hand, NAS Jax was playing its third consecutive game of the day and taking on a very formidable Mayport squad. The game remained close in the first half as Mayport held onto a 13-6 lead. Mayport's defense put

the clamps on shutting out NAS Jax in the second half and Mayport's precision passing attack racked up 19 points to win the 2001 South Atlantic Regional Sports Flag Football Tournament, 32-6.

VP-16's Geico Chiefs surprise winner of 2001 Open Softball Championship

By Bill Bonser
MWR Sports Coordinator

For the first time in many years, the Geico Chiefs won the Open Softball League with a 12-2 record. The Chiefs have been around since the inception of the league and have been a mainstay in keeping the league alive.

Backwater and Beef O' Brady's tied for second in the league with a 10-4 record. The competition for the fall league was better than the spring league with four strong teams. There were seven teams heading into the playoffs with the Geico Chiefs earning a bye in the first round for winning the league.

The surprises of the playoffs were VP-16 (No. 6 seed) and the C.B.s (No. 3 seed).

VP-16 (No. 6 seed) stunned (No. 3 seed) Beef O' Brady's in the first round with a 14-12 victory and then handed Backwater (No. 2 seed) a 23-8 loss.

In another surprise, the C.B.s (No. 4 seed) knocked off (No. 1 seed) Geico Chiefs 15-13 to set up a showdown with VP-16 to see who would go to the championship game. After a long



VP-16, 2001 Open Softball Champions



C.B.s, 2001 Open Fall Softball runners-up

hard battle, VP-16 won the hard-fought game 26-25.

In the losers bracket, the Geico Chiefs defeated Beef O' Brady's 16-4 and the VP-30 Students 21-9 to set up

a rematch with the C.B.s. The C.B.s proved that their first matchup was no fluke as they once again defeated the Geico Chiefs 20-9 to set up a rematch with VP-16



VP-16's Ken Duncan gets the sure out at second during the Open Fall Softball Championship game.

for the championship.

The showdown for the championship was set up by introductions of the lineups for both teams and the field was decked out with the names of the teams above the on deck circles. Both teams were feeling the effects of the butterflies in the first inning as the C.B.s took a 1-0 lead. VP-16's Ken Duncan hit a two-run homer in the second inning to give VP-16 a 2-1 lead.

The C.B.s broke out their sticks in the third inning with four consecutive home runs by Randy Parker, Duane Roberts, John Evanchik, and Matt Nunley to take a 5-2 lead.

The C.B.s had an 8-2 lead going into the bottom of the sixth inning and seemed to have things pretty well in hand. However, VP-16 put on their rally caps and stormed back with a three-run homer by Shannon

Lawson and Sean Bartlett added a two-run shot to cap off a big 11-run inning.

VP-16 took a 13-8 lead into the seventh inning. The C.B.s could only muster one run and VP-16 won the 2001 Open Fall Softball Championship 13-9.

This was the first time in eight seasons that a command team has won the Open Softball Championship.

JAX SPORTS

4 on 4 Flag Football League forming

The 4 on 4 Flag Football Intramural League is open to all NAS Jax active duty commands and personnel. Rosters are due Jan. 4 and the season is scheduled to begin week of Jan. 14. Games will be played evenings under lights. All interested personnel should contact the Athletic Department to join.

Water Polo continues

The Water Polo Program at the Indoor Pool is returning from its holiday break with new times. Beginning Jan. 8, interested participants can meet at poolside for drills and scrimmages on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7 p.m.

Sports officials and scorekeepers needed

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

Men's Varsity Basketball Coach wanted

The NAS Jax Athletic Department is looking for an experienced military or civilian individual who would like to coach the Men's Varsity Basketball Team. The team represents NAS Jax in military and community tournaments in the Southeast region. Interested personnel should contact the NAS Jax Athletic Department.

Basketball, racquetball courts closed

The basketball court will be closed for resurfacing Dec. 17-23. The racquetball courts will be closed also because access can only be gained through the basketball court. Thank you for your cooperation while we keep the basketball court floor in top condition.

Navy Southeast Regional Running and Triathlon Team

Are you a competition runner? Want to represent the U.S. Navy in 5k, 10k, marathons, and/or triathlons? U.S. Navy will showcase elite active duty men and women in regional races. Uniforms will be 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 the top ten 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 3 Hours, 30 Min.	Women 4 Hours
Triathlon	Men 2 Hours, 30 Min.	Women 3 Hours
Triathlon time based on 1.5k swim, 10k run, 40k bike.		

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

Intramural Basketball League Standings

Team	Wins	Losses	Percent
TPU	7	1	.875
VP-45	6	2	.750
VP-30	6	2	.750
BMC	5	3	.625
AIMD	4	4	.500
FACSFac	3	5	.375
VP-16	3	5	.375
VS-22	1	7	.125
Blount Island	1	7	.125

NAS Jax Food Locker helps during holidays

By JO3 Jackey Bratt
Staff writer

The NAS Jax Food locker operates off support and donations received from others who desire to help Sailors and their families maintain a healthy meal during hard times. During the holiday season, there is a bigger need for shipmates to help one another.

"Everyone in the Navy, whether active or retired, has had times when unexpected emergencies may arise," said Lt. Cmdr. Wayne Hatman, NAS deputy chaplain, "This program can assist by supplementing with food when those points of need arise."

Before the holiday season, commands screen their servicemembers to find who needs help.

Once screened, commands will give a list to the NAS Jax Food Locker organizers. The locker will then make holiday baskets to give to the needy servicemembers and their family during Christmas.

This year, the food locker had a very successful Thanksgiving.

"I can't thank everyone enough for the highly successful Thanksgiving," stated ENC (SW) Jeff Wilke, NAS Jax emergency food locker organizer.

The locker was able to help more than 176 military families, which totals more than 537 service members and military family members.

"The Food locker has received tremendous support from many sources throughout the base such as, the base Chapel, Chief Petty Officer's Association (CPO), Commissary, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Navy Wives Association, Navy Band SE, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), Sea Control Squadron (VS) 22, the Officer's Association, Weapons, Naval Aviation Depot (NADEP), Veterans Services, Retired CPO wives, and Patrol Squadron (VP) 16." Wilke concluded.

The number of families the locker can help is dictated by the amount of support it receives.

For a servicemember and their family to receive food from the NAS Jax Food Locker during the non-holiday season, their command and the Navy Marine Corp Relief Society must screen them.

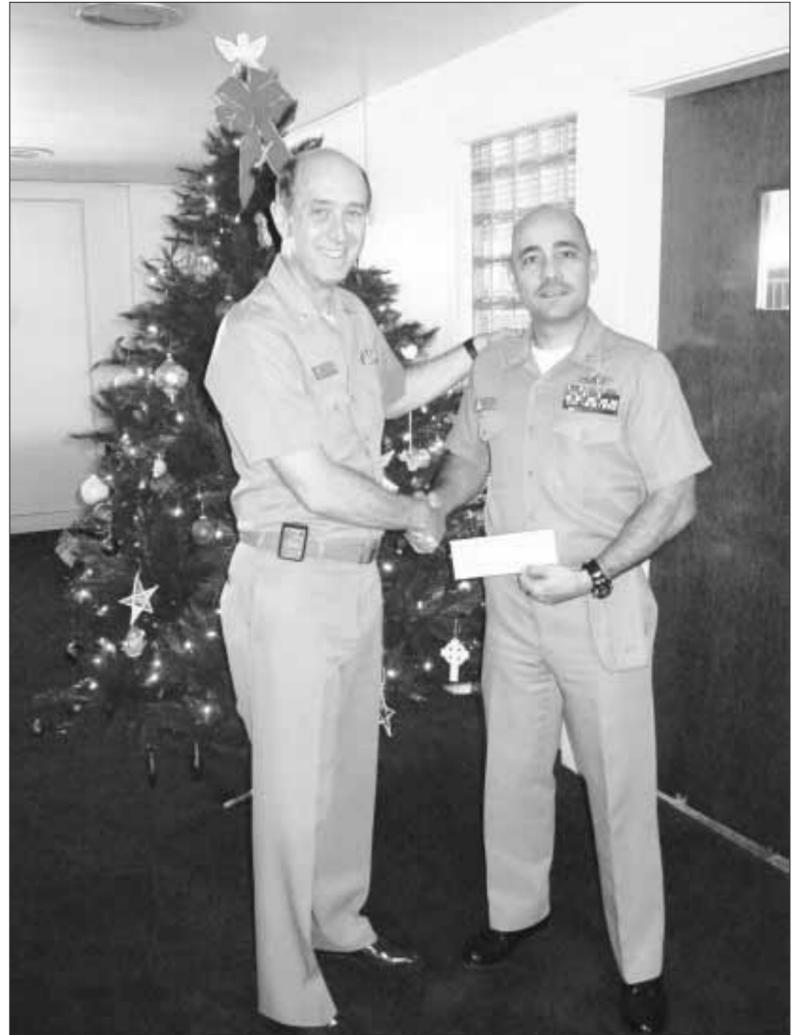


Photo by JO3 Jackey Bratt

Chaplain Wayne Hatman, NAS deputy chaplain, presents a check to ENC (SW) Jeff Wilke, NAS Jax Food locker organizer, for a \$5,850 yearly donation from the base chapel to the NAS food basket program.

Once screened and approved for help, Sailors and their families can come to the locker to receive food.

Donations and pick-ups are conducted Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the NAS Jax Welcome Center (Bldg. 590, 2nd floor).

For more information contact the NAS Jax Food Locker at 542-3918.