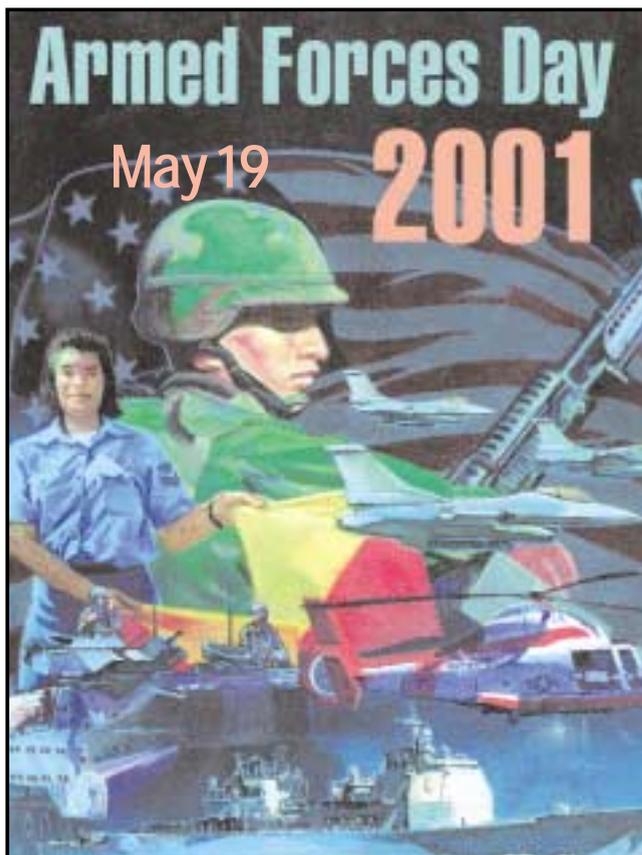


JAX AIR NEWS

Vol. 59 • No. 18

NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

May 17, 2001



Armed Forces Week 2001 message from the President

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks during Armed Forces Week to the brave men and women who protect our Nation.

During the past several months, I have been privileged to witness personally the depth of your dedication and the strength of your character. The professional manner in which you conduct your duties, your can-do spirit and your sense of patriotism all reflect the fact that our Armed Forces are second to none in the world.

In a world of both existing and emerging threats, you provide a strong and steady defense. Because of you,

America is a secure nation where our citizens can hope, dream, and live their lives in freedom.

My office holds no greater honor than to serve as your Commander in Chief. On behalf of all Americans this Armed Forces Week, I salute you for the tremendous contributions you make to our Nation's defense. You are guardians of peace and liberty and have the thanks of a grateful Nation.

May God bless you all.

George W. Bush

'Scout Blast' 2001 set for launch at NAS Jacksonville

By Rick Crews
NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs

Hundreds of Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will have a "Blast," starting this Saturday, during the 21st annual NAS Jacksonville Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast.

The 2001 event includes a two-night campout for area Scouts, as well as a base "open house" for the local Jacksonville community.

Activities begin with a parade at 9:30 a.m. The parade includes the NAS Jacksonville Color Guard, NAS Jacksonville Fire Department, Shriners, a Marine Corps amphibious assault vehicle, as well as scouts from many North Florida counties. The parade route runs from the Cub Scout camping area, down Gillis Street, across Yorktown Avenue to Patrol Squadron (VP) 30's aircraft hangar flight line. The opening ceremonies will be held there at 10 a.m.

Exciting events include:

- Aerial demonstrations

- Remote controlled car racing and radio controlled airplanes
- A civilian aircraft performing a "banner snatch"
- Bucket truck rides
- Navy Band Southeast featuring the Navy Rock Band "Pride"
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office SWAT team demonstration
- Rock Climbing
- Skateboard and roller blade demonstration
- Pinewood Derby
- Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Canine Unit
- Nearly 150 booths with Scouting exhibits and more.

For more information, go to the Internet at www.nasjax.navy.mil and click on "Armed Forces Day/Scout Blast."

Gates open to the public at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 19. The events run until 4 p.m. No coolers please.

Bring your lawn chairs, cameras, and excitement and have a blast ... at Scout Blast.



The USS Harry S. Truman Battle Group along with CVW8 steam home. The Truman and its air wing, including NAS Jacksonville squadrons Sea Control Squadron (VS) 22 and Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 7, are scheduled to return May 22 and 23. See Truman on page 4.

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

Meet a Sailor... GSM3(SW) Roy Dyson III



Job Title: Gas turbine tech at TPU Jax.
Past Duty Stations: USS Gonzalez (DDG-66).
Hobbies: Reading, basketball, and building small projects.
Family Life: Wife, Dania L. Hampton; daughter, Lakoya and son Luquann R. Dyson.
Career plans: work on degree for business administration. Complete naval career as E-7 or above.

Most Interesting Experiences: when I found out my wife was pregnant with my first child.

Words of Wisdom: "The mind is like a garden, no matter what it will produce. So cultivate and be careful what you plant in it."

Meet a Civilian... Dina K. Auger



Job Title: Management Assistant/ Fleet and Family Support Center.
Hometown: Vacaville, Calif.
Past Duty Stations: NAMTraU Jacksonville, Fla., HC-2 at Norfolk, Va., VP-24 at NAS Jax, VX-1 at Patuxent River, Md.
Family Life: Married to Officer Candidate Stacey Auger. We have a 3-year-old daughter, Rieley and we're expecting a son around May 24.

Career plans: Once my husband is commissioned, be a full time mom until both children are in school, then return to school myself.

Most Interesting Experience: Serving 11 1/2 years in the Navy and traveling the world.

Words of Wisdom: "Always remember and never forget. Wherever you go, there you are! Live life to its fullest."

Armed Forces Day Message from the Secretary of Defense



Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense

Each year America sets aside a day to commemorate the devotion of our men and women in uniform — the certain foundation of the liberties and peace that we have enjoyed throughout the history of our nation. Yours is a calling distinct and unique, for you voluntarily put your lives at risk defending the freedoms we hold dear. Indeed, in peacetime or in war, as you work to keep us safe, you assume risks many will never know. And wherever it is that you serve — in any sky, on any ocean, on any shore — your dedication to our nation's ideal of "peace through strength" is a source of hope and inspiration for liberty-loving people around the globe.

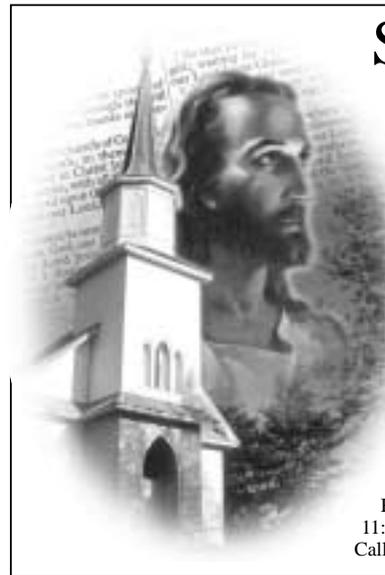
In his Inauguration Address, President George W. Bush spoke about civility,

courage and character — qualities that make this nation special — and he reminded Americans that the strength that matters most is not the strength of arms, but the strength of character expressed in service to something larger than ourselves. This strength of character infuses you, our military men and women, and, as such, you are this nation's ultimate safeguard and blessing.

On this Armed Forces Day, the American people join me in expressing our deep gratitude to you — patriots who embody the noble spirit of service and sacrifice as you preserve the blessings of our freedom every day. We thank you, and we are enormously proud of your faithful and selfless service.

Donald H. Rumsfeld,
Secretary of Defense

Summer Spiritual Journey



Have you ever asked, "If God is loving, why does He allow ...?"

Join us on a journey May 15 - July 24 as we explore a 10-week study from God's Word why bad things seem to happen to good people.

Guest speakers May 15 will tell their story; Precept Kids class provided 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 Bldg. 749.
Call the Chapel at 542-3051.

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

CREDO

JAX AIR NEWS

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 Public Affairs Officer Charles P. "Pat" Dooling
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Strays aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville pose health risks

By JO2 Mike Jones

Assistant Editor

Many military families wouldn't consider themselves complete without the addition of a family pet. However, many pets are simply abandoned by their owners when it comes time to move. The results of such negligence have become apparent aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

According to Christine Bauer, NAS Jacksonville natural resources manager, there are now about 200 animals that once received food and shelter from military families here. They now have to fight for survival among other wildlife living on base. "The base is also home to a large population of raccoons because we're right on the river," Bauer said. "Since the cats and raccoons visit the same feeding stations, there's a lot of interaction between the

animals."

The biggest food sources for the cats and raccoons on base are open garbage bins and overflowing receptacles, Bauer said. "Pretty much the working areas of the base are where most of the cats can be found," she said.

Because raccoons are notorious for carrying rabies, the interaction with the stray cats makes the transfer of the disease much more possible Bauer said. "They can get into fights, and rabies is spread by saliva." Recently, there have been three reported cases of cats with rabies in Duval County Bauer said.

Humans aren't the only ones facing the threat of disease from strays, she said. "The threat of (spreading) feline leukemia also exists," she said. "In a place like this where we have a lot of wild animals, the cats can spread feline leukemia to other animals."

If residents notice a strong urine order

under their building, Bauer said there's a good chance that stray cats are in the area. An identification process is under consideration to determine the difference between a stray cat and a pet that just happened to get out of the house Bauer said.

If a resident should come across a stray cat, they should call the authorities Bauer said. "They should call the housing office or the facilities department, and they would then notify Pest Masters, the contracted agency used to remove stray cats from the base." The animals are then turned over to the Jacksonville Humane Society, she said.

Ultimately, pet-owner responsibility is key to controlling the stray cat population, Bauer said. "Families moving into base housing are required to check in their animals with the veterinarian clinic," she said. An additional check-out procedure for pets is also being con-

sidered to reduce the chances of abandonment. "'My pet ran away' won't be an acceptable answer for members checking out," Bauer said. "If a pet has run away, the base resident should immediately call the housing office or base security and notify them of the missing animal. Pest Masters would then also be notified to be on the lookout for the pet," she said. A base instruction is currently under development to clarify all procedures regarding pets aboard NAS Jacksonville Bauer said.

"This (abandonment) is not an ideal existence for these cats," Bauer said. "If people can't assume responsibility for their animals, they should, at the very least, contact the humane society for further assistance."

For more information, call NAS Jacksonville Facilities and Environmental Department at 542-2717.



Lt. Cmdr. Scott Swinson displays a signed print by artist Barry Barnett that was among the raffle drawing prizes.

Region raises \$228,000 for NMCRS

By Jeff Hilton

Staff

The 2001 Navy Marine Corps Relief Fund Drive for Navy Region Southeast raised more than \$228,700 - 121 percent of its goal.

The bulk of the total, more than \$190,000, was raised by commands aboard NAS Jacksonville.

Lt. Thomas Santa with Navy Hospital Jacksonville led efforts that collected a campaign high \$24,709.50.

Naval Base Guantanamo Bay raised \$23,200 under the leadership of Lt. Donna Sporer.

Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command achieved

384 percent of goal to lead more than 75 percent of 62 participating activities in reaching their goals.

Fourteen activities attained more than 200 percent of goal while six made more than 300 percent of goal.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals were awarded to the following Sailors for their superior support during the campaign:

ACC Jeff Brown, NAS Key West; IT1 Willie Fleming III, Military Entrance Processing Station; HM2 Kevin Francis, Blount Island Command; Lt. Paul Jensen, VP-5; IT2 Patrick King, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station; EM2 Jose Lemus, Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 207; Lt. Thomas

Santa, Naval Hospital Jacksonville; Lt. Donna Sporer, Naval Base Guantanamo Bay; Lt. j.g. Terry Wise, VS-31; Lt. Eric Young, HS-7.

Lt. Cmdr. Michael Holifield with Navy Legal Service Office and Lt. Michael Harbison with VP-45 both won Jaguar season tickets in the raffle drawing.

ET1 Jonathan Crum with Commander Sea Control Wing Atlantic won two signed prints by artist Barry Barnett. AG2 Anjail Weaver with Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Facility also won a print signed by Barnett as part of the raffle drawing.

VP-30 is hosting a golf tournament June 15 with proceeds to be added to the current total.

Jacksonville Chamber Military Appreciation Luncheon is May 30

The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce is holding its Military Appreciation Luncheon May 30 in the ballroom of the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch begins at noon. The featured guest speaker will be Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark.

Tickets cost \$15 and may be purchased at Commander Navy Region Southeast RCMC Office (542-2403) and the NAS Jacksonville (542-2934) and Naval Station Mayport (270-5688) CMC Offices.

Savings Bonds: A great investment

From the Chief of Naval Operations

The Department of the Navy strongly supports the United States Savings Bonds Program.

There are about 55 million owners of U.S. Savings Bonds, with more than one million people purchasing bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan.

Savings Bonds are a great balance to any financial portfolio because of their high confidence factor and ready access.

The longer you let your bonds grow, the greater the benefit. Savings Bonds can be redeemed anytime after six months. However, if redeemed before five years, there is a three month loss of interest.

The purchase of Savings Bonds through the Payroll Savings Plan is en-

couraged. This supports the program's two themes, "Pay Yourself First," and "Making Dreams a Reality."

Give The Gift That Grows

Creating a New Century of Savings

U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

For complete information about U.S. Savings Bonds, visit our Web site at www.savingsbonds.gov.

Stand For Children

Navy members and their families are encouraged to join the "Stand for Children Day" event taking place on June 2 in downtown Jacksonville.

Show your support for "Stand for Children," by taking part in a walk beginning in downtown Jacksonville. The walk begins at 8 a.m. at the Treaty Oak in Jessie Ball DuPont Park on Prudential Drive. Festivities include remarks by Capt. Mark S. Boensel, NAS Jacksonville commanding officer and several Navy displays.

For more information contact Diane Parker, NAS Jacksonville FFSC at 542-2766, ext. 30 or MMCS(SW) Arden Battle, NAS Jacksonville Safety at 542-3082.

Truman heads for home

USS HARRY S. TRUMAN, At Sea (NWS) — USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) completed its northbound transit of the Suez Canal May 3, marking the end of its mission to the Middle East.

The transit to the Suez began shortly after an S-3B Viking touched down on HST's flight deck April 27, heralding the end of the battle group's support of Operation Southern Watch. The Suez Canal transit also marked the end of the longest period of time a U.S. aircraft carrier battle group has operated in the Arabian Gulf.

"Your four-month stay coincided with a period of high security threats from terrorism as well as increasingly political tension throughout the region," said U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait James A. Larocco in a message to the battle group. "Make no mistake: the vigilance and readiness of our forces in the region, with you as the key component of this presence, has ensured that peace and stability is maintained in this area so vital to U.S. national security interests."

While operating in the Persian Gulf, the USS Truman Carrier Battle Group enforced United Nations sanctions on Iraq by diverting 22 vessels with cargoes worth more than \$5 million and reduced the number of potential smugglers significantly. Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3 aircraft provided more than 70 percent of strike aircraft enforcing the "No Fly Zone" over Southern Iraq and participated in four strikes against Iraqi forces threatening coalition aircraft in the region. The air wing flew 869 sorties, totaling more than 2,700 flight hours during 55 fly days in sup-

port of Operation Southern Watch. NAS Jacksonville-based CVW-3 squadrons include Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 7 and Sea Control Squadron (VS) 22.

"It has left a legacy in excellence in accomplishing mission at hand, flexibility and teamwork," said CVW 3 commander Capt. Joe Kilkenny. "I think our preparation prior to coming out here helped a lot. The pilots had an opportunity to fly with the weaponry so they felt comfortable with it."

According to Kilkenny, that familiarity paid off as every piece of ordnance dropped during the strikes against Iraqi forces landed within the parameters of the mission.

The air wing and battle group also participated in several exercises designed to increase interoperability with key allies in the region including Arabian Gauntlet, an exercise involving 11 nations and 22 ships. According to 5th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. Charles W. Moore, the battle group's performance not only maintained peace in the region but also influenced the attitude of nations.

"The Iranians have been watching you and have been impressed with your strength, power, commitment and professionalism," he said in a televised broadcast to HST's crewmembers. "I think you've helped contribute to the shaping of Iranian thinking to a strategy of cooperation instead of confrontation."

The HST Battle Group will visit two liberty ports in the Mediterranean Sea before returning to their homeport in Norfolk, Va., in late May.

Jax salutes the Armed Forces

Starry Nights salute Armed Forces

In honor of Armed Forces Day (May 19), the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra will fill the air with an evening of patriotic music at Metropolitan Park. Music Director Fabio Mechetti will take the podium in "Rockets' Red Glare" at Starry Nights at the Met, Friday, May 19.

"Rockets' Red Glare" includes popular and classical selections such as The Star-Spangled Banner, and features music from South Pacific, Strike Up The Band and Miss Saigon, along with the Armed Forces Salute, America the Beautiful and Aaron Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man.

The finale, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, will end the concert with live cannon and fireworks.

The gates open at 6 p.m. Concert starts at 8:15 p.m.) To charge tickets call Jacksonville Symphony Patron Services at (904) 354-5547; Toll-free:

(877) 662-6731. Lawn tickets are also available through Ticketmaster at (904) 353-3309. Tickets are available on base at the NAS Jacksonville ITT.

Church, City Council members to honor service members

In honor of the men and women who have served and are serving in our Armed Forces, the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church along with the city council members of Jacksonville, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach, and Atlantic Beach will host a special ceremony May 27, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

All veterans, active duty, retired and reservists are invited to participate. A reception will be held in the A.B. Coleman Hall following the morning service. For further information contact Paulette Turner at 353-8829 ext. 28. Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church is located at 1118 West Beaver Street, downtown at Beaver and I-95.

Home care providers honored, more needed

By Jeff Hilton
Staff Writer

Home care providers affiliated with the NAS Jacksonville Child Development Center (CDC) were honored banquet guests May 10 at an Orange Park restaurant.

Child Development Center Home Director Kathy Yarbrough planned the event in conjunction with National Provider Appreciation Day May 11.

Yarbrough oversees 38 home care providers caring for more than 100 children from four weeks to five years old whose parents work aboard the air station. Home care is an expansion of CDC,

which has operated at its capacity of about 250 children for the past five years. The center maintains a wait list averaging two to 12 month based on a child's age.

"That's why we opened the homes," Yarbrough said. Even with the home provider help, she estimates CDC is almost 100 slots short of meeting the current needs of parents seeking its services. This means parents authorized CDC care for their youngsters must use commercial or private daycare that often charge more than CDC does.

CDC home care operates within a 25-mile radius of NAS Jacksonville. Yarbrough has providers in Argyle, Middleburg, Orange Park and the West Side as well as on base. "I really want people to know we are out there. These girls (providers) have openings... We could use some in Mandarin and Julington Creek," she said, "infants and pretods are our main needs."

Another plus of CDC home care is its potential 24 x 7 availability often

needed by military parents. While not all home care providers offer night, weekend or shift-related care, some do. Even the center is a Monday through Friday service operating about 12 hours daily.

In addition to receiving training, providers must have local and national police checks plus reviews by the Family Service Center before receiving the CDC's endorsement. Yarbrough said, "It takes about 30 days to get certified because of all the clearances we have to run through."

Home care sizes are limited to six children including the provider's children. Recognizing the greater care infants require, only three infants may be enrolled at one home. Mixed age ranges are common in home care but enrollment size is governed by law.

While providing childcare is CDC's charter, Yarbrough emphasizes it is parents who are responsible for arranging it. That mean's finding providers and budgeting for care before it is needed. "You have to plan for it," she said adding that some new parents have arrived at CDC with no knowledge of the waiting list to enroll children. More than once Yarbrough or other CDC staffers have heard, "I assumed there was childcare, or I thought you would take my child."

Home care providers are paid by their client's based on a sliding scale based on a Sailor's income level and age of the child. Yarbrough said CDC will subsidize the difference between a provider receives from a parent and a set rate based on the child's age.

To help reduce the amount of no-notice requests for their services, CDC has a Parent Advisory Group comprised of command representatives.

Yarbrough has nine future home care providers enrolled in a week-long training course starting May 21. To sign up, call 542-5381/5434.



Child Development Center home care provider Mazola Crews, (left) helps Shalimar Barbosa, 2, and Odessa Chandler, 5, make Mother's Day greeting cards.

Prelude to Midway - Part II

Coral Sea vets recall life, combat aboard Lady Lex



U.S. Navy photo

USS Lexington, seen from USS Yorktown (CV-5), preparing to launch a strike on Japanese carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku early on May 8, 1942.

By Jeff Hilton
Staff Writer

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

Coral Sea blunted Japanese plans to invade Australia as well as their strategy to own the Pacific.

By early May, Lexington, part of Task Force 17 along with USS Yorktown (CV-5), comprised the offensive power of a combined U.S. and Australian force charged with stopping Japanese plans to occupy Port Moresby, New Guinea and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Japanese occupation of Port Moresby and Guadalcanal, would seriously hinder Allied efforts to use Australia as a launch pad to fulfill Gen. Douglas MacArthur's "I shall return," pledge. The next few days would be decisive. The carriers were expected to throw the first punches.

On May 7, six months since the Pearl Harbor attack, morale was up throughout the Task Force. The now famous, "Scratch one flattop," message from a Lexington pilot conveyed news the Japanese light carrier Shoho had been sunk.

That same day, Fred Hartson flew inner air patrol, part of the submarine defense line, about 20 miles from the ship.

After dark, about two dozen Japanese planes started landing approaches on Lexington and Yorktown assuming the carriers were theirs.

Several ships took the bandits under

fire. The mistaken pilots realized their error and quickly left. Most ran out of fuel before finding their own fleet.

Early Friday morning, Lexington and Yorktown launched strikes on the Japanese carriers Shokaku and Zuikaku.

About 11 a.m. the Japanese attacked Lexington and Yorktown with dozens of dive and torpedo bombers. Initially, aggressive maneuvering and Japanese torpedoes that ran too deep spared the big ship.

Skill and luck have limits. Soon one torpedo hit her port side followed quickly by another, also to port. Within minutes Lexington had absorbed three bombs as well.

Melvin Bell was on the flight deck. He recalls little of the raid. "I heard nothing about GQ (General Quarters)... I saw some planes coming out of the clouds... I remember seeing the planes when they made the torpedo attack."

Wood Richmond was below decks when Lexington took a torpedo. "I got some bruised ribs from that," he said of the bouncing he experienced. He quickly headed for a ladder to take him topside but spent the next 20 minutes in an ad hoc ammo passing detail standing on a ladder just a few feet under the flight deck. He didn't get to see the attack. "I was too scared to be scared," he said of events that day.

Hartson was not in the rotation to fly May 8. His plane was looking for enemy carriers. He did not like the idea of being below decks during an attack. He preferred to take his chances on the flight deck. "I had a front row seat," he said.

"When the first torpedo hit I was down on the sponson near the LSO (Landing Signals Officer). The water

See Coral Sea: Vets recall, page 7

Coral Sea: Vets recall

Continued from page 6

came all over the flight deck," Hartson said "that ship just left the water."

As much as he favored seeing the attacking aircraft over sitting in a buttoned-up compartment below, his decision almost got him killed.

Hartson said unless they were fixing, flying, fueling or rearming aircraft, most of the air group did not have assigned battle stations. "That plane was your GQ station. If the plane is flying, you looked for where you could help."

The new plane captain was headed up the port side to help a 5-inch gun crew when a bomb hit the mount just yards away from him. The bomb detonated much of the ammunition around the crew, killing most of them instantly. The explosion sent Hartson tumbling nearly the width of the ship's 106-foot flight deck. Not only did he collect shrapnel from the blast and dozens of splinters from the teakwood deck, the back of his shirt was blown off. His pants were shredded. Like many others that day, he had just qualified for the Purple Heart.

Despite taking at least two torpedoes and several bombs during the 20-minute attack, the ship's crew had the bulk of flooding and fire contained by noon.

The carrier was soon on an even keel making 25 knots and able to recover her Air Group returning from their successful morning strike that severely damaged Shokaku.

Talk among the crew after their baptism by fire focused on the Lexington heading for repairs, if not on the state-side, possibly in Australia.

Just before 1 p.m. hope for a safe return quickly faded after a series of hull-shaking explosions knocked out power again. Now fires, fed by aviation gas vapors, began to spread. Damage control teams could not contain the flames. Without power to drain flooded compartments and pump firefighting water, the ship would burn out of control. As the fire spread, more explosions rocked the ship. The crew reported heat so intense that bulkheads covered with layers of paint were blistering. It wasn't long before fires posed a hazard to ammunition, bombs and torpedoes stored around the ship.

The ship's crew gradually lost the ability to fight fires. Soon many Sailors who could only wait for the inevitable abandon ship order gathered on the flight deck to escape the heat and smoke.

Late in the afternoon, some industrious Sailors raided the ship's store. Soon they were eating ice cream on the flight deck - using their helmets as bowls. Bell and Richmond both found the ice cream a

pleasant distraction from the inferno consuming their ship. "The ice cream tasted pretty good," Richmond remembers.

Just after 5 p.m. the order came to abandon ship. To wait longer would have surely been disastrous. Temperatures of torpedoes in the hangar had reached 140 degrees. The ship was beyond saving.

Bell and Richmond went over the port side, Hartson the starboard.

Before leaving the flight deck, Bell and many others staged their boots neatly on the deck's edge. Despite drifting smoke, escort ships maneuvered abreast the bridge and began to transfer wounded crewmen.

Boats from the escorts were circling nearby by to ferry the crew to safety.

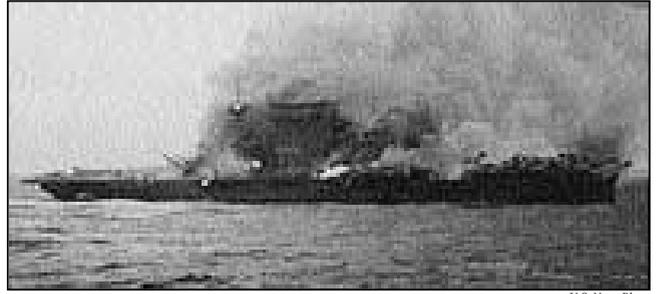
"I remember going down a rope... slowly," Bell said, "you could only go as fast as the guy below you. There were eight to 10 people on the line at the same time. We all had lifejackets on... We were all sure we were going to survive."

Bell thinks he spent no more than an hour in the water before being picked up.

Following his skipper's orders, Hartson pulled the three-man, inflatable life raft from his "Devastator" and headed to the starboard edge of the flight deck. His skipper's plan required squadron aircrews to leave the ship with their aircraft life rafts to free up space in other rafts and boats.

Plans don't always come together even when the skipper gives the order.

As soon as the raft hit the sea Hartson saw it "claimed" by others below. Now he would have to dog paddle. "As I was climbing down the rope I remembered thinking, 'What about the screws?'" Even though the engines were secured he wondered if the screws that propelled the ship would begin turning. He pondered this while working his way



U.S. Navy Photo

Carrier in distress - Lexington burns late in the afternoon of May 8, 1942.

down the rope only to find himself standing on the partially exposed blade of the starboard outboard screw just as he reached the water. Now Hartson had to see if he could swim.

Without power, Lexington was subject to the prevailing winds and current.

Dog paddle toward rescue boats as he might, Hartson discovered the ship continued drifting toward him. He knew he would have to get upwind of his ship. Soon he was dog paddling along the starboard torpedo blister and alternately pulling himself hand over hand along the slippery blister. He continued this until he reached the bow. "I was pooped... my legs straddled the bow." He stayed there until a passing boat crew pulled him aboard.

For reasons he can't remember, Rich-

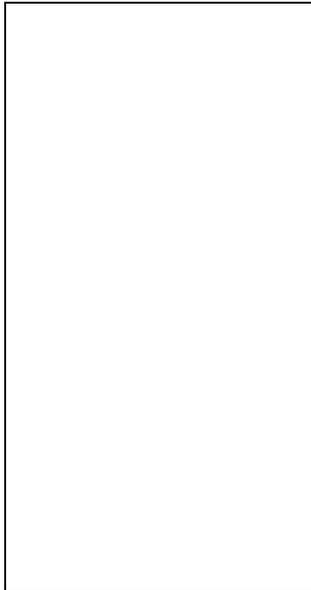
mond kept his boots on as he left the ship down a long, knotted line. "I was doing pretty good until the guy above me burned his hands and let go. He sent me about five feet into the water."

The apprentice mechanic spent, "about 30 minutes in the water... the Morris (DD-417) picked me up."

Without the vapor fed fires and explosions, some say Lexington could have been saved. Damage from the attack alone had not sunk her.

After the crew was safely aboard rescue ships, Task Force 17 withdrew leaving USS Phelps (DD 360) behind for the joyless task of doing what the Japanese had not - sinking the big carrier. Phelps put three torpedoes in Lexington's

See Coral Sea: Vets recall, page 8



Coral Sea: Vets recall

Continued from page 7

starboard side. They did not finish the job. The destroyer sent two more into the carrier's port side. Just after sunset, Lexington settled on an even keel, with her battle pennants flying.

Lady Lex did not go quietly into her darkest night. While sliding to her



U.S. Navy Photo

Fred Hartson believes the aircraft being blown off Lexington's flight deck is his TBD "Devastator."

grave, almost three miles below, the giant vessel was shaken a massive explosion that was felt by Task Force 17 Sailors who were now 20 miles away.

Lexington started her final Friday with a crew of 2,951. After the extreme punishment she endured in the attack and from subsequent explosions and fires, just 137 Sailors and Marines were killed. Another 85 were wounded. Amazingly small losses compared to what the Japanese would experience aboard four carriers at Midway.

The Bell brothers, Hartson and Richmond were soon ashore in Tongatabu, in the New Hebrides.

Because of his injuries, Hartson was sent for treatment in Auckland, N.Z. before reporting to Nandi, Fiji.

The Bell brothers and Richmond were soon bound for San Diego on the troop ship Barnett.

Wartime security measures had precluded announcing Navy losses at Coral Sea immediately after the battle. Almost a month after Lexington was scuttled, the Barnett reached San Diego. Frank, with Melvin in tow, returned to his home not far from the naval station. Upon seeing her husband and brother-in-law, Melvin recalls Frank's wife said, "I didn't know the Lexington was back."

Melvin said, "Frank replied, 'It won't be.'"

These Air Group Two Sailors made it through the rest of the war without hav-

ing to tread water again.

Melvin and Frank would join Air Group Ten aboard USS Enterprise (CV-6). Hartson and Richmond also served in the Pacific again before going stateside.

After retiring in 1961, Melvin Bell launched a civil service career supporting shipboard weapons systems. He and his wife, Margie, live in Jacksonville.

At 79, Bell sees the world through thick glasses. He admits his recollections of life at sea and the sinking of "Lady Lex" are not as sharp as he'd like them to be. When he compares notes with Hartson and Richmond, Bell occasionally says, "I remember that name but not his face," or "I just don't remember." Yet there are moments when his face lights up, a vivid indication of events he does recall.

Today, one of Melvin's prized possessions is a leather bound photo album he inherited from Frank. The cover shows a detailed profile of the Lex set against a crimson fabric background. Ink drawings on the fabric of biplanes landing and taking off give some hint of when the book was made - probably in the late 1920's.

The album holds dozens of Lexington photos showing the ship's commissioning day as well as fleet exercises that predate Pearl Harbor along with many of Frank's shipmates.

Hartson lives in Middleburg, Fla. He worked at the Naval Aviation Depot, Jacksonville and ran restaurants after

hanging up his chief's uniform in 1961. Now he stands grandchildren watch to nine boys and three girls with his wife Barbara.

One of his favorite books is a dog-eared copy of "The Lexington Goes Down," by A.A. Hoeling.

His copy of the 1971 book is filled with autographs and notes from people he's met at reunions and other gatherings. What makes it a keepsake for him are Hoeling's references about Hartson's experiences that day.

Richmond worked in auto parts sales after retiring from the Naval Reserve. He lives in Jacksonville with his wife, Nancy. The longtime member of the CV2 Minutemen Club, also has a favorite memory book. The club published "The Queen of the Flattops, As We Remember Her" several years ago, a tribute to Lady Lex and her crew. Richmond says the Minutemen Club will probably disband after 2003 and send its treasure trove of CV-2 material to the USS Lexington (CV-16) museum in Texas.

History has shown the Battle of Midway, June 4 -7, 1942, to be the decisive engagement in the war against Japan. These Coral Sea vets fully acknowledge that. For them, Coral Sea was Midway's prelude.

Melvin Bell expresses it this way, "It (Coral Sea) wasn't the big one of course... but it had an impact I would say."

Midway banquet honors veterans, victory

The Battle of Midway will be commemorated at a dinner Friday, June 1 at the Radisson Riverwalk Hotel on Jacksonville's southbank. Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for active duty are: E-6 and below, \$15; E-7 to O-4, \$30; and O5 and above, including civilians and retirees, \$40. There is no cost for veterans of the Battle of Midway and their spouses.

The battle took place June 4 through 7, 1942. It has been called the most important sea battle of the 20th century and described by military historians as

the turning point of World War II in the Pacific.

For tickets call: YN2(AW) Scholz, NAS Jax, 904-542-2934; Lt. Boyter, NS Mayport, at 904-270-7354 Ext. 113 or Lt. Norton at 904-270-6581; Lt. Maffett, NSB Kings Bay, 912-673-2617 or CWO3 Pickens at 912-673-2001 Ext. 4643.

Uniform: O4 and above - Dinner Dress White Jacket; O3 and below - Dinner Dress White/Dinner Dress White Jacket Optional- Covers not required.

Civilian: Black tie or business attire.



“Scout” Sailors and aircrew assemble for a squadron photo prior to deployment.

‘Scouts,’ CVW-8 steaming East aboard USS Enterprise

By Lt.j.g. Jeffery S. Coker
VS-24 PAO

Color the “Scouts” gone! As you probably saw on First Coast News, the Sailors of VS-24 packed up and flew aboard USS Enterprise (CVN 65) for six months of fulfillment, fun and excitement. Over this long, hot summer, “Scout” Sailors and aircrew along with Carrier Air Wing Eight will support Enterprise Battle Group’s forward presence throughout the Second, Sixth and Fifth Fleet Areas of Responsibility.

After arriving aboard, “Scout” aircrews re-qualified for landing aboard the carrier. Flying both day and night landings in some very nasty weather, VS-24 once again distinguished itself with a stellar performance and 100 percent boarding rate. After this refresher work off the Atlantic seaboard, USS Enterprise steamed for warmer climes. Off the coast of Puerto Rico and Vieques Island, VS-24 and Carrier Air Wing Eight took advantage of the unique opportunity to use the Vieques Target Complex as well as the other resources provided by the Atlantic

Fleet Weapons Training Facility to hone their warfighting skills.

The “Scouts” would like to thank everyone that contributed to their successful preparation and embarkation. It would not have been possible without friends and family pitching in to lend a hand through the turbulent task of onloading eight aircraft, more than 200 personnel and all the associated gear and equipment. A special credit goes to all “Scout” family members left behind on “the beach.” Temporary separation from families for the purpose of duty, honor and country is the penance paid by Navy families, and what sets them apart from ordinary people. It isn’t enjoyed, but the “Scouts” and their loved ones recognize their contribution to peace throughout the world.

Enterprise Battle Group, championed by the professionals of VS-24, stands ready to take the watch. As USS Enterprise steams toward Europe; the grim-faced Sailors and steely-eyed warriors of VS-24 keenly look toward the East. Their game faces on, they are ever ready for whatever challenges they may encounter. “*Scouts Rule!*”

Former VP-30 Flight Instructor takes helm of Brunswick’s VP-8

Cmdr. Michael W. Hewitt relieved Cmdr. James C. Stein as commanding officer of Patrol Squadron (VP) 8 in Brunswick, Maine on May 11.

Hewitt previously served aboard NAS Jacksonville with VP-30 as a P-3 Flight Instructor and Fleet Projects Team member in 1989.

Hewitt had been serving as the VP-8 executive officer since May 2000. Hewitt and his wife Abby have two daughters, Hailey and Chelsea.

Stein will report to the Office of Legislative affairs in Washington, D.C.

Engineering Field Activity Southeast stands up today

A ceremony commemorating the establishment of Engineering Field Activity Southeast (EFA SE) will be held today at 10 a.m. The ceremony is scheduled to be at the Pavilion at the Riverfront Park near the NAS Jax Bachelor Officer’s Quarters. Com-

manders, commanding officers and officers in charge and their guests are invited to attend. Uniform for military is summer whites. A reception will follow at the NAS Officers Club. Call Lt. Cmdr. Mendoza at 542-5571 ext. 133 for information.



Hey, MoneyMan!

I heard the Navy has a new program to get Sailors off of food stamps. Do you know anything about this?

MoneyMan Sez:

Yes, I do and it is good news from Washington D.C. A recent all Navy message announced the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA) program which went into effect on May 1st. It is designed to bring a member's household income to 130 percent of the federal poverty line. The monthly supplement may not exceed \$500 and it is based on household income and size. For more information, talk to your personnel or admin folks, check out the message (CNO's 041255Z May 01) or go to the website www.persnet.navy.mil.

More questions? Call Hey Money-Man! at 778-0353.

Navy takes care of its own with FSSA

WASHINGTON (NWS) — The Department of Defense's new compensation initiative, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA), became effective May 1. The program is designed to bring the military member's household income to 130 percent of the federal poverty line and remove them from the food stamp eligibility list.

FSSA is a voluntary and non-taxable monthly supplemental allowance. The maximum amount of FSSA is \$500 a month. The amount received is based on monthly household income and family size. FSSA is available state-side and overseas to active duty, including Coast Guard, members of the Reserve components when on active duty, and their families. Even if members did not qualify or participate in the Food Stamp Program, they still can

apply for FSSA.

FSSA is different from the Food Stamp Program in several ways, one being that it is a cash allowance that does not have restrictions placed on its use. The program also relies on a commanding officer's involvement for proper oversight and care of service members that are on the program. The sum of the supplemental allowance awarded is determined by calculating the total amount of the member's household monthly gross income and family size and comparing it to the USDA Food Stamp gross income limit tables.

NavAdmin 107/01 has more information. Applications can be found on the PersNet web site, <http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers33> (under "What's New") or on the DoD web site at <http://www.dmde.osd.mil/fssa>.

Take a trip with ITT

ITT: Information, Tickets and now Travel, has great news. June 13 is the kick off for new group tours. We're offering more trips in the Southeast region, which means more fun for and affordable prices.

Our new program is for those who don't want to travel alone, are interest-

ed in making new friends or just don't want to make the drive. We will also offer trips for Mom and the kids.

We are planning a little something for everyone. For those who love the outdoors a day trip to Cumberland Island, or deep sea fishing. People wanting a little more history can visit Kennedy Space Center or take a combination trip that will include Ft. Clinch. For beauty

and history a day trip to Savannah, Ga. would be perfect. We have lined up shuttle buses to Disney or a ride to see the Tomcats. In July you can catch a ride to see the Pepsi 400!

For those who want to get a little farther from home, take an extended trip to Biloxi, Miss. or Branson, Mo. All these ideas and more are coming your way this fall.

To sign up for a trip stop by the ITT Office, located next to the Navy Exchange and commissary.

All trips will be available to active duty, dependents, retirees, civilians and guests. Read the MWR News for more or visit the ITT Office for detailed fact sheets.

See MWR Notes on page 21

'Dusty Dogs' pay tribute to star performers

By Lt.j.g. Dom Pastorin
HS-7 PAO

The "Dusty Dogs" of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (HS) 7 held Quarters recently in the forecastle of the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) to recognize its stellar performers from the last quarter and pay tribute to two departing "Dusty Dogs." Capt. Joseph W. Kilkenny, Commander, Carrier Air Wing Three, presented the awards at

Quarters with Cmdr. Andrew T. Macyko, Commanding Officer, HS-7.

AZC John S. West will be leaving the "Dusty Dogs" upon completion of JTG 01-1 deployment cycle. Since joining HS-7 in 1997, West has served as the Maintenance Administration Leading Chief and Assistant Department Training Coordinator. West will be reporting to Commander, Helicopter Antisubmarine Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet (CHSWL) aboard NAS Jacksonville, Fla.

Lt. Paul Fermo will also be leaving the "Dusty Dogs" upon completion of JTG 01-1. Fermo has served HS-7 as the Schedules Officer, Aircraft Division Officer, and the Quality Assurance Officer since 1998. Fermo has been selected for the cross-training transition to the Strike Fighter (VFA) Community and will fly F/A-18 Hornets upon completion of T-34C Refresher Training at NAS Corpus Christi, Texas and Basic/Advanced Jet Training in the T-45 Goshawk at NAS Kingsville, Texas.

The Quarters ceremony also celebrated the recent achievement of Cmdr. Kevin M. Kenney, executive officer of HS-7. Kenney recently passed the 4,000 mishap-free flight hour milestone in his Naval Aviation career. Kenney has flown in more than 40 different models of U.S. and foreign military aircraft, and is a member of both the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the Naval Helicopter Association.

The following "Dusty Dogs" were presented awards by Macyko:

AW1 (AW/SW/NAC) Cory D. Brown
Junior Sailor of the Quarter
 AO3 Bradley J. Henlen
Aircrew of the Quarter
 AW2 (NAC) Aaron D. McRae
Sikorsky Maintenance Man of the Quarter
 AM2 Jarrod K. Wallace
Administrative Person of the Quarter
 AN David S. Guy
Sailor of the Month
 AO3 Paul J. Bergeron
Plane Captain of the Month
 AT3 (AW) Julie A. Castine



AZC (AW) John S. West receives the Navy Commendation Medal from Capt. Joseph W. Kilkenny, Commander, Carrier Air Wing Three.

Navy Commendation Medal

AZC (AW) John S. West

Navy and Marine

Corps Achievement Medal

Lt. Paul S. Fermo

AW1 (AW/NAC) Paul M. White

Senior Sailor of the Quarter

DEFY program builds youngsters' character through role models, community involvement

By Loren Barnes
Editor

NAS Jacksonville and Patrol Squadron (VP) 30 are vitally engaged in encouraging healthier more productive lifestyles for youth in our community through support of the Navy's Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program.

DEFY, which falls under the guidance of the Navy's Director, Drug Demand Reduction Task Force (DDRTF), is a free, year-long, two-phase program designed to increase community participation and commitment to youth. It is being spearheaded at NAS Jacksonville by VP-30 Command Career Counselor NCC(SW) Tammy Long. She, along

with VP-30 staff YNSN Nicole Mannon, Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility (FACSFAC) volunteers OS1(SW) Jeffrey Johnson, and BU2 Maurice Burnett CBU 410 are putting together an exciting schedule of events for local 9 to 12-year-old, DoD children participating in this year's DEFY program.

The program is only open to all military and DoD family members and is limited to 50 participants.

DEFY's Phase I is an eight-day summer camp (July 9-18) located at the Naval Reserve Building adjacent to the Birmingham Gate.

The children will be at the camp from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Fri-

day and will go home in the evenings and on weekends. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for the children as well as DEFY T-shirts, back packs, hats and other items.

During the summer camp, the children will participate in numerous activities and field trips designed to develop life skills training in peer pressure, leadership, conflict resolution, preemptive prevention tools for anti-drug and anti-gang attitudes, self-confidence, and physical education.

The Commanding officer Capt. Gregory Kauffman and the Executive Officer Cmdr. James Fossa of Naval Reserve, along with Cmdr. David Taylor, VP-30 executive officer will kick off the summer camp at the Naval Reserve Center on July 9.

Following this, plenty of excitement is in store for the children. This includes a field trip to the Jacksonville Zoo and a trip to Camp Blanding. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office will do a presentation on drugs and gangs, followed by fire prevention and safety demonstrations by NAS Jacksonville firefighters.

The children will also visit the base pool for water safety/first aid training and will conduct two physical fitness test to track their current fitness level.

Other planned activities during the week include a tour at the SAR school, a bowling party and a presentation on Jacksonville's Juvenile Alternative Sanction. Other activities are still in the planning stages. At the end of the camp there will be graduation exercises as well as a barbecue and picnic.

DEFY's 10-month long, Phase II matches the youth with mentors to reinforce lessons and expand skills learned during Phase I. In addition to meeting one Saturday per month, Long and her co-workers have planned a number of community involvement activities for the youth. These range from holiday events and bowling to a cleanup project with the base environmental department, a trip to the MOSH and helping out at area retirement homes.

Long said she has received a lot of support from various commands here at NAS, especially from the MWR director John Bushick and his staff Julie Claudill, John Duncan, Robert Patton and Lyn Brightwell. Applications are available at the VP-30 Duty Office. The due date for youth to sign up for the program is tomorrow.

For further information contact NCC(SW) Long at 542-3769/8653 or YNSN Mannon at 542-3360.



Many of the young people above who started with DEFY's Phase I program last year are now in Phase II.

NAVY NEWS

Navy announces new next of kin documentation requirements

(NWS) — Navy officials recently announced a policy and procedure change designed to provide more rapid primary and secondary next of kin (PNOK and SNOK) notification whenever a Sailor is involved in an emergency situation.

Effective immediately, Sailors are required to add the names of PNOK/SNOK, addresses and telephone numbers to the DD 93 Record of Emergency Data or NavPers 1070/602 Dependency Application/Record of Emergency Data.

For more details, please see NavAdmin 098/01. Additional guidance regarding listing next of kin information can be obtained from Ms. Sandy DuBois, Pers-621, assistant head casualty assistance branch at Navy Personnel Command at DSN 882-4299 or (901) 874-4299, or via e-mail at Sandy.DuBois@persnet.navy.mil.

Boeing Delivers Navy's newest aircraft

FORT WORTH, Texas (NWS) — With the Navy band playing and banners

swaying overhead, the Naval Reserve's newest class of aircraft, the C-40A Clipper, was officially delivered in mid-April to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 59 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas. Produced by Boeing Co., the C-40A Clipper is the newest member of the Boeing Next Generation 737 family. Known as the "Lone Star Express," VR-59 will receive a total of four new Clippers to replace their Boeing C-9 Skytrains. They are the first of 14 Fleet Logistics squadrons within the Naval Reserve Force to receive the new planes.

Although Boeing introduced the new C-40A Clipper in September 2000 during a roll-out ceremony for the Naval Reserve, numerous dignitaries from Washington, D.C., the state of Texas, Boeing and senior military officials from around the country attended the acceptance ceremony at NAS JRB Fort Worth.

Rear Adm. John P. McLaughlin, commander, Naval Air Reserve Force, expressed the opinion of all the distinguished visitors at the podium by saying that the Naval Reserve now has an aircraft fitting of the new century. "Gone are the days that we must hopscotch across the Pacific and Atlantic,"

McLaughlin said. "We can now fly to Atsugi (Japan) with just one stop in Hawaii. The Naval Reserve now has a plane that will save both the taxpayers and the Navy money."

Boeing representative Howard Chambers ended the dedication portion of the ceremony by symbolically handing over the keys to the new aircraft to VR-59 commanding officer Cmdr. Mark Woodall, and CMDMC(SW/AW) Howard Daniel.

Until recently, VR-59 flew four C-9 Skytrains. However, the squadron's remaining C-9 was flown to VR-46 in Atlanta in October 2000 where it was added to their aircraft inventory. Since then, the men and women of VR-59 have been training and preparing their work areas for flying and maintaining the new C-40A Clippers.

"The men and women of VR-59 are extremely excited about receiving the C-40A Clipper. The arrival of this airplane is the culmination of six months of hard work by everyone," said Woodall. "We are eagerly looking forward to introducing the airplane to the fleet and giving the fleet commanders an asset to reliably move more people and cargo throughout the world than previously possible."

The Navy ordered six C-40A Clip-

pers from Boeing with the first four going to VR-59.

A Reserve squadron in Jacksonville, Fla., VR-58, is scheduled to receive the fifth and sixth C-40A Clippers. Eventually, the C-40A will replace all of the Naval Reserve's fleet of 27 C-9 Skytrains, some of which are 30 years old.

Looking for a replacement aircraft with increased performance and versatility, the C-40A (the military version of the Boeing 737-700C) can be configured as an all-passenger or an all-cargo jet capable of holding up to eight cargo pallets totaling 40,000 pounds, or a combination of both.

With increased range and payload, the aircraft is capable of carrying 121 passengers in its all-passenger mode or 70 passengers and three cargo pallets in the combination configuration.

Sporting new fuel-efficient engines, a new configuration, and 21st century computer and operating systems, the C-40A Clipper has been labeled a flexible and cost-effective logistics aircraft for the Naval Reserve. Additionally, the C-40A meets or exceeds international noise and environmental requirements.

More information about the C-40A Clipper can be found at <http://www.navy.mil> under "fact file" departments.

NADep's Seidl is going ashore

By Kelly Hinchey

NADep Jacksonville Public Affairs Specialist

Cmdr. Mark Seidl recently retired from the United States Navy after 21 years of faithful service to his country. During the ceremony, at the All Saints Chapel on NAS Jacksonville, Seidl was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his superior performance as the Depot's Material Officer, Production Activity Control Officer, and Material Management Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Site Lead.

Reporting to Naval Aviation Depot (NADep) in May of 1997, Seidl spearheaded the development and implementation of numerous process improvements that involved not only the Depot and Naval Aviation Systems (NavAir) Command, but also key outside activities such as the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the Naval Inventory Control Point, (NAV-ICP), and the Naval Supply Systems Command, (NavSup). His far reaching initiatives significantly improved the supply support delivered to the facility, helping NADep to become the first Department of Defense industrial activity to successfully implement Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRP) practices. Seidl was also, personally selected to par-

ticipate in the NavAir Business Process Reengineering (BPR) Design Team for Material Management and led efforts to complete extensive business case analyses. To date, his Material Management BPR initiatives have amassed more than \$6.2 million in documented cost savings.

Graduating cum laude from the Florida State University in 1979, Seidl was commissioned a year later at the Officer's Candidate School in Newport, R.I. After training at the Navy Supply Corps School in Georgia, he was assigned as Disbursing Officer for the Naval Support Facility, Diego Garcia. In March 1982, Seidl became Supply Officer of the USS W.S. Sims (FF-1059) and completed tours to the Persian Gulf, Mediterranean Sea, and Panama Canal Regions. Following SIMS, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md. as Aviation Stores Officer.

Two years later, Seidl reported as Aviation Stores Officer aboard the USS Enterprise (CVN-65). After 35 months onboard Enterprise, during which he also served as Stock Control Officer, Seidl transferred to the staff of Commander Logistics Support Force Seventh Fleet, (CTF-73) in Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. While at CTF-73, he served as

CASREP/NMCS/PMCS Expediting Officer during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and the Stores and Provisions Officer during Operation Fiery Vigil along with assisting in the relocation of facilities following the rejection of a lease extension for the Subic Bay/Cubi Point complex.

In April 1994, after earning a Master of Science degree in Transportation Logistics at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif., he was assigned as Material Policy Coordinator for the Aviation Industrial Competency at NavAir. In this capacity, he was instrumental in carrying out the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's decision to close three NADeps.

Seidl has been a consistent force for improvement at NADep Jacksonville. He handled double duty performing traditional Material Officer functions, as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Production Activity Control Division. His numerous personal awards include the Naval Aviation Supply Corps Pin, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (3 awards).

He and his wife Carmen have two children, Stephanie and Matthew.

Wanted: First Coast Mustangs

Qualifications: Must have enlisted as a recruit in the Navy or Marine Corps and received as a minimum the Good Conduct Medal. Must have been selected for a commission through the sea service, inservice procurement program.

Job Requirement: Superior leadership and professional skills and a willingness to mentor and reach out to those enlisted personnel who desire to move up through the ranks.

Reward: You will become a member of a support network of active, retired, and reserve Mustangs that work collaboratively to light the path for future Mustangs while enjoying camaraderie both socially and professionally.

For more info, contact Lt. Bernie Williams-McGuire at 270-5306 or email at bmcquire@sar.med.navy.mil.

Visit the Mustang website at www.geocities.com/sribandit2/index.html.

Navy College: 100 percent tuition available for MGIB eligibles

From Navy College

If you are eligible to receive Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB, Chapter 30 Benefits), are a veteran or have been on active duty for two years, you now have the option to use Tuition Assistance Top-up or TAT to pay the 25 percent tuition not covered by the Navy Tuition Assistance for course (s) starting after Oct. 30, 2000.

The eligibility for TAT is fairly simple. You must receive Tuition Assistance from the military for the course or

courses for which you are claiming TAT. TAT can be paid for 36 months of courses. This is separate from months of basic entitlement to Chapter 30, MGIB payments. For example, if the course is three months long, the Top-up or TAT entitlement charge is three months regardless of the total cost. You will still, however, have the full 36 months of entitlement for "regular" Chapter 30 MGIB benefits.

How is the MGIB rate reduction affected? Take the total amount you claim for TAT and subtract it from the

\$23,400 in your MGIB account. Divide that amount by 36 to find your monthly allotment you can use when you are no longer eligible for Military Tuition Assistance.

Also, effective May 1, 2001, active duty members whose original federal education benefit is MGIB may make an additional contribution, up to \$600, to receive an increased monthly benefit of \$150. That breaks down to a monthly entitlement of \$800 for 36 months versus \$650 for 36 months without the \$600 contribution. Overall, the MGIB

individual is getting a \$9 to \$1 return on their investment. You must elect this option while on active duty. Note: personnel enrolled in MGIB by reason of involuntary separation, conversion from VEAP, conversion from Vietnam-Era GI Bill, or enrollment during the open period Dec. 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989 are not eligible for this option.

The Navy College Office will assist students with their application for TAT and answer any questions/concerns. Visit the NCO in Building 110 or call 542-2477/75.

Jax Tales

By Mike Jones - mikejones43@hotmail.com





Edward Murphy, Wade Martin and Dave Walsh carefully lower a torpedo fantail, so that not to cause any damage.



AO3 (AW) Philip Metz and AO2 (AW) Tommy Miller examine a torpedo.

Things that go

BOOM!

Weapons Depot Jacksonville handles with care

By JO2 Eric T. Clay
Staff Writer

The mission of the NAS Jacksonville Weapons Department as stated by Weapons Officer Lt. Tom Rose is, "to provide and operate an ammunition facility by requisitioning, receipt, inspection, storage, security, issue, inventory control, and transportation of special and conventional weapons, ammunition and explosives in direct support of mission readiness, tenant commands, fleet units and others as may be assigned."

That's a tall order, but one that Rose and the 14 military and 10 civilian personnel on the Weapons Depot team take pride in fulfilling.

Rose described his department's operation saying, "Our main goal is to provide quality first, service and products," he said. "We provide direct support to the fleet through an Advanced Underwater Weapons (AUW) unit which supports NATO and Maritime Patrol Aircraft," he explained. "This unit receipts, stows, segregates and disposes of ordnance in support of NAS Jacksonville and tenant commands. Our people also provide shipment services and ship-loading pier-side at NS Mayport in support of Allied Forces and U.S. military. We also maintain required training on weapons and provide required training support to Patrol Squadrons aboard NAS Jacksonville and tenant commands. In addition, we maintain an armory.

The personnel that work at the Weapons Depot, both military and civilian, are proud of the job they do. TM2 Tolitha Perez summed up the pride she and her coworkers feel. "Ordnance is our priority," she said.

The Depot's Assistant Officer in Charge (AOIC) AOC (AW/SW) David Wyatt described the high degree of expertise demanded of his people. "The Weapons Depot has to use caution when offloading and loading weapons and ammunition," said Wyatt. "The Weapons Depot receives an estimated 800 tons of general purpose missiles and small arms ammunition per week and special safety measures are a must. Safety is everyone's responsibility," he emphasized. This involves compliance with many regulations and making sure that certifications are current. For instance, the Depot's truck drivers must be certified to transport weapons and ammunition. Their certification only lasts for a year, then the license must be renewed. Each license has different categories with qualifications that must be met for handling various explosives.

The rules that apply to handling the ordnance are very specific, particularly those dealing with safety. For example, weapons can not be handled in thunder conditions or in conditions where lighting may occur. Personnel must also wear personal protective gear including hardhats, earplugs, steel toe boots and leather work-gloves. Under certain conditions, they have to wear double hearing protection.

Most of the military personnel that work at the Weapons Depot are Torpedomen (TMs). They are trained in the safety, handling and weapons shipment procedures. TMs have to know how to use different types of safety equipment such as weapon skids, deck chocks and propeller guards. Also TMs are trained in using slings for shipping weapons from ship-to-station and ship-to-ship loading.

Inventorying the weapons and ammunition is also an important step in the process of accepting ammunition into the Weapons Depot. If the weapons are stored incorrectly or incorrectly written down, it could cause major problems. The wrong order may go to the wrong command. This could lead to potentially deadly situations in which active ammunition was used, instead of training simulators.

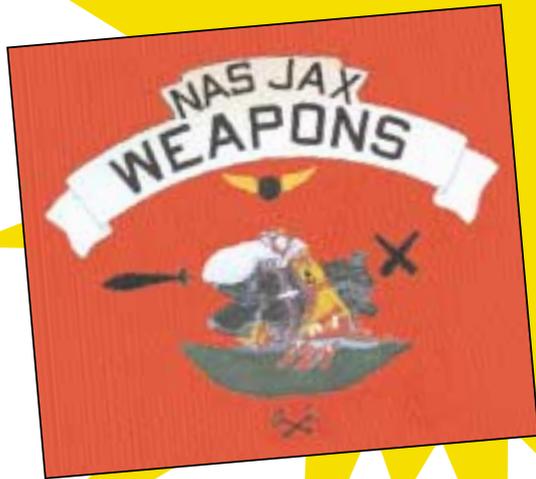
Wyatt said that the Weapons Depot team does an outstanding job of living up to the demands of this challenging work. "The Weapons Department at NAS Jax is the best department I have ever been a part of," he said.



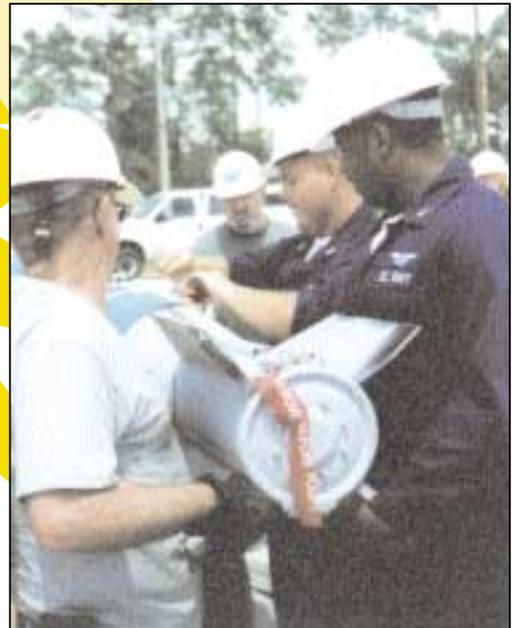
TM2 Charlene Jean Rager inspects a torpedo shipment before storage.



Edward Murphy checks the doorway clearance as torpedoes are loaded into a weapons bunker.



Gerald Taccolini, AO2 (AW) Tommy Miller hold the fantail as AO3 (AW) Philip Metz disassembles the two sections.



Gerald Taccolini, AO3 (AW) Philip Metz and AO2 (AW) Tommy Miller carefully remove the fantail from a torpedo body.



Wade Martin carefully off-loads MK46, MOD6 warshot.

MEDICAL NOTES

National Mail Order Pharmacy Program ends waiting in line

From NavHosp Jacksonville

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) Medical Managed Care Section is responsible for the National Mail Order Pharmacy Program (NMOP), which enables Military Health System beneficiaries and their eligible dependents to receive prescription maintenance medications through the mail.

Patients submit their prescription information and co-pay by mail to the NMOP Contractor, Merck-Medco Managed Care, L.L.C, and receive up to a 90-day supply of their medications, usually within one week from the date the orders are received. Refills can be processed by mail, over the phone, and through the Internet at <https://host2.merck-medco.com/cgi-bin/RefillsBobStub.cgi>.

Who is eligible for NMOP?

- * Active Duty members worldwide
- * All CHAMPUS/TRICARE eligible beneficiaries under age 65
- * Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP) Beneficiaries

* All Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Medicare eligibles

* All TRICARE Senior Prime Enrollees

* All TRICARE Senior Supplement Enrollees

* All Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program Enrollees (effective 1 July, 2000)

* Eligible beneficiaries with other health insurance coverage must use that pharmacy benefit first.

Why use NMOP?

* Delivery of medication to your home, temporary U.S. address, APO/FPO address or U.S. Embassy address

* Refill requests can be processed easily by telephone or through the Internet

* Order up to a 90-day supply of non-controlled medications or a 30-day supply of controlled medications (as prescribed)

* Department of Defense (DoD) NMOP Formulary/Quantity Limit Information can be reviewed at the NMOP Home page at http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil/nmop/nmop_home.htm

* Low co-payments: \$0 for Active Duty Members, \$4 for Active Duty Family Members, \$8 for all others

* Free shipping and handling

* No claim forms to file and no waiting for reimbursement

What drugs are available under the program?

The NMOP Formulary is managed by the DoD Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee, and is available online at http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil/nmop/nmop_home.htm.

Generally, any non-injectable prescription drugs (or its equivalent) is available through NMOP unless it falls under one of the exception categories listed on the NMOP Formulary webpage.

If your prescription is denied and you know that the prescribed drug is available through the program, you should make certain that your DEERS profile AND the profiles of your dependents are complete and accurate. When NMOP pharmacists are filling prescriptions, DEERS records are the only means they have of determining patient eligibility. DEERS address change/up-

date information is available at <https://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>.

Call NMOP Member Services when:

- * you have a question about the program or your medication
- * you want to order refills by phone
- * you need additional mail order envelopes
- * you would like an NMOP brochure

Within the United States call 1-800-903-4680 Outside the United States: (Contact your long distance carrier for access) 800-903-4680 or call, 614-421-8211. The TDD number for the hearing-impaired is 1-800-759-1089.

Service hours:

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m.-midnight

Saturdays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sundays, 9:30a.m.-6:30 p.m., Eastern time

To obtain a refill online, visit Merck-Medco at <http://www.merck-medco.com>

For more NMOP related information, visit the Merck-Medco Managed Care Homepage at <http://www.merck-medco.com/medco/index>.



Navy Nurse Corps turns 93

Naval Hospital Jacksonville celebrated the Navy Nurse Corps' ninety-third birthday last week with a cake cutting ceremony on the hospital's quarterdeck. It is tradition in the corps for the senior and junior nurse to cut the cake.

In the photo above, Naval Hospital Commanding Officer Capt. Barbara Vernoski, Ens. Jennifer Trzaskus and the talented cake-maker MS3 Charon A. Jenkins cut the Navy Nurse Corps birthday cake.

Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps on May 13, 1908. Esther Voorhees Hasson (daughter of an army surgeon) was appointed the first super-

intendent. Hasson said, "We nurses who come into the nursing service of the Navy during this first year of its existence are the pioneers, and it rests with us to make the tradition and to set the pace for those who are to follow."

By October 1908, the first twenty nurses, who later came to be called the "Sacred Twenty" had reported to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Washington, DC for orientation and duty.

There are 157 Navy Nurses at Naval Hospital Jacksonville and its branch medical clinics. Worldwide there are approximately 5000 Navy Nurses serving proudly.

Naval Hospital's Teen Clinic provides specialized care

Did you know Naval Hospital Jacksonville runs a clinic specifically designed to meet the special needs of teenagers?

The Teen Clinic is a division of the hospital's Pediatric Department and is located in the Acute Care Clinic passageway. No longer do your teenagers have to receive care in the clinic with smaller children.

Teens who are enrolled to the clinic

will receive care from one of Naval Hospital Jacksonville's active duty pediatric physicians.

The clinic hours are Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and acute appointments are available through the Pediatric Clinic on Saturdays. For more information on TRICARE Prime and enrolling your teenager to the Teen Clinic, call 542-9164.

VOLUNTEER OPS

Naval Hospital looking for summer teen volunteers

Naval Hospital Jacksonville is having its annual teen volunteer program for the summer under the direction of the Red Cross.

Qualifications include ability, interest, dependability, a willingness to accept responsibility, and most of all a desire to help with the community.

Teens wishing to volunteer must be 15-18 years of age, be willing to work

a minimum of four hours a week, and have had a Tuberculin Test within the past year.

Orientation and training will be held on June 6&7 and June 11&12.

Applications are available at the Naval Hospital Jacksonville Red Cross Volunteer Office or by calling 542-7525 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday.

MWR NOTES

Liberty Events: 542-3491/1335

Coming in July: Look for information on a White Water Rafting Trip!

Ping-Pong Tourney and Free Pizza - May 22

Sign up and pizza is at 6 p.m. and the tournament starts at 7 p.m. The tournament is free, and the winner receives \$30.

Free Pizza and a Movie - May 30

Eat free pizza at the Rec Center at 6 p.m. then catch the van to the Orange Park Mall for a free movie. Sign up begins at 3 p.m. the day of.

90 Second Shoot-Out - June 6

Tournament play begins at 11:30 a.m. Who ever gets the most balls in the pocket in 90 seconds wins. Free food and drinks. The winner receives \$25.

Celebrate Donald Duck's Birthday at Disney World - June 9

Come with Liberty to Disney World to celebrate the Birthday of Disney's favorite duck-Donald Duck! Tickets cost

\$35 for active Duty, \$44 for guests. Sign up by June 5.

Parasailing Trip-Sunday, June 10

Ride 1,400 ft in the air for only \$50.

Sign up by June 4.

Flag Day - June 14

Join us for jet skiing, kayaking, canoeing and barbecue at the Marina. Jet ski space is very limited, and you must have a jet ski safety card issued by the NAS Jax Marina in order to use a jet ski. Cost will be \$5 per half-hour. Call for more information.

Skydiving Trip - June 16

Skydiving - need we say more? The cost is only \$125/person. We need a minimum of five people to sign up for this rate. Sign up by June 13.

Free Movies

Free movies are shown in the Base Theater located on Jason Street every Friday at 7 p.m. and every other Saturday at 5 and 7 p.m.

May 18, 7 p.m. - *Highlander Endgame*

May 19, 5 p.m. - *Godzilla 2000* rated

May 19, 7 p.m. - *What Lies Beneath*

May 25, 7 p.m. - *Love and Basketball*

June 1, 7 p.m. - *The Best Man* rated

June 2, 5 p.m. - *Chicken Run* rated

June 2, 7 p.m. - *The Client* rated

Mulberry Cove Marina: 542-3260

As the weather is getting warmer, the water is looking better and better. Come check out what the Mulberry Cove Marina has to offer you for water fun. And don't forget, before you can rent any of the boats, jet skis, or other water craft, you need to complete a Boater Safety Course that's free to take. Call for more information.

Yesterday's Cafe

Take a step back in time to the 50's era with tunes on the jukebox and handmade milkshakes. The Cafe is located in The Zone on the corner of Jason Street and Saratoga Avenue and is open from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Budweiser Brew House: 542-5009

The Brew House is a full family dining facility located in The Zone on the corner of Jason Street and Saratoga Avenue. The Brew House has two for one specials every Tuesday, come on in and see the line up. Enjoy live entertainment starting at 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Outdoor Pool: 542-2930/3239

Make a splash this season and hold your party at the Outdoor Pool Complex. Reservations are first come, first serve. Call Aquatics today to get your desired date. The cost, including certified lifeguards, is \$75 for the first two hours, \$25 for additional hours.

Starting May 5 the Outdoor Pool will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

* Memorial Day Party - Outdoor Pool Season Kick Off will be Monday, May 28 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. There will be a live Caribbean Band, games, softball, horseshoes and many other activities as well as food and beverages.



(Photo by JO2(SCW) Eric Clay)

Barracks Blowout -- Approximately 700 barracks residents aboard Naval Air Station Jacksonville turned out May 9 for the annual MWR-sponsored "Barracks Blowout." The event, held at Bldg. 822 and 856, featured a barbeque, DJ and several games, including a bungee run and joust. Prizes were also awarded to participants.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The regular monthly meeting of Branch 126 of the Fleet Reserve Association is tonight at 8 p.m. at 7673 Blanding Blvd. Call 771-2936.

The USMMA Alumni Association, Jacksonville Chapter, will hold their Spring Barbecue at Hanna Park on May 20, 2-6 p.m. The event is open to alumni, family and guests. Cost is \$5 per family, \$2 for individuals. Call 641-4128.

USO offers tickets to the Charlie Daniel's, .38 Special, Dickie Betts Concert, set for Friday, May 25 at Metropolitan Park. Discount tickets at the USO are \$18 for adults, 10 for ages 3-12 and under 3 are free.

Bring your own lawn chair, blanket, picnic and enjoy the evening of Southern rock music. Call 778-2821.

The Four Tops, Chaka Khan and The Commodores to perform at a free concert during Spring Music Festival May 26 at Metropolitan Park. Gates open at 5 p.m. and the concert begins at 6 p.m. Free admission is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking at the Sports Complex is \$5. Visit www.coj.net/events or call 630-3686.

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

JAX SPORTS

Summer Basketball League meeting May 18

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

For more information about any of the sports articles,

call **Bill Bonser, Sports Coordinator** or **Mike Gorman, Athletic Director** at 542-2930/3239 or e-mail us at dbonser@nasjax.navy.mil or dgorman@nasjax.navy.mil.

Visit the MWR website at www.nasjax.navy.mil/mwr.

STANDINGS

Greybeard Softball League

Team	Wins	Losses
VP-45	7	1
AIMD	7	3
CHSWL	6	3
VP-30	5	3
NAMTra	4	6
2BN351	1	3
CPRW-11	0	11

2001 NADEP Basketball League (Final)

Team	Wins	Losses
Tomcats	10	2
Prowlers	8	4
Engine World	6	6
X-Factor	5	7
Navigators	1	11

Intramural Soccer League (Final)

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties	Points
VP-30 Students	11	1	2	24
HS-15	11	1	0	22
NavHosp	9	2	3	21
VS-30	8	5	0	16
VP-30 Os	7	5	1	15